

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

MAGAZINE

APRIL/MAY 1982



Editorial



I was pleased to be asked to write a foreword to our new Magazine, as during my 28-plus years in the Brigade I have seen many types of magazine come and go and have felt that each has been a useful method of maintaining contact between members of all ranks and of varying lengths of service. However, the type of magazine which we now have provides a wider scope, as *all* members (as well as ex-members) of the Brigade are involved, and I sincerely hope that this will have advantages as regards input from readers.

As Divisional Commander of A Division, I am fortunate in coming into contact with a good number of Brigade personnel, and this has made me realise the considerable variety of interests and talents which can be found within the service. This is why I believe there is potential in the Magazine. Just consider how many articles about hobbies and interests could be submitted if only members put pen to paper. Without searching my mind too deeply I can think of people interested in trekking, climbing, stamps, CB radio, computer work, science fiction, caravanning, archery, lifeboats and woodcarving, not to mention all the car and fire engine enthusiasts and "bird watchers".

As for my own interests you could say that I have a passing interest in football, as I was secretary of the Brigade team for about 17 years and am currently chairman of the Bristol Wednesday Football League. I have been involved in Brigade sports throughout nearly all of my service and have had the pleasure in the past of being secretary of the South West Sports Association and member of the English Football National Selection Committee.

I am also keenly interested in the Benevolent Fund and as chairman of the A Division council I hope to write an article for the Magazine at a later date about my views on the Fund.

Finally I would like to wish all readers good luck in all their interests, and I hope that the Editor hears from a good number of them in support of *our* Magazine.

Divisional Commander Monty Britton.

This is the third issue of the Brigade Magazine in its new format. Contributions are still coming in slowly, needing a lot of chasing. The Magazine will be as successful as you make it, covering topics across as broad a spectrum as possible.

If you notice that there is never anything about your Station in it, you can only blame yourselves. This applies equally to incidents, as only you know what happened and the relevant points of interest. So please put yourselves out just a little to make the Magazine what you want it to be. At incidents take a look at the situation and make a few enquiries, letting me have details immediately upon return, if you want to promote the image of *our* Brigade, keeping the general public informed of the services we render. I can always be contacted through Brigade Control at any time.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing the very best to Fireman Dave Fennell, a colleague from the Gloucester Fire Brigade who is in Frenchay Burns Unit. While dealing with a fire in a small plastics factory in Cirencester a flashover occurred and he received very serious burns to his face, hands, neck and legs. He is very lucky to be alive and said his BA set certainly saved his life, although by the time he got out of the building his face mask had virtually disintegrated with the heat. All good wishes for the future to Dave and his family. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

It really makes you stop and think. When Dave received crippling injuries attempting to preserve jobs by saving this small plastics firm, the only press coverage the incident received was a mention that he and a colleague had received burns and were satisfactory. It was not reported that he will never be able to work as a fireman again and virtually gave his life to preserve the incomes and profits of others. Only weeks ago George Ridgeon, again from Gloucester, became paralysed and is in Stoke Mandeville hospital; he was thrown from a ladder when attempting to save another man's life from a fire.

A trust fund has been set up for Dave Fennell to assist in buying apparatus and equipment to improve his life style. Any donations should be sent to me, Dave Hutchings, at HQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to The Dave Fennell Trust Fund.

Copy for the magazine should be forwarded to Stn.O. D. Hutchings at Headquarters (Tel. Bristol 22061, ext. 272) by May 20 for inclusion in the July issue.

Faces and Places

Front Cover



Bristol Unicorns Youth Band

They've done it! Despite some very strong competition, the Unicorns are the Supreme National Youth Show Band. The front cover shows the band playing their routine at Wembley, arranged and directed by Sub O. Dave Rogers. It was a very proud moment for Dave, who started the band only three years ago.

A week after winning the National Championships, the band launched their LP record *Bristol Fashion*, copies of which are now available at £3.50 from Dave Hutchings, Brigade HQ (ext. 272). The music included varies from their championship routines to themes from films such as James Bond, together with the Black & White Minstrel Melodies.

Every day we hear and read of the problems of modern youth, but here's one man who has shown success to 120 children with hard discipline. You can support them and sponsor their future success by buying a record now.

A fête to raise funds for the Unicorns is being held at Vassals Park on May 2 and 3 (during the bank holiday period). Come along and see their display.

Headquarters Club

Bob Esson, for so long our Bar Steward, has retired after 32 years' service with the Brigade, and he and his wife Margaret will be in South Africa by the time this article is published, taking an extended holiday with their two sons who are working out there. A much respected man who for the past four years has been working at A Division FP, Bob will be greatly missed by all who came into contact with him, although we expect that on their return he and Margaret will continue to keep up their association with the Brigade.

A social evening was held at the HQ Club to mark Bob's retirement and the Chief Officer presented a

golf trolley to him and a bouquet of flowers to Margaret.

Among many other gifts there was one item which aroused a lot of interest, namely a tool for getting his balls out of water (well, it was mentioned that he's a golfer!). Bob also received a beer mug engraved with the signatures of many of the colleagues he has worked with over the years.



Bob and Margaret Esson admiring some of their gifts with the Chief Officer.

Bob has been succeeded as Steward by Bob Hatherly, who brings to the job great experience by virtue of duties in another establishment, connected with chocolate! We welcome Bob and wish him a pleasant future.

May we remind all members that the Bar is open every Saturday night from 8 p.m. with resident barman; topless waitresses will be introduced later this year following extensive coaching and encouragement by the Chairman, Secretary and other male committee members. Female members wishing to apply for the above should send in a photo in appropriate costume (minimum statistics 950-750-900).

The Avon Fire Brigade Military Band

If you are interested in the Band and can play bassoon, French horn, bass and euphonium, please contact the Secretary, J. Churchill, on a rehearsal night (Mondays in the Brigade Lecture Theatre, A1).

One of many success stories from the Band is that of Trevor Gainey (25), who has been awarded

a Doctorate of Philosophy by Southampton University. Trevor was a keen member of the Band for four years and even now he takes keen interest when at home in Keynsham. Others who have distinguished themselves are Gary Veale, who now plays for the Welsh Symphony Orchestra, and Diane Pratt, who has become a professional musician.



The Fire Brigade Band.

A Night Out in Bath

Following a fire at the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory in St Andrew's Terrace, Bath, on September 12, 1981, the management invited the 16 members of White Watch, B1 Bath, to the restaurant's reopening night in gratitude for their hard work on the night of the fire.

Every effort was made by the staff to ensure that January 26, 1982, would also be a night to remember—and it was! The food was delicious, the



Picture: Bath Chronicle

White Watch, B1, enjoying their outing.

wine flowed freely, the service was second to none, and all idea of diets went out of the window.

Everyone agreed that it had been an excellent evening at the newly-named Evelyn and Owens restaurant.

A Surprise Gift

Clevedon firemen surprised members of the local St John Ambulance Brigade when they presented them with a cheque for £300 at their annual dinner and dance at the Walton Park Hotel on January 29. The money, raised at last summer's bed race, is to pay for a second-hand ambulance (already ordered) to replace the present older one, which is too big. Superintendent Roger Green said that the gift was a complete surprise. The Ambulance Brigade was thrilled with the money as its members are so busy raising funds for their new headquarters.

Last year £14,300 was raised for the headquarters thanks to help from Clevedon people, although £15,000 is still needed and £50,000 must be raised this year to pay off a loan. It is hoped to move in during April, and a special buy-a-carpet scheme was launched at the dinner whereby people can contribute £1 and have their names recorded.



Left to right: Firemen Eric Pimm, Bill Harrison, Keith Evans and Tony Hutchinson present the cheque to Supt. Roger Green.

Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Publishers and may not represent the official opinion of the County of Avon Fire Brigade.

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Stoke Hill Reunion



Left to right: Ron Bowden, Ivor Taylor, Harry Ward, George Lewis, Sam Neale, Jack Roe, Jack Allen, Randolph Sutton, Tom Jackson; front centre: Harry Rider.

Recently a Station 2 Stoke Hill reunion was held at the Headquarters Club. The idea had originally been suggested by former Station 2 members at the New Year's Eve Social, and a tremendous response was forthcoming.

As you can see from the photograph, everyone enjoyed a superb evening, talking over old times and reminiscing about those special and funny incidents. It was good to see the wives there enjoying themselves as well. As someone remarked, within a very short time it seemed like only yesterday that everyone had been working together.



