

# LIFT-OFF

Number 4

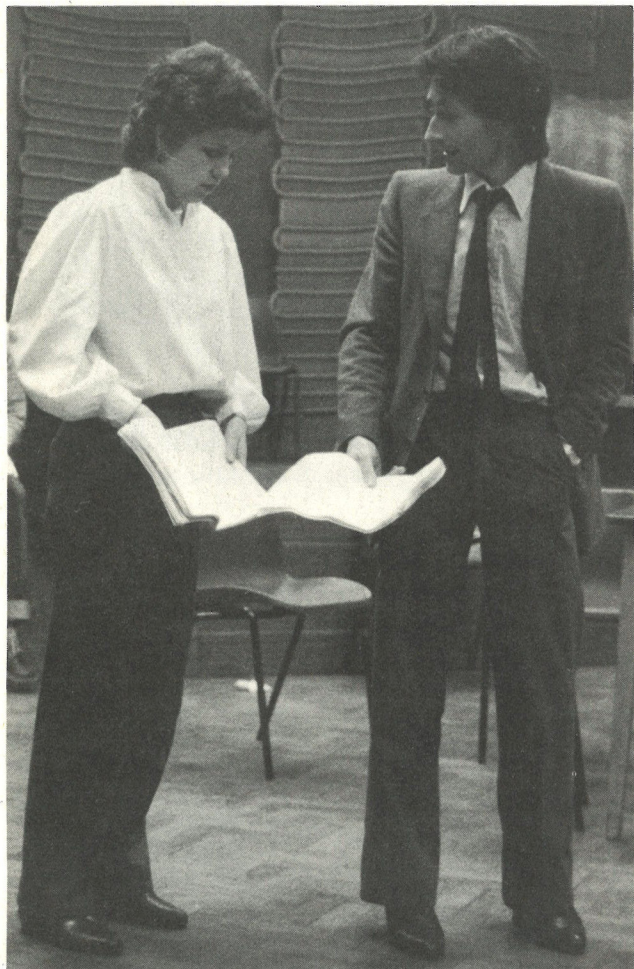
April/May 1982

Newspaper of the Otis Elevator Company Limited (UK)

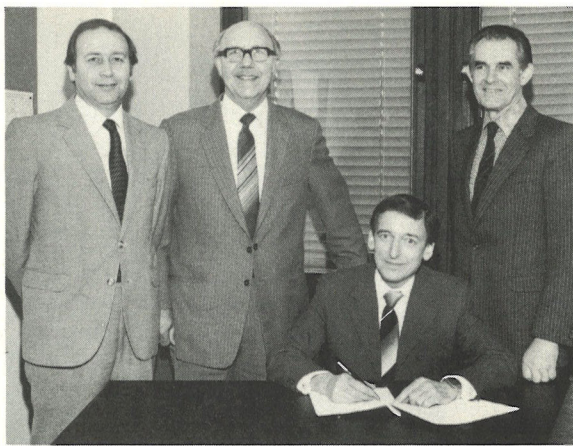
## SHELL UK MAKE IT A FIRST

### Elevonic 401 modernisation

### BLESS THE BRIDE



Alison Jackson at Clapham Road is currently in rehearsal for 'The Respectable Wedding' by Bertold Brecht which will be put on at Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, London, on 20, 21 and 22 May. Alison plays the bride, Maria, in this comedy set in 1930s Germany. Photo by Matt Beale-Collins



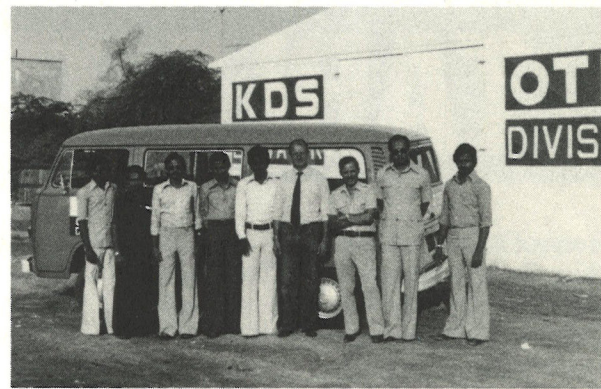
We are extremely pleased to announce that Shell UK has given us our first order for modernising an existing group of lifts to the Elevonic 401 microprocessor system.

