

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

JULY 1979



Editorial

So it's "Goodbye" from him and "Hello" from me. Although over the past couple of years the Brigade Magazine has changed it's style and content, it has certainly always included interesting, topical and humorous articles, and there should be no doubting the hard work that Terry continuously put in, to produce a very 'fresh' magazine.

Now that the foundations have been laid, my job has certainly been made easier, and I will endeavour to continue the standard set. I would therefore ask for your continued support, in sending me any item of interest, stories, articles, features and photographs that you would like to see included in 'your' magazine.

John Skight

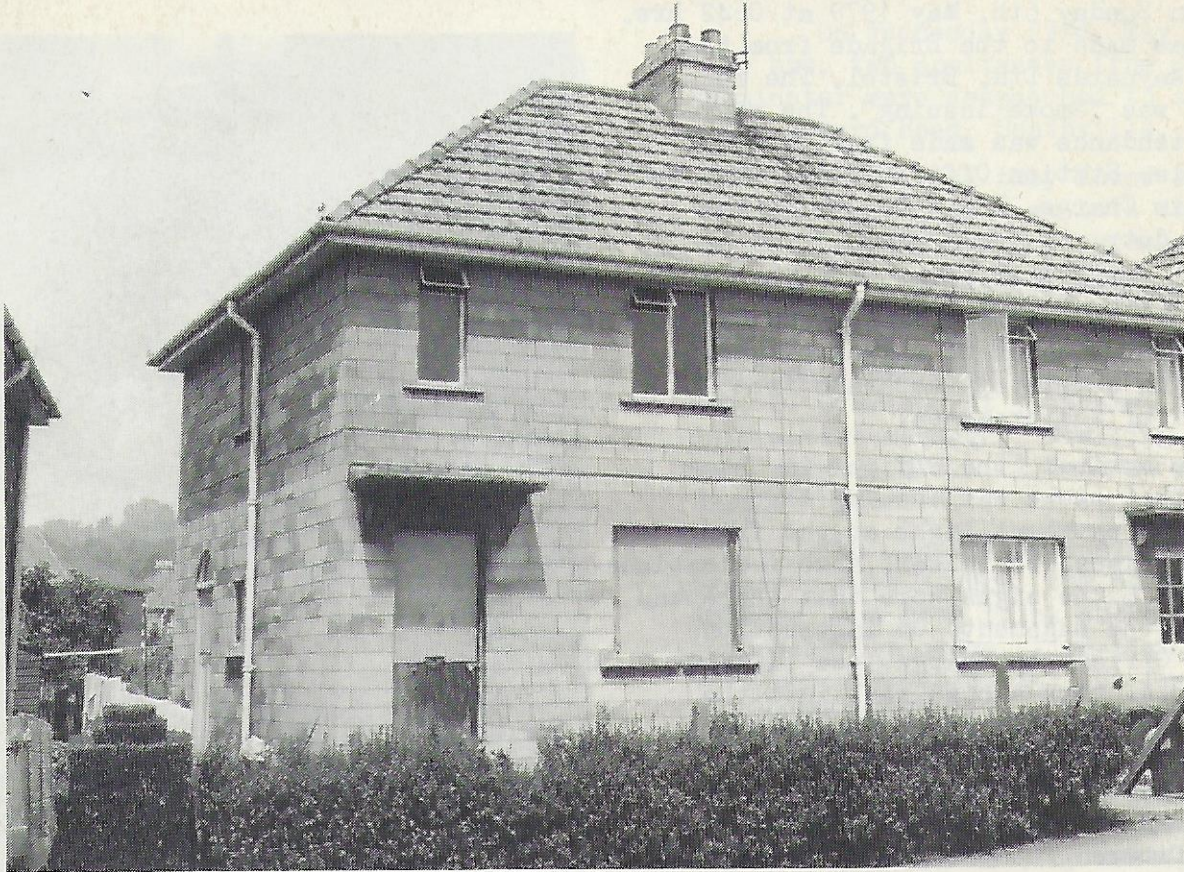
COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE SPORTS ASSOCIATION. 500 CLUB.

The draw for weeks 8-12 inclusive of cycle 5 have been made, and the following members will each receive the sum of £5. 00.

<u>Week 8</u>	379 065	D. Stillwell Miss C. Graham	B3 Paulton B. Div. Headquarters.
<u>Week 9</u>	342 336	P. Sanson Mr. Vile	A5 Patchway A5 Patchway
<u>Week 10</u>	879 165	B. Atkinson J. Parnham	B1 Bath A. Div. F.P.
<u>Week 11</u>	865 305	W. Weston P. Haskins	B1 Bath C1 Weston-Super-Mare
<u>Week 12</u>	357 235	C. Millard W. Doades	C1 Weston-Super-Mare C1 Weston-Super-Mare

Front Cover. Children of Claremont School, Henleaze, being instructed by the men of A2. Southmead, on their voluntary project 'What to do in case of Fire'
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63 Rudmore Park, Lower Weston, Bath.



On Friday 8th June 1979 at 2159 hours the Wr.E. and Wr.L. from B1 Bath were despatched to No. 63 Rudmore Park. A.D.O. Brimmell responded from home.

