

'ACTS DOING EXTREMELY GOOD JOB', says retiring Chairman

ACTS has an important part to play in the continuing growth of containerisation — that is the message from retiring Chairman of ACTS, Alastair Lloyd.

In an interview with 'Contacts', published in full on Page Two, he says:-

"I believe that, through the enthusiasm, diligence and loyalty of the whole staff, ACTS has consolidated its position as one of the leading container organisations not only in Britain and Europe, but throughout the world.

"In my view, it is internationally respected as a vigorous and efficient set-up."

Of those who work for ACTS, Alastair Lloyd says:- "It is encouraging to see them taking such a great interest in the affairs and fortunes not only of the ACT operating companies, but of the parent shareholding companies as well.

"The fact is that they are doing an extremely good job".

'POOL WIN CUP

Liverpool are undisputed 1978 Peter Yarwood Cup champions. They beat Glasgow, Head Office AND the fog in an exciting Cup Final reported in full on Pages 10 and 11.

In the picture on the right, the victorious Liverpool team—minus Steve Williams, who was injured in the all-deciding five-a-side football competition on the second day—are pictured with Pete Smith (background, left, behind Liverpool skipper Bill Bernard, holding the cup). Warm tributes were paid to Pete Smith, chairman of Soton Sports and Social Club, who played a major role in organising the successful two-day event — and who also took all the pictures of the final used in this issue of 'Contacts' (except this one, of course, taken by wife Sandy).



ON INSIDE PAGES TO-DAY

How to flap
over a wet
suit—Page 4

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population
'explodes'—Page 6

Is this Britain's busiest mum?

IF anybody's offering an award for The Busiest Mum in Britain, then Prim Gover, of Head Office Personnel Department, must surely be among the candidates.

Prim, who joined ACTS in February last year, moved over to Personnel recently. But that's only half the story.

Read the other half — and about her 'Champion' children Wendy and Michael, their horses, their bikes and 42 bottles of sherry — on Page 8.



Big role for ACTS in future container growth — Alastair Lloyd

'A COMPANY THE WHOLE WORLD RESPECTS'

"I have no doubt that the concept of containerisation is still growing, and that ACTS has an important part to play in that growth".

This was the message given to Contacts by Alastair Lloyd, Chairman of the company from Spring 1975 until August this year, when he resigned the chairmanship because of increasing pressures in his other capacities as a Director of Ellerman Lines and as Deputy Chairman of Ellerman City Liners.

"I would like to thank everybody from Peter Bainbridge and his Board, through all departments and at all levels in ACTS, for the way they have supported me during my term as Chairman", he added.

BY THE EDITOR

"I remain, of course, a Director of ACT Limited, and in that capacity, and as a Director of one of the constituent Lines, I shall continue to take a close and personal interest in the company, its progress and its staff.

"I could not have wished to hand over the Chair to anyone more qualified to fill it than my old friend and colleague, Gordon Reid, of Harrison Line, who has been my Deputy and mentor throughout".

Looking back over his three-year term as Chairman—during which time the company became increasingly involved in the CAROL, CAMEL and EHCL trades and in the Sharjah project—Alastair Lloyd went on: "I believe that, through the enthusiasm, diligence and loyalty of the whole staff, ACTS has consolidated its position as one of the leading container organisations not only in Britain and Europe, but throughout the world. In my view, it is now internationally respected as a vigorous and efficient set-up.

"I suggest this is doubly creditable since ACTS is serving not one master but many. I believe this helps to keep everybody at Southampton and in the regions on their toes, but whether this is so or not, the fact remains that they are doing an extremely good job".

There have, not unexpectedly, been a number of landmarks during what could be called The Lloyd Era at ACTS. One which the former Chairman considers of particular significance was the appointment of a consultancy group to assess the effectiveness of ACTS operations and the prospects for the future.

"The consultants were brought in at a time when CAROL, CAMEL and EHCL were round the corner, and we asked them, among other things, to advise as to whether they felt we were in a position to take on all the extra business," said Mr. Lloyd.

"Their general conclusion was that 'in broad terms, the organisation is giving good service with due regard to economy, which should be a matter of pride to both staff and management.' You could hardly hope for much better than that!

"In addition, the consultants' report confirmed our own widely-held view that the company's progress had been such that it should be given greater autonomy. As a result, we decided to bring on to the Board more and more of those senior executives whose working lives are completely devoted to ACTS business. This change in the structure of the Board is working splendidly and augurs well for the company's future success".



A very sad landmark in the three Lloyd years at the helm was the death of former General Manager Peter Yarwood. "We had been working closely together ever since, some 12 years ago, ACT started with Peter and his secretary, Pat Joyce, in one room in Camomile Street", he said.

"No one could have been more conscientious and more enthusiastic to further the company's aims. Despite his shyness and self-effacement, he endeared himself to his staff to an extent many of us did not fully appreciate until he was gone.

"If it can be said that anything good came out of this tragic loss, it is that ACTS were fortunate to find a man of Peter Bainbridge's character, experience and expertise to take over and carry on the good work Peter Yarwood had started".

His ACTS colleagues sprang a surprise on retiring Chairman Alastair Lloyd when he attended a dinner for Regional Managers and their wives at Brockenhurst, near Southampton. Unbeknown to him—but with a little silent co-operation from his wife—they had commissioned a painting of his delightful home at Littlebury, Essex. At the dinner, the painting was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd by ACTS Managing Director Peter Bainbridge (right).

Finally, Alastair Lloyd said: "Being Chairman of ACTS was a very rewarding experience. One is at the centre of the ACT 'family'. It is encouraging to see that the staff take a great interest in the affairs and the fortunes, not only of the ACT operating companies but of the parent shareholding companies as well.