Existing installation is a 4-car group at the Shell Centre, South Bank, London and will incorporate the complete Elevonic 401 system including fixtures and voice synthesis. This is the first Elevonic modernisation order received anywhere in the world outside the USA.

Otis has enjoyed a long and happy relationship with Shell over the last 23 years with almost 100 units under maintenance at the Shell Centre.

Pictured here are, l to r, Bill Whittaker, London Area Service Manager; Ted Seymour, Senior Sales Representative; Mr Gerry Starvis, Head of Electrical-Mechanical Engineering Services, Estates Division, Shell UK; Ken Paige, Director of Zone Operations.

## SELLING OTIS ON THE ARABIAN GULF



George Prodrick and Jack Buchanan with some of their staff

George Prodrick runs KDS, Otis agents in Doha, Qatar.

He wrote to Ted Seymour in London Service Sales:

"Work here has been very enjoyable for me. When I started there were no buildings or vehicles like the ones in the photograph.

"But I arranged finance for developing this site for storing lift materials, built workshops and developed our service department.

"I have recently secured the

services of Jack Buchanan who is now living here and working as field supervisor.

"At the present time there are 47 people on my staff.

"We now install about 50 lifts a year, ranging from panoramic to gearless series 80/HR/HP down to LM models which I stock locally for immediate sale.

"The last time I returned to UK and Paris I bought 20 lifts for my stock. They are now all sold".

## More new contracts

Debenhams, North End, Croydon. Nine escalators

Hampstead Underground. Two 269HT lifts

Offices at Olympic Way, Wembley. Five SM1093 lifts

Cleland House, John Islip Street, London SW1.

Four Elevonic 401 lifts, one 19BT lift and one 15ATL lift

## Grants for pensioners

Last year we invited a number of pensioners or their widows to apply for a grant from the Benevolent Fund of the Engineering Employers Federation, to which Otis belongs.

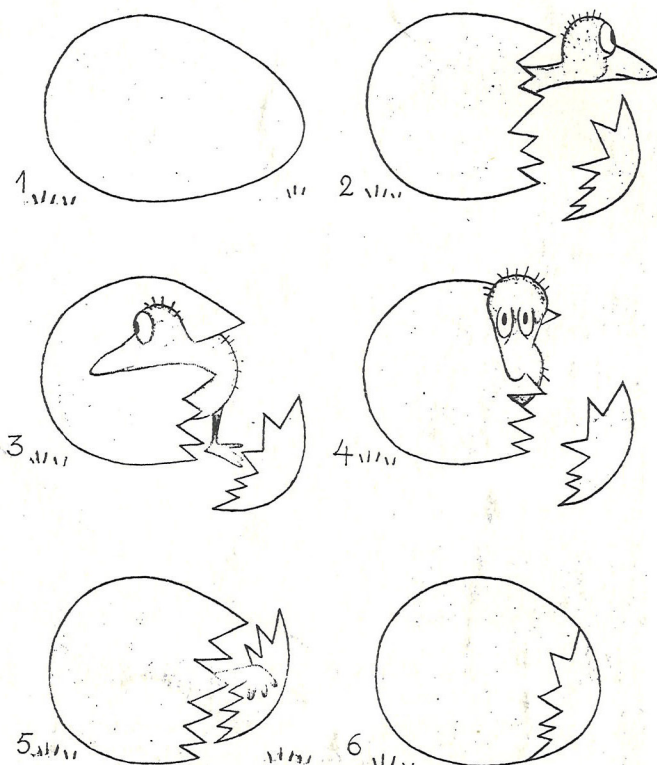
Four grants have now been made to pensioners ranging in age from 74 to 81 and with up to 45 years' service with Otis. The grants were made up of a basic award plus £10 in recognition of the Royal

Wedding and a £20 Christmas box.

Grants are made to people in necessitous circumstances who are, or have been, employed in a position of trust by the company, so we know these awards were very deserving.

If you know of anyone likely to be eligible, please let Personnel Department know - applications are due now for 1982.

## That was Easter, that was





# DOING WELL AT TABLE TENNIS

Liverpool Business Houses Table Tennis League is quite a mouthful. But it has a history going back over 20 years and since its formation in 1948 has grown in size and reputation.

