

# MASD NEWSLETTER

*Happy  
Easter*

APRIL 1992

## FOREWORD

I am extremely proud, as Divisional Manager of MASD, to be producing my first foreword for the Newsletter. It is amazing how many changes have occurred in the Division since our Xmas Newsletter.

I was very pleased at the warm welcome extended by you all to both Ralph Jeffery and Rod Tester on joining MASD. From my own experience, I know the transition from one Division to another is never easy.

Since the last newsletter, unfortunately, we have reduced our team size on the P3 Spanish Update Programme due to indecisions by the Spanish MOD. Today only the two Trevors remain in Madrid, Trevor Taylor is returning after Easter and then there will be one. I am visiting Inisel immediately after Easter to assess the future of this programme. However, may I take this opportunity, to thank the team members, who worked under extremely frustrating conditions, for their efforts in Madrid.

As a number of you are aware we have completed two studies for IBM-ASIC on the AQS 903 for Merlin. I hope to be able to report by the next newsletter that we have received the order for further development and production of 44

systems. The good news is that we have recently received "jump start" for some aspects of the IBM-ASIC programme.

As Alan mentioned in the Xmas Newsletter, MASD needs to continue to seek working relationship and alliances with a variety of parties both in the UK and abroad. Progress is being made in this area which is why you have obviously noted my absence from the division - further details will be issued when relevant.

It is two years since our intrepid team took the ACT demonstration equipment on a tour of the USA and Canada. At that time Alan forecast that prospects of potential sales were very favourable. Interest in this unique product has been mounting. Nearly every country which operates ASW helicopters and MPA has made enquiries and I am pleased to announce that recently we sold the first equipment to the United States Navy. Like Stork our fame is spreading and I am confident we shall continue to sell ACT throughout the world's ASW community.

As another financial year comes to an end, I am pleased to announce that MASD remains profitable. This has been achieved by meeting our forecast sales target and keeping our overhead costs to a minimum. During a period of recession this is an extremely noteworthy effort.

My congratulations and thanks to you all for your hard work and support.

On my appointment as DM I relinquished the Chair of the Social Committee. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the past committee for all their support and hard work. They did much to offer us a diversity of activities to follow and I am aware they spent much of their spare time ensuring the events went with a swing. I wish Tony Young and the new committee every success. I trust you will continue to give them your support.

It was just over four years that I arrived in the Division and shortly after that the first newsletter rolled off the press. The primary aim of the newsletter is to provide all members of the Division with information on all aspects of life.

#### 25 YEARS SERVICE

Last October Pat Warner completed 25 years service with the company. Pat spent her earlier years in Wiring, Progress Chasing, Stock Control and Scheduling, becoming Head of Scheduling. She is now a Project Admin Officer.

During her time in the Division Pat has worked tirelessly fund raising for good causes such as the Special Baby Care Unit, a sports wheelchair for Paul Irons, then in our Production Department, and the Scanner Appeal. Furthermore, our social club fund has profited from her enthusiasm. As I can vouch your money is never safe when Pat is on the collecting trail.

Congratulations Pat, keep up the good work.

Another well known character who completed 25 years service with the company last month was Mike Harden. Mike has been with the Division since its initiation in 1973. You name the project

I have been pleased to see the range and diversity of the articles that have been written. However, in the long term the success of the newsletter depends on your contributions and I trust you will continue to give Barrie Riley every support. You all have access to a terminal or pen so keep the articles coming.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a happy and relaxing Easter, but don't eat too many chocolate eggs!



Sue Wood

and he has been closely involved with it at some stage. His vast experience has been used in developing, testing and trials of AQS 901, 902 and 903. In our Yeovil office he has been employed on tactical systems and was at the forefront of the ISK programme and the introduction of the colour facility.

Mike is the master of the unexpected who lives life to the full. To celebrate his sixtieth birthday he cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats. A daunting task for a young man but one he achieved with ease. His other hobby is aviation history. A fountain of knowledge his inquisitive and retentive mind can always recall some point of interest.

Mike is now working with CACD on yet another challenge, Phoenix. Congratulations on your achievements. We wish you well in your new appointment.

## ROGUES GALLERY



Rod Tester  
Technical  
Manager

Born and raised in Gravesend - Rod was educated at Gravesend Grammar School which he represented at badminton and bridge. He spent much of his youth involved in Scouting including one memorable trip to Japan in 1971, where the art of eating raw fish was acquired but quickly dropped.

Rod attended University College London, graduating in 1976 with a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Like most young men he found living in central London for 3 years an even greater education. During summer vacations he worked in FCD on Concorde Autopilot/Flight Director, and at the Post Office Research Centre.

In 1976 he joined the fledgeling Powerplant Systems Division, which was trying to establish itself with a staff of 25 engineers. PSD particularly appealed because it clearly defined the job he would be working on.

Initially he was involved in Helicopter engine control systems, tasked with replacing the 12-12P computer with a new fangled microprocessor - one of the first in the company. In those days programs were written by hardware engineers in 1s and 0s - no other software tools existed.

His next project, the Supervisory Controller for the RB211-535 engine (for the 757), is now a profitable line in MCD's product range.