Memories of Station 2 Stoke Hill. Driver, Jack Roe; O.I.C., Ron Osborne; N/S, Fred Bryant, Stan Mathews; O/S, Harry Rider, Ted Arthurs.



Don Wicks (left) receives £450 for the Benevolent Fund from Chris Jones of Bristol Omnibus. Don organised crews from C1 to help collect on the Weston carol bus.

A Day in the Life of a Retained Fireman

The end of another day. Milk bottles out, door locked. Off to bed, just dropping off. . .

Bleep, bleep, bleep!

Out of bed, tracksuit bottom on, feet into slippers, tracksuit top goes on as I run downstairs to dash across the road to the Station. Can hear Tricky running down from home. He opens the main doors, I take the message: "Chimney fire, Timsbury". It is 2311 hours. By now the rest of the lads are in. Grab kit, hop on the appliance and we're mobile. Moans and groans about missing the late-night film or being woken up. In attendance, chimney going like a roman candle, quick up and down and we're off back to bed. It is 2352 hours.

0700 hours, the radio alarm comes on, the news-reader starts the headlines, and before Chris can say "Your turn to make a cup of tea" it's *bleep, bleep, bleep* again. Time 0703: back to the old routine. Tricky beats me to it. "Alarm, Old People's Home, Midsomer Norton—kitchen smoke-logged." I tell the rest and we move with a little more urgency. On arrival we find smoke issuing from the boiler house and filtering into the main building. A fault in one of the boilers is found to be the cause; after isolating the boiler and ventilating we book mobile to home station.

Half way home, a call from Control: "Proceed to car fire, Clutton". Beacons and two-tones on, away we go. On arrival we find an old banger well alight, but no owner. Stop message put back, also a request for attendance of police. They arrive 20 minutes later, followed closely by a character resembling Compo complete with wellies and woolly

hat. Now mobile to home station, and after washing appliance and cleaning kit we sign off. Time 0830.

Back at home the children have gone to school. Chris is washing and dressing Anna, our foster baby. I have a quick breakfast, wash and get dressed. Better see about doing some work. It's a good job I work for an insurance company and don't have to start at a set time.

The morning goes uneventfully and I get back for lunch about 1300. I see Rachel for the first time that day. She has to be back at school by 1305 so I take her in the car. After lunch I sit down for a cup of tea and pick up the paper. *Bleep, bleep, bleep!* Over to the Station, take message. "Call of fire, house, Clandown." We are the second pump, the time is 1353. Going across the Downs we can see a lot of smoke, looks like a chimney. We book in attendance with Radstock, a message is put back confirming a chimney fire, and we book mobile. After a wash down we sign off at 1420. Time now to get back to the afternoon round.

Home again at 1545, just in time for a cup of tea with the boys. They want to know what was going on this morning. 1600: *bleep, bleep, bleep!* Here we go again. "Automatic Alarm, Cheshire Home, Timsbury." Someone's probably burnt the toast again. Sure enough: "False alarm, good intent". One day we shall have a fire there.

2245, and off to bed. "If that damned thing goes off again tonight it will be outside before you." How many times have I heard that before?

Roy Robinson, B3 Paulton

Congratulations

When Fm. Martin Seldon (B7) married Tracy Shaw, B7 provided a Guard of Honour and Tracy arrived in B Division's "Benevolent Dennis". No honeymoon for them though; all their money goes towards a house at Warmley. Good luck, Tracy and Martin!

Resignation

Best wishes go to Fireman Britton (C1 Red Watch), who is emigrating to the USA.

Obituary

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Tom Godfrey, who passed away in March. Tom served with the former Bristol Brigade for 25 years and retired in 1969.

Where are they now?

Bill Marshall retired in 1963 following 30 years' service with the Fire Brigade. He worked all over the South West in the AFS the NFS and finally joined the Bristol Brigade.

During his service Bill worked in the Fenns with Ted Howard when the river Fenn burst its banks. They worked the clock around fitting, repairing and replacing pumps and lines. All this for £2.10s a week, no matter how many hours they put in.

Bill was a fireman welder/panel beater. He was the first fireman to attend the Police Driving Instructors' School. Following his successful course he became the Brigade's Driving Instructor, TTL instructor and Fireboat Coxswain and Engineer.

He met his wife Sylvia when she worked in the Control prior to the war and they have spent the last 40 years happily together.

They now enjoy gardening (Bill because he has to), DIY around the house and, during the summer months, many hours on their 17-foot cabin cruiser on the River Avon.

Bill and Sylvia would welcome visitors at their home to talk about old times and are also willing to assist with the boat at any charity events involving members of the Brigade.

Bill and Sylvia Marshall at home.



Editor's Note

Our "Where are they now?" feature has aroused great interest and many retired members of the Brigade are keen on receiving regular copies of the Magazine. Bill Hooper wrote in as follows:

"Arthur Leek still plays skittles and last week made 35 pins, not bad for an old 'un! I met Bert Arkell last year at Blue Anchor and this was the first time in 37 years. He has not been too well, but is much better now, even more so after a chat about old times."

Insight into the other services—Police Work

The Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, Mr Brian Weigh, QPM, is fulfilling a promise to have more men on the beat and to extend community policing in a bid to combat rising crime. This is being achieved with the introduction of the Community Beat Bobby system now that the Force has almost reached its fixed establishment of 3,020.

"With recruiting going extremely well, I am able to fulfil my promise to have more officers on the street," said Mr Weigh. "The community policing system will be extended, with the intention of every beat in the Force having at least one uniformed officer directly responsible for the area. I am confident that the system will provide a closer and more effective service and receive greater and more informed support from the community."

The Community Beat Bobbies will be all-rounders who will demonstrate that the police role extends from community caring to swift, firm action. The new system will be part of a great team effort. Response to urgent calls for police assistance will be provided by fully-manned vehicles. Less urgent calls are dealt with by Community Beat Officers, who receive full support from the Road Traffic Division, Task Forces, CID and other support services.

The Force covers 1.2 million acres with a total population of 1.3 million. The two counties are divided into eight geographical divisions, six in Avon and two in Somerset, each under the command of a Chief Superintendent.

During 1981 there were 255 reported cases of arson in Avon and Somerset, compared with 253 in 1980. The eight murders in the two counties in 1981 were all detected. Burglaries went up by 18 per cent in 1981, when the number of burglaries in

dwellings totalled 6,143, compared with 5,005 in 1980. Robberies went up by 74 per cent in 1981, totalling 313 as against 180 in 1980. Rapes went up from 22 in 1980 to 27 in 1981.

Police duties are to protect life and property, to prevent and detect crime, to maintain order and to prosecute offenders. A round-the-clock social service is also provided by the police in conjunction with other agencies. Officers have to deal with major incidents, and often with unusual situations. Disasters, chemical accidents and major public disorder all require different responses, and proper training for such emergencies has to be given.

Animal magic can often play a vital role in police work. The Force has 13 Irish-bred bay geldings based at its Mounted and Dog Section at Bower Ashton, Bristol. The principal aim of the patrols is to act as a deterrent against crime. Normally the horses are purchased at three years old and then patiently trained by experienced officers. Horse-master at Bower Ashton, Chief Insp. Dick Cheetham, says that it takes about six months to train a horse.

Each Saturday throughout the soccer season, horses help with crowd control at Bristol City and Rovers matches. Regular escorts are provided for judges and the Lord Mayor of Bristol. Displays given by horses and dogs from the Mounted and Dog Section are stealing the limelight at events throughout Avon and Somerset.

Most of the dogs are Alsations, more properly known as German Shepherd Dogs. Insp. Brian Langley, who is in charge of dog training, emphasised that the two most important qualities in a police dog are a good temperament and a fine physique. All dogs live at their handlers' homes in specially supplied kennels. Some of the dogs are trained to sniff out drugs, but their main aim is to prevent crime and to assist with inquiries after a crime has occurred.

Life on the ocean wave is a challenge facing the crew of the Force's launch, who are in full training to combat all the perils of the sea on the hazardous coastline between Sharpness in the north and Porlock in the south. Skipper Sgt. Tony Ford is



FACES AND PLACES

delighted with the rugged nine-metre fibreglass boat driven by $2 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ litre engines. In addition to this large boat the Force also has a small launch for patrolling the city dockland. Both boats are based at the Bristol River Station.

Traffic officers from Bristol's Avon Street are specially trained to provide a first-class rocks rescue service at the Avon Gorge. Already officers have mounted a number of successful rescue operations on the rock face. The rocks rescue vehicles have been specially designed to operate from Clifton Suspension Bridge as well as the Avon Gorge.

