

# NEWS

## GOLDEN CLIMAX TO A CAREER

Six months ago, we reported the award of the Lord Nelson Gold Medal to Staff Ellis, Company Design Consultant; the medal was introduced by GEC's former Chairman when he retired last year, as a distinction for engineers, scientists and technicians throughout GEC whose individual performance has shown outstanding technical merit and who are continuing to do highly creative work.

In July the first presentation ceremony took place at Goldsmiths' Hall in London, when Staff and four other GEC people received their medals from Lord Nelson. This occasion was the latest formal highlight in Staff's career with the company, and provided an opportunity for a review of the many contributions made by him - his role has been quoted elsewhere as a "wholly owned subsidiary of Jack Pateman". He is in fact credited with ten major inventions and more than fifty patents are in his name.

The most recent is the integrated night vision system unveiled at Farnborough, particularly comprising the wide angle night-vision goggles which form the latest of many optical design solutions which Staff has proposed for our customers' requirements, especially in the USA.

Before turning to optical design, Staff was a mechanical engineer and had many successes in hydraulic systems. It was in 1950 that Elliott Bros. set up a small team to try to break into aircraft automation,



Staff Ellis receiving his medal from Lord Nelson at Goldsmiths' Hall.

later led by Jack Pateman. Although Staff had left Handley Page in 1949 'to get away from aeroplanes', he found himself designing the autopilot for the Lightning, which was the world's first supersonic fighter, and that aircraft's integrated power control system was the subject of one of the early patents, jointly with his team leader. The years since then have produced innovations in so many of our designs such as inertial systems and head-up displays, and although Staff did leave the Company 10 years ago, he returned as a consultant and has stayed on beyond the normal retirement date.

At a gathering early in October

around 75 of Staff's colleagues came to the canteen Lounge Bar to honour the Lord Nelson Gold Medal. Bill Alexander offered his congratulations and best wishes, and Staff Ellis replied in his distinctive Australian accent "in a few words, not a speech" that although the medal was awarded to him as an innovator, there are in fact many involved in the innovation process - team work follows up the triggering off, and the success of the company rests on the success of the team. Management also has to be prepared to support the risk, and this support he had had in plenty, enough rope to enable him to carry on but not enough to hang himself!

## ROYAL VISIT TO MEDWAY

On the occasion of H.M. The Queen and Prince Philip's visit on 31st October, Bill Alexander represented the Company at luncheon given in their Majesties' honour.

## MASD Helps RAF Win Fincastle Trophy

A Nimrod crew from No 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron at RAF St Mawgan, captained by Flt Lt Nick Jones has won the coveted Fincastle Trophy in the 1984 competition held from RAAF Edinburgh Field, near Adelaide S. Australia.

The competition challenged the best crews from the anti-submarine air forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and UK to detect, classify and "attack" a submarine in separate sorties by day and night. Although the competition area comprised no less than 5,000 square miles of the Indian Ocean, the RAF crew succeeded in locating and "sinking" the submarine on both sorties.

For the first time, the target submarine did not use the surface at all during the "on task" time. No visual or radar contacts were possible and the entire competition was based on the performance of underwater sensors, the signal processor and, of course, the aircrew and their proficiency.

The Nimrod's AQS-901 and the associated airborne crew trainer ACT 1, both MASD products, undoubtedly contributed to the crew's success in this most demanding competition. In fact, MASD ASW equipment was on two of the four competition aircraft since AQS-901 is also fitted to the RAAF P3. MASD equipment is also on offer for the RNZAF P3 Update, so three out of four may well soon carry the Division's acoustic processors. Perhaps then the Canadians will catch on as well!



The smiling faces of the flight trials crew tell their own story. The photograph was taken at the end of a successful day's demonstration, before an invited audience of Ministry of Defence Officials, of the GAv proposed solution to the British Army requirement for an unmanned battlefield surveillance aircraft. Flight Controls Division led the one year engineering study which culminated, on 29th August, in this day of demonstrations which included helicopter demonstration of the Basilidon thermal imager, the Biddow thermal cueing aid and, as the "piece de résistance", a flight of the air vehicle itself, demonstrating the pneumatic launcher, flight control system and parachute recovery. The joint FCD/Flight Refuelling Ltd. flight trials team had every reason to look pleased with themselves.

Crew photo (l to r): Mike Smith, J. Powis (FR), Nissar Mirza, G. Cutler (FR), Steve Lennox, Ray Dennis, F. Marshall (FR), A. Shepherd (FR), D. Ashendon (FR), R. Steer (FR), John Aglin, and P. Roberts (FR).



## PHOENIX RISES

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Volunteers should offer their service through Divisional Administration Officers or direct to the Editor.



**Copy Date Next Issue  
Thursday 22 November**



(NEARLY TRUE) - A few weeks ago a member of sales staff walked away shaking but uncashed when his abandoned take-off finished up in the perimeter fence.

**SCOUTING  
IN THE  
STATES**



This summer, Gordon Siggers, a T.A. in PSD Engineering Department, went to the USA to work on a "Boy Scouts of America" Camp.

Gordon is an active member of the Scout Association in his home town, Gravesend, and was one of 50 exchange scouts chosen from a total of 900 applicants, who all went to work on different camps all over America.

This is his account of it all.  
I have been in Scouting since I was 8 years old, progressing through the ranks of Cubs, Scouts, and finally Venture Scouts. Last year, I attained the highest training Award offered in this country, "The Queen's Scout Award". With this attainment, I received an application form from Baden-Powell House, London (Scouting's British H.Q.) inviting me to apply to be a member of staff on a Boy Scout of America Camp.

The head of my Department suggested that I speak to somebody in Personnel. After an interview in November, permission was granted, provided that I wrote this article for the magazine afterwards. I was able to take all my holiday, as well as have 6 weeks unpaid leave. That was the first hurdle. I now had to be chosen by my own Scout Association to go, and then by the Boy Scouts of America. After an interview, 2 application forms and a medical later, I received the good news from America that I had been chosen. This was April. I was assigned to Camp Napowan, Central Wisconsin, and was to meet a Jim Stevenson, an American Scouter, in Chicago on June 15th. The 3 months prior to that date went ever so slowly. I gathered many things together which I thought I might need, training books, hiking equipment, pamphlets on Gravesend (especially the towns connections with the American Indian Princess Pochahontas), and a 7 x 3 foot Union Jack. They asked me to bring that to fly alongside the American Flag.

Letters were passed across the Atlantic between the camp and



**Scrumptious –  
and good for you too!**

Apples have always been part of English tradition, grown and valued all over the country. In the past new varieties arose by chance, a seedling was found in a hedge or grew up from the discarded cider must. Others were the result of someone planting the pip from an apple they had particularly relished, as Mr Cox may have in the 1820s. Many have pleasing histories and local associations, thriving in a particular area and often still cultivated there. Since the late eighteenth century, horticulturalists have sought to improve on the existing varieties by making deliberate crosses – dusting the pollen from one variety onto the blossom of another – and raising apples of known parentage. Nowadays this has passed from the hands of the head gardener and nurseryman to scientists and professional plant breeders.

English apples have always been appreciated for their wide range of subtle flavours which connoisseurs in the past have valued as highly as the finest wines. We are now seeing a revival of interest with enthusiasts seeking out distinguished old varieties such as Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange and Ashmead's Kernel as well as searching for the perfectly ripened Cox or Worcester Pearmain.

Quality of flavour is difficult to describe. Essentially it is the perfect balance between sweetness and acidity. The finest varieties have, in addition, complex aromatic properties whose development is favoured by Britain's temperate climate. The season and the soil will influence flavour so that the same variety grown in a different area or a different year can taste quite different. No apple will be good to eat before it is ripe.

Many of us have memories of walking through orchards picking the brightest fruit from the laden branches or finding in the grass an apple warmed and ripened by the sun. Buying direct from the farm one can catch again the first apples at their best, straight from the tree, and carefully store the late varieties to savour at Christmas and the following spring.