As the project engineer for the Engine Test Facilities for the RB199 engine for the Tornado he was involved in the site integration trials at RAF Cottesmore and Honnington. Invaluable experience, in that his designs, that looked great on the drawing board, were not quite right when the real users got their hands on them. He twice had the dubious honour of being on top of the engine test stand when the engine caught fire.

In 1982 he was appointed project leader of the Canadian CF18 test house program. Here he was responsible for designing the complete system, (hardware and software) and its initial installation at CFB, Cold Lake, Northern Alberta.

Working on site, 300 miles from civilisation, added a completely new meaning to "responsible" - ie dropped in it. Having half the Canadian Forces watching over his shoulder as he commissioned a brand new hush-house, certainly focused the mind. Living for one winter in Canada had its lighter moments - like the time he barbequed on the lake at -30°F, or 'beached' the car in a snow drift one night at -59°F. On a more sober note, as the bars were closed on Sundays, he worked to pass the time away!

In the mid 80s he was promoted to Project Manager for all the division's Engine Test Products, and then for the Future Systems Group. After six years on one product, he took the opportunity to get involved in something completely different - displays, health monitoring and fuel flowmeters. Initially his responsibilities included the CCU program for 903. He enjoyed the Future Systems work as it offered the chance to become involved with a large number of customers and research/development agencies, most of which were in the USA. As the EFA program loomed (or lurched?)

nearer, he became involved in negotiations around Europe, for engine and display related bids. Eventually three bids were successful and formed the core of MCD's engineering business.

In 1988 he was promoted to Chief Engineer and the following year PSD merged with the offshore Projects Group, Nailsea, to form the Monitoring and Controls Division. Rod became Technical Manager of the Airframe/Engines Group. As manager of the Engineering Department he was involved in developing the division's business. Contracts with the BAe Hawk 100/200 and Lockheed on a C130 Demonstrator, further stabilised the division's base.

At the end of 1990, when the Recording Systems and Power Conversion Divisions at Nailsea were merged into MCD, Rod was asked to oversee and integrate their engineering teams into the Airframe/Engines Group. With 200 miles separating the sites and somewhat different cultures this proved a much more difficult task than first imagined. He became a weekly M25/M4 commuter, and claims to know every

motorway bend, and every hotel and restaurant in the Nailsea area.

In February, Rod joined MASD as Technical Manager. After 16 years working with the same people/products, the new challenges in a completely different environment are a pleasant surprise. Technically, in GEC Avionics terms, MASD is almost the opposite end of the scale to MCD.

However the management principles are the same, and Rod hopes to use his "alternative experience" to assist in developing MASD's business. Certainly he appreciates the welcome he has received.

Rod is married to Jackie, who also has local roots in Dartford. They have 3 children - Rikki (12), Laura (10) and Kim (8), who keep him busy at home. In his spare time, he swims and enjoys (?) DIY - after 10 years in his present house he has nearly completed what he and Jackie planned to do in the first 2 or 3 years - I'm sure you understand the problem. He is a keen sports fan, and hopes to take up badminton again - work and kids permitting.



## PROJECT REVIEW

### AOS 901

The team has prevailed through the upheavals of the change in programme management. It has succeeded in resolving some difficult problems with the current software update whilst fending off the new programme management questions. The RAF and RAAF were extremely pleased with our efforts.

January was spent investigating specific performance problems relating to DICASS processing.

The software team is working on the final build of OFP 5.1. We expect to meet the delivery milestone. The preliminary performance evaluation has shown a marked improvement over the previous standard.

As a parallel project the team is updating the documentation. The milestone for the preliminary CDDs was achieved in January. The team expects to meet the next milestone of mid April.

Discussions regarding our participation in future Nimrod software updates are well in hand. We anticipate being involved in a System Design Authority capacity for the foreseeable future.

Although the long term future for the RAF ASW capability is still undecided we remain actively involved.

### AQS 902

#### Royal Navy Sea King Mk6

Approval of funding for the Issue 5 Software Update continues to grind through the machinery. MOD and MASD personnel have expended a lot of effort in oiling the wheels and barring further hiccups the programme will start shortly.

Further proposals on installing a Video Tape Recorder, and studying modifications

to the Sonar Interface Unit and the Transmitter Unit are being considered. These are expected to materialise in further work later this year.

Production of prime equipment and spares continues to progress smoothly.

### Sweden

The third system was set to work without any problems. Tony Young and Neil Baker visited the Royal Swedish Navy at the end of January to discuss the requirement for system enhancements, further systems and module spares. Their presentation was well received and we are hopeful of future business. Incidentally the hottest thing in Sweden at this time is a hour long video of a log fire slowly burning away. Who says the Swedes don't have a sense of humour. The video is available on request.

### ASN 990

"What is this"? I hear you say; well in addition to producing Acoustic Processors, MASD developed a Tactical Mission System, the ASN 924, for the Indian Navy. The System integrates a Tactical Processor with the control and displays for other sensors e.g. Navigation, Radar, ESM and Acoustics.

This system was enhanced by our old Yeovil Office adding further capabilities, the most significant being colour.

Recognising that there is a future in Tactical systems for Maritime Patrol Aircraft, the division is updating the ASN 924 technology. (Motorola 68040 processors and VME data bus). This system is denoted ASN 990.

