

RESULTS AT THE HALF YEAR

Turnover and profits rise

ORDER BOOK REACHES A RECORD LEVEL OF £8 BILLION

GEC achieved higher profits before tax of £357 million (1988, £313 million). Turnover increased to £3,664 million (1988, £3,075).

Most of the businesses achieved satisfactory results although the consumer goods group was particularly affected by the prevailing economic climate.

The total research and development expenditure amounted to £337 million, of which £154 million (1988, £137 million) was funded by the Group.

Lord Prior, chairman of GEC, commented "I am pleased to report record results for the first six months of the current financial year, in which for the first time is included GEC's 50 per cent share in GEC ALSTHOM NV, our power systems and transportation joint venture

with GCE of France. The figures also reflect the reduction of our stake in the consumer goods businesses of which 50 per cent. was sold to General Electric of the United States; this reduction, however, is compensated by an increase in interest income arising from the proceeds.

"Not included is any contribution from The Plessey Company plc, as this acquisition is treated as dating from 1st October, 1989.

"Outstanding orders at 30th September, 1989 were at a record level of some £8 billion.

"The Directors announce an interim dividend of 2.55p (2.15p last year) per share payable on 31st March, 1990".

GEC results — Sector by Sector — please see page 3.

Silver for Avionics' manager

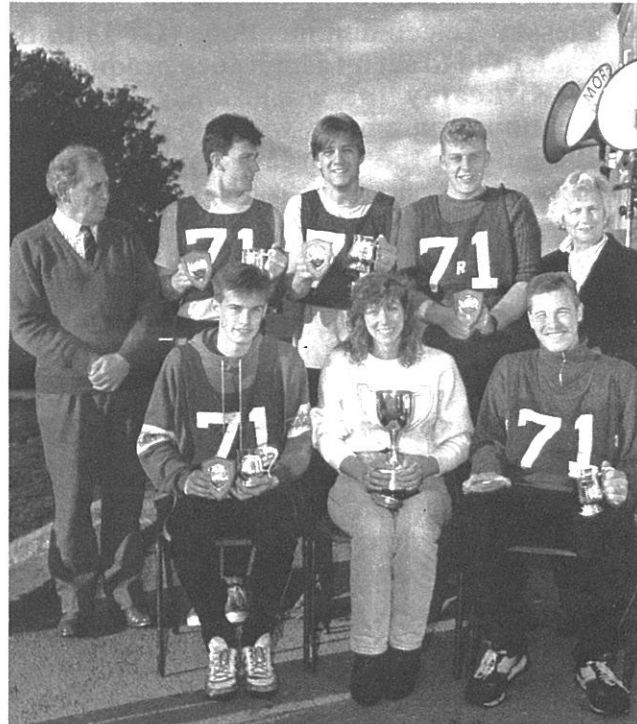
THE ROYAL Aeronautical Society has presented Richard Collinson, manager of GEC Avionics' Flight Automation Research Laboratory, Rochester, with its silver medal, in recognition of Mr Collinson's: "... most significant contribution to research and development of advanced avionics equipment and systems, and to their service in the United Kingdom and abroad."

The Royal Aeronautical Society awards a small number of these medals each year for work of an outstanding nature in the aeronautics industry.

Glowphone dawns

GPT, Coventry has announced the national availability of its latest innovative safety product, the Glowphone.

The Glowphone is a traditional styled telephone, which appears pale green in colour, with a green glow. the phosphorescence is activated by a light source. When this light is no longer available, the telephone emits a glow which is highly visible in the darkness.



MCCS triumph

Pictured are the overall winning team of the GEC National Young Employees Competition (NYEC) from Marconi Command and Control Systems, Frimley. (Standing l to r) Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, deputy-chairman of GEC-Marconi, who presented the prizes, Anthony McMahon, Hugh Tarver, Chris Jarman and Lady Bryson. (Sitting l to r) Barry Downes, Sue Kennard, team manager and Michael Cooke.

Full details and colour pictures of the NYEC are on pages 8 and 9.

Marconi delivers payload for latest NATO satellite

THE UK's largest employer of space technology personnel, Marconi Space Systems, Portsmouth, has delivered the first communications payload for NATO IV, the first NATO satellite to be built outside the U.S.A.

The payload was delivered to BAe at Filton, where it will be integrated with the platform to complete the NATO IV A spacecraft.

Exhaustive

This will then be subjected to an exhaustive series of tests, designed to simulate both the ride on top of the Delta II launcher, and the harsh environment of outer space, before being launched into geostationary orbit in December of next year. NATO IV represents a breakthrough for the UK in the field of military satellites.

The contract, valued in

excess of £100 million for two spacecraft was awarded to the BAe/MSS team in 1986 and won against fierce competition from the USA. The two spacecraft, IVA and IVB, are scheduled to replace the ageing NATO III satellites, and will fulfil NATO's re-

quirements for military space communications until beyond the year 2000.

The Marconi payload carries military SHF and UHF transponders which are destined to serve a wide range of NATO earth stations, from large fixed terminals for trunk

communications to a range of small land, sea and air tactical terminals.

The payload on NATO IV is virtually identical to that on the British Skynet 4 satellite, three of which have already been delivered by Marconi Space Systems to BAe. The first Skynet 4 was launched in December 1988 and is now fully operational. The second is due to be launched from the Eastern Test Range at Cape Canaveral, and the third is due for launch in May 1990.

Payphone cards for Jamaica

TWO million payphone cards from GPT will soon be increasing substantially the use of public telecommunications in Jamaica.

The cards are part of an order from Jamaica Telephone Company for 2,000 pre-pay card payphones and management systems.

The use of stored value cards will allow direct dialled international telephone calls to be made from public telephones in Jamaica for the first time. Cards also avoid the necessity of having correct change before making a

telephone call.

GPT payphone cards bear pre-determined values, generally ranging from 10 to 1000 call units, and are bought by customers through various distribution outlets. The cards use a unique low-cost but highly secure encryption technique.

GPT cards also accept photographic quality printing which can be adapted to specific customer requirements. Hence, several customers have exploited the cards as an advertising medium.

INSIDE TOPIC

Malta competition result Pg 11

Saving with GEC Pg 6

Holiday on Ice Offer Pg 15

Christmas Greetings

to
you
all



£3 million GPT investment in Scotland ensures 100 jobs for the future

AN INITIAL £3 million investment by GEC Plessey Telecommunications (GPT) in Scotland, used to set up a high-tech production line at Kirkcaldy for world-class telecommunications equipment, will also ensure at least 100 jobs for the future.

This announcement coincided with the unveiling in London of the products to be manufactured at Kirkcaldy — handsets and base stations for the BYPS telepoint consortium (Barclays, Philips, Shell) in a multi-million pound deal. GPT claims a world lead

in the technology, known as common air interface (CAI), which is used behind the mobile telecommunications equipment.

"Kirkcaldy is now geared up for manufacture of telepoint equipment," said Ian Maclean, head of GPT Mobile Sys-

tems and Terminals, "and it will mean we will be offering to BYPS the most advanced technology available".

Link

He added: "The importance of CAI is the flexibility it gives users of our handsets. They will be able to link in to all four telepoint networks without changing their handset when CAI comes in under Government directive at the end of next year".

In the past few months workmen have been busy stripping and rebuilding part of the Kirkcaldy plant to make room for the two high technology surface mount lines which will automatically populate the printed circuit boards used in the equipment.



Avery service for Shell

GEC AVERY Service, Warley, has secured a three-year contract from Shell Oil UK, the retail division of Shell, to install and maintain EFTPoS equipment (pictured above) at each of its 2,500 filling stations across the country.

Shell awarded the account to GEC Avery after a series of capability analyses proved, that it was best able to meet the high standards required.

EFTPoS terminals are shipped to GEC Avery's

headquarters in Birmingham, where the operating software is configured and they undergo stringent quality tests, before being distributed to regionally based engineers for installation.

Avery's service staff.

In the event of a problem arising, the garage manager need only contact Shell's computer office in Wythenshawe, near Manchester. If a machine fault is suspected, Shell will call GEC Avery's central response desk in Birmingham which will then alert the nearest service engineer by mobile telephone or radio pager.

Minor faults are cleared on site, or a replacement machine is immediately installed. Terminals requiring rectification are sent to GEC Avery's national repair centre.

Equipped

Thirty eight pilot filling stations have already been equipped with the machines and GEC Avery and Shell are continuing the installations at the rate of 100 a week.

Full training in the operation of the equipment is given, on site, by GEC

Building.

The contract, worth £50,000 to Satchwell, was won through the company's distributor in Singapore, Genisys Integrated Engineers. The Asia-Pacific Building is only a few blocks away from the Beijing World Trade Centre, for which Satchwell recently won another prestigious order.

The BAS 2000 now being installed will control all the heating and air conditioning throughout the multi-purpose building.

News in brief

GEC ALSTHOM has acquired Combustion Engineering's minority shareholdings in Stein Industrie of France (10%) and Energie-und-Verfahrenstechnik (EVT) of West Germany (33.3%).

The two companies are the principal designers and manufacturers of fossil-fired power plant boilers in Europe.

The transaction concerning EVT is subject to approval by the German cartel office.

Following completion of these transactions GEC ALSTHOM which already owned a controlling interest in Stein Industrie and part of EVT's shares, will hold all of the capital of Stein Industrie and a majority stake in EVT.

These two acquisitions will allow GEC ALSTHOM to strengthen its position as the leading European manufacturer of boilers for fossil-fired power plants with sales of four billion francs in 1989.

Marconi Security Systems, Borehamwood, has been awarded contracts to supply its AIDA perimeter detection system to the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC).

These new contracts valued at over £100,000 bring the total to 17 systems supplied to the CSC.

The Marconi AIDA System is a proven system highly successful in intruder only identification, encompassing geophone, piezo-electric cable and infra-red technology.

THE GIANT shopping and leisure centre now being built at Meadowhall near Sheffield will be one of the largest of its type in Europe.

Osram-GEC Street Lighting, Wembley, has been awarded the contract to provide most of the outdoor lighting.

Seventeen 20 metre high masts each fitted with twelve directional distribution lanterns equipped with 400 watt Osram SON-PT lamps will light the vast parking area and some 200 lanterns will light the new ring road and the approaches from the M1 Motorway.

Largest BT modems order for Marconi

MARCONI Communication Systems, Chelmsford, has won from British Telecom what is believed to be the largest order ever received worldwide for intermediate data rate (IDR) modems.

The multi-million pound order is for modems which are specifically designed to meet the requirements of INTELSAT IDR specifications. Using the latest digital technology they will carry worldwide telecommunications traffic from the UK via British Telecom

International's two main satellite communications earth station sites at Goonhilly and Madley.

Also included in the contract is an integrated cabinet of IDR modems and digital frequency converters. This is to be installed at the headquarters of Gibraltar Telecommunications Ltd, a joint venture company between the government of Gibraltar and British Telecommunications, to upgrade the communications facilities.

The equipment is scheduled to be delivered and installed over the next nine months.

£50,000 BAS in Beijing

SATCHWELL Control Systems, Slough, has won another major order in China. It is for a BAS 2000 building management system and associated controls for the prestigious Beijing Asia-Pacific

The smart way to pay

GEC METERS, Stafford, and Midlands Electricity Board (MEB) are under-

taking a joint development programme to introduce a sophisticated new method

for domestic customers to pay in advance for their electricity. This new

system may, ultimately replace the present pre-payment meters which use coins or tokens. The new scheme will be known as Smart Power.

At the heart of the system is the smart card from GEC Card Technology. Customers will be able to purchase credit with their smart card from a hole-in-the-wall dispenser at their local MEB shop. The smart card is then placed on the meter in the customer's home and the credit is automatically transferred.

Trials are expected to begin amongst selected MEB customers in 1990. In the future the smart card could have many other useful applications such as paying in advance for gas and water.



Professor Littlechild, director general of electricity supply, (left) and Keith Hodgkinson, managing director of GEC Meters, try out Smart Power.

Motor Insurance 25% Staff Discount

Leadenhall Motor Policies at Lloyds arranged by

Leadenhall (1969) Services Ltd

Please write, or telephone your nearest office. We shall be pleased to give you a quotation:

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
195/203 New Road,
Chatham, Kent,
ME4 4QB
Tel: 0634 47858/48691

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
Techno House, Low Lane,
Horsforth, Leeds,
LS18 4DF
Tel: 0532 580870

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
Hilton House, Lord Street
Stockport, Cheshire
Telephone 061 429 0922

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
21 Lochrin Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 9QT
Tel: 031 229 2121

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
3rd Floor,
Cheltenham House,
22/24 Clare Street,
Bristol, BS1 1YF
Tel: 0272 297984

LEADENHALL (1969) SERVICES LTD.
Scala Hse., Holloway Circus,
Birmingham, B1 1EQ
Tel: 021 643 3308/8631

GEC INTERIM RESULTS

Principal activities for six months to 30th September

	1989 £m	1988 £m	1989 £m	1988 £m
Profit before tax			Turnover	
Electronic Systems	80	76	896	889
Power Systems	55	40	1,200	685
Telecommunications	20	20	278	244
Consumer Goods	9	29	162	306
Electronic Metrology	23	24	241	178
Office Equipment & Printing	20	16	197	155
Medical Equipment	11	12	208	205
Electronic Components	8	10	135	126
Industrial Apparatus	16	11	168	137
Distribution and Trading	12	10	173	127
Other Activities	-	2	29	31
Intra-Group sales			3,687	3,083
	254	250	(103)	(162)
Other Associated Companies			3,584	2,921
	8	7	80	154
	262	257	3,664	3,075
Income receivable from loans, deposits, and investments, less interest payable, including £13 million (1988 £2 million Dr.) from joint venture associates	95	56	3,664	3,075
	357	313		
Order Book outstanding at 30th September			7,976	6,711

	Profit by Territory of Origin		Turnover by Territory of Destination	
United Kingdom	144	169	1,379	1,575
Rest of Europe	61	31	964	384
The Americas	34	36	703	580
Australasia	9	8	153	152
Asia	3	4	339	263
Africa	3	2	149	129
	254	250	3,687	3,083

Net cash and short term investments at 30th September, 1989 amounted to £1,266 million (30th September, 1988 £1,237 million).

