

# M ASG NEWSLETTER

*Happy  
Easter*

APRIL 1993

## FOREWORD

It has certainly been an eventful quarter since the Christmas Newsletter with the formation of GEC-Marconi Avionics Limited. MAS is now part of Displays Division, managed by Mr Peter Kenyon and its official title is Maritime Aircraft Systems Group. These management changes have had little effect upon the day to day running of MAS business.

I am delighted to inform you that Tim Rees Roberts and his team at Borehamwood have joined MAS Group as a result of the disbandment of TSRL. Tim will report directly to me but I will ensure that he and his team interface with the Engineering Department.

For the last 3 months life has been hectic. The contract with IBM-ASIC for the AQS 903 System for the Merlin Helicopter Programme proceeds with some haste. I am pleased to say that the AQS 903 MOD contract is drawing to a close.

In some respects it is sad to see that our AQS 901 Development Programme has come to a close and all future Software Packages will be performed by the RAF Nimrod Software Team at Kinloss. I am delighted to inform you however that in the last quarter MASG received the contract for the Issue 5 Software for the 6116 Programme.

On the proposal front we have been busy preparing bids for SHOLIS, the Pakistan Navy, the French Navy and DRA(F), all with the same deadline. Thus the Programme managers, Contracts Department, Tech Pubs and Barrie Riley had had their hands full. I see the next quarter as being just as busy with proposals for the RAAF P3-C update and the RAF Nimrod Replacement Programme.

As another Financial Year has drawn to an end I am pleased to announce that, albeit MASG did not quite achieve its sales target, its overhead costs were kept to a minimum, thereby resulting in an improved profit margin. During a period of recession this is an extremely worthwhile achievement and I thank you all for your assistance.

A little bird has told me that the Division/Group will be 20 years old this month. This is quite an achievement in itself and I know a number of founder members of the Division will be reading this newsletter today - congratulations!

On a more personal note, congratulations also to Jayne and Gary Bryant on the birth of their sons and daughter, Christopher, Mark and Megan for those of you who don't already know.



On behalf of you all our sincere best wishes go to Messrs Taplin and Morley, better known to you as Wally and Cyril, for every happiness during their retirement. They have both served the Division well during the last 10 years with us.

This period sees the end of Tony Young's reign as Chairman of the MAS Social Club Committee. My thanks to him for his efforts over the last 15 months and I welcome Colin Tredwell who has volunteered to fill this seat. Please give him your support.

#### WORKING WITH MASG

Mike Hampton (IBM-ASIC)

I would like to thank all of the members on the Merlin team within MASG for your dedication and hard work towards the accomplishments we have seen thus far on the Merlin project.

The completion of our first year on contract has resulted in several significant milestone achievements including the successful System Design Review (SDR) and Preliminary Design Review (PDR) with the MOD. Starting shortly, one of our near term activities will be the commencement of system test with the Full Scale Integration Rig and subsequent flight testing on PP5 at Westlands.

In addition to these events, the Merlin Sonics subcontract has likewise met a number of key milestones over the first 9 months of our contract which are highlighted as follows:

- ° Post Award Programme Audit
- ° SDR
- ° PDR
- ° Merlin Quality Audit
- ° ILS Guidance Conference
- ° Block 1 Change Activity Kick-off
- ° Firm Development and Production Schedule Baseline

Finally, I wish you and your families a very enjoyable break over the Easter weekend.

*Sue Wood*

Sue Wood

IBM-ASIC is pleased with the fact that the Sonics Programme continues to hold to the December 1994 production delivery schedule.

IBM-ASIC is pleased with the effort and results MASG have put forth under this contract. MASG have demonstrated competent and professional management and engineering skills, and has displayed the mutual interest in performing the tasks required to complete the job, on schedule. I believe the key to your achievements has been your ability to communicate effectively in meetings, in correspondence, and in daily technical and administrative exchanges. Knowing customer expectations before product delivery is a critical element to success, and as a team, it is evident that you have the customer's interest in mind.