Seven calls were recieved to this incident, the fourth being "Persons Reported" this information being relayed by radio to the appliances. On arrival, neighbours shouted that 2 children were trapped upstairs. Immediate entry was made via the front door, where a neighbour was using a garden hose on flames just inside.

Station Officer Patrick and A/L. Fm. Baldwin went upstairs through heavy concentrations of smoke, and A/L. Fm. Baldwin brought down 1 7yr. old boy from the front bedroom. As he went downstairs, the B.A. crews came up, relieving the Stn. O. and starting a full search.

Fm. Miller brought down a 3yr. old girl, and at this time information was recieved that a man was also in the house. The search continued, and on entering the third bedroom found a civilian, (Mr. George Lucas), calmly waiting by the window. It transpired that before the arrival of the brigade, he had climbed a drainpipe and entered the room, and lowered a 5yr. old boy down. He had then found it impossible to reach the other rooms, and when he heard the Firemen on the stairs retired to the window for fresh air, to await our convenience! (When A/L. Fm. Baldwin came up behind him, hoping to share some window space and air, Mr. Lucas thought that he was about to be tipped out of the window, and protested that he was quite OK.)

All persons now being accounted for, B.A. was withdrawn, and the fire dealt with using 2 Hose Reel Jets. (The ground floor front room suffered severe fire damage, the remainder suffered smoke damage). It is of interest to note that Fm. Russell and Fm. Cross were on their second B.A. job, on their first tour of duty after completion of initial training.

MAYNARDS LTD. ST. AUGUSTINES PARADE.

On Sunday 6th. May 1979 at 0642 hrs. a call was made to the Brigade from the company Maynards Ltd. Bristol. The message recieved was "Smoke Issuing". The normal first attendance was made from Station A1. Temple. Station Officer Player was the Officer in Charge, Red Watch being the Watch on duty.

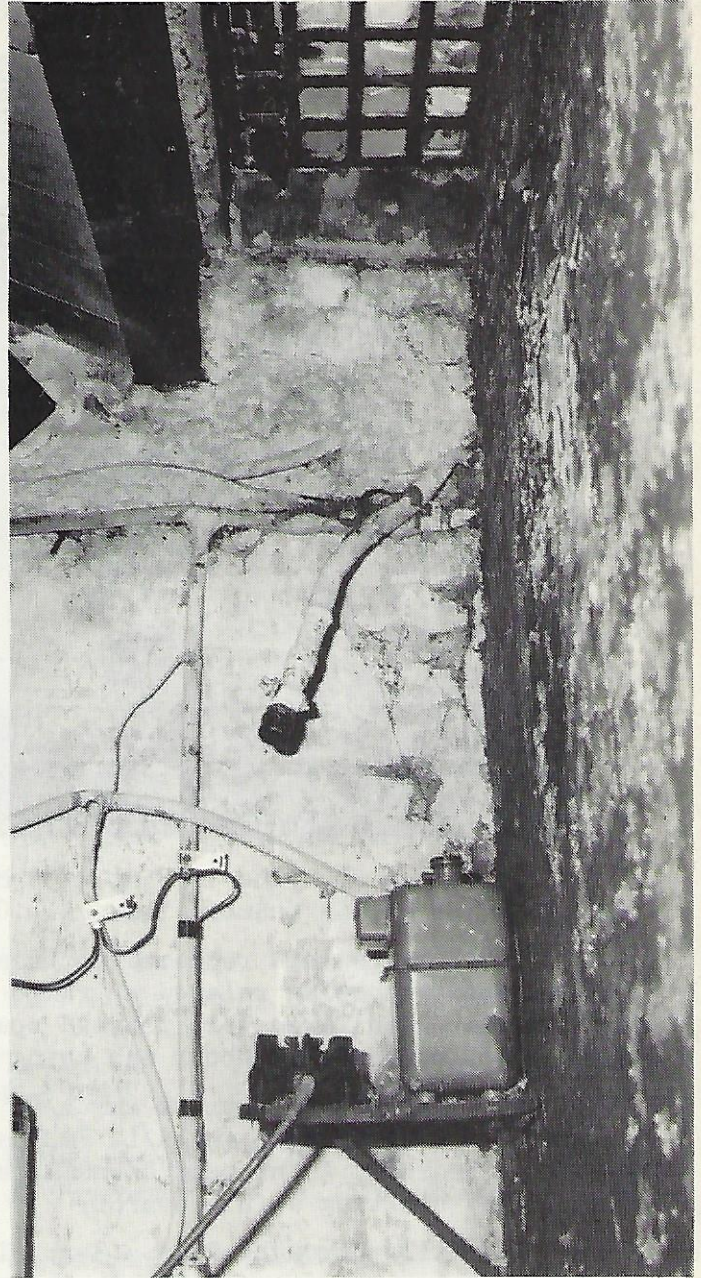
The premises comprise a four storey building with basement. The ground floor and basement consist of a lock-up sweet shop, being completely separate from the remainder of the premises.