### FCD

After considerable hard work and some candle burning during late December and January the Phase 1 Test Set Software has been delivered to FCD. This was followed very quickly by the delivery in

February of the planned Issue 1.1 update which addresses the change in the Primary Flight Computer Architecture.

FCD has delivered the Test Set Hardware and Software to the customer, Redmond, USA, where it is in use.

Congratulations to the Test Set team, a sterling effort.

### RPFC

MASD personnel, working under the management of Steve Hulyer, have completed successfully the software design and implementation for the Phase 1 delivery to Boeing.

Currently the software is being integrated by a team which includes Tony Bunn, Mark Willis and Joe Gatt. Members of the software team are assisting the integration team to identify problems against the FCD System Requirement Document.

The integrated software should be delivered to Boeing in April.

### AQS 903

Since the last news letter the 903 Software team has been working on the SRT programme, OFP integration, Loading, Reconciliation development and IBM preparation.

The SRT programme was completed after nearly 2000 hours of continuous cycling. Some problems were identified with the rack structure and the sub-contract units. After analysing all the recorded problems a report was produced, accepted and the milestone payment received.

After further updates, the OFP SIDT is expected to start in the near future.

Loading updates have resulted in system integrity being greatly improved. As a result we are confident that the agreed loading scenario will run successfully.

Development of the Reconciliation package has begun. In spite of some problems, work is progressing well. The first informal delivery of the package to integration contained firmware updates which have been completed ahead of schedule.

We are in continuous discussion with IBM to establish a Statement of Work on future updates. In particular we are unable to agree the software lifecycle requirements.

### 20 = Q IN TQ (QUESTIONS IN THIS QUIZ)

Welcome to the last event in this fun challenge. Each clue represents a phrase, saying or fact, for example 1815 = B of W (Battle of Waterloo).

The editor offers 100 pence for the first all correct answers passed to him. The last competition was won by John Milham who donated the winnings to the Scanner Appeal.

3 = W on my W  
7 = W of the W  
18 = H on a GC  
10 = DS  
24 = B in a P  
6 = HW (TLTH)  
1 = T of the P  
80 = DA the W  
100 = YO (T for the Q)  
100 = YW  
041 = DC for G  
3 = S to H (EC)  
8 = H (K of E)  
4 = Q in a G  
1812 = O (T)  
39 = S (JB)  
7 = C in the W  
37 = NBT (DC)  
1000 = MM in a M  
1728 = CI in a CF

THE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS GROUP  
(BRAIN DRAIN)

by

Alan Cuthbertson

I don't normally believe in "conspiracy theories" but my suspicions were aroused when the DM requested an article for the newsletter on the Analysis Group. To explain further, Simon Ainsworth (as Chief Systems Engineer was far too busy to consider putting quill to scroll) passed the request to Pam Page as head of the group. Pam (about to go on maternity leave) passed it on to me, the new "man in charge" for all of ten minutes. Of course this may well have been fate. Quite literally this is my first task as the "temporary" head of the group.

In order to make the most of this totally unexpected challenge, I will aim to shed some light on, what to the rest of the Division, seems to be the dark and mysterious world of the Analysts. Hopefully this will dispel some of the myths about "those clever people" who are "a bit odd" and live happily in their academic ivory tower playing with their computers.

Our main task as Analysts is to develop signal processing algorithms and operator aiding techniques for the Division. The work can be split into two main areas, namely project support for existing algorithms and PVR&D funded studies to investigate/develop new ideas with the potential use in future products.

We, who carry out this work, are a dedicated and highly self-motivated team of specialists with backgrounds mainly in mathematics, computing or physics. We liaise closely on specific projects with agencies such as the Marconi Research Centre and the Defence Research Agency. In order to maintain contact with customers, obtain feedback and awaken interest in new ideas/concepts, we

provide "demos" to a steady stream of visitors.

I report to Simon Ainsworth, Chief Systems Engineer. I am responsible for the day to day running of the Group.

So much for the structure, now the people and the work they do. Curiously, of the seven members, only Mark Walden and myself have worked outside the Analysts. All the others joined direct from College or University.

Mark Walden was a member of the System Test and Performance Test Teams and was involved in all 903's trials. For some strange reason he was affectionately known as "kipper" and "whale" by his trials oppos. Mark is assigned to the Mission Management Aid team at DRA Farnborough. This team consists of members from a number of companies as well as DRA. Their task is to develop a suite of software to allow the crews of strike aircraft to plan their missions and optimise their survivability during missions. Mark is keen on sport; his claim to fame is that, along with his brother, he won the Kent Badminton Doubles Championship in 1989-90.

I must admit to being the old hand of the group as far as longevity of company service (my god, it's 16 years!) is concerned. I started as a circuit design engineer in the IN Division. Moved to FCD/CACD (working as a Project Engineer on the Tornado Autopilot) and in 1984 transferred to GSD's Strategic Systems Performance Assessment Group based at the MOD in London. I spent four years there learning the analysis trade before coming back to Rochester and joining MASD. One of the highlights of that period was spending four weeks in Florida and being on board the Polaris Submarine. HMS Resolution, when it test fired one of its missiles. During my four years with the Analysts I have worked on tracking algorithms, operational assessment studies, and operational model development. In my spare time I have three young children to keep me busy but

I also find time for piano lessons and enjoy the odd game of badminton.