The aggressive Merlin schedule will present challenges for both IBM-ASIC and MASG in the upcoming years. We are off to an excellent start with a solid design baseline, schedule baseline, and fine working rapport both technically and through management channels. I am confident that these relationships will serve as a strong foundation as we move into the build phase and prepare for production of the Royal Navy Merlin Helicopter.

## ROGUES GALLERY



Kathy Damps  
Engineering Manager  
(Software and Services)

Kathy was born in South East London and lived there for the first twenty years of her life. She attended Crown Wood School, Eltham, a new school which had just been introduced into the Inner London Education System.

Unlike today, she had to make a decision, whether to get a job or go on to University. Kathy chose the latter option. Having achieved the requisite grades at A level, she was awarded a place at London University, Chelsea College of Science and Technology; THE PLACE to be in the early seventies. She eventually settled to read a mix of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. She soon regretted this when she discovered that she had three times as much practical work to write up in the evenings compared with everyone else. After a year of burning the midnight oil, Kathy specialised in Chemistry. This didn't help much since the chemistry course promptly divided into Physical, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, all with their associated practical work to write up.

At the end of a fairly exhausting three year course, Kathy was awarded an upper second Honours degree in Chemistry.

Again faced with the decision whether to get a job or stay on at University, she decided to do research in Organic Chemistry at Chelsea College and work towards a PhD (Phoney Doctor).

When faced with the prospect of researching into 101 things to do with a banana, she wisely opted to research the structure and synthesis of steroid derivatives. This resulted in a whole series of experiments involving miles of glass plumbing, gallons of very heady solvents and some of the most disgusting smells imaginable; Kathy's sense of smell still hasn't recovered from the onslaught.

In the latter stages of the research, Kathy's fame had spread to Imperial College where Nobel Laureate Sir Derek Barton asked her to participate in research leading to a series of scientific papers published in various scientific journals. As a result of this work, a thesis the size of "War and Peace", and a very long viva, Kathy was awarded a PhD.

Unable to face the prospect of gainful employment, Kathy took a Post-doctoral research post at Chelsea College for a further three years. This had the advantage of paying her enough to rent a Chelsea flat.

Tiring of Chelsea College, she took the opportunity of moving to Birkbeck College, London University to work on sugar chemistry (much less smelly). During her two year stay at Birkbeck, she spent one day a week teaching teachers how to teach chemistry without blowing themselves to smithereens.

After this experience, Kathy decided that she had had enough of chemistry, research and London. As a result she applied to Marconi Avionics (as it was then) for a real job. Much to her surprise, the Company offered her a job in the MAS Analysts Group. She spent three years in the group producing simulated displays and MMI demonstrators for 902, 903 and ISK (hardly any smell at all!).

Kathy then worked her way through the various projects in the Division until arriving at her current position, some twelve years after joining.

## PROJECT REVIEW

### AQS 901

All updates to the latest issue of AQS 901 were completed at the end of last year.

The last period has been spent completing the technical vetting of the latest issue of 901 documentation and assisting Performance Test produce the Performance Test Report, which is the last milestone on the current contract.

In the last couple of weeks the remainder of the team have been "putting 901 to bed". MASG is not involved in future AQS 901 development programmes, which is to be taken over completely by the Nimrod Software Team at RAF, Kinloss.

However, we do retain the design responsibility for future programmes and studies for possible updates, so 901 is not quite dead and buried!

The Colour Display facility continues to attract a great deal of interest and MOD/RAF are looking at ways to include it in future updates. A number of system enhancements have been discussed with MOD.

### AQS 902

#### ROYAL NAVY SEA KING 6

The contract for Issue 5 has been received, it transpires MOD was waiting for the Programme Manager to go Skiing. Well if that's what it takes I'll take a permanent holiday.

Issue 5 work centres around an agreed set of costed changes called SCPs. The SCPs require hardware, software and firmware updates in order to implement them. In addition, some analyst work is required to develop new algorithms. The work varies greatly in complexity from adding new CAMBs displays to changing some of the spelling! The project is planned to complete early next year.

Despite initial difficulties the team has made a flying start. Progress is well ahead of schedule, many of the requirement specifications have been written and the software/firmware implementation is about to start. Congratulations to Lee Thompson and his team for an excellent start to a new project.

