

# MASD NEWSLETTER

*Happy  
Easter*

March 1991.

## FOREWORD

I am pleased to be writing to you again from the relative comfort of Rochester, after spending four months commuting to Frimley for the Merlin Prime Contractor project definition and bid. The proposal, prepared by Merlin Helicopter Management, the new partnership of British Aerospace and GEC Marconi has been submitted, and I believe well received by MOD. It is expected that a final decision will be made and a contract awarded during late Summer. So let us look forward to some good news in time for the next newsletter.

The scale and importance of this project has led to the creation of the Mission System Integration Division, under Fred Mackley, here at Rochester, to be the principal interface to MHM on behalf of GEC Marconi. MASD will continue to be heavily involved providing the AQS 903 and, when the choice of Dipping Sonar is finalised, every chance of substantial additional work on its integration to AQS 903. We will provide expertise for the Mission Computer and Systems Integration.

Our reputation as World leaders in airborne Acoustic and Mission Systems was recognised by the Spanish Air Force last Christmas when it chose the bid we made, in co-operation with Inisel of Spain, to equip its P3 fleet of Maritime Patrol Aircraft. This work has entered the Project Definition stage and is being supported by a team of MASD personnel in

Madrid. It is anticipated that this will progress to Full Scale Development in August.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Spanish P3 System will form the basis of our proposals to MOD to equip the RAF Nimrod or its replacement. We have made presentations to the MOD and RAF for our system, called GEMMA, GEC Maritime Mission Avionics, and received very encouraging responses. The French and Germans are becoming interested and we will be visiting them and receiving delegations here at Rochester in the near future.

With the sound prospects we now have on the three programmes mentioned above I am more convinced than ever that MASD has a bright and secure future. However, we must not forget our existing customers and I am pleased to say that all our programmes are running to schedule and achieving their technical and financial targets. In what has been a difficult year, the Division's performance is in excess of Sales and Profit targets. This is due to your efforts, and for that I wish to offer my appreciation.

Finally as we approach the Easter period I wish you and your families all the best and hope you enjoy the short holiday.

Alan Gallagher  
Divisional Manager

## PROJECT REVIEW

### AQS 901

RAF and RAAF service personnel have completed the programme to modify the AQS 901 to enable the Software OFP 5.0 update to be incorporated. The software 5.0 package has been completed successfully and will soon be in front line service.

Our work on Software Issue 5.1 is progressing ahead of schedule. We continue to meet the Nimrod Software Team, RAF, Kinloss at regular intervals and we have developed an excellent working relationship.

We continue to look to the future and are formatting ideas and requirements for further Software updates.

The Post Design Service team continues to roll along. Currently we are in the process of renewing the PDS contract for the next financial year.

### AQS 902

#### Sea King Mk6

Since the last newsletter the modified SIU and the Issue 4.0 Software update have been incorporated in the Sea King MK6. There was a lull in UK activity while the Royal Navy helped to put Saddam Hussein in his place. We are now "all systems go" to incorporate updates and operational enhancements in the Software Issue 5.0. Meanwhile we continue to produce systems and we will be delivering the 100th system to the RN in the near future.

Over the last few weeks we have received orders for spares, fitting a Video Tape Recorder and updating the Forward Equipment Rack.

## Sweden

The first AQS 928G system was accepted by the Swedish Navy in late December. Swedish representatives were here to witness the activity and took the opportunity to operate the equipment. They were most impressed with the equipment's ease of operation and are looking forward to it being in service later this year. The plan is to install the first system in a fast patrol boat in April. Training is scheduled to take place in June.

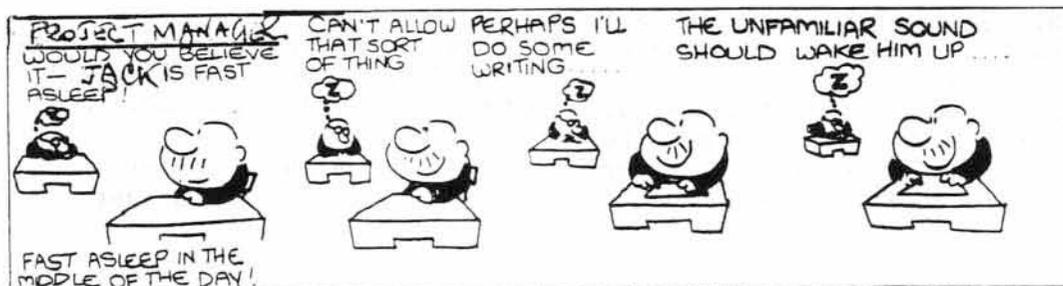
### Indian Sea King MK 42B

The last helicopter was delivered to India during January with a result action is centered on the sub-continent. Our field support staff, John Chappel and Dave Balloch, have nearly completed the on-site modification programme. Dave will be home by Easter, John will follow a little later. No doubt you will have realised that this time John has managed to get to Cochin without becoming "engulfed."

We are in the process of completing some small contracts associated with ISK. Other avenues for potential sales and updates are being pursued.

### Grumman Aerospace

Peter Duckworth and Tony Young represented the Division at the Roll Out and Acceptance ceremony of the first two S-2T aircraft held at Grumman Aerospace, Calverton, Long Island, USA in January. The event, which saw the aircraft handed over to the US Navy and the end customer, was witnessed by a number of prospective customers. Grumman are hopeful of selling this excellent low cost ASW aircraft, which is fitted with AQS 928F, to third world countries.



### AQS 903

One of the most important AQS 903 milestones, for the first quarter of this year was the Customer Design Review. The review, which took place in early February, was successful apart from the snow!