Gerald Witchlow, Ph.D. in Physics, was a Research Assistant in the Department of Physics, University of Surrey. He joined the group 2 years ago and has worked on 903 target tracker performance, a towed array beamforming study and the design of transient detection algorithms. Gerald is regarded as something of a hero by the rest of the group; he relies on British Rail and the buses to get him to and from work from his home in Bromley. He lists his hobbies as "losing at badminton", music (Beethoven and that crowd), Spanish. His ambition is "not to get any more headaches" - fat chance with our workload!

Our most recent recruit is Debbie Davis, having started late in 1990. She has a B.Sc. in Microbiology and Virology, a M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence and has submitted her Ph.D. thesis in Cancer Biology. Impressive, eh! Her work within the Group has been on Transient Graphics, Rotating Limacons and, in her own words, acting as "general dogsbody". Debbie is the proud owner of two horses and her dream is to win Badminton. (Do the horses know about this?). Her other ambition is to eat anything and not get fat. Recently Debbie became engaged to that ex-Analyst, Mike Berry.

Moving on to the more senior members of the Group, we have Chris Rossiter, Sandra Mistry and Graham Blythe.

Since joining the Group in 1985, Chris Rossiter has worked on algorithm development for all projects. His recent work includes Operator Aiding algorithms and Man Machine Interface techniques. Chris, a member of MASD's football team, enjoys cycling and badminton. He is the Division's undefeated Superstars Champion. His ambition is to have enough money to retire early to a house in the country, possibly in New Zealand! A choice heavily influenced by his 4 week Christmas break there to visit his sister.

Sandra joined the Analysts in 1985 and has worked on algorithm developments and more recently the High Accuracy Line Tracker System for DRA. Sandra, married Champ Mistry, another ex-MASD engineer, last year. No wonder she lists one of her hobbies as Indian Cookery!

Last but not least, is Graham Blythe. Over the years Graham has provided valuable support to the AQS 901 Project and worked on tracking algorithms and sensor performance/acoustic propagation modelling studies. Currently his field is a Generic Tactical Mission System Demonstration software package. As the Secretary of the Angling Section, there is only one hobby for Graham; fishing, fishing and more fishing. For Graham heaven would be owning his own lake, holding fishing matches and teach-ins. (Moonies beware, the Fishies are coming!).

P.S. Regards to the Duck.



## TALES FROM KENYA

Lee Norris

Thanks to the GEC Young Employee Expedition KENYA '92 the 57 orphans at Kip Keino's Children's home now have a roof over their heads!

I'm home after the experience of a lifetime. Now I want to tell you all about it. But where to start...? In Kenya!

### Our Arrival In Kenya

After a long flight of 24 hours, stopping at Moscow, Cyprus and South Yemmen, we set down in Nairobi. Not exactly flying in a straight line. Kenya is the sort of place in which you need to acclimatise, especially after the winter at home. It is a country that has an eternal summer (and it's hot!). But we had to get organised straight away. Train tickets to Eldoret, confirm the plane flights home (and we've just arrived), get money changed. We stayed in Nairobi for two nights before we set off by night train to our destination. The train was delayed for only five hours, which is no real deal in Kenya, prompting the acronym T.I.A (This Is Africa!) whenever things of this nature occurred. After a sleepless night we arrived in Eldoret to be met by our advanced party, and Kip and Phylis Keino. Now it was real, we were really there.

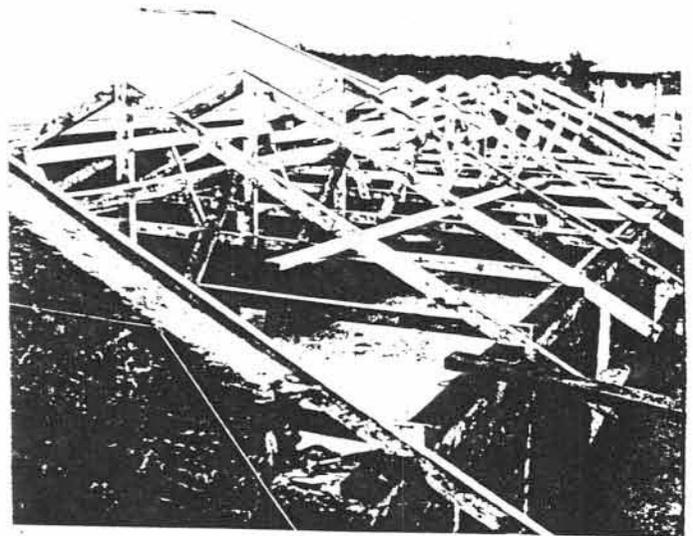
### The Orphanage

Our advanced party had set up camp on the orphanage site, which was a great relief as we arrived at 6.00am. A quick cup of tea and with no time to unpack, we climbed into our work clothes (T-shirt and Shorts) and began.

Our advanced party had already identified the first problem. The building was slightly different from the expected and the roof could not be built as planned.