One of the most respected and consistently successful clubs in the league, writes Alan McNamee, is the Otis Table Tennis Club.

## 1959

Largely due to the efforts of Geoff Wells and Bill Clayton, it was first formed in 1959.

Geoff, who is now a senior engineer at Kirkby, was at that time in the Personnel Department. Bill Clayton left the company in 1978. But as a life member of the Sports and Social Club, and also a member of the Table Tennis League committee, he retains strong links.

The other originals were Ted Newton, Les Danes, Len Danify and Ken Smith, of whom only Len Danify remains at Otis.

The club won their first trophy, the Lockheed Cup, in 1960, and since then have collected a considerable number of honours, including the First Division title on 11 occasions – at one period for five consecutive years.

The Knock-out Cup has also been won 11 times, including a stretch of eight consecutive years, and the Three-a-side Cup won eight times.

## PROGRESS

Lower teams have also won several divisional championships to make progress through the league.

Roy Jones, Bill Clayton, Ted Gilmour and Geoff Edmunds (Geoff is the only one still at Otis) have re-

presented Liverpool in inter-city events and Geoff, who works in the Heavy Machine Shop and is currently secretary, has also won the league Individual Championship.

The two longest serving players are Les Gee and Alan McNamee. Both started playing in 1964.

## NEW WAVE

The new wave of players are continuing the Otis tradition in three teams, with the first team currently second in the First Division.

Our third team have achieved a first this season by reaching the final of the Three-a-Side Chester Cup.

Unfortunately the result went against them but congratulations on doing so well to Tom Edwards (Group 5 Assembly), Tony Massey (Industrial Engineering) and Bill Kelly (Data Processing).

# GOLDEN OLDIES

In the first issue of Lift-Off we asked: Which is the oldest lift installation in the country?

I am unable to answer that, writes Alan Blackburn, but I have some fascinating details of lifts supplied many years ago to other countries throughout the world.

The first lift supplied to western India was hand-powered and sent out in 1884 for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and installed at Delhi.

## BOMBAY

In 1901 the first electric lift in Bombay was supplied to the British Steam Navigation Company.

Eastern India's first lift, a hydraulic, went to Allen Brothers in Calcutta in 1889.

By 1891 hydraulic lifts were going to Hong Kong and the first electric lift was supplied in 1898 to Danby Leigh & Company.

China received its first Otis lifts in 1895, and they were two suspended goods lifts in Shanghai Territory; the first electric passenger lift arriving in 1906 for the Victoria Building, Tientsin.

In 1890 Otis had got to Russia and by 1900 an electric passenger lift was in the Hotel Metropole in Moscow.

One installation conjuring up exotic visions is the lift

supplied in 1905 to the King of Siam. The king was Chulalongkorn, son of the king depicted in *The King and I*. He was educated by Mrs Anna Leonowens, who no doubt rode in the lift.

Nearer home, the famous Hotel Metropole in Cannes had the first Otis lift in France, an 'F' type installed in 1899.

Austria received two lifts in 1886 and they went into the Ministry of Finance in Vienna, and the previous year Italy had its first, a hydraulic for F. E. Cutler, Spezia.

The summer holiday season is coming, says Alan, and readers going abroad may well encounter some more golden oldies.

## MADEIRA

In Madeira, a popular resort, you might find Jones Hotel, which received its first Otis lift in 1888. Or Radds Hotel, also in Madeira, whose first installation was in 1902.

Good hunting.

## Twice a grand-dad

Bill Roberts, in Liverpool works industrial engineering department was made a grand-dad for the second time on 26 February when his daughter, Tanya, had a baby girl.

## SIAMESE FOR SALE

Fiona Williams at Liverpool works has beautiful Siamese kittens for sale. Only loving homes need apply. Excellent pedigree, good temperament fully inoculated, FE LV negative.

Ring Fiona at work on 051 546 2961 X 324 or at home on Warrington 31936.

## Paul has gone down under

Birmingham fitter Paul Young left UK on 25 January with his wife, Anne, and two children, Nicola and Christopher, to start a new life in Perth, Western Australia.

Actually, not an entirely new life, because Paul will still be working for Otis.

He joined the company in Birmingham as a construction fitter's mate in March 1970 at the age of 20.