The Maintainability Demonstration was completed on time. During the Demonstration thirty faulty modules were inserted (one at a time) into the motherboards and the Engineering Test Program had to diagnose the problem correctly. To complete each phase an inexperienced 903 maintainer changed the module whilst various timings were made (for inexperienced 903 maintainer we used a 902 Engineer, what better). The 903 management would like to thank those who worked long hours to complete the task on time.

The RST programme has entered the chamber cycling phase and several successful cycles have been carried out. The System Reliability Testing, which involves vibrating and temperature cycling and SPR, has started. Currently, a thermal analysis is being carried out.

### 2057 PROJECT DEFINITION STUDY

Over the past year, a team, led by Simon Ainsworth, has been supporting MUSL on the Project Definition Study for the 2057 Towed Array and Processing System for Type 23 Frigates and submarines. Two separate consortiums, led by MUSL and Ferranti, are each carrying out the study whose aim is to determine the array and processing requirement. The winner will be responsible for development and initial production. As part of the MUSL consortium we were responsible for defining several processing requirements and algorithms. The final reports for all the sub systems, plus our proposal for development and production, have been completed. Much hard work and long hours, particularly around Christmas time, went into producing the documents. A thank you and well done to all concerned, including Tech Pubs, for ensuring everything was produced on time. Our proposal has been amalgamated in the

overall consortium bid and is being evaluated by MOD. We continue to respond to queries on the final reports and are preparing a final demonstration to MOD next month. Following this we shall soon discover if our bid was successful.

### MANAGEMENT BY LETTER

MBWA (Management by Wandering About) was a term originally conceived by Hewlett-Packard to describe its management style of informally staying in touch with the business. The style of management has been adopted by many organisations and was popularised in the book "In Search of Excellence" by Tom Peters.

In order to comply fully with new EEC regulations it will be necessary for all management style acronyms to be accurate with respect to the overall management style and policy. New management styles which have been accepted for 1992 include:

MBWAG (Management by Wandering About Grunting). Generally observed in the morning, after weekends or just after another proposal has been dispatched.

MBLI (Management by Looking Important). An approach best observed in large organisations. It involves a great deal of rushing about with filo-faxes and time management system diaries.

MBSP (Management by Shuffling Paper). MBSP is one of the more popular management techniques. It involves moving large quantities of paper from one tray to another, or better still, from the manager's desk to someone else's. Of course purists in this style will achieve their task without the contents of the paper running through their brains.

MBA (Management by Abdication). A method built on the concept of delegation. Managers use the technique to ensure they are never around to make decisions. In this way decisions are made without their direct involvement and the dangerous predicament of over-dependence on management is avoided.

## ROGUES GALLERY



**Bob Fordham**  
Contracts  
Manager

At first glance you might imagine that Bob has led a life of unashamed good living, debauchery and over-indulgence. In this instance you would be absolutely right but he tries not to let it worry him. It was probably the euphoria of post-war optimism that led up to Bob's early birth in August 1950. For those with a contracts background this makes him forty years old (but rounding this up, let's call it forty-five!), for those of an engineering disposition it represents 40.666 recurring.

Bob's early career started with primary school and after "Janet and John" he rapidly progressed to joined-up writing and 'O' levels. Spurred on by the fact that his ultimate aim was to join GEC Avionics his initial training was with SEGAS where, after several years of frantic activity and inertia, he obtained an HNC in Business Studies. Armed with this he joined GEC Avionics in 1972 as a tender, young Contracts Officer.

He started his GEC working life in the Airborne Computing Division on the Jaguar programme, a sub-contract from IN Division (now GSD). At that time, the Division was preparing proposals for MOD for the Nimrod MR Mk 2 Programme which included a new acoustics processing system later to be designated AQS 901. Bob spent several years working on the AQS 901 programme and, during that period, he was promoted to Senior Contracts Officer and chosen to represent the Company, working on-site in the MOD (PE) Project Office. His job was to

liaise with the UK and Australian service teams on both contractual and financial matters on the Nimrod Programme. This was a new idea to involve industry with MOD and it proved to be a successful forerunner for other projects which continue the liaison to this day.

Bob gained valuable experience of MOD procedures. On his return to MASD he worked directly with MOD on the project definition and initial development of WG34 (now AQS 903). In addition, he was involved with the Category II Contracts from Westlands for the Bus Controller Unit (with GSD) the Common Waveform Generator Unit (with ADD) and the Mission Avionics Integration with the Yeovil Office at Prestleigh House.

In 1982 he ventured off to India to join in the fun of the ISK Programme and until contract award in 1984, continued the main negotiations of the contract with Westlands. In 1985 he was appointed Contracts Manager Designate and took over as Contracts Manager in 1986. During this period he was involved in negotiating NSR 6116 and AQS 903 development programmes with MOD, followed by MAPADS and supply of the AQS 902Cs for the Italian Navy. At one point during the LAMPS 1 proposal in 1987, the pressure was such that an appendectomy seemed the only way to grab a break. He took it!

With twenty years experience of contracts, he has seen policies start from the top down, bottom up, stop, get reshuffled, sifted sideways, backwards ..... it's a bit like MASD engineering re-organisations really! However, there is always something new to do and in this respect the Spanish contract is in danger of keeping him out of mischief for several months. His hobbies include keeping an interest in the future of all the Division's contracts, and the theory of Immaculate Conception (now proven with the arrival of Mission Systems Integration Division). However, his main interests are playing pool, enjoying an odd half-pint, watching the fairies at the bottom of the garden (usually after the odd half-pint) and keeping his tongue firmly planted in his cheek!

