

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1982



Editorial



Members of the Brigade will now have had the opportunity of seeing the first issue of the magazine in its new format. I hope you will feel that it is an improvement on the previous layout.

The success of the magazine is going to depend entirely on our contributions, whether they are related to activity within the Brigade or to other matters of interest.

As a relative newcomer to the Brigade I am always surprised by the enormous number of activities—serious and not so serious—which take place in Avon. These are well worth reporting and I hope that every member will feel from time to time that he has something to contribute.

Pat Aris, Deputy Chief Officer

Front Cover

The range of new Hurst Rescue Equipment, showing jaws, shears and rams with the power unit. See page five.

Copy for the magazine should be forwarded to Stn.O. D. Hutchings at Headquarters (Tel. Bristol 22061, ext. 272) by March 20 for inclusion in the May issue, which will be published at the end of April.

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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I hope that you have had the chance to show the January/February issue to your friends and that they have gained more insight into the workings of the Brigade.

A few weeks ago the whole country, and in particular the South West and Wales, experienced a battle against the elements the like of which we have not known for many years. I am sure that everyone appreciated the effort the Brigade contributed, which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Looking through the local and national press, listening to radio and watching television, we find many reports of the "non-fire" activities in which the Brigade can be involved. Last month I mentioned that I should like to include news from other regions. I have a recent event in mind.

At East Croydon the London Fire Brigade was called out and spent seven hours, in conjunction with doctors, nurses and ambulancemen, helping to free a driver from his cab after an accident involving a train carrying steel bars and a late-night mail train. The driver of the mail train could only be freed after amputation below his knee, and if he had remained in the cab he would almost certainly have died from exposure. There are numerous other incidents, many of which do not make the headlines, which show the dedication of the emergency services about the country.

There is another emergency which we should not forget, especially at this time of year—the plight of the "senior citizens". They looked after us in their younger days. It is now our turn. The "junior citizens" should be made more aware of how much they can contribute. A knock on the door, a check when there are too many full milk bottles on the doorstep. Some elderly person may need help but be unable to make contact with the outside world.

The local Council, which has already done so much, may be able to display a few posters round the town in youth clubs or church halls—in fact wherever the young may congregate. Don't denigrate the young. They would like to help.

On a lighter note, how do you spend your spare time? Articles about your hobbies and general interests are always welcome.

The Editor

THE HURST RESCUE EQUIPMENT



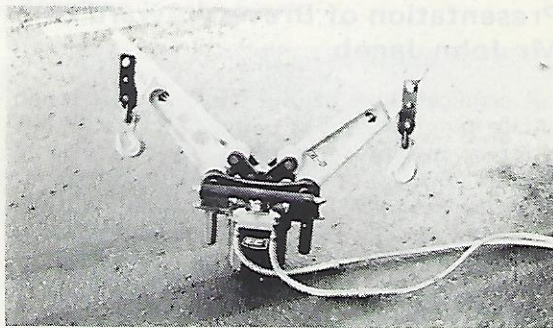
Removing door with the jaws

The first set of this equipment has been delivered and is to be carried on the Major Rescue Tender at A5 once training has been completed by Sub-Officer Mac Aston and Sub-Officer Brian Denning.

While at first the jaws and shears seem bulky, their performance is impressive and with skilled operation even the most delicate tasks can be easily completed. The jaws have powered spread and closure, and at their maximum spread of 32 inches give spread, pull or lift to a load of $8\frac{1}{4}$ tons. The shears are also powered, in and out, with a force of 12 tons at the tip capable of cutting $\frac{3}{4}$ inch mild steel.

Two rams are carried. The larger extends from 36 to 62 inches and the smaller from 22 to 36 inches, each having a pushing force of $6\frac{3}{4}$ tons and a $3\frac{1}{2}$ ton pull power. Each piece of equipment is very impressive to watch in operation and has a vital role to play in many rescue tasks. If any part is overloaded it cuts out to prevent breaking.

The power unit is a Sachs two-stroke engine with built-in pump and possibly the only reservation mentioned by anyone who has used the equipment is the single power source. Otherwise it is considered to be a first-class set of rescue equipment.



Power to spread and pull on the jaws



Spreading window space with the jaws



A powerful rapid lift



Anchoring on suspension to pull away steering column rapidly and effectively

Faces and Places

Presentation of Bravery Award to Mr John Jacob

A certificate from the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire—one of the highest recognitions of bravery in a rescue from fire—was presented on January 26 to Mr John Jacob of Hinton Charterhouse for his courage at a fire on May 21, 1981, when he placed himself in great jeopardy to rescue the occupier of a burning cottage.