To further complicate our situation, an extension had been built which needed roofing. In addition Phylis had a few other ideas for changes up her sleeve. This meant we had to demolish certain walls and build new ones before we could start on the roof. However, as we had expected, Eldoret, an expanding town was fully equipped to cope with our supply needs.

We subdivided into four teams, roofers, bricklayers, plumbers and electricians (I was a bricklayer) and set about our designated tasks. Our days started at 6.00am, up before dawn and a wash in cold water. Usually a wash consisted of brushing our teeth! Then breakfast, a cup of tea and start work at 7.00am. We all worked through until lunch time, 1.00pm, when we stopped for a couple of hours as the Midday Sun was too hot to work in. Start again at 3.00pm and work until 6.00pm when dinner would be ready. Time for a quick wash and then around the camp fire to sum up the day and socialise. I've learnt many new camp fire songs, all excellent, but most unfit for print!



Halfway Through The Project

Cooking was rotated on a daily basis, with the cooking crew decided in rotation by tent (3 in a tent). The day for the cooks started at 5.00am and continued on until about 8.30pm when all the pots were washed.

This continued as our basic daily routine for the 25 days we were at the orphanage. After the first couple of days the fun really started!

### Medical Problems

At first no one had too much trouble with the food or water. In fact we drank the water directly from the water pump tap. But suddenly illness struck! Food poisoning which the doctor put down to the eggs (possible Salmonella). Eight of the team (40% of us) went down including me. I can honestly say that I have never felt so ill. Still, with antibiotics, most of us were over it in a day or so.

The first accident was a thumb, almost sawn off by it's owner (5 stitches), the second a plank in an eye (2 stitches), thirdly me when another team member accidentally dropped a hammer from the roof onto my head (No laughing - 3 stitches), fourth was a knee caught by a piece of roofing tin (I put 5 stitches into this patient), fifth was our doctor who cut his arm on a piece of flint used as building material (8 stitches).

### The Kids

Most of the children at the orphanage were under 7 years old, the older ones were sent to boarding schools. Currently there are 57 children virtually all sleeping in one large bed: it just has to be seen to be believed! We did not see them as much as we would have liked, but when we did we made the most of it. Playing games, covering them in face paints and helping them to write and draw with the pens, pencils and paper we had brought with us. They loved the attention and we just loved to give it them.

One day we held a clinic for the children and were able to help with a Scabies epidemic, sort out some infection problems and give overall general check-ups. This was much appreciated by Phylis as most of the local doctors live on nearby Ponds (Quack! Quack!).



Fratenising

### Leaving the Orphanage

By the time we left we had completed all we set out to do and more. We completely roofed one building and left the other (which was already roofed) with electricity, hot and cold running water, fully glazed and ceiling boards all through. We had played with and enjoyed the children as well as sorting out many of their medical problems. Plus we had made new friends in Kip and Phylis.

But feelings were mixed. It was good to finish, but hard to break ties with the people and the place and I was sad to leave.

### Rest and Recuperation

After we left the orphanage, we set off for Rhumeruti to start a five day camel

trek into the bush. This really is the way to experience Kenya in all its glory. We walked for up to 8 hours a day, prepared food on the way and drank water from the river. Water here had to be topped up with iodine to kill the bugs in it, and it tasted GREAT!

It wasn't uncommon to come across a herd of wild elephants, or, as happened on a number of occasions, come face to face with a Cape Buffalo. This was especially unnerving as there were reports of two local people being killed by buffalo just two months previously.

Temperatures reached 110 Degrees and a few of the team fell ill through heat exhaustion and bad water. Important decisions on what exactly to do had to be made. Looking back it seems strange that living on Tuna fish and dry biscuits and drinking hot, silty, iodined water whilst trekking through the bush, can bring back excellent memories.

#### Home

I arrived in Heathrow airport at 1.30pm on Sunday 1st March to a drizzly day, but the welcome face of my brother. I took Monday off and was back into work on Tuesday. It was great to be met by people who were excited to hear what happened. Settling back has not been as difficult as I expected, but all is not

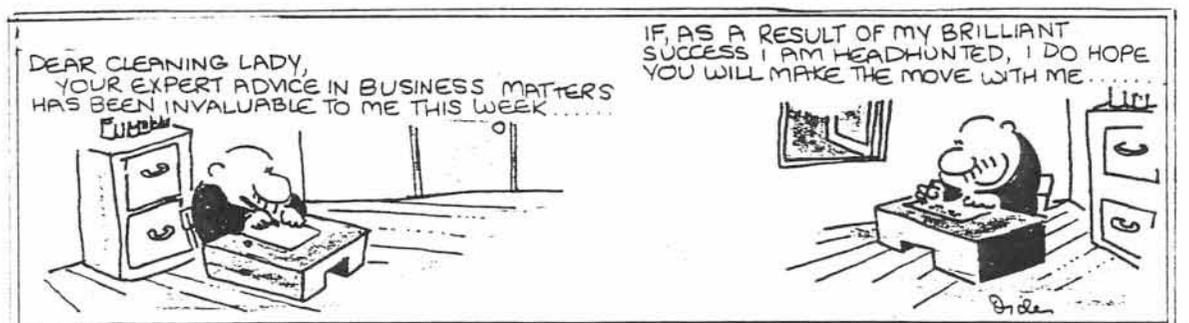
over.

