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The internal newsletter of ACT Services Ltd.

# SO WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

By Peter Yarwood

**W**HEN Associated Container Transportation Limited was formed in 1966 it was a small, compact unit in which nearly everybody knew everybody else. If you wanted information, you just knocked on the door of the room next to yours and asked for it.

This is, of course, a slight exaggeration, but it does convey the impression sufficiently realistically to indicate that in those days there was no communications problem.

Today, the picture is very different. To begin with there are many more companies in the group than there were in 1966. Secondly, there are many more staff.

Today, ACT Services Limited has a payroll of about 650. In addition, there is ACT (Australia) Ltd, with some 100 staff throughout Britain.

Then, too, there is Ben Line Containers Ltd, on the Far East trade, with a head office in Edinburgh and a network of UK agencies under the umbrella of Killick Martin & Co Ltd.

Overseas, ACT (Australia) Ltd, has comparable companies in Australia, New Zealand and the USA; while Ben Line Containers has both direct and agency representation in the Far East — in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan.

## PROBLEMS OF GROWING UP

So, eight years after it all began, the family has grown: there are now several companies within the group, each company with a significant number of staff.

Communications today really are a problem, and it is easy to get out of touch. I have been particularly conscious of this in Britain, where we have 11 offices, including Richmond House. With such a spread, personal contact is difficult and it is all too easy for staff to think of themselves as insular cogs in a giant machine rather than as members of a wholly integrated family striving to make progress in the world of containerisation. From talks I have had with many of you, I know your interests range beyond your own desk and your own office. You would like to know what else is going on in the ACT world.

This house magazine, therefore, is introduced not only in response to your particular wishes, but is a serious attempt to bridge the communications gap.

Correspondents have been appointed in all our offices throughout Britain. (You will find their names on Page Four). Internationally, our friends in Australia, New Zealand, America and the Far East have been contacted and in the months and years to come there will be a two-way flow of news and articles with the express aim of bringing us all closer together. Nor have we forgotten the ships'



The towering Southampton headquarters of ACTS.

officers and crews who are also a vital part of the family and carry our cargoes across the high seas.

We hope you will contact our correspondents whenever you have news which you believe could interest those working with you — as well as those working at other centres. We want news of social and sporting occasions, of dinners and dances, weddings and babies, appointments and retirements, unusual hobbies and pastimes — all the things that go to make up our daily life.

We shall seek also to publish features and pictures which will keep readers informed about what goes on in the group as a whole: how certain changes from time to time may affect you — and not always for the worse!; what progress your company is making in a somewhat troubled world, and what plans we have for the group — and for you. **THIS IS YOUR NEWSPAPER.** We hope you will like it.



**WHAT'S** in a name? Well, if you can suggest a suitable title for this new publication, there's £5 in it for you.

We need a title which sums up, in just two words, the aims of this newsletter.

Write down your suggested title, on a postcard, and send it, before August 31, to Editorial Department, ACT News, Bullock & Turner Ltd, 60 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AJ.



## The day ACT and OCL staged a 'merger'

**THERE** was a 'merger' between ACT and OCL—in a small way, of course, — when 20-year-old Sue Matthews married Layland Barker at Cranham Parish Church.

Sue, a deputy accounts supervisor at Barking and formerly a freight amendment clerk at Head Office has been with ACTS for three-and-a-half years, and Layland is a transport controller for OCL.

Sue, who wore a white crepe dress, with bodice and cuffs trimmed with guipure lace, and long train, lists her spare-time interests as dancing, swimming and ice skating.



# NOW LEEDS No.1 GIRL SAYS GOODBYE



Anne Heeson with her boss, Leeds manager Mr Armistead.

## ... and Anne had gone full circle

**W**HEN Anne Heeson (formerly Anne Thompson) left ACTS earlier this year, she had gone full circle with the company. She celebrated her engagement and her 21st birthday, was married and then left to have a baby — all while with ACTS.

As the first person employed five and a half years ago by Regional Manager Mr Armistead, she was the only person in the office, with thirty empty desks, while Mr Armistead was training.

Anne worked as typist, telephonist, telex operator and, finally, as a punch operator.

To mark her departure, the ladies of the region had a night at Wakefield Theatre Club. Anne, who is an ardent Leeds United supporter, was presented on stage with a well-wrapped blue "potty" trimmed with Leeds United colours, and a bouquet.

Before she finally left Leeds office Mr Armistead presented her with several gifts from all members of the staff.

## Copper's life on the ocean wave

WHEN Lititia Eagle, affectionately known as "Copper", is not busily operating a telex machine at Southampton Terminal, she may be found enjoying one of her more exciting activities.

Last year, for instance, she was adopted as mascot of the Southern Ferries car ferry "Eagle", which operates a ferry and mini cruise service from Southampton to Spain and North Africa.

Since becoming the vessel's mascot, "Copper" has attended a number of functions aboard, and has made a round trip to Spain and back as a guest of the ship.

When not acting as "Eagle" mascot, she changes from Merchant Navy to Royal Navy and assumes her role as a Communications Wren in the Solent division of the Royal Navy Reserve. This year she has been selected for overseas training and will spend two weeks with the Navy in Gibraltar.