Mr Jacob was carrying out his morning milk delivery round when it was discovered that No. 6 The Green, Hinton Charterhouse, was on fire. Knowing that an elderly occupier, Mr Jimmy Swift, was partially infirm, Mr Jacob ran to the cottage,



Mr. Jacob receiving his certificate from Councillor Terry Walker, Chairman of the PPC.

broke open the front door and saw the whole ground floor ablaze. He called out and heard the occupier shouting for help. Having asked nearby builders to alert the Fire Brigade, Mr Jacob kicked in the back door of the cottage and through very dense smoke attempted to find Mr Swift. After several attempts to enter he took off his overalls, soaked them in water and put them over his head. By this time the fire had reached the rear kitchen, but in spite of the flames Mr Jacob groped around in the front room, found Mr Swift and pulled him to safety. Luckily, although Mr Swift's skin and hair were badly scorched, he was otherwise unhurt. Mr Jacob tried to re-enter the cottage in an attempt to douse the flames before the arrival of the Fire Brigade but was forced to retreat when the ceiling collapsed.

The Chief Officer took great pleasure in recommending this award, which was presented at Avon House by Councillor Terry Walker, Chairman of the PPC.

Chief Officer's Commendation



Fireman Keith Loveridge, No. 603, was highly commended for his actions while answering a call to a fire at Uphill on the night of December 13, 1981.

When flooding prevented an appliance from Station C1 Weston-super-Mare from reaching the incident, the crew commandeered a rubber dinghy and faced the risk of being swept out to sea because of wind conditions and strong currents.

At a critical stage Fireman Loveridge entered the water, which was over five feet deep, and towed the dinghy and three crewmen some 50 yards to the fire, which was quickly extinguished.

In showing this total disregard for his own personal safety, Fireman Loveridge displayed outstanding dedication to duty in the highest traditions of the Fire Service.

Retirements

Cheerio to Leading Fireman Clive Thyer from A2 Southmead after 25 years with the Brigade. Clive, who was formerly in the Royal Navy, has served at the old Bedminster Station and at Southmead.

Clive decided to take a job at British Aerospace



The Chief presents Clive with a tankard

which will give him free weekends and the same working hours as his wife Hilary. Now that their children have grown up, they would like to spend more time together at their holiday home at Dawlish, where Clive has a caravan and boat.

Clive will be missed at Southmead Station, and we all wish him and his family the very best for the future.

We also say goodbye to Sub-Officer John Young from C1 Weston. John finishes as a Retained Sub-Officer at Weston, where he works for the local Council as an electrician, after 20 years' service with the Brigade. We all send our best wishes to him and his family for the future.

Obituaries

Our deepest sympathies go to the families of

Mr F. C. Revelle who passed away in January. He was a former Chief Officer of the Bristol Fire Brigade serving from 1939 to 1971 and received the M.B.E. and George Medal.

Mr R. D. McKay who passed away December 1981. He served from 1939 to 1959.

Hello and Welcome, Sonya



Sonya Gallop has recently joined the Brigade as Supervisor in the canteen at Headquarters. Since leaving college, where she studied catering, she has worked as a cook and catering control clerk.

Sonya says she enjoys working in the environment of the Brigade and looks forward to improving the hygiene and quality of the kitchen.

We all wish Sonya success in her new job and welcome her to the Brigade.

Reaching for the Stars



After several years and a lot of heartache Fireman Gordon Pratten has finally had a full-length science fiction novel accepted for publication. Gordon joined the Fire Brigade in 1957 and was stationed at Speedwell. In 1963 he left the Brigade and emigrated to Australia with his wife and family. In 1965 he returned to this country and rejoined the Fire Brigade; once more he was stationed at Speedwell and then with the formation of Avon was transferred to A5 Patchway.

Gordon began writing seriously some three years ago. He first concentrated on a series of children's adventure stories but all he received for his efforts was enough rejection slips to paper a small room. Having in the past been an avid reader of science fiction, he decided to try his hand in this direction and to aim at an adult readership. His first full length novel *The Saga of O'Rorke* (1) was immediately accepted by Horizon Publishers of Bognor Regis and is now out in hardback, price £5.25 (20 per cent cheaper if ordered through Gordon himself).