The prototype transmitter unit modifications are well under way; the first trial is planned for mid April.

New and interesting variants of AQS 902 are being estimated, including an operator interface in French. Is anyone fluent in French? We may need a hand with some of our reviews at a later date.

### SWEDEN

Recent reports suggest that the Swedish Navy will make a decision by mid April concerning our proposals for a further system. Despite the current economic climate in Sweden the signs are hopeful.

### PAKISTAN

We are bidding to supply the Acoustic Processing System, fitted in the RN's Sea King, for the Pakistan Navy's Sea King helicopter, and the AQS 928G for their Atlantic MPA. A visit by a Pakistan Navy delegation to the Company and RNAS Culdrose went well and hopefully will help in landing this contract. A decision is expected in July.

### 777 TEST SET

Except for some tidying up and minor changes, the majority of the test set work was completed at the end of last year. The final delivery was made in January 1993. This allowed us to use the new hardware provided by FCD. A support team of eight people has been requested until July 1993. A set of new features has been agreed, costed and is being implemented. Boeing has delivered a new



777 aircraft model which has to be incorporated into the Test Set; it will utilise most of the available resources. The aircraft model has to be available for the PFC integration activities during May/June.

#### IBM-ASIC ACT

IBM would like a version of our existing ACT but with additional facilities to simulate BARRA and CAMBS buoys. IBM intend to integrate the ACT into a complete simulation environment for all the sensors on the aircraft (RADAR, ESM etc) and some additional remote control facilities are required. The project is expected to start in early May.

#### MMI DEMONSTRATORS

An AQS 903 style display demonstrator has been developed by Mike Dando. This uses an IBM PC, running Microsoft Windows and a high resolution graphics card, to provide a set of sonics displays with twice the number of lofargrams on the screen at one time. The active formats are based around DICASS. Moving targets are simulated and cursor readouts provided.

In addition a set of DIFAR colour bearing displays have also been developed on an IBM PC which may be connected to 901 to obtain real display data. The displays are similar to standard Lofargrams, but with each pixel colour coded according to the bearing of the signal.

Both demonstrators are in Australia to support our bid for the P3 update contract. If anyone is interested in seeing a demonstration please make arrangements through your supervisor.

#### AQS 903 - MOD

Since the last newsletter a significant number of events have been achieved. These include signing off the System Integration Demonstration Test (SIDT) and

demonstrating that the Mean Time To Repair requirement of 20 minutes can be achieved with a comfortable safety margin. In addition we repeatedly ran the loading scenario, where the system is made to work as hard as possible, successfully; a significant milestone.

Two significant financial milestones were claimed during February and March which kept management happy.

#### AQS 903 - IBM-ASIC

Work has progressed well on the subsystem software design activity for the initial Merlin work.

The engineers assigned to the ISTG role have completed test plans for the subsystems and test descriptions for the system control subsystem.

Recently we received a significant number of new requirements from IBM. This has changed the emphasis from design to requirements, with all subsystem requirement specifications needing updates.

The software design for the SWG has been completed, and preparatory work is continuing on the acceptance test specification.

The FPP firmware development is progressing very well. The software design has been completed and coding is underway. The supporting independent software test documentation has been generated in a very short period of time.

The PDP Colour firmware is in a code and test phase, and close to completion. Work is progressing on generating test descriptions and test data. Testing on the 903 racks is due to start within the next month.

The design and code of the BRT firmware has been completed, this involved generating new design documentation. The acceptance test specification work will start shortly.

## VISITS AND EXHIBITIONS

M. E. Ryder

As expected the first quarter of 93 has been very demanding with various tenders and requests for information for the Australian and UK Maritime Patrol Aircraft Programmes. As usual the unexpected happened and we have been asked to produce instant proposals for the AQS 928G for Pakistan and French Navies. The German Navy Atlantic programme is also taking shape.

As a result we have made several visits to Europe and the Near East. In addition Pat Keast is down under serving a short sentence for his sins.