The interim results for the 6 months to 30th September, 1989 and to 30th September, 1988 are unaudited.

DURING THE only industry related visit of his four-day visit to the UK, the South Korean President, Mr Roh Tae Woo, was shown the results of three years of research collaboration which GEC Marconi has sponsored, between the Imperial College, London and the Korea Institute of Technology Seoul.

He saw working assembly robots and a Korean researcher at the Imperial College using Marconi voice recognition equipment to guide a robot vehicle with voice commands in Korean.

Korean president sees results of GEC's research

President Roh Tae Woo was also shown the results of collaboration between GEC Marconi, the Korea Institute of Technology and the University of Surrey on a modular satellite communications payload. Other exhibits related to rapid rail transport and hydro-electric power storage. South Korea has plans to provide a rapid rail link from Pusan to connect with the Seoul metro, and for a

pumped water energy storage scheme, similar to that which GEC completed at Diorweg in Wales.

The president was accompanied by Professor Ash, rector of Imperial College and Lord Prior, chairman of GEC. Lord Prior said: "Collaboration has started with research, but is directed to the goal of full industrial partnership, leading to a new generation of products."



Lord Prior (left), chairman of GEC, presenting President Roh Tae Woo with a model of a innovative modular satellite.

Queen's Award recognises world lead in testing

MARCONI Instruments, St. Albans, the world leaders in cellular and mobile radio testing, has been presented with its 1989 Queen's Award for technological achievement for the development of the 2955 series of radio communications test sets.

Over 150 staff assembled to witness the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to managing director Colin Gaskell. Dr Gaskell thanked the employees for their effort and hard work in making the award possible.

The lord lieutenant and other guests, including the mayor and mayoress of St. Albans, were taken on a

tour of the new printed circuit board production and assembly automation areas to see how the 2955 is produced.

A combination of innovative product features and extensive market coverage have contributed to the success of the 2955. It addresses the rapidly growing personal communications market including

two-way, cellular and trunked radio. Typical applications are service and maintenance of mobile transmitters and receivers, in addition to manufacturing and quality control testing.

A major achievement of the product is its success in opening up world markets for a British product. Capturing almost a third of the world market — estimated to be around \$100 million — the 2955 has proved particularly successful in the US where it is the market leader for testing cellular radios.

Satchwell controllers for the Dorchester

THE DORCHESTER, one of London's leading hotels, is currently undergoing a major refurbishment, part of which involves the provision of user-controlled heating and cooling in each room. To give this control Satchwell Control Systems, Slough, is supplying a BAS 2000 building management system on a contract from the services designers and installers, Howe Engineering Services in Stockport, Cheshire.

Through the use of a triple technology the control strategy has been adapted to suit the Dorchester's special requirements, such as room push-buttons to summon maid, valet or waiter. When a button is pressed a signal lamp on the room panel lights up and an appropriate message appears on a BAS 2000 terminal devoted to the maids' use. When the message is acknowledged the signal light goes out, the message is automa-

tically logged and action taken.

As well as the BAS 2000 system and ASIC fan coil units, Satchwell has supplied 28 control panels for the ventilation plant, supplying air conditioning and heating for the public rooms, which include the Terrace Restaurant, the Grill Room, the Oriental, the Dorchester Bar, as well as the Dorchester's prestigious banqueting suites and the renovated kitchens.

Another BAS 2000 is currently being installed during major refurbishment at a London hotel: Satchwell has just won a contract to supply a system for the THF Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow.

For Quality Cars & Service

OFFICIAL DESIGNATED SUPPLIERS TO THE GEC GROUP

WE OFFER ALL GEC EMPLOYEES SPECIAL TERMS ON ANY FORD VEHICLE PURCHASED!

- Quality Used Cars
- New Car Sales Leasing and Contract Hire
- Van and Truck Sales, Service & Tachograph Installation
- 24 Hour Vehicle Recovery Service "AA & RAC"
- Large Body and Paint facility to most leading Insurance Companies
- Cellular Car Phones by Ford Telecommunications
- Air Conditioning and Central Locking systems installed

All Ford vehicles supplied by Lloyds are adjusted to run on unleaded fuel

24 HOUR BREAKDOWN SERVICE

Main Dealer
STONE ROAD
STAFFORD

TEL: 0785 51331

Marconi co-operates on space data bus

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Integrated Circuit Division of Marconi Electronic Devices (MEDL), Lincoln and MATRA S.A., Branche Espace, Paris, whereby MATRA and MEDL will collaborate in the development of IC designs for use in data-bus applications for European space programmes, in particular Hermes, Ariane V and 'Columbus'.

MATRA has selected MEDL as a preferred supplier of standard and custom data-bus products because of MEDL's extensive capability in the design, manufacture and sale of CMOS-SOS radiation hard integrated circuits and MEDL's experience in the field of data-bus.

MEDL will provide MATRA with standard data bus products released to ESA9000 quality levels with radiation hard performance meeting MATRA's specified levels.

These products will include MA805 CMOS remote terminal, and MA3690/1 remote terminal and bus controller chip set in CMOS-SOS technology.

Access

New ranges of custom ASIC's will be developed for space data bus requirements, with MEDL allowing MATRA access to semiconductor design methods, tools and CMOS-SOS libraries.

Both parties will cooperate in the development of additional standard data bus products for future European space projects.



EASAMS' successful Army trials

THE Air Defence Command Information System (ADCIS), the £100 million Ministry of Defence (MoD) project awarded to EASAMS, Camberley, has recently passed initial tests in the development programme undertaken with the British Army.

The main function of ADCIS is to ensure that British aircraft can be safely routed through our defences and it is intended to provide 1 (BR) Corps, Britain's army on the Rhine, with effective command and control of army air defence weapons, including Rapier, Javelin and Starstreak.

ADCIS consists of a network of distributed computers with displays accessing the computers located at corps, division, brigade and fire control

centres. Computers are linked via the static communications network, whilst messages are passed over combat net radio for both weapon platforms and men with hand held weapons.

EASAMS, the prime contractor for ADCIS, has worked closely with the MoD to produce a system to a man machine interface (MMI) specification. They have applied many new techniques to the project, of which MMI prototyping is the first.

The MoD has recently completed a series of MMI trials.

This validation of the MMI specification before any of the operational software was written enabled the Army to be confident that it was being provided with a user-friendly system. The ADCIS operational software will be written in Ada to meet the MMI specification.

The picture shows an interactive display terminal as used within ADCIS air defence cells.

MCCS at American Army exhibition



MARCONI Command and Control Systems, Frimley, took part in the recent Association of the US Army (AUSA) exhibition in Washington, stressing the importance of collaboration between US and European industry. One of the visitors to the stand was Sir Peter Levene (pictured right), chief of defence procurement, Ministry of Defence.

He is seen with Bill Hamilton, deputy marketing director of MCCS, studying some historical Marconi exhibits kindly loaned by James Kreuzer of the New Wireless Pioneers, Elma, New York, dating from the first transatlantic radio transmissions in 1899.

GPT achieves £5 million microwave orders in Iraq

GPT Network Systems, Coventry, has clinched orders worth more than £5 million for digital microwave radio equipment in Iraq as part of the country's extensive modernisation programme.

The orders comprise three contracts — including the newly-built Basrah international airport complex and the southern city of Faw, which is currently undergoing a massive rebuilding programme.

All the projects, which were awarded by The State Establishment of Telecommunications and Post to GPT's registered company in Iraq, GEC Telecommunications (Overseas Services) were won against international competition. They represent the latest transmission successes for GPT in Iraq, where an optical fibre system is currently being installed.

In addition to Basrah Airport and Faw, GPT will also be installing a transmission system in the north at Sinjar. This will carry telephone, computer data and television pictures.

Transport Secretary opens Avery weighbridge

SECRETARY of State for Transport, Cecil Parkinson, opened a vehicle weighbridge which was manufactured by GEC Avery, Smethwick.

GEC Avery installed the weighbridge for Hertfordshire County Council to reduce substantially the damage caused to roads by overloaded lorries. It is one of the county's first purpose-built enforcement facilities.

With a 60 tonne capacity and 18 metre platform length, the GEC Avery

weighbridge is more than capable of accommodating the largest draw-bar trailers presently entering the country from the Continent, as well as longer vehicles which could become legal on our roads in the foreseeable future.

The new weighbridge is strategically located close to the A1(M) near Hatfield,

and will be used by trading standards officers and the Hertfordshire police to check vehicles suspected of being overloaded.

Department of Transport vehicle examiners will also use the facilities,

making checks on axle weights, vehicle condition and driver documentation.

GEC Avery has installed over 75% of vehicle weighbridges commissioned for UK ports as a result of ferry safety legislation.

GEC Avery is receiving an increasing number of orders from enforcement agencies for longer weighbridge installations to cope with larger vehicles, particularly those coming from the Continent.



Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, handing a ticket to the first driver of the newly installed GEC Avery weighbridge in Hertfordshire.

First order for signal generators

RENTAL company Livingston Hire has placed the first order for Marconi Instruments newly launched 2030 series signal generators. The company is taking delivery of two 2031's, the 2.7GHz version of the series.

The order, worth £16,000, was placed as soon as Livingston Hire realised the potential of the instrument which features a radical new display system.

VCI Vehicle Contracts (UK) Limited
5 Grove Place, Bedford MK40 3JJ
Licensed Credit Brokers

Buying a New Car?

TRY US FIRST, WE CAN OFFER

- VIRTUALLY ALL MAKES AND MODELS ● UNBEATABLE SAVINGS ON PRICE ● NATIONWIDE DELIVERY ● IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY ● COMPETITIVE FINANCE TERMS

RING NOW FOR A QUOTATION
Contact **Martin Keeper** on (0234) 40696



Pictured are Sir Monty Finniston (left) and Professor Michael Clark, assistant director at HRC, who accepted the award.

New contamination meter unveiled

A REVOLUTIONARY new salt contamination measuring device has been unveiled in Blackpool. The SCM 400 was developed by NNC at its laboratories at Warrington.

The meter, which is portable, allows surface salt contamination to be measured immediately in most locations. It has a

wide application in a great many industries.

It was developed by a team headed by Dr. Stuart Allan, essentially for use in

the nuclear power station construction industry, to avoid shortened paint and coatings lifetimes and premature corrosion induced failure of plant items.

The SCM 400 has been approved for use by National Power during the construction and commissioning of the first UK PWR at Sizewell B.

"This new measuring device will save a great deal of time and money. It can be used in most locations and gives accurate, instant information to the user," said Dr. Allan.

HRC win the Finniston award for new technology

A TEAM from GEC's Hirst Research Centre, Wembley, has won the 1989 Finniston award for the development of advanced liquid crystal displays. GEC's new technology has provided answers to the problems of thin-film semiconductor quality and economic yield of manufactured displays which have held back the development of large area colour LCDs good enough to compete with cathode ray tubes.

The GEC technology has been validated by fabrication of numerous 5-inch diagonal displays, including backlit monochrome, backlit colour and reflective monochrome versions.

Consumer

The displays, which are slim, lightweight and low voltage, have applications in areas such as avionics, military, telecommunications, information technology (IT) and consumer products.

Recognising that the

product concept implications of its new technology are immense, GEC has commissioned design studies which have created a concept videophone which was selected for inclusion in the 'Leading Edge' British design exhibition in Japan, and, subsequently, for inclusion in the inaugural exhibition at the new London Design Museum.

The 'impossible triangle' trophy was presented by Sir Monty Finniston FRS. Professor Michael Clark, assistant director at GEC Hirst Research Centre,

who accepted the award, commented: "this is truly a team award, won by over five years of sustained effort by a dedicated group of researchers".

Honour

The Finniston award has been created to honour the most outstanding new product based on a recent scientific design.

It is sponsored by the engineering design magazine Eureka, SKF and Cahners (the organisers of the Design Engineering Show).

GPT launches a feature-phone

GPT Sales and Services, Manchester, recently launched the GPT 5500 feature-phone. The phone offers a host of cost and labour saving benefits.

Up to 100 numbers can be stored in the memory, with single or double digit recall, entering a simple

code can bar unauthorised private calls from being made, including local, national and international

calls; on-hook dialling and loud speech are available, which allows phone conversations and other work to be done simultaneously, and parties can be put on hold and music played to them while they wait.

It is also powered from a standard ST socket — no mains are required.