Engaged to a RNR officer, "Copper", plans to marry later this year.

### WEDDING BELLES

Richard Thomas, of Documentary Services, and his bride Marie Davies, who worked for Southern Gas in Southampton, chose Padstow, in Cornwall, for a honeymoon after their wedding at Lymington Registry Office.

Another bridegroom from Documentary Services, Steve Burdett-Clarke, was married in February to Sue Mason of Administration.

### WELCOME

Welcome to Stewart Yates and Kevin Hutchins, who have both joined Management Services at Southampton.

### WHO'S FOR CHESS?

Anyone who would like to take part in an inter-company postal chess league should contact Brian Creighton, of Management Services, Southampton.

### LIVER BIRDS

At Seaforth, two new "Liver Birds" — a daughter, Michelle, for Mrs Maureen Paynter of the Accounts Department, closely followed by another daughter, Gale Helen, for Mrs Linda Shacklady.



Susan Copeman — at 21.



Doris Thurwell, with painting of ACT 1.



Francis Odulami

## An awful lot of coffee

There's nothing like the bracing air of Leeds — some blame the office coffee — for producing bonny, bouncing babies. Within a matter of eighteen months there will have been no fewer than 10 additions to the Yorkshire "team".

The proud ACTS mothers and mothers-to-be are: Mrs Anne Heeson (see above), Mrs Carol Farrar (punch room), Mrs Anne Lawrence (coding), Mrs Christine Fletcher (bookings), Mrs Barbara Clark (coding), Mrs Margaret Drewitt (coding), Mrs Eileen Parker (typist) and Mrs Susan Griffiths (typist).

Two male members of staff also drank the office coffee! David Barnett's wife — he's in export — had a daughter in February, and Richard Baker's wife — he's in accounts — is expecting a child in October.

Any colleagues visiting Leeds are advised to beware of the dreaded brew . . .

## Doris the painter

When Doris Thurwell's son was 10 — he's now 25 — his parents decided to give him a painting set as a birthday present. He never actually received it — BECAUSE DORIS HERSELF DECIDED TO "HAVE A GO".

Today Doris, who works in the accounts section at Leeds, has a pretty impressive collection of portrait and other paintings. It was perhaps only to be expected that a container ship should figure large in one of them, as the picture (left) shows. The ship is ACT 1.

## 21 today

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Susan Copeman, reaching the ripe old age of 21. Susan, a typist, likes Leeds office so much that she travels from Doncaster each day.

## Well done, Francis

Congratulations also to Francis Odulami, of the Leeds Accounts Section, who has recently passed his final (all but one part) of the A.C.C.A.

Francis has been with the company six months. He joined direct from Leeds Polytechnic.

## INTRODUCING AVRIL'S MENAGERIE

CAN anybody beat the 'menagerie' of Leeds receptionist Mrs Avril Speck? She has one goldfish, two guinea pigs, one hamster, one basset hound, four tortoises and two stick insects (now returned to school).

Avril and husband Brian holidayed in Majorca in May with several ladies from Leeds office. Lucky Brian!



# Mike the bike does it again!

## HE BEATS THE WIND AND THE RECORD

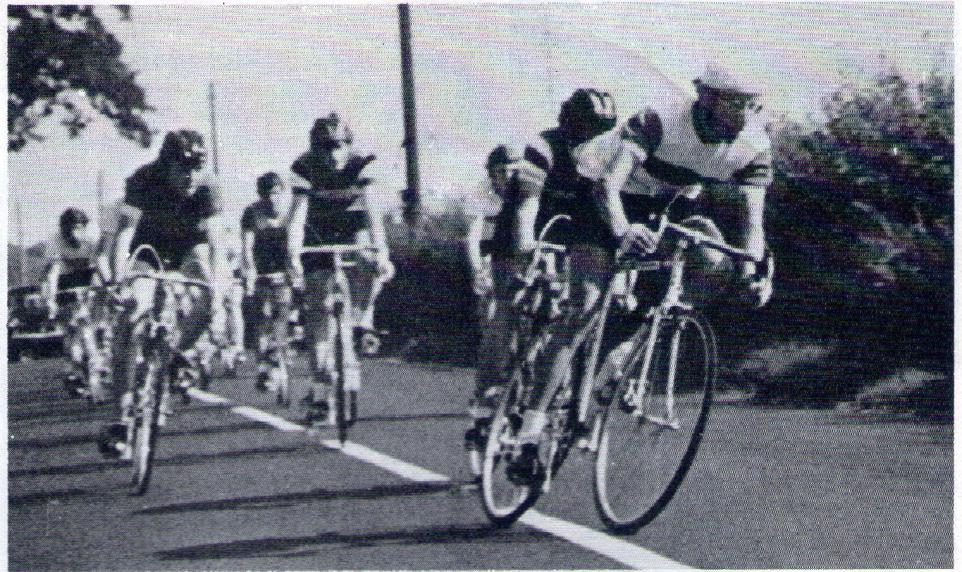
AT a time when most racing cyclists have turned their thoughts to the simple joys of purely social riding with their club mates, there remains at least one man who still has his sights set on record-breaking.