Since my return I have been elected the Expedition leader for the phase leading up to our final presentation at Dunchurch on 13 April. So the responsibility and commitment for me, and all the other team members continues. Furthermore, our expedition report must be written, printed and distributed. A process which has taken previous expeditions about a year to complete.

#### What Next?

I think this expedition has been my hardest but most rewarding experience yet. Certainly I did not realise the amount of commitment and hard work it entailed. Now I must find something equally as rewarding to fill the gap. That's how I feel, so it must have been good!

I will be preparing a presentation for those who want to see the photos and get a clearer idea of what happened. Watch this space and the notice board. Until then thank you for all your interest and support. May I prompt those who may be interested to seriously consider future expeditions. Next year a team will be going to Belize in Central America to help with research on a Coral Reef.... Why not apply?



## ASIAN AEROSPACE '92

Mike Baxter

The organisers promised that the Asian Aerospace 1992 would be bigger and better than the '90 version. Nothing unusual about that you may think, every organiser says the same thing about his show and, in today's defence environment invariably the truth is the opposite. Well, Asian Aerospace was the exception that proved the rule. It had more exhibitors and more quality visitors than previously; hence justifying its claim to be the third largest airshow after Paris and Farnborough.

GEC Avionics appeared under the GEC Marconi corporate banner with a booth within the main stand alongside GEC Ferranti, GEC Sensors, GEC Aerospace and GEC Plessey Avionics. Divisions represented were MCD, FCD, GSD and MASD. Only GSD and ourselves had working equipment in the form of the Mission Planning System and ADVICE/TPS demonstrators respectively. The Mission planner impressed most people with its flexibility, whilst ADVICE served its purpose by convincing some prospective ASW operators that detection and classification using acoustics will not always remain the black art they perceive it to be.

We put the GEC Marconi chalet to good use entertaining the RAAF contingent, who never miss an excuse for free booze and eats.

The star of the flying display was the enormous Russian Beriev Be42 flying boat. One rumour, which actually made front page headlines in the Show Daily, was that the RAF was considering the Be42 as

a replacement for the Nimrod MR2. Naturally this caused some merriment among the British contingent, especially on the BAe stand.

Outside the show, life in Singapore continues on its well controlled and very pleasant path. The complete ban on smoking in public places and the banning of chewing gum throughout the Island has been accepted by the locals.

In true MASD fashion, I did my best to disrupt the smooth running of the place by adding our hire car to the back of a multi vehicle nose to tail shunt on the Pan Island Expressway. It was only after the event that you are told you shouldn't drive in the fast lane because "the Snakes will get you". Whilst I was imagining giant anacondas slithering out of the central reservation they went on to explain that the Snakes are, allegedly, Malaysians who operate in two groups. One group drives a fairly old car down the fast lane of the Expressway and, when a queue (or snake) has built up behind them, jumps on the brakes to cause the inevitable accident. The other group then appears with its tow truck offering to remove the dead vehicles at considerable profit. Sure enough in my accident the tow truck appeared within seconds, happily it was not needed for our car which was only a couple of inches shorter than before. Fortunately no one was hurt, indeed my travelling companions' main concern was missing Happy Hour at the Hotel. My problem was to get the local bobby to fill in the report forms rather than talk about aircraft.

Overall a highly successful show which enabled us to cement relationships with potential customers.

INDIVIDUAL QUALITY  
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Neil Baker

"The idea of Quality in MASD is not new, people in our QA Department deal with all that stuff".

The above statement is not true. It is a typical response to the idea of Quality Assurance.

The aim of this article is to highlight your responsibilities as individuals in a Quality conscious environment.

Our work is covered by Company, Divisional and Project procedures against which we are contracted to work. However, it is important to improve these procedures and hence our quality of life.

No matter what post we hold we should all be Quality Controllers whose aim is to improve the systems with which we work. We should not be seen adding more control for management.

Given this basic understanding it should not be difficult to develop a system which allows Quality to be built in at all levels in the Division.

Improvements can be made in all areas of our work. A few are discussed below.

Are you aware that for ENCOPs / SCOPs a Document Change Proposal (DCP) form exists? If something is not working raise a DCP, discuss it with your supervisor, and nag until you get it changed.

If you find errors in your code or the area in which you work, check to see if there is a trend. Is the SCOP or design lacking? Do not accept that problems arise - do something about them.

Improving efficiency in all areas of work

pays dividends, not just to the Project but in the longer term, it makes your job easier. Quality and efficiency can be improved by considering costs, using review processes to remove errors at an early stage of development, and giving an honest appraisal of progress to your supervisor rather than what he/she wants to hear.

Ensure you follow the Development lifecycle and keep Documents and Code in-line and up to date. Do not expect somebody else to do it for you. If you see a problem bring it to your supervisors attention.

These points may seem obvious. However, they are the areas which are the first to suffer if timescales are tight or you are due to move to a new more interesting project.

We are responsible for the Quality of the work we produce. It will not go away.

It takes very little to improve quality and enjoy the benefits that accrue to you, your team and the Division. Remember, there is always room for improvement.