Most of the varieties that have been prized and grown in England are conserved and can be seen in the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley, Surrey.

However there is no need to travel that far, since there are a number of farms within easy reach of Rochester where they can be obtained. Some of them are listed, with key numbers for the varieties, in the table, but this late in the year it might be wise to phone to see what is available.

**Newham Court Farm, Bearstead Road, Weaving, Maidstone.** 6 9 19 37  
Maidstone (0622) 39721 or 36769.  
Exit 7 off A20

**Pippins Farm, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Pembury (089 282) 4569 (answerphone).** 5 7 19 22 47  
From A21 London-Hastings Road in centre of Pembury take B2015 to Maidstone.  
Pick your own and Farm Shop.

**Stanhill Farm, Birchwood Road, Wilmington, Dartford.** 5 6 7 8 9 12 14 19  
Swanley (0322) 69711. 22, 23, 36, 38, 41, 47  
On A20 turn right down Birchwood Road for approx. 1 mile, near B258.  
Pick your own.

**Varieties with a limited shelf life and ready for consumption at picking time**

1 Beauty of Bath	August
2 Vistabella	August
3 Jersey Mac	August
4 George Cave	August
5 Discovery	August
6 Grenadier	Sept-Oct
7 Worcester Pearmain	Sept-Oct
8 James Grieve	Sept-Oct
9 Katy	Sept-Oct
10 Miller's Seedling	Aug-Sept
11 Epicure	Aug-Sept
12 Tydemans Early Worcester	Aug-Sept
13 St Edmund's Pippin	Sept-Oct
14 Greensleeves	Oct-Nov
15 Arthur Turner (C)	Sept-Oct
16 Ellison's Orange	Sept-Oct
17 Laxton's Fortune	Sept-Oct

**Varieties that can be stored until Christmas and just beyond**

18 Charles Ross	Oct-Nov
19 Cox's Orange Pippin	Oct-Jan
20 Lord Derby	Sept-Dec
21 Peasgood Nonsuch	Sept-Dec
22 Bramley's Seedling	Oct-Mar
23 Howgate Wonder	Nov-Feb
24 Ingrid Marie	Oct-Dec
25 Chivers Delight	Nov-Dec
26 Lobo	Oct-Nov
27 Pearl	Oct-Dec
28 Lord Lambourne	Oct-Nov
29 Egremont Russet	Oct-Dec
30 Melrose	Nov-Feb
31 Gala	Nov-Dec
32 Sunset	Oct-Dec

**Varieties for use after Christmas**

33 Jonathan	Nov-Feb
34 Ashmead's Kernel	Dec-Mar
35 Tydemans Late Orange	Dec-Mar
36 Crispin	Jan-Mar
37 Golden Delicious	Nov-Feb
38 Idared	Nov-Mar
39 Moss's Seedling	Nov-Dec
40 D'Arcy Spice	Jan-May
41 Laxton's Superb	Nov-Feb
42 Kidd's Orange Red	Nov-Feb
43 Jonagold	Nov-Mar
44 Suntan	Jan-Mar
45 Lane's Prince Albert	Nov-Mar
46 Winston	Dec-Mar
47 Spartan	Nov-Feb
48 Jupiter	Nov-Feb
49 Malling Kant	Dec-Feb
50 Edward VII	Dec-Mar

**Badgers Hill Fruit Farm, Chilham, Canterbury, Canterbury (0227) 730573.** 5 7 9 10 18 19 22  
On A252, 400 yds from the junction of the A28. 29 43 47

**Badsell Park Farm, Matfield, Tonbridge Paddock Wood (089 283) 2549.** 4 5 12 17 19 22  
At crossroad of B2161 and B2015 turn right, 1/2 mile down B2161. 29 37

**Bramley Mount Farm, Boughton Aluph, Nr. Ashford.** 5 6 7 8 19 22 28  
Ashford (0233) 23501. 29 37 38 41 47  
4 miles NE of Ashford, nr. Pilgrim's Way. Pick your own.

**Cerford Ltd., Brompton Farm, Brompton Farm Road, Strood, Rochester.** 19 37 38 47  
Brompton Farm Road is 400 yds from Strood Hill on left-hand side. Farm Shop only.

**Crowhurst Farm, Crowhurst Lane, Borough Green, Nr Sevenoaks.** 7 12 19 41  
Borough Green (0732) 862905. 1 1/4 miles from Borough Green on A25 Sevenoaks to Wrotham Heath.

**Gate House Farm, Brencley, Tonbridge, Brencley (089 272) 3723.** 5 7 19 22 23 24  
26 29 38 47

**Knockholt (059) 34666 (answerphone).** 2 4 5 6 7 9 10 12  
Off A21 through Farnbury, turn left to Matfield and right in Matfield to Brencley. Go through Brencley, down hill, turn right; farm clearly marked. 17 18 19 20 22 29  
On A224 and also A21, 2 miles from Orpington. 31 32 36 37 38  
41 43 47

**Hewitts Farm, Chelsheld, Orpington.** 2 4 5 6 7 9 10 12  
Pick your own and Farm Shop. 31 32 36 37 38  
41 43 47

**Honeydale Farm, A20, Ruxley, Swanley (0322) 60466 (answerphone).** 5 19 22  
On A20 between Sidcup and Swanley, 2 miles from Sidcup. Pick your own and Farm Shop.

**Kingshill Farm, Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Sevenoaks.** 5 19 22 36 37  
Borough Green (0732) 883089 (answerphone). 5 19 22 29 36 37

**Borough Green-Wrotham Heath A25 turn off up Crouch Lane opposite Maidstone and District Bus Garage.** 5 19 22 36 37  
Pick your own and Farm Shop.

**Mockbeggar Farm, Higham, Rochester Medway (0634) 725664 (farm shop).** 2 3 5 7 9 13 14 17  
19 22 29 36 37  
38 43 47  
Answerphone (0634) 727138. 3 miles north of Rochester on the main road to Cliffe B2000. Pick your own and Farm Shop.

myself on what to expect over there, and in no time at all I was shaking hands with Jim Stevenson at O'Hare Airport, Chicago.

I had left Heathrow at 12.30 in the afternoon, even though it had been an 8-hour flight. I had to get used to the 6-hour time difference. Swiftly I was driven Northwards on interstate Highway 94 to Central Wisconsin 300 miles away, to a little town called Wild Rose; it was pretty wild as well. Four hours later, I was in Camp.

I was given brief introductions to Brian Rasmussen, the Camp Director, and other members of staff. Shown to my tent. It was a single tent erected on footboards and the guy ropes tied onto railings, this was in case of heavy weather. There was a camp bed inside, with a mattress, and a chest of drawers. Luxury camping I thought, compared to this country, but I was to find out later that these luxuries are greatly appreciated after a few weeks. The Camp was approx 400 acres large, and situated at the edge of 2 lakes. Many areas of the camp were densely forested, with clearing here and there for troop camping sites. The camp could cater for 390 boys.

The first week in camp was spent training the staff and preparing the camp for the summer. There were 43 members of staff this

year. At least half of those were only 16 and 17 years old and had never been on staff before, so counselling sessions had to be held each day. These were designed to enable everyone to get to know the camp and how it was run. This was important to me because I was really a stranger in the wilderness. 99% of the staff had camped here when they were scouts, so they were very familiar with it. At the same time as learning about how the camp was run, I also had to learn how Scouting was run over there. Find out what their ranks were and what kind of activities they got up to. Everyone attended these sessions to encourage the younger ones to learn, and when sessions were not held, everyone worked at their own respective programme areas.

Scattered around the forest areas of the camp were different activity areas. There was a large dining hall, where everyone would eat. Cooks were hired to do the cooking and very rarely would you find a troop doing their own cooking. They couldn't see the sense in it when they could be doing something else. There was a health lodge which had a full time doctor on site, and an extensive equipment store. Activity areas incorporated the 2 lakes, offering water ski-ing (I managed to learn while I was over there), swimming, canoeing, fishing and sailing. There was a rifle

# CMS 'Superstars' Competition



Neil Trigg in full flight.