When he left he was a senior fitter with chargehand status.

When he arrives in Perth he will stay temporarily with his brother, Brian, a Birmingham-trained Otis apprentice who has lived in Perth for 14 years.

All Paul's friends in Birmingham, Central District Manager Bill Pillans and construction supervisor John Coss, wish him and his family the very best.

# Long Service Awards

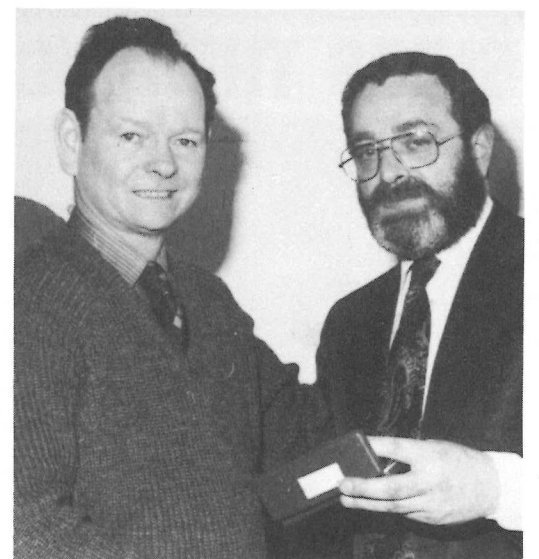
*Eight men at Liverpool works received their Long Service Awards from Julian Levy, Director of Manufacturing. Bob Knill, (photo at top left) received his watch from John Crockford, Contract Specifying Manager*



Bob Knill (left), design draughtsman in the Contract Specifying Department, with manager John Crockford



Matt Mathews, packer/case maker in Department 48.



Jim Bruce, joiner in Department 49.



With Julian Levy, l to r, are Ken Wright, maintenance electrical supervisor; Mick O'Connor, packer in Department 48; Jack Holme, supervisor in Department 43, controller test; and Tommy Doherty, link man in Department 38.

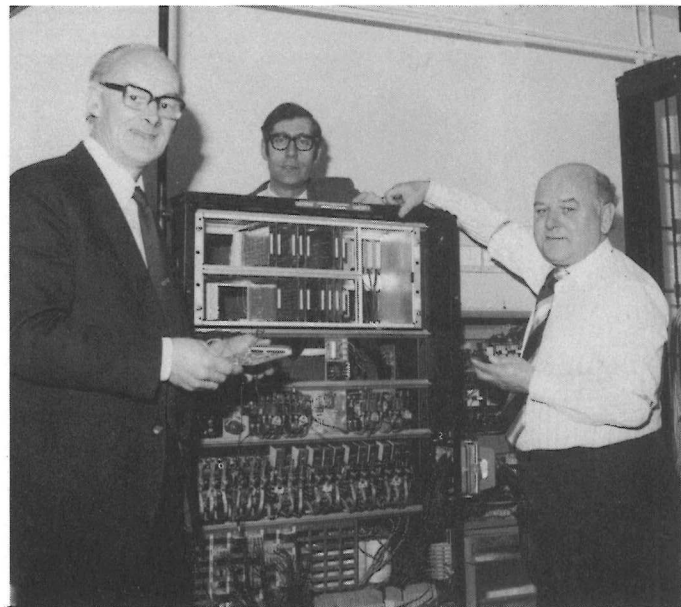


Tommy Ball, bending machine setter operator in Department 38.



Ray Hale, senior industrial engineer.





## We visit Colin Coast and his colleagues in the Training Department to learn about their work

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The lift industry has moved rapidly into high technology and thorough training in every aspect of the business has become increasingly important.

Colin Coast, Otis Training Manager since June 1981, says the company believes very strongly in training and is making a considerable investment to support it.

Colin's team (and it is a team) consists of John James, Jim Campbell, Don Oliver, Derek Smith and Cecilia Matthews, who is administration officer. John covers all field training south of Nottingham; Jim handles the north of England, Scotland and Ireland, and Cecilia ensures that the paperwork systems run smoothly and efficiently.

### TWO

There are two company training centres. One is at Clapham Road and the other at Liverpool works. Between them they cover every kind of technical training.