Looking to the future, there is no doubt that computers and the microchip revolution will have a profound effect on the police service, and it is essential that the Force keeps abreast of the technology to deal with the problems of tomorrow's world.



SNBF Coffee Table Draw, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

The winner of this draw was Control Officer Bill Turner of Suffolk Fire Service.

FACES AND PLACES



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Food and Your Diet

The early part of the year is always a difficult time for those of us who have to watch our weight, and by the end of January (and the chocolates and nuts and Christmas cake), one has to come to terms with the fact that an uncomfortable tightening of the clothes can't just be put down to modern powders shrinking them in the wash.

Dieting is a personal thing and no two people will get the same results using the same diet. Most people agree that the only way to lose weight is to cut down on food intake, which is not hard for

those who eat a reasonable amount each day but is more difficult for people who eat fairly small meals.

Eating between meals is one of the downfalls of those unfortunate people who tend towards fat. A chocolate bar here, a biscuit there—they've got to be eaten up, haven't they? So try not to have them in the house. It starts with a few pounds but in no time it has become half a stone.

Start a belated New Year diet now. Here are two recipes to give you hope. For a family, the Lamb Chop Medley is a complete meal in itself for four people. If you feel you have to have cakes in the house, the Chocolate Sandwich is absolutely delicious and doesn't have too many calories.

LAMB CHOP MEDLEY

INGREDIENTS

4 lean lamb chops
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb onions
 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb carrots
1 lb potatoes
15 oz tin tomatoes
1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper

METHOD:

- (1) Trim some of the fat off chops. Brown chops in frying pan. Remove from pan.
- (2) Peel onions, carrots and potatoes. Slice finely. Place onions and carrots in frying pan used for chops. Sprinkle with ground cinnamon, salt and pepper and stir over moderate heat for about 10 minutes. Stir in potatoes and tomatoes. Bring mixture to boil.
- (3) Transfer vegetables to an oven-proof casserole. Arrange chops on top. Cover dish.
- (4) Bake in moderate oven, Gas Mark 4 (350°F) for half an hour. Remove lid and cook uncovered for a further half-hour.

CHOCOLATE SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS:

For the cake:

4 oz butter
3 oz cooked mashed potato
6 oz caster sugar
2 eggs
A pinch of salt (unless potatoes are already salted)
2 oz plain dessert chocolate
6 oz self-raising flour
4 tablespoons milk
Greaseproof paper and melted fat
Two 7" sandwich tins

For the filling and icing:

3 oz butter
3 oz mashed potato
2 oz plain dessert chocolate
12 oz sifted icing sugar
3 tablespoons apricot jam
A pinch of salt (unless potatoes are already salted)
2 tablespoons milk
A drop of vanilla essence

METHOD:

- (1) Brush the inside of the tins with melted fat and line the base of each with greaseproof paper cut to fit.
- (2) Beat together butter, sugar and salted potato.
- (3) Melt chocolate in small pan and add to mixture.
- (4) Beat eggs and gradually beat into mixture.
- (5) Lightly stir in flour and milk. The mixture should be a soft dropping consistency.
- (6) Divide mixture between the tins and smooth top of each, hollowing the centre slightly.
- (7) Bake just above centre of oven at Gas Mark 6 (400°F) for 25–30 minutes. The tops should be firm and springy to the touch. Leave to stand for a few minutes, then turn out on to a wire tray. Remove greaseproof paper.

If you use 4 level tablespoonfuls of cocoa instead of chocolate for the cake (added just before the eggs) the consistency will be slightly drier.

THE CHOCOLATE ICING:

- (1) Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Cook gently until golden brown. Be careful not to burn it.
- (2) Break chocolate into pieces and add to butter. Stir until melted.
- (3) Gradually beat in the mashed potato, vanilla, sifted icing sugar and milk until smooth.

Continued on page nineteen

Miscellany

Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Centenary Appeal

This year is the centenary of the Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Station, which serves our coastline from the mouth of the Severn to Minehead. In 1882 an eight-oar 25-foot pulling boat, the *William James Holt*, was hung from davits on Birnbeck Pier. After seven years she was transferred to Southend-on-Sea to complete a further two years' service.

In 1889 a lifeboat house and slipway were built at Birnbeck Pier (and can still be seen opposite the present lifeboat house) and a new 34-foot lifeboat (also named after him) was provided by Col. William James Holt's legacy. She only made one service launch, to aid a ketch from Bridgwater in 1898.

The present lifeboat house was constructed in 1902. The *Colonel Stock*, Weston's third lifeboat (38 feet long with 12 oars and two sails) was launched five times between 1915 and 1932, saving 12 lives.

The *Fifi and Charles*, a 35½-foot Liverpool class motor lifeboat, was stationed at Weston-super-Mare in 1935 and saved 84 lives in 30 launches during 27 years.

The *Calouste Gulbenkian*, a self-righting Oakley class lifeboat, came into service in 1961 and was launched eight times between 1962 and 1969. She was overhauled, modified and placed in the reserve fleet after a survey had revealed damage in and around the ballast tanks.

Her replacement was the *Rachel and Mary Evans* (hitherto the Barry Dock No. 2 lifeboat), which was too big for the Weston lifeboat house and had to be moored at the bottom of the slipway. She broke her moorings during a severe gale in April 1969 and suffered irreparable damage. For the next 13 months there were two inflatable lifeboats on duty, until in May 1970 the present 18½-foot McLachlan class lifeboat arrived.

Now, in our centenary year, the current lifeboat is nearing the end of its working life, and we are endeavouring to raise funds to purchase a new boat to enable a crew to continue to give us the up-to-date life-saving services for which we have been so grateful in the past.

Accordingly we would invite you to consider supporting this local voluntary service, either by direct financial support or by organising or assisting in a fund-raising project to be launched in August. Station C1 is already actively involved in this endeavour, further details of which may be obtained from Stn. O. Terry Clapp, C1 Division Fire Prevention.

Rarest British Medal

The Queen's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry (to be presented posthumously) has never been awarded since its inception. Do you know how long it has been in existence, and how many firemen have died in action during that time, making the supreme sacrifice in an effort to save a life?

A record token for the first correct answer opened by Avon and London Publishing. Address your answers to Stn.O. D. Hutchings at Headquarters, marking the envelope "ALP Competition."

Oddspot

Extract from Special Service Report, GEN. 1, January 29, from C1:

"Prisoner in cell pushed head through food access hatch of cell door and became stuck. Released using horizontal lifting by firemen and liberal amounts of petroleum jelly to head and fixtures. Special equipment or materials used—firemen and petroleum jelly."

The Indispensable Man

Pause and reflect:

Some time when you're feeling important
Some time when your ego's in bloom,
Some time when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified man in the room;
Some time when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hands in up to your wrists,
Pull them out—and the hole that remains
Is the measure of how you'll be missed;
You may splash all you please when you enter,
You may stir up the waters galore
But, stop! And you'll find in a minute
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple:
You must do the best that you can;
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There is NO indispensable man.

Newspaper Collection

Old newspapers are still being collected and sold by A2 Southmead for the Benevolent Fund. Please take your papers, neatly bundled, to A2. No magazines please.

Technical Quiz Brigade and Area Finals

On the evening of February 3 the Brigade Final of the wholtime Technical Quiz was held in the lecture theatre at Brigade Headquarters. The three divisions were represented by teams from Red Watch A1, Red Watch B1 and Green Watch C1.



The winning team from C1 Weston.

The first round (in which the teams were given one minute to answer and were allowed to confer) consisted of questions of a very high technical standard, and all teams showed a very good in-depth knowledge of manuals, etc.

In the second round, questions went to individual members, who were given 10 seconds to answer with no conferring allowed. The majority of members of the three teams put the assembled multitude to shame with their individual knowledge of the technical side of the Fire Brigade.

The third round also consisted of individual questions, to be answered within 45 seconds, this extra time being allowed because it appeared that whoever had forwarded some of the questions had a perverse sense of humour! However, the answers given must have annoyed him because again there seemed to be no question which could really floor the contestants.

The final scores were C1 $24\frac{1}{2}$ marks, B1 $20\frac{1}{2}$ marks and A1 $15\frac{1}{2}$ marks. Those who were there will appreciate the difficulty of the questions asked this year—which I am allowed to mention because I submitted quite a few of them—and the knowledge which all the contestants showed.