"I'll beat you at pool easy", said Kev Rye. "Okay, but I'll thrash you at darts", replied Paul Moon, and so the argument continued. From Pub games right through to more energetic sports, each man was convinced he was the better. "Right", said 'Moonie' eventually, "I'll organise a Superstars competition and we'll see who's best". Thus the idea of a CMS Superstars Competition was born.

After considerable wrangling it was decided to run the competition over ten events: Cycling, Football, 100 metres, Shot Put, 800 metres, Gym Tests, Basketball, Swimming, Shooting and an Assault Course. Each competitor was to compete in eight events, and fifteen of CMS's finest athletes entered, with Shane Stevens tipped as favourite to become the overall winner.

Ten competitors faced the starter for the first event, cycling. This was a time trial on a 4.4 mile out and back course with competitors starting at two minute intervals. Simon Cooper was first man off and just managed to stay ahead of second man Malcolm Martin who recorded a time of 12:27. This proved to be the winning time despite strong challenges from Malcolm Osborn (12:36), Nick Page (12:45) and Dick Covington (12:54). Down the field 'Moonie' returned looking like a golliwog following a tiring struggle with his chain, while the favourite Shane having had problems with his gears, or lack of them, could only manage last place.

The next event was the football and immediately the competition was under threat, some inconsiderate groundsmen had blocked up the hole in the fence, but undeterred our intrepid athletes overcame the problem literally, by scaling the fence. Kev Rye won a close competition from Nick Page and Nobby Harden, all three scoring two goals each and the placings being decided on time. Next came Kelvin Rayner followed by Malcolm Osborn, both with one goal apiece. Nobody else was able to beat the goal keeping skills of Tony Porter, although Kev Randell thought he should have been awarded a penalty after being blatantly tripped by one of the cones which he was supposed to have been dribbling round.

Thus our band of athletes moved onto Deangate Ridge for the 100 metres, Shot Put and 800 metres. The major shock of the 100m was pre-race favourite Shane failing to make the final, which turned out to be very close, with Malcolm Martin just edging out Mick Small for first place in 12.15 sec. Neil Trigg filled third place and then gave everyone a demonstration in shot putting (winning by over one and half metres) with 9.52m. Simon Cooper was second with 7.94m and competition favourite Shane at last getting his act together in third place with 7.82m. Further down the field, controversy raged at Kev Rye's technique of throwing himself, as well as his shot out of the circle. The last event of the evening was the 800m and resulted in a runaway victory for Malcolm Martin (2:15.4) with Malcolm Osborn (2:29.9) holding off Kev Rye (2:34.1) for second place. This ended the first week of competition and our competitors went off to rest their weary bodies for the trials and tribulations of the following week's competition.

The second week kicked off with the Gym Tests, consisting of one minute each of press-ups, sit-ups, squat thrusts and bar jumps, with one minute rest between each discipline. The venue for this gruelling event was the Works Canteen. Our apologies are sent out to all pacemakers for the sweaty aromas that mingled with their gourmet delights the following day. Favourites were Shane, of course, and Malcolm Osborn who was known to be in secret training. Malcolm duly delivered the goods winning easily (237) from Malcolm Martin (223) and Simon Cooper (218), while to everyone's surprise Shane came last. After the event, there was considerable argument over the legitimacy of some peoples' press-ups, or perhaps obscenity would be a better description, and where they had been practised. Kev Rye failed to show for the Gym Tests and subsequently dropped out of the competition, was this because he could not stand the pace or as 'Moonie' suggested, because his girlfriend wouldn't let him out to play anymore?

The basketball was held on the car park using the netball goal, as a venue with basketball facilities could

not be found. Unfortunately, there was no net and, therefore, the event was to be decided on who could score five 'hoops' in the fastest time. Pre-event favourites were Kelvin Rayner, an ex Kent player, and yes folks you've guessed it Shane, a very capable player in his School days. It was, however, Richard (Meadowlark) Osborne who ran out an easy winner from Neil Trigg and Dick Covington. Meanwhile Kelvin trailed in eighth and Shane? Well we'll leave you to guess that. "Shane will win the swimming", said Moonie,

"I've seen him down the Black Lion pool and he's bloody fast!" And so once again Shane went into the event carrying the mantle of favourite. The event comprised two two-length races of the MAV/BP Kent swimming pool with positions being decided on time. Originally there were going to be heats and finals but some competitors thought four lengths in one evening too much. Heat one and the competition itself was won by Malcolm Martin (29.9) from Simon Cooper (37.2) who was third overall. All the spectators marvelled



Standing L to R: Army instructor, Gary Burton, Richard Osborne, Clive Randall (Marshall), Dick Covington, Neil Trigg, Simon Cooper, Geoff Austin (Marshall), Kelvin Rayner, Sharon Nash (Marshall), Dave Stockbridge (Marshall). Front row: Nick Page, Paul Moon, Malcolm Osborn, Mick Small.

at Simon's 'jump start' and wondered whether future Olympic stars might copy it, while Nobby Harden decided it would be easier to walk the last 10 metres. Heat two was won by Kevin Randell (34.3) which placed him second overall followed by Dick Covington (37.3) who was fourth overall. In the bar afterwards, Shane explained the reason for his sad demise, "I nearly drowned on the second length, you know".

The penultimate event of the competition was the shooting, held at the Flying School rifle range. The somewhat dubious winner of this competition was Dick Covington (51 points), despite only having had ten shots there were sixteen holes in Dick's target, the other six belong to Moonie. The best ten scores were awarded to Dick, while the remaining six on Dick's target plus the one which actually hit his own target were given to Moonie. We never did discover how much Dick paid Moonie to help him. Second place went to Richard Osborne (45 points), with Kev Randell (39 points) third, with our most experienced marksman and likely winner Shane back in eleventh place. A special mention is reserved for Sharon Nash who had a rest from marshalling and tried her hand with a rifle. If ever they remake 'Annie Get Your Gun' we recommend she gets the part, having scored 26 points, which would have given her sixth place in the competition.

Following the withdrawal of Shane, who used to be an instructor on assault courses, the event was thrown wide open. Two other competitors, Kev Randell and Nobby Harden also

dropped out through injury. Malcolm Osborn easily won the event in a time that was in fact faster than that of the army instructor who had been 'volunteered' to look after us for the evening. Malcolm Martin scraped in ahead of Simon Cooper for second place with Mick Small edging Nick Page for fourth. After the event, the competitors and marshals split into two teams to carry an eight foot section of telegraph pole around the course. Sharon again showed her superstar potential by nearly scalping Simon Cooper climbing up the twelve foot wall and almost arriving topless back at the bottom! The competitors then threw Moonie into the water ditch as a token of their appreciation for all his hard work.

To round off the evening, all the competitors and marshals adjourned to the Falcon public house for the prize presentation. Moonie demonstrated how he would have won the beer drinking if it had been included in the competition by downing at least three pints more than anyone else. The winner overall was Malcolm Martin, with Malcolm Osborn second and Neil Trigg and Simon Cooper joint third. However, this was not intended as an ego trip, as suggested by a certain gent, and everyone received identical medals, including the marshals.

Everyone who took part had a great time and plenty of laughs along the way. Through this column we would like to thank 'Moonie' for his time and trouble organising the event and our faithful marshals, Sharon Nash, Dave Stockbridge, Geoff Austin, Clive Randall, Guy Smith and Paul Manktelow (our photographer). Also we would like to thank the members of the rifle club for allowing us to use their facilities (and their patience!), and to the staff at the MAV/BP Kent Club for the use of the swimming pool. It is hoped to make this an annual event and several suggestions have already been forthcoming as to new events that could be included next year. These include a marathon, hang gliding, freefall parachuting and horse jumping. Whatever the events, Shane has predicted that next year he will be back with a vengeance!

range, an archery range and a shotgun range. There was a nature lodge that would cover all work such as conservation work and astronomy. The camp has its own blacksmith shop for the boys to work in, and this area also offered leatherwork and wood carving projects. If anybody ever wondered whether Grazeley Adams was real, I can tell you he is alive and well and running the blacksmith shop here. So you can see, the camp has a lot to offer the boys who camped here as well as providing the basic scouting skills of camping, cooking and knots. That was my department.

