



GETTING WARM

IF you can read this, and are not feeling chilly, then the power situation is much better than it was as we went to press. The miners had released the coal stockpiles, but most EFA people faced another three-day week.

EFA was economising; and not only during the "off" days. In our first long working day, we used only 70% of an average day's current, despite the extended working hours. Some departments continued a five-day week, but without light, electric heat or lifts.

Camping stoves and thermos flasks were at a premium, and some exotic fishermen's jerseys were worn in parts of the factory normally relying on electric heating.

Man Saturday

MAN Friday will be late this year because Robinson Crusoe, 1972 style, needs plenty of kilowatts.

Fred Haddell (IND) and the Elliott Dramatic Society were caught by the power cuts and have postponed their production of Robinson Crusoe from February 17, 18 and 19 to March 23, 24 and 25. Ticket holders may use their existing tickets and can arrange to attend a different performance if they like.

EFA at the Boat Show

CHRIS RIES (ACD) went to the Boat Show at London's Earl's Court last month to help the RAF show the boating public how they catch submarines. In a whale-like wooden mock-up of the Nimrod's fuselage, the RAF maintenance school at Kinloss in Scotland had built an accurate reproduction of the pilot's flight deck and, behind it, of the tactical nerve centre which is based on Elliott equipment and computer.

Aircraft sound effects and movie films outside the cabin windows gave a strong impression to those inside that the whole device was airborne.

Chris Ries provided direct EFA support in setting up the exhibit and some very expert system engineering by Ch Tech Nash from Kinloss produced a 13-minute "live" demonstration and taped commentary of a search with sonobuoys and attack with a torpedo.

As the symbol representing the Nimrod moved across the tactical commander's two-foot wide electronic screen, the sonobuoy symbols appeared as they were

dropped into the sea to listen for the submarine. The bearing lines then appeared on the screen to "fix" the submarine's position, the tactical controller decided to attack with torpedo, the computer took control of Nimrod's autopilot and the screen showed the attack being successfully completed.

It all seemed a little like science fiction, but the RAF crewmen were obviously very happy with the system. Reliability of the equipment was again confirmed. In the dust and heat of Earl's Court, with portable power supplies, it worked for over ten hours a day for ten days with hardly a snag.



THE Foremen's Association gave their own special farewell party at the Elliott club house on February 8th as a prelude to the retirement of Bob Black, a founder member of the Association and its vice-president. Bob retires on March 31 as head of the Elliott paint shop. Our picture shows (l to r) Mr A J Harrison, EFA Joint General Manager, Bob Black accepting a presentation from Mr W H Alexander, EFA Joint Managing Director, and Mr H M Stevenson, Foreman of Building Maintenance.



THE New Road building offers a splendid view of the Medway. "Dusty" Rhodes, AS&RD photographer, captured it skilfully in three overlapping views with his MPP Technical camera.

He was hoping that a spring tide would cover the saltings in the centre of the picture.

Dusty was using the aerial photography techniques he acquired with the RAF in 1932 and later, flying for Shorts, taking pictures all over the Medway area.

Alan Penney stitched the scene together with his air-brush. You can't see the join, can you?



MRS Anne Sweatman left AS&RD in December after 7½ years in the divisional library. Her many friends will remember her with great affection and wish her well as she leaves to look after her family and her garden.

Here, Repairs Manager John Bryan says farewell to her on behalf of AS&RD. Although Anne is now at home, perhaps working harder than ever, the family continued to be represented at Elliotts by her husband, who works in the Central Machine Shop store.

C. Preston. AS&RD

Avionics or C & D?

IT is generally believed, particularly by those who live by the sale of avionics, that you need a lot of exotic gear if you want to fly in cloud and land in fog and so on. But there are genuine low-cost solutions — known in the trade as BAM — of which the C&D, or cat and duck method is well known and approved by those who have not tried it.

Perhaps some of the intrepid pilots in EFA would produce a characteristically objective assessment. Here's how:

Place a live cat on the cockpit floor; because a cat always remains upright, he or she can be used in lieu of a needle and ball (blind-flying instrument — Ed). Merely watch to see which way the cat leans to determine if a wing is low, and if so, which one.

The duck is used for the instrument approach and landing. Because of the fact that any sensible duck will refuse to fly under instrument conditions, it is only necessary to hurl your duck out of the aeroplane and follow her to the ground.

