

THE SPIRIT THAT CAN WIN IN 1976

By Alastair Lloyd (*Chairman ACTS*)

THE LAST YEAR was difficult for us all. The Australasian and Far East trades mirrored the decline in world trade, and both were about 20% below budget in terms of cargo and revenue.

Nevertheless I am pleased that with sound management and the co-operation of all employees we came through the year in better shape and spirit than some other companies who have felt the worst effects of the trade recession. This will stand us in good stead for the current year which holds prospect of a slight improvement in the two trades, although I personally feel that any optimism should be tempered with caution, since the world's economic problems have still to be overcome.

Having personal responsibility for the development of the EHCL South African container service, I was pleased to see ACT Services' considerable involvement in the new trade. I am certain their extensive experience will be put to effective purpose.

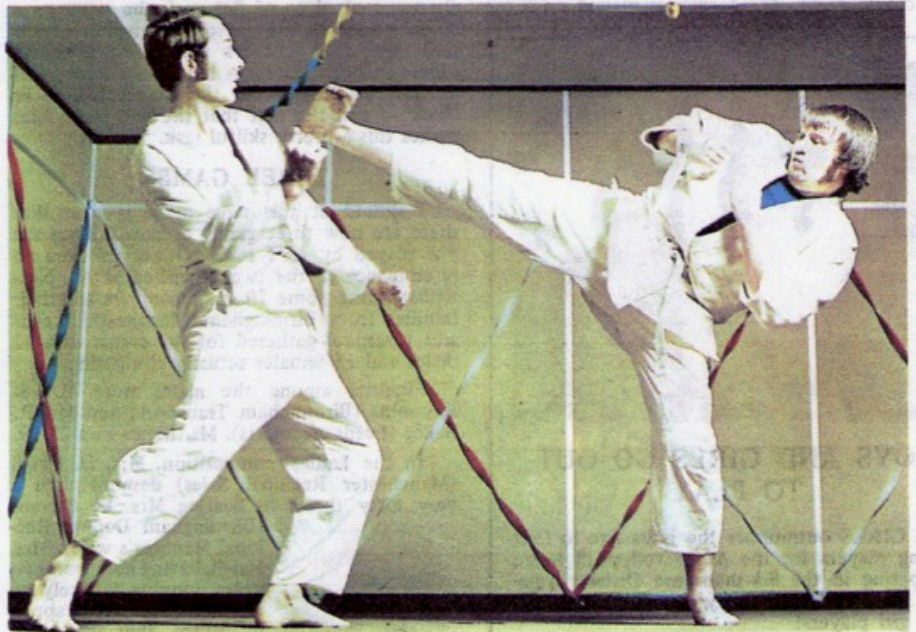
EXCELLENT SPIRIT

During my visits to various offices, I have been impressed by the excellent spirit existing and the interest and concern shown in the Company's prosperity.

Having got through 1975, I am confident that we can overcome any problems 1976 may have in store.

However, steeply rising costs, particularly in the area of communications, must be a matter of great concern to all of us. This is perhaps the most difficult – and yet the most important – problem facing us. I cannot overstate the urgent need for us to tackle it with a real determination to make savings in every aspect of the business.

My good wishes to you all for a prosperous and happy year.



NOW BASILDON PUTS A KICK INTO IT

It's not every day that a chap gets a chance to kick the deputy regional manager in the face. But it's happening these days – and with very good reason. Full story (and more pictures) on page 12.



Robin Galloway

Robin to help set up South African trade

ROBIN GALLOWAY, who joined ACTS, Southampton, in 1971 as Assistant Operations Manager, Cargo and Depots, has been appointed Operations Manager, Container Division, with Ellerman & Bucknall, agents for EHCL in Cape Town, South Africa.

His promotion means wider-ranging responsibilities and an opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of operational procedures for the new Ellerman Harrison Container Line.

Among his jobs will be the establishment of depot facilities and charges in the three main ports of Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth and, inland, at Johannesburg; the building of terminals and discussions regarding the services to be provided by the South African Railway and Harbour Authorities.

His other responsibilities will include container control and ship planning. Robin will bring to this new post the practical experience of time at sea and in management.

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Hello girls,
again

Enough to make Drake turn in his grave

By Dennis Armitstead

(Leeds ACTS Regional Manager)

THOSE RENOWNED exponents of the art of bowling, Sir John Hawkins and Sir Francis Drake, would have turned over in their graves if they could have seen the ACTS Regional championships at the Good Companion Public House and Bowling Green, Holmes Chapel. (Incidentally, the venue was chosen not because of a feared invasion up the Mersey, but because it is a happy hunting ground and favourite hostelry of another infamous ancient mariner, Manchester Regional Manager "Wally" Walshaw.)

The uninitiated should know that there are two games of bowls – the rink (or level) game and the crown game. The former is played on a carefully-prepared piece of flat turf, the latter on a green whose centre is some 6 inches higher than the four corners and sides. Ultimate object in both instances is to place your bowl as near as possible to the object ball – or 'Jack' – and the fact that the ball has a bias makes this a pretty skilful task.



BOYS AND GIRLS GO OUT TO PLAY

THE GIRLS outnumber the boys five to four among players for the ACTS volleyball team, competing in the Southampton District Amateur League. It's the only team in the league with girl players!

Seven of the team pictured above are Terry Liversage, Ann Webber, Jane Liversage, Mike Still, Barry Fry, Jan Fry and Connie Still. Missing when our photographer called – Angela New and Geoff Callow.

* * * *

In their second season, the Head Office netball team was second in the League when this issue of *Contacts* went to Press. They had then scored 15 points from a possible 18, and 146 goals from nine games. A team worth watching!