He is Mike Jones, of Liverpool Import Department, who rides for Liverpool Century Road Club. Determined to break the club record for the run from Birkenhead to Shrewsbury, Mike made his first bid last October, but was beaten by foul weather.

Undeterred, he made another attempt and this time was successful despite another difficult windy day. On this second run, he decided to begin his attempt at Whitchurch covering the first leg to Birkenhead, then back through Whitchurch to Shrewsbury, and finally to Whitchurch again.

The decision was crucial as it allowed the hard leg of the route to be split into two separate parts — one at the start and the other at the very end.

Beginning at Whitchurch, on the second attempt, Mike rode into a head wind to Birkenhead, arriving there ahead of the old record, with a long, relatively wind-assisted



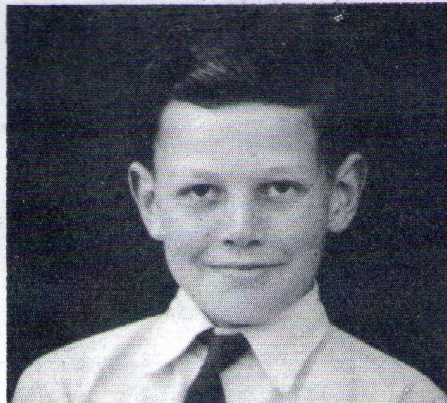
Mike Jones — in the lead as always.

run to Shrewsbury to follow. Unfortunately, mechanical trouble caused him to reach Shrewsbury only level with the record — with a ride into the wind to follow.

Here his strategy paid off, however, for this last leg was only 20 miles long, and Mike was able to give all he had in one last effort, arriving at Whitchurch almost two minutes ahead of the record.

## WHO'S BABY ARE YOU?

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BOSS?** Would you recognise him (or her) from a good picture? Here are three good pictures—admittedly they were taken some time ago—of three ACTS regional managers. Good looking fellows in those days—as they are now. Is your boss among them? Answer at the foot of column three on page eight. And no prizes if you got it right!



## A tale from Tilbury

By Lester Carroll

BECAUSE those who work at Tilbury are to most of you just faceless telephone voices, I would like in this first ACTS newsletter to introduce the Terminal itself, and a few of the characters who work there.

Tilbury Docks are on the north bank of the Thames, in Essex, about 25 miles down river from London Bridge. ACTS staff working there are "owned" both by the Southern Region and Tilbury Terminal. Co-located are the Terminal Control Staff; responsible for the through-put of both Import and Export UK cargo and the Transport/Import sections of the Southern region.

Terminal Manager is Giles Plummer, and Transport Superintendent, Ted Parker. Giles is leaving us soon to take up an appointment in the Solomon Islands. We wish him well. He will be succeeded at Tilbury by Tony Williamson, now Seaforth Terminal Manager.

Refrigeration facilities on the "Holima" units are provided by Stan McGuire and Archie Smith, with a team of watchkeepers. The "chief mover," Bill Franks, watching over the Terminal Control Room, assisted by a heavy gang, one Kevin Hymas.

### GLAMOUR

Outside on the berths Len Wright and Clive Street "do their thing" as berth superintendents.

The ships come and go at the beck and call of our two Scots ship planners, Vic Rore and Douglas Barr (more of them in a later issue).

The Terminal is not without glamour as represented by Gill Clarke (our "sunblest" accounts clerk, soon leaving to have a baby but hopefully to return), Carolyn, our receptionist, and a bevy of other beauties.

Commercial Imports (generally to be found in the P.L.A. Police Club) lend a mature, restraining and cultured air to operations, number one smoother being SCA, John Stokes.

In the "You Call, We Haul" transport section, Peter Mann, Brian Hills, Roger (Dodger) Bowman and "Playgirl male of the year", Alf Condon, all do their bit with the big wheelers.



# A message from the Editor

*THIS is the first issue of the new ACTS internal newsheet. We hope you like it and that you find plenty of stories and pictures to interest you.*

*We do not claim that the paper is perfect — yet. But we shall get better as we go along.*

*The main point is that a journal like this, designed to keep a widespread family in touch, can succeed only if EVERYBODY keeps eyes and ears open for stories and features that make 'copy'.*

*If you DO come across something that would interest other people, just tell your local correspondent, as follows:*

**HEAD OFFICE, Miss Jan Moody  
MANCHESTER, Janet Adams and  
Carol Barlow**

**TILBURY, Mrs L. Sowell  
LIVERPOOL, Malcolm Pritchard**

**BIRMINGHAM, Jean Ryder**

**LEEDS, Miss M. Hennigan and Mr B. Dove**

**BAILDON, Mrs J. Rees**

**SEAFORTH, Mr R. A. Smith**

**COATBRIDGE, Mrs A. Angus**

**SOUTHAMPTON TERMINAL, Mr N. Holloway**

**BARKING, Mr P. Toop**

*And DO write and let me know what extra commodities you would like to see in future issues or better still, write to the Personnel Manager at Head Office.*

# SO THIS IS A

**I**T'S a long way to Southampton from ACT's offices at the Containerbase in Coatbridge, Scotland, but the 29 employees of ACTS, the six of ACTA and the eleven of Prentice, Service and Henderson want to feel as much in the 'mainline' of things as other bases located closer to headquarters.