There are some limitations to the Cat and Duck Method, but by rigidly adhering to the following checklist, a degree of success will

be achieved which will surely startle you, your passengers and even an occasional tower operator.

1 Get a wide-awake cat. Most cats do not want to stand up at all. It may be necessary to carry a large dog in the cockpit to keep the cat at attention.

2 Make sure the cat is clean. Dirty cats will spend all their time washing. Trying to follow a washing cat usually results in a tight snap roll followed by an inverted spin.

3 Use old cats only. Young cats have nine lives, but old, used-up cats with only one life left have just as much to lose as you do and will be more dependable.

4 Beware of cowardly ducks. If the duck discovers that you are using the cat to stay upright, she will refuse to leave without the cat. Ducks are no better in instrument conditions than you are.

5 Be sure that the duck has good eyesight. Nearsighted ducks sometimes fail to realise that they are on instruments and will go flogging off into the nearest hill. Very nearsighted ducks will not realise they have been thrown out and will descend to the ground in a sitting position. This manoeuvre is difficult to follow in an aeroplane.

6 Use land-loving ducks. It is very discouraging to break out and find yourself on final for a rice paddy, particularly if there are duck hunters around. Duck hunters suffer from temporary insanity while sitting in freezing weather and will shoot at anything that flies.

7 Choose your duck carefully. It is easy to confuse ducks with geese, because many water birds look alike. While they are very competent instrument flyers, geese seldom want to go in the same direction as you. If your duck heads off for Canada or Africa, you may be sure you have been given the goose.

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk



SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS



Ray Dennis (FARL), during the open day at Tunbridge Wells.

I awoke early on Boxing Day, feeling rather delicate. Through the haze of stale cigarette smoke I munched an egg mankie* and supped a glass of light ale. It was ten o'clock.

To soothe my shattered nerves I turned on the TV, whereupon I saw a stange figure resembling a cave man hanging from a sling underneath a huge lump of overhung rock. To make matters worse, he kept banging steel pegs into the rock with a little hammer — my nerves were not impressed.

Strone Arrandale is a huge lump of decaying rock off the Scottish shore and to

watch three men engaged in some form of ritual procession seemed distant, but not as distant as when later that day a huge group of sherpas and an international team of climbers spent ages installing ladders and camps on Everest. These programmes, especially the Everest climb, seemed to perpetuate the myth that climbers use little ladders or grappling hooks to reach the summits.

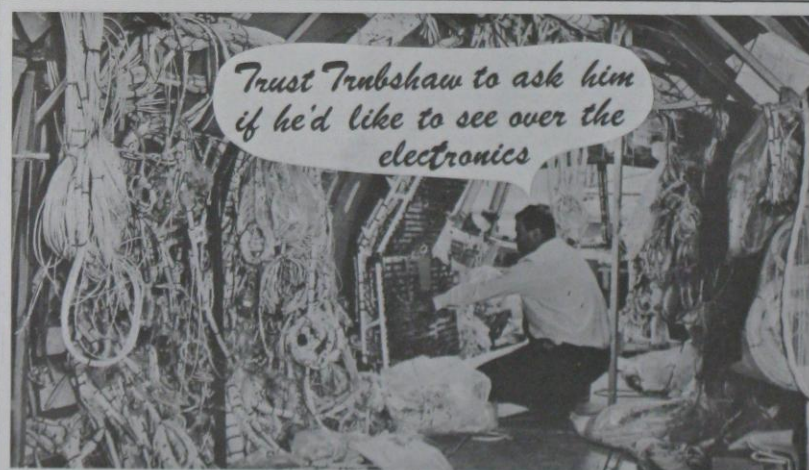
Most people will never have the opportunity of climbing Everest, but there are easier objectives. The Elliott climbing club ran a beginners' trip to Tunbridge Wells by mini-bus at the end of last year. More than thirty people attended of which at least ten were complete beginners. The rocks at Tunbridge Wells are not as high as Everest (in fact they do not exceed 50 ft), but they provide a wonderful training ground for novices.

Probably the two most worrying things about climbing for the beginners is a fear of heights and a fear of falling off. To overcome these problems all beginners have a safety rope passed over a pulley at the top of the climb and back to the ground. The rope gives confidence in that it checks any attempts at falling. The only injury is to the pride. This year, the club plans to hold five beginners' trips to Tunbridge Wells.