Green Watch C1 subsequently went on to win the South West Area Final and at the time of writing were due to compete in April in the Southern Area Semi-Final at Bedford. The very best of luck to them in that round, the winners of which will go on to the National Final.

National First Aid Competition

In the District Finals of the Fire Services National First Aid Competition, held on March 6 at St John Ambulance Headquarters, Bristol, the Brigade First Aid Team, under the captaincy of Station Officer R. L. Underhay, gained first place with a total of 313 points, Hereford & Worcester being second with $237\frac{1}{2}$ points. Sub-Officer M. Smith (B4 Brislington) gained the award for the best individual score. Other team members were Fm. D. E. Causen and Fm. G. J. Bowden, with Fm. J. Couzins as Reserve. Our team will now go forward to represent this district in the national finals which will be held at the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, on June 24.

Project Firefighter

Project Firefighter, running from February to the end of May, will involve over 6,000 children from over 60 schools. Its aim is to make young people aware of the danger from fire and of what they can do to reduce the chance of fire affecting them or their homes. With well over 200 children killed in fires each year, and four times that number of children scarred and crippled for life, it is a very worthwhile project.

Station Officer Ernie Coghlan of A Division FP and Margaret Hewlett for Avon Children's Libraries are piloting and running the project. In addition to learning basic fire precautions, the children will have the chance to meet men from their local Fire Stations and talk about the work of firemen today. At the end of the project a poster competition will be held, with prizes of book tokens awarded by the Fire Liaison Panel.

We wish the project and its organisers success as it is a much needed and useful exercise.



The Chief Officer at the launching of Project Firefighter.

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COLSTON STREET,
COLSTON AVENUE,
BRISTOL

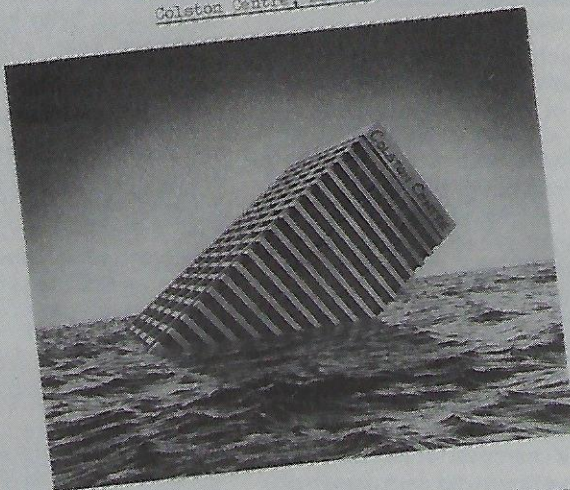
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For the attention of Station Officer Eason,
The Divisional Commander,
County of Avon Fire Brigade,
"A" Division Headquarters,
Temple Back,
Bristol.

1st March 1982

Dear Sir,

Fire Precautions Act 1971
Colston Centre, Bristol



With reference to the above, we have been awaiting an inspection by one of your Fire Prevention Officers.

We now understand that the Officer dealing with these premises is retiring. Could you please ascertain from him before he leaves the exact position of the automatic sprinkler Shut Off Valve as we are experiencing certain difficulties.

Your prompt reply would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

I. M. Sinking-Fast.

Axe Valley Maritime '82

Station 42 (Seaton) of Devon Fire Brigade, in conjunction with the Axe Valley Maritime '82 Committee, are to issue a first day cover to coincide with the issue of the Maritime Heritage stamps on June 16, 1982. The proceeds from this venture will be donated to the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund which aids the dependants of deceased members of Fire Brigades. A special Post Office hand stamp has been commissioned to commemorate the occasion and all mail posted in a special posting box in the Seaton Crown Office on that date will be franked with this stamp.

Single envelopes bearing a 15½p stamp will cost 75p and a limited number of envelopes bearing a "gutter pair" of 15½p stamps will cost £1.05. Envelopes with a complete set of Maritime '82 stamps will cost £1.75 each but will only be available to order (five stamps per envelope). The envelopes will be on sale at the Seaton Crown Office on June 16.

Advance orders may be sent to Mr V. G. Pavey, The New Fire Station, 142 Harepath Road, Seaton, Devon, and should be accompanied by the appropriate remittance. If required envelopes can be sent under separate cover for an additional charge of 30p.

Our Investment in Safety

The accompanying photograph shows the £45,000 worth of BA sets acquired in order to enable each appliance to carry four sets—a major step in the right direction. The money has to be repaid to the County over five years.



1912 Dennis Pump

In 1968, as part of Bristol's Museum Week, this 1912 Dennis was loaned by Swindon's Railway Museum. It was formerly in service with the Great Western Railway. The appliance was brought to the Brigade a week early to be brought up to standard. Throughout Museum Week it was a tremendous success wherever it went, thanks to the men of the then Bridewell Station.

The crew members pictured in the accompanying photograph are as follows, from left to right: Fireman Brian Freeguard (now Station Officer, A Division FP); Fireman Phil Haskins (now Station Officer, C1); Officer-in-Charge, Fireman P. Addie (now Sub-Officer, C1); Driver, Fireman Bill Marshall (now retired).



County of Avon Fire Brigade Pensioners' Association

The aims of the Association are to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of pensioners of the Brigade and their wives, widows and dependants, and to provide opportunities for social exchanges.

The Association superseded the former Bristol Fire Brigade Pensioners' Association which was established in the mid-1960s to fulfil a long-felt need for a platform for pensioners' views. The Chief Officer at that time, Ken Holland (who was later to become Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services), was instrumental in getting the Association off the ground, and it is interesting to note that many of the Association's leading members at that time are still active today.

The Association is affiliated to the National Association of Fire Brigade Pensioners, which promotes the interests of Fire Brigade pensioners on the Public Service Pensioners' Council.

The Association has two formal meetings each year—an Annual General Meeting, usually held in May, and another General Meeting usually held in October or November. There are also numerous social activities, including organised trips to places of interest, skittles matches and social evenings at Brigade Headquarters.

At the present time there are approximately 300 Brigade pensioners, over 200 of whom have already joined the Association, and every fireman receives on retirement a letter of introduction to the Association in the hope that he will support what I believe to be an extremely worthwhile organisation.

The Association is well represented at District Council level of the National Association of Fire Brigade Pensioners, and it is usual for at least three or four members of the Avon Branch to attend the District Council meetings. Until his recent untimely death, Fred Revelle was Chairman of the District Council and, together with Harry Oughton, represented us at national level. The Association's Officers include George Staples as Chairman, Slim Robertson, who carries out secretarial duties, Fred

Bryant, our capable Treasurer, and myself as Headquarters Liaison Officer. For an annual subscription of 75p I believe the Association offers excellent value for money, there is no doubt that but for the formation of this and other similar Associations throughout the country the position of Fire Brigade pensioners generally would be very much worse than it is now.

Most firemen probably give very little thought to their position when they leave the Brigade until they are close to retirement, and it is comforting to know that we have a local Association which works very closely with the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund in safeguarding the interests of its members, and in particular the widows of former firemen who in these days of inflation often find themselves in very difficult circumstances.

Did you know, for example, that the Public Service Pensioners' Council was primarily responsible for ensuring regular reviews of firemen's pensions, and that the Association has fought for many years to secure adequate index-linking of pensions? Did you know that if a fireman remarries after he has left the Service, his wife would not benefit from a widow's pension on his death? On the other hand, children born of a marriage contracted while the fireman was in service would receive a child's pension on their father's death, even though they may have been born after he had retired. The National Association of Fire Brigade Pensioners provides valuable legal advice for its members and was recently instrumental in securing a dramatic increase in an insurance settlement for a fireman's widow.

The Brigade Pensioners' Association will be arranging a full programme of social events during the coming year and I hope that those of you who will be retiring in 1982 will give serious consideration to joining and playing your part to preserve the very real benefits which have been achieved for Brigade pensioners in recent years.

B. G. Hook, HQ Liaison Officer

100% Mortgages

We are able to arrange 100% mortgages for Fire Brigade personnel through major Building Societies and Banks at normal lending rates. We are also able to obtain re-mortgages, second mortgages and other domestic and commercial finance. We provide a comprehensive service and do not charge a procurement fee. Licensed by the Office of Fair Trading. For further information or a quotation without obligation please contact **Baronworth Limited, 40 Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex.** Tel: 01-551 5557.

**COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE—FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1981**

Income		Expenditure (No. of cases in brackets)				
	£ p		'A' Div.	'B' Div.	'C' Div.	Totals
'A' Division	3,500 61	Hardship	£350.00 (1)	£684.00 (10)	£80.00 (1)	£1,114.00
'B' Division	3,543 70	Orphans	£329.00 (1)	£687.00 (3)	£878.00 (7)	£1,894.00
'C' Division	6,459 68	Widows	£650.00 (4)	£350.00 (2)	£200.00 (1)	£1,200.00
Miscellaneous Donations	407 62	H/C Child		£150.00 (1)	£150.00 (1)	£300.00
		Apprenticeship			£50.00 (1)	£50.00
		Death			£200.00 (1)	£200.00
	13,911 61	Prolonged Sickness			£458.00 (1)	£458.00
'B' Division Not paid through from 1980	17 00	Hampers	£336.00 (28)	£540.00 (45)	£828.00 (69)	£1,704.00
		Hospital Parcels	£38.75	£70.39	£44.86	£154.00
Totals	£13,928 61		£1,703.75	£2,481.39	£2,888.86	£7,074.00

Convalescent Rest Accommodation—During 1981 seven cases were provided with accommodation at Marine Court, Littlehampton, and two at Harcombe House, Chudleigh, Devon, all travelling expenses being paid by the Fund.

Treasurer's Note—The 1981 income statement shows a decrease of £1,965.85 compared with 1980, because two amounts attributable to the B Division carol float were paid in during 1980. However, if the 1979 figure of £1,865 is deducted, the 1981 total is £100 higher than that for 1980. The Committee wish to thank all those who worked so hard in 1981 to raise what is an impressive total in the present financial climate, and look forward to your continued support during 1982. *J. S. Dowse (Hon. Treasurer).*

RENT-A-SKIP

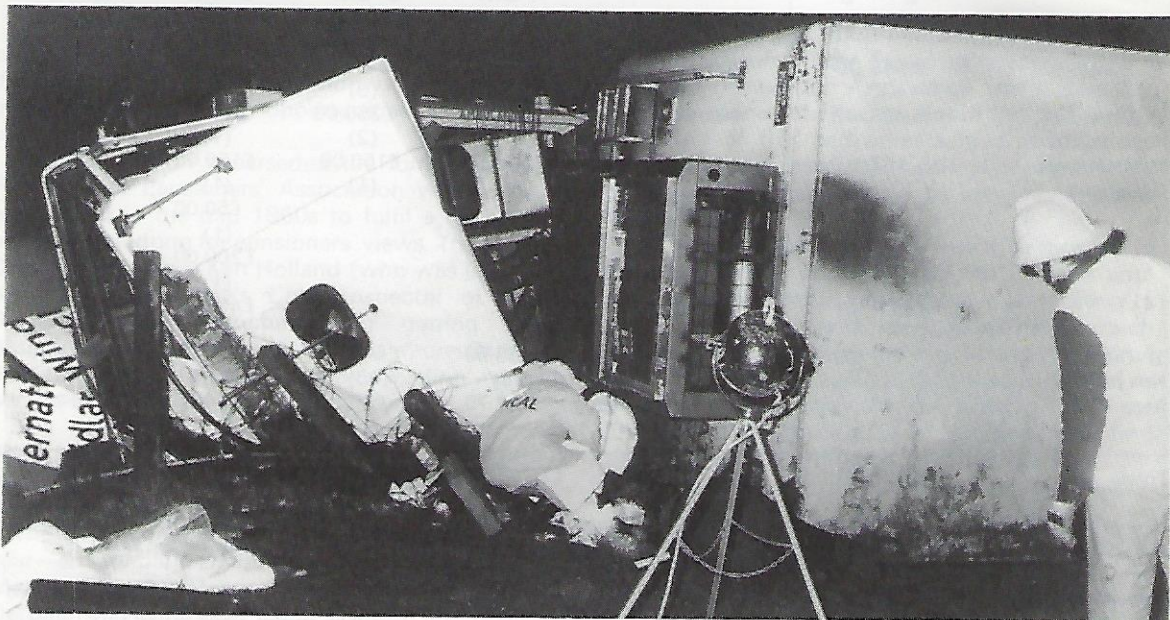
A. DANIELS

FOR ALL WASTE DISPOSAL

**Bristol 694430
14, Shakespeare Avenue
Horfield Bristol**

Call out

Motorway Accident near Cribbs Causeway



The trapped driver is attended by the doctor.



Scooping out earth to enable air bags to be placed under trailer.

A5 Patchway was called out to an accident on the M5 northbound at 0600 hours on February 18 when an articulated lorry carrying 20 tons of fish went off the motorway adjacent to Cribbs Causeway. The driver had been thrown out of the cab and the lower part of his body was trapped under the trailer unit. An ambulance crew requested the attendance of a doctor and nurse from Frenchay, who set up drips, etc.

The only way to lift the trailer from the victim was by the use of air bags but because of the load carried and the state of the trailer it became necessary for the Officer-in-Charge, ADO Robbins, to call for the attendance of another rescue tender. Despite the use of four air bags it was still necessary to remove two-thirds of the load and to call upon the assistance of the breakdown vehicle from Gordano Services. The crews greatly appreciated the availability of high-pressure mini air envelopes. Some two hours later the victim was released with serious leg injuries and conveyed to hospital.

A senior police officer on the scene remarked on the hard work and enthusiasm of the crews in this difficult and protracted rescue operation and on the skill and expertise of the ambulance and medical crew attending the victim during his harrowing experience.

A1 Temple

Red Watch, A1 Temple, made a good stop at Kalpan Enterprise, Stapleton Road, when fire swept through the first floor and began to spread to adjoining premises in the common roof void. It was quickly discovered that it was a deliberate ignition as a build-up of fumes from a flammable substance was still very much in evidence when the crews entered the building.



Firemen at the scene of the Kalpan Enterprise blaze.

Rescue from a tight situation

C1 White Watch, with Station Officer Neil Humphries, were called to an unusual rescue on March 19 in St James Street, Weston-super-Mare, where a building worker had slipped and become wedged between two walls (about a foot apart) at a fish and chip shop which was undergoing extensive alterations. After much physical effort on the part of the crews, including the removal of

some stone from the rear wall of the shop, Mr Ian Burns was released. The crews were working against time in view of his need to get to the church for his wedding!

A Call in a Million

On March 26 a call of fire was received to Bitternut Lodge, Horton Hill, Horton. The call was passed to the Water Tender Ladder from Station A7 Yate who were returning from a previous call.

To the surprise of the crew, the call was only a few hundred yards from where the appliance had stopped at a road junction at the bottom of Horton Hill. Two BA sets were quickly donned and the appliance proceeded to the incident. A couple of minutes later Brigade Control were surprised when the Water Tender Ladder booked in attendance.

The third surprise of the evening was the look on the occupier's face. No sooner had he finished talking to Brigade Control than two-tone horns were sounding outside his house, and the crew were greeted like heroes for turning up so quickly to deal with his bedroom fire.

The Lodge is a very large modern building which must be worth around £100,000. By the very quick action of the Brigade, thousands of pounds worth of damage was prevented, because the distance from the Station to Horton Hill is approximately 4 miles. Surely a call in a million!

B1 Bath

The accompanying photograph shows the horrific scene confronting the men from B1 who faced the difficult task of extricating the occupants of the Allegro following its collision with the lorry. Despite the efforts of the fire and ambulance crews both occupants of the car died from their injuries.



A Battle Lost at Clapton-in-Gordano

Everything was against the crews from Portishead who attended this house fire in Cadbury Camp Lane—high winds, treacherous road conditions, very restricted access, nearest water supplies one mile in either direction, and a fire which had been burning for some time and had a good hold.



The ruins of Wynol Cottage, Clapton-in-Gordano

A neighbour passed the first call to the Brigade saying that she had tried to phone her friends, but receiving no answer she thought the house was on fire. Two appliances were despatched from Portishead and the L4P from C5. In the meantime numerous calls were received from various other sources, including a police patrol who saw the flames from the motorway.

On arrival Stn.O. Vowles and his crew found the first floor and roof well alight, pumps were made 5 for water purposes in an effort to hold the fire and water supplies were set up. However, the luxury

house, which was up for sale at around £100,000, was virtually destroyed and our fire investigation team returned a cause of "unknown" as no reasonable cause or evidence could be found.

Bungalow Fire at Camerton

The accompanying photograph shows the severe damage to a luxury bungalow at Camerton following a fire which was contained mainly to the roof area by crews from Paulton, Radstock and Bath.