Partial view of the Telex-Data Preparation Room. May Miller (left) feeds a tape into the Telex while Cathy Gray prepares data to be fed to the computer.

Situated among the rolling green hills and trees 10 miles from Glasgow, the Coatbridge base was opened in 1969 and has been growing by leaps and bounds ever since. It is built on a 23-acre site, allowing considerable scope for future expansion and the floorspace in the transit shed has already been increased from the original 30,000 square feet to 48,000 square feet.

ACT's offices are on the ground floor of the office building, at present undergoing expansion, with a third floor being added to the two-storey building to make room for continued growth.

The complex includes the largest Customs-approved Inland Clearance Depot in Scotland, and plans are well advanced for opening a Customs Long Room, making it the second base to have one (Leeds is the other). At present, the Long Room in Glasgow has to be used and a Long Room at the Base will represent considerable saving of staff time.

## BEING ENLARGED

The present Freightliner terminal is being enlarged and is expected to be operational early in 1975. When completed it will have three additional lines and two new cranes (Morris 040's), administration block, workshops, etc and proper entrance roads. Additional planned increases will make it one of the largest Freightliner terminals in Great Britain.

The base is used principally by ACT and OCL. The bulk of ACT's containers go to Liverpool, run by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, for shipment to Australia and New Zealand. A small number going to Australia are sent to Tilbury.

Far Eastern shipments are sent to Southampton and a Maritime Train leaves six nights a week for Southampton from the base. This train is used by ACTS, Ben Line and OCL.

Of a total of 67,000 tonnes shipped from the Coatbridge Containerbase in the 12 months ended September 30, 1973 by ACT and other users of the Base, more than 42,000 tonnes (63%) was Scotch whisky. This represents the equivalent of 26,500,000 bottles or 424,000,000 glasses or more than 70,000,000 hangovers (figuring six glasses to a hangover).

## ROUND THE CLOCK

Some 600 cases of Scotch whisky can be shipped in one container, or 25 large barrels or 65 small ones. A loaded 20-foot container of Scotch whisky weighs approximately 14 tonnes.

Security is an important feature of the operation of the Containerbase, which has its own security force on duty around the clock every day of the year.

Mr Norman G. Niblock is the Regional Manager of ACT Services which at Coatbridge have their own skeletal trailers — seven 40-footers and 54 20-footers at the present time — and have recently taken delivery of six new Guy Big J contract vehicles.

A Sports and Social Club has been formed and events planned or already held include indoor and outdoor bowling activities, dances, fishing competitions and a soccer football team, which is sharpening its claws to play other ACT teams. It is hoped that some recreational facilities can be arranged at the base in the near future.

## NEWS FROM BARKING

*Woor*  
DEBBIE BURGESS has left Barking ACTS, after nine months in the Coding Department, for a French bank in the City. Beware those Frenchies, Debbie!

Sharon Richards (Accounts department) celebrated her 21st birthday in May. Congratulations, Sharon.

Welcome to five new members of the Barking team: Len Lawrence (Transport), previously with J. Spurlings; John Millhouse (Cargo), previously with Brown Jenkins; Pat Alcorn, (Coding); Joanne Wheatley (Punch room); and Pauline Rodwell (Accounts), previously with May & Baker.