## DIVISIONAL LIBRARY



Ask anyone where the Library is located and you are sure to be sent in the right direction. Is it because one of the first stops for new arrivals in the Division is the Library to collect a stationary "starter pack" or, is it the introduction to the staff - our bevy of beauties - Alison, Trish, Sharon and Sue. For most young men an unforgettable occasion. However, many of you will not be aware of the range of activities these ladies control and which are summarised below:

### Stationery

Twice daily the girls dispense stationery to Departments, teams and individuals. This entails recording stock levels, reordering stock and checking deliveries. With a limited storage area and budget to watch this is a continuous task requiring careful management.

### Printing

The vast majority of printing within the Division, including proposals, divisional and customer documentation and engineering drawings, is undertaken by the Library staff. Over 150,000 prints are produced monthly, most have to be collated, punched, bound, stamped and distributed internally. Documents for external distribution are passed to the Contracts Department for registration and dispatch. After printing, a Master is retained, recorded and filed for future

use. At the same time a copy is held as a reference for use by the Divisional staff. A file of engineering drawings is held on microfilm.

### Technical Library

A comprehensive library of technical documents is held for your use. It includes National, NATO, International and Customer specifications, standards and procedures which are in regular use in enabling us to meet our commitments.

### Text Books

To assist staff in their design and development activities the Library retains a large number of reference and text books. The holdings are updated continuously to ensure the latest technological advances are available for your consideration.

### Trade Magazines

The Division subscribes to various trade magazines and periodicals pertinent to our business. The staff circulate these to key personnel and later ensures they are available for general use.

### Divisional Mail

Last, but not least, the ladies ensure our incoming and outgoing mail is collected, sorted and distributed twice daily.

Like all Divisions at Rochester the Library receives considerable support from the Central Reprographics Department. The latter supplies most of our consumables and meets our special printing requirements. GEC Avionics has a Company Library, which, besides having a very comprehensive Technical Library, obtains all our technical literature.

Thus Alison and her staff are kept busy meeting the day to day requirements of the Division. There is no truth in the rumour that, like a pub, when the grill is down the staff are at rest. They are knitting knick-knacks for the prospective new arrival.

## DID THE BRITS-REALLY RUN AN EMPIRE?

Senor Trevor Hall

It was a simple task. What could be easier? Ian, Tony and I would forego the Inisel version of beefburger and chips, drive into the centre of Madrid and visit the British Embassy. The object to obtain information on how to be British in Madrid and survive. We weren't after much; just those little things that makes living a little more comfortable, such as, does the little green man mean the pedestrian has right of way and what to do when you're in hospital having tried to cross the road when there was a little green man.

The expedition started at noon. Expectations were high. Would it be a large stone building with the Union Jack flying outside and guarded by British Troops? Perhaps there will be a friendly smile from an English receptionist.

Alas, our illusions were dashed as we drove past the Embassy. We didn't notice a Union Jack; we were distracted by the security gates, the reinforced steel railings (painted a delicate shade of camouflage green) and the guards inspecting staff cars for explosives.

In typical British fashion we found somewhere to park without obstructing other cars, and followed the railings until we found the main entrance. I suppose we should be grateful that the instructions were in English. They gave us the opening times and told us to press a button and talk into a box.

The gates were opened remotely by a Spanish security guard who directed us to reception.

Have you ever noticed how inch thick security glass has a sort of green tinge to it? It made the Spanish receptionist, look rather more tanned than she actually was. At least she was polite as she explained that the Embassy wasn't the right place and perhaps we should try the British Consulate or the British Institution. She scribbled the addresses

on a piece of paper, which we gratefully accepted as we said our adio's. This piece of paper was our only prize for our visit to the British Embassy.

It was nearly one o'clock as we climbed the steps of the British Institution. We held back the urge of saying "que!" when a Spanish security officer asked (we think) "wha d'ya want". "Information" we replied. His answer could have been interpreted a number of ways. Either, the persons you want to see are here between 2.30 and 3.30; or here at 2.30, come back at 3.30; or they are at lunch between 2.30 and 3.30. After a few more blank looks (we are trying to learn Spanish, honest!) it was apparent that they weren't there. We sighed, but took heart when we saw a notice board in the lobby equivalent in size to all the MASD notice boards put together. Alas the only notices we could decipher were two postcards in the top right hand corner and since we were not offering a "reliable baby sitting service" or a "flat to rent", they weren't much use.

We were getting slightly disillusioned but cheered up when we saw a sign pointing to a cafeteria. Just what we needed; a nice cup of tea and, with luck, meet a few Brits with whom we could share experiences.

After suitable refreshment, we summoned up the energy to walk to the British Consulate.

Ian and I cheered up at the expense of Tony who managed to get stuck in the middle of the road. Perched on the white line, he demonstrated remarkable suppleness of the hips whilst managing to prevent the wing mirrors of passing cars cause him serious injury.

We eventually found the consulate but were not too impressed with the building or senorita security guard. Her employment condition obviously forbid her to smile on duty as she demanded to see our passports. Even our photographs failed to bring a smile to her face.

However, we thought she had a sense of humour when she asked us to empty our pockets, but it soon became apparent that she wasn't joking. We took it in turns to be scanned with a hand held metal detector. To our relief, the extent of the search stopped there and we were instructed to go through a door and take a blue ticket.

It took less than five seconds for us to survey the scene that greeted us - two rows of empty chairs facing four unmanned post office style counters.

We snapped out of our daze when the head and shoulders of a security guard suddenly popped through a window behind us and repeated "take a blue ticket". We looked back and noticed that either side of the door were ticket dispensers of the sort you see on supermarket cheese counters. We pulled off number 76.

Within half a second there was a buzz and a light lit up above the right hand counter. A young man appeared from nowhere and beckoned us to his window. We dithered slightly as the number on the display did not match the one on our ticket but we were beyond the point of questioning our actions.