My job title was Programme Commissioner (Program if spelt by an American). There were 3 of us on staff, the other 2 being Americans and we would each be assigned 3 or 4 troops each week. We would be the liaison between these troops and the camp. If the troop wanted something organised e.g. a canoe trip along one of the many rivers, we would do our utmost to arrange it for them. We also had the responsibilities of arranging the 'opening' and 'closing' campfires. To the Americans these had to be theatrical masterpieces with every staff member getting involved, and the songs had to be sung in key.

We had to organise the weekly Campwide event. This would be a patrol competition, in the centre parade field, that every

troop would enter. It would consist of different games or tasks based on a particular theme. These themes ranged from ghostbusters, frisbee football to the Scottish Highland Games. These events had to be advertised, and each week a stunt would be put on in the dining hall. For the Highland Games I made some bagpipes, borrowed a tartan shirt for a kilt and walked into the dining hall pretending to play the bagpipes with Amazing Grace playing in the background. Then I gave a little bit of chat in a very poor Scottish accent, but they still loved it and all stood up cheering.

The commissioners had 6 deputies who helped out with the jobs. We also had to run 2 model campsites which ran merit badge courses. These included pioneering, camping, camp cooking, orienteering and wilderness survival.

Once a week I would give a slide show of Gravesend and Rochester. I went to the Dickens fair, because they were bound to have heard of Charles Dickens. They had! Afterwards I would talk about scouting in this country, and then have a questions and answers session afterwards. Questions like do we eat hot dogs. Somebody asked if people really walked around London with green hair, and a favourite was had I met the Queen. I used to

reply "no, but I hope to be knighted one day so I might meet her then". When all this was over I would serve them with a hot cup of tea with milk in. Something unheard of over there. I was over there for July 4th celebrations and this was the only time that they were ever really nasty towards me. I had been taking a lot of stick all day, so in the dining hall when everyone was eating dinner I stood up, stood to attention and sang "God Save the Queen" at the top of my voice. They all went quiet and when I finished and had sat down I received a standing ovation. So they weren't all bad.

Over the time at camp, I made a lot of very close friends. As you can imagine, living in that sort of atmosphere it was very easy to do. I learnt a lot about American Scouting and hope that I promoted the international aspect of scouting and indeed found quite a few new skills out there. Many addresses were exchanged and I hope one day that I could meet some members of the gang again. But for now I will just have to treasure the memories, because unfortunately it is once in a life-time opportunity. You cannot participate in the exchange programme again. After camp I stayed with a staff member in Chicago. Did some touring, Niagara Falls, Washington, Philadelphia and eventually flew out from New York, pleased that I had been given the chance to go.

G4v Rochester's intrepid teams  
Back row — Team 62  
L to R: Simon Jackson (ADD),  
Andrew Wood (Gyro),  
Dave Averne (MASD),  
Alan Smith (FARL).  
Front row — Team 61  
L to R: Ian Atkins (ATED),  
Raymond Turner (BSD),  
Alex Peters (CACD),  
Lesley Friend  
(MASD).



# Blood, sweat, tears - and laughter!

## GEC National Young Employees Competition 1984

Earlier this year a challenge was issued to all employees of GEC companies, aged between 16 and 21, involving team participation in a series of 'Krypton Factor' cum 'Now Get Out of That' type of events over the course of a weekend in Wales.

GEC Avionics at Rochester responded to this by sending forth into 'the Wild Welsh Outback' eight young employees representing most of the divisions and a wide range of occupations.

This is the censored version of the events leading up to and occurring in the actual competition.

Derek Harvey of the Training Department was initially responsible for selecting two team managers whose job would be to ensure that the teams were adequately trained to encounter the possible hazards lurking in Wales. The two individuals chosen to undertake this daunting task were Mark Stimson of ATED and Ian Bramhill of PSD. Their first duty was to attend an initial meeting at Dunchurch Lodge Management Training Centre in Rugby. Euphemistically titled an 'Information Meeting' it was hoped that the nature of the activities would be detailed, but all that was gleaned from the conference was a broad outline to guide any training programmes.

At this stage no team members had been chosen, but in an article in MAV News, volunteers to spend a 'Wet Weekend in Wales' were requested to step forward. All those responding to the article were interviewed by Mark and Ian and from these were chosen the first five team members: Raymond Turner, Andrew Wood, Simon Jackson, Lesley Friend and Alan Smith.

The three remaining places were filled by Dave Averne, Ian Atkins and Alex Peters who were all chosen by the Training Department. It appeared logical to have a reserve team member,

someone who would train alongside the two teams and take the place of anyone unfortunate enough to have to drop out of the teams any time before the competition started; Seaverley Foreman was nominated for this position by PSD.

In conjunction with the task of choosing team members, Mark and Ian had to implement a training schedule that would provide the individuals chosen with the skills they viewed as being of particular use.

Emphasis was placed upon fitness, and in order to meet the standard the managers thought was required, the help of the Physical Training Instructors at Brampton Barracks was sought and graciously provided.

Fitness eventually came by way of circuit training, running, assault courses, basketball, football and various other physical activities designed to stretch, tone and toughen muscles some of the team members didn't know they had! Two photographs show the team members scaling the 12 feet high wall at the barracks assault course, and also jumping off an 8 feet high ramp at the same location. The Royal Engineers also gave instruction in orienteering, logical survival, and problem solving, the latter testing both individual and team intelligence and cohesion.

In order that the teams had a basic knowledge of potential events, sessions were arranged with various clubs and associations to provide instruction in other sporting areas. Canoeing, shooting, archery, climbing and riding were integrated into the training programme, with some entertaining results.

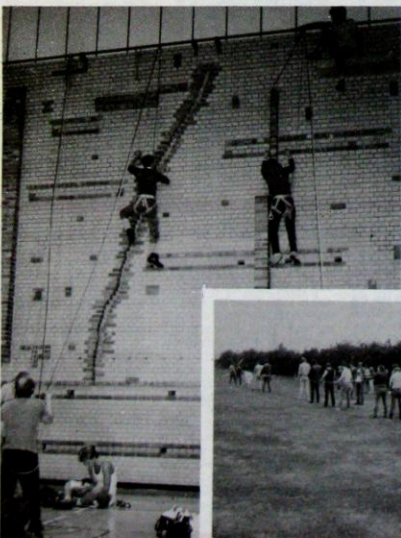
The photographs (below, left) show the teams receiving instruction from the Archery section of the MAV/BP Social Club, and also the Climbing section although no climbing was required in the competition as it turned out.



Up ... and over!



Above: BMX!



For six weeks the team members committed a large amount of their personal time along with the expenditure of travelling to and from the training locations. Two evenings each week were devoted to the Army's training programme and the specialist training took up a further evening at the start of training but reached a climax in the last week when every evening was used.

The training instilled varying levels of confidence in those taking part, but it was not until one Friday in late September that the teams had a chance to put their new found skills to the test ...

**COMPETITION DAY HAD DAWNED!!!!**  
On arriving at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells, teams had to be checked in by their managers, and assigned to a colour unit. Both our teams (61 and 62) were to compete against another 22 teams in the White Group. An hour or two later the competition began in earnest with the two teams starting their activities in Zone 3 at Llangorse East.

'61's first task was to groom and ride two horses around a specially prepared course whilst '62' were trying to score as many points as possible with bow

and arrow. The zone also included shooting competitions and tests of ball skills, i.e. croquet, football and basketball. Not content with having proved themselves to be in contention with the best of the GEC companies in their group, '62' then proceeded to run the 1½ miles between zone 3 and what was to be 'home' for the remainder of the weekend - a PGL camp in the Llangorse West region. This proved to be a shrewd move on their part for not only did they secure a large caravan for the entire group to stay in, (as opposed to small uncomfortable looking tents) but they also worried the other competitors by showing just how fit they were. '61' on the other hand seemed more content stopping at the first pub on the way home, eventually turning up for tea finding a nice warm caravan awaiting.