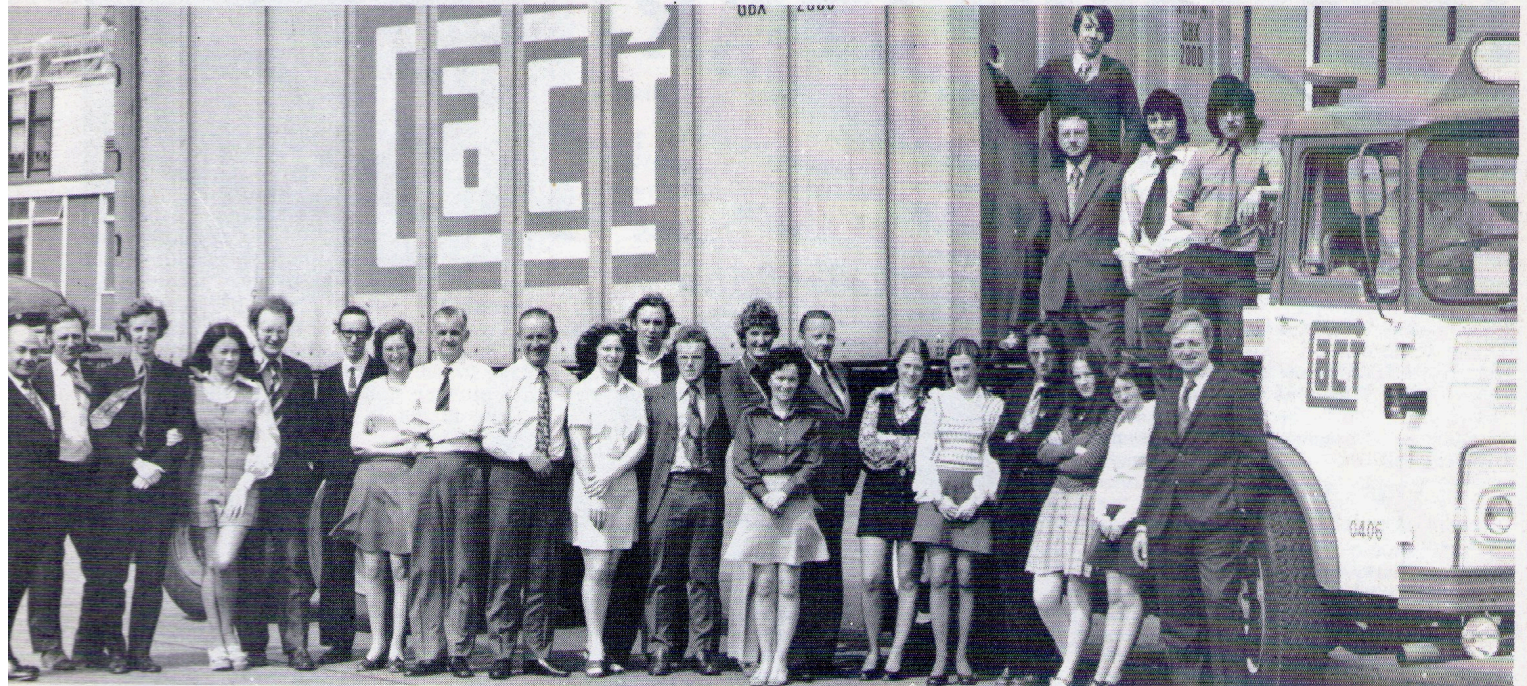
## Glasgow goes bowling

**T**HE ACTS Social Club at Glasgow got off to a flying start with a six-team bowls tournament at the Coatbridge Indoor Carpet Bowling Centre. The teams were formed from the 18 staff taking part and after three hours of hilarious (and tiring) play they had played sixteen ends. Winners were Mr A. Chambers (Transport), Mr J. Mills (Imports), and Mr K. Ripley (Commercial). An early return to the bowling centre is in prospect, and other events planned include a cabaret night and a football match in which Glasgow claim they will "massacre" a Sassenach team from Liverpool office.

**ENTER LYNNE** — March 24 was a happy day for Charles Clason, Commercial Assistant, Ben Line Containers, and his wife Anne. That was the day their first child, Lynne Anne, arrived.



# ACTS, COATBRIDGE



The ACT Team at the Coatbridge (Scotland) Containerbase—left to right: Alex Anderson, Fergie Agnew, Bob Blackwood, Betty Hannaway, David MacKechnie, Bill McGregor, May Miller, Alex Chambers, Harry Johnstone, Annette Angus, Alfie Gordon, Tommy Linden, Cathy Gray, Anne Boland, Jim Murdoch, Leslie McMillan, Liz Sullivan, Kenny Ripley, Theresa McAfee, Ann Hunter, Norman Niblock. (Top, left to right): Bobby Rae, Ian Mills, Alex McLaren, Jim Laird. Not shown are: Margaret Macpherson, Tom McKenzie, Eleanor Ferry, Roy Gordon. Below, members of the Operating and Cargo Sections at work (left to right): Bobby Rae, Tommy Linden, Harry Johnstone, Alex Anderson, Alex Chambers.

atchclyde Regional Park, scheduled for completion in 1975, is located only a few minutes drive from the base and will provide almost every kind of recreational activity for many hours of ACT employees. This includes fishing, horseback riding, golf, soccer, tennis, athletics, camping, sailing, and so on. The park has been created largely by reclaiming derelict land between Motherwell and Glasgow.

## YOUTH AND ENTHUSIASM

The staff boasts a fine "esprit de corps" and works closely and well together. Youngest and newest employee is 18-year-old Bobby Rae, Finance Controller, who gets a lot of good-natured bantering, but manages to hold his own among the older members of the staff.

And large it is a young team and it puts a great deal of enthusiasm in its work.

NEXT ISSUE *The sea staff*



## ACTS CROSSWORD CORNER

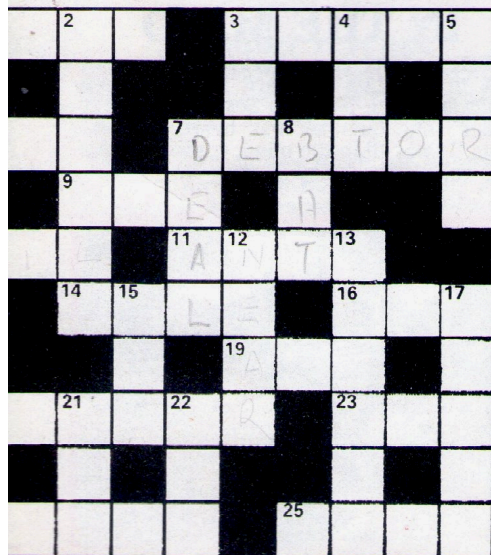
### ACROSS

- 1 Is he lame
- 3 Sunday lunch
- 6 His wife became condimentary
- 7 The one who owes
- 9 A river; is, or was?
- 10 Nothing to go in here
- 11 A punter knows the price from before
- 14 Key to the University
- 16 A policewoman is a fair one
- 19 Joan's curve
- 20 One can lose this easily
- 23 Allowed to rent
- 24 Flower
- 25 Part of this is the river