Mike Baxter's visits to Pakistan have provided a wealth of anecdotes. Differences in culture are always interesting. His abstemious nature was tested in Pakistan's totally 'dry' (well almost totally) regime. Again in Pakistan Fridays equates to our Sunday, Saturday is a working day and 'real' Sunday is anyones guess? Combine this with Ramadan and you begin to see the picture. Mike enjoys his visits to Pakistan and has built up an excellent rapport with the Naval staff. He will be returning in April to support our proposal and hopefully taking steps to win more business. As many of you will know we hosted a visit by the Pakistan Naval staff last month. The visit was well received by the customer and the Royal Navy was extremely supportive and co-operative in hosting the visitors at RNAS, Culdrose.

One advantage of doing business with Pakistan is that we can converse in English. The visit to "La Navale Francaise" resulted in "Conversations Franglaise" as we tried to review the French Technical Specification. Our two days in France equated to 16 hours travelling, 25 working and 13 sleeping, about right for two engineers! The Gallic shrug was translated by Phil Stancliff as "Où est le bagage" but can

mean almost anything. The one way system in Toulon is more confusing than Maidstone and at one stage it was suggested - to PS - that if we were in reverse it would be less obvious we were going the wrong way up one way streets. Such excitement was surpassed only by driving down railway tracks and exploding depth charges in the local harbour. However, we managed to steer away from disasters relating to illegal fishing, fish and other sensitive areas.

Our partners in Toulon were very supportive and we have every hope of seeing our equipment on a French frigate.

Our visit to Germany offers long term prospects for the GEMMA system. GEMMA was well received and we believe we have established a good potential partnership for the German MPA programme. During the visit our own Red Top Leader was very prominent and had no answer to a German lady who forced an entry into our car. I'll leave JA to explain this one away.



IMPRESSIONS OF AUSTRALIA  
AFTER THE FIRST WEEK

Pat Keast

Having been sent to Australia to support MASG's proposals to supply AQS 934s, ACT 2s and possibly a GEMMA DMS, how does it look?

First, since we are English - the weather - Sydney, where I spent the first two, non-sleeping days, is very pleasant, warm but not too hot nor too damp. On the other hand, Adelaide (where I am based initially) is very hot - this week the mid-afternoon temperatures have been 32, 33C, - and the country side very dry. It cools off a bit during the night, but my early morning swim in the sea is still very pleasant.

Driving in Australia is both similar and yet different from driving in UK - they drive on the left but keep very strictly to the posted speed limits, I can only recall seeing two people exceeding the limit - in 10 days of driving. The Police are not in obvious attendance but have the right to stop and breathalise people at random, there are lots of 'red light' cameras keeping you from jumping the traffic lights and the Police make extensive use of unmarked radar/camera cars to trap the unwary driver - there was one hiding behind a local tree this morning. Speeding attracts a fine of around \$250 and puts 3 points automatically on your license. As it is not obvious whether any transgression has been spotted or not, there have been cases where people have gone from having clean licenses to having no license at all, when the penalties are distributed at the beginning of each month!!

Driving in Adelaide is not too different than UK with the city laid out in a basic grid interspersed with a lot of park areas. Sydney is very different - a lot more traffic but, since the city is built over a large number of inlets and bays off the Paramatta river, very few roads

go directly where you want to go. There are very few motorways, so driving is rather like going round the old South Circular road before the M25 arrived, but with palm trees and sun. (If you are old enough to remember).

Another characteristic of Australia is that ALL cyclists wear a crash helmet, whether they are old ladies, mountain bike enthusiasts or toddlers using stabilisers.

I arrived in time for the election. The irreverent election coverage on national radio station 'Triple J' was very different from the BBC, Peter Snow or Jonathan Day. The same station is less than impressed by Brenda from Beverley Hills 90210 or the English Youth football team - I'm as delighted that we beat their 'Socceroos' in the play-off for 3rd place on 20th March!

Finally, how is the work? The Adelaide office, GEC-Marconi Systems, is new and in a multi-tenant Technology Park development. G-MS took over an RF design company, now that most of their staff are operating in Melbourne on a major OTH radar programme called JORN, there is me, a secretary and 4 staff. I have my own front door key in case I am the first one in!

MASG is putting on some demonstrations to the RAAF operators and DSTO (the Australian equivalent to DRA at Farnborough) next week. Peter Duckworth and Trev Taylor will be joining me and as the (Draft) RAAF Request for Tender (RFT) for the P-3C Update has just come out, things are likely to be busy in the next few weeks.