An Unlucky 13th for Two Elderly Ladies

Two elderly ladies were rescued from fires in their homes on March 13.

The first, a lady of 88 from Brislington, was overcome by smoke when a pouffe too close to an electric fire ignited. She was in another room in the house at the time and was overcome while attempting to return to the fire. Neighbours alerted the Brigade and removed the source of the fire, but were unable to rescue her. This was done by a crew from B4, and ambulancemen gave her oxygen and conveyed her to the BRI.

Another lady of 90 years was rescued by a neighbour, Mr Gordon Pulsford, who battled his way through thick smoke and carried her to safety. Ambulancemen rendered first aid and oxygen and she was conveyed to Frenchay Burns Unit, where she is making good progress.

C1 Weston

Red Watch, led by Stn.O. Phil Haskins, were called to a fire at South Parade, Weston-super-Mare, where they were informed that people could be trapped inside the building. Four men in BA entered to search and to deal with a severe fire on the second floor. A man in his early 20s was found hanging semi-conscious from the kitchen window,

and was carried to safety and conveyed to hospital. On their return to the building the crew rescued a mongrel dog which was later taken away by the RSPCA.

There was extensive fire damage to the second floor and severe heat and smoke damage to the third floor. Stn.O. Haskins praised his crew for their most efficient rescue.

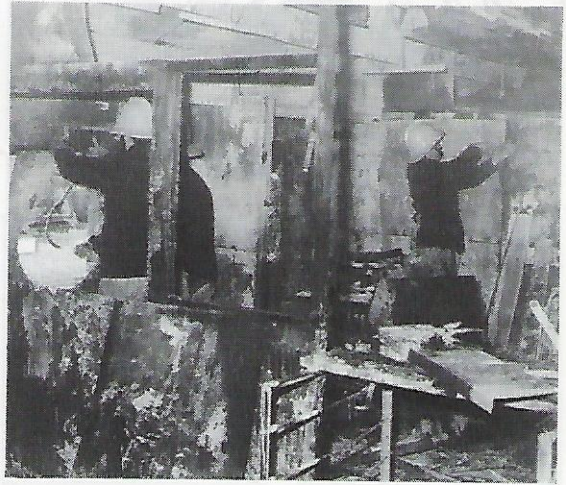
A1 Temple

A passing Fire Prevention Officer rendered valuable assistance to Blue Watch A1 when they were dealing with a roof fire in Ashley Road, St Pauls. A good save was made using 4 BA men inside the common roof void of a rank of terraced houses. On arrival the roof was well alight, but there was less than 50 per cent damage. From the time of call out the first appliance was on the scene in under three minutes, arriving to find that Stn.O. Ernie Coghlan had ascertained the extent of fire layout and that all occupants were accounted for. The fire started under a bed, spreading into the roof.

It took the crew pictured here three hours to pump out the subway under Easton Road, which was flooded to a depth of seven feet. Many ground-floor flats were flooded when a 24-inch water main burst in the forecourt of the multi-storey flats in Easton Way.



Picture: Bath Chronicle



A1 dealing with hot spots following a fire in a car paint shop caused by leaking propane.

This fire in Brislington burnt itself out behind closed doors within 24 hours—no other rooms were damaged.



Up to their eyes in it

Certain members of C1 Blue Watch were none too welcome on their return to Station following a rescue on March 19 which involved the removal of a pig from a slurry pit. Well done—but keep your distance!

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

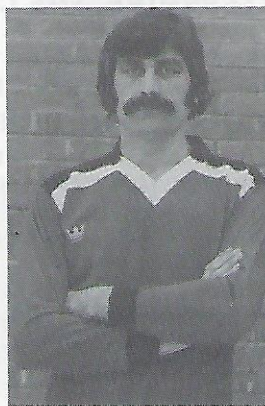
Football

In the last three months a lot has happened within the Brigade Football Club and the Management Committee has been extremely active. Peter Hamblin of A3 Avonmouth has taken over from Roger McKeown as Manager, and I should like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Club to thank Roger for all his endeavours both on and off the field and at the same time to wish Peter all the best for the future.

On the field, the Wednesday side continues to be in contention for honours in the league as well as being still in the GFA Wednesday Cup and at the time of writing in the League's Tom Jones Cup with a difficult quarter-final tie against Clifton Wednesday. The Wednesday side acts as a training and trialist side for all members of the Brigade who are interested in playing for the Brigade at Saturday or Representative level, and any members of the Brigade interested in playing should contact either Richard Gurney at A3 Avonmouth (Green Watch) or Mel Rogers A1 Temple (Blue Watch).

In the Premier Division One of the Suburban League, the Brigade side has started performing on a consistent level after an extremely shaky start due in the main to the large number of players injured or unavailable through holidays or shifts.

Pete Hamblin took over control of the side in November and the side has played six fixtures under his control with four wins and two draws.



*Outgoing Manager
Roger McKeown.*



*New Manager
Peter Hamblin.*

New 'keeper Phil Judge (A3) has yet to concede a goal. Tony Clarke (C5) has commanded a regular place at full-back since completing his basic recruit's course and has proved an extremely capable hatchet-man for the defence after being the "Silver Axe" recruit. Graham Rudge (B6) has still not been allowed to hang up his boots although I've heard him say over the last three or four seasons that this will be his last season. Bob Ampstead (A3), Peter Hamblin (A3) and Micky Evans (A1) provide the competition for the back four although Micky has been hampered by knee and groin injuries.

In mid-field evergreen skipper Steve "the magic" Bull (a nickname acquired for his Paul Daniels-like prowess with the cards on away trips and in the bar) continues to provide the skilful and experienced blend of play to make the team tick. Craig Welsh (A3) and Richard Gurney (A3) complete the make-up of the mid-field.

Steve Mankowski (B4) provides the speedy service down the flank for Roger McKeown who has not lost the knack of finding the net and is again leading the goal-scoring list. Chris "Ginger" Jackson (A1) doubles between mid-field and attack.

The Saturday team play their home fixtures at our new ground in Napier Miles Road, Kingsweston



Avon's representative team.

(opposite the Police ground), and it is hoped to develop the ground fully with its own changing accommodation. At present we use the Kingsweston School changing rooms. Effort has been put into improving the playing surface and it is hoped to soil-up and level off the ground as soon as the season ends.

On the National Fire Service Sports football front we have had our most successful season, both as a Brigade XI and District XI, and have been drawn at home in each of the two semi-final ties. In the "blue ribbon" of Fire Brigade football, the National Inter-Brigade Knock-out Cup, we have beaten South Glamorgan 3-2 (after extra time), Devon away 1-0 and Wiltshire 4-0 in the quarter-final. Unfortunately we were beaten 1-0 by Tayside in the semi-final, their well deserved goal being scored in the last two minutes of a match in which both teams played exceptionally well.

Our Brigade, plus Tony Titcombe (Wiltshire Brigade), provides the members of the District Team. Our previous two matches in the Inter-District competition were against the South-East at Reading when we ran out 3-1 winners and against the East District at Luton when we won 4-0, the goals coming from C5's John Cowley (2), Richard Gurney (A3) and Martin Glanville (B6). Our District semi-final match against North East District on February 18 will be reported in a later issue of the Magazine.

Finally, I would like to wish all the Brigade's footballers the best of luck for their coming matches and ask all ex-footballers and members interested in football to support the Club. Information on fixtures and venues can be obtained from our hard-working secretary Mike Parker (A3) or from myself, Ernie Coghlan, at A Division HQ (ext. 252).

Rugby

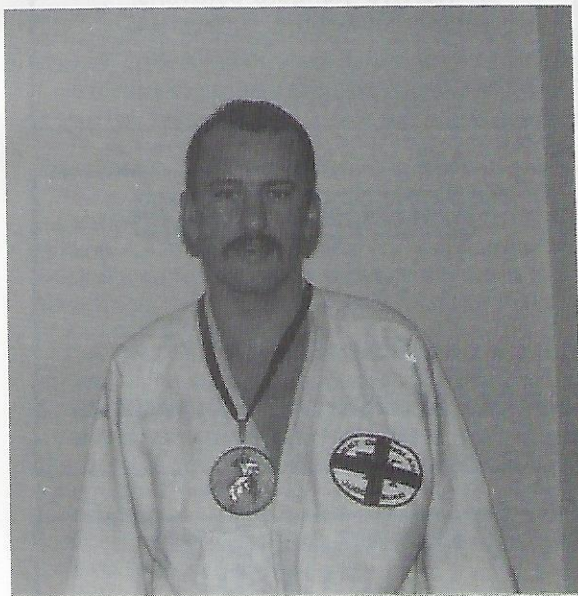
Alan Bradley (C1 Weston) and Steve Lancaster (C5 Bedminster) represented Avon in the England-Scotland match played in Preston on March 17, which England won by 13 points to nil. Steve scored two tries and was voted Man of the Match.