THREE GAMES

I should at this stage make it clear that there are now three games of bowls, since the one played by ACT staff in Cheshire bore no resemblance to the two described above. Notwithstanding, some 70 staff members and their families from Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool gathered for the event, with 31 males and 15 females actually competing.

Finalists among the males were Mr. S. Reynolds (Birmingham Transport) and Mr. R. Baker (Leeds Accounts). Mr. Baker won 21-19.

In the Ladies' competition, Mrs. D. Haigh (Manchester Regional Sales) demonstrated a very nifty throw in beating Mrs. D. Parsons (Birmingham Deputy Regional Manager's wife). Mrs. Haigh, having now won two years running is likely to be so highly handicapped in future, that she might just as well stay at home!



Lady 'champ'

WOODEN SPOON

To give every player two games, "wooden spoon" matches were organised for those knocked out in round one. Winners here were Mr. T. Glynn (son of Mr. B. Glynn, Birmingham Cargo Section) and Miss B. Gill, of the Manchester Data Punch Section.

Once again, sun shone on this annual event – probably due to a little word being exchanged with 'the man upstairs' before the event.



Mike Jones in action

MIKE THE BIKE DOES IT AGAIN

MIKE THE BIKE has done it again! Mike Jones, that is – of Liverpool ACTS.

A member of Liverpool Century Road Club, Mike had another fantastic year in 1975, achieving a 1-1-47 personal best and grabbing during the season a fistful of awards which were presented to him at the club's annual dinner by Olympic Gold medallist Mary Peters.

Here is Mike's 1975 record:-

FOURTH IN LIVERPOOL TIME TRIALS (CYCLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP).

25 miles	1 hour 8 mins	12 seconds
50 miles	2 hours 16 mins	29 seconds
100 miles	4 hours 45 mins	41 seconds
12 hour	- 226 miles	- Average speed 20.368.

BEST ALL-ROUNDER, LIVERPOOL CENTURY ROAD CLUB.

25 miles	1 hour 1 min	47 seconds
50 miles	2 hours 14 mins	16 seconds
100 miles	4 hours 45 mins	41 seconds
12 hours	- 226 miles	- Average speed 20.694.

FIFTH IN CENTURY CLUB SENIOR TIME TRIAL.

Time of 10 hours-20 minutes-26 seconds, for aggregate of 225 miles.

FINISHED IN CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB NATIONAL BEST ALL-ROUNDER COMPETITION, AVERAGE SPEED 22.451 M.P.H.

SILVER MEDAL STANDARD @ 25 Miles:
1 hour - 1 minute - 47 seconds.

Jazzman Bob has a problem on his mind

IF YOU WANT to know anything about such people as Pinetop Smith, Coleman Hawkins, Jack Teagarden, Nat Gonella and Johnny Hodges, then Bob Butler, Special Cargo Controller in the Operations Department at Southampton is your man.

Forty-two years with, first, Port Line and then ACT, Bob has been in charge of the hazardous cargo section for the last four.

And for most of his grown-up life, he has been a trad jazz enthusiast, having in his time run his own dance band, playing saxophone and clarinet.

Bob's wife Edie has also carved out her



Bob Butler

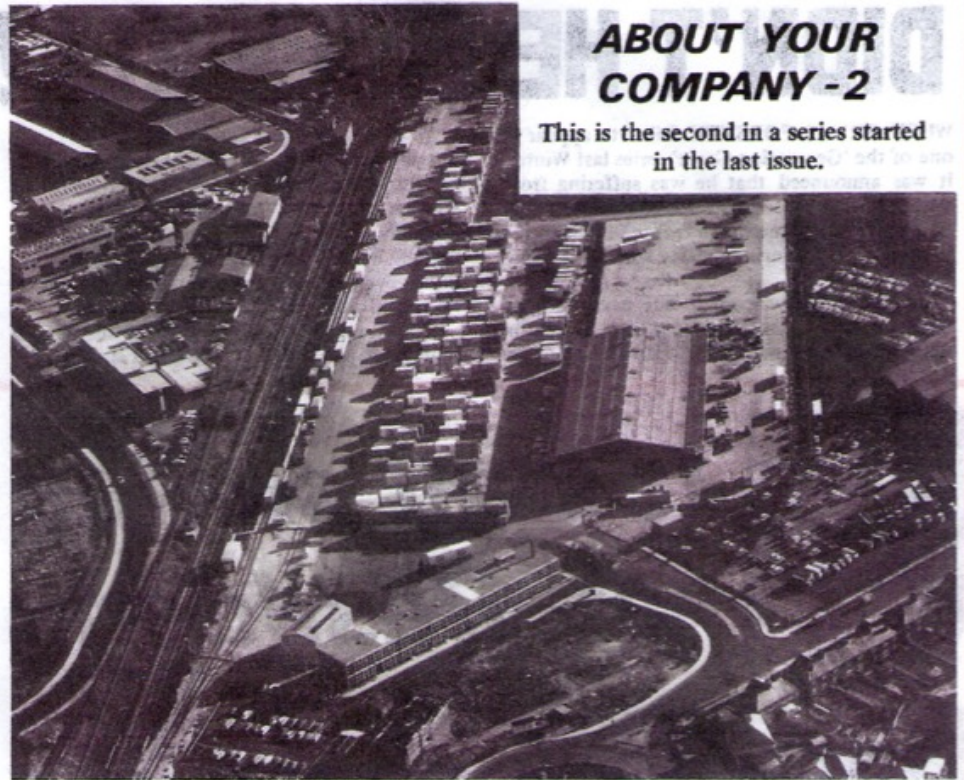
own intriguing career. She was for four years a Court dressmaker, has worked for Norman Hartnell and been dressmaker to such famous stage and screen stars as Jessie Matthews and Cicely Courtneidge.

