

Step up to 'Part 3'

PERHAPS it was a bit like getting the key to the front door, but Rochester QCD's environmental testers were in a happy mood when they were formally given Defence Quality Assurance Board Part 3 approval on April 7. The appropriate certificates were presented by Ken Holman, MoD Principal Quality Officer at Rochester, to Mike LeGrys, Head of our Test Group. Each is holding a certificate in the picture. Around them are some of the Rochester people who have achieved the special abilities needed for 'Part 3' testing and will now be in a position to provide an electronics testing service for clients beyond the boundaries of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Ltd. at Rochester. Approximately from left to right, they are Richard Rhodes, Barry McGovarin, Bob Sterry, Roland Crust, Anthony Jeeves, Mick Fennell, Martin Nash, Barry Cole, Muriel Ewen, Ron Hawkins, Frank Ewen, Joyce Ambrose, Joan LeGrys, Reg Rann, Mervyn Lea, Jacqueline Gambrill, Stan Cook, Jim Martin, John Fogg, Archie Butler and Steve Puttock.

Particularly useful will be the electromagnetic compatibility testing facilities. Modern aircraft carry so many different "black boxes" that elaborate precautions are needed to make sure that stray signals from one box cannot cause spurious responses in another.

Picture by Keith Woolmer



Dr O'Kane Reelected



DR B J O'KANE, our Chairman, was recently reelected for a further year as Chairman of the Electronic Engineering Association, which officially represents the interests of the capital electronics industry, including avionics. Dr O'Kane's period of Chairmanship, which began in mid-term last December, spans one of the most important transitional periods for our industry, from the establishment of MoD's Procurement Executive through the selection of MRCA's avionics,

the launch of Concorde sales and Britain's entry into the Common Market.

The picture shows Dr O'Kane (left centre) at the EEA's annual luncheon welcoming guest of honour Mr Anthony Grant MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industrial Development. On the left is Mr Cranley Onslow MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Aerospace; on the right, Capt R A Villiers CBE, Director of the EEA.

Sixth Safety Award

SAFETY requires constant care, even in a relatively safe industry. But even by the standards of our industry, our efforts have been outstandingly successful and Elliott Flight Automation was selected for a sixth Industrial Safety Award from the British Safety Council. This is one of the few companies in the country to achieve such a record. The certificates are displayed inside the Personnel Entrance.

Credit must go to the Works Safety Committee headed by Works Engineer Syd Williams and Safety Officer, Mick Moore, and also to everyone who has avoided having an accident.



GEOFF RICHARDS, who retired as security guard recently with Bill Perry, has asked EFA News to pass on this note of thanks following their joint farewell day:

"Bill Perry and myself wish to thank you all for the wonderful send off you gave us on our retirement.

"Going round on our last day on duty served to remind us of appreciation and a sense of regret we were going.

"We will both treasure our period spent in Elliott's employ.

"The memory of you all and the great number of people who contributed to our leaving presents will serve to remind us." Picture by Keith Woolmer

Hanover Air Show

ONCE more, the sales team led by Marketing Executive Fred Haskett went to the Hanover air show in Germany, this time under the Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems banner and with people and exhibits from Airadio Division at Basildon and from Canadian Marconi Company. Alongside our stand in the picture can be seen EASAMS, the specialised project management company in GEC-Marconi Electronics.



THE COMPANY aircraft provided all transport for people and equipment to the Hanover Air Show in April. Here, Don Moore-Searson, (ADD Sales Manager) in the co-pilot's seat on the right, handles some traffic control work for pilot Dai Rees. Looking on is Freddy Crewe, ACD Sales Manager

Pictures by Brian Abrey



White Tiled Towers

Paul Chesmond AS&RD

There are three great white-tiled towers to the North of Bluebell Hill,
And a clutch of factory buildings not so tall,
Where the flower of Britain's youth,
Has been known to cut a tooth,
On avionic projects great and small.

The first great white-tiled tower that you see when you arrive,
Is used to house the thinkers bold and deep,
Whose new plans must be laid,
Before the tea is made,
And the drone of meetings sends them off to sleep.

The first great white-tiled tower is also used for 'shops,
Where hardware is assembled by the ton,
And tested till it's hot,
And rejected if it's not,
And rewired 'till it ceases to be fun.