The Avon versus Devon match at Crediton was won by Avon by 6 points to 3 after extra time. Steve Cornish (C5) kicked the first penalty and after eight minutes' extra time Pat O'Brien scored a try which the referee was unable to award as he was unsighted. However, in the second half of extra time Dave Appleton (A2) kicked a superb penalty from about 45 metres out.

Judo

Dave Clark (C5) has been fighting for the past 15 years. He is a Black Belt 2nd Dan and after winning a gold medal in the light middleweight class in the South West of England Championships he goes forward to the National Team finals in Birmingham, in which we all wish him and his team the best of luck.

Dave says that judo is a great sport and that anyone wishing to start can see him at the Victoria Rooms any Tuesday or Thursday evening at the Bristol Judo Kwai, where he is the club coach and instructor. He would like to see a few more Brigade members there!



Dave Clark wearing his gold medal.

Athletics

The Athletics Section is steadily growing in size and strength, and is looking forward to the new season.

The inter-brigade races for 1982 are as follows: *April 4*—4×2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile road relay at Tyne and Wear; *April 25*—10-mile road race at Norfolk; *June 13*—4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile road race at West Yorkshire; *August 22*—7-mile road race at Hereford and Worcester; *September 26*—6-mile road race at Lancashire; *October 10*—4×2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile Cocker Memorial Relay at Blaise Castle, Avon; *October 24*—6-mile cross-country race at Buckinghamshire; *November 14*—6-mile road race at West Midlands; *December 5*—4×2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile road relay at Cleveland.

There will be two marathons in Bristol in 1982: on May 23 at Kingswood (hilly) and on July 25 in Bristol (flat). There are also a few shorter races in the Bristol area, including the 5-mile race in early September at Cribbs Causeway, near Henbury, which is an ideal warm-up for the Brigade's Cocker Memorial Relay Race at Blaise.

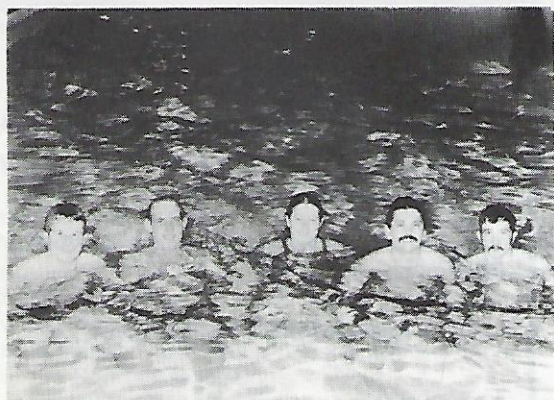
Contact Alan Lawson (B1 Bath), Dave Hayward (Brigade HQ) or Mike Mullany (C5 Bedminster) for further information on any of these events.

When Dave Hayward and John Towers (of Humberstone Fire Brigade) ran 120.45 miles in the 24-hour road race at Niort in France on November 24-25, 1979, they became joint holders of the unofficial British record for 24 hours on road (as opposed to the track). Dave returned to Niort on November 8-9, 1980, and ran 123.7 miles to become the unofficial British record holder, which honour he still holds, while John still holds the next-best performance. (There are no official records, except for races run on a track.)

In addition to being ranked first in Britain by actual performance in 24-hour road races, Dave is ranked eleventh in the world by actual performance in six-day races (John is ranked ninth).

Swimming

Three teams entered the swimamarathon at Backwell in February helping to raise over £8,000 for charity, for Purdown Hospital and Leukemia Research. The event is organised annually by Backwell Round-Table and the Brigade has been represented for the last three years. This year the team shown below came in third with a total of 87 laps.



Sea Angling

The Sea Angling Club has now been allocated a section of its own by the Sports Committee, and in response to popular demand it is hoped to arrange eight inter-brigade sea competitions and eight club trips this year. The first inter-brigade match, in which it is hoped a team of eight will compete, is on April 19 against Hampshire from Keyhaven (Milford-on-Sea).

At the time of writing the club had undertaken two trips this year, one in January from Minehead and the other in February from Keyhaven. On the latter occasion 12 suitably equipped "fishermen" set off at about 5.30 a.m. in three cars, two of which arrived safely just over two hours later. The third, rumoured to be navigated by Dave Jenkins (A3), started the day with a mystery tour of the New Forest, arriving after the first boat had sailed. However, they did finally set sail (in an easterly wind but with sunshine) and everyone had an enjoyable day in spite of a poor catch.

The only fish worth a mention was a small-eyed ray caught by Dave Jenkins, ably assisted by Geoff Wilkins (A2). Although hearsay has it that the skipper said it was not worth keeping (tears from Dave) it turned the scales at only 2 lbs less than the record of 6 lbs.

The 1982 FSSA Sea Fishing Competition, details of which have been circulated, will be held in Scotland this autumn, and we hope to send a team of at least six from this section. If any members of the Brigade wish to join the Sea Angling Section, which also organises beach fishing on a fairly regular basis, information can be obtained by contacting Fm. R. Jones (A1), Lfm. Carter (A1), Lfm. Wilkins (A2) or Stn.O. Causon (B6).

Fun Run—Clwyd Fire Brigade Marathon

The run is being held October 3, starting at 11 a.m. from the Deeside Leisure Centre, Queensferry, and finishing at Pontins Holiday Village, Prestatyn.

An Appeal to Fund-Raisers

A request has been received from the Craig Randall Trust Fund regarding a 5½-year-old boy who has a rare disease called adreno-leukodystrophy.

The only hope of cure is in the USA and we have been asked if the organisers of fund-raising events would bear this young lad in mind. Any donations collected should be forwarded to the Craig Randall Trust Fund, c/o National Westminster Bank, 31 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol (for the attention of Mr Prewett).

Grand Charity Dance

Fred Wedlock gave away over £3,600 to charities at the Mayfair Suite on February 5, thanks to the organisation and enthusiasm of Mike Hughes and Blue Watch at A1 Temple. Those benefiting were the Children's Hospital Premature Baby Unit (£1,600), the RNLI (£500), Multiple Sclerosis (£500) and Cancer, Leukemia and children (£1,000).

It all started back in the summer with the crossing of the Solent on the mighty Tintanic and other sporting activities since with the raft. Once again, thanks go to all the other organisations which participated—the Ambulance Service, Eastville Dustmen, Courage Cowboys, nurses, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Community Spirit Barge (Probation Service)—for making this possible.

A superb evening was provided by various cabaret acts and two bands, all of whom provided their services free of charge. A total of 80 prizes were presented in the draw, all donated by various organisations. Thanks to them all.



Fred Wedlock with the recipients of the four cheques.

Are you missing your chance?

For the information of personnel who are not members, the 500 Club forms part of the County of Avon Fire Brigade Sports Association. For a contribution of 10p per week members are eligible for prizes drawn on a regular basis. Approximately two-thirds of the income is paid out in prizes, and the remainder provides a major source of income for the Sports Association.

Prizes are drawn as follows: two of £5 every week for 52 weeks; five of £20 drawn in the 13th



Cllr. Gwenville Lawson draws the lucky winner of £500—Fm M. Cordey, A2.

and 39th weeks; and one of £500 drawn in the 26th and 52nd weeks.

Only persons who have contributed for a period of 20 weeks or more are eligible for the £500 prizes. In addition to the above, and because there are currently more than 500 members, the treasurer is able to draw further prizes on approximately the same percentage.

A budget committee of the Sports Association administers their allocation in the form of grants to the various sports sections or to individual stations throughout the Brigade. To obtain a grant, or at least assistance towards the purchase of equipment, application should be made direct to your sports representatives.

There are 24 collectors throughout the Brigade. If you are not a member and would like to be in with a chance, join now. The eighth cycle commenced on March 1. For further information, contact either John Barnes or Carol at C Division Headquarters.