She was also one of the team that made Princess Marina's wedding dress.

Right now, Bob has a problem. Does anybody at ACT know anything about 19th Century woodcarvings . . . walking sticks in particular. Handed down through his family is a stick engraved by Solomon Butler in Ireland in 1849.

Etchings on the stick are of country scenes, a farmer ploughing, farmyard animals and other symbolic designs. Bob wants to know whether there is any significance in the sequence of events depicted.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE INLAND PORTS



This fine aerial shot gives a bird's-eye impression of the containerbase at Aintree, Liverpool.

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY - 2

This is the second in a series started in the last issue.

THE INTRODUCTION of containerisation as we know it today has brought with it a crop of new terminology which often baffles the layman. Even those working alongside the container industry sometimes misinterpret abbreviations and similar nomenclature. This short resume on Containerbases (Inland Ports) is therefore intended to throw some light on their particular role in through container services and the terms associated with them.

In the heady days of development (1967 and 1968) both ACT and OCL realised the need for inland places where containers and cargo could be serviced. The theory was that these places should be as near to the point of origin and destination of the cargo as practicable.

It was envisaged that they would serve a three-fold objective: to group and de-group cargo (commonly known as "stuffing" and "stripping"); provide a facility for customs clearance, predominantly of import cargo; and concentrate the density of traffic so as to optimise the use of all transport services.

In 1968, such depots did not exist, so ACT and OCL got together and determined a plan of campaign to supply a chain of inland ports which would meet the requirements of a through container service. Not surprisingly, these depots have been sited close to or within major centres of population, and manufacturing trading estates. ACT and OCL sought the help of the Government of that time and through Mrs. Barbara Castle (then Minister of Transport), the National Freight Corporation and several local interests jointly invested in what were later to become known as Containerbases.

Recently, the shareholding has been modified, but this is how it all began and to date the investment stands at £8.5m. with projects in the pipeline budgeted at £3.3m. The Containerbases are at Coatbridge, Scotland; Stourton, Leeds; Trafford Park, Manchester; Aintree, Liverpool; Perry Bar, Birmingham; and Barking.

The conceptual role of these bases has proved to be correct in practice, since they are near to major areas of origin and destination of cargo; Customs clearance is effected at each of them; and all are served either directly or indirectly by a network of Freightliner services.

Thus, Full Container load containers and Less Than Container Load containers can obtain the range of services required at each of these depots. The FCL container primarily receives Customs clearance and onward transport routing to either the port terminal or to destination by the container operator.

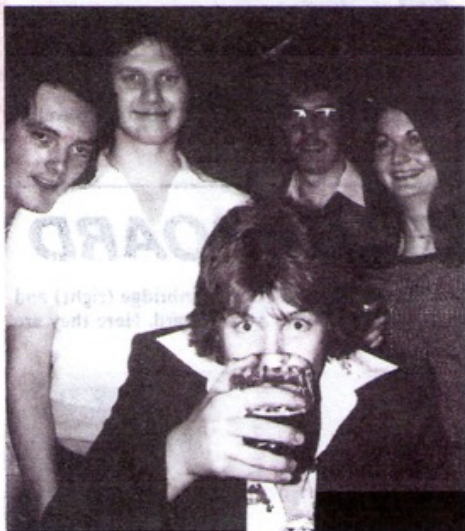
On the other hand, LCL cargo is received, documented, allocated to the correct container - correct, that is to say, by destination and compatibility with other cargo; and grouped into the container ready for onward transportation to the port; and vice versa for import consignments.

The inland ports - "Inland Clearance Depots", or I.C.D.'s for short - are owned and operated by Containerbases Limited, equity of which is jointly-owned by ACT and OCL, with some of the original shareholders providing loan capital.

Today, some six years from the start of modern containerisation, these depots cater also for other through container operators - both deep sea and short sea - and T.I.R. operators. The Management structure is similar to our own, with a Manager at each Containerbase reporting to the Head Office, and regular meetings held with operators.

From modest beginnings, Containerbase business has followed the growth of containerisation and in the last full year for which figures are available handled this cargo:-

	Revenue Tons (LCL)
Coatbridge	77,930
Leeds	128,240
Manchester	91,840
Liverpool	37,740
Birmingham	89,030
Barking	105,990



Steve Reynolds and Co. - beer without skittles!

Mike skittles 'em all - without his glasses

A WIDE range of tactics - from brute force to (a very few) delicate, well-timed shots - were displayed by those taking part in a Beer and Skittles evening organised by Birmingham ACTS Sports and Social Club.

Eventual winner (and declared champion) was the Commercial Department's Mike

Sharman. Since Mike played without his glasses, the overall standard demonstrated by contestants can easily be judged!

An excellent buffet completed an evening it is hoped to repeat in the not too distant future.

DIDN'T HE FLU WELL!

WHEN BRUCE FORSYTH failed to appear in one of the 'Generation Game' series last Winter, it was announced that he was suffering from flu. There are those at ACTS who suspect that he had not fully recovered from the visit to the show a week earlier by a party from Richmond House!

When Bruce welcomed our party, among others, during the pre-recording 'warm-up' period, there is no doubt that our response

was the loudest heard during the entire evening (writes Bob Dixon). And if anybody at Southampton still has burning fingers, it's probably because he or she took a little too literally Bruce's encouragement to 'laugh at anything, even if only remotely funny - and to clap until your fingers catch alight'.