On arrival, the Officer in Charge noticed that smoke was issuing through cracks in a pavement light at the front of the premises, there were also indications of heat, all the signs were that there was a fire in the basement. On instructions from the Officer in Charge, two firemen wearing B.A. took a hose reel into the ground floor via the main entrance door which they found unlocked, and made their way down into the basement via another door and staircase. To their amazement the two firemen found no fire, but noticed that a gas pipe had been burnt away and that unignited gas was freely flowing into the basement area. They informed the Officer in Charge and then re-entered the basement taking a tool kit and using a spanner, turned off the gas. The South West Gas Board were asked to attend, the Police were already in attendance.

It appears that the premises had been burgled by some person in possession of a key to the front door, who, on completion of their unauthorised entry, moved a gas ring from a table in the basement, placed it underneath a nearby gas meter, lit it, and departed from the premises. The heat from the gas ring melted a pipe and the escaping gas ignited, and a jet of flame impinged on the underside of the pavement light. It appears that this situation continued for some time; fortunately the flame did not impinge on any combustibile material, and therefore there was no spread of fire. After some time, due to lack of oxygen, the flame self-extinguished, and the unignited gas continued to flow into the basement. It is not known for how long the gas remained alight, but the pavement light and nearby rolled steel joist were literally red hot. One hesitates to think what might have happened had there been a correct air/gas mixture together with a direct source of ignition, when the two firemen made their entrance into the basement.

One of the two firemen was clearly heard to remark to the Officer in Charge that he was "Cracking Walnuts", when he and his companion entered the basement for the second time, by then knowing full well the situation that existed, and the danger that they faced.

This incident clearly illustrates the danger that any fireman faces, in performing his duty, even when attending what at first appears to be a straightforward small fire in the basement of a perfectly ordinary premises.



33 HOWARD ROAD, SOUTHVILLE.



On Wednesday 23rd. May 1979 at 1549 hrs, two appliances from C5 Bedminster were despatched to a fire at 33 Howard Road, Southville, Bristol.

On arrival they found smoke issuing from windows at both the front and rear of the terraced premise, and were told by a neighbour that there was a person inside. After deploying his crews to fight the fire at both the front and rear, the Officer-in-Charge Stn. O. O'Brien, at 1559 hrs. sent an informative message, "Dwelling house well alight, 4 B.A. 2 Jets in use, Persons Reported"

The conditions inside the property were severe, the heat especially intense, and with thick smoke also hampering the crews, fire-fighting was very uncomfortable. At 1606 hrs. came the message "One casualty severely, not moved, F.P. Officer requested".

It was in the rear sitting room that a female body was recovered, severely burnt. The stop message was sent at 1614 hrs. by ADO. Moore, as the crews damped down the property, and awaited the removal of the casualty.

The victim's husband arrived home from work shortly afterwards, to be met by the Police who related the tragic story. The damage to the property was extensive, and the question arose as to whether the fire had been burning for some time or whether it had somehow been accelerated. The cause is still under investigation, pending the results of the inquest.

Mention must be made of the rescue attempts by two garage mechanics, Pete Stevens and William Simpkins, who attempted to gain access to the house from the rear and the front, but were beaten back by the heat and smoke. They successfully evacuated the house next door, as they were concerned of the danger of fire spread. It was they who called the Fire Brigade, when they spotted the smoke coming from the windows.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME.

Congratulations to A.D.O. A.E. Perrott, who on the 5th. June, was invited to attend at Buckingham Palace, to represent the County of Avon, the presentation of Gold Standard Awards, being awarded to the young people who he had been responsible for instructing over the last 3½ years. The Duke of Edinburgh himself spoke to all the people concerned, and the awards were presented by Henry Cooper and his wife.

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL???

BY SUB. O. J. WAFT.

I was about to take the recruits for a drill, and so I was making my way to the appliance room at the Brigade Training School to gather in the troops, when who should jump out from behind the Wr.T. but Fm. King, (who was later to win the Silver Axe award, but that must have been due to the voodoo he put on us), dressed in a tribal costume complete with a bone through his nose, and a ceiling hook in his hands. I immediately apprehended him and told him to submit an A/42 as to the reason for his mode of dress and make-up. Below is a copy of the report reference "Tribal Dress".

"On the 30.4.79 I was seen to be wandering around the Appliance Room with a sacred bone of the flightless bird known as the Knatawana (Chicken) through my nose. I was asked by Sub. O. Waft (Bwana) to write this report. It is the tradition in my tribe (Cornesse) to wear the sacred bone, when one of us is rated up to Chief, but only if it should fall on the last Monday of the month. This tradition has been going on since the Great White Chief's (in their wisdom) of Avon, appointed one of our tribe to the high and honourable place of Fireman to the County Council. Also it is known throughout the Third World that if one of us should get picked up for a hair cut, then to ward off the evil spirits that enter into your head through the cut ends, placing a bone through your nose, and daubing white war paint on the face (known as shoe whitener), will do the trick. In my keenness I did not realise that anybody would notice, and I shall make every effort not to allow another Monday to fall on the last day of the month.

"P.S. You may have noted that it is raining today. This could possibly be due to the fact that my witchdoctor found out that I was not allowed to wear it for a full day.

"P.P.S. Could you tell me where to find a good tasty R.C. missionary?".