Transport will be by mini bus and the cost will be met in part by the social club. All special equipment will be provided and instructors will be available. If you are interested in coming contact Ray Dennis (FARL Medway 44433 extension 32) or Eric "the Hippy Plumber" Tranter (ECV, internal 265).

Ray Dennis, FARL

*Egg mankie, mountaineer's concoction of egg and bread.



THIS picture, taken by BICC and captioned by New Scientist magazine after Prince Philip's Concorde visit, must strike a chord in many EFA minds. This wire business is obviously money for old rope!

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk

Ted Wilkins (FCD), first Elliott man home, was 17th to cross the finishing line after the 7½ mile Kent cross-country championships on January 1st.

'the BEST ever'

FOR some time the Athletic section has been publishing the main venues of their fixtures, but little has been heard of the achievements.

In the athletic World, this section of the social club is known as the Elliott-Reed AC and received the highest commendation in a letter from the Kent AAA for organising the County Cross Country Championships on January 1st. It was "the best ever" for general organisation and marshalling, with prime reference to Jackie Charlesworth of Reed for the organisation and Bill Alexander, EFA Joint Managing Director, who represented Elliott as official timekeeper and recorder.

Best performances in the events came from the youth section, with David Good in second place, Peter Mullervy fourth. Chan Patel and Vivian Stevens took second place team award. In the senior 7½ mile event, Ted Wilkins was the club's best scorer, in 17th place despite interrupted training. In the boys' section, the club was not so well represented. But Malcolm Osborn, who elected to run in the youth race although he was eligible for the boys race, finished 23rd.



Other club successes during January include the team award in the Police-organised 6½ mile cross country at Maidstone on the 29th. The previous weekend saw another second team award for the Open Youths race organised by the Kent AC at Hayes, and that same weekend Steve Farley won the Metropolitan Police-organised cross country against stiff opposition.

At Derby on the 15th, Elliott had the distinction of providing two of the six runners selected to represent Kent in the Inter Counties Championship. The 32nd and 36th place of David Good and Peter Mullervy were the main contribution to the eighth place of Kent, the county's best performance to date. While at Nonnington

College, the club won second and third place in the individual four-mile cross country event and the team award. At the same time, Ted Wilkins was narrowly beaten in the Medway AC promotion at Maidstone.

The club has a strong youth section with Peter Mullervy as a 1976 Olympic prospect, but the boys' section needs special attention. In this respect, the club has combined with local cycle club Medway Velo in an effort to attract potential runners from the schools. A joint coaching scheme is to be centred around circuit training organised in the Highfield Secondary School Gymnasium each Thursday. Details from Brian Hampton on internal 242.

Brian Hampton, CMS

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.

March 4

The Elliott youth section will be competing in the National Cross Country Championships at Sutton Coldfield. Transport will leave Personnel entrance at 7.00 a.m.

March 4

Seniors and boys can compete at Nonnington College or Maidstone (Mote Park) cross country races. No transport available.

March 11

Ten miles road race at Tonbridge for seniors only. No transport available.

March 11

Track training for youths and boys at Rochester airfield starting at 2.00 p.m.

March 18

Youths and boys Club Championships at Aylesford. Open to all Elliott employees and their families. Transport will leave Personnel entrance at 2.00 p.m. A six miles cross country race is also being organised for seniors only.

March 25

Five miles road race for seniors and three miles road race for youths and boys at Hastings. Transport will leave Personnel entrance at 1.00 p.m.

April 1

Worthing Athletic Club road relay for seniors and juniors at Sompting. Transport will leave Personnel entrance at 12.30 p.m.

SYNTHETIC NEWS

J E Scarfe sent us this extract from a letter received in CQD:

"We thank you for your letter of 24th April and now have pleasure in returning to you your Certificate of Acceptance duly signed by our Synthetic Manager".

He must be an electronic engineer!

HOLIDAY Contact

Len Wright, who retired from MACD as a contracts officer in January 1971, tells us he would be happy to have EFA people at his guest house near Torquay. Contact him at Quintra, 5 Belmont Road, Babbacombe, Torquay, TQ1 1NE (Tel: 23769).

Published by Elliott Flight Automation Ltd Printed by AS&RD PL1755

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk