

## Jim Southam meets the Duke of Kent



Jim Southam, who was presented to HRH The Duke of Kent on his visit to the Works on 21 November, had been especially brought over from Germany, where he is serving with the RAF, for the occasion.

Jim is a product of both the ATC and Elliott's Training Scheme.

After leaving Walderslade Secondary Modern School, he became an Elliott Apprentice in 1965. He was also a member of 1039 Gillingham Sqdn. ATC.

His vocational training led to appointments in the Drawing Office of ADD, IND and ATE.

During his ATC career, as a Cadet, he became a qualified Glider Pilot, and went on to become an Instructor at the Gliding School, West Malling. His dedication to flying and its attendant skills gave him scope to prove his talents. He was promoted to Adult WO and then granted an ATC Commission. On joining the RAF in 1973 he was accepted by the Selection Board at Biggin Hill and granted an immediate commission. His flying has been in Hunters, Jet Provosts and now he is a Flying Officer, piloting Jaguar Aircraft, with No. 2 Sqdn. at Laarbruch in Germany.

Our picture shows Jim in conversation with The Duke of Kent, during the tour of the Works, to be present at which he left Germany at 03.45, returning the following morning at the same time. He is a dedicated person in all he undertakes, easy to get on with, with a pleasant personality and a capacity for hard work.

## A RIGHT ROYAL VIEW

When Her Majesty the Queen flew in Concorde at over twice the speed of sound, she was shown the sophisticated controls in the airliner's cockpit.

Clearly visible in the centre of the picture, (at the top of the instrument panel, between the pilots) is the push-button control panel of Concorde's advanced automatic flight control system (AFCS), produced by Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited in conjunction with SFENA.

The pilots, who are monitoring the rapid progress of the flight, are relaxed, with their hands off the controls—for Concorde was flown throughout by the automatic system, as is the routine.

Working from the time the engines are started until they are switched off at destination, the AFCS, Concorde's silent partner, regularly carries out fully automatic landings.



The Queen taking a close look at the crowded banks of instruments when she paid a visit to the flight deck of Concorde during her flight home from Bridgetown, Barbados.

Photo by Ron Bell, PA Staff Photographer

## Marconi-Elliott Avionics Chief Honoured by Aeronautical Profession

Dr. B.J. O'Kane is the avionics industry's first ever recipient of the British Gold Medal for Aeronautics.

For the first time in the history of the Royal Aeronautical Society, its British Gold Medal for Aeronautics, for "outstanding practical achievement leading to advancement in Aeronautics", has been presented to a member of the avionics industry. Dr. B.J. O'Kane, Chairman of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited (a GEC-Marconi Electronics company) received the Medal at 6pm on 1 December, at a ceremony held at the Society's head-quarters, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1.



The award, made annually to distinguished members of the aeronautical profession, the first recipient being Captain (later Sir Geoffrey) de Havilland in 1934, recognises Dr. O'Kane's own distinguished career in

electronics applied to aviation. When the British Gold Medal for Aeronautics was first founded by the Society, at the suggestion of Lord Amulree, Secretary of State for Air 1930-31, few could have predicted the vital contribution which avionics now makes to the advancement of aviation and to aerospace exports.

The Amulree Committee, comprising representatives from the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Royal Aero Club, the Air League and the Ministry of Defence, recommended that Dr. O'Kane should receive the medal "in recognition of his many personal achievements in the field of telecommunications, his widespread direction and leadership in the development and applications of avionic equipment, and his contributions at senior level to consultative and advisory activities, both nationally and internationally."

Dr. Bernard John O'Kane, CBE, PhD, B.Eng, C.Eng, M.I.E.E., joined the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company in 1935, was transferred on loan to the Telecommunications (now the Royal Signals and Radar) Research Establishment, Malvern from 1941 to 1945, and became Chief Engineer of International Airadio Ltd before joining the Marconi Company in

1952 as Chief Air Radio Engineer. He managed the Aeronautical Division (1959-1965) and was General Manager (Electronics) of the Marconi Company until 1969, when he was appointed Managing Director of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited, becoming Chairman in 1971.

He was one of the founder members of the European Organisation for Civil Aviation and Electronics (EUROCAE), its first Chairman (1963-1966), President (1966-1968) and Honorary President of the Electronics Engineering Association (EEA) from 1971 to 1973. A member of the Aeronautical Research Council (ARC) from 1968 to 1971, he is currently a Council member of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) and the EEA, and is one of the UK members of the AECMA equipment Sectorial Group.

Dr. O'Kane, who lives in Harrow, Middlesex, was awarded the CBE in the 1974 New Year's Honours List.

## ROYAL VISIT

Monday 21 November 1977 was the day Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited, Rochester, played host to its first Royal visitor, HRH the Duke of Kent, GCMG.

### A Lament

This may be hard to follow  
 Once I worked for "Swift and Swallow"  
 Down at Chatham on the outskirts of the town.  
 Then one day, with many others  
 I was joined to Elliott Brothers  
 And it took us quite a while to settle down.  
 Came a change of situation  
 We became the "Automation"  
 Though the "Elliott" stayed as it was before  
 Growing larger — up went towers  
 With a grass patch and some flowers  
 And a car park for a thousand cars or more.  
 Came the fusions and the fissions  
 Of the numerous divisions  
 But we saw the future safe and prospects grand  
 Though we thought "we'd had it proper"  
 When big contracts got the chopper  
 And they called us "Alexanders Ragtime Band".  
 Once again the outlook brightened  
 And we felt no longer frightened  
 Though Lord Nelson shortly did give us a fright  
 For with Government as verger  
 We got married in a merger  
 With English Electric overnight.  
 Then things looked a trifle messy  
 With take-over bids by Plessey  
 But the GEC outbid them I've heard say,  
 So each morn I rise from slumber  
 And I wonder — yes I wonder  
 Who the hell shall I be working for today!

GCVO, ADC, in his capacity of Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The Company has won 4 of its 5 Queen's Award to Industry for export achievements.

The Duke of Kent arrived by helicopter at Rochester Airport and was greeted by Lord Astor of Hever, Lord Lieutenant of the County. The reception party included Councillor A. Thomas, Mayor of Medway, Dr. B.J. O'Kane, Chairman of the Company and Airport Manager Mr. Barry Allan.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, Chairman of GEC headed the welcoming delegation at the factory accompanied by Mr. J. Pateman, Managing Director, Mr. W.H. Alexander, Assistant Managing Director responsible for Rochester activity and Mr. P.F. Mariner, Assistant Managing Director responsible for Borehamwood. After briefings on the Company's business, aircraft programmes in which it participates, and products produced at Rochester, Borehamwood and Basildon, a tour of the factory was undertaken.

This took in Central Machine Shop, Instrument



During the tour, His Royal Highness visited the Company's extensive Central Machine Shop. The Duke (centre), is examining some of the latest slip braided structures the Company produces. Also in the picture are (left to right), Mr. A.J. Harrison, Director of Manufacturing Services, Mr. R. Collins, Manager of Central GEC and Mr. J.E. Pateman, Managing Director, Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited



His Royal Highness visited the Company's Aviation Service and Repair Division. Our picture shows His Royal Highness (centre), Mr. C. Barker (left), Mr. H.D.F. Eagles, Divisional Manager, Aviation Service and Repair Division discussing the work in hand.

Photo by Alan Keats

Systems Division, Inertial Navigation Division and Airborne Display Division, thence over the airfield to Aircraft Service and Repair Division which gives support to operators of equipment of over 130 differing aircraft types world-wide.

The Duke showed keen personal interest in all that was brought to his notice not forgetting the personnel he met en route, having words to say to cleaners and operators alike. It was a pity opportunities for a greater number of the work-force to greet the visitor were not made available. It is understood that the achievements of those divisions not visited were amply stated and appreciated.

### YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED

The Annual Dinner Dance of IN Division will be held at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone, on Friday, 17 February 1978. Dinner, Reception and Cabaret — Price £4.30 each.

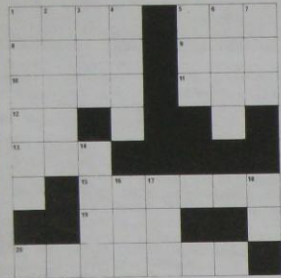
# Junior News

## Jumbled Words No. 1

We regret no one submitted a correct solution to the 5 jumbled words. One competitor wrote to say she found the competition 'very hard' and had to enlist the help of Dad! (That's what Dads are for - really).

We have taken note of this and hope future competitions will be less difficult, and that as many as possible will submit entries. Why not try this one?

## JUNIOR CROSSWORD No. 2



### ACROSS

1. Always (4)
5. He did not walk (3)
8. Completed (4)
9. Real hundering (3)
10. Like the ocean (4)
12. Term for electrical current (3)
13. Colour (3)
15. Referee (6)
19. It is (3)
20. Whenever you like (7)

## Jumbled Names - Boys and Girls

SUIELO RAHETES  
ADENALARX HICAMLE  
MAHOTS NAHASNUS  
IREMA NESVET  
CIROTV TAMHAR

Untangle the above names, write answers clearly on a sheet of paper, add your own name and address and send to:-

The Editor  
MEA News  
Marconi Elliott Avionics Limited  
Airport Works  
Rochester, Kent.

so as to arrive, not later than 28 February 1978.

### DOWN

1. Man's name (6)
2. You speak with it (5)
3. Final (3)
4. Stagger (4)
5. Rodent (3)
6. Not alkaline (4)
7. Hazard in tennis (3)
14. What is expected of you (4)
16. Shortened glove (3)
17. Greek letter (3)
18. Elizabeth I or II (2)

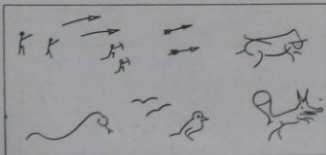
# In a lighter vein - How to write poetry

Have you ever wished that you had the ability to express your feelings in verse? I think most of us have, at one time or another. Perhaps to serenade a loved one or to draw public attention to the squint and pimples of a particularly uncompromising boss. Or you may have wished to enter one of those competitions in which the prize is to go to the author of the best Limerick expounding the virtues of some commercial product, only to find yourself at a loss to know how to begin. It is my intention to set forth in this article a simple technique by the use of which all the difficulties of poetic composition will be made to melt away as the snow before the sandstorm.

It was King James I of England who said—and the notion was approved by King James VI of Scotland—that "Verses are like the Peace of God—they pass all understanding." Nothing could be further from the truth. So easily mastered and so effective is the method which is about to be outlined that many major poets have, by adopting it, been able to keep the time spent in the composition of verses to an absolute minimum, thus allowing them to spend the greater part of their short lives in drunkenness and debauchery.

Let us begin by asking, "What makes a poem what it is?" The answer is—two things, rhyme and rhythm. The first of these, rhyme, has been in use since the beginning of recorded history as is witnessed by this three thousand year old hieroglyphic poem which was found daubed on the wall of a cave at Chislehurst in Kent.

Although the meaning of the poem in the figure drawing below is now lost, it is plain that ox rhymes with fox.



The first mistake made by most aspiring poets is to neglect these two essentials completely and to begin by wandering, "What shall I write about?" This is to get off on the wrong foot entirely. You must put the subject matter out of your mind and start with the main business of the poet which is that of finding rhymes. Any rhymes will do. Write down a list of the first ones that come into your head. For example, dog, log, night, sight, rain, drain. Since you have not yet decided on a subject for your poem the words you choose are not important.

Next for consideration comes the rhythm or metre of the poem—the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables which gives the verse what, in the language of 'pop' music might be called, its beat. Do not allow yourself to be confused by the so called experts' talk of iambic pentameters, trochees and dactyls. Do what the

experts themselves have always done, steal your rhythm from a poem which has already been written. In this way you will spare yourself many hours of head scratching, and brain racking.

When you have chosen your rhythm and your rhymes you have only to fit the two together and you are more than half-way towards having written an original poem. Let us suppose that you have chosen for your rhymes those given in the list above, and for your rhythm that oft quoted poem by Lord Byron, "The Destruction of Sennacherib" which runs:-

The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,  
His cohorts all shining in purple and gold.

When we substitute our chosen rhymes in this poem we get something like the following:-

The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the dog,  
His cohorts all shining like a water-soaked log.  
And the sheen of their spears was like stars in the night.

When the blue wave rolls brightly far out of sight,  
Like the leaves of the forest 'neath winter's hard rain,  
That host with their banners all went down the drain.

As an example of nonsense poetry you may agree that this is on a par with anything produced by Lewis Carroll or Edward Lear, and if nonsense poetry were our goal we could safely leave it at that. But if we have some other end in view, then now is the time to think about subject matter and how it can best be incorporated into the framework which we have created. But how much simpler is this task, now that we have the skeleton of the poem before us, as it were, waiting to be clothed with flesh, than it appeared when we began. Now, instead of having to think of rhymes, subject and metre, all at the same time, we have only to insert a word here and change a rhyme there to achieve our object. Never again need anyone suffer the shame of having to admit, "I have never written an epic poem of my own."

The author wishes to acknowledge here his debt to Edgar Allen Poe (was it his ancestor who gave his name to poetry?) in whose essay "Principles of Composition", he found the basis of the technique which, expanded and refined, is presented in this article.

## 21st BIRTHDAYS

Denise Gillions, of AS & R Systems, receives 'the key' on 15 January and we would like to send her all our very best wishes from this Division.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Brown of Accounts Department on reaching her 21st birthday on 19 November 1977.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to Yvonne Mudge, a Commercial Trainee, and David Wilson of AS & R on their engagement at Christmas.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to David Golding, Draughtsman MASD, and Beverly Moran, Typist ISO, on their engagement on 25 December.

## BIRTHS

### our congratulations . . .

To Margaret Wardle, formerly of Technical Publications FCD, on 31 October, the gift of a son. Junior weighed in at 8lb. 3oz. Who said he could be a War-lock? The ghosts of Halloween take note!!

To Denise Pyrka, previously in Accounts Dept, who gave birth to a son on 13 November.

On a 7th grandchild to Mrs. J. Hannant, MEA Accounts, a granddaughter Tisia at 7lb. 11½oz., on 10 November.

To Tricia Head—late of MEA accounts, the gift of a daughter Claire Louise, on 31 November. The girl weighed 6lb. 14oz.

To Gerald Flanagan of IN (Prod. Wiring), the gift of a daughter Claire, at 7lb. 2½oz., on 10 October.  
Photograph shows proud Dad with his daughter.



To Roger and Ann Jenner of Westmoreland Road, Maidstone, on 20 December. Application to Detling F.C. is being considered to enrol Junior as Keeper!!

To Maureen Kitney, from all old friends in MEA Accounts, on the birth of a 7½lb. daughter Carly Jane, who arrived on 24 November.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Richard (Dick) Muston, on Wednesday 21 December, on 20 December. Application to Detling F.C. is being considered to enrol Junior as Keeper!!

He was a popular member of FCD Estimating Department, and a well liked and esteemed member of the community. A former member of the Royal Engineers, in which he served for 22 years before joining Elliotts, where he has been for the past 11 years, he commenced in TDO of MAC, and later transferred to Estimating and continued, after the merger, with TAC created FCD.

His interests were wide, and he was a worker for all the organisations of which he became a member. A Church Warden for many years at St. Barnabas' Church Gillingham, until his failing health caused him to relinquish, he still 'stood in' whenever necessary and when his condition allowed.

He had a wide humanitarian approach, and he shared the burdens of all, borne of a real friendship and concern for others. A man of whom it can be truly said, "he laboured not for the things which perisheth, and yet marked well".

We regret to record the death in hospital of G.W. Clements, a Labourer in IN Division. Born 24 May 1916 he joined the company on 10 April 1963.

He leaves a widow (who is employed in MASD) and a daughter, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

## MARRIAGES



John Smith and his bride married near Rochdale in October. John is Contracts Manager in PSD and she is Admin. Officer EDP.

### Christmas Eve Bride

Margaret Bourner, Technical Typist with AS & R Technical Publications, celebrated Christmas in grand style. On Christmas Eve, at Chatham Registry Office, she became Mrs. David Levy. A day earlier, the 23rd, Margaret was given a warm send-off by the staff of Technical Publications, during which she was presented with wedding gifts by Ron Twine (Publications Manager).

Good luck, Margaret, in the many Happy New Years to come.

# AROUND THE DIVISIONS

## INERTIAL NAVIGATION DIVISION

IND was formed in 1958 to assume responsibility for the then new technology of Inertial Navigation. This most challenging and demanding branch of avionics remains central to the division's activities. It has, however, led to a natural diversification into navigation and attack systems development. This diversification began with the award of a development contract for the navigation and weapon aiming system for the RAF Jaguar Strike Aircraft. This system, the NAV/WASS, is now in full service with the Royal Air Force and with the Air Forces of Ecuador and Oman. It gives the Jaguar great flexibility and an unsurpassed navigation and weapon aiming accuracy.

A departure from avionics, but nevertheless wholly based on inertial and systems technology, the division has developed the Naval Compass Stabiliser (NCSI) to give warships of all classes very accurate attitude reference for all known gun, missile and radar requirements and also a high-quality heading reference for navigation. The NCSI has been ordered in quantity for the Royal Navy and a number of overseas sales have already been negotiated. Interest from foreign navies is increasing as was obvious at the recent Royal Navy Equipment Exhibition at Greenwich where an NCSI was exhibited.

Returning to avionics, the Central Tactical System (CTS) is being developed for Hawker Siddeley Aviation for use in the RAF Nimrod Mk 2. The design and development phase is progressing well and the CTS has been integrated successfully with several other major systems on the first development aircraft which has been doing satisfactory flight trials since April 1977.

For the future, IND is developing strapdown inertial navigation technology in association with other MEASL divisions. As a Company we lead the field in Europe in this very demanding technology, partly due to 20 years' experience in the IN field, and look forward to the future with enthusiasm and with confidence in our ability to remain leaders of the competition, and to meet Navy and Air Force requirements of the future.

## POWERPLANT SYSTEMS DIVISION

Not quite the youngest division at Rochester but certainly the smallest, Powerplant Systems Division (PSD) is expanding steadily as it seeks to extend MEA's technology to the aircraft engine industry. Proving that quality is just as important as quantity, PSD can count among its successes the successful entry

in a government sponsored competition for a helicopter engine control system; the completion of the RAF's first Automated Powerplant Testing (APT) system for Adour engines at RAF Coltishall, and 75 hours of trouble-free running, including full reheat, of a fuel control system for the RB 199 engines for Tornado, only just over a year from commencement.

In April the division assumed the responsibility for Fuel Flowmeter Systems from Instrument Systems Division, welcoming the fuel flowmeter development engineering team to its ranks and acquiring responsibility for the Fuel Flow Laboratory. Currently the major projects in this area are the engine-mounted True Mass Flowmeter for the RB 199 engines and the Spey Flowmeter for China. In connection with the latter programme we have pleasure in acting as hosts to three visitors from the People's Republic of China who are here on a training course.

## INSTRUMENT SYSTEMS DIVISION

Instrument Systems Division (ISD) was formed in 1970 as a result of a merger between Flight Instrument Division (FID) and Aircraft Engine Instruments Division (AEID). In the early years the Division continued to manufacture a wide range of flight and engine instruments for both commercial and military aircraft, but the emphasis of the Division's activities has changed dramatically in recent years.

A new product area for the Company is the Stores Management System for the Tornado which is due to commence series production during 1978. This digital system follows completely new concepts for control and release of stores in a military aircraft and has provided a significant technological challenge.

The Division is also responsible for the Triplex Transducer Unit which forms part of the air data system for Tornado. A major success was achieved in the United States during 1977 with the award of a contract by Bell Helicopter Textron for the development and manufacture of an Air Data System for the US Army's AH-1S Cobra helicopter. The system is based upon a principle invented in the division during the late 1960s and developed progressively up to the present time.

All these current programmes of work have resulted in a significant expansion of the Division with a steady increase in the number of people employed.

The division is currently engaged in detailed evaluation with the Oil Industry on the application of avionics technology to the control of offshore oil wells. This new field of activities should lead to substantial business during the 1980s.

# They Did Well !!

Dame fortune has been smiling on members of MEA Personnel during the last few weeks.

In the first Medway Council Lottery, Miss Smithers, a Telephonist, won the £500 prize. Her good fortune was all the more fortunate for a colleague purchased a number of tickets and allocated them among the staff. Miss Smithers, returning from an appointment with the Dentist, then found she had won the prize.

In the same lottery, Iris Haywood of FCD Cost and Budget, collected a prize of £100. Buying a ticket; out of interest when paying the weekly newspaper bill, she started to leave the shop, when she decided to buy one for her husband. Which ticket won is anyone's guess - but they shared the winnings by buying things they wanted for the home.

'Lucky' Alan Walters of CMS won many 50p prizes and a £1 prize, but failed to catch one of the bigger fish.

In a different way the possibility of a new car for Charlie Tanton of ADD Model Shop (previously in Fuzze - Filter Department) looms nearer, as he has recently won £100 in a Bingo Contest in the K.M./Parkfoot Peugeot Car Bingo game, and only needs 1 number to complete his card for the star prize.

## News from afar

Alan Monk, formerly Spare Parts Compiler within FCD Technical Publications, has kept in touch with his colleagues since emigrating to Italy. Working outside Rome he now has his wife and family with him and reports that things are sweet and lovely.

Tony Thacker, now Technical Editor of the magazine 'HOT CAR', was previously in FCD Technical Publications. His going has left a gap in the humour of the Department. We wonder if he still uses a hearse to go to work, or has he found any more weird vehicles to use?

## Personality Profile

A pupil from Balfour Road School, John W. Goodhand passed on to Highfield Secondary School at the age of 11 because he failed the '11 plus' examination. The written work was O.K. but the oral let him down, however, due to the foresight of those who formed the 1944 Education Act, a review of his work and talents at age 13 earned him



As he is.

a transfer to Rochester Technical School, where he remained until he began work as an apprentice, with Elliott Brothers on 4 September 1954. As 1 of about 10 in that year, the first 12 months was spent in the Training School and taking about 4

months to do the Test Job to the satisfaction of the Instructors, tried his tenacity and patience. Yet he survived, and passed out to MER in September '55 working on CRBF Directors, Heavy Fitting until Feb. '56. A period in Aviation machine shop followed, doing the round of conventional machining under the general direction of 'Scotty' - still in CMS (see MEA News No. 1) - passing on to MER Electrical Testing and the Gyro Room under the wing of Alf Cox. A spell in Gear Division under Sid Williams, learning the art of setting up gear cutting and then in the office. He then switched to Swift and Swallow Design Office, covering draughting, planning and progressing; finally arriving at R & R environmental Test Lab. In November 1958 he was appointed as Tech Assistant to Vic Evans, the Production Engineer, later transferring to IN Production office, until September 1959 when on completion of apprenticeship he remained in IN as Planning Engineer responsible for layouts in Pre-production Shop on Blue Steel until October 1962. Always ambitious, and on the look out for advancement, or increasing knowledge, he was selected by the Company to take a Post Graduate course at Birmingham University where he distinguished himself academically and socially, gaining a diploma in Graduate Studies (D.G.S.)



The group from the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference, after going down Hem Heath Colliery near Stoke-on-Trent. The group comprises Line Managers, Trade Union Representatives and Community relations officers, and Active Miners.

Returning to Rochester, he was appointed Production Engineer in MAC in charge of Short Batch Section and on the collapse of the TSR 2 programme he thought the world had slipped under him. But his resilience shone through and was given the task as a Production Engineer under Mr. G. Thomas (now Assistant General Manager) of developing forward planning and reorganization of procedure. February 1967 appointed Assistant Production Manager MAC, and 19 July 1967 Production Manager until the 1970 merger with TAC formed FCD when he became once more Assistant Production Manager.

February 1973 saw his transfer to the MEA Production Team as Chief Production Engineer MEA (Admin) and in 1975 seconded to E.O.S.D. at Basildon for 10 weeks on Special Duties. In April 1975 his appointment as Production Manager MASD was announced which position he still holds having helped to develop the new division to maturity, and with a production programme.

During his apprenticeship he studied at the local Technical College, taking his Ord. Nat. in Mechanical Engineering 1957, and Higher National Certificate in 1959 and 3 endorsements on H.N.C.

He is a C.Eng., a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Production Engineers and Associate Member of the British Institute of Management.

He undertook a course of study at Medway College of Technology in Management Studies, successfully concluding the course in 1966.

While at Birmingham he did research in Ergonomics in arc welding under the authority of the British Welding Research Association, and his report was widely acclaimed culminating in his being invited to present a paper to the Ergonomics Research Society Annual Conference in Dublin. Latterly he was appointed a member of the Duke of Edinburgh UK-Commonwealth Study Conference, to study "New Patterns of Enterprise for a Thriving

## INTERNAL VACANCIES

Wanted urgently Computer Maintenance Engineer. Must have knowledge of Elliott 503 Computer. Application to Miss. S.A. Mawby, Personnel Dept as soon as possible.



Do you spell Rameses with a Jackal or an Ibis?



To recall memories when Apprentices played MER.

Society". This conference began in London at the Imperial College for 2 days then out to study the City of Stoke-on-Trent in depth and on to St. Andrews University in Scotland where the reports and conclusions were handed to the Duke personally. As Chairman of the Suggestions Committee, for some time, he was able to serve the company and its workforce.

A keen sense of humour helps to keep him going in the right direction. As a teenager, he played football for the Ebenezer Church Youth Club and recalls a typical conversation after a Saturday afternoon match; Dad - "How did you do today son?" Son - "Oh we did a lot better today, only lost 7-0".

John is married with 2 sons of 12 and 9 and is a Parent representative on Thamesview Junior School Board of Managers. Among his hobbies he lists wine making, even when bottles explode, cascading contents up walls, on ceilings and showering his wife! He also indulges in the husbandly tasks of gardening and decorating.

Trip to 1978 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort  
27 August Approx. £22  
Contact Rod Cole MASD (Int. 552) before 16 January.

## They go and come

Paul May has returned to FCD Test, after being away for 3 months trying his luck in Wales. The 'Garden of England' being sweeter than Welsh ruggedness.

His quick return, however, does not beat the feat of John Reynolds, also in FCD Test, who rejoined the Company after an absence of only 3 weeks. We also hear that he is not always so quick to make decisions, but we congratulate him on passing his driving test, at the 4th attempt. The first failure was due to confusion during the emergency stop, when the accelerator pedal was mistaken for the brake. Good job the road ahead was clear and seat belts were worn.

## Appointments

Michael Gillett has been appointed Head of Technical Publications in ATE Division.

Michael Doran a Section Leader in FCD Drawing Office has been appointed Chief Draughtsman of ATE.

Amanda Allen from FCD Production Test Department moved to Technical Publications Department on 10 October 1977.

Appointed as Chief Buyer in FCD to succeed Doug Logan is Mr. R.C.A. Tomlinson.

H.L. Pearce has now taken up duties as Project Leader in FCD on Jaguar F.B.W. System.

Doug Logan has left FCD to become Material Controller in ISD.

Mrs. C.E.P. Whitehead has been appointed Secretary to Mr. D.J. Jackson Divisional Manager, FCD.

It is announced that Mr. R.A. George has taken up duties as Engineering Manager FCD.

Mr. Keith Asher has received his appointment as Leading Hand (Night Shift) FCD Test Department.

As from 7 November 1977 Mr. A. Wilson has become Assistant Chief of Test within IND.

The appointment of Mr. J.M. Colston as Chief Engineer ISD has been announced.



What the camera caught, during the childrens parties Nov/Dec 1977.



# Parties

Above and left: revellers at the Star Hotel, Ma-dstone.  
Below: employer expressing th  
mas Lunch held in the canteen.  
Photographs by Sue Ruddlesde





# Party me

Annual Staff Dance at the Royal  
their delight at the Annual Christ-  
man and Alan Keats.



Members of Elliott '65' Club enjoying their Annual Christmas Party, at the Club-house.



Ready to serve the Christmas Lunch.  
The Chef - Alex. Antony carves the  
Turkey.  
Below:  
The choir of Holy Trinity, Twydall,  
Gillingham, together with Elliotts' Brass  
Band, leading the Carol singing, during  
Lunch Break, in the Canteen 14.12.77.



# RETIREMENTS

A span of 20 years as an Inspector, on various products, has ended by the retirement of **A.R. (Ron) Pickrell**.

His career, which began with Swift and Swallow on the Rochester site in 1957 was followed, as in many cases of those years, by transfer to MER in 1960, and when in 1961 AEID was formed he took up Inspecting in that Division. He remained there until the machine shop was merged into the Central Machine Shop in 1965, when he left to seek new pastures. The lure of Elliotts was too strong, and in 1967 he returned to CMS Inspection Department, where he remained until 9 December 1977.

Ron was an enthusiastic Bat and Trap specialist, and enjoyed playing and making equipment as well as extolling its history, virtues and merits. Failing health caused him to cease direct activity, but his interest remains, and his counsel is often sought. He was brought over from Gravesend for a small departmental farewell party, at which he was presented with a clock, suitably inscribed to mark the occasion, by Jim Walker, CMS/QA Manager, for which he expressed his thanks. His colleagues and friends wish him a long and happy retirement and an improvement in health.

**Hilda Booth**, who was a Production Clerk in CMS has retired, and to mark the occasion she was presented with a silver-plated tea-tray, perfume, records, bouquet, and a box of 'bits and pieces' for use at home, by Mr. R. Collins, Divisional Manager. Hilda was a very popular member of the Division in which she has worked since 1972, coming from IN Division. All her friends and colleagues join in wishing her a happy and long retirement.



Hilda Booth, receiving the box of 'bits and pieces' (one of the varied presents she received), from Mr. R. Collins on the occasion of her retirement. No prize for what they are thinking!

IN Division has lost another 'old warrior' by the retirement from active work of **George Alfred James Burge**.

George was one of the band of former Shorts' employees who joined Elliotts. A migrant to the Medway Towns—having been born at Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, he has lived in Sussex and Tunbridge Wells before settling in Medway. He joined the RAF at an early age as a Flight

Mechanic but was invalided out and joined Shorts as a fitter.

For 21 years he has been with Elliotts serving first in MER Aviation and IN on its inception, becoming a fitter leading hand.

He enjoys good health which he attributes to his hobbies of gardening and walking on the hills and mountains, especially in Wales. He and his wife have a son and daughter and 4 grandchildren—1 girl and 3 boys.

Of his Elliotts career he sums it up as being "the happiest time of my life, with worthwhile comradeship and pleasant workmates."

He wonders how many people remember an incident when a fellow in the stores, carrying a Navigation Component, tripped and fell, and the component shaped like a 'coolie hat' went over his head, slipped down over his shoulders and he could not get it off.

A motto given to him by his schoolmaster has played a significant part in his life and he passes it on for others to take up. "Do the work that's nearest, though its dull at whiles".

To mark the occasion, and to show their esteem and affection, his many friends and colleagues subscribed for a parting gift of a portable radio.



George Burge with the radio, about to leave his department on retiring.

## Twenty-five years' service

Among the recent awards for Long Service (25 years) **Philip Podesta** of FCD Planning received a Ladies Gold Watch to mark the occasion. Philip decided to give his gift to his wife as a thank-offering to her for supporting him during his 25 years at Elliotts.



Left to right: D.I. Jackson (Div. Manager), J. Smith (Prod. Manager), Stan Rabone (Project Leader), D. Webster (Ch. Prod. Eng.), Phil Podesta.



George Attwood being congratulated by C. Frost (Div. Manager).

In making his presentation, Mr. D.I. Jackson, Divisional Manager, recalled that Phil began his service in October 1952 on Auto Pilot Systems and is perhaps unique in that he has continued to work on A.P. Systems, though the equipment is now more complex.

**George W. Attwood**, formerly Foreman and Superintendent of Assembly and Wiring in ISD after the amalgamation of FID and AEID, was congratulated on his long service by Mr. C.J. Frost, Divisional Manager, when presenting a pair of binoculars to mark the occasion.

A member of the then Aviation Division in 1952, he began as a Gyro Assembler and moved upwards to supervisory duties in succeeding years, playing his part in the development of the products and the Company. He is now a Senior Methods Engineer in the Division, where he has the opportunity of passing on his knowledge and skills.

In a triple ceremony within IND, Mr. J. Finch, Divisional Manager, presented 3 gifts to mark completion of 25 years' service.

**Fred Longley**, who unfortunately sustained a severe accident some months ago, was with Swift and Swallow, and then in MAC, FCD and IN. He received a carriage clock and was greeted by many friends and colleagues who had not seen him for some time. Still confined to a wheelchair, he retains his cheerful personality.



Fred Longley.

An ex-apprentice, **Tony Rye**, who joined in 1952 and saw service in Cyprus as a National Serviceman in 1958-60, received a carriage clock. Tony is well known in the Company, not only for his machining skills, which he has used in Naval Weapons, AEID and Fuze Divisions before arriving at IN Division, but also on the sports field as a cricketer and footballer. He now plays bat and trap and is taking up bowling with enthusiasm, being a member of the IN League.

Also a general machinist, **Stanley Albert Goodearl**, who has served the Company in varying locations, after war service restarted work in MER and progressed through Naval Weapons Division to Gear Division, moving to Dartford when that Division moved to Lowfield Road. In 1970 he returned to Rochester to IN Division where he is still.

He was with Shorts from 1936 and remembers the 'Black Hangar' being built in 1936, when the shell of the building was put up and the ground cleared from inside. Fancy gathering blackberries inside a building—they actually did!

Stan is well known within the Company, no doubt due to the fact that 7 members of his family are employed here.



Left to right: Tony Rye, D. Harries, Stan Goodearl.

Mr. S.E. Williams, Works Engineering Divisional Manager, presented a pair of binoculars to **Mugbie Oxford**, the Plumber, to mark his completion of 25 years' service, in November.

A large number of persons gathered in the Hydraulics Department of FCD on Thursday, 10 November, to witness the presentation of a stainless steel tea-set to **Gordon Hayward**, Inspector, to mark the completion of 25 years' service.

Mr. D.I. Jackson, Divisional Manager, in making the presentation spoke of the changes which had taken place during the past 25 years with many of which Gordon had been associated.

### Correction

It has been pointed out that an error crept into Issue 2, page 3 Appointments and page 4 Retirements. Derrick Solly was incorrectly identified as Stolley, for which the Editor expresses regret for any inconvenience caused thereby.

### CLASSIFIED AD

23 Greenvale Gdns, Twydale, Gillingham

Modern town house, close to A2, integral garage, kitchen/diner, lounge, 2 double 1 single b/rooms, bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Compact garden. 7 minute walk to good bus service (every 10 mins), direct service to Elliotts. Located in quiet cul-de-sac with easy access to shopping centre and schools. Price inc. carpets, some curtains £11500. Apply David Roy, Tel 35668 or Elliot Int. 330.

## VISITORS...

We are always glad to welcome visitors to our works and when they are partners in our activities the pleasure is doubled.

For a period of 8 weeks, ending on 18 November 1977, FCD Test Department has been host to two members of the Test Department of Aeritalia, our Italian partners in the TORNADO (MRCA) contract; they were, Ferruccio Dolla and Luciano Cassetta, both of Torino, (Turin).

During their stay with us, they have been instructed in the methods we employ in Rochester for the testing of computers, etc., so as to be able to carry on a parallel programme in Turin. Computers and sub-assemblies have passed through their hands and they have also had some theoretical training from FCD Engineers.



Our picture shows F. Dolla & L. Cassetta receiving instructions to clear up a point. "Oh, so that's how you do it!" Photo S.R.



A happy group of those concerned in a common cause. Left to right: Pat Baylis, Barry Fever, F. Dolla, Phil Price, L. Cassetta, and Graham Tether (Chief of Test - FCD). Photo S.R.

They have, during their off duty days, explored the delights of the Kentish countryside, visited London and a few other items of the English heritage. They like English people and feel that we have a characteristic of being happy and easy going, which makes for a delightful working arrangement.

In return they have got on extremely well with their Rochester contemporaries and it has been a pleasure for us to have them among us.

Ferruccio Dolla, as Chief of Test, Aeritalia, will have the responsibility of controlling the test activity on the units produced in Turin. His colleague, being a technician in the Production Test Department, will have the task of passing on his experience by practical application.

As Aeritalia produce and test the card modules used in MRCA Computers, Mr. Cassetta has been able to pass on to Rochester personnel his knowledge in this area, to help even out any problems which might arise on sub-assemblies.

## Eating Out

I'm not an authority on Public Houses, Inns or the like, but I do appreciate a pint of beer in comfortable and relaxed surroundings and I find that such a luxury, in the ever-increasing rat race of today, is sometimes difficult to find. By the same token I like to 'eat out' under similar conditions, which brings me to the 'FOOD' signs quite often observed on the wall of public houses, which offer a pie with your pint, a ploughman's lunch or a proper meal.

On the odd occasion when stopping to sample the menu of the Licencee, I have, by and large, found the end product quite appetising, especially at licensed houses in the country.

I list below a few such premises, which in my opinion make a pleasant refuge for a drink and a meal.

The Cock	Boughton Monchelsea	Reasonably priced, comfortable.
The White Horse	Bestred	A little pricey but nice surroundings.
The Bakery	West Malling	Licensed restaurant 3-course lunch just over a quid.
Chilham Castle		Unusual fare and a medieval back-ground.
The Running Horse	Maidstone	Bar service and restaurant (very good).
The Pepper Box	Ulcombe	300-year-old pub. Nice food.
The Walnut Tree	Nr. Ashford	15th century pub. Food excellent.

It is advisable to book a meal in advance of the intended visit.

We also hear that the Dog & Bear at Rough Common, Nr. Canterbury, and Three Squirrels at Detling, on the Sittingbourne-Maidstone Road, are also good places to sample.

## Suggestion scheme

Among the recent awards for suggestions accepted by the committee was one of £60 awarded to Albert Fall, a Wireman in MASD, who suggested a means of preventing damage to connectors when soldering.

## Our New Building

The invitation recently made to suggest a name for the new building adjacent to the airfield brought an enthusiastic response from about 410 people. Their very original suggestions range from the nostalgic to the avant garde and from the sublime to, in some cases, the ridiculous.

This response which revealed an unmistakable pride in the expansion which has made the new building possible, provided a rich fund from which a name could be chosen by the management team responsible for the building.

It was in this spirit that the name "Corsair Building" has now been chosen. It marks an historic landmark in the Company's development since it is the name of the A-7 aircraft which really put our exports on the map. It also evokes the buccanering spirit which is felt by the people who make this export business successful.

Although the invitation to choose a name was neither a competition nor a ballot, it has been decided to offer to those who suggested A-7 or Corsair, a mark of appreciation. The choice of a book or record token to the value of £2 has been offered to:

Mr. D.E. Marvell (ADD) Mr. A. Barnaby (MASD)  
Mr. L. Pavitt (CMS) Mr. J.E. Attwood (ADD)  
Mrs. N. Crick (ATED) Mr. D. Rose (GYRO)

The other suggestions were very interesting, some serious, some humorous. Several people suggested the names of late colleagues whose sad loss is still mourned, while others preferred famous names like Elliott, Bagrit, Marconi. Many aircraft names were put forward and there were many variations of the company name. "Jubilee" was also a popular choice and appropriate this year, but was considered a little too grand for the building! Others preferred to describe the location - "runway's end" was one suggestion while another, more vivid, was "crash barrier"! Several people suggested the names of prisons (including "Colditz" by Mr. A. Hitler) and there were inevitably some "Fawley Towers", while others preferred hopeful names like "New Advance" (W. Bloomfield, IND), "Enterprise" (B.J. Gambell, FCD) and E.A. Burgess, GYRO) and "Go-Go 77" (Mrs. V. Wray, FCD).

The generic descriptions given for the building were as interesting as the names themselves. They included: building, tower, annexe, complex, house, mansions, folly, erection, hotel, palace, grotto and, strongest of all, nest! The funniest, we thought, was "Heaven—if the bonus is over 500%" (Mr. A. Briggs, CMS), "Harvey's Folly" (Miss Guided, 2 to 1) and, the mind boggles at the thought, "Elliott's Erection" (S. Reynolds, App).

Thanks are due to everyone who was sporting enough to take part.

## Apprentice Activity

The Elliott Training Scheme, is doing its bit to give the Equal Rights cause a fillip and has at present two females taking an apprenticeship one mechanical the other electrical.

Mandy Bristow, a bright 17-year-old began her mechanical engineering technician course in September and comes from Gravesend where she attended St. Johns Comprehensive School. She is not deterred by the preponderance of males around her and likes to be treated as just another apprentice.

Her favourite subjects of Physics and Art seem a strange combination for a leaning towards mechanics, while her hobbies of music and dancing are overshadowed by her pastime of scuba diving. A member of the British Sub Aqua Club and Medway 59 Branch, she dives around the south coast during the summer months, extending to Portland and Devon and confines herself to local lakes and the river at Maidstone when the weather deteriorates.

A confirmed individualist she will be taking her driving test in January.

At 18 years old Kim Champion is taking the C & G course as an electrical technician.

Kim comes from Folkestone but is staying with friends at Ditton from where she motor cycles daily to work. She comes from a family who have connections with the Electrical Industry; her father is a retired electrician while two brothers are presently engaged in electronics and the wider electrical field.

Her other interests of art and drawing have become neglected of late as she is devoting all her spare time to intensive studies to further her career, and her visits home at the week-end give her a respite.

Her dislikes? She does not like getting up in the morning (who does?)

The Elliott Training Scheme is being increasingly recognised by schools and individuals as one of the best means of qualifying for interesting and well-paid jobs for the future.

The Company, in providing the facilities for practical training as well as the opportunity for continued theoretical learning, are in the forefront of the campaign, to produce persons of skill and knowledge which will help to keep the Company among the world

leaders of the Avionics Industry.

The 1977 intake (September 1977) was a total of 98 boys and 2 girls from a variety of schools and places, ranging from Folkestone to Sheppey and Ashford to Bromley.

Those named below make up the intake, to each of whom we extend a welcome, and hope that all their aspirations will be fulfilled. Schools are in parentheses.

Davis I.A. (Shepherd J.R. (Astor of Hever)), Humphrey P.E., Kinnear R.J.W. (Borden), Atkinson L.R., Howard M.A., Knight T.D., Walsh C.P., Wink G.M., (Chatham Tech), Crozier B.S., Sapsed J.J., (Cornwallis), Medgett R.J.K. (Clare Park), Berry R.S. (Faversham), Arnold D.K., Duhig P.C., Etherington M.J., Hartley D.A., Mendham M.G., Pollington C.E. (Fort Luton), Champion K.E. (Miss), (Folkestone), Charlton T.W., Long D.P., Young S.R., (Highfield), Buckle P.A., Gullion G.J., Scott P.J., Smith M.B., Withers K.I., Woolley J.P. (Howard), Crouch D.P., Wells J.D. (Holmesdale), Marks J. (Hundred of Hoo), Fillon-Payoux M., Payne G.A., Voisey T.D., (Gillingham Tech), Lipscombe R.J. (Gravesend), Ray M.J., (Gordon), Furfurd P.J., Edwards D.J., Gore N. Kirby M., Shaw T.I.B., Munn N. (Maidstone), Richards R. (Medway & Maidstone Coll), Daisley I.C. (Northfleet), King J.R., Lawrence G.S., Hatt M.A. (Napier), Peen K.C. (Oldsborough), Ingleton M. (Sheppey), Mills C.R. (Simon Langton), Jenkins M.A. (Southlands), Latter J.C. (South Kent Coll), Ambrose J.S., Atkins T., Wills, R.W. (Springhead), Corris J.D. (St. Anselms), Stone G.K., Welch N. (St. Georges), Bristow A.J. (Miss), Eider D.S. (St. Johns), Flewett R.R., Jenman D.A. (St. John Fisher), Medhurst A.S., Ostler C.W., Rossiter L.J., Rowland A.S., Waite N.J. (Sir Joseph Williamson), Fogarty A.K., McKee K.P. (St. Simon Stock), Cayzer J.S., Connor M.A., Ferrett N.E., Rose M.A., Taylor K. (Temple), Grace M.C. (Thamesview), Hunter I. (Towers), Hulme S.P., Mercer A., Rice N.A., Taylor S.P., Ongley B.A. (Upbury Manor), Andrew G.P. (Vinters), Baldwin R.C., Hammond G.A.J., Jarrett M.J., Venn P.J., Young D.L., Wells W.A., Felthouse C.D., Wilson P.D. (Walderslade), Collins C.A., Gilham I., Grigson K.M., Potter S.R., Smith D.P., Wellard P.E., (Warren Wood), Conquer D.A. (Westree), Humphrey M.A. (Westwood), Stewart H. (Woodlands).

## Letters to the Editor

It was known sometime ago that HRH the Duke of Kent was to visit Rochester and it was postponed due to the illness of HRH the Duchess of Kent.

However, I learn from a report in the Chatham News, dated 18 November, that HRH is due to visit the Company on Monday 21 November.

Checks have been made at notice boards and no word of the visit is to be seen.

Although I appreciate that HRH cannot

see every nook and cranny, or meet every employee, it would be nice to know, that such an important person was visiting the factory, from the company and not the local newspaper. I would also point out that this event was not mentioned in MEA News 1.

A.A. Stock - CMS

Editors' note:  
Like you, we too did not receive any official information.

# Sports and social club round up

## CHAMPS FOR THIRD YEAR

Elliott-Reed A.C. won the North Kent team cross-country championship for the third year running on Saturday, 26 November. The event was held at Joyens Woods, Bexley over some very hilly countryside, and once again **John McMahon** (MASD) repeated, his sparkling form by being placed second, the same position he achieved last year in this race, in a time of 27'24". **Arthur Champ** (FCD) was third in 27'33", with **Richard Clark** fourth in a time of 27'42". The team scoring was made up by **M.O. Jury** (IND) who finished 12th in 29'03" to give the team a total of 21 points, ahead of Kent A.C. on 38 and Cambridge Harriers with 43.5.

Also running for Elliotts was **Ted Wilkins** (FCD) who came a creditable 13th, with **Tom Shipman** (ADD) coming in 40th out of the 70 odd starters. A fine performance by Elliotts in achieving this fine victory over some tough competition from the other competing clubs.

## CHAMPION

**Peter Norman**, an Elliott Apprentice at present working in FCD Test Department, has won the South Eastern Counties Light Heavy Weight Junior Weight Lifting Championship, with a below personal best total weight of 177.5kg. The contest, held at Newhall, Weybridge, Surrey, on Saturday 19 November, is of Olympic-style lifting, being different from power lifting and was for 16/21 year olds.

Having warmed up with 88.45kg (195lbs) Pete managed a load of 77.5kg (170 1/2 lbs) on the 'snatch', and 100kg (220 1/2 lbs) on the 'clean and jerk', giving the combined weight of 177.5kg (391 1/4 lbs).

No doubt the training in lifting test sets helps him to maintain fitness and strengthen the muscles, without having to 'jerk'.

## INDOOR BOWLING

Some 18 months ago, an ardent bowler (flat green) fan began extolling the virtues of the game within IND and fired the interest of a number of people to the extent that challenges were given and accepted,

and games arranged. A new terminology began to evaporate and with 'more green - less weight' and talk of jacks, forehand and backhand, together with firing and policeman, the game took off.

Now a six team league from IND has been formed playing for an as yet unnamed trophy.

Play takes place at Chatham Indoor Bowls Rink, Riverside, each Tuesday evening from 18.00 to 20.00 (6-8p.m.) amid an atmosphere of happy, friendly rivalry.

It is hoped that as a result a Bowls Club for outdoor as well as indoor activity will now be formed. **Tom Abbott** of IND Stores (Int. 273) and **Jack Wood** are the people to contact.

## FIVE-A-SIDE-FOOTBALL

The Elliott name has now been added to a further competition - Five-a-side-Football.

An Elliott Team is entered in the Medway Towns Red Triangle League, and Division 2 (in which they play) has 14 teams making for a season of 26 games.

Results to date are encouraging and a successful first season can be expected. From the 7 games so far played, 6 have been won and 1 drawn, for a total of 41 goals for. The goal scorers to date are **P. Baker 18**, **Dave Golding 16** and **D. Freeman 7**.

The immediate fixture list covers:-

5 January	v Roadrunners	K.O. 8.05p.m.
10 "	v Lloyds	9.00p.m.
19 "	v Manor Park	8.20p.m.
26 "	v Medway Building Group	8.40p.m.
31 "	v Whistlers	8.20p.m.
7 February	v Pentagon	7.45p.m.

The team includes **Dave Golding**, MASD Drawing Office; **Paul Read**, ISD Engineering; **Graham Thomas**, ISD Engineering; **Dave Freeman**, PSD Contracts; **Peter Baker**, ISD Cost/Budget who also doubles as Secretary.

The team who play at the Casino Sports Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, would be pleased to have supporters, a charge of 10p is made for each spectator by the Casino Management.

## Champions of IND

Photographs of the winners of the Golf Tournament as reported in the November issue.



Viv Young and John France winners of the doubles cup.



Alan Gillett, Mick Broome, Bob Pells and Guy Bodkin winners of the inter-divisional team trophy.



Alan Gillett winner of the singles cup.

## AS & R DIVISION -- XMAS DANCE

The Annual Xmas Buffet Dance, held at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone, by the AS & R Division, on 2 December, turned out to be an excellent evening - reported to be one of the best Christmas do's yet.

For openers, the supporting group, Ivan Jay Combo, made for good entertainment, as a prelude to and during the Buffet, which was a first class meal.