After reading this report, it was obvious that the witchdoctor was still very annoyed, as he took revenge on the passing-out parade with a vengeance. Subsequently I recommended this man for a Senior Command Course at the Technical College.



Pictured left, Fm. King.
Late of the Training
School.
(Notice the wry smile).

FIRST AID NEWS

The First Aid Competition for the "Jimmy White" Memorial Trophy was held at Brigade Headquarters on Saturday 19th. May 1979, and was once again a success. The individual tests were performed with tremendous enthusiasm, and the team test comprised a mining accident with one casualty trapped under rubble from a roof fall. The other casualty had dragged himself to the junction of the mine shaft and shelter. As you can imagine, there was great difficulty in setting up a realistic scene, but this was overcome by enlisting the help of Mr. A. Hann, who is a mining consultant. The competition was won by a team from English China Clays (Cornwall) Ltd.

The Brigade First Aid Team have had two competitions recently, the most important being the South West Regional Final for Fire Brigades. This contest was won by a clear $80\frac{1}{2}$ marks, over a team from Hereford and Worcester. By winning this competition, the Brigade Team retained the "Perpetual Challenge Shield". During the past 26 years that this competition has been held, the Brigade has lost this trophy only three times.

The second of their competitions was a much closer affair where our Brigade Team won at Swansea, challenging for the "Olive Midha Shield" on the 2nd. June. They won by a mere $\frac{1}{2}$ point, regaining the trophy after a lapse of two years, when the team came in second. Due to a problem with manning levels, at very short notice a replacement had to be found for Sub. O. Hayden, his place being taken by Mrs. T. O'Brien, a Distillers Co. (Yeast) Ltd. team member.

The team comprised Stn. O. Underhay (Captain), Fm. Causon, Mrs. T. O'Brien and Fm. Bowden. The results were:

1st.	Avon Fire Brigade:	296 $\frac{1}{2}$ pts.
2nd.	Caerphilly St. John's Ambulance:	296 pts.
3rd.	Thomas Ness:	291 pts.

A PAT ON THE BACK.

We have recieved a letter of thanks from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to be passed on to Station A5 Patchway, for their valuable work and assistance regarding the rescue of two Swans from the lake at the Eurocrest Hotel, Hambrook, on the 11th. January 1979. The Society wish to convey to the Officers and crew concerned their apologies for the delay in writing, and sending their appreciation, but they are greatly indebted to them.

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There is no truth in the rumour that an F.P. Officer at 'C' Division, is Idi Amin's right hand man.

I see Jeremy got off Scott free !!!

Whether you saw 'The Towering Inferno' or not,
you must read it's sequel:-

THE FLOWERING INFERNO

A gripping drama adapted from the Screenplay starring Paul Screwman as the Country Architect and Steves A/Queen as Chief Officer Len Grudges.

The scene is set in the busy metropolis of Smilefirst where the entire population are excited about the forthcoming celebrations in the Fire Headquarters to mark the grand opening of a new tea machine. The building looks majestic silhouetted against a backcloth of Pee Road semi's.

"What a wonderful sight - finest skyscraper in the country", beamed Len Grudges".

"But it's only 3 floors high", queried the Country Architect, astutely remembering the original plans.

Ah well! it's all to do with cuts in expenditure", returned the Chief. "But we'll build up in time by stacking 48 terrapins on top of one another on the roof - let's go inside and join the others".

"Aren't you worried about the fire risk? Sir", commented a local reporter as his pencil became rammed up his left nostril in the bustling crowd.

"Safe as houses", replied the Chief as he tripped over a pothole in the Entrance Hall beside the situations vacant notice board. "It's been approved by Jimmy Young".

Meanwhile upstairs on the top floor a crow of F.P.O.'s were gathered.

"God - it's horrible", cried Pete Ducky.

"I don't know so much, the architecture's not too bad, considering available funds", replied Ben Weed.

"I'm talking about the tea", retorted Ducky, using his plastic cup to rule a straight line on a certificate plan.

The building was incredibly safe, everything had been thought of, even the toilets were sprinklered! It couldn't happen here.....

As the evening went on, nobody even noticed the staircase doors jammed in the open position because the Brigade Carpenter had left a 12 inch nail protruding after making a final adjustment for the occasion.

The staircase was empty when a last minute reveller made his way up to the penthouse suite.

"What a clever idea" he mused as he made use of the ornamental ashtrays to deposit his cigar stub and continued on his way.

But this was no ashtray - it was one of the many exotic floribunda in a plastic dirt tray, cared for by Alma Prune to provide an additional flourish of colour against the Sailor blue emulsion walls.

The heat from the cigar began to ignite the elastic band holding the rubber tree plant together. Deadly fumes began wafting up to the top floor.

"Smoke", bellowed an F.P.O.

"No thanks, I've got a duty free on", came a shout back from the other side of the room.

"No, you fool, look, operational smoke", came the reply.

With this it was obvious that something was amiss. All the F.P.O.'s shrieked and panicked as they huddled together in a corner of the room. The beads of sweat glistened like sequins in the dim lights of the Mess Room. Utter chaos enveloped the top floor.

A voice of authority melted into the fearsome atmosphere - "Don't panic" - it was the cook. "There's another way out through the Fire Station next door" she said, using a mincemeat soaked finger to sketch the route on the crust of a rice pudding.