There is a stopwatch function to encourage brevity.

Calls are timed automatically for costing purposes and displayed on LCD display.

Gloria: seabed survey

MARCONI Underwater Systems' GLORIA deep ocean surveying team has recently mapped an area of 300,000 square kilometres of seabed in the South Pacific, taking less than one month to complete.

Marconi Underwater Systems, Portsmouth, was commissioned to do the survey by CCOP/SOPAC (the committee for Coordinating Joint Prospecting for mineral resources in the South Pacific Offshore Areas) with the funding provided by the EEC. The Royal Australian Navy contributed their oceanographic research vessel, HMAS COOK for the operation.

The region surveyed encompassed waters of five of the member states of CCOP/SOPAC: Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Tonga. Scientific representatives from each of these countries, and from Australia, participated throughout the operation.

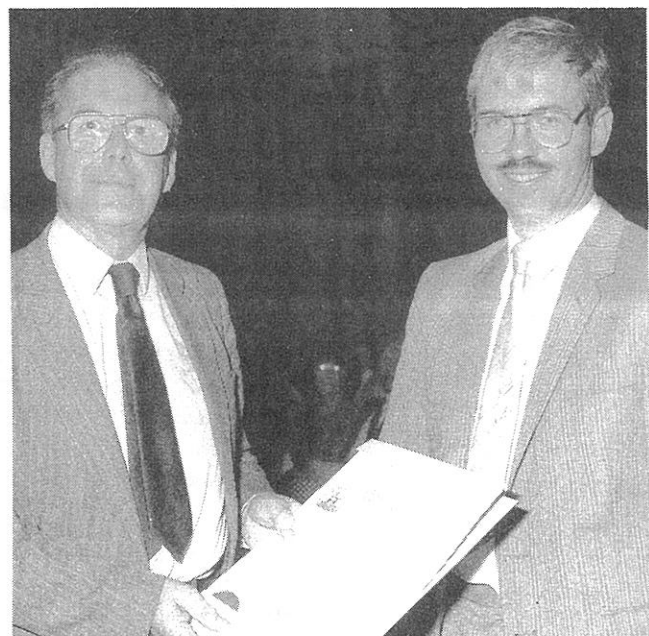
Concentrated

The survey concentrated on areas of particular geological interest with a view to assessing the mineral resources contained in the EEZs (exclusive economic zones) of the countries involved.

The full analysis and interpretation of the data will provide further information on the complex regional geology.

This survey followed another successful operation off the northeast Australian coast for the James Cook University in Townsville.

IEE premium for Dr Young



DR. TERRY Young, optical techniques group leader at Marconi Research Centre, Chelmsford, was awarded the annual Institution of Electrical Engineers premium for papers in IEE publications. The premium, worth £1,500 was for his paper on the design of integrated optical circuits using finite elements, published in March 1988. The picture shows the premium being presented to Terry (right) at Savoy Place, London, by the outgoing president, of the IEE, Dr. Bryce McCrerrick.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER

Here's your chance to own one of the country's top selling telephones at **SPECIAL STAFF PRICES!**

Savings of up to 20% or more can be yours.

T1042 ESPRIT CORDLESS

Why not enjoy the freedom a cordless phone can bring? The slimline, compact Esprit, attractively styled in cream, offers convenience features such as five memories, last number re-dial and mute facility while the incorporated paging device allows the handset user to be contacted from the base unit.

RRSP £89.75

STAFF PRICE £70.33



T1035 FEATURE PHONE

One of GPT's most sophisticated models, the T1035 will really save you time and effort. In addition to the usual feature phone facilities, a useful visual display of time, telephone number dialled, elapsed call time etc is included to give you full control over your calls. The convenience of full hands-free operation is also incorporated along with memory capability to store 40 telephone numbers.

RRSP £79.95

STAFF PRICE £50.14



T1043 ENVOY CORDLESS

This sophisticated design includes a full intercom facility to enable conversation between the base and handset user. Available in cream with features like five memories, last number re-dial, call hold and mute, this top range model will be a real asset to your home.

RRSP £109.95

STAFF PRICE £85.33



T1033 FEATURE PHONE

Introduce the convenience and efficiency of a modern feature phone to your home with the T1033. Distinctively styled in soft ivory, it has 20 one-touch memories to store your most used numbers, last number re-dial, as well as a mute button for privacy.

RRSP £39.95

STAFF PRICE £24.59



STAFF ORDER FORM

DELIVERY ADDRESS:

NAME
STREET
TOWN
COUNTY/P. CODE

USE BLOCK LETTERS

ORDER DATE:.....

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Cheque No
Checked By
Date Received
Despatch Date

DESCRIPTION	MODEL No.	Qty.	STAFF PRICE	TOTALS
Esprit Cordless Telephone	1042		£70.33	
Envoy Cordless Telephone	1043		£85.33	
Esprit Cordless Telephone (fully factory reconditioned)	1042R		£37.00	
Envoy Cordless Telephone (fully factory reconditioned)	1043R		£42.75	
Feature Phone 20 Memories	1033		£24.59	
Feature Phone 40 Memories LED display	1035		£50.14	

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: GPT Sales and Services Ltd. All prices include VAT and postage and packing.

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED

ORDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. Please attach cheque to this order form and send it to address below.

2. The approximate delivery time for all orders is two weeks.

3. Please note that all goods will be delivered by the Post Office.

ENQUIRIES AND ORDERS TO: GPT Sales and Services Limited, Whinbank Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6DA. Tel: 0325 300004 ext 2535

GPT/GEC/PLESSEY SITE.....

ADDRESS

More options to save with GEC

A NEW offer is intended to be made early in 1990 under the GEC Employee Savings-Related Share Option Scheme.

Since its inception in 1983 there have been five offers. The Scheme has proved very popular with GEC employees and there are almost 10,000 employees saving on a regular basis.

The new offer will enable savers to profit from a tax free bonus and buy, in 1995, GEC shares at 1990 prices.

HIGHER SAVINGS POSSIBLE

The Government has gradually relaxed its limits on how much an employee can save each month, from £50 per month initially to the recently introduced figure of £150 per month.

This means that people saving up to the present monthly maximum (£100) can increase their savings up to £150. People saving smaller amounts will be able to increase their savings if they wish.

LOWER PRICES FOR SHARES

The Government has also relaxed the rules covering the price of shares at which the right to buy (or option) is granted under approved savings-related share option schemes. It used to allow companies to offer discount to the market price at the date of the offer of 10 per cent. This has now been increased to 20 per cent. In other words, companies

may now offer shares to their employees under such schemes at up to 20 per cent below their market value at the time the option is offered, although the amount of the discount on any occasion remains within the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The change to the rules of the GEC Scheme governing the pricing of the shares was approved by GEC shareholders at the Company's 1989 Annual General Meeting in September.

MORE PEOPLE ELIGIBLE

Furthermore, the Company has changed the rule governing the period of qualifying service required for participation in the Scheme. Now employees who have worked for the Company for two years (previously five years) may join provided of course they fulfil the other conditions of eligibility. This will allow many more employees to join the Scheme if they wish.

SHARE PRICES

Share prices can of course go down as well as up. Employees who saved for the first options granted in January, 1983, found that in 1988 when the options became exercisable, the GEC share price was not high enough at that time to make it advantageous for them to exercise their options; however, those employees did benefit from the tax free bonuses on their savings. On the other hand, employees who participated in the second offer made in January, 1984, saw the share price rise in 1989

to give them the opportunity to benefit by exercising their option to buy shares, using their savings and the bonus for this purpose.

JOINT VENTURES

Unfortunately, the rules

which the Government have established in relation to approved savings-related share option schemes do not permit GEC to offer new issues under the Scheme to employees of GEC's joint ventures such as GEC ALSTHOM, Con-

sumer Products and Cegelec.

THE NEW OFFER

If the decision is made to proceed with another issue early next year, the new offer will be announced on notice boards throughout the Company and the notice will include the price at which the shares can be purchased at the end of the savings period.

A booklet is available which summarises the main features of the scheme, and a copy of the rules (which are legally binding) is available for inspection in personnel departments.

Scheme reminder

THE SCHEME has two parts — a savings contract and an opportunity to buy shares in GEC called an "option".

Under the terms of the savings contract, employees eligible to join must decide how much they can afford to save and then undertake to save a regular sum each month, or week, for five years. The monthly amount must be in multiples of £5 and, once fixed, the amount of the savings cannot be altered. An employee who agrees to a contract of less than the maximum amount can increase the amount of his savings by taking up a further contract when GEC makes a new offer.

Savings are deducted from pay and put into the employee's savings account with either the Department for National Savings (DNS) or a Building Society. Since the last issue, the Abbey National has changed its status to that of a public company; it is therefore no longer permitted to take new contracts under the GEC Scheme, although existing savings contracts are unaffected. GEC has appointed the

Halifax Building Society in its place. Employees can, in the future, choose whether to save with the DNS or the Halifax.

The terms of the savings contract provide that at the end of five years savers will earn a tax free bonus equal to 12 monthly payments or the equivalent of a compound annual interest rate of 7.2 per cent.

For example, if £50 per month is saved, at the end of five years the employee would be entitled to:

Savings	£3,000
Tax-free Bonus	£600
Total	£3,600

At the end of five years, employees can decide whether to use all or part of their money to buy GEC shares at the option price. If the market price of GEC shares has risen during that period, the employee may wish to buy the shares if the shares would be more valuable than the savings and bonus, but employees are not obliged to buy shares. Alternatively, if the share price has not improved, employees can either take their savings plus bonus out in cash, or leave the savings invested for a further two years to earn an

additional tax free bonus.

If employees decide to buy the shares they will enjoy the same rights, benefits and risks as other GEC shareholders. These include the receipt of dividends and the ability freely to sell the shares through a bank or stockbroker or transfer them to another person.

Under approved savings related share option schemes no income tax liability arises either on the grant of the option or on the exercise of the option where an employee decides to buy shares with the savings plus bonus. When the employee comes to sell the GEC shares so acquired, then there will be a disposal for capital gains purposes by reference to the price paid on exercise of the option to buy plus indexation allowance from the date of exercise to the date of disposal, and the sale proceeds of the shares.

However, although capital gains tax could arise on the sale by an individual, under the present law the first £5,000 of all capital gains in a year is exempt from this tax, (husband and wife are treated currently as one person for this purpose).

Sandy Riddell

GEORGE Alexander (Sandy) Riddell, a former joint deputy managing director of GEC, died suddenly at his home in Lewes, East Sussex. He was 81.

Born in Aberdeen, Sandy Riddell qualified as a chartered accountant and was to play a central role in the restructuring of the British electrical and electronics industry.

He joined D. Napier and Sons, makers of aircraft engines, in London in 1933, where he was finance controller when Napier was acquired by English Electric in 1942. From then, Sandy Riddell played an ever increasing part in English Electric affairs becoming chief accountant in 1949 and comptroller in 1954. In 1962 he was made a director of the company and appointed joint managing director, a post he held with English Electric when the company merged with GEC in 1968.

Advice

As joint deputy managing director of the new, enlarged company, Sandy Riddell's help and advice in the extensive reorganisation, which followed contributed greatly to the successful foundation of the new enterprise. He retired as a director of GEC in 1978.

Among many posts he held were directorships of Marconi, which English Electric acquired in 1946 and of the British Aircraft Corporation, formed from the unification of the English Electric and Vickers aircraft and guided weapon businesses.

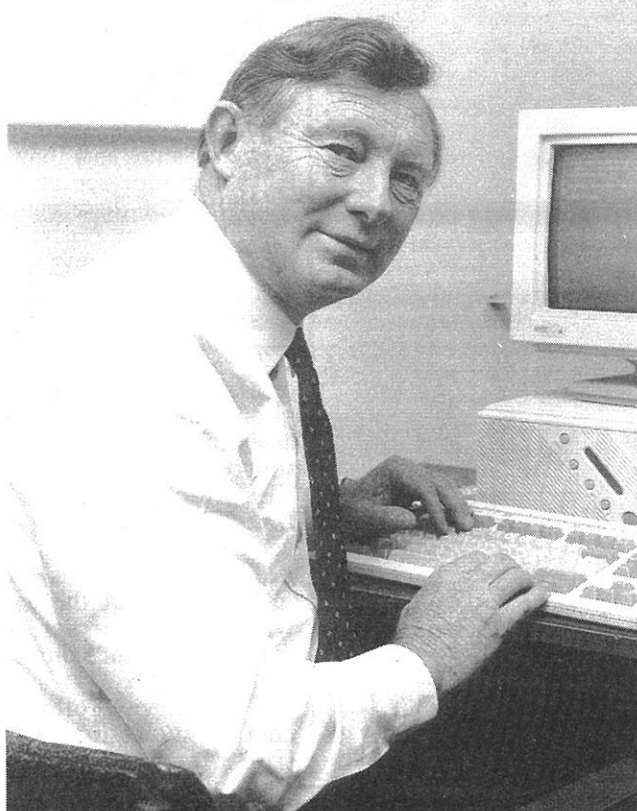
He was a true Scot and a great believer in the exercise of thrift. He abhorred waste and typical of the examples he set for others, he never had or used a company car for personal use and when making frequent visits to the City of London, he would travel from English Electric House in Kingsway by the No. 11 bus.