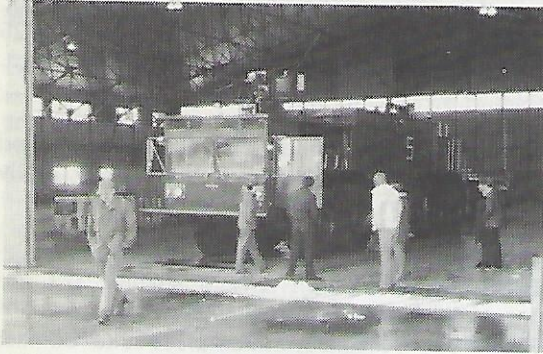
The book's central character is a planet-hopping major called O'Rorke, and we are reliably informed that Major O'Rorke is also involved in some bed-hopping.

When asked what was next on his agenda, Gordon replied that he had already finished the second book in the O'Rorke series, and he is keeping his fingers crossed for recognition by some giant paperback company.

Gordon is certainly to be congratulated on this fine achievement and I am sure that many of us will be looking forward to reading this book and the next.

Visit to United States Air Force Fire Fighters, Fairford, by Blue Watch, Station A5 Patchway

As a result of a chance meeting, Blue Watch A5 have established friendly relations with the USAF fire fighters, and they visited the Fairford Air Base in December 1981. The Chief Officer, Master Sgt. Young, and his Deputy, Master Sgt. Maugh, welcomed them and described the formation of the team and its development over the last three years.



Different equipment—Same fires—Same results.

There are three stations at the base. In addition to the firefighting and aircraft crash tenders, a rescue tender is maintained and is often used to assist the Local Authority Brigade when people are trapped in road traffic accidents outside the base.

One machine which is well worth some description is Pump 5. It is 45 feet long, 10 feet wide,



carries 6,000 gallons of water and 633 gallons of foam, and pumps 2,500 gallons per minute, throwing a foam jet 320 feet.

Weighing 60 tons, it has a top speed of 52 mph, attained in around 60 seconds. The cost is 500,000 dollars. It uses two gallons of fuel to cover one mile and climbs 18-inch obstacles with ease.

Most of the equipment seen differed in many ways from our own, but it all served the same purpose and when in action could be matched by ours.

We were all impressed by the crews' smartness and keen, efficient attitudes—obviously all were very proud to be part of the team.

A plaque was presented to the airmen to commemorate a very interesting visit.

Where are they now?

ARTHUR LEEK, formerly Deputy Chief Officer, Bristol Fire Brigade.

Arthur Leek started with the Bristol Police Fire Brigade in 1920 after working for Bristol Tramways, which he had joined after serving in the First World War. Before the war he had worked for Welchs, the motor engineers.

Life was pretty rough for a single man in those days, working long shifts and living in provided accommodation, which at the time was in Silver Street. Arthur was promoted to sergeant in 1934 and moved to married quarters in the newly built Bridewell building, where the family lived until 1951.

In 1936 he received the Royal Canine Society Medal for Bravery for rescuing a dog from the Avon Gorge, while Bert Arkell (whose son is a Superintendent in the Avon and Somerset Police) received a double hernia after helping to lower him down the cliff face on a rope!

In 1938 Arthur Leek was promoted an Inspector. During the blitz he was in charge of most of the big fire incidents in the city and in Avonmouth, collecting a burn to the eye in the first wave of attacks which kept him in the control room for the second one. In 1941, just before the formation of the NFS, he was promoted to Chief Inspector.

Continued on page eleven

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Miscellany

A KIND OF SPORT?

'Watch of the Year' Competition



White Watch emerged the winners for 1981 at B4 Brislington.

To decide the result, each Watch had to do five fire situation drills on a timed basis; one set by the Officer-in-Charge and one by each of the four Watches.

The competition proved a great success, and some outstanding times were achieved for complex drills.

The winners will have their Watch and the year inscribed on a perpetual trophy held on the Station. Also a drink from the £5 donated by the Officer-in-Charge.

The 1982 competition will really test the skills of each Watch as, in addition to the drills, there will also be a quiz, volley-ball league, etc., to decide the winner.

Rumour has it that there will be some side bets on the result.

Try a forecast!

Safety first...

From the *Guernsey Evening Press*

"Firemen were called to La Passeur, St Sampson's, by a householder whose garden shed was being moved by high winds. To make the structure safe it was decided to demolish it!"

Do you know this Sub-Officer from C1, and what is going on? See Page twenty-seven ...

Classified Advertisements

Make the most of your magazine—send in your classifieds. They will give an added interest to the pages.