Final verdict - after a look at the old scoreboard - Bruce and Anthea 112: ACTS 73.



Anthea Redfern - didn't she and Bruce do well!



Jeanette Lemmy

It's all smiles at Basildon



A good time being had by all (above and below) at Basildon's Christmas luncheon.



IT'S EASY to see that people were enjoying themselves when the two pictures on the left were taken at the Basildon ACTS Christmas luncheon held at the Bulls Eye Hotel.

There was plenty of good cheer, too, a week earlier at the staff dinner and dance at Garon's Banqueting Suite, Southend. Regional manager Graham Wilson welcomed the guests, and ACTS Chairman Mr. R.A. Lloyd replied.

There was the usual witty speech by H.M.C. Surveyor Peter King.

BABY TIME

Jeanette Lemmy (export clerk) and Sue Burley (credit control clerk) both received carry cots from their colleagues when they left, in October and November respectively, to await babies.

Carol Hodson, Basildon accounts clerk, with her dog Jamie, recently won a show cup and rosette for 'best rough collie dog.' and Import Department's Sue Goodrum won open and novice show-jumping prizes with her horse "Cherokee".



Carol Hodson and friend



Sue Goodrum and friend

TWO JOIN THE ACTS BOARD

Two long-standing stalwarts of the ACTS team - Development Manager Peter Bainbridge (right) and Operations Manager Bill Campbell (centre) - have been appointed to the ACTS Board. Here they are pictured with General Manager Peter Yarwood.



VEILED GIRLS, FLY SPRAY AND SANDBAGS

Read the ANITA WHITLOCK story in the next issue

LANCELOT - AND THE GIRL IN THE BACK SEAT!

by JOHN BERGER

(Personnel Adviser, Richmond House)

HAVING SEEN and read about Peter Yarwood's ancient and beloved Bentley, I feel that I must without delay introduce 'Contacts' readers to Lancelot. NEVER Sir Lancelot, since he wasn't really in that category. He was what you might call an impoverished gentleman's gentleman. That he was a gentleman was never in question. Aged certainly. Infirm, definitely. But a gentleman always.

I bought Lancelot for what at the time was the princely sum of £25. I bought him from a friend who had, with the advent of a fiancée, graduated to a saloon. For those with a technical turn of mind, he was a 10.8 RAC horsepower touring Clyno with a Coventry Simplex Sidevalve engine of 1098 cc, and three forward speeds and one reverse in his non-synchromesh gearbox.

A REAL HARD WORKER

He also had 19-inch artillery wheels and rod-operated internal expanding brakes, with 12-inch drums on all four wheels. He was 'born' in 1927, joined me in 1954 and stayed with me, bless his old heart, until the advent of my own fiancée six years later.

Like all gentlemen's gentlemen he had an enormous capacity for hard work, but was discreet and frugal. When 'born', he consumed only a gallon of hard stuff every 45 miles and at the ripe old age of 27 was still doing in the region of 30 miles a gallon. Mind you, his propensity for lubricant made up for his abstemiousness, but all old men have some vices and this was a small cross to bear.

A PEARL

Being a pearl among servants, he had a number of attributes no longer seen. Six adults could ride in comfort because he had a right-hand gearchange - a refinement that died in the '50's with Bentleys and that marvel the Riley Pathfinder. Fog presented no problems: push open the split windscreen and visibility became that of a motorcyclist. Since gravity was the motive force of the petrol feed, it never failed and the battery was still original equipment, because since it was mounted on



Lancelot - the old faithful

the running board it did not suffer deterioration by overheating.

Unexpectedly for a servant, Lancelot introduced me to a number of his friends. There was the gentleman who, on leaving the bar of a local hostelry, I found stroking his bonnet. He turned out to have been a delivery driver for Clyno's in the 1920s, driving them from the factory in Wolverhampton to dealers in London.



John Berger

There was also the ice-cream salesman who stopped to sell me his spare gallon of petrol when I ran out, and turned out to be a qualified toolmaker. His expertise provided me with a perfect replacement for the complex timing plate on the magneto drive.

Countless others rushed to find out what the car was, when ordinarily they would not have dreamed of approaching a total stranger.

DISADVANTAGES

Of course, Lancelot had disadvantages. While his hood was large and effective, the side-screens had long before been lost. In his ex-works price of £112 9s. 6d. (taxed, insured and with a full petrol tank), there had been no room for such refinements as a heater.

A most noticeable attribute was the cone clutch which, whilst very effective, gave rise to a huge flywheel weighing over 40 lb. This meant that gearchanges were measured, ponderous occasions, the engine taking seconds to reduce its speed. Indeed, on one occasion on a short steep hill when I missed second gear, I was actually going backwards by the time I got down to first and I was forced into the ignominy of a total halt and a hill start.

But for all his faults, I loved Lancelot. What modern car has a back seat big enough to carry a full-size roll-top bath with a pretty girl in it, during a College Rag Day.



Kim - the Doc. S. choice

The DOC.S. Boys Vote Kim Winner

LOOK OUT, Eric Morley, two can play at the beauty game! Down at ACTS headquarters in Southampton, they've been proving that anything Mecca can do, they can do also...

Just before Christmas, the fellows in Documentary Services at Richmond House set out to find their own Miss World - Miss ACTS World, that is - from among the ladies at Head Office.

After a secret ballot (the voting system was so complicated that it took several hours and umpteen recounts) the winner was announced as Kim Ockenden, a clerk in Trade Accounts, whose outside interests are listed as dancing, playing shove-halfpenny - and men. Not necessarily in that order, of course.