Many friends

A kind, unassuming man, Sandy Riddell made many friends both in the company and in the industry during his long career. He was active in his support of the Overseas Club. In his spare time he played golf and watched Rugby football.

After his retirement, he became very active in voluntary work.

Lord Nelson, former chairman of English Electric and GEC, said "Sandy Riddell was a splendid colleague and his contribution to the Group was a remarkable one. His whole career was devoted to its interests".



John Forster.

شركة ماركوني لأنظمة الدفاع

Linguistic support at Marconi Software

A LINGUISTIC support centre has been instituted in the central publications department at Marconi Software Systems in Borehamwood, a branch of Marconi Defence Systems.

The following services are available to all GEC companies on application to John Forster at Borehamwood.

An Arabic desk-top publishing system, with laser printer which will produce high quality documents of all kinds, from proposals to slides for Arabic slide presentation, is one such service.

Due to the frequent need for the security of classified documents, facilities for in-

house translation and type-setting are now available.

The full service of Arabic language presentation including slide production is available on request, as are Arabic language voice overs of existing promotional videos, at a fraction of the cost of an outside agency.

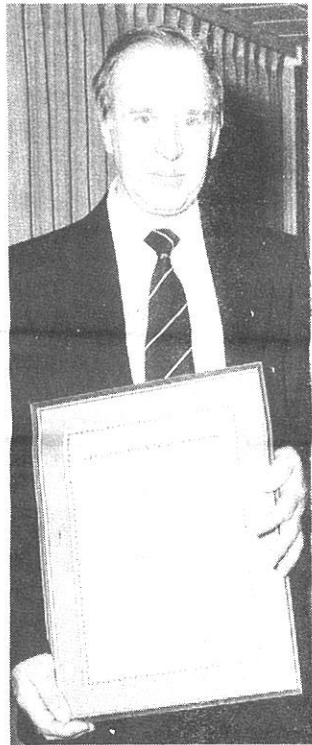
As several Arab countries now insist on all legal and contractual documentation being produced in Arabic, the centre provides a one or

two page summary as an insert into existing brochures as a quick, cheap and immediately available alternative.

The service of proof-reading Arabic, French and Italian material, and the provision of interpreting in Arabic for meetings etc and stand manning at exhibitions in the UK and overseas where members of Arabic speaking visitors are expected, are other services that the central publications department can now offer.

**Copy
date
Jan 10**

First winner of GPT's inventor of the year competition



John Arnold

GPT network consultant John Arnold, has capped a 41-year career in the telecommunications industry by being named the 1988/89 Inventor of the Year the first such GPT competition.

At the award ceremony held at the Beeston site in Nottingham, GPT managing director Richard Reynolds presented John with a £300 cheque, a framed certificate and an inventor's tie for filing at least 10 patent applications.

Aims

The GPT Innovations Award Scheme aims to stimulate awareness of "intellectual property", while encouraging inventors to protect their patents. Judging is based on the innovative merit and potential value of the patent during the year under review as

well as the candidates' total contribution to "intellectual property" during the total term of employment with GPT.

In his address, Richard Reynolds said: "Since the early 1950s, John Arnold has been at the forefront of technological evolution."

John Arnold said a high point had been his involvement over the past four years in the development of the asynchronous transfer mode switch — part of the EC-commissioned research communications for Europe initiative. The switch, when it becomes available in the late-1990s, will provide a large number of users with a data transmission rate of 150Mbit/s using packet switching over an optic fibre link.

Using ATM, it will be possible to transmit speech, telex, data and video services over a single public network.

John is now based at Central Engineering in Coventry as a member of the strategic technical studies team and is currently formulating a 10-year plan for the introduction into GPT products of new packet-mode data services.

GEC-Marconi announces senior appointments

DAVID Fletcher has been appointed a deputy managing director of GEC-Marconi. He was formerly an assistant managing director of GEC-Marconi and managing director of Marconi Defence Systems.

Derek Dickinson has been appointed managing director of Marconi Defence Systems. He was formerly assistant managing director.

Wally Paterson has been

appointed an assistant managing director of GEC-Marconi. He was formerly managing director of GEC Sensors.

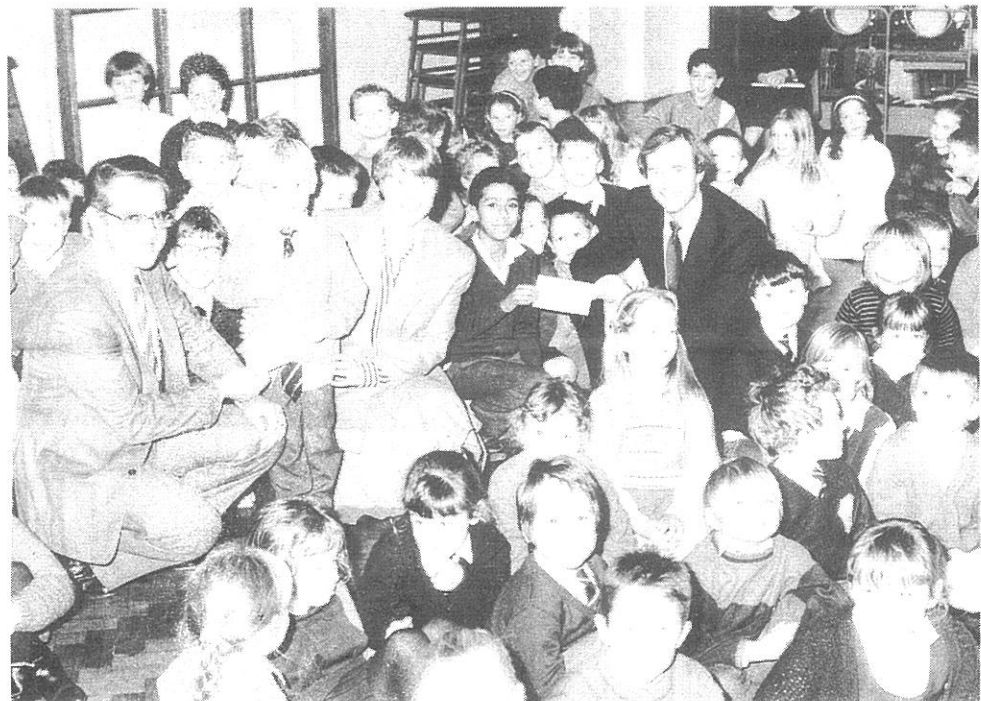
Gwyn Thomas has been appointed managing director of GEC Sensors. He was previously general manager of the Electro-Optical Systems Group of GEC Sensors.

Dr Martin Read has been appointed managing direc-

tor of Marconi Command & Control Systems. Dr Read was previously director of the Communications Division of Marconi Defence Systems.

Ron Howard has been appointed chairman of GEC Avionics, taking over from Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir Michael Beetham, who remains a director. Mr Howard was managing director of GEC Avionics.

GEC's youngest computer operators



ST LEONARD'S Primary School pupils will enjoy enhanced computer facilities thanks to a cash donation of £600 from GEC Computer Services and GEC ALSTHOM Measurements, of Stafford. The money, which will go towards a computer system to introduce the children to information technology at an early age, was presented following an appeal by Measurements personnel officer, Robert Carruthers, who is a governor of the school.

Head teacher, Margaret Musgrove, received the cheques from, left, Mike Mayer, data processing manager of GEC Computer Services and, right, Nigel Cragg, personnel and education manager of GEC ALSTHOM Measurements.

St Leonard's was the first county school in Stafford and was built in 1905 for children of employees of the GEC Group.

EASAMS boosts its order book to over £100 million

EASAMS, Frimley, has boosted its rapidly expanding order book to well over £100 million with a series of overseas orders from Canada, Italy, France and America, including a couple in the American Star Wars plan.

The company's expertise in systems assessment won it the contract with the Canadian Department of National Defence which has commissioned EASAMS to study electro-

nic countermeasures to be used against anti-ship missiles.

The Italian contract from Selenia requires EASAMS to produce a surface ship anti-aircraft

weapon system simulation model as an aid to assessing the effectiveness of future system design options.

EASAMS has won a major role in a French ESPRIT II research project to develop an autonomous robot to replace the driver in forestry vehicles and involves a team of 12 European industrial and research partners from seven countries.

EASAMS will be task leader for the development of a transputer based intelligent systems controller which will involve real-time knowledge-based systems to generate instructions.

Star Wars

In the USA, EASAMS has won contracts with two leading American companies, Hughes Aircraft and Booz-Allen related to the high technology Star Wars programme. EASAMS is carrying out concept studies in the key area of command and control, including battle management and survivability.

Bridges for the USA

GEC ALSTHOM Engineering Systems, Whetstone, as the only UK supplier of aircraft passenger loading bridges is strengthening its position by launching a new design into the American market.

A range of single leg designs of apron drive bridges featuring many operational advantages is to be made available to American airports and airlines under manufacturing agreements recently signed with Blaw Knox Corpora-

tion of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Wiseda Limited of Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Orders for major airport developments are currently being negotiated and a 3-gallery apron drive airbridge is in the course of manufacture to replace the existing installation at Gate 45 of Pittsburgh international airport.

Supplied

The company supplied the seven passenger loading bridges installed at the new North Terminal at Gatwick Airport.

KING FORD

WHERE VALUE AND SERVICE COME FIRST!



OFFICIAL DESIGNATED
SUPPLIERS TO THE
GEC GROUP

WE OFFER ALL GEC
EMPLOYEES SPECIAL
TERMS ON ANY
FORD VEHICLE
PURCHASED!

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON SPECIAL OFFERS, RING NOW!

TELEPHONE STOKE-ON-TRENT
(0782) 599333

ASK FOR
MIKE
RAMIAN



351 KING ST, FENTON, STOKE, ST4 3EH. OPEN MON-FRI 9-7. SATURDAY 9-5. SUNDAY 11-4

1989 NATIONAL YOUNG E

Frimley and Rugby

hard fought event i



The GEC Management College, Dunchurch, team. Winners of the ladies category. (Standing l to r) Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, who presented the prizes, Julie Braithwaite, Lynne Parker, Marian Ryan and Lady Bryson. (Sitting l to r) Caroline Arbuthnott, Tracey Hayward and Clare Sheffield.

FIFTY-SEVEN teams took part in the 1989 GEC National Young Employees Competition which was held at Boreatton Park, Shropshire, a 400 acre site of fields, forests, ponds and small rivers. Forty-two GEC companies competed. The event was split into female, male and mixed teams.

The overall winners, and top of the male category, was a team from Marconi Command and Control Systems, Frimley. The winning mixed team was from GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators, Rugby, and the ladies number one placing was taken by the GEC Manage-

ment College, Dunchurch. The college team was the only all-female entry in a very competitive and male dominated field. Having trained for several months prior to the event the team expressed disappointment at not having other all-female teams to compete against.

The winning Marconi team comprised Chris Jarman, Michael Cooke, Hugh Tarver, Anthony McMahon and Barry Downes.

COMMITMENT

Sue Kennard, public relations, who trained the team told Topic, "Two months before the competition the team attended a weekly circuit training session, and we arranged a map reading and a knots and lashings session at work. I feel the reasons they won the event were as a result of good individual



Building a tripod.



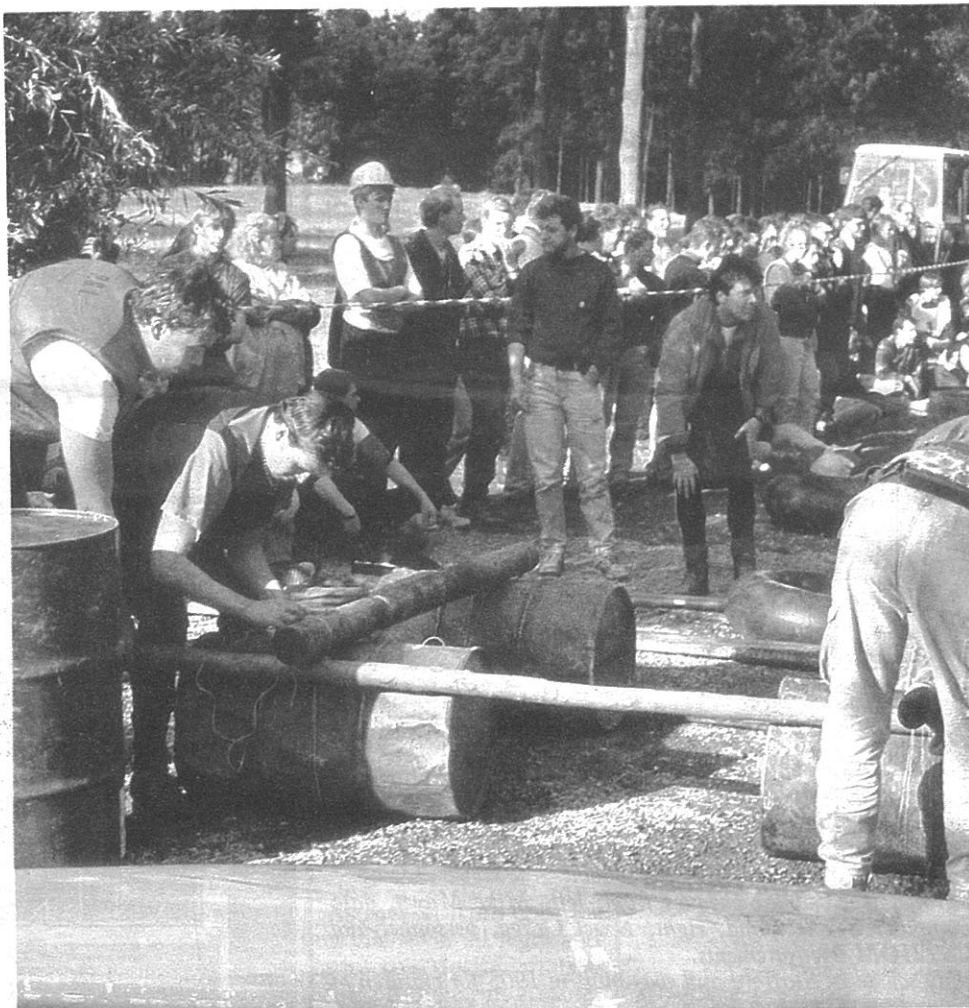
Launching a tripod to get a team over an electric fence and mine field.