To make sure your free advertisement is included in the next issue Stn.O. D. Hutchings should receive it by March 12, 1982.

For sale—Honda 250 CB G5, N reg. (1974). Low-mileage economical twin in good condition, complete with good topbox and full face helmet. Approx. 9 months' road tax and MOT. Price £225 o.n.o. Phone B. Freeguard on Bristol 22061 (ext. 253) or Bristol 695198.

For sale—1976 Honda 250 GS, P reg. Good condition, any trial. Contact Bob Hatherley, A Div FP 254.

Wanted—10'-12' fibreglass dinghy. Contact Brian Bowden, A Div HQ.

Free if you will collect—three-piece suite. Contact Sandy Stewart, Brigade control 214.

For sale—character cottage, Kingswood. Almost detached, superbly rebuilt and modernised to highest standards retaining 19th-century charm combined with 21st-century comfort and features. Large lounge/diner, luxury kitchen and bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, c.h., etc. Offers in region of £30,000 to include all fitted carpets. Phone Bristol 613827 after 6 p.m.



Continued from page nine

When the National Fire Service was formed he was given command of A Division, which at that time also included large pieces of the present B and C Divisions.

In 1943 he was appointed Assistant Commander of 39 Fire Force, based near Swindon. In 1946 he was awarded the King's Police and Fire Services Medal. In the same year he was very nearly blown sky-high when eight trucks loaded with explosives blew up following a fire in an ammunition train near Marlborough.

When the full-time brigades were returned to local authority control in 1948, Arthur Leek served as Deputy Chief Officer of the Bristol Fire Brigade until his retirement from the fire service in 1951, following which he worked for nine years at the Bristol Aeroplane Company, helping to build Britannias. Now aged 83, he lives in Muller Road, Horfield.

The Leek family has a unique association with the Fire Brigade locally. Arthur's brother Oliver followed him in joining the Bristol Brigade and eventually retired as Chief of Brecon and Radnorshire. Arthur's son Cliff joined in 1949 and retired in 1978 as Deputy Senior Fire Prevention Officer, while his grandson Tim (currently stationed at A5 Patchway) has been with the Brigade since 1975. Arthur Leek must be proud of this record of continuous family service in the local Fire Brigade, which now stretches across 62 years.

Chef of the Month

LOUISE JEFFRIES, HQ

BEEF SPICE HOT POT

A delicious dish to warm up winter days!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs skirt of beef
- 2 oz flour
- 2 tsp mustard powder
- 1 oz dripping
- 2 large onions chopped
- 2 tbs tomato purée
- 2 tbs paprika
- pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp thyme
- 1 pint pale ale
- 4 oz button mushrooms

METHOD:

1. Cut meat into cubes. Mix flour, mustard, salt and pepper and toss with meat.
2. Melt dripping in casserole and fry onions and meat until golden. Add remaining flour mixture. Stir and cook until brown.
3. Add tomato purée, spices and beer, stirring well with wooden spoon. Cover and cook gently for two hours on top of stove or in oven.
4. Add mushrooms ten minutes before serving.

COOKING TEMP:

150 °C, 300 °F, Gas Mark 2-3.

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Call out

The Storm Damage of December 13, 1981 . . .



CALL OUT

The Brigade will not forget that night or the tremendous damage caused and the problems involved.

Over 23 of the Brigade's 37 pumps worked through the night, dealing with nearly 400 calls for assistance which involved over 300 appliance movements. None of the neighbouring Brigades were able to comply with Sections 2 or 12 of the Fire Services Act; all were heavily committed with flooding.

The number of people rescued or assisted is not known as appliances and men were going from job to job. For example, what is recorded as one incident at Pill involved over 20 premises with some people being rescued and others assisted before any salvage work could start.

The Chief Officer praised the crews for the way in which they worked through the night. The Control Room staff were also in the "hot seat" for many hours during which their red lines did not stop ringing at the height of the flooding.

Ten appliances remained committed for all of the next day at Weston-super-Mare and Severn Beach.



... and the Great Avon Thaw ►

The thaw during the weekend commencing January 15 brought the Brigade under extreme pressure throughout the county. Credit must be given to our Control Room staff for the way in which they handled some 2,000 calls for assistance. Unfortunately there were many people we could not help but our assistance proved invaluable, especially for the elderly and infirm. On many occasions Social Services had to be requested where crews felt the people could not remain in their homes. Attending crews found one elderly man in Clifton suffering from a heart attack.