"The feeling of being part of a large and very influential ACT 'family' is, to my mind, most important and is something which I tried to encourage and strengthen."

"I hope", he went on, "that all concerned will feel, with me, that morale is high now, and that staff at all levels are not only efficient but proud of being part of ACT and of the job they do.

"Long may this continue. I wish the company and everyone in it even greater success in the future".

New chairman and his deputy



GORDON REID

takes over from Alastair Lloyd as ACTS Chairman. A founder Director of ACT Ltd and ACT Services Ltd, he has spent his working life with Harrison Line and is a senior director of Thomas and James Harrison Ltd.



WILLIAM B. SLATER

Managing Director of the Cunard Steam-Ship Company Limited, Cargo, Aviation and Offshore Shipping Division, who has joined the ACTS Board as Deputy Chairman.

Still good friends

Just to show there's no ill-feeling, Ian Clapp, Transport Co-ordinator at Seaforth Terminal,

and David Goodwin, Assistant Controller, posed together for this picture after coming first and second respectively in the Seaforth Bowls Tournament.



Ian and David

They received their prizes from Terminal Manager Ted Clayton. The tournament was organised to raise funds for the newly-opened Sports and Social Club.



Loraine Evers

STRANGE CASE OF THE TWO LOR(R)AINES

THERE are (or, rather, were) two well-known Loraines in Richmond House—Loraine Evers and Lorraine Barry—whose paths crossed amazingly almost from the days they were born.

The fathers of both girls hailed from Yorkshire. Indeed, their homes were only a couple of miles from each other.

Both men married Southampton girls—and, believe it or not, ended up living just a few yards apart.

The two daughters themselves—Loraine and Lorraine—started school together and stayed in the same class almost throughout their education. A break finally came when they started work, though the friendship continued out of working hours.

Loraine Evers joined ACTS as a typist in Administration, later moving to Personnel.

At this stage, the friends were re-united. Lorraine Barry joined ACTS, too, and took over Loraine Evers' old job!

At the same church

But that's not the end of the story. Within a space of 14 days, both girls met their respective husbands, were eventually married at the same church (though not on the same day!) and chose identical wedding dresses.

Even now the strange string of coincidences continues . . . Loraine and Lorraine are leaving the company for exactly the same reason—to have their first babies. Loraine Evers' was due in early November, and Lorraine Barry's in early December.

'Contacts' joins all at Richmond House in wishing both girls (and their husbands) every future happiness.



Lorraine Barry

ACT helps the boys

For the second time Leeds came to the aid of Bradford Boys' Brigade by providing a trailer and unit for the Annual Lord Mayor's Parade. It was one of 80 floats seen by 40,000 people on a five-mile city tour.

Tilbury Terminal team move into their new home



REMOVAL MEN Norman Hornigold, Les Hedaux and Kevin Hymas setting up their new 'home'.

Those in regular contact with Tilbury Terminal will know that not only has the telephone number changed (to 03752-79881), but the ACTS team there is now ensconced in the new Northfleet Hope House.

Terminal staff led by Victor Rore, and assisted by Pat Scott, began moving into the Tilbury Container Services' new building, at Site 41, way back in August.

Maureen Wright (Terminal Accounts) held the fort for two weeks unaided (she complained only once about her aching arms!), and then Imports, ably led by Glyn Whittaker and Kevin (Harry) Hymas, and watched over by Norman Hornigold and Bill Franks, claimed their share of the floorspace.

Les Hedaux (Exports) and Len Wright (Deputy Terminal Manager) were hot on their heels and the Telephonist (Shirley Hopperton) moved in on September 12.

Many thanks to Jack Wright (Courier/Messenger) who acted as "Removal Technician."

Good luck, Vic

Full normal service was due to be resumed as soon as operator Karen Adams moved in with her Telex machines.

All at Tilbury were shocked—and sorry—to hear that Victor Rore, the Terminal Manager, was leaving the company to become (it was rumoured) an oil mogul in his native Scotland.

Everybody wishes him a happy and successful future.



Welcome newcomers to the Terminal team are 17-year-old Sandra Meredith (Exports), who likes dancing and discos; Adele Fowler (Imports), whose hobbies include hiking, biking and camping; and 19-year-old Karen Adams (Telex operator), who does dress-making and knitting.

How to get in a flap with a wet suit

by Paul Marsh

(Chief Financial Accountant, Richmond House)

It's funny, isn't it, how birthdays tend to lose a lot of their charm when you pass the age of 30.

"I'll buy you a wet-suit", she said, and since she knew I had been admiring the wet-suits in a local department store (they struck me as an almost irresistible bargain), it sounded as if she was really putting herself out to please me.

The fateful day arrived, marked (disappointingly) by only a slight increase in the volume of post through the letterbox and a vague feeling of depression at no longer being 'young'.

At the store, the sales lady asked my size. I drew in my stomach and said 'Medium' with as much conviction as I could manage.

Such was my enthusiasm that I asked if I could try the suit on, and because they had no changing room, the sales lady kindly offered to let me use the stockroom. I had never worn a wet-suit before, but the lady explained that so long as I could get it on and move my arms without too much discomfort, I should consider it a reasonable fit.

Extremely warm

Putting on the trousers wasn't easy but I managed it. Then I noticed a little flap which was apparently intended to pass from the back of the jacket, between the legs, and clip to the jacket front.

I had to bend over to engage these clips, and when I tried to straighten up, was gripped by a severe pain in what I can only describe as the lower abdomen.