### DOWN

- 1 Change the lemon for the honey due
- 2 Recently
- 3 The French way
- 4 Craft, minus the minus
- 5 Rant about the Scottish lake
- 7 Transaction in Kent
- 8 Pick up the tab to play cricket
- 12 Far from far
- 13 The place for cakes
- 15 Snake
- 17 A spate of baldness
- 18 Halt, at the bent post
- 21 Helps Pam to find her way back
- 22 Cathedral of the Fens

Crossword compiled by J. Wilson,  
Management Services, Southampton.





# SPORTS CLUB GETS OFF TO GOOD START

NEARLY 100 people attended the Basildon Sports and Social Club's inaugural disco and buffet at the Orsett Cock — a very successful start indeed for the new club.

The evening had been organised by committee members Doreen Holmes and Ian Turner, and it is hoped that this evening will be the first of many enjoyable club functions.

The following is a full list of club officials: Chairman, Mrs J. Rees; Secretary, Mr J. Whitaker; Treasurer, Mrs C. French. Subcommittee members: Social, Mrs D. Holmes, and Mr I. Turner; Sports, Mrs J. Groom and Mr S. Copland-Mander. Mr G. King is the club's liaison officer, and Mr S. Copland-Mander Press officer.

Mr Howell Williams is President of the club, and Mrs Wilson Vice-President.

Ideas for both sporting and social functions will be welcomed by any member of the committee.

## Xmas was a little late this year!

What should have been Basildon's Christmas party turned out to be a Spring party and was held with enormous success at Garons No 1 Banqueting Suite, Southend. The event was attended by all but the lame, the halt and those with babysitting problems!

Mike Rollings (Transport Department) did a great job in organising transport which took the majority of the guests to Southend from the remote corners of South Essex.

In his speech of welcome, regional manager Mr Wilson made special mention of Mr and Mrs H. R. MacLeod, Mr and Mrs Peter Yarwood, Mr and Mrs W. C. Campbell, Mr and Mrs B. R. Conchie, Mr and Mrs G. Plummer, Mr and Mrs D. H. Williams, Mr and Mrs G. J. Gray, Mr and Mrs P. King, Mr and Mrs R. McCusker, Mr I. D. McEwan and Miss J. Midwinter, Mr and Mrs D. G. Marks, Mr C. Brain, Miss C. Brain and Mr and Mrs J. Kilby.

Responding, ACTS Chairman Mr MacLeod spoke most encouragingly about the activities of the company, and the progress made so far.

## Off to Austria

Attractive Doreen Holmes, who works in Central Services, goes to Austria on a goodwill mission for her last 'assignment' as Carnival Queen of Aveley, Essex.

As well as being one of the prettiest girls in ACT, Doreen's happy personality will make her a splendid ambassador.

All at Basildon were sorry to say farewell to Mrs Elke Lowe, Export department progress clerk, but happy that the reason for her departure was a pending "happy event". Her colleagues gave her a baby bath and stand.

Congratulations to Marian Hunt, of Central Services, on her engagement to Kevin Carr. Marian's workmates presented her with a yellow bedspread to start her "bottom drawer".

## Arthur Glass

We regret to report the sudden death of Mr Arthur Glass, who had been with the company since its move to Basildon. He was transferred to Orsett about a year ago.

## Welcome Back

Basildon welcomes the return of Ray Stace, who has rejoined the company as a rating clerk in the Export Department.

## Meet the babes of Basildon

First babies for Peter and Brenda Scott, Linda and Malcolm McLewin and David and Evelyn Jones.



Joanne Ruth Scott — and mother.

The Scott baby, whose mother was a shorthand typist with ACTS, has been named Joanne Ruth, and the McLewin babe, whose mother was a commercial assistant, Sarah Louise.



Sarah Louise McLewin — and mother.

David and Evelyn Jones have named their first child Claire Louise. Dad is a section leader, export documentation.

## Child No. 3

Congratulations to John Skuse, import department manager, and his wife on the birth of their third child, a daughter, Anna Louise. They already have a son, Stephen (16), and a daughter Jeanette (18).

Twenty-seven-year-old Les Griffiths, who has been four years with ACTS and lives with his wife Josephine at South Benfleet, has been appointed senior commercial assistant. He was previously commercial assistant, imports/exports.

## Enter Pam—the Kung Fu Girl

PAM GIBBINS, a junior in the CMD department at Birmingham, has taken up a new hobby. Not needlework. Not driving lessons. Not cooking. NO — KUNG FU!