The evening was spent comparing experiences (Alan's dislike of horses or mules as he preferred them to be known will be particularly remembered with some humour), eating what was to be a poor imitation of 'Mum's Own Cooking' at the camp canteen, and setting out on a long trek in the dark, rainy, unfamiliar surroundings in search of liquid refreshment. This was found without delay due to the excellent scouting exercise done by team 61 earlier on.

Day two began at 6am the following morning with the teams being herded into breakfast and briefed about the day's forthcoming events. Lesley, Ian, Ray and Alex were to start the day by building a bridge across a stream utilizing empty oil drums rope and planks, and then transporting one of the team across the bridge in a wheelbarrow to prove just how strong their bridge was ... or wasn't! Ian Atkins decided to paint the bridge with a large amount of his own red paint from a cut finger, result 'a lovely red bridge'! Dave, Alan, Simon and Andy began the

day waterbound with a raft race, whereas '61' won their respective canoe race through superb team co-ordination and skill, '62' secured a good second place in their heat by the putting of their opponents with their loud chants of 'In...in...in...' instructing the beating of the oars. It was later remarked that their attempt to win was somewhat reminiscent of a Roman Galley.

The morning's events of boat rowing, raft racing and bridge building were not without incident. Both teams did well in the raft racing, though the rowing proved slightly more difficult. Logical survival tested the teams' inventiveness and common sense in that it entailed the building of a shelter, and manufacture of a bow and arrow, a fishing rod and an animal trap all of which were put to the test by the organisers of the event. In addition a question was posed to analyse the deductive powers of the teams.

Fortunately the logical training instruction given by Staff Sgt Ward of the Royal Engineers was very apt and both '61' and '62' achieved good marks in these tests.

Finally in the above events, the bridge building will be remembered, especially by Dave and Alan. Alan bravely got into the stream to assist in the building of the bridge only to stand on a sharp object consequently cutting his foot quite badly, whilst Dave earned the reputation of being 'Well 'Ard' by knocking out a front tooth. With two members temporarily out of action Simon and Andy received help from unexpected quarters in the form of the competition marshals and a member of the Avery Hardoll team who were to become '62's main adversary throughout the rest of the competition.

The afternoon was spent carrying out various tasks such as tying knots, sending messages in semaphore, answering intelligence quotient type of

question as the team and rule BMX unless the event is between Woody Furth include bucket vein), a reading getting ol drum pond u Alex Pa across for him cold w could w By th beginn trip bat quiet or discuss teased

... and who's it

Right: Highest Standard bridge building.  
Below: 'Luxury' accommodation!



Below: Orienteering.



is, calculating such problems right of a flagpole using string rics from a distance, and racing ycles with gearing which was perfect. (Spectators in this uld not fail to see the similarity the race and an auction for a len type film).

problems in this zone I an assault course carrying of water (in an It's A Knockout! small orienteering course, map problems, planning a way of across a pretend chasm using s and planks, and crossing a ing 3 planks and a few floats. ers decided that walking lanks was not quite mad enough o he threw himself in the ice er and swam across instead. s stage the teams were g to feel tired and the coach k to our sleeping area was a e. Spirits were high, both teams ing their triumphs and being about their failings by the other.

Ian Atkins — Birthday Boy.

good time was had by all — but ghost?



individuals having their leg pulled over incidents from that day and the day before.

The last day dawned cloudy but bright, and at breakfast all the baggage was stowed on the coach that took the teams to Hay Forest and a full orienteering exercise. The going was very muddy and the forest was thick. The managers could do nothing except sit and wait for the return of the teams, hoping that they would do well. A fast time was 1 hour 30 minutes.

Team 62 came racing into the finish after 1 hour 27 minutes, covered in mud, sweating and out of breath. They had come joint first on the day, and third overall of the 96 teams taking part. They had adopted the Swedish method of orienteering — find your control, take your next bearing and race in a straight line to the next point irrespective of ground conditions on the way!

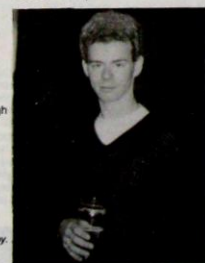
A Mars Bar and a can of Coke awaited both teams on their return, along with the knowledge that they had not made the finals back at the Royal Welsh Showground.

So ended the competition as far as participation by teams '61' and '62' were concerned, achieving final placings of 19th and 29th respectively, out of 96 overall.

Everyone was transported to the finals and the presence of a bar was most appreciated. (Especially by Ian Atkins who celebrated his 20th birthday in the fashion shown in the photograph).

Team 62's adversary in the form of Avery Hardoll had managed to get into the finals and received vocal support as they achieved a final placings of 6th overall, no mean feat by any standards.

A demonstration by the female teams of how to construct a brick wall having conquered all obstacles was a last memory to be recalled by the teams at their way home later that evening, following a quick repeat before their departure. All in all an



enjoyable if somewhat taxing weekend was said to be had by all, and the team managers on behalf of the teams and all others involved would like to thank the following for their help.

The PTI's of the Royal Engineers Regiment at Brompton Barracks, especially Staff Sgt Ward, Dick and Des. The Archery Section of the GAV/ BP Social Club especially Jack Milner of ATED and company, Peter Turner and his Scout Group for tuition and the use of the canoes at Teston, the Climbing Section of the GAV/BP Social Club, Rob James (FARL) and company, Coral Fraser and her sister from Warren Farm, Boxley for the riding instruction given, and the Rifles/Pistols Club for excellent tuition given by Arie Vandertak (FARL) and Barry Dursley and all other people who generously gave their time to help.

## One man's reactions — That was NYEC '84!

by Alex Peters  
When I was initially invited to take part in the competition I did so with a certain degree of trepidation as very little was known about what to expect. After the first few training sessions, which were extremely tough, I quite seriously felt like dropping out. However, with the support of my comrades I completed the training, which I found easier after a while, despite many barriers, both physical and mental which had to be overcome.

In the actual competition itself we did far better than I dreamed we ever could, as my team won three events in our "Sector", whilst the other GEC Avionics team won the orienteering. We came very close to being in the finals, though in some ways I am glad we weren't, being totally exhausted by that point.

All in all I think both teams gave of their best achieving unbelievable results, 19th and 29th places out of 100 teams. I therefore am very proud to have taken part and contributed to these results.

## The Organisers' View

During the presentation of the prizes, The Honorable Mrs. Sara Morrison, GEC's Community Affairs Director said they were difficult not to be impressed with the brilliant way all the teams had taken part — they had both enjoyed themselves and been surprised with their own performance.

Derek Webb, GEC's Development Training Adviser who devised the competition commented that in all, NYEC 84 had been a superb event — well organised and entertaining. It was a privilege to see so many well motivated young people from all backgrounds and parts of the country tackling the extensive variety of demanding problems and succeeding. They really are a credit to their communities and employers.

John Bally of Adventure Sports Wales, who ran the competition, stated that we do not, through the general news media, see enough of the good in the youth of today. This competition has tested young people to the fullest in numerous incidents encompassing four activity zones. It is a privilege to see the development and results, and make us proud of today's youth.

## Student Technologists Return to Rochester

Now settling in to their Divisions after the four year University part of their studies towards the degree of Master of Engineering are five young people who have been sponsored on the first of a new-style course designed to integrate more closely than hitherto the academic studies with practices in industry.

The Rochester students who have now passed the milestone of their first degree of BSc and are embarking on thesis work which will lead them to M Eng Status, are **Matthew Swoboda** from Cobham who achieved First Class Honours and is now in FCD; **Russell Lilley** and **Peter Claydon** from Weymouth and Tunbridge Wells, who received Upper Second degrees and are now in ADD; also **Ian MacCaig** from Barnstaple who attained Lower Second and is now in FCD. In addition **Karen Shrubsole** did her training in ADD and was awarded a First, but as previously reported has moved to Stafford to join her new husband. Now joined us also is **Anne Rose**, fiancée of Peter Claydon, with an Upper Second and a post in FARL, following her sponsorship by Avionics Research Labs at Baddow.