Going Dutch

Behind my pantry door, awaiting the opportunity and finance to be fulfilled, is a list of places I must see before I die. That is why at 9 p.m. on March 11 I joined a coachload of kindred spirits looking forward to a journey to Amsterdam. The trip was arranged by Div. Officer John Barnes and his wife Kathleen, and the starting point was C1, where I took the opportunity of renewing various friendships. Having heard forecasts of force 10 gales I

partook of liquid travel tonic, then news came that the coach had arrived, complete with a *woman driver*. Had I taken sufficient travel medicine?

We left at 10 p.m. and on reaching London about 2½ hours later I had happily abandoned my pre-conceptions about female motorists. We took on water in London for the coach's hot drink manufacturing facility, the water being in a 10-gallon (oops, 50-litre) plastic drum. When the machine required a refill someone pointed out that the Water Officer was seated next to it. How could I not fill it for this fragile young lady driver? She did not stop or slow down, and as the motorway to Dover is a less than ideal introduction to the delights of balancing a water container at speed and directing an intermittent flow into too small an orifice, my coach seat was soon saturated, followed by my seat.



"The long and the short of it"—our two lady drivers.

By 5.30 a.m. we had boarded the ferry to Zeebrugge to moans of "Look, the gulls can't fly in this wind" and "Wait till we're in the open sea". When we did brave the open sea, a mill pond would have been rougher and everyone settled down for a comfortable crossing. By 10.15 a.m. we were in foreign climes, although Watney's Red Barrel was much in evidence.

We headed for Amsterdam via Brussels and had an uneventful journey apart from one contretemps with the local boys in blue. We reached our hotel at about 6.30 p.m. and after settling in and feeding the inner man we departed for a nocturnal view of Amsterdam. This so much enthralled me that I spent the whole of the next day on foot in this fascinating city, posing as a local and being stopped by Englishmen who wanted to know

where the "naughty girls" lived. During the evening the local hosteleries provided a safe and welcome haven, and I renewed my acquaintance with Pernod (never again!).

We left for Belgium at 8.30 a.m. on the Sunday, and after another balmy crossing and excellent coach trip made landfall in Weston at 10.30 p.m. From the comments heard I know that this trip was enjoyed by all and that everyone would wish me to thank John and Kathleen Barnes.

PS—Yes, they do sit in windows.

PPS—Note for diary, Germany October?

Dave Williams

Return Visit by USAF Firefighters

They came . . .

As a consequence of the visit to Fairford by Blue Watch A5 Patchway, the Americans were invited to visit us in Avon. We established an immediate rapport when we met at a prearranged location off the M4, and after the short trip to A1 Temple we were all greeted by the Chief Officer. A short presentation ceremony was followed by coffee and biscuits, and a few interesting anecdotes from Mr Ponsford.

They saw . . .

An interesting visit around A1 was helped by the friendly attitude of all members on duty that day, special thanks being due to the crew of the TL from C5 for the display which they carried out in inclement weather. Lunch time was soon with us and with three vehicles in convoy we went to the *Lochiel* for refreshments (solid and liquid). There then followed a tour of the city which finished up at the Clifton Suspension Bridge, where we were blessed with good weather, after which we were treated to



The visiting USAF men.

a very interesting tour of the main assembly hangers at BAC Filton.

They conquered . . .

We then went on to A5 Patchway for the serious business of the evening, and special thanks are due to the civilian cook and cleaner and others for the fabulous meal which awaited us. By now it could be guaranteed that the evening would go with a swing, and it did. The only flaw in the whole day was that they beat us at darts (damn Yankees!).

Gordon Pratten (A5)

Bath Pageant

The whole of White Watch, B1, will be participating in the annual Bath Pageant on June 19 with an old-time and a modern pump appliance. Please contact Sub-Officer D. Perryman if you can supply brass fire buttons to complete the uniforms.



Front row, left to right: Steve Hall, Chris Palmer, Pete Marsh, Dave Perryman and Malc Jenkins. Back row, left to right: Stuart Young, Brian Holmes, Dave Holley and John Thompson.

NSPCC Presentation

Our photo shows the Chief Officer presenting a cheque for £240 to Mr Scripps of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, being part of the proceeds of a sponsored cycle ride held last year in C Division. Also present on March 9 were Divisional Commander Brian Hellin, Sub-Officer Cyril Palmer and Leading Fireman Tony Hutchinson.

The NSPCC has been particularly affected by the recession, and Mr Scripps said that this amount enables them to keep one Inspector working in Avon for one week at a time when calls for assistance are increasing at an alarming rate.



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Building a Replica Sports Car

Station Officer Paul Jones (A Div. FP) has been a car enthusiast since his teens and has owned several specialist sports cars, the last being a Mini Jem which proved an ideal commuting car. Recently his real ambition, now that he owns his private family car, has been to build an open roadster.

After a visit to last year's Classic Car Show Paul decided that it had to be an MG, although not a real T Series, which costs a fortune to buy and to keep in good condition. Being a second car it had to be cheap to buy and own and of course economical on petrol.

His choice was an RMB entry based on the Triumph Herald. The body design was a replica of an MGTF although an MG purist would notice the difference straight away. The Herald was of course one of the last cars to be built with a separate chassis, all body panels being bolted on.

Having ordered his kit from RMB Paul set about looking for a Herald for the base car. As there was a great deal to do on the body conversion he decided to get a decent runner with MOT in order to save time and money in the general mechanics, and eventually found a rare 1968 13/60 model with overdrive (*picture 1*).

In a week the car was stripped down to a brave rolling chassis, which was itself stripped down over the next couple of months by removing all suspension parts, engine and transmission and then repairing rusted members, rust-proofing, cutting to shape and painting. In August Paul hired a trailer to

collect the body kit from near Leicester. It fitted perfectly when positioned on the prepared chassis (*picture 2*).

The body is basically a steel frame with half-inch marine ply panels sheathed in aluminium, and moulded fibreglass where the controls are difficult, such as wings, scuttle and dashboard top. Several months were spent making this basic shell look something like a car body, involving much fibreglass laminating and a little alloy panel beating.

Just before the winter of 1981 the body was removed from the bare chassis and a start was made on putting all the moving and mechanical parts back on the freshly-painted chassis. Shortened Spitfire tout springs were fitted and the original rear transverse spring was lowered and retempered. The latter modification corrects the bandy-legged look which Heralds have from the rear and greatly improves the cornering capabilities.

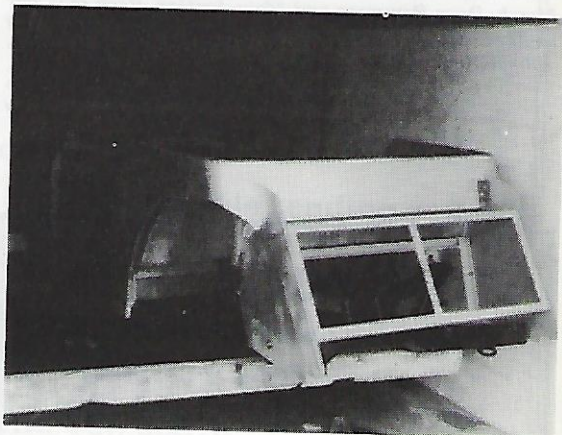
As the engine was in good running order nothing much was done to it apart from cleaning, painting and renewing the clutch assembly. New brake and petrol lines were also completed at this time. The rolling chassis (*picture 3*) was completed just before Christmas 1981 and the part-completed bodyshell was bolted on to it for the last time.

At present things are at the "see if it fits and then modify" stage. Virtually everything that came off the Herald body, such as steering column, gear-change extension, radiator and handbrake, needs much modification to fit in the right place on the

1. The original Herald



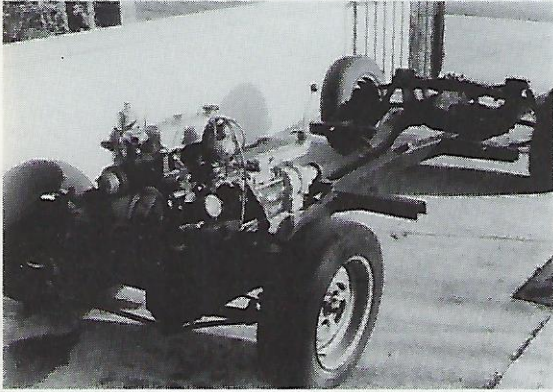
2. Body Shell



pseudo-MG body, and of course one has to ensure that all the home-made brackets and suchlike will not break or fall off.

Paul hopes to complete the work on the car by late summer, and to write another article for the Magazine including a picture of the finished vehicle.

3. The completed chassis



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