The F.P.O.'s rushed forward to grab the door handles treading on anything in their paths. Even more panic followed when it was discovered that the door wouldn't open. I couldn't overcome the weight of a pile of programmed learning books and uniform indents that had been left on the landing by the Sub Officer as he rushed downstairs to open the door for the C.O.

The smoke from the rubber plant was thickening as everybody huddled together in an attempt to hide from the fumes.

"Shouldn't you get your chaps to pitch a ladder up to the window?" enquired a Councillor whilst posing for a picture for the local paper.

"Can't do that", said Grudges, who was taking charge of operations from the outside. "No Everest anchorage points, this is a modern Fire Brigade of the seventies, can't take the risk".

The Chief called a meeting of his top advisers. Everyone turned up except Peter Leisure, the truck and vehicle merchant whose pistons seized on the way in.

"We've got to find a way to rescue those on the top floor", said Grudges. "Any ideas?"

"Let's rig the Everest device from the drill tower to the top window and bring them out like a cable car", came an enthusiastic suggestion.

"I like it", beamed the Chief. "Where's Leisure?"

"Pistons", came the reply.

"The fool shouldn't be drinking on duty", observed the Chief. "We'll carry on without him".

The build up of smoke went hand in hand with the build up of appliances. After delicate negotiations it was agreed that machines from Slow and Gangley would attend without loss of London weighting.

"Extend that T.L. and sling the device across", came the order as the T.L. arrived ploughing through everything in the car park.

After fifteen attempts to get the correct pitch, it was agreed to bring in outside help and apply D. of E. standards.

Upstairs a sigh of relief was heard as they realised that help was on the way. They had drawn lots for the order of rescue. Longest serving F.P.O.'s first, newcomers next, women and children last.

As the Everest sling came through the window, the first man prepared to get in.

"Hold it", cried Perry Tarry. "You're a live body - only dummies must be rescued".

"But it's a matter of life or death", sobbed an F.P.O.

"Bit unfortunate, I know", said Tarry. "It's the principle behind it, comrades, it's got to be a dummy".

"Here's one", Tarry picked up the limp, lifeless sack of sand and sawdust.

A cry of "Put me down" stunned Tarry, he had picked up a fireman.

"That's it, snapped Tarry. "We'all all pretend to be dummies and we can all be rescued without breaking the rules - what a superb facesaver - O.K. let's go brothers".

The Chief stood outside with absolute pride. He knew that the rescues were now being made. He could tell that the fire was being controlled as he stood in 5 feet of water.

The last of the choking unfortunates were brought down, each one making a remarkable recovery when the junior buck suggested that he should render mouth to mouth resuscitation.

The crews were now in the process of making up. The 45 ft ladder was pitched to the top of the pile of hose containing overhand knots and the voice of Des Tellsmore of Brigade Control could be heard above all mobiles, directing the fireboat to return to base, not now required.

The vertical columns of the building stood out like factory chimneys in the smouldering remains. "A good stop", said the D.C. "You can tell workshops to go back in now, we've stopped the spread".

"How could it ever of happened?", cried the Country Architect.

"I wish we'd have been consulted more", commented Slick Pangbourne, the Senior Fire Presumption Officer. "We would never allow plastic dirt trays in the staircase enclosures".

"I promise I'll get things back to normal as quickly as possible", pleaded the Country Architect to the Chief who was conferring with Slick. "We must get our priorities right, the holes for the volleyball net will be drilled in the morning".

The Chief turned his back on the ruined empire and walked away in the distance with Slick and the Country Architect.

"I would still like something on the stairs", said the Country Architect.

"Some tropical fish would look rather nice", mused the Chief, striking a match for his pipe on the helmet of a passing Sub Officer.

"It'll have to be sprinklered", cut in Slick shrewdly.

"Nice one, Slick", returned the Chief as the trio strode away into the darkness.....

"PSARQUAY".

(Taken from 'Stag' magazine
Royal Berkshire).

FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND NEWS.

Taken from the National Treasurer's report for 1978, it was shown that in Group 7, of which Avon is a member, we were in fact top of the list for Incomes from Groups/Brigades.

Avon	11,470.00
Dorset	6,639.00
Cornwall	4,852.74
Devon	4,468.47
Gloucestershire	6,044.36
Wiltshire	5,759.10
Somerset	9,418.31
	<hr/>
	£48,651.98

There are 12 Groups altogether, and the total Group income for 1978 was £425,992.24p. Group 7 had the 2nd. highest income, and Avon had the 4th. highest Brigade income in the country with £11,470.00p. Full information can be obtained from L. Fm. C. Deverill Hon. Secretary, Brigade Council.

CLEVEDON SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP.



After spending two full days of hard training at Dunkesswell International Skydiving Centre, Honiton, Devon, two members of Clevedon Fire Station, a member of Brigade Control and a girlfriend of one of the Clevedon men were ready for their first parachute jump (static line), from 2500ft. Unfortunately, the weather proved unsuitable for jumping on the second day of the course.