Her prize was being taken to lunch by the panel of judges... which only goes to show that if you can dream up a competition, judge it, and then have the lovely girl winner as your guest for lunch, you're on to a pretty good thing.

JUST THERE FOR THE BEER?

PAULINE HOGAN, a commercial assistant in the imports department at Liverpool, wore a blue suit and scarf with white polo neck jumper when she was married at Liverpool register office to Brian Smith, a container clerk.

There should be no lack of liquid refreshment for the newly-weds. Pauline's hobby is making home-made beer!

Camera captures children on the day Father Christmas called

MAGIC MOMENTS



It's only to be expected that when a cameraman asks his subjects to pose for a sing-song picture, just a few of the youngest will look a little apprehensive.

THEY SAY that pictures speak than words. . . .

These were taken at the Heac Sports and Social Club Christmas for members' children. And we have to tell you that a good time by all.

We should, however, record that Williams (Central Services) and Sandy did a yeoman job leading round a tree given by general Peter Yarwood and his wife; that were organised by Peter Smith (Management Services), Susan Ide (senior management secretary) and Jan (Finance); that Tony Cipriani Tom and Jerry cartoons; that supervised by Vi Nicholas (Finance help from Mr. and Mrs. Yarwood, Bob and Mrs. Butler, Roy a Hickman, Sue Cresswell (Personnel MacTaggart (Print Room), Jan (Lyn Whitley and Pat Langridge (Finance) and that somebody thought Hughes (Personnel) was around Father Christmas arrived!

A bit of the day



HOWZ HAT?

When the crackers have been pulled, the lemonade and jelly served and the hats put on, even the most apprehensive youngster gets into the swing of things.



DARTS HISTORY was made the day the 'professionals' (Newton, plus Gary Hockley 'amateurs' - equipment inspector man Bob Hale and deputy re

Before this really key game another upset when a ladies Skelton and Pat Cockell from and Pauline Rowe and M. from Commercial) beat the team of Joe Zumbuhl, Reg McClaren and Ted Parker. 'to the 'professionals' in the s

Left-handed Jim Jeffrie Christian in the singles final:

* * *

Linda Miller, of the I Room, passed her driving test attempt.

louder

Office party don't as had

Terry is wife carols anager games (anage- ipriani howed ea was), with d, Sue d Mrs. Jenny ipriani, nance); Peter when



HAPPY XMAS

GRAHAM HOUSE and wife Vivienne are pictured above at the Richmond House Operations Department Christmas Party, held again at Rhinefield House. Also there was Operations Manager Bill Campbell, seen below in conversation with Southampton Terminal Manager Eric Russell and his wife, and Rob Lockett.

Some 30 guests enjoyed an excellent meal including cockles, sherry, chicken, wine, mince pies, mead and Gaelic coffee - not always in that order.



'an upset in rts world

at Barking Containerbase recreation room on argo men Colin Griffiths, Ron Troke and Bob from Killick Martin) were humiliated by the ctors Peter Toop and Bob Unwin, commercial gional manager, Peter Gilmore.

re there was ' team (Pat m Accounts ureen Perry all-transport Neville, Mac he girls lost mi-finals. beat Tom

arking Data t at the first

The day Malcolm fell for Churchill

MALCOLM PRITCHARD, 'Contacts' correspondent at Liverpool, was at one time Press photographer heavily involved in the exciting daily round of popular journalism. We asked him to look back and recall highlights from those days. Here are two of them. . . .

The Royal Command variety performance was destined to be the same as any other (he writes). The crowd had assembled - excited. The Press men had assembled - waiting.

To say there was no difference, however, is not quite true; on this occasion, everybody was awaiting the arrival of the newly-engaged Princess Elizabeth. Photographers lined up at the entrance to the theatre - one row kneeling, several rows standing.

The first car arrived and King George and Queen Elizabeth alighted to the customary tumultuous applause. All eyes, however, were on the second car, carrying the radiant Princess and her husband-to-be, Lieutenant Mountbatten.

The cameras were poised, the Princess and her fiance were in the sights when the view was suddenly blocked by a trouser leg! Gripping it firmly, and tugging it down once, somebody shouted: "Give me a break, George!"

A glance upwards showed that that was exactly whose trousers were being tugged - the King's!

JUST ONE MORE!

A second vivid memory is of an occasion in 1950 when Winston Churchill was speaking to electors in Bessie Braddock's constituency.

I waited outside the hall until the great man himself appeared, and took my first picture. I thought I should have another 'in the bag' to be sure, and said 'Just one more, Sir, please'.

Finding I was a little close to Churchill, I stepped back - and fell flat on my back over the pavement edge.

Once he saw I was not hurt, our wartime leader could not hide his laughter, but his merriment did not prevent him waiting until I had composed myself and taken a second picture. . . .



Newly-engaged Princess



Could not hide laughter

How to keep pace with rising costs

KEEPING UP with inflation is a problem for anyone wanting to save money because by the time one wants to spend its purchasing power has been slashed.

One answer is "Index-Linked Save as You Earn". This system, involving a direct deduction from monthly salary, is available to ACT employees, some of whom have already started.

You have to decide how much to save each month (£4 minimum and £20 maximum), and then complete a form authorising the deduction to be made. The agreement is for a term of five years, but if a contributor cannot continue payments after a year, he can have a refund of the amount invested, plus 6% interest.

The sum received on completion of the Contract will have purchasing power equal in terms of general household expenditure to the sum originally saved.

NO INCOME TAX

Alternatively, the money can be left untouched for a further two years without any extra payments. At the end of this time, the value of the savings will be adjusted to the current index and a bonus of two months' payments will be added. Index-Linked Save As You Earn interest is free of Income Tax.