Says Pam: "A young girl (she is almost 5ft 9in) needs protection these days, and I have found how to get it. It will be terribly useful when fighting my way through a bus queue to get to work on time." We shall see...

Incidentally, Pam and Jackie Hickmott were lucky enough recently to be in the audience for the "Golden Shot" television programme, and when the cameras were turned on the audience, they waved frantically to attract attention. Nobody at ACT spotted them!

## Sand from them thar doors

THE new Fradley depot, designed to relieve congestion and delays at Perry Barr, came into operation in the Spring. BLC cargo for South East Asia will now be packed at Fradley.

The building being used is a World War II hanger which once housed Lancaster bombers.

The huge hangar doors have been lightened for easier handling. During the war, they contained 30 tons of sand to absorb shock waves in air raids.

## Meet the D O

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU" meetings at which Divisional Officers of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff addressed staff, have been held at most regional and terminal offices, and at head office.

The meetings were laid on by the Association's leaders and the company.

## IN THE MIND

AFTER a party from Barking office had been to see Liza Goddard and Maureen O'Sullivan in the play "No Sex Please, We're British", one member was heard to comment: "It was all in the mind; it should have been called More Sex Please, We're British!"



Newcomers Chris Hopkins and Pat Stammers.

Welcome to Basildon newcomers Chris Hopkins, a typist/filing clerk in central services; Pat Stammers, also a typist-filing clerk; and Gary Cooper, a cargo clerk at Orsett.



## An Ambassador looks in

ACT 2 was in port — when the Chinese Ambassador, Mr Sung Chih-Kuang and his wife visited the Seaforth Dock complex and were shown round by the Port's managing director, Mr G. W. Brimyard, and Mrs Brimyard.



# FAREWELL TO BILL AND "MOGGIE"!

A NUMBER of farewell parties marked the departure from the company of Operations Superintendent Bill Lawrie, now back in his native Scotland after five years at Manchester.

A man with small regard for the niceties of protocol and little for the finer points of the English language, Bill drove harder bargains than any Chowringee bazaar stall keeper. In his five years at Manchester, he won the respect and affection of all who worked with him.

Among the farewell gifts presented by colleagues was a certificate acclaiming him "Champion Boozer". There was some regional dispute about this, four others claiming the title — two commercial staff who said that the handicapping system was not strictly in accordance with tariff rules and conditions; one haulier who alleged that he had been nobbled by a NHS surgeon who accidentally stitched up the valve leading to his hollow leg during an operation; and one lady who claimed that the daily score sheet summary showed a negative variance in her favour which had been wrongly coded by the regional umpire.

## AN EMERGENCY

The runners-up agreed to waive their claims when an emergency arose during the removal of the Lawrie household from Urmston. This was caused by the only Sassenach member of the family, Moggie, who decided that TOMS in kilts must be sissies and she preferred to stay with her admirers in Urmston.

A consultative committee of the runners-up was hastily formed to ambush the reluctant Moggie and pack her off in an M2 basket container by rail trunk to Glenrothes — freight collect, of course.

## The Soccer Scene

THE Basildon football scene is about to be enlivened by a team of ACT girls known as the 'Bee-Bees' who plan to take on the men 'at their own game'. Team trainer Dave Childs has high hopes for the girls who modestly deny that their feminine charms will be distracting on the field — although their 'strip' is blue 'T' shirts and white mini-shorts.

### Soccer pitch

New arrival at ACT Birmingham Container Base — a baby for Mrs Barbara Pitch, a commercial assistant for 2½ years. Barbara and husband Jim live at Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent.

Barbara, an ardent West Bromwich Albion supporter, says that by the time she returns to 'spectating', Albion will be in the FIRST DIVISION!

### Bomber revenge

THE close friendship between ACT staffs was temporarily suspended when Manchester Bombers met Liverpool Arras at Chorlton-Cum-Hardy.

The football did not reach the standard of an earlier meeting at Bootle, probably due to the arduous photographic session before the game started! The Bombers, however, were



Liverpool Arras team — an 'arduous' picture session.

obviously in a mood to avenge their earlier defeat and won 4-2.

### Basildon win

IN the first soccer match between a team from Basildon and Southampton offices, Basildon won 2-1.

The Basildon team had strong support, a coach taking a 40-strong 'cheer party' to Southampton. Basildon's goal came from Dave Childs and Kevin Thompson, Southampton's from Lindsay Baldwin.



Starting young!

### Soccer babe

NO doubt which football team young Gary Padgett (pictured above) will support when he grows up. Even at the tender age of three weeks he was wearing a West Ham rosette. His mother Rita is a punch room operator at Barking.

### Action packed

IN an action packed football match cheered on by a crowd of enthusiastic supporters, Basildon beat Tilbury Terminal by 4-1.

## NEW HORIZONS

MRS LINDA GILL, telephone/receptionist at Manchester, will, with her husband and parents, fly to Johannesburg later this year to spend a month with relatives.

The charter flight has been arranged by "The Friends of the Springbok", an organisation formed to further communications between people of Britain and South Africa.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

WELCOME to Mrs Carole Hamilton, who joined the company at Manchester earlier this year as telex operator.