MORE ENGINEERS' SPIELLING

".... locate and track submaries"

".... MASD Enginerring Department"

"AQS 901 .... was specifically developed to counter the new bread of nuclear powered submarines".

".... (he) needs to give a worm feeling to customers".

"The course is not written for the types of people who should be taking the course".

"The course could easily fail to motivate the students and should be changed to ensure this occurs".

## WINE & WISDOM EVENING 3RD APRIL

Derek Comfort

In Sue's absence in Australia my wife and I were asked to organise the Wine and Wisdom evening. The hunt was on for 8 categories plus a rolling question that would stimulate the mind.

We started gently with Theatres of London, and Fruit Varieties. When maximum points were not obtained I began to panic, the Division was not into culture and health foods.

Nursery Rhymes were next, especially for the mums. Some bird with a shovel may have dug Cock Robin's grave, but it was not the answer I was looking for.

Dates were a dead ringer for the Triangle Shifters, alias Programme Managers. This proved to be so, with much slapping of backs and self praise when they came within a year of the required time slot.

The international flavour was set with 'Flags'. We don't appear to have any Engineers from Iceland, who would have instantly recognised their national emblem. Neither do we have any from Latvia, Poland, Peru or South Yemen who at least would have realised that it wasn't theirs.

At the interval 120 odd chicken and chips were served in record time. They were not really odd but they were quick and the Chef should be congratulated for her efforts. There were even seconds! Well fortified the teams were ready to rejoin the affray.

Tony Bunn, with obvious aspirations in the Engineering Profession, confidently played his teams 'Joker' on Inventions & Discoveries. With a score of 4 this lad has definite management potential!

Debbie Soames, needing only another 50 cigarette tokens for her Iron Lung, didn't know who invented it! It certainly wasn't Jacques Cousteau.

To give Marketing a fighting chance I

chose 'Place Names'. On reflection my destinations were a bit out, they are unlikely to visit Baghdad or Belfast and there is no duty free at Broadstairs!

Hardware, whose life is a series of 'Highs and Lows', should have cracked the 'True or False' category. The liquid at the centre of a golf ball upset a few stalwart golfers. All weekend they consulted books, magazines and makers catalogues. They even brought in the divisional guru Ronald A. Scriven, who on occasions, between rounds of golf, has been known to liaise with Production. According to Ron, these spheres were only experimental, but nowadays, he and his colleagues play exclusively with solid balls! What that has to-do with the question is beyond me, but by this time most people were past caring.

At this stage we should pause to welcome the familiar face of Jayne Bryant, now ADD, and Rod Tester, late of MCD, who was experiencing his first social event with MASD. Enough of name dropping, on with the rolling question, which I chose as 'Books of the Old Testament' for no other reason than to cause you maximum pain.

Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Ezckool did they sound vaguely religious, or were they the serving wenches from 'Up Pompey'? Surely even Jayne's petite hand could not write all 39 books of the Bible on the back of a fag packet. Rod had the air of complete disbelief; if MASD did this sort of torture in the evening, what the Hell did it do during the day. By the time this hits the streets he will probably have a good idea.

Joking apart we did enjoy the evening, and would like to congratulate the team from Contracts who each picked up a bottle for their trouble. My thanks go to my wife Diana for doing the calling and Pat Warner for giving up her evening to help me mark your answers.

On behalf of the Division may I thank the MASD Social Committee for supplying the food and wine, and the lads who set out the tables and cleared up afterwards.

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DISPATCHES

Our congratulations and best wishes to those who have recently become engaged:

Debbie Davis (Analysts) and  
Mike Berry (Ex Analysts)

Maxine Jones (Software) and  
Mark Hadfield (Software)

Congratulations to:

Gill and Dave Rose on the birth of their daughter Rachel

Margaret and Adrian White on the birth of their son Peter

Debbie and Len Parker on the birth of their son Matthew

Karen and Nick Stansell on the birth of their daughter Anna

Forthcoming Marriages:

Lynda Pankhurst and Graham Collins  
20th June

Claire Deans and Mick MacTaggart  
25th July

Caroline McKenzie and Simon Topham  
12th September

GOLF COMPETITION

The Division will be holding a Stapleford Competition at Upchurch Valley Golf Club on Tuesday 30th June. Cost will be approximately £25 a head and covers:

- Coffee on arrival
- 18 Hole Competition
- 3 Course Dinner
- Prizes

The outing has been organised by Roger Griffin, Ext 4594, who has all the details. If you wish to play please contact him and be prepared to pay a 10% deposit to confirm the booking.

20 = 0 IN TQ (QUESTIONS IN THIS QUIZ)

The answers to the last competition are given below. They may give you some idea of how the compiler thinks.