The index figure announced each month on television and in the Press is based on the cost of a large selection of goods and services including food, clothing, fuel and general household rates.

For more information please contact Mr Norman Nichols, Cashier at Head Office.

TIC TAC MEN

DID YOU know that 35 containers of Tic Tac mints are exported to Australia every month. Each container holds about 52.25 million Tic Tac mints.

Since the population of Australia is thirteen million, that means an average of five mints per person a day. Obviously, a nation of Tic Tac Men!



WINE WITH KICK OF A MULE

SOMEBODY once described wine as bottled sunshine – and he or she wasn't far wrong (writes Reg Neville).

The very mention of wine conjures up for many of us visions of romantic old villages nestling at the foot of vine-covered slopes, where life changes little, like the wine itself.

CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS to Head Office Revenue Accounts Supervisor Les Heather and Southampton Terminal accounts clerk Anita Rawlinson who were married at Blackpool last October, Anita wearing a bright pink dress and matching pink georgette hat for the occasion.

Les gives his hobbies as gardening and Do-it-Yourself ("through necessity"), and Anita enjoys Continental cooking and embroidery.

They're lucky to share one other outside interest – "seeking and finding pubs with atmosphere".

Sadly, prices of wine have rocketted following recent Budgets, and the time is ripe to indulge in Ye Olde English custom of HOME wine-making.

The materials from which English wine can be made are almost limitless. Such 'goodies' as pea pods, tea, beetroots – even flowers – are all on the list.

The equipment needed is inexpensive and can be furnished from most kitchens. A good, unchipped enamel saucepan in which to boil the ingredients; an earthenware dish or polythene bucket, for fermentation (I prefer the bucket which is lighter and more portable); a length of plastic tubing and a plastic funnel; plus a supply of bottles.

SIMPLE RULES

It is important to remember a few simple rules. First, *all* utensils must be sterilised. All water must be boiled – and the wine must be covered with polythene sheeting at all times until finally bottled.

I suggest that anyone embarking on home wine-making should study (possibly in their local library) one of the many informative books on the subject. Most are easy to follow and contain lots of recipes.

A final word of warning. Home-made wine may *seem* harmless, but don't be fooled, it has the hidden kick of a mule! Good Health. . . .

FOOTNOTE: I would be glad to exchange recipes with anybody interested.

REMEMBER

A politician's life is no bed of roses. By the time he finds out what the people want, they want something else.

Tell your wife everything – especially before someone else does!

Now Norman and Alan are both quids in!

NORMAN NICHOLS, cashier at Richmond House, and Alan Reeves, of Seaforth, are each £2 better off than they were a couple of months ago.

Norman was right on the ball with his entry for the "Spot the Ball" competition in the last issue of 'Contacts', and Alan sent the first correct solution to the S.U. competition set by general manager Peter Yarwood.

In an article about his own, his very own 48-year-old Bentley car, Mr. Yarwood referred to S.U. sloper carburettors and offered £2 to the first person telling him what S.U. stands for. Answer:- Skinners

Union, dating back to when the diaphragm was made of skin and the name Skinner was taken from the two brothers who invented the first carburettor.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL

On December 31 last, 'Contacts' received this message:-

"Good luck to all 'Contacts' readers and all ACTS staff in Britain from all in ACT, New Zealand".

Thanks – and the same to all of you.

Nobody got Sue to the Church on time



EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Sue Laphorne, a coding clerk at ACTS Birmingham kept up tradition when she married tool setter Paul Haycock. She arrived at the church half an hour late. . . .

All's well that ends well, however. Service and honeymoon both went off without a hitch and the couple (here seen cutting their wedding cake together) are now happily settled in their new Birmingham home.

The best of good fortune to them both.



DON'T POUR WATER ON TROUBLED OIL!

Apologies 41 times over

WHEN 25 ACTS Head Office Fire Marshals went to Redbridge Fire Station, by kind permission of Hampshire's Chief Fire Officer, they saw an impressive display – including one that reversed the old maxim about pouring oil on troubled waters!

After a welcome and talk by Fire Officer Derham, the party saw a demonstration of various fire-fighting methods covering outbreaks involving wood or solid fuel, liquid fuel like oil and very hot fat producing inflammable vapour at high temperature.

Also demonstrated were various types of fire extinguisher available that had been provided by courtesy of L. & G. Fire Appliance Co. Ltd., our suppliers of fire fighting equipment. The ACTS volunteers made gallant (and, let's face it, successful!) attempts at putting out the fires, and the picture below demonstrates just how awkward things can get when somebody inadvertently uses the wrong type of extinguisher (i.e. water) on a fire caused by oil.

For this demonstration, Fire Officer Derham heated an open-topped drum of oil (as one might when deep-frying food) and then lit it. The picture shows what happened when less than a cupful of water was thrown on it! (Never, Never, ladies, put a chip pan under the tap if it catches fire).

After this visit to Redbridge, the ACTS team of Fire Marshals expects to be more efficient than ever. . . .



Never pour water on burning oil – Redbridge demonstration.

To Terminal Manager Tony Williamson and his Tilbury team of 41, 21 of whom are pictured here, 'Contacts' offers sincere apologies. An article about the Terminal should have appeared in this issue, but has had to be held over due to pressure on space. It will appear in our Summer issue (and that's a promise, Tony – Editor).

News from 'The Tartan' Corner

HEAD OFFICE BEATS XMAS FOG

HEAD OFFICE representatives were involved in an old-time pea-souper when they journeyed (for the first time) to the annual Coatbridge ACTS staff dance. Mr. and Mrs. Del Jenkins were diverted to Edinburgh Airport – and then the coach taking them to Glasgow broke down on the motorway.