There's a second white-tiled tower to the West of Tower One,
Where a host of engineers work day and night,
To timescales made so short,
That they feel they must be caught,
With their trousers down before the proving flight.

There's a third great white-tiled tower, just like the other two,
Where workers scurry round like ants and bees,
At least till six or seven,
When their idea of heaven,
Is to ring their wives and say they're late for tea.

And so the white-tiled towers house both industry and thought,
And industry its thinkers must protect,
The only trouble is,
That thoughts must have a WIS,
Or they could be classed as merely indirect.

Show a Leg
in
Elliott Sports
June 17th

Contact
your Admin Officer

Can you swim—
then why not
learn?

THE Swimming Section of the social club has room for new members. A full year of swimming is available for just £0.50p, with family and friends welcome to swim for a modest fee. Contact secretary Pete Burrows on internal 508 or come to any of the Wednesday evening sessions at Buckmore Park between 5.30 pm. and 7.00 pm.

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk

New in the Air



BERYL KIRK having gone into the passenger business on her own account (baby's due in June) Christine Farley has taken over as Flight Operations Officer in the company aircraft office. Here, Beryl is explaining the job to Christine.

Christine joined us from the Supplies Department of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee. Company aircraft work is not altogether strange to Christine, because she spent some time in a shipping group in Rochester where she made out bills of lading and manifests, but using the ground-to-air radio and getting used to aeronautical jargon were strange at first. We understand it's all Oscar Kilo now.

Beryl was in "Southall Airlines" for four years and passengers learned to appreciate the many ways in which she took good care of them.

Picture by Keith Woolmer

Congratulations

LINDA GRINDLY, a scheduling clerk with Central Machine Shop, became Mrs Whiting on Saturday 20th May when she married Peter at St Justice Church, Rochester. She had expected to miss the traditional dubbing of confetti and streamers on her last day as a bachelor girl by taking a week's holiday before the big day. But the 'treatment' was given just the same, a week in advance.

The Week's holiday, intended for the preparation of their flat, was probably used removing the confetti and decoration of balloons that went with the parcel containing the Belling Convector Heater, bought from the donations of her many friends and presented by Mr P Taylor, Production Engineer.

(Brian Hampton CMS)



A METER and a test set, which will quickly calibrate and locate circuit failures in the tape-controlled mill in CMS will save the company "well over £1,000" and have earned Mark Jagger of CMS a £100 suggestions award. He designed the meter and tester so that repairs would be made on the spot. Before that, a complete shift's work

could be lost or several days might go by before a service engineer arrived.

In the picture, Mr A J Harrison, Joint General Manager, presents the cheque to Mark Jagger. Behind them are two of our Queen's Award scrolls.

Picture by Keith Woolmer

Athletics - next month

Elliott Athletic Club will be competing in the following events during the coming month. Transport will be provided as indicated. Additional details from Len Murphy (ADD) internal 361.

June 10

Kent Schools Championships at Maidstone. No transport provided.

June 15

4 x 2½ miles road relay at Nonnington College. Transport will leave Personnel entrance.

June 17

Divisional Sports Day at Featherby Road, Gillingham commencing at 2.00 pm.

June 18 (Sunday)

Invitation 3,000 metres team race four to run three to score, and 2,400 metres Paalau two man team at Acton. Transport will leave Personnel entrance.

June 21

London Business Houses Championship at Hurlingham Park (London). This is for seniors and juniors only. Field events will also be held in the evening.

June 28

4 x 2½ mile road relay against Wye College, near Ashford, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Group News

THE projection map display technique developed by Airadio Division at Basildon has been adapted by Marconi Radar Systems for use in radar display tubes. Static information on 35 mm colour film can be projected through an optical window in the rear of the radar tube so that electronic and picture images can be seen superimposed on each other. Such a display can handle more information.

The Royal Navy's latest H Class survey ship now building will be equipped from the start with a Hydroplot computer system to speed up the complex process of making hydrographic charts. Hydroplot was developed by Marconi Space and Defence Systems and is already fitted in three other H Class ships.

A MARS computer-based automatic message switching system has been installed at Bracknell by Marconi Communication Systems to link the main British Meteorological Centre to the Meteorological World Trunk Circuit. This allows rapid exchange of World weather information.