This major training initiative for engineers was started by GEC-Marconi Electronics and the University of Bath, and has been developed over the last few years by a number of units firstly within GEC-M, and more recently by other large companies in the electronics industry. An important new feature has been the industrial input into the university studies, GAV has been involved in a big way both by the all-site sponsorship of students which now approaches half of the total number, and by its contribution to the evolution of the M Eng course with John France's membership of the co-ordinating policy committee. Also, a major feature of the students' industrial training has been the overall guidance and tuition of Industrial Tutors, in this case John Campbell of ADD and Chris Litten of FCD. They have been the essential link-pins between the students, the many people in the divisions who have made available their own skills, expertise, and time,

and the University, during the three ten-week periods the students spent at Rochester in Production, Commercial and Engineering departments. Now there are a number of other Industrial Tutors in various divisions who are involved with the training programmes of students in succeeding intakes.

We also congratulate and welcome back to Rochester a number of Student Technologists who have obtained their degrees and are now in divisions in their first appointments mainly as electronic engineers.

**Michael Banner** — Ilii from Leeds, in FARL (Production), in CACD  
**Ian Dance** — First from Loughborough (Production), in CACD  
**Alistair Dumble** — Ilii from Brighton Polytechnic, in ADD

**Michael Giles** — Ilii from Thames Polytechnic, in ATED

**Tim Hall** — Ilii from Queen Mary College (Avionics), in CACD

**Tony Heritage** — Ilii from Loughborough, in GSD

**Darrell Hicks** — Ilii from Queen Mary College (Avionics), in FARL

**Richard Hughes** — Ilii from Southampton, in ISD

**Andrew Lenton** — Ordinary from Leeds, in ATED

**John McComish** — Ilii from Portsmouth Polytechnic, in MASD

**Nick Mellor** — Ilii from Imperial College, in FARL

**Chris Osborne** — Ilii from Queen Mary College (Avionics), in FCD

**Rob Staines** — Ilii from Surrey, in FARL

**Peter Standing** — Ilii from Brighton Polytechnic, in GSD

**Alan Varco** — Ilii from Loughborough, in PSD

**Gareth Williams** — Ilii from Imperial College, in GSD

also **Roger Float** — Degree and Diploma in Industrial Studies on a course based on the M.Eng at Bath, from Portsmouth Polytechnic, in MASD.



(L to R) Ian MacCaig (Inset), Anne Rose, Russell Lilley, Peter Claydon and Matthew Swoboda. (B)

## Trainee Computer Programmers Graduate with Distinction

The continuing success of the "TCP" scheme is exemplified by the results of the trainees who graduated this year, 17 in number. Probably the longest two months in their 3 years' training was the period between exams in June and the announcement of results, but when these did eventually come through they proved to be some of the best we've seen since this HND scheme started in 1979. There were a total of 26 subject distinctions; the most outstanding achievement was that of **John Constable**. John, who is now a Computer Programmer with the Independent Test Group in ADD Engineering, gained Distinctions in all five of his final year subjects. John joined us in 1981 from Maidstone School for boys with 8 O-levels and 3 A-levels, committing himself to the 3-year course with the company and Mid-Kent College leading to HND in Computer Studies, Technical Option. First and third years were at MKG, his second year in ADD. John's success has been the result of sustained effort but he still found time for an active social life with his interests of football, squash, sailing, motor-racing, and his girlfriend.

It's no mean feat to score distinctions, and others were gained — four subjects by **Jane Daragon** and **Michael Gwynne**, three by **Graham Hunt**, **Tracey Jackson**, and

**Stephen Nicholas**, two by **Stephen Hopkins** and one by **Gary Pells** and **Charles Hearne**.

Congratulations to all Trainee Computer Programmers who graduated this year — and good luck to those who are following on, they have a high target to beat.



John Constable. (B)

# RETIREMENTS

Joy Bruce joined the Company in 1962. On her retirement she was Administrative Assistant in the Exhibition team headed by Exhibitions Manager, Roland Thomas. As well as playing a big part in the formulation of the "paper-work" for the very many exhibitions in the Company's programme, Joy was often directly involved "on the day" as a hostess and in general admin duties. She had previously acted as secretary to a number of senior staff, among them the recently retired Frank Bevan, Company Support Executive and Maurice Needham, Market Development Executive. In making a presentation on the occasion of her retirement, Maurice Needham voiced the sentiments of some 250 colleagues, signatories on the farewell card, who wished her every happiness in a new life in the thatched Devon cottage of her dreams.



Joy Bruce with Maurice Needham. (A)

On 14th September Stan Rabone retired after working with the Company for some 23 years. Stan served his apprenticeship

with James Archdale in Birmingham. In 1939 he joined the Royal Navy as an Ordnance Artificer and was made C.P.O. in 1943 holding the post of Chief Ordnance Artificer for 16 years.

He joined the Company in May 1961 in MAC Division. As a planner Stan worked on many projects. On the amalgamation of TACMAC forming FCD, Stan continued in the same post but later was promoted to Production Project Leader. When once again the division was split up Stan went to CACD in the same position until his retirement.

Stan is married and has a very happy family with 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. All workmates wish him a very happy and long retirement.



Stan Rabone (CACD) at his retirement. (A)

CMS Production Manager Peter Burrows gave Fitter Fred Shedd the best wishes of the department when Fred retired in

September. Fred had started his working life as a boy with Short Bros. in 1933, and when they closed he moved on to Blaw Knox. Later he went to Dunsfold aerodrome where the Harrier jump-jet was born; Hawkers moved to the Flying School at Rochester and from there Fred joined this company to start his 26 years' service. He hopes to continue with his hobbies of model railways and DIY, also with his great weakness of enjoyment of large cream cakes!



Fred Shedd receives a presentation from Peter Burrows.

## Postscript – Dave Marvell

Dave had a change of arrangements on the day he retired and was unable to get around and say goodbye to a number of his many friends. Through GAv News he asks to thank and remember the host of people who contributed to his presentation and the bouquet for his wife Joyce. To anyone who does not see the letter he has written, Dave and Joyce send their heartfelt thanks and wish them and the company every success in the future.

More on Dave Marvell's Retirement next month.

# 25 YEARS' SERVICE

At a small ceremony in Divisional Manager Bob Ruggles' office, Peter Burrows of GSD received a pair of binoculars to mark 25 years' service. Peter started his working life as a Dockyard apprentice, then while on deferred National Service he became familiar with radar and electronics as a background to his work with this company. This started in Aviation Division (later MACD) and by 1964 Peter had become Assistant Foreman having been employed on Lightning and Buccaneer autopilots. In 1966 he went to the USA for a few weeks and in 1968 he was made Foreman (Test). Following the MACD/TACD merger he joined IND as Test Engineer at the start of the Jaguar project, and later as Section Leader (Test) he was much involved in the build-up of work in the new RST area; since 1977 Peter has become concerned on a "roving commission" and liaison basis in all areas of IND/ GSD and other divisions.



Left to right: Bob Ruggles, Peter Burrows, Mick Everest and Dave Harries. (B)

John Balderton's 25 years has been spent in both Fisher/ECV and Avionics, but always in the Despatch and Transport areas in the main Hangar – he is now a Driver, having settled with Works Engineering around 9 years ago. Before coming into GEC, John did his National Service in the Navy then joined Swift and Swallow, but when they contracted he joined another company on this site for a spell – so he has been 'under the hangar roof' for a very long time. Although he has no family, John spends a lot of time with his caravan, both in this country and abroad.

Works Engineer Sid Williams marked John's long service award with a pair of binoculars.