It is difficult to appreciate the pressure upon the Control Room staff at such times as this. When crews are dealing with one incident at a time they can have 20 such jobs in hand, besides the emergency calls still coming in.



STAND TALL! Ceiling—11 ft; Water—10 ft 9 ins. The Brigade pumped it out.



Fatal Road Accident at Radstock



A trail of carnage leaving one person dead and at least five injured faced the Radstock crew led by Station Officer Terry Coles. Two women were trapped in the wreckage of one of the cars and an electrical sub-station caught fire following an explosion.

Terry immediately organised the release of the trapped victims, began fire prevention regarding the other vehicles and the lorry load and attempted to contain the fire in the sub-station.

This was a formidable task to be faced by one crew initially but they were quickly backed up by the Rescue Tender from B1 and by Dr Roger Snook.

Pictures courtesy of Wessex Newspapers





Fire at Spillers' Mill, Avonmouth Docks

At 2300 hours on December 17, 1981 (one of the coldest nights of the year), a call was received to say that smoke was coming from the top floor of the building. On arrival the top two floors and roof were found to be on fire. Most other floors and the internal walls had been removed as the building was under demolition, and it was in a very unstable condition.

Despite the tremendous efforts of the first attendance the fire spread rapidly and it was decided to

contain it to the old mill to prevent any further spread.

Branch men and jets were brought into use between the mill and the next building, successfully holding back the fire. Water was freezing on the crew's tunics and equipment. The officer in charge, ACO D. Boyne, decided to set up a two-hourly relief system but it was well into December 18 before the fire was finally extinguished.



Broadmead Lane, Keynsham

Severe damage was caused here to vehicle repair workshops when fire broke out in the roof space. The weather conditions and the construction of the building caused the fire to spread rapidly, and by the time crews from Keynsham and Brislington arrived it had established a good hold.

A make-up message was sent and a request for a hydraulic platform, which had difficulty in reaching the scene because of snow and abandoned vehicles. The fire took two hours to control, and a crew was maintained throughout the night and part of the next day to carry out salvage and inspection work and to deal with small pockets of fire.

The wiring in the roof space had been fully inspected on the day before the fire.

A2

An elderly lady, blind and infirm, was trapped on the first floor by a house fire in Muller Road. Immediate action helped to contain the fire while Sub-Officer Dick Green and Fireman Paul Walker went to the first floor where they found the casualty. She was carried to safety and given oxygen until the ambulance arrived. She refused hospital treatment, and after the fire was controlled our men cleaned up the house and made her and her daughter a cup of tea. Her most urgent request—"a Murray Mint please"—was met. A2 found some at the local sweet shop.

A1

A Bristol solicitor spent 13 hours trapped in a lift at a city office block. It was only by chance that he was discovered on a Sunday morning by a business partner who raised the alarm.

To say the least he was pleased to see the crew from A1 who released him!

Good Save by A3 at Butlers Warehouse, Avonmouth

A deep-seated fire in stored fibreglass insulation material presented very heavy smoke conditions throughout this very large warehouse but Blue Watch prevented any spread, salvaging hundreds of bicycles and 2,000 tons of tea. They had to work in very hot and difficult conditions.

A Lucky Escape at Worle

A car crashed out of control into the side of a bungalow trapping the driver.

A Water Tender and Rescue Tender from C1 attended and released the driver from the wreckage and treated the occupant of the bungalow for shock.

C4

C4, called to a road traffic accident on the Portishead/Bristol road at the Pill turn-off, found two cars involved. The driver of the pictured Austin Princess was badly trapped and suffering from suspected internal, spinal and pelvic injuries. A passing nurse from the BRI was with him. It was decided that the unfortunate casualty should be removed from the car in his seat, a delicate rescue operation which took 35 minutes, with back-up from a Major Rescue Tender from Patchway.



Trapped driver is comforted by nurse during rescue operation.