Full marks go to Ron Masters for Booking the music, especially the 'Big Band' Chris Allen and his fine entertainers. Going through the motions of dancing but once I had ample opportunity to sit back and enjoy the music and the vocals which were excellent.

It was nice to see J.E.P. and D.G.T. at the top table, along with H.E. - The Governor, and their wives. It is hoped they enjoyed themselves.

At one stage of the game, the Managing Director was seen to greet our Ernie - 'I'll have a small shandy - Dunn (rtd.) They may well have discussed Ern's second watch!!! Well, let's face it, fifty years with the firm is no mean feat.

The raffle raised for just about the right amount of time, not the usual drawn-out affair. Who won the wine goblets then? No names, no pack drill. Friend Michael was about to shout 'fiddle', when he was reminded that we had to work with the man.

Everybody appeared to enjoy themselves, and as always Vic Cass entertained as only he can, by doing his own thing on the floor.

It was a pity that Roger J. needed to retire early, but as his wife Ann is expecting a happy event, which was due ANY TIME NOW, no prizes for guessing who he was with. We wonder who was baby sitting for Mitzi and Jason? Could it have been Zek!!!

In conclusion, to the Entertainment Committee - THANK YOU - for a job well done. G.W.W. (AS & R)

## COMPANY CLASH

The Annual Quiz Competition organized by **Maidstone Junior Chamber** and **BBC Radio Medway** (Jointly) has again got under way.

On 9 December at Lenham Village Hall, the MEA team of Rod Cole, Mike Popay, Rich Lurcock and Ted Seal, beat the hosts, Lenham Storage, 35-27 in the first round and then went on to beat Geo Wimpey 46-36 in the Quarter Final. The Semi-Finals and Finals will take place on 27 January 1978 at Corpus Christie Hall, Maidstone.

Watch out for announcements of ticket availability and travelling details on notice boards.

The whole competition will be broadcast by BBC Radio Medway commencing Sunday 29 January 1978 at 7.00pm, with a repeat on the following Wednesday at 3.03pm and weekly thereafter.

## It's not "all work and no play" in MASD

To celebrate the anniversary of the 'Orrible Tie' competition, at lunchtime on Thursday, 17 November, the 'Horrendous Hat' competition was held 'somewhere near Chris Scott'. There was a gratifyingly large turnout and most of the entrants are pictured (A Big Thankyou, entrants, for your unstinting efforts at self-abasement!!!).

The winner was Mr. Malcolm Wilkinson-Tough who wore a modified leather flying helmet. Second was Mr. Alan Hodge wearing a very fetching 'granny' hat and gold-rimmed spectacles. And third was Mr. Maurice Morley who appeared to have the contents of an ash-tray on his denim sun-hat.

Despite endless attempts to bribe the judges, Mrs. Glad Boichat, Mrs. Carole Deadman, and Ms. Elaine Almond, their decision was final.

Could we have an interdivisional competition next year? Iain Cannell (MASD)

## SPORTS - INTER-DIVISIONAL

In very cold and windy conditions, FCD played a Rugby Football Match on Saturday with EARL (New Road) as opponents, on the Medway Rugby Club Ground.

Experience seems to have given FCD the advantage and with good passing play among the backs, they were leading 24-4 at half-time. In the second half, with the wind in their favour, FCD continued on their winning way, eventually coming out winners by 50-4 points.

The scorers for FCD were **T. Parnell** and **G. Cordier** (3 tries each) and **C. Wise**, **M. Irland**, **G. Munn** and **A. Scoones** (1 try each), while **T. Lyons**, **C. Wise** and **G. Cordier** converted twice each.

In the flush of success FCD now offer a challenge to any other Division. G. Cordier on Int. 803 would be pleased to make arrangements.

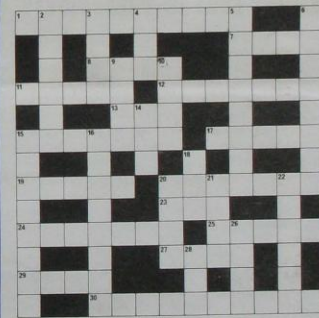
## ATHLETICS

Elliott-Reed A.C. Fixtures list

Date	Fixture	Venue
28 January	Inter-club cross-country	Dartford
"	Kent League cross-country final (Colts, boys)	Canterbury University
"	South of Thames Senior (Seniors, juniors)	Bristol
4 February	Shatesbury Harriers (Colts, boys)	Parliament Hill
"	Inter-club Invicta	Canterbury
11 February	Southern cross-country championship (Boys, youths, juniors, seniors)	To be arranged
18 February	Kent League cross-country final (Youths, juniors, seniors)	Canterbury
25 February	Greater London League final (Colts, boys, youths)	Herne Hill
"	Inter-club cross-country	Crawley
"	Kent Schools cross-country championship	Footscray Meadow, Sidcup

## CROSSWORD No. 3

Compiled by W. Mills



### ACROSS

- Vegetables are produced when the first King Arthur in short, bites off more than he can chew (10)
- Mexican ditch digger? (4)
- Used to be financially embarrassed in a low edifice (4)
- Senselessly, Nan gets between that is (5)
- Give weapons to musicians for a hold-up? (7)
- Mistake for a sign of humanity (3)
- Lapdog fed on broken biscuits at tea time? (7)
- Brownish ink in these pianos (5)
- French town for a corner-house snack? (5)
- American variation of Bezique (7)
- Alone again an hour after noon (3)
- Collapse and report to fill a vacant vessel (7)
- The mad general's lady (5)
- Movement of horses in strict rotation (4)
- Bombard an animal destined for a fur coat (4)
- Eric to help, scrambles for a wingless flyer (10)

### DOWN

- Athlete on his way to Bow Street? (6)
- Hallowed picture (4)
- Americans put it down for a square dance (3)
- In Mexico they'll dance at the drop of one (8)
- Mallard follows a chap to find a magic root (8)
- No more my lady (4)
- Cupid's missile (4)
- Sky sign for cautious shepherds, a.m. (3)
- Fairground music maker (8)
- A pillar of stone on its own (8)
- Metal for making little gods and whistles? (3)
- Rhymer hidden by Edgar Allan Poe too (4)
- A Greek nobody who became Nautlius' captain (4)
- French vegetable is merely a pool in England (6)
- An indefinite article and a child's toy are found together in the highest position (4)
- Sinbad's air transport? (3)

### FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY

Solution to crossword No. 2

### ACROSS

- Newest, 5 Hobber, 9 UR, 10 ER, 11 Transatlantic, 14 Tie, 15 Antip, 16 Eve, 17 Fee, 18 Rev, 20 Airt, 21 Calk, 24 Bid, 27 Draw, 31 Ale, 32 Radar, 33 Are, 34 Sea, 35 Armp, 36 Sea, 37 Typographical, 39 Epee, 40 Rest, 41 Rest.

### DOWN

- Natter, 2 Weasel, 3 Susan, 4 Trade, 5 Help, 6 Orate, 7 Butter, 8 Record, 12 Rise, 13 Toss, 18 Yak, 20 And, 21 Castle, 22 Alley, 23 Leader, 24 Barret, 25 Idea, 26 Dapper, 28 Rascal, 29 Area, 30 Wealds, 32 Rages, 38 Ope.

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