Peter Hughes and his wife were also diverted to Edinburgh – and then learned that their luggage had been lost!

All ended well, however, for guests (whom all at Coatbridge were delighted to see) and for staff. Cabaret by an 11-year-old was one of the hits of the evening.



Irene Baxter and Janet MacCallum at the Coatbridge party.

The annual challenge match between Edinburgh BLC 'Football Club' and the highly-select Coatbridge BLC/ACT 'Football Club' ended in a convincing 5-2 win for Coatbridge.

The first five minutes of the game were played at a tremendous pace (the pace didn't last much longer than that), and by half-time Coatbridge were 2-0 up. Interval 'plonk' may or may not have been responsible, but by the middle of the second half Coatbridge had raced ahead to 4-0.

Later, Edinburgh came more and more into the game, scoring twice in quick succession, but finally fitness told, and John Johnstone was in the right place at the right time to get his own second goal and Coatbridge's fifth.

EXPERT (if biased) COMMENT. BLC Edinburgh weren't that bad. Just worse! Any takers for 1976?

Coatbridge netball and table tennis teams would both like to forget Hamilton. The netball team was beaten 4-1 by Bell College, Hamilton; the table tennis team also lost to the College.

After seven years with ACTS, Coatbridge, Annette Angus, Credit Controller for Scotland, has left to await a baby. Annette was first an accounts clerk, then senior accounts clerk. Ian Mills, formerly section leader in the Import Department, succeeds her as Credit Controller.

HELLO GIRLS!

Meet a few more ACTS Ambassadors

In the last issue of 'Contacts', we introduced some of the ACTS 'Ambassadors' – the Hello Girls who, on the telephone or at the reception desk, make first contact with callers and visitors from outside the company.

As promised, we now introduce another selection of these 'Ambassadors at Large'.



The ACTS Hello Girl at Liverpool is smiling Pat Evans, who lives at Aintree with her husband, ambulance driver Evan Evans.



Welcoming callers at the Manchester reception desk is Linda Gill, six years with the company, who gives her hobbies as reading and sewing.

Three new faces join team at Richmond House

Twenty-nine-year-old Michael Donnelly, who joined ACTS at Richmond House, Southampton, some six months ago as assistant financial accountant, lists photography, motor racing and tennis as his outside interests.

Michael lives with his wife Chereth at Deerleap Close, Hythe.

Twenty-three-year-old Martyn Smith, who also joined ACTS as a budget accountant, last September, has no doubts about his hobbies. He lists four – drinking, drinking, drinking and 'the computation of maximum staggering distance'.

It's a wonder he has either the time or the strength for his other hobbies – football and cricket!

To Head Office as deputy financial controller and formerly with McLintock Mann and Whinney Murray comes thirty-four-year-old David Hamilton, who lives at Bournemouth with his wife Odette.

Motor racing, sailing and good food are his chief interests away from the office.



Michael Donnelly



Martyn Smith



David Hamilton

This is the double life of Bob Parker



Bob Parker

CHRISTMAS and the New Year were hectic for Bob Parker (SCA Bookings/Progressing) whose working day does not always stop when he leaves Northgate House, ACTS Basildon office. Indeed, you could almost say that's when Bob's second working day begins!

Bob became interested in his showbusiness activities when serving with the RAF in Egypt. He toured the Canal zone with an RAF Theatre Group, and ended up as the show's resident compere.

A 'second career' as Toastmaster/MC means that when most of us are putting on our carpet slippers to watch telly, Bob is putting on his dinner suit or red jacket to face the multitudes. And since he also manages a dance band in what he laughingly calls his spare time, you can imagine that the festive season was all go.

... AND MISTRESS

When he returned to Civvy Street, Bob attended a Masonic function at which the toastmaster introduced "The Grand Master and his mistress" – and decided he could do better. He is now in great demand at functions in the Basildon area – not least of which is the ACTS annual Christmas dinner and dance.

Did Bob have showbusiness in his blood? Well, his grandfather was a keen singer and his mother 'a very good singer indeed'.

They had a four-poster honeymoon

ACCOUNTS CLERK Gail Buie wore a white crepe dress, with lace bodice over, when she married Bernard O'Neill, a foreman with Chappell and Taylor, at the Church of Christ the King, Bitterne.

Gail, whose outside interests include 'cooking and eating', is lucky to have found a husband with a complementary hobby – woodwork. Bernard and Gail are also enthusiastic tennis players.

The O'Neill's spent their honeymoon nights in an old four-poster bed at the Montagu Arms, Beaulieu.



First contacts at Southampton Terminal are made with Charmaine McCourt (left), who joined the company two years ago and is keen on horse riding, gymnastics, netball and swimming; and Ann Butler, nearly 18 months with ACTS, who likes swimming – and dancing.



New Hello Girl at Basildon is pretty Jill Pickering, who joined the company six months ago.



Pat Cockell, whose experience before tackling telephones is said to have covered dressmaking and Bunny Girls (whatever that means!) is Barking's current receptionist.

WHY THIS EX-PARATROOPER SAYS HE JUST CAN'T AFFORD A HOBBY

There's one thing for sure about Graham Wilson, ACTS regional manager at Basildon. He's a lifelong transport man. You name the transport – and the odds are you'll find that somewhere along the line he's been involved in it.

But ask him about his 'outside interests' and you'll be in all sorts of trouble. He'll deny that he has any. More specifically, he'll say that he has neither the time nor the money to indulge in such things. Except, perhaps, 'a bit of do-it-yourself' and 'a little gardening'.