FAREWELL to Ian Fines, who joined the company at Manchester as Commercial Assistant, straight from University.

Ian is now a trainee town planner with the London Borough of Lewisham and will study for three years at the Central London Polytechnic before qualifying.

Please keep your local correspondent informed of news items of interest.



# CONTAINER LASSOED TO SAVE IT FROM FLOODS

**W**ATER may well be one of man's best friends — he couldn't survive without it — but even best friends can turn into enemies. Those who survived the terrible floods in Eastern Australia have good cause to hate the Brisbane River after the havoc it caused when swollen by more than a foot of rain in just seven hours earlier this year.

## Kill or be killed — with the odds even

Dear Editor,

WHEN I read that Field Marshall Mohd Ayub Khan, ex-President of Pakistan, had died, my thoughts went back to the time I served under him in the former British Indian Army.

In 1945, I had the good fortune to be selected by him (he was then a Lieutenant Colonel) as his Adjutant in the 1st Battalion, 14th Punjab Regiment. People invariably ask me: "Where was the North West Frontier?" and "Why was it such a romantic dream?" Very briefly, it was the narrow corridor between the Administrative Boundary of India, and the agreed Indo/Afghan border.

When I arrived in Mir Ali, I was a little disappointed to find that it was not surrounded by towering crags and abysmal ravines as I had imagined the whole of the Frontier area but my disappointment was short lived.



Dam Dil camp pictured from one of the picquets.

After serving our apprenticeship to Frontier warfare, we moved to a station in Dam Dil. The march there, along wandering, climbing roads leading further and further into Waziristan, took us through all types of country I had dreamed of (and more I hadn't dreamed of) — past frontier posts manned by Khassadars and Militia to Dam Dil, at the gates of which stood 'Rajput Fort', built just like the forts that little boys build with their buckets and spades on the seafloor.

Life there was lived under constant siege conditions. On the Frontier there were two laws to be observed — Crown Law which applied to the highway whereon no unauthorised person was allowed to carry arms and no shots were 'allowed' to be fired at or across the roads, and Tribal Law which applied to the territory between the roads. Here ALL could carry arms, shoot at what they liked, and generally wage war.

We looked forward to our excursions outside the perimeter, not because we wanted to get killed or to kill; it just seemed good sport with the odds fairly even all round. Everything was conducted in such a 'gentlemanly' manner that these forays became a battle of wits where the penalty for making the same mistake twice was usually a bullet where it hurt.

**ALEC LAMB DEN**  
Southampton Terminal

What effect did the floods have on our colleagues on the other side of the world? Some, like Cathy Smith, Jock Payet and Mike McGreevy will never forget their experiences.

Cathy Smith's home at Auchenflower, some six miles from the Brisbane city centre, disappeared beneath the water and she lost everything she owned. Cathy is the cashier at ACTA Brisbane.

Ironically, while she watched her possessions destroyed, her brother Kevin (who doesn't work for ACTA) was staging a cowboy rescue act on an ACT container at Corinda. The container was one of eight which was carried away by the floodwaters from a repair base at Rocklea, upstream from Brisbane.

Swept along by the water, the container crashed into a house, nearly wrecking it and Kevin and a friend swam through the swirling waters to lasso it and tow it to safety.

## HEALTH HAZARDS

Three other containers were found after the floods receded but because all had been immersed in the foul-smelling muddy water for three days, ACTA decided to 'write them off' to avoid health hazards.

At Corinda, too, senior transport officer Jock Payet also had his house submerged — just another one of the 10,000 homes in the Brisbane area which were left a mass of filthy mud.

ACTA staff throughout Australia dipped into their pockets to help their colleagues and some of those who suffered losses also qualified for State flood relief.

Meanwhile, back at the Company's offices in the city, water flooded the basement of the building disrupting essential services. For some ten days the offices had no electric power — which also cut out air-conditioning and lifts — and no switchboard. Luckily, the office functioned on the six telephones which work independently of the board. The only problem was that most of ACTA's customers had lost their phones due to the floods, so there weren't many people to talk to.

## OFFER HELP

The marketing staff set off in their cars, once the waters started to recede, to offer help to customers, often having to take long circuitous routes to avoid still flooded areas.

For example, rail transport officer Mike McGreevy, unable to reach his Ipswich home, volunteered his services to the Civil Defence Association, together with 'reefers' to store emergency food supplies. While working with them, he nearly drowned when water suddenly flooded the basement of a city store where he was helping to salvage refrigeration equipment.

Marketing rep John McConachie found muscles he didn't know he had when rowing boats to help rescue flood victims in the Kenmore area, whilst operations manager Clive Baker helped out in St Lucia. Clive also took a turn at guarding abandoned houses against possible looting.

At least half the Brisbane ACTA staff helped in the great clean up after the floodwaters receded.



WATER Highway at the height of the Australian floods, with line of cars marooned on a bridge in the foreground.

## WHO'S BABY

DID you recognise YOUR boss in the Page 3 picture special? They are — left, Tony Williamson, Seaforth Terminal Manager; top right, John Farrar, Barking; and bottom right, Graham Wilson, of Basildon (or is it?).