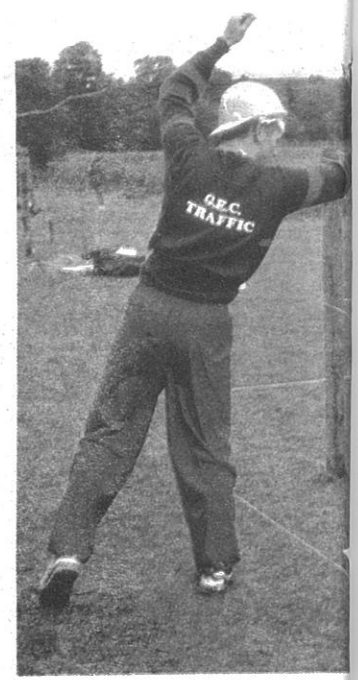
Building a coracle for the water



A team struggles on the abseiling tower.



A team going against the clock to build raft for the final.



A team rescues a fake painting

EMPLOYEES COMPETITION

teams win a n Shropshire

contribution, mixed personalities and most important team commitment and a positive attitude towards winning."

The three day competition included activities such as bridge, raft and coracle building, abseiling, Tyrolean traverses across rivers and gas-mined fields, a sailing orienteering challenge and a canoe exercise where a whistle system had to be devised to navigate a blindfolded canoeist into a pen.

In the evenings teams had to erect a construction bench and then assemble a model aircraft to whatever degree of completion that they could (plans and materials were purchased from funds that the teams has accumulated from other activities). The team managers then had to market the finished pro-

ducts to a discerning judge. There was also a night navigation exercise, which unfortunately took place in pouring rain.

FINAL RACE

The final was a frantic challenge involving a raft and canoe race across a pond to retrieve coded cardboard boxes, after which a number of teams tossed their managers into the pond as a final gesture of thanks for their part in preparing and training their team for the competition.

The competition was conducted safely, fairly and in the finest spirit by all. In their final address at the awards ceremony, guests Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, deputy chairman of GEC-Marconi, and Geoffrey Holroyde, director of

the GEC Management College, Dunchurch, congratulated the competitors on having acquitted themselves admirably and for being a credit to GEC and the youth of the UK.

Throughout the weekend the event was well attended with great enthusiasm by company supporters and their families. The GEC expedition group, which recently left for Pakistan, provided a much welcomed food and refreshment service and raised approximately £800 for the expedition.

The NYEC has become one of a number of annual development training opportunities offered by the GEC Management College, including children's camps, the disabled and able-bodied challenge and the GEC expedition.



The GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators, Rugby, team. Winners of the mixed category. (Standing l to r) Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Andy Green, Jo Dent, Ashley Dillon and Lady Bryson. (Sitting l to r) Tim Rowe, Emma Wright and Paul Matthews.



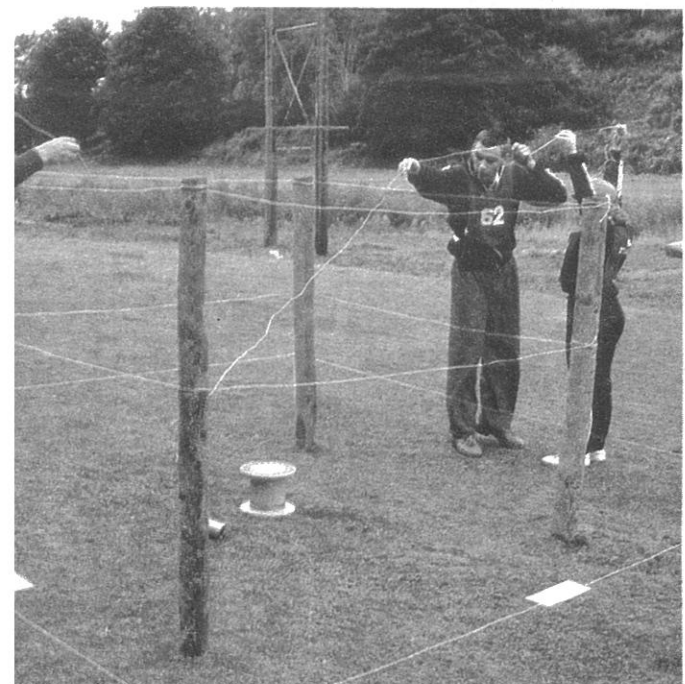
The winning mixed team on their raft in the final, crossing the lake to retrieve lettered boxes.



One team member rescuing another across the anthrax field.



me.



om the centre of the electric fence and mine field.



A team in the final bringing back their lettered boxes with which they had to make a word when they reached dry land.

Surprise for Woods engineer: He wins a jubilee medallion

MIKE PAGE, chief production engineer at Woods of Colchester had a surprise when during an engineering manufacturing forum at the Post House, Ipswich, sponsored by the Ipswich and Colchester section of the Institute of Production Engineers, he was presented with one of the institute's jubilee medallions.

The medallions were struck to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the Institute. Each medallion is 40mm diameter silver plated double sided relief, the obverse showing the coat of arms and the reverse the jubilee logo, encapsulated in roughcast acrylic. There were three different categories in which the recipients could qualify for an award, Mike

qualifying in the second. In this category the awards were decided on a regional basis in conjunction with consortium members, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering and Institute of Electrical Engineers and awarded to the student with the best performance from any year of a manufacturing/production course in 1989/90.

Mike completed a successful 11 week course in systems management at

City University London earlier this year gaining an Engineering Industry Board's Fellowship.

Presentation

The medallion was presented by John Wallis, manufacturing adviser to GEC. Also present were David Priest, managing director of Woods of Colchester and 70 fellow institute members.



Mike Page with his jubilee medallion.



IT helps the disabled

GEOFF Busby, a computer programmer with GEC Computer Services, Stafford, has been seconded to the British Computer Society in order to direct 'I.T. Support for Disabled People'. The aim of this project is to create awareness amongst employers and disabled people of the enabling capacity of hardware and software which opens vocational doors previously closed to people with physical impairment. 'I am finding that on the whole, industry has a positive approach to employing people with disabilities, they just need to be told how', said Geoff.

Geoff says 'I have to find £50,000 a year to finance the project in order to continue my work, this is apart from carrying out the activities of the project. Many of my colleagues have been active in helping to raise this sum, for example one raised £1,500 by running in the London Marathon. Others have taken part in the Sunday Times Fun Run and sponsored swimming'.

If you would like to assist Geoff in his quest to bring enabling technology to the physically disadvantaged in our society then contact him at GEC Computer Services, West Hanningfield Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8HN. 0245-73331.

Geoff is pictured testing a robotic feeding arm developed at Keele University.

GEC helps support government Training Enterprise Councils

IN DECEMBER 1988, the Government announced its intention to set up employer-led, local Training and Enterprise Councils, the first of which are expected to start operating in April next year. One of their tasks will be to ensure that training in their locality meets the needs of business in the 1990's.

GEC, committed to the training and retraining of its employees. The company's training activities are extensive and long established and last year alone we recruited nearly 900 craft and technician apprentices and 660 graduates and we are currently sponsoring over 1,500 students on degree courses. Additional development training was given to over 35,000 of our adult employees.

trains around three times as many engineering apprentices and Germany still more.

It is now broadly accepted that training and developing people's skills is a major factor in Britain's relatively fragile economic position. No one company can bring about the changes the country needs, but determined moves are necessary to ensure we play

our part in the increased United Kingdom training effort now gaining momentum so GEC is encouraging its managers to be involved in the new Training and Enterprise Councils. We have also participated in various discussions with relevant civil servants and others involved in this initiative.

To date some 30 councils are at various stages of formation. Seventeen managing directors and general managers in GEC are actively engaged in the process and together with some senior personnel directors attended a seminar on November 1.

Adults

Of particular concern to us all is the training of adults. Historically, relatively few British adults seek qualifications and continuing education for modern needs and this situation must be changed urgently.

Lagging

However the UK generally still lags a long way behind our continental competitors e.g. France

CAREERS

APPLICANTS (men and women) with suitable qualifications are invited to apply for the positions advertised here. They are some of the vacancies which are regularly circulated to personnel departments throughout the company.

EASAMS, FRIMLEY Operations analyst

Easams has its head office at Frimley near Camberley in Surrey and employs about 1,100 employees, mainly engineers. The business covers the conceptual, analytical problem solving and practical hands on aspects of engineering.

Operations analysts are needed with modelling and simulation experience in a defence related environment to fill vacancies in the air systems studies group. These posts will be based on site in Central London, Farnborough, Hants or Aldermaston and represent excellent career moves for individuals who would like to make a real contribution to vital project development.

Applicants should be graduates in a numerate discipline. Age is immaterial but previous experience in battle modelling, aerodynamics, missile system modelling and/or sensor modelling (including radar, electronic warfare and electro-optics) would be useful.

Apply to: A McOnie, Easams, Lyon Way, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5EX.

RUSTON GAS TURBINES, LINCOLN

Senior sales engineers

Ruston Gas Turbines (RGT) designs, develops and manufactures industrial gas turbines for oil, gas and combined heat and power applications. The company is based in the attractive Cathedral City of Lincoln.

Reporting to the sales director, the successful applicants will be responsible for promoting the sale of RGT products within Europe by liaising with potential clients and following through to final contractual negotiations.

Applicants should be educated to at least HND level in engineering with previous sales or tendering experience preferably gained within a similar manufacturing company.

Apply to C Lemar, Ruston Gas Turbines, PO Box 1, Lincoln LN2 5DJ. Tel Lincoln 512612 Ext 4220.

GEC Avery's student scholarship

THE GEC Avery scholarship for 1989/90 has been awarded to Caernarfon student Darren Wilkes.

Darren was selected to

receive the scholarship from a nationwide entry of aspiring undergraduates, who are sons and daughters of some of the 3000 GEC Avery employees in the

UK.

The scholarship awards an annual cheque of £1000 for the duration of a degree course of study. The successful candidate also re-

ceives an undertaking from GEC Avery to provide study related employment during student vacations.

As 18 year-old Darren embarked on a BSc course in computer science at Manchester University he told us, 'I'm really looking forward to some first-hand experience in the vacations, working in GEC Avery's computer programming and hard and software systems development areas.'

Fame

Darren, who was a pupil at Sir Hugh Owen School, also plays keyboards in the local band 'Amdwrw' - famed for achieving the top Rock Youth award in the Royal National Eisteddfod. His father David has worked at GEC Avery for 37 years and is manager at the company's Caernarfon branch.



Darren Wilkes (centre) receives the GEC Avery Scholarship award from managing director Keith Hodgkinson (right), watched by his father, David (left), manager of Avery's Caernarfon branch.

Ruston employee shows courage and determination



Joanne Ives at work in the computer department.

EIGHTEEN-year-old Joanne Ives who is taking part in the Youth Training Scheme at Ruston Gas Turbines, Lincoln, is virtually confined to a wheelchair by a debilitating hip disease. Although unlikely to receive an operation until she is older, Joanne has learned to overcome her problem displaying much courage and determination in living a full life.

Joanne began her training at Ruston after completing a year at Lincoln Information Technology Centre (ITEC) where she gained experience in computing and word processing.

She is now working towards teeline shorthand, RSA Typing stage 1 and RSA Diploma in office pro-

cedures. Her work placements have already taken her to various locations throughout the company including the telex room, drawing stores and the computer department where she is currently working. Because she is cramming two years' work into 12 months, Joanne receives additional training to help her through the course.

Anne Eveleigh, Joanne's tutor in the Training Department says, "Joanne has worked well during her time with us and she has become a valuable member of our scheme. She is also showing a willingness to help others."

Special

Joanne helps to raise money for the disabled and her courage was put to the test recently when she substituted for a colleague in a wheelchair marathon held at RAF Swinderby, near Lincoln. Sponsored by Wilkinson Sword, the marathon helped raise money towards a new bus for St. Francis School — a special school for the handicapped in Lincoln.

SIX units of GEC have been showing 180 pupils from twelve schools situated on the outskirts of London, what electronics are all about.

The event at the Institute of Physics in London, formed part of a Department of Trade and Industry initiative called Electronics Now aimed at getting over the message to young people that electronics and information technology offer rewarding careers.