By now I was beginning to feel extremely warm, and was further troubled by the fact that blood no longer seemed to be reaching my feet, causing them to turn blue.

To my horror, I couldn't release the clips on the wet-suit jacket. I was, therefore, in a curious

half-circle-shaped stance, staring at my blue feet and feeling the pain return every time I tried to stand upright. I knew that I must find the sales lady quickly — or else!

I was bent double when I emerged from the stockroom, and on explaining the small problem to my wife and son, was greeted with hysterical laughter. I furthermore realised that the sales lady had gone off to serve elsewhere and I was forced to lurch, crab-like, about the store looking for help.

Underwater Hunchback

Sheer embarrassment prevents me from describing the reception I got from the other Saturday morning shoppers confronted by what, to them, appeared to be an underwater version of the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Finally I found the sales lady who, after repeated efforts to control her laughter, was able to release the flap, allowing me to spring upright. The whole catastrophe ended with me laying prostrate on the stockroom floor, hanging on to a radiator pipe while an unknown, beefy gentleman from the adjacent carpet department tugged at the wet-suit trousers in an effort to release me.

I subsequently discovered, after the laughter had subsided and the crowds dispersed, that the wet-suits were 'seconds', slightly mis-shapen — and had the wrong size labels sewn inside them.

Next year, I think I'd like a book token or a record voucher or ...



Del and Marie

He was a computer pioneer

Why Barbara talks to her plants

There are those who believe that talking to plants helps to improve their growth. Barbara Abbott, who has joined ACTS Birmingham as Senior Accounts Clerk, is one of them.



Barbara has been talking to her plants only for a short time, but what she saw and heard on a television programme has convinced her that such devotion will work wonders. There is an attractive plant display within a few feet of her office desk, but she doesn't talk to them. 'I'm too busy to do that', she says.

Barbara, married for three years, was an accounting machine operator before coming to ACTS, and gives cooking, sewing and gardening as her hobbies.

★ ★ ★ ★

CONGRATULATIONS to Birmingham Commercial Assistant Margaret Jones and husband Derek on the birth of a daughter, Leanne Cheri — already nicknamed The Major.

Margaret is on maternity leave, but hopes to return to work before the end of the year.

★ ★ ★ ★

October 7th was a big day for two members of Birmingham staff — Telex operator Lynn Beesley, who married Colin Wood at All Saints Church, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, and Assistant Cargo Superintendent Ian Wallis, who married Lynn Kittler just around the corner in Streetly.



As, unfortunately, no photographer was present, we asked Tibury's Roger Bowman to visualise the Paul Marsh predicament! Thanks, Roger.

WHY JOHN CAN'T SHOW OFF TO MYRA!

You'd imagine, wouldn't you, that any man who had spent his entire working life so far in mechanical engineering, taken a University Honours degree in the subject, and been, in his time, Chief Engineer with two pretty high-powered companies (one in hydraulics, the other in containers) would be safe to go home at night and do a bit of showing-off to his wife about the intricacies of his job?

But not so John Ormiston, who joined ACTS four years ago at the age of 32, and was appointed to the Board early this year with special responsibility for technical services.

In the Ormiston family, you see, it's a case of 'anything you can do, I can do almost as well', for John's wife, whom he first met at school in Glasgow, became, in her early twenties, one of the first women in Britain to qualify as an engineer!

"Myra was too young to go to a teacher's training college, as she had wanted to do, so she joined the National Engineering Laboratories at East Kilbride as an experimental officer", says John.

"She got her Higher National Certificate in

Mechanical Engineering, and won the Institute of Mechanical Engineers' Bruce Ball medal in competition with thousands of men who took the examination at the same time".

And that's not all. Since she and John married (five years after meeting at school), Myra has also gained a degree in music...

It is hardly surprising that John himself chose the profession he did. His father was an electrical engineer, and John and his two brothers all 'got the bug' at an early age and went into engineering. One of the other brothers is still in it.

John began as an apprentice with Albion Motors (now part of British Leyland), winning a Caird Trust scholarship to Glasgow University, where he took his Honours Degree.

By CARTER LEONARD

He later became chief engineer with Adrolic Engineering, and subsequently took a similar job at Greenock with Seaway Containers, who had just gone into the then fairly-newfangled business of container manufacturing.

"It was pretty exciting to be in at the beginning of a new venture like that", says John, "with all the initial teething troubles to be overcome, but with the exciting prospect of the great container future ahead".

After a three-year spell with Seaway, John had three years as Technical Sales Manager (Containers) with Crane Feuchauf, at North Walsham in Norfolk, before joining ACTS in 1973 in Engineering Design.



John and Myra
Anything he can do...

John and Myra have two children (Craig, aged 10, and Susan, 9) and John devotes a fair amount of time to charity work with the Meon Valley Lions Club. An enthusiastic squash player, he is also secretary of Waltham Wolves, a football club for youngsters.

And why Del has a pretty shrewd idea about computers

If it is true that John Ormiston was in almost at the very beginning of the container era, it is equally true that Del Jenkins, another member of the ACTS Board and Head of the company's Management Services, was in at the beginning of the computer age.

It was in the late 50's — after an initial foray into the world of banking — that Del joined the Birmid Qualcast Group to spearhead the group's voyage into the then only partially charted seas of computer usage.

"At that time, computers were only just beginning to be used commercially" he says, "but the top men in industry were starting to accept them and to plan for the ever-increasing role computers were to play in the years ahead. It was a challenging time for those fortunate enough to be involved".

From Birmid Qualcast, Del moved to the giant Carreras/Rothmans tobacco concern to take charge of its computer installation and six years later became a consultant with Coopers and Lybrand, a leading firm of accountants and management consultants.