Both operate on a national

basis and take in personnel from all over the country. But at Liverpool they concentrate on traditional equipment and hydraulics, while at Clapham Road, for the moment at least, they are dealing with the high technology area.

### RESIDENT

John James has responsibility for the Clapham Road training centre, with Derek Smith as resident instructor. Derek is a superintendent tester seconded from the field.

At Liverpool, the training centre is the responsibility of Jim Campbell, with considerable assistance from works Training Officer Alan Blackburn. The resident instructor is Don Oliver, a tester who has also been seconded from the field.

Both Derek and Don are highly skilled in their crafts but also have the essential gift of being able to put over what they know.

There are also people from

the FOD department and superintendent testers – people who have got specific skills – who gladly give of their time to lecture on courses and who are of the greatest assistance to the Training Department.

In fact, so important is this aspect, that a course called 'Training the Trainers' is being held to advise them on presentation techniques.

John James and Jim Campbell administer the training of apprentices and monitor their progress in conjunction with the Engineering Industrial Training Board. Both stress that it is the supervisor who takes responsibility for the apprentice when he is in the field; their job is to ensure that the training modules are followed and to give advice and assistance where appropriate.

And they also see apprentices through their academic training courses, and are very firm about it. With so much high technology equipment coming in they know the youngsters will need all the

education they can get.

A most interesting aspect of training is that the lift industry is probably unique in allowing an adult entrant to reach craft status.

An adult fitter's mate can be nominated to go into the modular training system, similar to that undergone by an apprentice but without the academic element – although he is encouraged to take this and reach improver status and then on to skilled craftsman. All this, of course, is with full union agreement.

But the department does not cover only technical training. Colin Coast is beginning to tackle the supervisory and management area, which is his speciality, and in January a first course was held for salesmen.

This consisted of a week in the Coventry area, using external consultants, and was described as very hard and intensive but of great value.

A further course will cover products, paperwork

and systems, which will be internal, using Otis lecturers.

Colin is also becoming more and more involved in the group subsidiary companies.

### OUTSIDE

A little known aspect is that the department organises the training of Otis people sent to UK from various parts of the world, and also trains staff from outside organisations like Phillips Petroleum, the National Coal Board, London Transport and the British Airport Authority.

It is supervisors, testers and fitters, out in the field, who get involved in this, and the department is the first to acknowledge its debt to them.

Something new is that at the Liverpool apprentices' school 23 local youngsters are in the care of Alan Blackburn in association with the Manpower Services Commission. They will do 20 weeks in the school and then

24 weeks in the works and offices to give them some business-related experience.

As you can see, a lot is going on in the Training Department.

But, from the bottom of his heart, Colin Coast makes an important plea to managers and supervisors who have nominated a man to go on a course. He says:

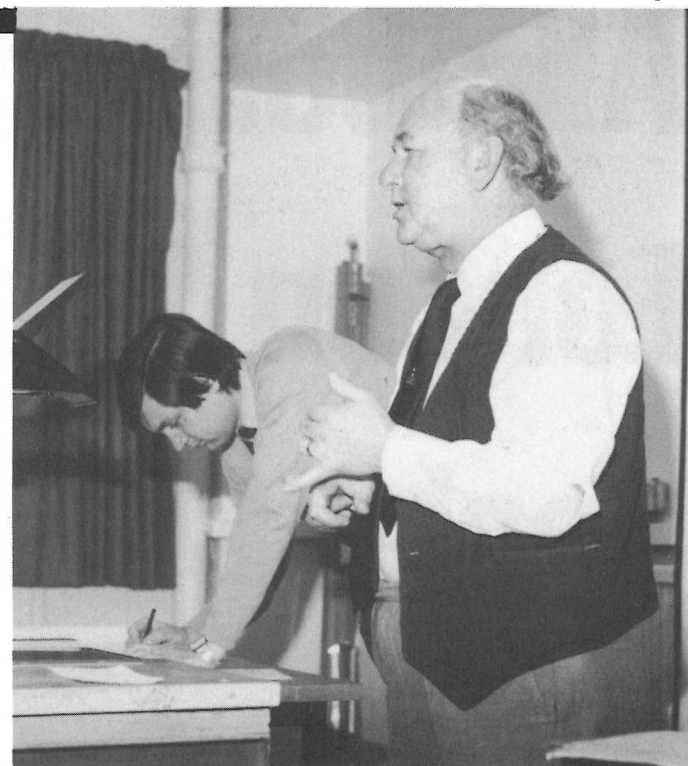
"Please leave him alone to do the course. Don't keep coming in and dragging him out because you need an answer about something."