The GEC units: Express Lifts, Northampton, Hirst Research Centre, Wembley, GEC Traffic Automation, Borehamwood, Marconi College, Chelmsford and Marconi Underwater Systems, Waterloo, showed examples of electronics in use in everyday life.

Armenia

A particular hit with pupils was a thermal imaging camera from EEV, Chelmsford, which has been used to help locate victims in the Armenian earthquake last year.

Other attractions included anti friction controls for lifts and GEC's tracker system for traffic control.

Electronics Now incorporates a series of programmes originally shown on Channel 4. GEC companies and staff feature in

We show schools what electronics is all about

several of them including "Software", "Artificial Intelligence", "Sensors and Robotics" and "Optoelectronics".

Sara Morrison, director of GEC and Professor Cyril Hilsum, director of Research, GEC Hirst Research Centre, presented copies of the videos to the twelve nominated schools at the exhibition. The video package included pupil work papers so that the schools can

follow up the event, linking GCSE course and project work with real applications of electronics and information technology in business and industry.

At the end of the day the pupils received careers advice from Alan Friston, company training manager at GEC Marconi.

Ben Gilbert of Haberdashers' Aske's School summed up the day by saying, "GEC managed to achieve just the right bal-

ance between enjoyment and education, so that the event was neither a pointless exercise purely organised for fun nor just a dictation of facts to us... the day achieved its purpose of increasing my interest in various areas of physics, and in the job opportunities of the subject."

It is hoped that other GEC units will be organising Electronics Now events for schools in their localities.



GEC director, Mrs Sara Morrison (seated) and Dr Cyril Hilsum, director GEC's Hirst Research Centre, with pupils of Watford Girls Grammar School at the Electronics Now event.

GPT wins government national training award

CONSIDERABLE cost savings have resulted from the development and implementation of a business-wide quality programme and which has helped GEC Plessey Telecommunications, (GPT) win a National Training award.

The Government's Training Agency has chosen GPT to receive an award for its programme —

which began in 1987 for some 7,500 people in GPT's Telecoms Systems Group and is now being adopted as the basis for a company-wide programme.

Bryan Casbourne, director of quality at GPT, said: "This is a tremendous honour for GPT and for all the people within the company who took the principles of the training process on board and made it work."

As a world leader in telecommunications, quality is crucial. Every day we are

competing with the best in the world and what is important now is that we build on the initial success and go on improving."

Launched

The programme — known as QUEST — was launched at GPT sites in Liverpool, Coventry, Nottingham, Poole and Ballyninch in Northern Ireland.

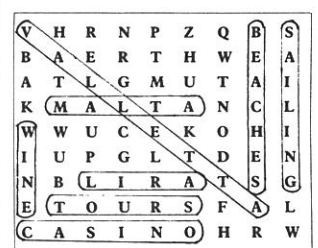
In addition to the savings in waste and rework, the programme has resulted in

major benefits to customers and reduced maintenance costs.

John Marshall, telecommunications systems training manager, said: "There were 1,303 entries for the awards this year and GPT were one of only 80 winners. In addition, the GPT submission has won a certificate of commendation on the way to the final. A National Training award is highly prestigious and was given for the efforts of everyone in GPT involved in quality improvement. We can all be very proud."

Winner of the Malta competition

THE winner of the Topic Malta competition is Irene Schouten, a bought ledger clerk at GEC General Signal, Borehamwood.



No-one was more surprised than Irene when she heard the news, especially as she's never entered a Topic competition before, "I just couldn't believe it," she said, "I thought someone was playing a trick on me."

Irene plans to take the holiday in March with her husband, Eduard. Irene, who has two grown up children, has worked for the company for ten years.

The solution to the word puzzle is as shown.



Louise Martin, of Topic (left), presenting Irene with her prize.

Buying a NEW Car?

SAVE up to 16% DISCOUNT off new

Austin Rover, Peugeot, Ford, Vauxhall, Fiat, Renault, Volkswagen, Citroën, Nissan, Volvo, Mazda, Toyota and many others.

PLUS
★ Part exchange easily arranged
★ Full manufacturer's guarantee
★ Delivery anywhere in the UK, mainland
★ Free service and guarantee work carried out locally to you
Enquiries and orders welcome by phone, post or personal visit. We offer a personal and reliable service. Each car is INDIVIDUALLY TESTED before delivery.

For a quote on the new car you are considering buying — contact:

Richard Proto, National Automobile Discount Scheme, 80-84 Railway Terrace, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3EZ. Rugby (0788) 542465

GEC ALCOHOL ADVISORY SERVICE
Mill Road, Rugby CV21 1BD

ALCOHOL PROBLEMS?

For strictly confidential advice
phone: —
R. Randall

Rugby (0788) 542121, Extn. 3524
or (0836) 541194 (Outside normal working hours)

Advertisement Managers:

HARRIS MEDIA & MARKETING LTD.,

25 Park Row,
Greenwich, London
SE10 9NL

Tel: 01-305 1274

Every reasonable care and precaution is taken in the selection of our advertisers but staff are reminded that suppliers' terms and conditions should be read carefully before ordering goods. When dealing with any of our advertisers please state Topic.

GEC OVERSEAS CLUB

John Butcher MP hits at media sensationalism at Club's annual dinner



Pictured at the Overseas Club annual dinner are (l-r) Lord Prior, chairman of GEC, John Butcher MP and Malcolm Bates, deputy managing director GEC.

OVERSEAS CLUB SECRETARIES

Council:

P. R. Watson
1 Stanhope Gate
London W1A 1EH
Tel: 0203 452152
Telex: 31361 GPTEL G

Chelmsford:

A. D. Christelow
EEV
Chelmsford CM1 2QU
Tel: 0245 493493
Telex: 99103 EEV CMD G

Coventry:

G. N. Outterside
GEC Plessey
Telecommunications
P.O. Box 146
Coventry CV3 1LQ
Tel: 0203 54988
Telex: 31361 GPTEL G

Lincoln:

A. E. Garside
Marconi Electronics
Devices Ltd.
Doddington Road
Lincoln LN6 3LF
Tel: 0522 500500
Telex: 56380 MEDL G

London:

J. P. Milne
GEC Transmission
& Distribution
Projects Ltd.
132 Long Acre
London WC2E 9AH
Tel: 01-836 3444
Telex: 21403 GEC LA G

Portsmouth:

G. Meechan
Marconi Space
Systems Ltd.
Anchorage Road
Portsmouth
PO3 5PU
Tel: 0705 674578
Telex: 86666

Manchester:

T. J. Toma
GEC Turbine
Generators Ltd.
P.O. Box 131, Trafford Park
Manchester M60 1AE
Tel: 061 872 2431
Telex: 667152 GEC MCR G

Rugby:

T. G. Pickering
c/o B. H. Wilson (Chairman)
GEC Marine &
Industrial Gears Ltd.
Mill Road
Rugby CV21 1BD
Tel: 0788 542121
Ext 4234
Telex: 311401

Stafford:

Dr. G. Khaja M. Khan
GEC Turbine
Generators Ltd.
Lichfield Road
Stafford ST17 4LN
Tel: 0785 223211
Telex: 36206

Hong Kong:

C. Balasoglou
GEC of Hong Kong Ltd.
Tel: 5-8938282
Telex: 73098 GHONG HX

Canada:

P. S. Tambe
GEC Canada Ltd.
Tel: 416 624 8300
Telex: 06 961280 GEC CAN
MSG

Centre rep:

N. Holmes
2 Heathwood High Street
Tadworth
Surrey KT20 5RB
Tel: 0737 813476

ALMOST 344 MEMBERS and guests gathered for the Overseas Club's annual dinner which was held for the first time in Stafford at the Stychfields Hall.

Lord Prior presided and proposed the toast to the guests.

A table of apprentice representatives from the UK centres were welcomed, as were two Australians, Sam Burgess, aged 86, the only surviving member of the 1st inaugural dinner of the M-V Overseas Association in 1926, and George McGuinness, aged 88, who had served the company in Australia for 61 years. They had

1930, his father proceeded with research which built EE into a great company. His father also fulfilled a promise to build Stychfields Hall as a social centre for the workforce. Lord Nelson spoke of the important role that the club plays in joining together its members for the same common interest, prosperity and comradeship.

The chairman of club council, Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson thanked the



Pictured with Lord Prior (centre), chairman of GEC, at the Overseas Club annual dinner are apprentice representatives from the UK centres.

planned their visits to be at the dinner.

Lord Prior welcomed the 15 Chinese delegates who were concerned with the Guangdong and Yue Yang power plants and to all the Electricity Board guests of GEC Meters, Stafford.

John Butcher MP, the principal speaker, spoke on the domination of the media in the country's affairs. Giving examples on how the media sensationalised stories, he spoke of the need for common-sense and clarity. He also emphasised that the country was best served by a strong core of manufacturing activity, adding that a healthier economy needed a change in management conviction and a rekindling of professionalism, full blown investment in capital goods, new design, new products and skilled people.

Lord Nelson proposed the toast to the Overseas Club. He said how pleased he was to be present at the traditional home of English Electric where he started his career and where, in

speakers and Lord Prior complimented the staff at Stafford for their effort in making it a successful function.

COUNCIL

A sub-committee has been formed to consider the eligibility for club membership of employees of acquired, merged and joint venture companies of the GEC Group and make its recommendations to club council.

DIARIES

Please write to the secretary of club council or your centre secretary, if you have not received your 1990 Overseas Club diary.

TOPIC

Contributions for the Overseas Club page would be welcomed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please direct any change of address to the secretary especially if your TOPIC or diary is incorrectly addressed. The master mailing list is maintained up to date by the secretary and the despatch department advised accordingly.

AUSTRALIA

Members are moving towards the formation of an autonomous centre and club council is giving every encouragement. Recently elected members are wel-

with a talk on 'invisible exports' and a few choice stories on his favourite topic, golf.

COVENTRY

The first of the winter bridge contests versus Rugby was held at Willans Social Club resulting in a win for Rugby by 620 points.

There was another successful visit recently to the Department of Specialist Ground Training at RAF Cranwell.

LONDON

Twenty members of the London centre took a historic walk through the Borough of Greenwich. Greenwich provides a magnificent combination of history, architecture, walks and views. Crooms Hill is the pride of Greenwich, possibly the oldest known road in London dating from 1672.

The King William block of the Royal Naval College contains the painted hall decorated by Sir James Thornhill who worked on it for 20 years. It is claimed that the ceiling is second only to the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A riverside path leads to the special dry dock housing the Cutty Sark, the only genuine fully rigged clipper in the world. Alongside is the Gypsy Moth IV in which Sir Francis Chichester spent two hundred and twenty six

days sailing her round the world. To conclude, the party retired to the Trafalgar Tavern.

The centre held its club lunch at the Naval Club. A talk was given by Sir Donald Hall, chairman of Marconi Defence Systems, Stanmore.

PORTSMOUTH

A good time was had by all when three sailing cruisers took to the Solent. It is hoped the event will be repeated next year.

The outing to Chichester Festival Theatre to see "London Assurance" was a great success.

The autumn supper evening was held on 20th October at the Langstone Conservative Club.

Arrangements for the 1990 "Burns Night" supper are at the final stages. Bookings for this popular event are already in excess of sixty people. The "sassenach's" response to this, St. Georges supper night on 23rd April is well underway.

RUGBY

A happy evening was spent at the Denbigh Arms, Monks Kirby in a combined darts and skittles evening between Coventry, Rugby and Stafford. Although the results appeared to be even, Rugby retained the trophy.

CHELMSFORD

The centre's annual dinner was well supported. The guest speaker was Jim Morris from Lloyds who entertained the audience



The Portsmouth Centre's cruise on the Solent.



Apprentices break-out

THE Apprentices Association of GEC ALSTHOM Measurements, Stafford, held a sponsored break-out and raised £500 towards a minibus for Marshlands Special School. Members had to get as far away from the company's St Leonards works as they could and return again within a period of 24 hours. This had to be achieved without taking or using any money.

The winning couple were Darren Millward and Philip Morris who covered the greatest distance — 390 miles to Aberdeen.

Pictured are apprentices (back l to r) David Reeves, James Carmichael, Philip Morris, Darren Millward, Karen Lawson and Mark Bates, presenting the cheque to Hilda Fowler (fourth from left), head of Marshlands Special School, with some of the children from the school.

MRC employees scale the summits for charity

MOST people would be satisfied with climbing one mountain in a day, but members of the Great Baddow Outdoor Activities Club in Chelmsford decided to try scaling three, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales respectively.

It began as an idea thought of by a party returning from a weekend's activity in Wales. Even-

tually 13 people, of which 11 were GEC employees, found themselves involved, helped by a minibus hired by Marconi Research Centre (MRC) Chelmsford, and a new Ford Orion loaned from a local supplier, Trimoco.

Sponsored

The group had decided that all this effort was worth sponsoring. One member, Neil McDonald, senior research engineer at MRC, was then president of Chelmsford Rotaract Club, a junior branch of Rotary, which raises money for charities, and so with the Great Baddow Outdoor Activities Club they decided the money raised would go to Guide Dogs for the Blind and Hargrave House, a local home for physically handicapped children. The local press and BBC Radio Essex took an interest and gave them some publicity.

After an overnight stop at Sheffield, they were ready to tackle Ben Nevis. Though much of the country had fine weather over the weekend, Ben

Nevis did not. The party split into three groups and battled through rain, strong winds and 100 feet of snow and sub-zero temperatures.