G-day, See you soon!

ODES TO OCTO-SECRETARIUS

Carole Carole Gaily,  
Comes to work daily,  
When very young her name was Poll  
But later on she became Ken's doll  
And changed her name to Taylor,  
Now several years on  
With her fortune gone,  
Blown on a new leather suite  
And six grandchildren so sweet,  
She's happy to be Grannie Taylor.

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From nine to three  
She lives on tea,  
The heart of commerciality  
Ts & Cs and Confidentialities  
Typing words of indigestibility,  
Rosemary's speciality  
Is sheer simplicity.

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Looking well despite the stress  
Is MASG's version of "The Manageress"  
She stands and cheers as her boys score  
goals  
But finishes up washing her footballers'  
clothes.  
At lunchtime the crossword she does hack  
Along with Sue, the leader of the pack.  
Together they sit in the hall of fame  
As winners of the Pitch and Putt game.

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This is the tale of Alison Green  
Who was doing nothing one Halloween  
When along came a fella called Liddiard  
Who she caught with ease on her halliard.  
She earns her pay looking after Adrian by  
day  
And at night she goes home with G  
Khambay,  
But only cause Phil at work has to stay  
In an attempt to empty his in-tray.

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Little Liz Read sits at her vax  
Wondering why life is so lax.  
Drinking coffee in copious amounts  
And ordering Tippex in very large packs  
She's come to the conclusion  
That QA is utter confusion,  
But better than paying no tax.

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I know a young lady called Clare  
Who has long flowing fair hair,  
As she sits in her chair  
With her nose in the air,  
She's really no snob  
Just thinking of the 902 mob,  
Who to make her smile on Mondays  
Keep telling her jokes on Fridays.

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Mutter mutter on the wall  
Who is the busiest of them all,  
Keeping the boss on the ball  
Making appointments and taking the calls.  
Our travellers she does appease  
Filling up claims and AOVs,  
But as we all realise  
She is just one of many busy bees.

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Working in Marketing and Sales  
Is a girl who rarely fails  
To decipher MER's scribbled letter  
Which at times she changes for the  
better.  
Who else but our dear Ann  
Would work with such elan  
As through the day she does gently tread  
To earn her daily Whit bread.



## IS MARKETING TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT?

Once upon a time engineers and scientists worked in the remote corners of industrial sites and customers came to see them. I'm told mainly because of the excellence of what they had to offer. Today the boot is on the other foot and technologists (who) are having to go out and find business. For those with a high technology education this can be painful - visions of selling double glazing and soap powder. To those that feel that way the advice is forget it, accept marketing as a necessary discipline consistent with your profession.

When you think about it, nobody wants our product, they want what it will do for them. So long as what we offer is the best way of meeting the customer's needs, we are in business. If someone can do it better or the customer's needs change, our product may become irrelevant. Being an industrial leader does not guarantee our right to exist or make a profit.

Marketing is the role of all management, middle or senior. Anyone who comes into contact with the customer is part of the marketing process. Remember anyone can lose an order. Engineering and Marketing must have a common goal both for innovation and obtaining new business.

Our product may not be the main factor influencing the buying decision. Today other aspects such as after sales service and through life costs are often more important. Intangible qualities such as our image and track record may override other qualities. Where competitors have broadly equivalent products the buying decision may be influenced by those who are better at marketing; our public relations image, for which we are all responsible, could be the final criteria.

Normally competition is considered to be suppliers who broadly offer the same product. However, competition can come from other ways of doing the same thing or the customer may decide he can do the

work internally. More importantly there may be more important demands on the customer's budget. In which case we have to present our arguments in a more appropriate and convincing manner.

Before we can prepare brochures, proposal advertisements and press releases, we need positive answers to several questions - like - What benefits do we offer the customer? How do we show we are better than our competitors? Why should they buy from us? How much are they prepared to pay?

Quite often our communications can be ineffective because we have given too little thought to our objective. Long winded proposals are irrelevant. Our outputs should be short, crisp and to the point, showing we understand the customer's needs and presenting us in a good light.