Firemen M. Lampert and W. Harrison were able to jump on Sunday 15th. April, in fine weather. Leading Fire Control Operator M. Hill, and Julie Stevens, who works at Lulsgate Airport, made their descent a month later on the 15th. May. There were mixed feelings about the event, but Bill Harrison must have enjoyed it because he has since made another jump.

A grand total of over £600 was raised towards Clevedon's contribution to the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund for 1979.

(Pictured from left to right, W. Harrison, M. Hill, J. Stevens, M. Lampert).

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS JANET LEWIS.



We can certainly feel very proud of our Brigade Headquarters Receptionist Miss Janet Lewis, who recently represented England at the Paraplegic Games at Ratigen in West Germany. She pulled off a tremendous performance, achieving her best results ever in International competitions, gaining the following results:-

- 1st. Place: Javelin.
 Precision Javelin.
 Putting the Shot.
 Tossing the Club.
 Back Stroke Swimming.
 Breast Stroke Swimming.
- 2nd. Place: Wheelchair Slalom.
 Wheelchair Dash. (Sprint).

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

We, the willing,
Led by the unknowing for the ungrateful,
Have done so much for so long with so little,
We are now qualified to do anything with nothing,
And we do it well.

Anon.

PHEW!!!!

Oh! Thank Heavens. Oh! Thank God, To the relief of the Whole of 'A' Div. F.P. department, we can happily announce the arrival of another 'White', Christened "Joddrell the Third". The happy event took place at the B.M.H. on the 19th. June. Everyone Yes Everyone are doing well.

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION YOUTH QUIZ 1979.

The County Final of the above competition was held in the Lecture Hall at Brigade Headquarters on Tuesday 12th. June. Seven teams of young people from various organisations around the County competed for the first prize of £15 and a cup, along with the opportunity to go forward to the next round in the competition.

The competition was arranged in 3 rounds, firstly an observation test, followed by 2 rounds of questions in "Top of the Form" style. The observation test was set up in the Control Operators Rest Room, and 'rigged' to provide 20 faults.

As it turned out, the 7 teams were very equal, there being only 10 points separating first and last teams, and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ points between the winners St. John's Ambulance Bristol and Northavon Group (trained by Sub. O. Haydon), and the runners-up, Cabot Sea Scouts, who incidentally were last year's local winners.

The St. John's Ambulance team will now go forward into the next round, which will be the District Finals, to be held at Taunton in July. I am sure that they will be packing in a lot of training up until then, and we wish them luck.



Pictured left, Chief Fire Officer Terence McCarthy, lending young Robin Crane a Sub Officer's helmet after the competition.

The team comprised Robin Crane (Captain), from left to right, Ashley Smith, Steven Duchamp and Peter Stacker.

FIRE ENGINE RALLY

The Berkshire Veteran Fire Engine Society are holding their 5th. Veteran Fire Engine Rally on the 8th./9th. September 1979, at The Fairground, Mortimer, near Reading, in aid of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund. There are a wide range of activities planned, the gates opening at 11am, the formal programme commencing at 2pm. and finishing at approx. 5.30. pm. on both days. For any further information, contact the Staff Office, Brigade Headquarters.

The 1979 Inter-Brigade "It's A Knockout" competition was held on Monday 28th. May, at Tredegar House Country Park, Newport, in what can only be described as abysmal conditions. It was again unfortunate that we had to struggle to raise a Men's team, and it was not until the Friday before the competition, that we managed to gather a full team together.

Because of the weather, the marathon was cancelled, as it was thought to be too dangerous, and three of the games had to be modified. There was no opportunity to practise the games beforehand because although the ground was in good condition earlier, it was gradually becoming waterlogged, and by the end of the afternoon, we were all ankle deep in mud.



The Brigade Team Comprised: Viv. Gregory (Capt) H/Q.

Andrea Weston H/Q. Maggie Thomas Control. Sandy Stewart Control. Janet Greaney H/Q.
Verena Sullivan H/Q. Paul Kennedy B6. Chris Liberty A3. Ernie Coghlan A1.
Dave Clarke C5. Ian Jefferies C5. Dave Creech C5. Steve Bull B7. Bob Poots T/S.

The Avon Team definately deserved maximum points for ingenuity and cowardice being the only ones to parade under umbrella's, mackintosh's, tracksuits and anything else that they could find to keep out the rain. We also deserved full points for our 'Joker' Board, designed by Graham Harrison, but more's the pity that neither of these things were taken into account.

As seems to be our usual style, we got off to a bad start with the first two games, but then we began to pick up points. Our 'Joker' once again fell on the broad (??) shoulders of Ian Jefferies, and he together with Dave Clarke, gave an admirable showing in the conditions, to be placed third. Well done Les Watts and Geoff Chappell, for providing great fun on their invention for the 'Milk Shake' event. Well with the thoughts of a stiff drink and a hot bath to come, our spirits began to soar, and we won the next game, and came second in the last, to finish overall 4th. May I say a big 'Thank You' to all those people who came to support us, it gave us a lot of encouragement.

SUPER SPORTSMAN COMPETITION 1979.

Ernie Coghlan.