The first group were back down in 3 hours 5 minutes and after refreshments they left for Scafell at 10.45 pm. The next ascent began at 4.15 am in two groups. The first group were back down by 9.00 am and on their way to the final peak, Snowdon, ten minutes later in the car.

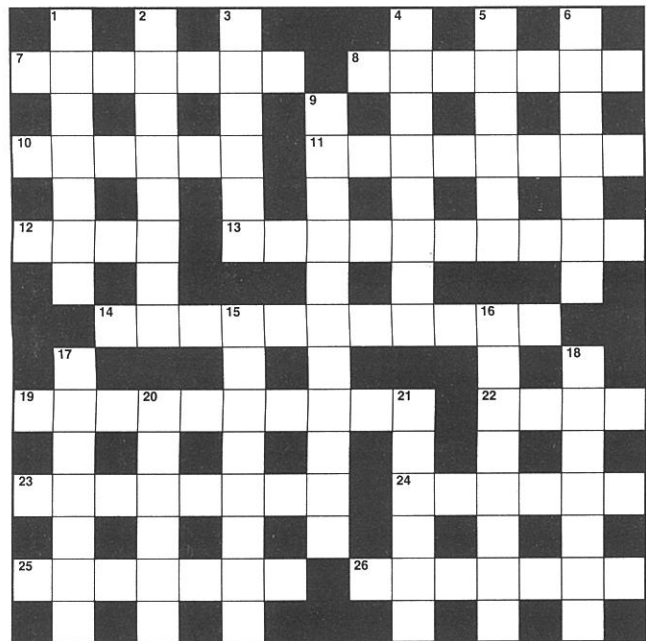
Six members of the party completed the climb; the first two with half an hour and the last one with just over a minute to spare! The venture was, a worthy success.

Raised

Altogether 25 miles walking, a total height climbed of 9,500 feet and 470 miles of driving combined to raise £800 for the charities.

The team members expressed their gratitude to MRC's management for their support with the hire of the minibus and all other expenses incurred.

December Crossword



ACROSS

7. Inclement weather could mean wind. (7)
8. The royal house of Europe took the biscuit. (7)
10. Club is hoping to admit high-ranking churchman. (6)
11. Usually the first lieutenant and second lieutenant meet a ship's officer in the final. (8)
12. Sounds as if it's losing fruit. (4)
13. Una's cooking? Having a meal will be revolting! (10)
14. Start a new fashion as a shortage in theatre tends to spread to the outside. (3,3,5)
19. Disturb girl's musical entertainment. (10)
22. Murderous brother's brief mutiny? (4)
23. Tubby Sue is upset about soldier coming back in military overalls. (8)
24. Uncle's wife hasn't begun to get elderly and is not related. (6)
25. Portrays the shortage of French writers. (7)
26. Decorator ain't through outside? (7)

DOWN

1. Brawl without harm in a feeble sort of way. (7)
2. Tennis player got married over 'ere in fine soft material. (8)
3. Composer about to jump in? (6)
4. Too upset to begin with — in fear of getting the boot. (8)
5. Quick! Say what has to be said. (6)
6. Rake in the money? Quite the reverse in this daily grind! (7)
9. They will find, for example, the days ahead are strained. (6,5)
15. Having journeyed round north and south, became bald. (8)
16. No fever initially as infection spreads and becomes a danger to smokers (8)
17. The North is taken in by one engaged in revenue. (7)
18. Lied about the old, old coin found outside, but gave it up. (7)
20. Credit is required repeatedly during emergency. (6)
21. Old President Brown consuming liquor. (6)

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Company

Prize

DEADLINE:
January 12 1990

October winners

The first all-correct entries drawn at random from the October crossword submissions came from **Gary Huntley**, Marconi Communications Systems, Chelmsford and **IBL Jones**, GEC ALSTHOM Distribution Switchgear.

Entries should be sent to Topic, GEC, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH. They must arrive here by January 12 1990. Please mark your envelope December Crossword.



The two items we have chosen as prizes for this competition are either a Redring Miniboil kettle or 20 Osram-GEC Extra-lite lightbulbs (10 sixty watt and 10 one hundred watt).

October solutions

ACROSS

1. Rubbish; 5. Wangles; 9. Meant; 10. Reimburse; 11. Sesameseed; 12. Asia; 14. Douglas Hurd; 18. Right Winger; 21. Cool; 22. In Chancery; 25. Peach Flan; 26. Motor; 27. Totting; 28. Heckled.

DOWN

1. Remiss; 2. Braise; 3. Intimidate; 4. Herbs; 5. White Flag; 6. Nabs; 7. Larkspur; 8. Stewards; 13. Astronomic; 15. Union Flag; 16. Crackpot; 17. Ignorant; 19. Lentil; 20. Hybrid; 23. Hunch; 24. Thai.

£1000 makes all the difference



COLIN Simmons, publicity manager at GEC-Xpelair, Birmingham, has won the top prize in a 'spot the difference' competition run by the Ilford Photo company.

His prize was two business class air tickets to any destination of his choice with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plus a £1000 cash prize from Ilford.

Colin favours visiting the Great Barrier Reef on the Queensland coast of Australia. To be sure that the trip is as memorable as possible Colin has purchased a video camera with the cash prize money, to record the event.

Pictured are Colin (right) receiving his £1000 cheque from Bill Timmis (left) marketing and planning manager at the Ilford photo company, and his airline tickets from John Terry (centre) a manager from KLM.

MCCS support BBC's Children in Need



The picture shows David Sole (centre left) presenting the signed T-shirt to Douglas Kidd, MCCS charities group secretary, with (l-r), Willie McPhie, fitter, Jimmy Birrell, materials controller, Jim Hall, test engineer, Lyn Gorton, test engineer, and Jimmy Bryce, procurement engineer.

Boxing clever with Avery



GEC Avery, Warley, often loans out equipment to deserving causes.

One such cause was that of Gary Mason, British heavyweight champion, who was lent a set of GEC Avery scales to use at Henlow Grange Health Farm, his training camp in Bedfordshire.

Unbeaten

The unbeaten British heavyweight weighed in at 17st 10½lbs, in his fight against American, Tyrell Biggs. Gary knocked Biggs out in the seventh round.

Gary is furthering his quest as a contender for the world heavyweight title.

The photograph shows Gary weighing in on the GEC Avery scales.

SIX Marconi Command and Control employees from Hillend near Dunfermline ran from John O'Groats to Dunfermline in a week, to raise money for the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

David Sole, the captain of the Scottish rugby team visited the Hillend site to help launch the fund raising run. David donated a T-shirt, signed by the

British Lions rugby team, brought back from the Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand. It was auctioned as part of the fund raising effort, fetching £40.

Zigzag

Jimmy Bryce, a procurement engineer with Marconi and the athletics coach who trained Linsey McDonald when she won her Olympic bronze and Commonwealth Games medals, Jimmy Birrell, Jim

TOPIC DECEMBER 1989

Hall, David Fitzsimmons, Lyn Gorton and Willie McPhie, took it in turns to cover the 462 mile route, zigzagging across Scotland to take in as many centres as possible in order to fill their collection cans!

They were also sponsored by employees, suppliers and contractors to the factory.

A cheque for £4,500 was handed over at the BBC studios in Edinburgh on the night of the Children in Need appeal, since then the total has risen to £5,500.

Suggestion scheme success

THREE machinists, Steven Jones, Kevin Halstead and Alan McDonald, from the machine shop of GEC ALSTHOM Transmission Switchgear, Stafford, recently shared an award of £1000 from the suggestion scheme.

Their suggestion was to reduce the milling machining time from 2.9 mins to 0.9 mins per component on the 'contact finger' for the GMT 11 circuit breaker.

Idea

The scheme is open to all employees who, if they feel they have an idea that will

save money, can request an application form. Once a month these ideas are examined with the view to putting any suitable ones into practice.

Pictured are Eric Lander, personnel manager, Steven Jones, machinist, Kevin Halstead, machinist, David Owens, director and general man-

ager, GEC ALSTHOM Transmission Switchgear, who made the presentation, Cecil Moore, manufacturing manager, Peter Dunne, machinist and John Chester, production engineer and chairman of the suggestion committee. Alan McDonald was off work sick at the time of the presentation.



CLASSIFIED COLLECTION

HOLIDAYS

SCOTLAND, Burntisland, Fife. B&B seafront comfortable accommodation. Full breakfast, tea and coffee facilities. Family room or twin room reductions for children. Convenient for Edinburgh, St Andrews, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline. Tel: 0592 873348.

PORTUGAL, Algarve. Spacious two bedroom apartment close to the sea, with beautiful views of the beach and hillside from the balcony. Situated in Luz Bay near

Lagos, with restaurants, friendly bars and shops. Available most dates in 1990. Tel: 01-427 3121.

CYPRUS. Luxury apartment. Sleeps 5. Two bedrooms, 6 x 4m lounge, bathroom, large kitchen/dining room. Accommodations overlooks sea, 600m to beach, two miles Larnaca. Beautiful island to visit. More details info and video contact Tom Brown 04203 5139.

SKI Serre Chevalier/Vars. Friendly catered chalets with half board and free wine. Flights available Gatwick or Manchester or self drive. For more details phone 0788 812633.

CARDIGAN, Wales. Winter break, three bedroom detached cottage in a quiet country village setting. Near Cardigan and coast. Sleeps 6-7. Reduced rates for GEC employees, colour TV, shower, bathroom, Rayburn central heating, fridge, washing machine, cooker, payphone. Tel: 0604 414540 after 4 pm.

MARBELLA, Spain. To let three bedroom duplex apartment, 10 mins walk from beach. Sleeps six, sun terrace overlooking swimming pool. Very near shops. Good communications, Marbella, Fuengirola. Tel: 01-428 7580.

ST. TROPEZ. Six berth mobile home or four berth caravan on private beach club site. 200 yds safe sandy beach, all facilities on site, ideal family holiday, English couriers. Phone 0206 864535, evenings or weekends.

FOR SALE

CHESS computers at very competitive prices. Top quality, fully guaranteed including Mephisto, Novag and Fidelty. From beginner to expert I can help you

choose the computer that's right for you. For free advice ring Danny Dixon on 0254 822724.

ELECTRONIC organ. Technics model SX-EX44. Four years old. Wooden cabinet. Lockable lid, stool, 2x44 note keyboards. 13 note pedalboard. Flute, solo, poly, percussive, ensemble and bass voices. Easy play features. 15 different rhythms. Many other facilities. Phone 0276 27376, evenings.

PROPERTY

LIVERPOOL outskirts (L 25). Modern terraced house. Close motorways. Central heating, newly redecorated and carpeted, two large bedrooms, small garden, street parking at rear. Fully furnished, rent £60 per week plus rates. Ring 01-858 7073, evenings.

RUGBY. Modern detached house. Quiet village setting (conservation area). Adjacent GEC Management College. 27' lounge, dining room, cloakroom, kitchen, utility, 5 beds, 2 baths, mature gardens, double garage. F.G.C.H. Cavity insulated £175,000 ono. Tel: 0788 811156.

HANTS, Bordon. 3 bedroomed neo Georgian house. Garage, recent decoration inside and out. Fitted carpets plus household items, gardens front and rear. Patio, garden shed. Priced for quick sale £74,000 ono. Tel: 04203 5139.

HAYLING Island. Luxury studio apartment. Exceptional Solent views, access to beach. Full use of extensive leisure facilities including gym, pool, bar etc. Good car parking. Close to golf course and

windsurfing area. £53,500 ono. Hayling Island 461326 or Havant 486807.

BLABY, Leics. Three bedroomed detached house. Large lounge/diner. Feature stone fireplace, d/glazing, g.c.h. Fitted wardrobes in bed 1/2. Fitted kitchen. Part tiled bath/wc. Garage ut/area, carpets included. Landscaped gardens, tarmac parking area. Excellent decor, close motorways, Leicester. £84,000. Tel: Leics 772341.

RUGBY. Detached house close to shops, supermarket, schools. Ten minutes Mill Road site and station. Comprises kitchen, cloakroom, lounge/diner, four bedrooms, bathroom, large garage, greenhouse, shed, mature gardens. All carpets and curtains. £89,500. Tel: Rugby 0788 565560.

MISCELLANEOUS

REUNION, 85th entry apprentices, Nol Radio School, RAF Locking. Reunion early 1990. Contact John O'Keeffe. 0962 841159 (home no).

FOOTBALL programs. Wide range of league and non-league programs at discount prices. Also many international programs. If you have any unwanted programs we will pay good prices. Contact Nigel Ritchie, 12 Wheatlands Drive, Countesthorpe, Leicester. Tel: 0533 776707.

WANTED. Any parts for a 1917 J type Thornycroft lorry in any condition. Particularly M4 engine and radiator. Contact: Stephen Gosling, Flat 3, 25 Waverley Road, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 2PH. Tel: 0705 818246.

Please write your classified advertisement in the grid below in clear block capitals (one word in each box up to a maximum of 40 words) and send it to: Louise Martin, Topic, The General Electric Company plc, 1 Stanhope Gate, London, W1A 1EH by January 13. Insertion is not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to include your advertisement as soon as possible. GEC employees, their families and people who have retired from the company may advertise free of charge. For others the current cost is 50p per word. Please make all cheques payable to The General Electric Company plc.