Then his eyes will twinkle and he'll tell you: "My main aim in life is – and always has been – to get through each day with the minimum of aggravation and the minimum of effort, commensurate with getting the job done efficiently". (He admits he is not always as successful as he would like – due to the "unique current environment").

PUNCH LINE

SOME 60 staff and guests were at the Head Office Central Services' Christmas party, at which disco chief Bob Owton invited those present to choose records appropriate to selected colleagues, and from these requests – some of which were very amusing – a variety of dances were played to suit everyone.

Mrs. Elsie Campbell organised a splendid buffet and conspicuous among those volunteering for bar duty were James Chapman and Dudley Kirk. Dudley also mixed the Punch which was so potentially successful that its recipe was requested by the Spastics Association officials, who so kindly provided the room for the party, for their own festivities shortly afterwards. If the recipe was dispensed to the correct "flash point", we are sure they had a great send off.

Mr. and Mrs. R.I.L. Howland joined the fun until they had to leave for a previous engagement.

When you get to know Graham Wilson better, you will realise he means just what he says. It is a sincere philosophy, even though some of his wartime anecdotes may tempt you to believe otherwise. "I ran away from Dunkirk so fast that even the onrushing Germans couldn't catch me", he says. And the repeated twinkle suggests there could be more in that story than meets the eye!

After getting his breath back, Graham Wilson was persuaded to volunteer for special duties in the newly-formed Parachute Regiment, with which he served until the end of the war – in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He was awarded the M.C. during the advance on Tunis.

BANG IN THE NIGHT

He will tell you that he managed to "keep his head down" until just a week before the end of hostilities "when something went bang in the night", after which he took no further part in the proceedings.

Except, that is, for what he calls an interest in 'local colour'.

Graham has been married for 22 years to an Austrian girl he met after the War when he was helping to run, for the Society of Friends, an international friendship club in London. In all the time since, he and Franziska have not had a single holiday in Britain.



Graham ('minimum aggravation') Wilson

"I am not really joking when I say I can't afford hobbies", he says. "Holidays to us are the all-important things – and that's where the money goes. We've been to pretty well every country in Europe, except Spain.

"When I retire eventually, we'd like to go and settle in Germany. After all, Franziska will by then have spent 30 years or more speaking a foreign language and I guess I owe it to her to take my turn".

The Wilsons have two sons – Hans, aged 21, reading law at Cardiff University, and Stephen (16), at King Edward School, Chelmsford, also with his eyes set firmly on a legal career.

THIS IS HOW A GIRL CAN GET HER OWN BACK

THE DAY TERRY BOSTON injured his spine – just two days before his wedding – was really the day that ju-jitsu and Karate training began at Basildon.

"I had to be specially strapped up so that we could go ahead with the wedding as planned", says Terry, deputy regional manager, "but I knew the accident had put a pretty long-time stop to my activities at a local ju-jitsu club".

Terry's not a man to give up easily, however, and if things like flip-overs were temporarily out, he was determined to get exercise from less extravagant manoeuvres. So, five or six months ago, he asked at ACTS Basildon for a few volunteers to help him in training.

"There were lots who said Yes, but I guess most of them got scared, and we finally settled down to a select party of six who now meet once a week in the Sports and Social Club", says Terry.

SPECIAL BRANCH

In addition to staff, there are two members of the police – one of them a Special Branch man, Bill Marr, whose wife Linda works in the Import Department.

And two girls – Janice Rudd and Janet Roast – have also joined the boys in the 'Grunts and Groans' gang. What on earth does a girl want with flip-overs and Karate chops?

Twenty-three-year-old Janet (height 5ft. 3in., weight 8½ stone) says: "It's an enjoyable form of exercise – and the only chance to get your own back on a man!"

"Quite seriously it's a wonderful way to keep fit; when you're fagged out around five o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon, a session of ju-jitsu and Karate puts you right back on the ball.

"And since a girl is not as likely to get into a fight as to be the target for attack these days, what better than knowing just how to look after yourself?"

STILL COMPLAINING

Why did Terry himself first take up ju-jitsu? "I've always been interested in the martial arts", he says. "I was fascinated to find out how a small person can be on a par with a far larger person".

And it works, too! A couple of months ago, Terry (11½ stone) threw Bill Marr (16 stone) and Bill's still complaining about the state of his back. . . .

MATNOTE:- Because they cannot afford anything better, the Basildon ju-jitsuers are having to make do with a mattress on the floor. Does anybody know the whereabouts of a good, cheap judo mat?

GLYNN STARTS THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

Twenty-eight-year-old Glynn Clegg, who joined ACTS nearly three years ago and worked as a bookkeeper - cashier in the cashier's department at Head Office, started the New Year with a promotion to Continental Credit Control.



Glynn Clegg

When she gets away from Richmond House, Glynn likes to go dancing, to read, to play table tennis – or to ride horses. All in all, she's a busy little G.



'A chance to get her own back on a man'.



Dressed for the part – Janice Rudd.

Two senior men take container accounts course

TWO senior financial executives from Ellerman and Bucknall (Pty) Ltd, agents in South Africa for the Ellerman Harrison Container Line, recently completed a four-week induction course in containerisation accounting at ACTS Southampton Head Office.

Mr. E.L. Ritchie, who joined the Cape Town Accounts Department of Ellerman and Bucknall in 1955, became the company's Chief Accountant in 1968.

Mr. C.C. Luck joined Ellerman and Bucknall in 1975 as Management Accountant, Container Division.

He had previously been Systems and Computer Applications Accountant with Tate and Lyle.

He goes out to South Africa to take responsibility for the installation of the management accounting system within the company's container division.



E.L. Ritchie



C.C. Luck