He spoke, the shock of hearing an English voice turned us into jibbering idiots.

#### THAT BIG INTERVIEW - TEN THINGS WHICH MIGHT JUST COST YOU THE JOB

Turning up three months late  
Taking your mum with you  
Calling the interviewer 'pal' or 'squire'  
Letting your ice-cream drip on the carpet  
Referring to the company's product as 'thingummibobs'  
Periodically affecting a Frank Spencer voice for comic relief  
Listening to your Walkman  
Extinguishing your cigarette by dropping it in your tea  
Extinguishing your cigarette by dropping it in the interviewer's tea  
Eating all the chocolate biscuits and leaving the interviewer the digestives.

Following a series of unsatisfactory answers to our more intelligent questions the young man realised that we wanted general information and passed us three copies of a booklet "Living in Spain." His departing suggestion was that we should try the British Institute.

We think we detected a slight glimmer of a smile as we skipped pass the security guard, clutching our booklets and behaving like schoolboys who had just been given some sweeties. The sense of achievement lasted as we returned to the car and was heightened when we noticed that we hadn't been blocked in by any double parked cars.

It was after three o'clock as we progressed slowly north towards Inisel. Ian was sitting in the back reading snippets of information from the booklet.

He turned to the back page and read from the small print. We didn't think it was worth trying to explain to the passer-by's why there were cries of despair echoing from our car. They would not understand the significance of the fact that the booklet was produced by the Spanish Tourist Board.

Tony says he's going to write a letter to the Times. I hope he sends it air mail.

#### UPSIDE DOWN

Orders From Above.

"It is necessary for technical reasons that warheads should be stored upside down with the top at the bottom and the bottom at the top. In order that there may be no doubt as to which is the bottom and which the top, for storage purpose, it will be seen that the bottom of each warhead has been labelled with the word 'top'".

## KENYA EXPEDITION

Lee Norris

In November, along with 26 other young GEC employees I will be setting off on a 5 week expedition to KENYA. Next year it could be you. Interested? Then read on .....

For those of you who witnessed my "debut" speech at the MASD Wine and Wisdom Evening on the 7th March, you will know I am a man of few words! However, I have been asked to put something together about the GEC YOUNG EMPLOYEES EXPEDITION - KENYA 1991. So here goes ....

### History

Since 1987 the GEC Management College, Dunchurch (Rugby), has organised an expedition with a team of Young Employees from ALL GEC Companies. Countries visited to date include Pakistan, Kenya and Nepal on projects of a scientific and community nature.

### 1991

This year the expedition goes to Kenya where it will set up an eye clinic for 3 to 4 weeks in an area where this type of work will be most needed. The expedition party will include a very well qualified eye surgeon, so don't fret!

The basic objectives are:

To give approximately 5,000 Kenyans, from desolate areas, glasses to help correct their eyesight.

To collect information about other eye diseases that cannot be corrected easily, e.g. River Blindness.

So over the next few months I will be learning how to give eye tests and prescribe glasses. I will be collecting as many pairs of glasses as I can. If you've got any old pairs or ideas about where to get some, please let me know!

## How To Get Involved

The expeditions are open to ALL GEC employees aged between 17 - 25 (or a bit older). I got involved after seeing an advertisement on the Training Opportunity Notice Boards. I made enquiries, filled in an application form and submitted it to training, who asked me to go forward as a company representative (Stage 1). I was then asked by Dunchurch to attend the specially prepared Selection Weekend (Stage 2).

### So off I set to Leicester

The gumph on the weekend made it sound quite a challenge. Its aims included, and I quote:

"To observe participants under physically and mentally stressful circumstances. The programme for the weekend has been well thought out and will be thoroughly supervised" (they can say that again!).

"It will be physically demanding but individuals of average fitness should be able to cope. The weekend will be very hard work, but it is hoped that you will enjoy it, and learn from it, even if you are not selected for the expedition."

"Please note that you may find elements of the programme uncomfortable, however, you will have the option to choose not to participate in certain activities." (Gulp!).

The weekend was absolutely fantastic and needless to say, I survived. I don't want to say too much about it because it might spoil it for those who apply next year, but sleeping under the stars, cooking and eating rabbits and abseiling a 60 foot cliff, were all good fun!

The weekend was run by Dunchurch staff in conjunction with last years expedition team, who had a great time in Nepal. Quite frankly, I can't wait to be in their shoes next year.

## Money and Sponsorship

A project of this nature requires funding and each individual is required to raise between £1,000 and £1,500. So beware, later this year I shall be on the prowl for sponsors.

I hope you will take an interest in this year's expedition. I promise to send postcards home. Furthermore I hope my efforts will encourage you to apply next year.

To those who have supported me so far, and in anticipation, my thanks to you all.

## Editor's Note

Having spent time in Kenya I have no doubt that Lee will enjoy his stay under the stars working on a very worthwhile project. Eye diseases and particularly blindness from a young age are prevalent in that part of the world. Many can be cured by a short but intricate operation. All it needs is volunteers who put other's needs before their own. I wish Lee every success and I trust when the time comes you will give him every support. For my part, I will sponsor him if he promises to produce an article on his experiences for the Xmas Newsletter.

## SCANNER APPEAL

Last December the Company set out to raise £25,000 for the Body Scanner for the Medway Hospital. For our part the Division accepted a challenge to raise £2,000 towards the total. After just three months we are two thirds of the way home. At the last count our contribution was £1331.64, details are given opposite.

I'm informed that the unofficial total now stands at £17,000. To all concerned well done. Keep it up, at this rate we should top the target by June.