The other lot!

During his seven years in consultancy, he spent two years in Iran, advising one of the national banks of Iran in the use of computers — and on his return to the UK spent one year with "the other container shipping group", advising them in general on computer methods!

In November 1970, he joined ACTS as Head of Management Services and became a Director of the Company in February 1977.

He and his wife Marie have two children — Caryl, aged 21, and Simon, aged 17 — and Del puts sailing high on his list of hobbies, though he confesses that these days he is more likely to be acting as 'crew', with Simon at the helm.

He plays the piano, too, and spends a fair amount of his spare time on 'general house maintenance' at the family home in Winchester.

Oh, what a day, for youngsters Edie and Frank...

Edie the Tea Lady and Frank from the Mail Room are two of the 'characters' at Richmond House, so when it became known that they would celebrate their 65th birthdays within a week of one another, it surprised nobody — least of all their boss, Dudley Kirk — when a joint celebration was planned.

Thirty members of the Central Services staff not only transformed the Purchasing Department for the occasion, but gave up their luncheon vouchers to provide sandwiches for the guests.

The Guests of Honour—Edie Philpot and Frank Houghton—were both presented by Dudley Kirk with engraved silver goblets to mark the milestone in their lives. Edie also received a bouquet and Frank a bottle of brandy.

And if anybody has doubts about the esteem in which Edie is held by those who sample the delights of her trolley, these verses from a poem submitted by 'A nony mouse' should put the record straight:-

*For tea that tastes like nectar
and coffee smelling sweet
There's only one tea lady
that you'll find hard to beat.
She goes about her duties
with love that's hard to hide
To make her urn give forth the
best of England's hope and pride.*

Edie and Frank with some of their 65th birthday 'guests', and (above right) heads together in happy celebration.



WHEN 14 PEOPLE REPRESENT



TWELVE of the fourteen newcomers who have caused the welcome population explosion at Soton Terminal in the past year. Standing, left to right: Ray Tomlin, Steve King, Richard Milton, Ted Knowlton and Andy Callum. Seated, left to right: Mike Beeby, Stan Tribbeck, Jerry Rickord, Jacqui Codgbrook, Julie Wing and Maggie Gale. In the foreground, Malcolm Wade.

You could, I suppose, say that the port Terminal began just about nine months ago after handling containerised cargo for Ben (delightedly, of course) invited to deal also out of South Africa under the auspices of E.I.

Almost overnight, manager David Parsons and his enthusiastic team took on an additional drive for new BLC business.

Until Southampton was opened up for Africa trade, the ACTS terminal team dealt with and import containers at a rate of around 100 per week including empties. In the first two months of activity, close on 2,500 extra containers equivalent of 15,000 a year — were on their way from the Dark Continent using berths 204-206.

"Ben Line trade had grown steadily from the early part of this year", says David Parsons, "the introduction of EHCL cargoes, with their created a dramatic, overnight change".

It could be argued, of course, that an influx of 14 is hardly a 'population explosion'. Just nine months earlier, the staff total was 10.

UNIQUE

Southampton Terminal is unique in its 'empire'. Unlike Seaforth and Tilbury, company units smaller in terms of total staff (only fractionally), Southampton is more than a regional office. It is also the regional office for EHCL activity in the South-West. So it is responsible for controlling and monitoring every Ben Line container in and out of Southampton.



CHECKING on the container repair control board — Container and Equipment Inspector Alan Hodgson (right) with his Assistant Inspector, Ray Tomlin. RIGHT, INFORMAL conference at the berth itself — Manager David Parsons (right) with his Deputy, Peter Onslow-Free, and secretary Julie Shaw.



ONLY THREE members of ACTS Terminal staff were missing, on holiday, when our 'Contacts' cameraman took this picture on one of last Summer's brighter days.

SENT A POPULATION

'EXPLOSION'

ulation explosion at Southampton That's when the ACTS team there, Line since 1972, found themselves with new cargoes heading into and CL.

By Lester Carroll

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Parsons and his team are also responsible for the booking and documentation of all EHCL cargoes and the transportation and handling of all BLC and EHCL cargoes in and out of the south-west — a region that includes the heavily-industrialised areas around Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea.

Since opening in 1972, with two berths and three quay cranes, the Terminal has been enlarged to five cranes and three berths to accommodate the nine shipping lines operating the South African container trade, and last year — even before that trade began — handled no fewer than 150 ship calls.

The fact that ACTS — with a total staff on site of only 32 — can claim 25% of the Terminal's operational activity tells its own story.

COINCIDENCE

It is, one suspects, a little more than coincidence that heading the team at Southampton are two men whose paths first crossed some 15 years ago, and whose close ties of friendship are obvious to anyone who meets them.

Terminal (and Regional) Manager David Parsons and his deputy Peter Onslow-Free first met when both, almost straight from school, were trying out their sea legs with Port Line.

David was making his first voyage as a junior third officer aboard the Port Melbourne when Peter was about to embark on his first voyage in the same ship! Today they serve side by side again...

David, born at Stratford-on-Avon and now 36, confesses that he always wanted to go to sea, even when still at school. He went to nautical college for a year, before becoming a cadet with Port Line, taking his Second Mate's certificate at 20. Eight years later, as a Chief Officer and with a Master's Certificate tucked safely under his belt, he took a long, hard look at the future.

"I saw the number of containerships increasing rapidly and the opportunities of



MONEY GIRLS Anita Heather and Jill Rogers. Anita is Accounts Clerk and Jill Accounts Clerk Transport Costing. In her spare time, Jill gardens, plays squash and does dressmaking. She even admits to making some of her husband's trousers!