Technologists are trained to achieve excellence but sophisticated technical solutions may not represent a sensible commercial solution - Remember gold plated taps work no better than normal ones, just cost more. It is claimed that scientists are trained to see all side of an issue but a successful marketer needs a ruthless focused approach. These conflictions may pose a problem for any engineer intending to advance his/her career prospects by becoming a marketer. The decision is yours.



*'But ... ours is the best!'*

## TQM

Good supervision is the art of getting average people to do superior work.

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YOU CAN BUY PEOPLE'S TIME; you can buy their physical presence at a given place; you can even buy a measured number of their skilled muscular motions per hour. But you cannot buy enthusiasm...you cannot buy loyalty...you cannot buy the devotion of hearts, minds, or souls. You must earn these.

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I worked for a General who used to demonstrate the art of leadership with a simple piece of string. He'd put it on a table and say: Pull it and it'll follow wherever you wish. Push it and it will go nowhere at all. It's just that way when it comes to leading people.

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One of the quickest ways to meet new people is to pick up the wrong ball on a golf course.

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The most successful executives carefully select understudies. They don't strive to do everything themselves. They train and trust others. This leaves them foot-free, mind-free, with time to think. They have time to receive important callers, to pay worthwhile visits. They have time for their families. No matter how able, any employer or executive who insists on running a one-man enterprise courts unhappy circumstances when his powers dwindle.

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I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.

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If you're feeling low, don't despair. The sun has a sinking spell every night, but it comes back up every morning.

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The difference between a successful career and a mediocre one sometimes consists of leaving about four or five things a day unsaid.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the fourteenth time that the newsletter has hit the street since its inauguration in December 1988. Looking back I see that the Haughtons (Nee Wilson) had just become engaged, now they are proud parents - how time flies.

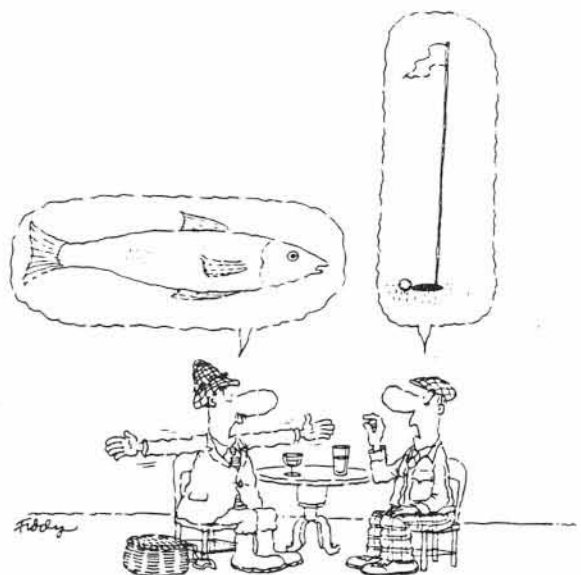
My thanks to Ann Whitbread, who has deciphered my scribbles to produce the newsletter, the ladies in the library for their assistance, and to all those who made my life a little easier by submitting articles.

The next edition is due out in August. Remember this is your newsletter and if you have any articles or comic strips they will be welcome. I'm willing to listen to any ideas - including get lost - so don't be shy. There must be some budding journalists out there.

When you read this I hope I'll be strolling in the sunshine over the links in the Algarve. That will make the GM green eyed. See you soon.

Enjoy the Easter break and don't eat all the kid's chocolate eggs, save some for me.

Ed



BLYTHE VS GRIFFIN  
*The angler and the golfer swapping stories.*

## HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of their marriage to:

Marion Allcott  
and Mark Kingston (Eng)

Our congratulations and best wishes to:

Sarah Robinson (QA)  
and Darren Tilley (Eng)

Mandy Murton  
and Darren Bufton (Eng)

on their recent engagement.

Congratulations to:

Clare and Matthew Clayton on the birth of their daughter Grayling.

Debbie and Ian Attoe on the birth of their son Michael David.

Elizabeth and Trevor Hall on the birth of their daughter Isobel.