On the afternoon of Sunday 27th. May, the finals of the Brigade Super Sportsman Competition were held at Whitchurch Sports Centre. As if to herald the final of the 'Water Squirters' Sportsman Competition, the heavens opened wide and torrential rain fell from the skies, drenching the track, competitors and spectators alike.

Starting just a few minutes late, the eighteen competitors took to the track for the 100m. Sprint. With the tartan track very slippery with the rain, the race was won by the defending champion Paul Kennedy (B6), from Ian Beechgood (C1) and Steve Cornish (C5).

The competitors split into two groups for the 'Football Control' and 'Rugby Conversion Kicks'. The first skill was won by Terry Love (B1) from Mark Ashley (C5), and that 'Evergreen Oldie' Adrian Davies (B6). The Rugby was won by Mark Ashley, from Ian Beechgood and Steve Cornish; Paul Kennedy 4th.

With the rain relenting for just a while the competitors then came together for the 'Squat Thrusts'. Each person had to complete as many thrusts as possible in one minute over a measured distance. I can certainly say that all of the competitors were thoroughly exhausted at the end of their minute. Terry Love completed 64 at full time, to win the event from Mark Ashley.

The 'Squat Thrusts' now completed, the contestants went to the Target Golf and Cricket Ball. Throwing the Cricket Ball was won by Russel Lee (A3) from John Cowley (C5). The Target Golf proved too difficult for most with only Terry Love hitting the target. The 1500m. was the last event on the programme, and two guests entered the field. They were the Chairman and Secretary in the form of A.C.O. Norman Steeples and yours truly. It could quickly be seen that the competitors were very nervous at the sight of these new 'White Legs' and one could hear the murmurs of 'form', and 'tactics'. From the start Paul Kennedy dominated his favourite event, however he was chased all the way to the finishing line by Alan Lawson (B1). In third place was Mark Ashley followed by Chris Jackson (A1). The guests finished well, with yours truly in 6th. position, and the Chairman coming home in 8th. place.

With the points totalled, Paul Kennedy finished in 1st. Position with 102½pts. Mark Ashley in 2nd. Position with 101½pts. Terry Love in 3rd. Position with 100pts. These three will now represent Avon in the District Finals to be held on July 29th. at Taunton Rugby ground.

The Chief Fire Officer kindly attended the competition to present the Trophies, and congratulate all the competitors and officials for their efforts.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who took part, and helped me to organise the events, and those few trusty people who turned up to spectate and support, despite the weather. Many thanks to all.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SUPER SPORTSMAN FINAL 1979.

Taunton Rugby Ground, Taunton.

Sunday 29th. July 1979.

1100-1700hrs.

Come and support the Avon Competitors.

Side Shows.

Vintage Fire Engines.

Bar.

Food.

A Good Day Out For All The Family. More Information From Ernie Coghlan (A1)

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PRESENTING
THE MEDALS AND AWARDS FOR
THE AVON FIRE BRIGADE SUPER
SPORTSMAN COMPETITION 1979



1st. Paul Kennedy.

2nd. Mark Ashley.

3rd. Terry Love.

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE SPORTS ASSOCIATION. -----SWIMMING

The Annual National Fire Brigade One Mile Swimming Race, organised by the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade Association, will take place on Friday 3rd. August 1979 at Caversham Reach, in the River Thames, the race being open to both male and female members of the Fire Service.

Would anyone interested in competing in this race please contact Margaret Thomas, Brigade Control. It's sure to be a good day out, refreshments are available and the more vocal support the better.

SPORT

GOLF.

THE 'SHERIFF CUP' GOLF COMPETITION.

A.G. Craig.

The F.S.S. & A.A. 'Sheriff Cup' competition for 1977 was played at Downfield Golf Course in Dundee. This was the course that the B.B.C. used to make the series 'Play Golf', with Peter Alliss. I wish I'd watched it !! The number of players participating was 158, and they made up a field of 39 Brigade Teams from all over the country.

The competition took the form of 'Singles' Medal Play over 18 holes, and 'Fourball Better Ball', over 18 holes. The competition was played on the 31st. May and 1st. June.

The representative team from Avon were: B. Love (Capt.), M.C. Cox. P. Yeates, and A.G. Craig. J. Need was the travelling reserve. All competitors found the course very testing, and this was reflected in the scoring. The major trophy was won by the team from West Midlands who pipped North Yorkshire by 1 shot. I must say a word in thanks to Tayside Fire Brigade who must be congratulated on their organising and hosting of the event. They even provided summer weather for the competition days.

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS BADMINTON.

G. Jennings.

The squad is having a winning streak at present, with victories in the last three matches, despite having introduced inexperienced players. Paul Beard from Brigade Workshops, Cathy Graham and Pat Lawton's daughter Louise (From 'B' Div. H.Q.), all performed well enough in their first fixture situation.

The latest fixture was a return against Lilly Wyatt's (Control) friends from Nailsea, and on a very warm evening, the Brigade won by 5 games to 4. It was probably the heat that sparked off aggressive play from the Brian Pocock/Janet Greaney partnership. This pair, normally amiable and tolerant, having concluded their second win, refused to leave the court until their third opponents came out to play. This _ _ _ _ _ attitude is I suppose a strength in any team.

FOOTBALL.