- 9 = Planets in the Solar System
- 70 = Three Score Years and Ten
- 39 = Books in the Old Testament
- 7 = Players in a Water Polo Team
- 3 = Primary Colours (Red, Blue, Yellow)
- 20 = Fluid Ounces in a Pint
- 221 = b Baker St (House of Sherlock Holmes)
- 5 = Great Lakes (North America)
- 16 = Sweet and Never Been Kissed
- 10 = Green Bottles (Hanging on a Wall)
- 1977 = Red Rum Won the Grand National
- 15 = Men on a Dead Man's Chest
- 90 = Degrees in a Right Angle
- 7 = Sides on a Fifty Pence Piece
- 12 = Members of a Jury
- 1 = Wheel on a Unicycle
- 40 = Life Begins At
- 206 = Bones in the Human Body
- 405 = Lines on an Old Television
- 7 = Swans A Swimming (Twelve Days of Christmas)

As a result, we provide an atmosphere that encourages professional advancement



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

To celebrate her recent promotion Sue Wood has resigned as Chairperson of the Social Committee. On the assumption that one pressed man is worth ten volunteers Tony Young has filled the vacancy. At the same time your committee circulated a questionnaire to ascertain your thoughts on the way ahead. The mori poll is being put to good use. You will recall the poll asked for Nominees for a new committee; these were forthcoming. The new committee consists of Paul Bishop, Derek Watson, Dave Hewlett, John Cayzer, Steve Keefe and Dave Ford. I wish them every success in their quest to keep you happy as they organise events and venues. The merry bunch is only too happy to hear your ideas and suggestions, so don't be shy.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Division to thank Sue Wood and her committee for all their hard work over their term in office. They, that is Debbie Soames, Emma Bond, Jon Anderson, Claire Clayton, Hannah Everett, Roger Griffin, Dave Hewlett, Lee Norris and Garreth Owen - did a splendid job. Again all our thanks.

"Ed"

## TV PROGRAMME VISIT

We are hoping to arrange a visit to a TV Programme Show. Watch this space and the notice board for progress.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't say we didn't give you enough notice. The Committee have booked the GEC Avionics Social Club at Hoo for our Xmas dinner - Date 18th December 1992. Start saving your pennies, there is no excuse for not enjoying the fun and games this year.

## TRIP TO FRANCE

A trip to France has been organised for 25th April. Don't get too excited if you are not on the list. The last outing proved so popular the list was closed before it was opened. To qualify you had to have been there before.

Don't fret another trip is being organised for later in the year; this will be for learners only??

## FOOTBALL

There has been severe difficulties in booking a suitable venue for the 5 aside football. As the Inter Divisional 11 aside competition will be starting shortly it has been decided to defer the 5 aside.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Since the last newsletter several changes have occurred in the Division. Sue Wood has moved along the corridor to occupy the big chair and Rod Tester has joined us from MCD as Technical Manager. Congratulations, on behalf of the Division may I wish them both every success in their new appointments.

This has obviously been a good year. Several people listened to my plea, made and kept a New Year resolution to produce an article for the newsletter. To them my sincere thanks. For the rest, it was left to me and the press gang to do our best.

It is our intention to issue the next newsletter in August. If you have any ideas or articles they will be welcome. Remember this is your newsletter and we are trying to expand the subject matter.

I cannot sign off without a big thank you to Ann Whitbread and the ladies in the Library. Without their help this newsletter would be a series of hand written pages in my bottom drawer; thank you ladies.

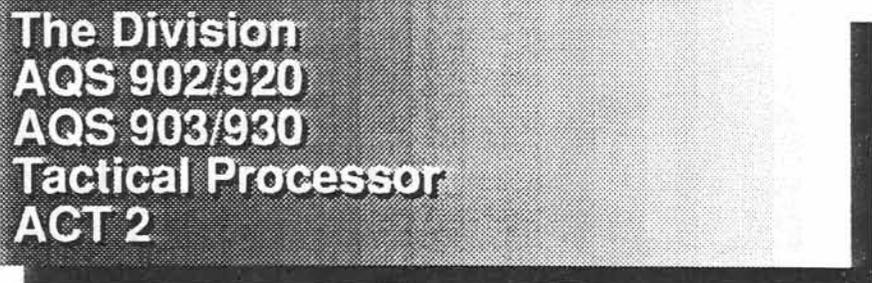
To you all a Happy Easter, enjoy the break.

# Divisional/Product Logo

In 1993 the Division celebrates its 20th birthday. Since our inauguration we have earned a reputation for producing high quality products. Our acoustic processing systems, AQS901 and AQS902, are in service with the RAF, RN and several foreign armed services. Shortly the AQS 903 will appear in the EH101 Merlin helicopter. Similarly our Tactical Processor is in service with the Indian Sea King. Finally earlier this year we delivered the first ASW Crew Trainer Mk2 to the USN.

Despite these achievements we have been unable to advertise our presence and success to the rest of the world through simple but effective logos. In the past ideas have been floated and tried but none have come to fruition. As our 20th anniversary approaches it seems appropriate to overcome this shortfall.

In order for this to happen we need appropriate logos to **advertise:**



**The Division  
AQS 902/920  
AQS 903/930  
Tactical Processor  
ACT 2**

I invite you to participate in an in-house competition to design a logo or a series of logos. The competition is open to all members of the Division. Your families are cordially invited to join in the fun.

What we need is a simple but effective design which can be easily transferred to other products. All ideas/designs should be passed to June, in the Admin Office, by Friday 1st May.

The winning entries will be announced shortly after.

I look forward to reviewing your entries.



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Sue Wood. Div. Mgr. MASD

JOKEUR



JOKEUR