"You're not only breaking his concentration, you're affecting everyone else on the course."

"Messages can be left and the man on the course will ring back at the next natural break."

"Surely there are few problems so urgent that they won't wait half an hour."

"And, after all, when he does come back to you at the end of an uninterrupted course, he will be all the more useful, won't he?"



Opposite, Jim Campbell, Colin Coast (centre) and John James in the London training centre. Above, John James taking a course at Clapham Road. Behind him is Elevonic engineer Mike Lyons



Group on the course included George Ketley, Dan Suphi (assistant field engineer), Ken Carpenter (Bournemouth) and Ray Ridgely (Brighton)

Below, Harry Smith and Mo Jepson with some of the local youngsters who are at the Liverpool training centre in association with the Manpower Services Commission. Below right, listening intently to John James are Ernie Gibbs (London), Tom Grist (Newcastle), Steve Cordery (Luton) and Bob Munsie (Edinburgh)





# All about the London Sports & Social Club

The club has been in existence for several years and comprises a main committee and various sub-sections.

The Sea Angling section is run by **Ken Stenson**, who seems to have made a rod for his own back, and organises regular fishing trips throughout the year.

Cricket is organised by **Rod Cranfield** and various inter-company matches have been held in-between the drinking sessions. If you know of teams looking for fixtures, and who would enjoy one of the club's well-known after (during and before) match gatherings, please contact Rod.

## FOOTBALL

**Barry Rains** heads the Football section. This year it has managed to field a largely new squad and is winning matches. A shame that success comes just too late for World Cup qualification.

The Golf section is run by

**Alan Goodin** and further information can be obtained from him at the 19th hole.

Last year a new section was added to the club. This is the Clapham Road Otis Camera Society (CROCS for short) and enthusiasm is strong within the group after the acquisition of a dark room and enlarger.

All aspects of photography are catered for. Further details from **Denis Kelly**, or **Alison Jackson**.

## CHAIRMAN

**Bill Bringlow** is club chairman and organiser of the annual children's Christmas party, an event the kiddies enjoy nearly as much as Bill!

**Ron Hosier** is treasurer and holder of the purse strings.

**Sue Gittins** is secretary and just manages to overcome an all-male domination of the club.

**Jimmy Green** is the Eric Morley of the annual dinner

dance, **Geoff Farge** is resident DJ, and last but not least, **Steve Waterworth** seems to get involved in just about everything.

The gala, which over the last few years has been open to all branches and not just London, was once again hit by traditional British summer weather – wind and rain which put a slight damper on the proceedings – but a good time was had by all.

There was even worse weather for the river boat disco, which went ahead despite ice, snow and freezing temperatures, thanks to the many hardy sailors who beat the weather to get there.

## SUGGESTION

If you have a suggestion for a new section, or for a one-off event, please contact a committee member. It will be raised at the next committee meeting and fully considered.

## Elisha wouldn't have liked it!

In January a Nottingham court was told about a lift in a grocer's shop which had a bicycle wheel as its main pulley and counterweights held together with string.

An environmental health officer said it was 'a Heath Robinson affair' and a great danger to anyone operating it.

## NEVER BEFORE

And a senior inspector of factories with the Health & Safety Executive said that in 20 years' experience of com-

mercial and passenger lifts he had never seen anything like it before.

## ANGLE IRONS

The lift was constructed around angle irons and had hardboard sides. A bicycle wheel operated the pulley and the drive was a half-inch bicycle chain.

The electrics ran from an unidentifiable motor from which the reference plates had been removed. Ordinary domestic cable had been used

for wiring and the cut-out switch was held by elastic bands.

The lift was described by its constructor, a retired lift manufacturer, as after a design he had seen in the Dutch East Indies in 1947.

He said he considered the lift to be safe and had tested it by standing on top of it with goods inside.

He was fined £100 on each of three summonses of building and operating an unsafe goods lift and ordered to pay £200 costs.