(Please turn to Page 11)



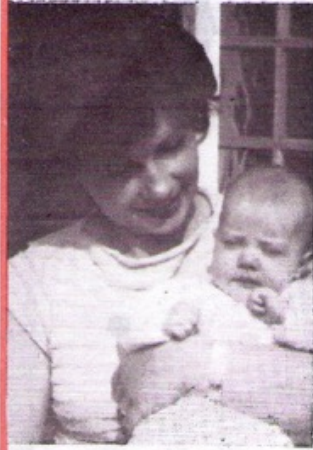
SMILES ALL ROUND from Soton Terminal's Telex girls — Chairmaine Coaker, Julie Wing and Janice Williams. Janice has recently become engaged.

NOW BASILDON MAKES ITS OWN 'PRODUCTIVITY DEAL'

WHATEVER kind of year it may turn out to be for wine, 1978 is certainly proving a vintage year for babies!

To make the point, we publish here a selection of proud parents and beautiful babies... all of them, believe it or not, newcomers to the ACTS Basildon family (the babies, that is) since the beginning of this year.

As we've said before, there must be something about the Basildon air...



Father Sheraton Copland-Mander (SCA Exports) with Joanne. Left: Gillian Lindsay (Exports) with baby Xanthe. Right: Maureen Radden, of Central Services, with son Paul.



Janice Rudd (Exports) with her daughter who was only two days old when this picture was taken. Left: Carol Hodgson (Accounts) with son Andrew.

Five-a-side win for Terminal

Tilbury Terminal took control immediately in the final of a Five-a-Side competition at Billericay Sports Hall, beating TCS, Tilbury, by five goals to three.

The competition was for a trophy donated by Deputy Terminal Manager Len Wright.

Albion Sugar, OCL, Transalpine and ACT Barking were all eliminated in the early rounds, and CP Ships and Tilbury Transport were narrowly defeated in the semi-finals.

Terminal's goals in the final were scored by Norman Hornigold, Peter Meredith and Paul O'Doherty.

It is hoped to make this an annual event, with more ACT teams competing.



Baby Scott is the pride and joy of Margaret Lockheart, from Credit Control.

Things you should know

YOU CAN'T fool all the people all the time, but it isn't necessary. A majority will do.

WHEN A MAN thinks he is important he should ask what the world would miss if he weren't there.

THE MAN who throws mud is losing ground.

AN OPTIMIST is a man who goes looking for digs with a trombone under one arm and a saxophone under the other.

A WOMAN, generally speaking, is generally speaking.

A BORE is a person who talks when you want him to listen.

A LOT of animals can talk but can't understand. Pity it's not the same with a lot of human beings.

Mike the bike and Wendy both show the way

Going to work five days a week in Personnel Department at Head Office must seem like a rest cure to Prim Gover after the non-stop activity of her week-ends!

From March to October every year, Prim's time is divided between horse-riding daughter Wendy (20) and motor-cycling son Michael (18). Wendy has been riding since the age of five, now has four horses and spends most Saturdays at horse shows. To date she has won more than 400 rosettes and many trophies in gymkhanas, show jumping, pony racing and in-hand showing.

14,000 miles

She now concentrates on showing classes and this year has won ten firsts (plus 42 bottles of sherry) with her Palamino yearling Romany Gold. Her aim is to own her own stud, and with two mares due to foal next Spring, it looks as if Mum will have even more to do.

Every Sunday, Mum goes with Michael to scramble meetings all over Britain (14,000 miles travelled this year!). Mike has raced since the age of 11 and has won more than 70 trophies, among them Castrol Southern National Schoolboy Champion, British Senior Schoolboy Champion (1975), and a well-remembered 4th on the famous Moto Cross track at St. Lo in France.

Mike is at present 6th in the Under 18 250cc

British Scrambler championship with two rounds to go. He plans to ride a 400cc KTM next year and hopes to get enough points to qualify for an International licence.



Wendy with a winner and (right) Mike in the unusual role of spectator.



MIKE IS THE NEW DEPUTY BOSS



THERE'S a pretty universal feeling at Basildon that Mike Mackay (formerly Terminal and Marine Assistant at Soton) is going to be a boon and a blessing to the region. And not only as Deputy Regional Manager, the job he took over recently when Terry Boston moved to pastures new.

Last year, first of the Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup, Mike was a key member of the victorious Head Office team — and Basildon obviously has a weather eye on the part he could play in bringing the Cup to their region in the not too distant future.

Mike spent seven years in the Merchant Navy as a Deck Officer, and later, for four years, worked as an engineering draftsman on the Concorde project at Filton.

After getting an Honours Degree in Sociology and Economic History at Bristol, he took an MSC in Transportation and Engineering at Southampton University.

While studying at Southampton, his wife Mary "swotted" at home and gained an honours degree from the Open University.



John Wilson
See: Bulk Imports

Bulk imports

Another welcome recruit from Head Office is Basildon's new Distribution Services Superintendent, John Wilson.

John joined ACTS six years ago, and has



Left to right: Robert Parker, Joan Groom and Mike Street.

worked mainly in Systems and Programming at Richmond House.

His new appointment will bring John in contact with major meat importers and with other importers of bulk commodities like butter and canned fruit.

Married, with one son, John gives his hobbies as golf, squash and most indoor games.

Do-it-yourself

Michael Street, who started in the Export Department at Basildon, then transferred to Imports as senior commercial assistant, has been promoted to Credit Controller.

Rest of the news from Basildon

Mike and his wife have four children — two boys and two girls — and he is keen on do-it-yourself.