M. Evans.

The Wednesday League team finished 4th. in the second division of the Bristol Wednesday League, and after a shaky start, where points were hard to come by, gained some consistency in their results.

For the Saturday Team in the Premier Suburban League, it was generally a disappointing season, and they finished up just about mid-table. However some success was gained in the National Fire Brigades Knockout Competition, and the Brigade Team did well to beat London 2-1 away, in the quarter finals, goals coming from Dick Green (A2), and Mick Evans (A1). In the next round against West Midlands at Backwell, although continual pressure was maintained, we lost by 1 goal to 0.

A new season is now looked forward to relish, and would anyone interested in playing next season contact L. Fm. Rogers (A1). or Fm. McKeown (A3).

GET ON YOUR BIKE ???

On the 21st. May 1979, Station A1. Temple were the hosts for two young cyclists who were on a fund raising trip, covering a journey from John-O-Groats to Lands End.

They left John-O-Groats on the 10th. May, and battled their way through wind, rain, snow and beer, hoping to complete their journey around the 25th.

The two lads Andrew Pella, and Bernie Blissett, are based at the Stockhill Fire Station in the Nottinghamshire Fire Brigade, and up to the time of staying overnight at Temple, had raised in excess of £1,000, for Cancer Research. After averaging 60 miles a day, and carrying all their personal gear on their bike's, they were more than grateful for another comfortable night's rest. On leaving to carry on their journey they thanked all those people who had generously donated at the station, and also for their kind hospitality.



SPECIAL SPECIAL SERVICE ???

One afternoon, a few months ago, all seemed quiet at the time at Station B7. Kingswood, when suddenly in stumbled an old age pensioner clutching the remains of a torn and tattered brown envelope. He really appeared to be in quite a state. Sub. O. C.J. Williams (Pot Black'to his friends) greeted him, and asked if he could be of help. The old gentleman thrust the paper into his hands, and on reading it, it was soon apparent that it was a 'Cry for Help'. The note read:-

Gentlemen,

This house is almost flooded out with water. The water in the back kitchen is rising to 3 to 4 feet deep, and I can't get back in. I don't know what the cause is but I can't get in at the front either. There is access for you at the rear of this house, going down the alley and turning right at the large gate by the chapel.

(The address was written on the top of the note).

Our gallant heroes, fully equipped with diving gear, then made their way 'Poste Haste' to the address given, and successfully brought this tale of woe to a happy ending.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY FIRE BRIGADE

SPORTS AND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Caravan and Camping Club Section of the above Brigade, invite all interested parties to their 'Second Illuminations Meet' at "Windy Harbour", Blackpool. The dates for the meet are the 21/22/23rd. September 1979.

Full details are held in the Staff Office, Brigade Headquarters.

The Brigade Supplies Officer has recently purchased a quantity of 'Round Tuits'. These are now available on request, to both uniform and civilian members of the Brigade, from the Brigade Stores.

As a result of this purchase, all outstanding work must be completed in the shortest possible time, and the excuse "I have not been able to get around to it", will no longer be accepted.

Congratulations to Fm. Bennett of the Brigade Training School, who won a bottle of Sherry in the Brigade Headquarters draw, in aid of The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund. The amount raised was £8.

FOR SALE.

1 Pair of 'Wharfedale Denton' Hi-Fi Speakers. 8" Bass. 2" Treble.
Walnut Cabinet. Unmarked, As new. £30.
Contact Mrs. Clark Ext. 204.

'MISS AVON NEW FACE!'

Congratulations to Miss Andrea Weston of the Brigade Transport Department, who on Tuesday 15th. May at Cadbury Court Country Club, came in 2nd. place in the final of the Miss Avon New Face Competition. Well done! She would like to pass on her thanks for the support that everybody gave her, with a special mention to Miss Janet Greaney (Finance) and Miss Viv. Gregory (Finance).



How about submitting a caption for this 'Unusual' photograph, loaned to me by Sub. O. Miller B.A. instructor. (I'm beginning to think he may have a strange hobby).

RETIREMENTS.

Miss I. M. Owen.

On 28th. May 1979, Iris Owen officially retired from The County of Avon Fire Brigade after almost 38 years association with the Fire Service. After joining the Auxiliary Fire Service in 1941 as a Firewoman, she (cont. below)



Pictured above The Chief Fire Officer presenting Iris with a Set of Wine Glasses.

progressed through the N.F.S. until, 1948, when she became a Leading Firewoman in the Bristol Brigade Control. On the formation of Avon County, April 1974 Iris was promoted to the rank of Senior Fire Control Operator. Although of a quiet disposition, Iris has always been very popular, and this could easily be seen at her presentation. We wish her a happy retirement, and hope that she has plenty of time for her hobbies, which include Bird Watching, Flower Arranging, and "Ghost Spotting"???



Bob Taylor.

Pictured left, Stn.O. R.C. Taylor at his retirement presentation after 30 years service. Bob joined in June 1949, and served on no less than 6 different stations, finally resting at Station B6. Speedwell.

His presentation of Fishing Equipment and a Silver Tankard, probably tells a story, but the less said about that the better.

We wish you a happy retirement Bob, and hope that you enjoy your new way of life.