**1982 Otis National Golf Tournament will be held at the same venue as last year – Moor Hall Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.**

**The date is Tuesday 24 August 1982.**

**Green fee at Moor Hall has not increased since last year and remains at £7.00. It is anticipated that the entry fee will also remain unchanged at £2.00.**

**Confirmation of these and other details will be circulated as soon as they become available.**

**Although there was a fairly small turn out last year, increased interest is anticipated for the 1982 event and early application for entry is recommended. There will be a limit to the numbers which can be accommodated.**

**Entry forms can now be obtained from: Alan McNamee, Personnel Department, Otis Elevator Company, Moorgate Road, Kirkby, Liverpool.**

**Please note that the competition is open to all Otis employees provided they have a valid handicap issued by a recognised golf club or a golfing society.**



## Waiting for his big chance

Otis Dublin branch manager **Barry O'Connor** plays rugby for the Irish 'B' team and should be in line soon for a full international cap. Read all about it and see the fine full-colour action pictures in the Spring issue of Otis Magazine.

## Caring for the works' image



Lorraine Bond



Diane Cook



Latest arrival is **Ann Griffiths** at the Telex

You would be surprised how many businessmen judge a company by the greeting they get from the receptionist or the switchboard operators.

If the receptionist doesn't smile, and the switchboard girls couldn't care less, the reputation of the company suffers immediately.

At Liverpool works the personal visitor or telephone caller gets friendly and courteous attention from the three whose job it is to maintain good relations and communications.

The visitor first meets **Diane Cook**, whose husband, **Jim**, is in the Product Data Group.

**Diane** is receptionist and switchboard operator and she signs in visitors and makes sure they get to see who they want to see.

## TELEX

**Ann Griffiths** job covers the world – and that is not an exaggeration. She operates the Telex and sends and receives messages to and from Otis sister com-

panies, and customers, wherever they may be.

## POST

Postal services are in the capable hands of **Lorraine Bond**, who also shares the switchboard operation.

**Ann** and **Lorraine** are, in addition, in charge of the recently installed Infotec 6000 system.

The maintenance of good communications is essential to the existence of Liverpool works and these three have a vital job.

**ENTER  
NOW  
FOR  
1982  
GOLF**



# GOING TO THE DOGS

## There's more to it than just keeping a family pet

When Arthur and Kay Abbott lost their boxer dog in 1970 they bought an alsatian.

It was, as they say, the start of something big.

There are now 11 alsatians, four rough collies and one border collie in kennels, constructed by Arthur, at the back of their bungalow in Southport.

### AWARDS

And they have collected a pile of rosettes and awards for entering dogs in various shows.

Arthur's top dog at the moment is a 4-year-old alsatian called Pepper. Full name is Arkaton's Devil's Delight – the Arkaton bit being the Abbott's official code prefix.

Arthur, who is supervisor of mechanical architectural products at Liverpool works, told us:

"You start by entering



Kay Abbott with champion alsation Pepper.

small limited shows and then graduate to open shows which give you the rosettes.

### CHAMPIONSHIP

"If you think the dog is good enough you have a go at a championship show.

"A first, second or third award in a championship show qualifies your dog for a Cruft's entry in London".

The Abbotts prefer to concentrate on the smaller shows for breed and obedience. The big championships tend to be dominated

by commercial breeders and it all gets too serious.

For Arthur and Kay, their dogs are an absorbing hobby, not a business.

They thoroughly enjoy the enormous amount of work that goes into breeding, keeping and showing

their dogs, and that exciting moment in the ring when the judges say: "Take them round, please", and the dogs are on parade.

Because alsatians have an uncertain reputation for behaviour, we asked Arthur's advice to anyone

considering buying one.

"The alsatian is a busy-minded dog", he said, "and it must be kept busy all the time. Then it is no problem.

"If you haven't got the time to keep it well occupied – then consider some other breed".



Arthur Abbott with some of the awards won by his dogs.



From the lovely Cornish village of Mevagissey Mrs Winifrid Field (nee Jordan) writes:

I must be one of the few female members of the OLSA. I joined the company in 1931 under Charles Cousins in the Production Engineering Department in Falmouth Road, and remained in that department for the full term of my service.

### MEMORIES

Enclosed are some snapshots which may bring back memories to many.