Make a note in your diary of these forthcoming weddings:

Liza Parnell and Darren Arterton (Eng)  
17 July.

Jane Strange and Graham Phillips (Eng)  
24 July.

Sarah Robinson (QA) and Darren Tilley (Eng) 21 August.

Karen Love and John Cayzer (Eng)  
4 September.

Trudi Rough (Eng) and Dave Chronnell (FCD) 15 May.

## FAREWELLS

With the passing of Easter we shall be saying goodbye to Messrs Taplin and Morley, better known to you all as Wally and Cyril. Both have had enough of work and are retiring to enjoy the elixir of life. They have been with the Division (hic Group) for nearly ten years and in that time have moved everyone at least twice and the DM/GM and Gerry Wood over ten. Renowned for their good humour, easy ways and willingness to attempt any task they will be sorely missed.

Wally is intending to run in his new Proton, has just clocked up 2,000 miles in eight months, and pursue his loves of gardening and modelling. The latter is one of his passions in life, you name it, he will make it. His enthusiasm has no boundaries. I'm told he has been waiting over two years for the latest steam engine model to be delivered.

Cyril is a man of many hidden talents. A keen gardener, green house and all but no lawn. He covered this with concrete when the kids were young promising to convert back when they grew up. As his eldest is now over 40, the conclusion I leave to you. Also into DIY, trying to get his wife's permission to modernise the cellar, gyprock and all that, without success. Mad keen on Country and Western music, particularly Dolly Parton and Don Williams, he can be seen tapping his toes at the local hops. His current ambition is to shrink his brown jacket to match the new sylph like figure - dieting does you good.

On behalf of the Division I wish them both a long and happy retirement.



### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It's the end of another era and the 901/902 Project Teams are smiling. The boss has lost his headache - Chairman of the Social Committee. Our thanks to Tony for all his hard work over the last two years. A hearty welcome to Colin Tredwell who has volunteered to take on the task. Since he holds a PHD we are expecting the Social scene to rise to another plane - eg "Brain of MASG". Joking apart please give Colin your support. It's not an easy post to fill - can't please everyone.

### INTER DIVISION FOOTBALL

The Inter Division (or should I say Group) football will be starting shortly. MASG is keen to continue its successful participation in the competition. All those interested in playing please contact Darren Tilley on Ext. 3176. The editor notes you will have to be good to get in the side since DT intends to hold trial matches.

### POOLS SINGLE COMPETITION

After many trials, tribulations and exciting matches the competition has reach its ultimate stage. The finalists Andy Williams and Dave Bruce are to be congratulated on reaching this stage.

### GOLF

This year we shall be holding three outings in May, July and October. The first meeting will be at Poult Wood on 19 May. Other courses under review are Upchurch and Weald of Kent, dates will be confirmed later.

Each event will be played over 18 holes in the afternoon, Stableford format. Prizes will be given for the first three home, for a guest, if present, and other novelties. Cost will be approximately £25, which will include a three course meal after the event.

To make the events a success we need at least 12 people at each meeting but obviously we hope to attract many more.

In addition we are hoping to play a knock-out match play competition over 18 holes, normal R&A rules, during the summer. The draw and further details will be published later.

Will all those interested in participating in the above activities please contact Roger Griffin, Ext 3172, he can be seen at the centre of the universe, in QA, where else!

For those who enjoy an occasional stroll over the links you may wish to note that due to the M20 road works, Cobtree Manor Golf Club has lost part of its acreage. While the course is being altered to cater for the loss it will be reduced to nine holes.

It has come to my notice that Roger Griffin is leaving the Group in mid April for less money and worse conditions! He is looking for someone to run the golf. Any volunteer, over 18, will be welcome. If you fancy an easy life, Roger will be pleased to discuss handover terms.

### QUIZ EVENING

Another successful fund raiser for the scanner appeal was held recently.

Thanks to Derek Comfort and his wife who organised the questions.

Congratulations to the "foreigners" who won the MASG quiz evening.

### INTERDIVISION MIXED HOCKEY

The Interdivision hockey will be starting shortly. MASG is keen to continue its winning streak. Any players interested, please contact Ian Smythe on Ex 3581 or Jon Anderson on Ex 3378.