Marconi Marine International has won a 1972 Queen's Award to Industry for export achievement. Its exports increased nearly 24 percent in a year and accounted for two-thirds of the company's sales.

Second Thoughts on C & D

WITH reference to our thesis "Avionics or Cat and Duck" (EFA News March), Paul Chesmond of AS&RD has pointed out minor drawbacks to this method of instrument flight. Owners of cats, ducks and aeroplanes may like to take note.

1. A cat's propensity for adopting a prone position, which is useless as a reference for instrument flight, is directly proportional to its age. So you are looking for a cat which is young enough to sit accurately upright, but has used up eight of its lives at an early age. A cat of that sort is accident prone.
2. Even land-loving ducks have an attraction for stretches of open shallow water and many light aircraft tend to submerge in these conditions.
3. The cat should not be allowed to see the duck in flight in case, its hunting instincts aroused, it behaves in an excitable way. Instrument flight by reference to an excited cat can cause aerobatic manoeuvres for which there is hardly ever a worthwhile audience.
4. Neither should the duck be allowed to see the cat. An intelligent duck will at once appreciate that the cat, with four instead of two legs, would have unusually good acceleration on take-off but that, having no wings, it would immediately crash. Any duck seeing such an obvious design error would be too distressed to make a good landing.

Hard Living — Mediterranean Style



THE recent problems in Malta turned AS&RD technical representatives Bill Letley (left) and Pete Jolin out into the cold along with the Nimrods they were supporting. Here they are outside their canvas "office" at Sigonella in Sicily. They had to leave comfortable villas and cars in Malta to support the "Nav-Tac" system in the Nimrod squadron to which they are

attached and which, despite the poor conditions, was very much operational.

When not in their office at a marshy end of the airfield, Bill and Joe lived in a holiday camp chalet, which was never meant for winter use — bare stone floors, no heating and no hot water! They learned that Mediterranean winter weather can be cold and wet.

Good Sports

ATHLETIC CLUB secretary Len Murphy is often heard complaining about athletics results, but a quick look at the results of the last quarter shows that apathy is not the cause.

May 13th was the first Kent League Meeting and the club took second place with 89 points to Ashford's 80, winning two relays, the shot put, and being placed in all the field events. May 6th saw successful promotion of a handicap relay. April 27th brought a first place in 4 x 2½ mile road relay promoted by the London Business Houses Association at Acton. The team in order of running was David Good, Steve Farley, Peter Mullervy and Jonathan Wigley, who equalled the course record and took the lap prize.

On April 15th at Brighton, the Boys and Youths section was seventh out of 26 teams in a 4 x 1½ mile relay. April 8th was the Plessey Road Relay 4 x 2½ miles that the club has tried for five years to win. But again we had to be content with second place behind Ford. A consolation was the prize for the fastest 'B' team.

On March 25th the club went to Hastings and took second place in the Senior event and the Boys and Youths event. In addition, the Colts came third in their age group. On March 18th Vivian Stevenson emerged fastest in the Clubs Youth cross-country championships and Anthony Jones was fastest in the Boys championship. On March 4th the club repeated their winning form in the five-mile cross-country promoted by Nonington Physical Education College even though the top runners were with the Kent team at Sutton Coldfield for the National Championships.

Ted Wilkins showed his usual form by winning the club senior cross-country championship on February 26th, but this was his last run before taking up an appointment with the company in Turin. (Brian Hampton CMS).

Be Precise!

POLITICIANS, managers, salesmen and such operators rarely tie themselves down to stating precise values. Have you ever thought what the percentage equivalent of "the great majority" might be?

Here is a precise scale set by the technical sub-committee of the Association for the Promotion of Reliability of Off-the-cuff Explanations (APROX).

0 — 4%	"a significant proportion"
5%	"a considerable proportion"
6 — 9%	"nearly one tenth"
10 — 22½%	"almost one quarter"
22½ — 25%	"more than one quarter"
26 — 40%	"nearly half"
41 — 45%	"about half"
46 — 49%	"50%"
50%	"more than half"
51 — 60%	"well over half"
61 — 70%	"the great majority of"
71 — 90%	"virtually all"
91 — 99%	"all"
100%	"without exception"

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