The interior photograph is of the office at Falmouth Road on the first floor and was taken before the last war. I was one of the few remaining who helped to clean up the glass after bombing by a doodle bug during the war. And there was plenty of glass, I can assure you.

The big group under the trees was taken on one of our very happy treasure hunts. They were great fun and organised by Jack

Plumidge. I could tell you the names of many in this picture but not all.

In the men-only picture, taken on the Falmouth Road roof, the surnames are Jarmin, Spences, McLaren, Booker, Irwin, Miles, can't remember the next, Trill and John Becker who was later killed in an air raid.

In the mixed group, the first man's name eludes me, but then there is Thomas, above his head is Booker, then Mrs Trinder, Jarmin, can't recall the next lady, then McLaren, Miles, forget the next one, then Spences, Elsie Weatherby, myself, Cushion, Mrs Menzies, and I cannot recall the last lady.

### TREASURED

I have treasured these photographs over many years and they always bring back such happy memories.

May your efforts on behalf of Lift-Off be crowned with success – and I look forward to future copies.

## PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Part of first floor office at Falmouth Road which later suffered bomb damage



Above, group on the Falmouth Road roof before the last war. John Becker (far right) was later killed in an air raid. Top left, on a happy treasure hunt in the country



Another group on the Falmouth Road roof. Winifrid Field, then Winifrid Jordan, is fourth from the right.



# Dear computer,...

It all started with a letter to Clapham Road from Mr David Watson, a property agent in Glasgow. He wrote:

My dear computer, re account no M78CC 1445, Mains Avenue, Glasgow.

Firstly, let us offer to you our sincere sympathies.

Obviously, since October 1979, the humans who look after you have been over-working you unnecessarily and feeding you a totally indigestible diet of information.

## FORCED

This has resulted in your being forced to issue statements for the above property although, in actual fact, the contract with your firm for the property was cancelled with effect from 1 October 1979.

The most recent statement we have received from you shows that you have been fed

with eight invoices for the property giving a total of £3,926.23. This must be as indigestible to you as it is to us.

## HUMANS

We would suggest that you now insist to the humans who care for you that they feed you with a diet of Transaction Code No 4, amounting to £3,926.23. This should help to return your system to normal and would certainly make us feel very much better.

Wishing you a happy diet and a speedy recovery. Yours faithfully, David Watson".

The following day the Otis computer replied to Mr Watson:

*My humans are so sorry and do apologise, the statement's sent in error, it was not very nice. The branch forgot to cancel that's where the trouble was*

*they promised to attend to it (we've heard that in the past). Now you have made me very sad and I've begun to cry the nuts and bolts are rusting and if I could - I'd die. The printing ink has dried out I've had enough of life That is the last you have heard of CC1445. I hope. Yours faithfully, the computer.*

## LAST WORD

You might have thought that was the end of it. But no. The good-humoured Mr Watson had the last word, through his partner, Mr Alan Williams:

*Dear computer, I thank you for your answer So neatly put in rhyme I'm glad the problem's sorted out After all this time. I don't want you to blame yourself Nor all your pieces rusted.*

*We both know where the problem lies Humans can't be trusted. So fret no more computer It isn't worth the worry The contract's now been cancelled And the branch have said they're sorry. The apology's accepted We have closed our file The matter's been resolved at last And given us both a smile. Nice one, gentlemen.*

When London Transport wanted to test some experimental escalator cleat treads, some time before or after the First World War, they got a crowd of people to march up and down. Everybody, as you can see, wore hats in those days. Picture was taken at the LTE White City, London depot.

## WHAT A WAY TO TEST AN ESCALATOR!



# SEMINAR IN JAMAICA

International field engineer Bob Rayfield spent five weeks in Jamaica to train mechanics working for Otis agent Conditionedair & Associated Contractors Limited. Because of the thriving business economy in Jamaica he took the opportunity to organise seminars for potential customers. Photo above shows Bob lecturing to CAC staff with their managing director, Gordon Spence, front row right.

In photo on right, Izett McCalla, CAC marketing services manager, talks with Miss Nadine Isaacs (architect, Neil Richards & Associates), Rivi Gardener (Rivi Gardener & Associates) and Errol Spence (quantity surveyor, Berkeley & Spence)