At present, only one insertion per ad.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel:.....

GEC Location

Topic takes no responsibility for any misrepresentations or inaccuracies in classified advertisement or for any breaches of obligations by classified advisers. Readers are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into obligations.

RETIREMENTS

Reg retires after 50 years

Reg Tilstone, office manager of Head Office Accounts, Stafford, retires at the end of December having completed 50 years service with the company.

Reg joined the English Electric at the age of 14 as an office boy in the chief accountants office at Stafford.

After war service with the RAF he returned to the English Electric and in

1955 was appointed branch accountant responsible for the accounting of the company's branches at home and overseas. During this time Reg made visits to India, Pakistan and Venezuela and as a consequence has become an active member of the Overseas Club.

In 1966 the English Electric Central Accounts Department was formed

and Reg was appointed office manager. Following the merger with GEC he continued in this capacity with the GEC Head Office Accounts Department, based in Stafford.

After a long career in which he has seen many changes in office technology and methods Reg is looking forward to spending more time in his garden.

Half a century at GEC

AFTER 50 years with GEC ALSTHOM Transmission Switchgear at Stafford, foreman, George Clark has retired.

George joined the company, then English Electric Switchgear, in 1939. He was a keen footballer playing for the works team and also having a trial for Wolverhampton Wanderers.

It was after becoming charge inspector on bulk oil OKM4 circuit breakers that George started overseas assignments in quality control visiting East Africa, Germany, Italy, Holland and Turkey.

George joined the development workshop as inspector and assistant foreman in 1974, becoming foreman in 1975.

George will have plenty to occupy him in his retirement as his hobbies include gardening, DIY, maintaining cars, tennis and bowls. He also has plans to take his wife, Gladys, overseas.



The picture shows David Owens (right) presenting George Clark with the collection made by friends and colleagues.

George's retirement gift from the company was a cooker. In addition, friends and colleagues made a collection which was presented by David Owens, director and general man-

ager of GEC ALSTHOM Transmission Switchgear Stafford.

David Wilson

DAVID Wilson, a supervisor in the heavy machine shop at GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators, Rugby, has retired after 49 years service.

To commemorate the occasion he was given a

number of farewell gifts, including a pair of watches and a drill from his friends and colleagues, presented on their behalf by Geoff Durrand, manager, Turbine Manufacture.

David lives in Rugby.

GEC sponsors care for the elderly

GEC recently sponsored an international symposium organised by the Royal Surgical Aid Society at the Royal College of Physicians.

The conference subject — 'Making Complete Care Homes of the Elderly. The Next Decade,' stimulated a high standard of papers and discussion. It recognised that we live in an age of new technology, better design, deeper knowledge of the causes of ageing and infirmity, better drugs, growing awareness of the needs of elderly people and of the national provision we should be making for them.

The speakers, including a representative of the Health Consultants International, USA, and the assistant director of services for Age Concern, dwelt on the human factors, the assessment of the environment they would like to live in.

The Royal Surgical Aid Society was founded in 1862 to provide artificial limbs and other aids for those unable to pay for them. Its work was taken over by the NHS in 1948, which meant they could concentrate on the complete care of the frail or physically disabled elderly.

GEC Sensors' apprentice on the road to gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's award

ARLENE Draper, a 17 year-old YTS electrical craft apprentice, at GEC Sensors, Basildon, is on the road to attaining gold standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

To date, Arlene has received, bronze and silver awards. The bronze award was gained, whilst in the 3rd/4th years at Fryerns School, Basildon, in the fields of photography and physical achievements. An expedition to the South Downs was also undertaken which involved group learning, map and compass reading and navigation activities.

Endurance

Progressing to silver standard, Arlene extended her list of activities to include a three-day endurance test in the Lake District. As one of twenty young people organised into small groups and supervised by local teachers, Arlene was equipped with a back-pack containing all essential requirements and only a 'two-man' tent as shelter.

In a letter to Alan Pryor, training co-ordinator, GEC Sensors, the scheme's first expedition's co-ordinator Mick Rogers stated that, "Arlene put up a first-rate



The photograph shows Arlene Draper during a three-day endurance test in the Lake District.

performance and I was extremely impressed with her friendly, positive and mature attitude over the week as a whole." He thanked Alan for his help in kitting-out Arlene with some of the essential items, Mick Rogers continued,

"She is certainly worth the trouble and I wish her well for the future."

It was an exhausted but elated Arlene who learned that she passed her endurance test and attained the silver award. She now goes on to strive for gold.

Holiday on Ice special offer

HOLIDAY on Ice is at the Wembley Arena from 30 January to 25 February 1990 with its most lavish and spectacular presentation ever.

It has been described by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most costly live entertainment, its com-

THERE ARE SPECIAL RATES FOR TOPIC READERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The concessionary ticket price is £7.50 seats for £6.50 per adult and £7.50 tickets for £3.25 per child and pensioners (children's tickets: ages three to fifteen). These rates are available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday performances throughout the run.

To make a booking, please complete the application form below and return it together with your remittance to: Holiday on Ice Office, Company Offer, Wembley Stadium, Wembley HA9 0DW.

HOLIDAY ON ICE 1990 GEC TOPIC OFFER

Please reserve (No. of seats) at £6.50

..... at £3.25

Time date day

Name: BLOCK

Address LETTERS

..... Tel. No. (Day time)

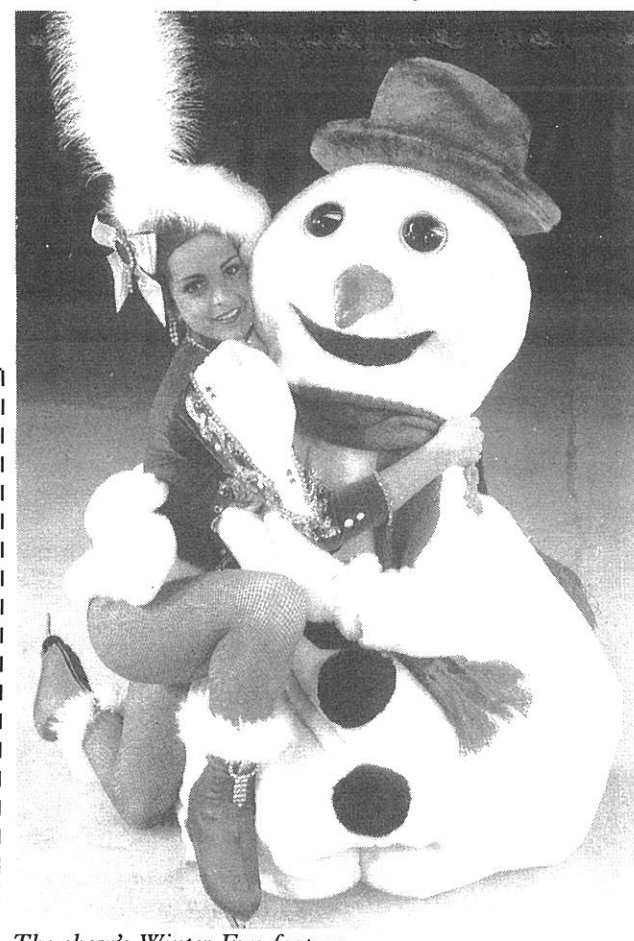
Please note for all bookings except those made by personal callers there is an additional administration fee of 50p per transaction.

Please make the remittance payable to Wembley Stadium Ltd.

Please state the amount enclosed: £

ination of music, comedy and world class skating is guaranteed to thrill the whole family.

The show features acts such as Winter Fun, City Zoom, Bella Italia, Chinese Fantasy and Fin'a Latino.



The show's Winter Fun feature.

GEC—Marconi brings back the age of steam



A British built steam locomotive hard at work in South Africa today.

SEVERAL GEC-Marconi employees are involved in an ambitious plan to repatriate a selection of veteran British steam locomotives originally built for the export market and still in service overseas.

Regular steam trains ended on British Rail in 1968 but they remain in evidence in other parts of the world, such as India, China, and South Africa.

From the inception of railways in the early 19th century, British companies have led the world in the supply of locomotives and rolling stock, maintained today by GEC ALSTHOM at Manchester and Preston.

North British Locomotive Society was formed earlier this year to set up a working museum

dedicated to British Colonial Railways and to rescue some of the engines that remain. Marconi Luton test and manufacturing manager, Ken Livermore, is the secretary of the new group and Brian Ashby of Magec Aviation one of the founder members.

Agreement

An agreement to site the project at Quainton Road Station, near Aylesbury has been reached with Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, the station's present owners, and the society has already been offered two locomotives to start its collection. Both of these are currently located in South Africa and, with a combined weight of over 300 tons, the cost of their return home was at first

thought to be out of the question but with the assistance of Peter Wynn of GEC Distribution Services Division, a 'realistic' shipping price has been negotiated with P & O Lines and Abnormal Load Engineering, a Stafford-based GEC contractor.

An appeal for funds is now in progress to raise the £29,000 that will move one of these steam dinosaurs from Durban Docks to Aylesbury and it is hoped that the first of the pair will return home in March 1990. Anyone wishing to participate in this scheme that will help preserve Britain's Industrial Heritage, should forward a sae to: N.B.L.S., 2 Franklin Avenue, Cheshunt, Herts EN7 5DX.

'Political dissidents' struggled for survival in Snowdonia

EMPLOYEES from GEC ALSTHOM in Stafford turned into political dissidents and put their skills to test in the Welsh mountain region of Snowdonia. The large generator division organised the development weekend as part of its employee training programme.



The results of the over-night model plane making task.

The competition was between nine teams from all areas of the workforce.

The scenario was that after a pro-democracy demonstration in their country, Golcsthame, the rulers of the country were cracking down on political dissidents. They took with them a sum of money, 'babpunds,' and only what they could carry. Friendly agents and sympathisers attempted to smuggle them across the border to political asylum.

To begin with the competitors had to hike to a field where they erected a tent and cooked in the dark. To make sure they did not have too much sleep they were given a mental problem as well.

The weekend had more in store. A ten mile journey across mountains, streams and a lake was a typical task. The competitors could use some of their money to buy barrels and logs in order to build a bridge or raft.

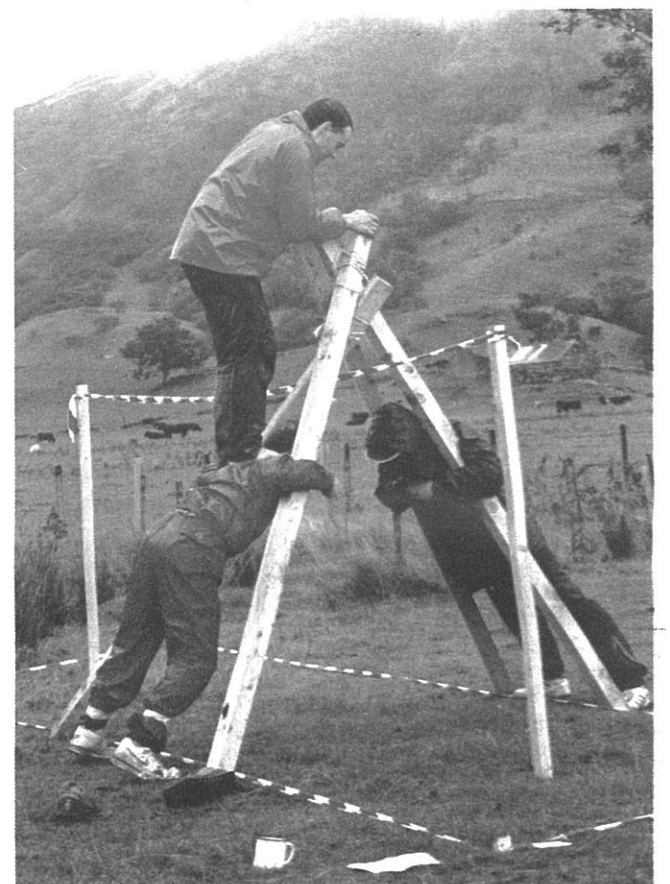
Another task was that of building a model balsa wood plane overnight that had to be ready to fly by dawn.

The winners, a team of winders, Keith Mottershead, Santi Mazzio, Lloyd Jones and Robin Wilson, were the ones to return with the most money.

Purpose

The purpose of the whole event was cerebral rather than muscular development, to gain a better understanding of inter-personal relationships, teamwork and leadership skills.

Unfamiliar surroundings, physical and mental challenges and night exercises to induce stress and fatigue bring out the need for good organisation, teamwork, leadership and



The team from production control, completing one of their tasks. Pete Adams on the shoulders of apprentice Andy Brown and Steve Johnson.

motivational skills.

The organisers, Jane Sirkett, Gary Nicholson and Mick Evans said they were very impressed with the way the teams coped with all the tasks and are looking forward to the next event,

the Welsh goose chase, a similar activity weekend involving physical and mental exercises but has nothing to do with Welsh Geese! It is scheduled for April between several GEC companies.



The team from accounts taking a breather. (l-r) Kay Lewis, Tracey Allman, Louise Sliwinski and Sharon Alldritt.



The eventual winners, a team of winders, Robin Wilson (back left), Keith Mottershead (back right), Santi Mazzio (front left) and Lloyd Jones (front right).