John Balderton receives his presentation from Sid Williams. (B)

Alan Burcombe, Senior Contracts Officer in ATED reached 25 years service on 5th October – all the time has been in the variously named Divisions which led to the formation of ATED. Originally Alan started at Borehamwood in the Automatic Test section of MACD, and when he moved to Rochester with the Division in 1965 he was engaged on Project Admin. work. In recent years he has worked on the big projects such as Nimrod and Tornado ATE.

Alan's presentation clock was handed over by Divisional Manager Arthur Colewell.



Alan Burcombe receives his presentation from Arthur Colewell. (B)

Maurice Dunmall started at Borehamwood with Elliott Brothers as an on-site service engineer in August 1959 moving to Rochester in that October with the newly formed AS & RD. During his 25 years service in the field he has supported Lightning, Nimrod, Jaguar, spent some 3 years seconded on Tornado, and is currently the Senior AS & RD Technical Representative (Quality) at BAe Warton.

Divisional Manager Jim Casey presented Maurice with a gold watch.

Friday 5th October marked the completion of 25 years' service with the Company by Vic Ferguson, a Design Engineer in GSD.

Vic joined the Company when Sheerness Dockyard closed, starting in Radio and Radar Division Drawing Office. Drawing Office experience in Fuse Division and ADD led to his appointment as a Checker Draughtsman in Gyro Division at the New Road Office, and to promotion to Design Engineer.

Vic was a well known and respected soccer referee, but now confines his sporting activities to assessing other referees for KCFA.

Bob Ruggles, Divisional Manager of GSD, made a presentation of a clock, Vic's chosen present.



Vic Ferguson. (B)

Alan Goodridge served his apprenticeship to become an Electrician with Seaboard and at the end of his apprenticeship was called up for National Service for two years in the RAF; he then returned to Seaboard for a further five years. He started at Elliotts in GW Division. At the close of GWD he moved into IND where he worked on several projects, and was promoted to Leading Hand and then to Charge Hand. More recently he worked on the Nimrod contract then Jaguar; he was promoted to Foreman 13 years ago. Alan's hobbies include Golf and buying new cars.

On 6th October Bob Ruggles, Divisional Manager of GSD presented Alan with a Carriage Clock to mark his 25 years service with the Company.



Alan Goodridge receiving his presentation from Bob Ruggles. (A)

# Central Charity Fund AGM

At the first AGM of the Fund, Chairman John Roberts reported that since the inaugural meeting in August 1982 the constitution had been agreed, and subsequently accepted by the Charity Commissioners thus entitling the Fund to tax concessions and other benefits. However due to computer delays money did not become available till November '83 sufficient to start donations, but in conjunction with the Company's offer of £1000 p.a. it was possible to make a number of donations – some of which were reported last month. More publicity is to be given in the hope and expectation of increasing the membership from its present 180 or so. As the fund's existence becomes more widely known among the local worthy causes and appeals, it would be necessary to build up the contributions to enable requests for grants to be met.

Treasurer Brian Handley also emphasised the need for greater membership, and reported that employee's contributions so far were £926, with the Company's contribution instalments at £503, and this had made it possible for the Committee to make donations totalling £1040 – these figures differ from those on the balance sheet owing to date differences.

Bill Alexander proposed, seconded by John Ainley, a vote of thanks to all members of the Committee.

To start things off, why not ask your supervisor or Personnel Dept. for an application form to join – 10p per week can then be deducted at source from your salary or wages.

## The 'STAR' Dance

### GEC AVIONICS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE

Thursday 20th December, 8.00 – 1.00  
Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone

Andy Ross, Singers & Orchestra

Tickets £5.50 from Social Club Office



# EVENING OF MEMORIES AT THE LSA DINNER DANCE

The first Annual Dinner and Dance of the recently constituted GEC Avionics (Rochester) Long Service Association, held on Saturday 20th October, was for many another reunion of old friends and their spouses. The event has of course been running for many years but this was the first one without the Fishers members, nevertheless the Main Canteen was packed with around 400 enjoying the superb meal provided by Bill Gostling's staff, as guests of the company.

All were welcomed on arrival at the pre-dinner sherry reception by **Dave Harries**, President and **John Goodhand**, Chairman, and as the dinner drew to a close **Jack Pateman** CBE rose to propose a toast to the company and introduce the guest of honour, **Frank Johnston** MBE. He said in his welcome to the first Dinner that he was delighted to see so many members – after only six weeks of the Association's existence and everyone looking so much younger! He felt a certain paternal pride proposing the toast, and reminded the guests that Frank Johnston had had links with the company for many years, having been Chief Personnel Executive for Elliott Bros (London). Jack Pateman had joined the company in 1948 and Frank Johnston had fixed his salary – which was not quoted. It was a nice thought of the Committee to invite this guest of honour, he said.

In reply, Frank Johnston said he was most flattered to be invited – but some present might wonder who he was, especially as he had retired 12 years ago. Known as 'Chopper' – one of his more repeatable nick-names – he started up the Rochester establishment in the 1946 winter, one of the worst in memory, taking on around 50 employees who pioneered the company in weather when the buses were not running, there were few cars and everyone went by bike, or walked through snow up to waist level to the hangar accommodation where the

only heat was from braziers.

In subsequent weeks many more people were taken on, largely from the recently-closed Short Bros. workforce. These were the days of Swift and Swallow, who in 1947 amalgamated with Elliotts, who were based at Lewisham. Days of great difficulty, but opportunity knocked and great satisfaction was gained. Both companies were almost broke but rises of 1/6 p.w. were authorised! When the link with Fishers was started Rochester really began to grow, more sophisticated interests came to the factory and through the various amalgamations and takeovers the company evolved.

Dave Harries proposed the toast to the Guests and welcomed Frank Johnston and his memories to the first Dinner of the GAv Long Service Association. The LSA had originated at Lewisham and the Rochester branch had flourished since 1975, leading up to the formation of the present Association when the Fishers establishment moved on. He thanked the Liaison Officers **John Neate** and **Brian Rogers**. There followed presentations of flowers to Mrs Harries by Mr Johnston, and to the wife of the Vice-President **Dave Marvell** by Dave Harries, coupled with words of appreciation to Dave Marvell who had so recently retired, and the presentation of a barometer, as appreciation for his contributions to the LSA. John Goodhand concluded with a vote of thanks to Management and the Social Club Committee particularly also to Canteen Manager **Bill Gostling** and all his staff who had spent so much time and effort providing the dinner. Pianist **Herbert Robins** who had entertained during the meal had been thanked earlier, maybe remembering his earlier days as Chef.

The evening then became informal with dancing to 'Kings Ransom' and much reminiscing in the Lounge Bar. Everyone as they went home seemed to think the occasion had been an enormous success.

## Two-thirds American Team Wins Dart Tournament At MAV Atlanta

Let's hear it for the champs! The 3rd Annual Henry Harron Dart Tournament was held on August 18. It is with extreme pleasure that we announce that some Americans have watched their British fellow employees long enough to learn to properly throw darts! Our two-thirds American team consisted of Tom Bauer (Captain), David Farquhar, and Geoff Holah, the lone Englishman. This group admirably represented the Laser-Department. Members of the second place team all learned their dart skills in jolly old England. From our Product Support Department, Neil Wolstenholme, Stan Smith and Chris Priecheufried fought a brave fight 'til the last dart was thrown.

Well done and congratulations to all 16 teams. By the way, we have been unable to confirm reports that a laser rangefinder was spotted in the possession of the winning team as the tournament began...  
(From Lynn Bates)



## Sports and Social Club round up

### GAv/BP Golf Society



### GSD Trio's Golf Success

The three prize winners all from the newly formed GSD, made the best of the glorious weather at the MAV/BP Golf Society's final and most popular outing of the year at Lamberhurst. Alf Harrison as president was there to present the prizes to (L to R): Alan Gillet – 3rd all day; Martin Reeve – 1st all day; Mike Broome – best afternoon score.





# Sports and Social Club round up



## GAv/BP Rugby Club

Some big wins already - 12-0 v Old Gravesendians (away) and 24-0 v Sheppey (home). Come and watch some more - new players also welcome!