What	When	Total
St Trinian's	21/12/90	£212-04
Surplus Equipment	21/12/90	£ 45-00
Raffle	11/1/91	£137-50
Loose Change	January	£ 23-50
Donations	January	£ 9-00
Raffle	25/1/91	£121-00
Donations	February	£224-10
Raffle	22/2/91	£140-00
Donations/Coin Jar	March	£ 47-00
Quiz Evening	7/3/91	£372-50
		£1331-60
Guess whose calculator gave the wrong answer? ASG (who?)		



## CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

For those who have not visited the Contracts Department, it is located upstairs above the QA Department and the telephone exchange. For those who do not know where QA is, well there's no hope!

The Contracts team, under the supervision of Bob Fordham (see mug shot!), is the focal point for customers and potential customers on contracts that we hold or hope to obtain. They carry out the pricing and contract negotiation with the customer as well as contract administration. They liaise closely with all departments in the division, some liaisons have even gone as far as marriage.

The Contracts Department is split into a number of groups (see Organisational Chart below) each Contracts Officer is responsible for a particular contract or a number of contracts. The Contracts staff is ably supported by the Shipping and Dispatch Team, the Customer Property Administrator and Jackie, our secretary, who keeps us all in line. The team consists of the following people.

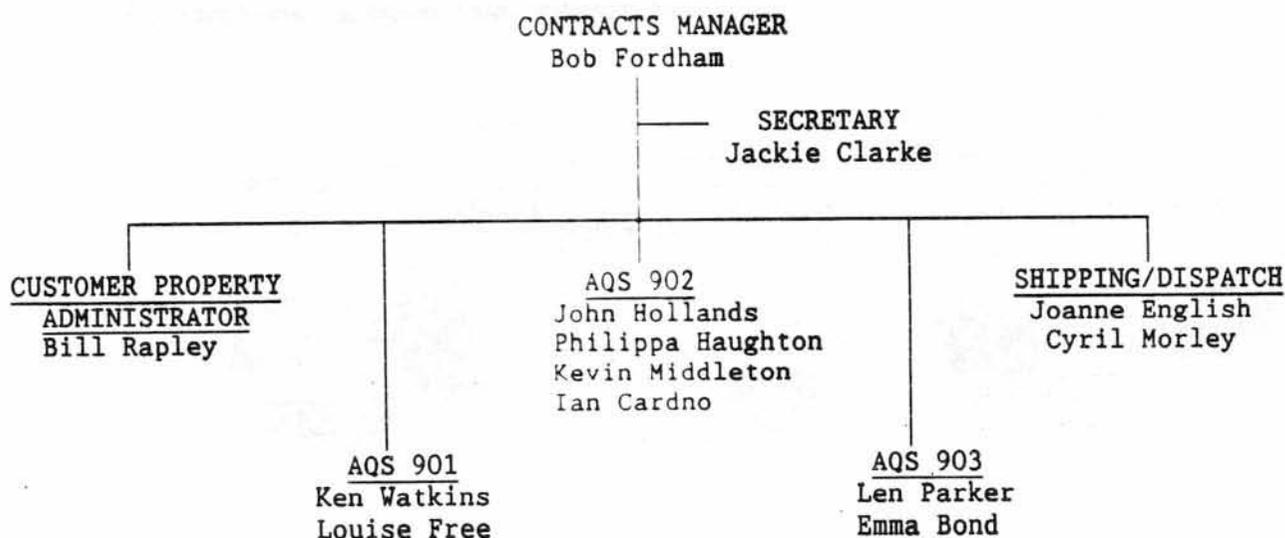
Len Parker - Senior Contracts Officer responsible for the AQS 903 programme who has been known to wear some outrageous gear particularly in aid of Comic Relief taking first prize in the bought tie competition. He is a keen biker and has spent several years learning to speak with a fluent French accent, can't speak a word of French but has a great accent.

Louise Free - Contracts Officer on the AQS 901 programme has now found a new hobby. Getting pregnant. If you wanted to keep it a secret Louise, there's no hope now. The terms and conditions are agreed, the delivery date is set (although being married to an engineer this could alter) and we hope progress reports will be submitted on a regular basis.

Ken Watkins - Senior Contracts Officer, working on Post Design Services, MAPADS for Atlanta and Sweden. He manages to wield a hockey stick and occasionally plays a game or two. He is a biker, although of the non-motorised variety, who has baffled the legal profession (and himself) by carrying out his own house conveyancing. Ken likes a nibble during the day. If anyone has a few lbs of fruit and veg to spare, Ken is your man.

John Hollands - Senior Contracts Officer, looking after the NSR 6116 Sea King 6 programme, is a keen squash player and home brewer. He has a masters degree in exploding wine theory and has taken the theory into the more practical applications of unusual interior design.

Kevin Middleton - Senior Contracts Officer is responsible for the MHM programme, is a keen squash player and badminton player who manages to keep a sense of humour in the face of overwhelming odds and the clock reading midnight. He has the audacity to tell his wife he has been working on some proposal or other!



Phillipa Haughton - Senior Contracts Officer, is working on the Spanish and French/Italian programmes and miscellaneous MOD contracts. She spends some of her spare time looking after a pack of cubs! This in itself shows her ability for leadership and tendency towards masochism. She is taking a course of Spanish lessons to ensure that when a Gin and Tonic is ordered in Madrid, a Gin and Tonic is received.

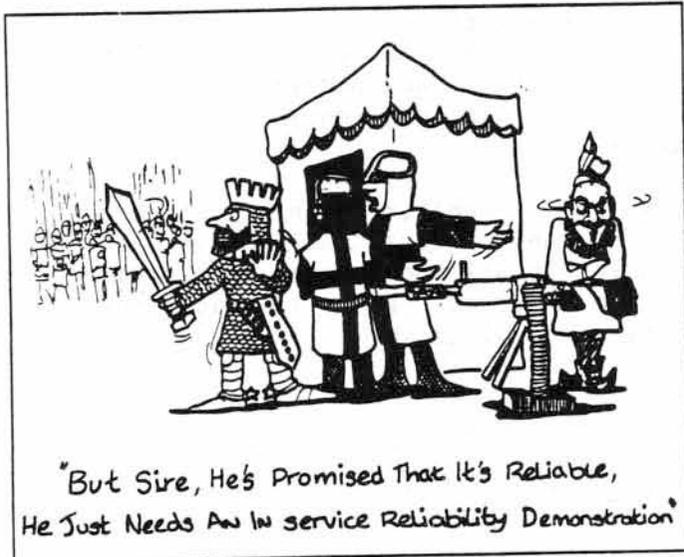
Ian Cardno - Contracts Officer, mainly responsible for the Indian Sea King and AI Radar programmes, is a budding tennis player and Capri owner who has been coached by the best (Len Parker, John Hollands, only joking Ian!). But seriously, Ian is a very good driver, except that he drives at one speed, 90 mph. Evidence, his white knuckled passengers who have to be prised from their seats after a journey.

Emma Bond - Commercial Assistant, working on the AQS 903 programme with Len Parker and looking after a number of miscellaneous contracts, finds herself tied up with the social activities of MASD. She is quite adept at burning the candle at both ends and looking as fresh as a daisy the next day.

Joanne English - Contracts Clerk who looks after the shipping and dispatch of all equipment within the division. She has also caught the pregnancy epidemic. Any suggestion as to how these symptoms occur please write on a postcard and send to the Editor.

Bill Rapley - Customer Property Administrator, is responsible for the safe keeping and movement of Customer equipment kept in the Division. Most of our readers will know "Big Bill" through his series of lectures within the Division, excellently carried out with the experience of his teaching background. Bill has a number of extra curricula activities and participated in the first Wine and Wisdom evening on the side of QA who won! Surprise! Surprise!

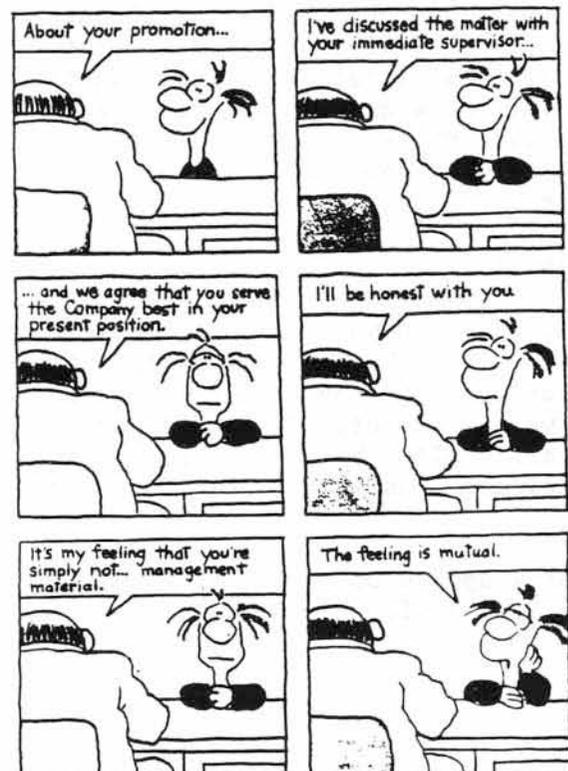
The Contracts team would not be complete without mentioning Cyril Morley who cheerfully and without question puts his efforts into moving equipment. Jackie King who is currently on maternity leave and the lovely but bossy Jackie Clarke, secretary, who puts up with Tony Baker and Bob Fordham and keeps the remainder in place.



MANY MOONS AGO

#### IX. PROMOTION POLICY

Whenever possible and practical, promotions are made from within the organization.



## SOGIAL SCENE

### Christmas Dinner/Dance

The Christmas Dinner/Dance was a great success and all had a wonderful time; the food was excellent and the music suitable for all ages. Added entertainment was provided by Alex Graham, who went disguised as a Scotchman, or is it Scot, and Jon Anderson, a self imposed cabaret. This year's Dinner/Dance has been booked at the Roffen Club for Friday 6th December 1991. Start saving now, you can't offer the excuse that you haven't been given enough notice. For the thrifty, our treasurer, Hannah T, has opened a Xmas Club and will take payments in advance.

### Summer Dance

The Summer Dance will be held in the main canteen on Saturday 6 July. Dancing to live music - "The Target." Supper will be served at half time. This is the time to show off your slow, slow, quick, quick, slow prowess, our gold medal expert, Mrs P K is taking bookings on her dance card.

Price is £5 a head or £10 a couple, a discount you can't refuse. It has been suggested that Gentlemen wear a jacket and a tie plus matching trousers.

Tickets can be obtained from Hannah Twitchen, Dave Hewlett or Lee Norris. It's first come first served, so don't delay. P.S. Come armed with spare cash, I'm told that Pat W and Co. will be on the prowl. Give generously and all will be forgiven.

### Future Events

Plans are in hand for the inter-divisional mixed hockey which will be played between May and June. As the holders we are expected to do well again this year. All those interested in playing please contact Hannah or Jon Anderson.

The Company Sports Day will be held at Hoo on 14 July 1991.

## COMIC RELIEF

Friday 15th March saw 140 members of the Division trooping to work in several guises for Comic Relief. All with one objective to win the "UGH" tie competition ably organised by Emma Bond, Clare Clayton and Lee Norris. The competition was held in two sections, one for ties bought off the rack, the second for original home made designs.

The judges were Pat, Cow Punching, Warner, and Percy Grows, hired at great expense from the Tatler. Our two experts spent the morning eliminating the entries down to a final six in each section. As three o'clock and the final loomed, the approaches to Wembley were crowded. Tension mounted and confusion reigned. As Confucius say "Before holding final, first tell finalists."

At last the finalists paraded for the final inspection. In the "Original Ideas Section" the winner was Peter "Bog Roll" Holt, with special mentions to the "Ostentatious" Pit Team, who refused to donate its ties to Charity, and 'Maid Marion' Golder-Hayes.

In the "Bought Section" the popular winner was Len Parker, the epitome of how not to dress for the office. Special mentions for John Milham and Alistair Brown. There appeared to be little to choose between the contestants in this section. I'm sure that Lennie won on the strength of his outlandish display, platforms and all.

The two gold medalist each received a fiver for their efforts and £152 went to the cause. To all who entered well done. It raised a laugh and in the long run everyone was a winner.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

Seen on an office wall.

"To err is human.

To forgive is not our policy."

MASD POOL SINGLES KNOCKOUT  
TOURNAMENT



Andy's name has now been engraved on the shield on display in the divisional trophy cabinet. This was the first singles tournament since 1986. With your involvement it is intended to make it an annual event.

Our congratulations to Andy Long. Commiserations to all of the competitors, and especially Terry who organised the event and sheds a tear each time he passes the cabinet.

20 = Q IN TQ (QUESTIONS IN THIS QUIZ)

Welcome to another challenge. Each clue represents a phrase, saying or fact. For example 1815 = B of W (Battle of Waterloo).

The last quiz was won by Eric Frow who kindly donated his winnings to the Scanner Appeal.

Well done Eric!

The editor again donates 100 pence to the first all correct answer passed to him.

- 12 = Z in a B
- 45 = S at W a RR
- 186000 = MPS (S of L)
- 4 = H of the A
- 57 = HV
- 2 = S in a P
- 999 = OL than a T
- 6 = G(K of E)
- 192 = DE
- 15 = FP in T
- 11 = P in a FT
- 40 = W
- 9 = L of a C
- 32 = DF at WWF
- 22 = TLD
- 147 = MS at S
- 7 = H of R
- 1000 = B in a MB
- 14 = L in a S
- 29 = D in F (in a LY)

During January and February cues were wielded and balls flew across the baize as contenders fought for the coveted title of MASD Pool CHAMPION. A total of 37 people, representing most areas of MASD, entered the draw. Preliminary rounds up to the quarter finals were arranged by the players at venues of their choice. At last only eight players remained in contention. In smokey pool halls around the district serious practice sessions ensued in preparation for finals night on 12 February. Unfortunately the event had to be postponed because of snow on the pitch! The quarter finals, semi finals and final were rescheduled and played on the 25th February. Our thanks to the Warren Wood Social Club who provided the facilities for a very enjoyable evening. After some very serious and hard fought frames early in the evening Andy Long and Terry Everett eventually reached the final which ended in a definite and well earned victory for Andy.



## WINE AND WISDOM

Due to nature's inconsideration, when the snow lay crisp and even, the Wine and Wisdom evening eventually got under way on the 7 March. One would have thought the delay would have given our hostess plenty of time to amass the requisite questions. Not on you Nelly, when I was called to the presence earlier that day, the computer was working overtime formatting clues and answers.

For the latest evenings entertainment 16 teams, some 110 people, were present in the lounge bar. In addition our friends in Spain had submitted an answer sheet. The object of the evening was to answer 10 questions on 10 different subjects ranging from Geography, through Music, Sport, and Our Royals to One Over The Eight. Each team was allowed to play a Joker which doubled the score on the chosen subject. Thus a total of 110 points was at stake.

The atmosphere was very relaxed, probably because the higher management were not looking over one's shoulder, conspicuous by their absence. However, as the wine flowed, tongues started to wag, ripostes abounded and Gordon and the Goffers slowly sank from view.

As the competition progressed excitement mounted. The tension was broken when one young overweight scumbag demolished his chair. With two rounds to go the leaders were bunched together, another sprint finish. Alas the Numbers game proved disastrous for most teams. All could add, subtract, multiply and divide, the trouble was finding the right figures for the calculation. With one round to go the Shrinks and Caroline's Crazy Gang were tied on 77.5 points. "One Over The Eight" to go. This was where experience

and maturity told. Who else but the three wise men, the over 50s, would know what a B & B was? That celery went with a Bloody Mary. Years of frequenting cocktail and airport bars around the world has its advantages. Who else but Caroline's Crazy Gang (Marketing), without its titular head, triumphed with 85.5 points. The runners up were the Shrinks (the analysts who, like last year, were beaten by a nose), and third Return of Ethel (Debbie's Mob). A special mention to Bob's Performing Testees, who, from the noise with which they greeted the answers should have come first, eventually settled for a lemon. The defending champions, Scumbag College, degenerated to 14th place. Who said they could win without Bill Rapley?

During the evening, a bus-stop collection, ably led by our chief negotiator, keep your hands in your pocket chaps, Pat's on the scrounge, raised £77. A big thank you to all who contributed, to Pat Warner and particular to those, like the MGBs, who returned their winnings to the fund.

On behalf of those who attended may I thank "Sweet Sue" for her hard work enthusiasm and obscure questions. The evenings entertainment raised £387 for the Scanner Appeal, overall a successful and rewarding evening. You may like to know that our friends from the Ministry donated £15 to the fund. I have no doubt that further Wine and Wisdoms will be very welcome and well supported.

Well done Sue your efforts were much appreciated.