Robert Parker, a senior commercial assistant in the Export Department, has moved to Imports. He still devotes much of his spare time to his successful career as a Master of Ceremonies.

Like Mike Street, Robert is married with four children.

Two ladies who have both been with ACTS for six years have recently taken up new posts. Mrs. Joan Groom (who wrote in 'Contacts' recently about her hobby of square dancing and who has been a senior date prep. operator in Central Services) is now Assistant Central Services Supervisor; and Jill Rogers, also from Central Services, becomes senior date prep. operator. She gives the Three D's as her hobbies — driving, dancing and drinking!



Jill Rogers

Welcome to seven (all pictured below) who have joined the Basildon ACTS team recently. To, Kathryn Jowett; married with no children, who is a courier with Central Services; Owen Eldred, a commercial assistant in the Imports Department; Karen Harlow, a Telex operator with Central Services; David Swan, a commercial assistant, Imports; Linda Chadwick, a Central Services shorthand typist who reports that she is married, 'with one little girl and two large dogs'; Nick Andrews, a commercial assistant, Exports; and Valerie Andrews, married with one small daughter and working as a Telex operator in Central Services.

Promoted

Late news from Leeds is that Mark Foster (Accounts Clerk) has been promoted to Imports, typist (and respected 'Contacts' correspondent) Dyan Fidler to Telex, and Grace Wright to Transport Accounts.

Kevin Toolan (Imports) and his wife have another boy, Neil, who weighed 8lb 5oz at birth.



Linda Whitaker, of Basildon Central Services, with baby daughter Jennie, born in January this year.

All drivers finally found the pub

A dozen packed cars competed in a recent treasure hunt organised for Manchester Sports and Social Club by Ian Jarrett and Richard Tomlinson, whose ears would have burned if they could have heard some of the comments by drivers wandering the Pennine foothills!

All cars eventually turned up safely at the right pub, the winner being Mike McGuire, with Joyce Gilliard second and Steve Bowman, of Henry Tyler's, third.

Ken Thompson will doubtless remember the day for years, due mainly to an irate landlady in the car park of the pub from which the hunt began. (He assures us that he didn't want to use the pub again, anyway!).

★ ★ ★ ★

The Annual Inter-Regional Bowls Tournament at Holmes Chapel, in which Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Seaforth and Glasgow regions were all represented, was won by Jim Peat (Seaforth Terminal), with Peter Hiron (Liverpool) as runner-up and Roy Burton (Birmingham) and Jim Henry (Liverpool) losing semi-finalists.

★ ★ ★ ★

Congratulations to Anne (Credit Control) and Keith Tyler (Transport) on the birth of Christopher Mark; and a warm welcome to Christine Kaye-Fiakkas who has joined as a clerk/typist in Accounts. Christine enjoys hiking.



Valerie Andrews



Nick Andrews



Linda Chadwick



Owen Eldred



Karen Harlow



David Swan



Kathryn Jowett

'POOL BEAT

By The Sports Editor



ANY OUTFIT WENT for the tug-of-war—as demonstrated by Liverpool's Peter Hirons, Southampton's Mick Creed and Glasgow's Margaret Watson.

THEY came, they saw—and they conquered not only the fog but also the pretty strenuous opposition put up by determined teams from Glasgow and Head Office!

As a result, Liverpool today bask in the glory of being the 1978 Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup Champions, and Scotland and Southampton are left to lick their wounds and go into training for another day.

There were a few breathless hours when it looked as if the entire final could be 'fogged off'. With almost the whole of Britain enveloped in the first fog blanket of the year, Pete Smith, Lynne Lisney and their organising team at Soton waited anxiously for news that the Liverpool and Glasgow challengers had been able to set-off.

In the event, Liverpool made it in good time, but Glasgow, flying South late on the Friday afternoon, did not reach tournament headquarters until almost midnight.

TWO STARS HURT

From the moment Chris Summerfield and Pat Evans 'walked on to Number One Court' for the first table-tennis encounter on the Saturday morning—representing Head Office and Liverpool respectively—until the final minutes of the five-a-side football battle on Sunday, the eventual resting place of the Challenge Cup was always in doubt.

When it was all over, unbiased spectators were left with many imponderables...

- ★ If only Chris had controlled her passion for card-playing throughout Saturday night;
- ★ If only Margaret Macpherson (the rallying point of Scottish hopes) had helped and encouraged the Soton tug-of-war team as she helped and encouraged Liverpool(!);
- ★ If only Mick Creed's trousers had not shown definite signs of falling down during the five-a-side;
- ★ If only Glasgow's Alec McLaren could have had the shot-in-the-arm of seeing his horse win the first televised race on Saturday afternoon;
- ★ And—most important and most serious of all—if only Pete Thompson, of Head Office, and Steve Williams, of Liverpool, had not had the wretched luck to be injured during the closing minutes of the Sunday football (both were taken to hospital for treatment, but latest reports are that the two of them are now more like their cheerful selves)...

MEMORIES

Memories of the two-day encounter are legion... Barry Kirk (Head Office) twice coming back from behind to beat Liverpool's



LAUGHTER AND DETERMINATION got all mixed up as the teams (Liverpool top, Glasgow centre, and Head Office) each sought to pull their way to victory in the tug-of-war final. Note the common denominator in two of the pictures—Glasgow's Margaret Macpherson egging on her own team AND Liverpool in the two top pictures!

CHALLENGE!