### Fixtures

25.11.84	Home	Maidstone
02.12.84	Away	HMP Borstal
09.12.84	Away	Old Gravesendians
16.12.84	Home	Old Gravesendians
06.01.85	Away	Vigo
13.01.85	Home	Gravesend
20.01.85	Away	MAv Borehamwood
27.01.85	Home	Ash Green
03.02.85	Away	Medway
24.02.85	Home	Gillingham Anchorians
03.03.85	Away	Maidstone
10.03.85	Home	Lordswood
17.03.85	Home	Old Dartfordians
24.03.85	Away	Police (Gravesend & Dartford)
31.03.85	Home	HMP Borstal

## GAv/BP Yacht Section

22nd September - Grand Opening of New Club-House In February this year due to exceptional high winds the existing Yacht Club-house was effectively demolished leaving only the flooring and superstructure unscathed. A work party of Club members was hurriedly called and fortunately, due to their action much of the interior effects were saved from further damage. This posed a problem of a replacement building for the Club to which Mr Jack Pateman, (honorary President of the Yacht Section) came to the

rescue - within weeks a new Club-house was found and thanks to Mr Fred Peltley and his men, was erected in record time. The new Club-house is slightly larger than the original, with the added bonus of a new kitchen, carpets and large end doors, which can be opened to view Colemouth Creek where the Club-house and Yacht moorings are sited. A social evening, to be held in the Club-house was announced to celebrate the opening - Mrs Pateman performed the ceremony, cut the ribbon and pronounced the new Club-house open.



A reminder of the February Storms

## Swimming Section

Young persons interested in competitive swimming are welcome to join our training sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30 until 9 pm. Please ask for Roger or Vanessa Carpenter at Club Pool.

## MAv/BP Kent Club

### Annual Carol Service

at St Paul with All Saints Church  
Maggie Hall Road, Chatham  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Monday 17th December at 7.30 pm  
With The GEC Avionics Brass Band  
and Choir of All Saints

Once in Royal David's City  
THE BIDDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
O Come All Ye Faithful

FIRST LESSON : GENESIS 3 :  
Ding Dong Merrily on High

SECOND LESSON : GENESIS 22 :  
God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

THIRD LESSON : ISAIAH 9 :  
Good King Wenceslas

10 MINUTE ADDRESS

FOURTH LESSON : MICAH 5 :  
O Little Town of Bethlehem

FIFTH LESSON : ST LUKE 1 :  
Masters in This Hall

SIXTH LESSON : ST MATTHEW 1 :  
Away in a Manager

SEVENTH LESSON : ST LUKE 2 :  
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

EIGHTH LESSON : ST MATTHEW 2 :  
The First Noel

NINTH LESSON : ST JOHN 1 :  
See Amid The Winter Snow

COLLECT AND BLESSING  
Hark The Herald Angels Sing

All are welcome at this Service for the Christmas Season



# CLUB-HOUSE ATTRACTIONS

**Bowls Section**  
**DINNER DANCE**  
Friday 23rd November  
(not as previously stated)  
  
Dinner 7.30 and Dancing to  
**SOUNDS VERSATILE**

**Rugby Section**  
**Sunday Matches at 11.00, Hoo**  
25th November V Maidstone  
16th December V Old Gravesendians  
  
**GRAND CHRISTMAS  
FANCY DRESS DANCE**  
Friday 7th December  
7.45 - 11.45 pm  
"X-OCET"

**NETBALL  
CHRISTMAS DISCO**  
with  
"X-OCET"  
  
Saturday 22 December  
8-11 pm  
  
Tickets from  
Maureen Hughes - Med. 252030  
and the Bar

**AN EVENING  
AT THE RACES**  
Saturday 24th November  
8 pm  
  
**EIGHT FILMED RACES**  
  
Total Tickets: 20p  
  
**ADMISSION FREE**

**SOCIAL EVENING**  
Saturday 1st December  
7.45 - 11.45  
  
**THE IN-CROWD**  
  
Admission Free

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
with **KEITH HOWARD**  
  
Admission Free but  
£1 Guest Levy at the door  
after 6.00

**ATHLETICS  
DINNER DANCE**  
Friday 30th November  
7 for 7.30 Dinner  
  
Dancing  
8.15 - 11.45 pm to  
"FLYIN-HI"  
  
Tickets from  
Len Murphy ADD 2893  
and Club Bar

**MASD DANCE**  
Friday 14th December  
  
Information from  
Rod Cole (2015)

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
CLUB BAR OPEN 12.00 - 2.00**  
  
**BOXING DAY  
CLUB BAR OPEN 11.00 - 2.00**  
  
**ALL OTHER FACILITIES CLOSED**

**Swimming Section**  
**GALA**  
Saturday 8th December  
Swimming 1.30 - 4.30  
Tea 5.00  
Disco 7.00 - 10.00

**BP/NORTHFLEET  
BUFFET DANCE**  
Saturday 15th December  
  
"HI-FI"

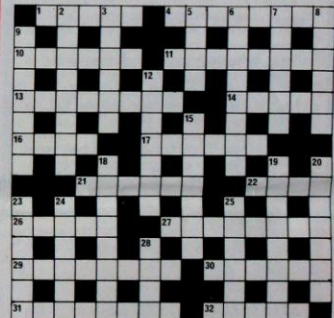
**NEW YEARS EVE  
Dance & Celebration**  
**"WHISPER"  
and CABARET  
RAFFLE**  
  
Admission Free but  
£1 Guest Levy at the door  
after 6.00

**Swimming Section**  
**GALA**  
Saturday 8th December  
Swimming 1.30 - 4.30  
Tea 5.00  
Disco 7.00 - 10.00

**FCD  
DINNER DANCE**  
Friday 21st December  
Dinner 8.00 Dancing to 1.00  
  
"AURA"  
  
Tickets from Paula (2442)

**CHILDRENS DISCO**  
Friday 28th December  
7-10 pm

## CROSSWORD NO. 66



- ACROSS**  
1. Poultry, as chicken. (5)  
4. Not perfect, any old way. (8)  
10. & 11. Absolutely complete. (2-4)  
13. A section of church building. (8)  
14. Country hop or expression of joy. (5)  
16. Base of head, joining body. (4)  
17. A sort of crown. (6)  
21. When the burden is too heavy. (6)  
22. Game played using ponies. (4)  
26. A colour, for cheeks, maybe. (5)  
27. Not the right name, for some reason. (8)  
29. Plaintous in giving. (8)  
30. One is when overseas. (6)  
31. To hasten or get done. (8)  
32. "There's a hole in my bucket" (5)
- DOWN**  
2. A drink in European country. (8)  
3. To join up, sign on. (6)  
5. As a rose is to English, this to Welsh. (4)  
6. An American west town of song. (8)  
7. Opening windows, letting it blow. (8)  
8. Valuable aid for a travelling youth. (6)  
9. Immediately, momentary. (7)  
12. Something out of the ordinary. (7)  
15. Not a female name, frankly. (7)  
18. A probe, fire poker maybe. (5-3)  
19. What a regular punter consults. (4-4)  
20. The use made of some stolen cars. (3-4)  
23. A type of footwear. (6)  
24. Not now the fashion for mister. (4-2)  
25. Help in putting into effect. (6)  
28. Seen on the river. (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 65  
**ACROSS**  
1. Head dresses; 9. Lyric; 10. Woe be gone; 11. Shun; 12. Trio; 13. Turbo; 15. Queue up; 16. Cleared; 17. Adapted; 20. Surface; 22. Tithe; 23. Carp; 24. Rasp; 26. Run to seed; 27. Churn; 28. Makes a scene.  
**DOWN**  
1. Hirsute; 2. Arch; 3. Dew drop; 4. Ereking; 5. Sweetheart; 6. Sporan; 7. Close quarters; 8. Second helping; 14. Gentileok; 18. Antony; 19. Dutches; 20. Strides; 21. As a rule; 25. Acne.

Photographs taken by the Staff Photographers will be acknowledged in the following way: (A) Alan Keate; (B) Ian Douglas

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