P.S. Did you spot the evening's deliberate mistake? If you have a grand piano please pass it to Sue Wood so that she can count the keys.



## HATCHES, MATCHES AND DISPATCHES

Congratulations on the occasion of their engagement to:

Carole Washington and  
Chris Douglas (Integration)

Karen Love (ex Computing Services)  
and John Cayzer (Engineering)

Linda Atkins (MCS) and  
Simon Henderson

Congratulations on the occasion of their forthcoming marriage to:

Brenna Hutchins and Mike James (Eng)  
on 30th March 1991

Congratulations to:

Jackie (Contracts) and Jeff King on the birth of their daughter, Kelly Louise.

Kevin (Software) and Mary Sutton on the birth of their daughter, Francesca.

As you walk around the Division you cannot have failed to notice that we shall be celebrating several births over the coming months, particularly in Contracts. The secret is the department's dispatch chair. It guarantees success. The last temporary occupant was Jon Anderson and he is putting on weight, a sympathetic pregnancy?

### WELL DONE

We are delighted to report that Debbie Davis, who joined the Analysis Group last year, has been awarded a master's degree in Artificial Intelligence with Engineering Applications by the University of Cardiff.

The MSC course covered Knowledge Based Engineering, Neural Networks, Image Processing, Natural Language Processing Robotics using the LISP, PROLOG and C languages.

Our congratulation to Debbie. As one hardware engineer was heard to say I can't even spell the course contents never mind understand them.

## PASTURES NEW

Since the last Newsletter two members of the staff have retired to pastures green, Tom Hales and Ben Hogben. Both have celebrated their 65th birthday but remain young at heart with a mischievous smile in their eye.

Both Tom and Ben joined the company in the mid 1950s after serving in the Royal Navy. Over the years they worked for several divisions before joining MASD on its conception in 1973. Both became experts in their chosen fields, Tom in Configuration Control and Ben in Project Control. They will be missed for their expertise and Tom for his dry sense of humour, Ben for his bubbly nature. Both departed armed with suitable retirement presents. We wish them longevity, and every happiness and success. Both were looking forward to the pleasure of ignoring the alarm clock and exploring new recreational avenues. There's still life in the old sea dogs.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

At last my prayers are answered. At least two people read the Xmas Newsletter, followed my plea, and made a New Year's resolution to produce an article for the Newsletter; my thanks to Trevor Hall and Lee Norris.

A quick glance at the Social Scene shows that the Division continues to make generous contributions to charity. Charity starts at home, so I hope you will join me in sponsoring Lee Norris's effort to help less fortunate members of the globe.

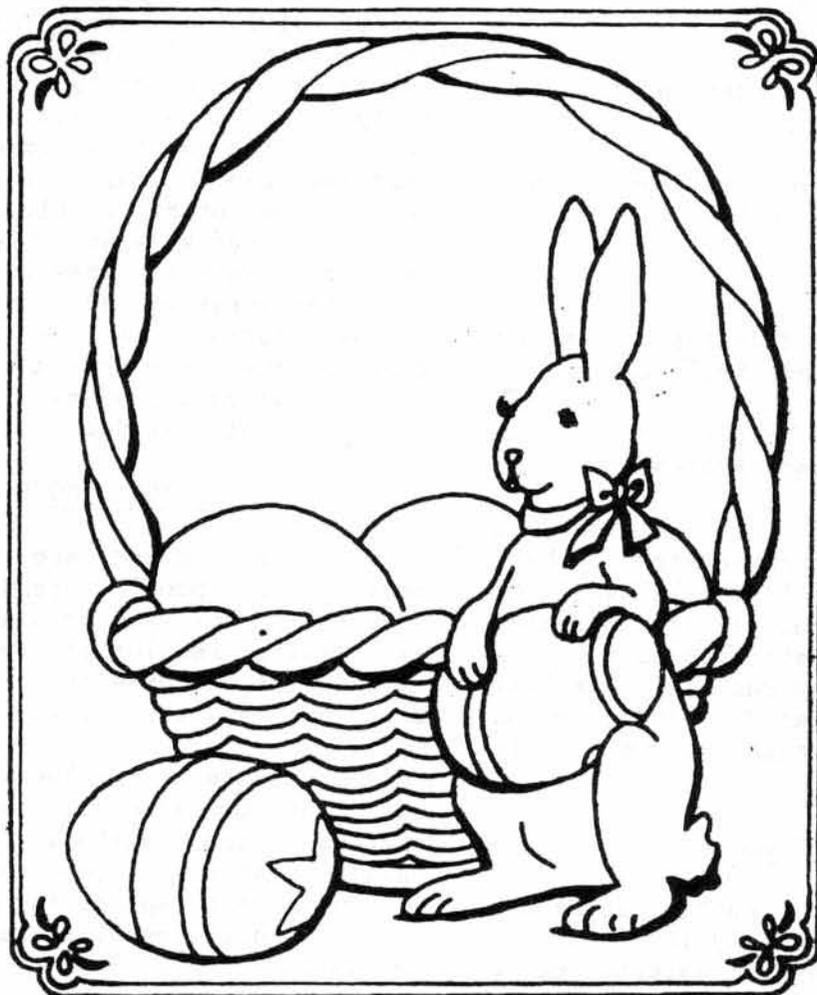
My thanks to Caroline McKenzie, Tech Pubs and the Library, without their help this newsletter would still be an unreadable pile on my desk.

It is our intention to publish the next newsletter in mid-summer. If you would like to see your name in the headlines I'll be pleased to hear from you.

Have a pleasant break and don't eat too many chocolate eggs.

'Ed'

COLOUR IN OUR  
EASTER BUNNY



HAPPY EASTER