'Contacts' has never needed an excuse to use pictures of pretty girls—but this time we've got one! The eight blondes and brunettes below are members of the formidable ACT(A) Ladies' Netball Team, and they're challenging any ACT Services netball team (men or women) to compete in a game or a series 'anywhere, anytime'. Names (but no phone numbers) left to right across page: Pat Piercy, Jane Tanner, Sara Twynam, Annette Evans, Carol Farrugia, Cathy Stearne, Diane Hart and Anna Bennett. Challenges to be made through Lynne Lisney, Head Office Personnel.



FOG-THEN THE REST



Liverpool's Steve Williams (left), sadly injured on the second day, gives a premature (though prophetic) victory sign over the head of his dart-playing skipper Bill Bernard.

Peter Hirons in a close table tennis fight, and Liverpool captain Bill Bernard beating Mick Creed (Head Office) in an absolute scorcher; Head Office being tugged out of sight, first by Scotland and then by Liverpool; five-a-side referee Tom Jenkins (who did a great job) whistling the teams to a standstill and then having to consult the rules in his pocket before letting play re-start; Chris Summerfield and Margaret Watson (Scotland) taking what seemed like only an hour to get a winning double to end their darts meeting...

A BIG SUCCESS

General verdict on this second Peter Yarwood Cup Final—a resounding success. Liverpool running out easy winners, with a nine-point lead over Glasgow and Southampton third, three points behind.

Presenting the trophy to Liverpool captain Bill Bernard, Bob Howland, a Director of ACTS, paid a warm tribute to Peter Smith, Chairman of Head Office Sports and Social Club, and Lynne Lisney, of Richmond House Personnel Department, for their part in the organisation of a most successful competition.



GLASGOW'S CAPTAIN Alex McLaren (left) has an admiring gallery of spectators as he competes in the table tennis competition.

THE SCORES

Full results were as follows:
LIVERPOOL, 47 points; **GLASGOW**, 38 points; **SOUTHAMPTON**, 35 points.
TEAM EVENTS:
 Tug-of-war (five points per win): Glasgow 10; Liverpool 5; Southampton 0.
 Five-a-side (five points per win): Liverpool 10; Southampton 5; Glasgow 0.

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL SCORES:

LIVERPOOL: Bill Bernard 8; Steve Williams 8; Peter Hirons 6; Martin Neary 6; Pat Evans 4.
GLASGOW: Alec McLaren 10; John Kennedy 8; Jim Stewart 6; Margaret Watson 4; John Gray 0.
SOUTHAMPTON: Chris Summerfield 10; Barry Kirk 8; Mick Creed 6; Paul Howlett 6; Pete Thompson 0.

SOTON TERMINAL

(continued from Page Seven)

getting a command dwindling correspondingly, he says. "I reckoned that I would have to wait eight or ten years for my own ship — and decided to take my chance ashore".

He joined ACTS, direct from sea, as an operations assistant, moving to Manchester as cargo superintendent in 1971, to Richmond House as Cargo Handling Officer two years later, to Birmingham as Deputy Regional Manager in 1975 — and to Southampton, as Terminal and Regional Manager, in 1976.

David and his wife Margaret — a New Zealand nurse he met at a party when his ship called at Bluff — have two children, Sean (7) and Neil (5). Margaret spent 10½ months at sea with David on his last voyage.

Landlubber Parsons now lists his interests away from the Terminal as 'occasional golf', 'occasional squash' and "very amateur gardening".

FROM NEW ZEALAND

Like his boss, Deputy Manager Peter Onslow-Free, a Devon man by birth, decided after a spell at sea, to try his luck on land. Because he and his wife both wanted to sample life in New Zealand, he took a job there with ACT (NZ) as an operations officer, and before returning to England in 1974, had become Deputy Terminal Manager at Auckland.

Peter's hobbies — sailing, squash 'and the house'. Some time ago, Peter and his wife bought an old house which they are now busily 'bringing up to scratch'.

A key attraction of Southampton as a container Terminal is that the rest of the United Kingdom can be reached by rail or road without the constant need to pass through the heavy traffic in the London area. Some seventy-five per cent of containers in an out of the Terminal — representing about 60,000 of 20 feet equivalent of space — are moved by rail to and from all parts of the country.

Freightline Controller Rick Pittard and his



Cargo Supt. Sandy Inglis, Maggie Gale (Commercial Assistant, Imports), Lorne Beesley and Jerry Rickcord (Assistant Cargo Superintendents).

right-hand man, 26-year-old, car-racing fanatic Lloyd Rumsey, operate, in association with OCL, a joint contract with Freightliners. The ACTS share of the contract alone is worth £2 million a year.

Rick, five years in charge of this vast rail operation, and his wife Yvonne have two children — Martin (5) and Christine (8) — and he gives Rugby and golf as his away-from-the-office interests.

CAR RACING

A more bizarre choice of hobby is that of Lloyd Rumsey who, with 23-year-old brother Tony, has just acquired a Hawke Formula Ford which they hope to be racing round the tracks of Britain, (with hungry eyes on Silverstone and Brand's Hatch) by March next year. Tony has already taken a course at Goodwood and recently got through to the quarter finals of the Winfield Trophy. Lloyd himself is booked to take a course at Thruxton soon.

Transport Superintendent Tony Griffiths, who joined ACTS six years ago from NAAFI and was deputy transport boss until taking over the top job five months ago, will accept that his department handles only 25 per cent of the cargo in and out of the Terminal, but will argue also that 'all the difficult stuff comes our way'.

By this, of course, he means that anything not suitable for movement within the restricted limits of a railway track are bread and butter to

him and his team. Giant machinery like earth-moving equipment must go by road, and the team has vivid memories of the time they had to carry eight huge ship's propellers destined for Japan!

Tony and wife Brenda, a Darlington girl, have two children — Paul (9) and David (5) — and though Tony admits to a love of motor-cycle racing (as a spectator now, but once as a scrambling participant), he confesses that his main interest away from the office is his family.

As in most offices, the Jekylls who work there by day take on quite remarkable Hyde characters once they get away. Transport costing clerk Jill Rogers, who joined ACTS just over a year ago, tells you that she enjoys pottering in the garden, playing squash and dressmaking — and then springs the surprise that in addition to making many of her own dresses, she also makes her husband's trousers!

And Assistant Container and Equipment Inspector Ray Tomlin, just six weeks with ACTS when I spoke to him, reveals not only that he plays base guitar in a five-man group called Siren, but that when he's not doing that, he is quietly being Vice Commodore of Eling Sailing Club.

Leeds news round-up

GARY AND ANN TAKE THE CAKE!

When Leeds data punch operator Ann Hampshire (21 earlier this year) and her new husband, Gary Wilkinson, a building supervisor, entertained guests after their wedding at Lofthouse Parish Church, they offered them slices from a very special cake (pictures below, left).



Indeed, you could call it a do-it-yourself cake. Although neither Ann nor Gary had ever tried icing before, they had iced all three tiers of their wedding cake.

Ann, who wore white chiffon and carried a bouquet of roses, was attended by two bridesmaids in peach-coloured dresses. She and Gary went to Newquay for their honeymoon.

'Roses' battle

Despite showers, the sixth annual ACTS 'Roses' cricket match was played successfully during the so-called Summer, with the scheduled 30 overs a side reduced to 25.

Battling first Manchester scored 121 for the loss of seven wickets, Forrester (55) and Tyler (23) being top scorers, and Marshall and Foster each taking two wickets, for 13 and 29 respectively.



In reply, Leeds lost seven wickets for 26 runs, but later an unbroken stand of 58 put them on the path to victory. Marshall (53), Foster (23) and Barker (13) were top scorers, and Byron (four for 18) and Kirk (3 for 33) the principal wicket-takers.

NEWCOMERS

New arrivals to the Leeds team include:-

Kevin Wilson, who is a sales liaison clerk with ACTA. Married six years, he was a male nurse in a psychiatric ward before his ACTA stint, and lists his hobbies as tennis and soccer.

Cargo Assistant **Hamish Beck**, who joined the company in July after 4½ years at sea with Ellermans. He plays tennis, is a keen motorist and likens himself to the 'Galloping Gourmet'.

Filing clerk **Andrea Thorp**, married with a small daughter, plays badminton, draws and paints posters.

Seventeen-year-old **Karen Ellis**, who has replaced Mark Foster in Accounts since Mark went to Imports. Karen enjoys grass track racing and has competed in her Austin 1100 at Penistone, Barnsley and Roos.

Football and cricketer **Carl Good**, aged 18, who has joined Transport, also likes watching motor-cycle racing.

Eighteen-year-old **Tricia Leighton**, who has joined the company as a typist, likes reading, swimming and drinking—thought not necessarily in that order.

Ken R. Jones has replaced Malcolm Greenwood as an ACTA salesman since Malcolm took a pub at Aberford. Ken plays cricket for Denholme. In the wool trade for 20 years, he is married with three children.

Tricia Woolnought, who joined Export Bookings, is a member of Stanilands Yacht Club and owns a 30 foot four-berth ex-Broads cruiser. She also enjoys rambling and cycling.

Colleagues gave Andrew Powell (Transport) a lighter and Maxine Daniels a silver bracelet to mark their 21st birthdays.

Daphne Richardson (Telex) was given a blanket, bottle sterilizer, changing mat and inevitable potty when she left to await a baby.



WIN OR LOSE, there were smiles all round as Peter Yarwood Cup Final competitors gathered before departure for this picture to be taken by Pete Smith from their hotel balcony. More pictures and full report on Pages 10 and 11.

— and the news from Head Office

New bride takes a daily sea trip

"There's nothing like an early-morning sea voyage to wake you up", says newly-wed Jan Gurd, Leasing Clerk in the Operations Department at Head Office. Jan recently married Terry Gurd at Lymington Registry Office and the couple have moved into a new home at Hythe, just across the water from Southampton.

ACTS colleagues presented Jan and Terry (pictured right) with a set of bath towels.

Head Office staff changes include:-

TOM CONWAY, transferred from Inland Traffic Co-ordinator to Transport Manager, Liverpool;

DAVE SPARKS, returned from Sharjah to succeed Mike Mackay as Terminal and Marine Assistant;

FRANCIS PHILLIPS, Tariff Officer, has left to join "Containerisation International";

JIM PORTEOUS, back from South Africa to become Tariff Manager;



Her colleagues in Documentary Services presented Kim Gilbert, with a set of silver sherry glasses before her marriage to John Moore at Fawley Church.

HENRY RAU, Systems Analyst, seconded to ACT New Zealand for a year;

GLYNIS LOCKLEY, the Financial Director's Secretary, now O and M Trainee, succeeded by newcomer **GWEN HUNT**; and

CHRIS HOLLIDAY has joined the company to be secretary to Del Jenkins, Director and Head of Management Services.

£20 HOLIDAY SNAPS: EXTRA TIME

In the Summer issue of 'Contacts' we offered films worth £20 as prizes in a four-category holiday snaps competition—one prize for the best colour picture, another for the best black-and-white, a third for the best colour transparency, and a fourth for the best humorous snap.

Many readers have explained that they

could not get their entries to Lynne Lisney, in Head Office Personnel Dept., by September 21—so the closing date has been extended to January 17 NEXT YEAR.

So remember, Lynne Lisney will welcome your entries any time up to then. . . Get clicking, developing and printing!