Road Traffic Accident, Coast Road, Avonmouth

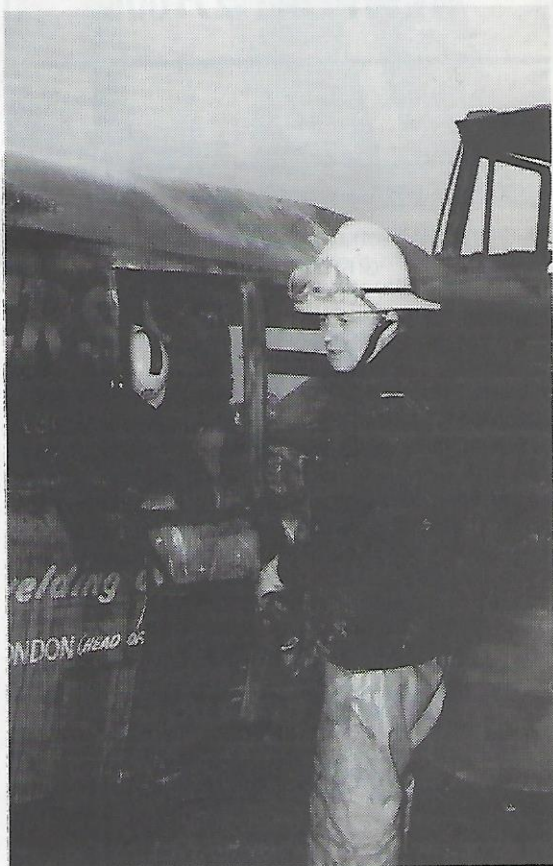
A Water Tender from A3 and a Major Rescue Tender from A5 responded to this call. When the appliance from A3 arrived, Station Officer Spear was faced with a blazing van and fire breaking through into the cab of the lorry. Onlookers told him that the van had burst into flames following a



head-on collision and no one had been seen to escape from it. As the crew brought two spray jets into use it became apparent that the driver of the van had lost his life. The dead man was completely trapped in the wreckage of the van and the whole horrific incident took some one and a half hours to complete. First aid was given to the lorry driver, who was suffering from severe shock, until the ambulance arrived.

Because of the appalling road conditions and the traffic build-up the appliances found some difficulty in reaching the scene. The unusual intensity of the fire which occurred on impact baffled the officers concerned until a gallon can was found in the front of the van, where the fire had apparently been seated, and it is thought that the can could have contained petrol. This would explain the very rapid ignition and the severity of burning in the cab area.

A section on the side of the van cut away to improve access to the victim



Roof Fire, C5 Bedminster

C5 Bedminster responded to a fire in the roof of this council house at Hartcliffe. A good save was made, using hose reels and BA men inside the roof space. Salvage operations were carried out by sheeting down the roof.

The picture of the ladder aroused the crews' interest as the owner of the house was out at the time of the fire. Before leaving the premises he had used the ladder to check for freezing pipes in the roof space, into which he had run an extension lead. As the photograph shows, the top three aluminium rungs of the ladder melted with the heat. This possibly could have been caused by the severe heat in the roof area, or by a fault in the extension lead which was running across the rungs.

It is impossible to establish the exact cause, but it is a very interesting problem on which to ponder.

The alloy ladder, melted at the head, and the extension lead.



Bristol University Geography Block



At 2130 hours on January 30 a call was received to the University complex, where the crews of A1 found the Geography Block (South Building) in University Road well alight in the main staircase section, and a turntable ladder was brought into use.

BA teams were used first to surround the fire and prevent any spread throughout the complex, then to enter the central core. The latter task was greatly hampered by collapsed staircases and falling debris, but despite this and the intense heat it was a successful operation, and the Chief Officer sent a stop message at 2321 hours. Well done, Blue Watch.

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Inter-Station Rugby Matches

Having emerged victorious from two encounters against C5 Bedminster (with scores too embarrassing to quote), B4 Brislington's rugby team was challenged to a match by A2 Southmead, but arrived at the ground on January 3 to be met by only four of Southmead's team.

After waiting 20 minutes or so during which mutters of "We will claim the game" were heard, Southmead's captain suggested that he made his team up with a clutch of Dings Crusaders Colts who had been lurking in the background. In the true spirit of the game Brislington agreed to this, not for one minute thinking they had been set up, and the game commenced.

Southmead kicked off and it soon became apparent that youth was going to prevail. At half time Southmead led, but a team talk convened by the Brislington captain resulted in an uplift of play and once again Brislington emerged victorious, winning by 9 points to 6.

Any other challengers should contact B4.

Swimming

The Brigade's swimming section has now been in existence for three years, during which we have competed in several regular events, including the National Life Saving Championships held at Moreton-in-Marsh, in which we were placed second on the first occasion and third last year. This year's event took place on February 13 (too late to report in this issue).

Another event is the Annual Mile Swim held by Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade at Reading. This is gruelling, to say the least, and it is quite an achievement just to stay the course (in the River Thames). We have competed in this event for the past two years, taking third place in the team event on the first occasion.

For the past two years a National Fire Brigade Gala has been held. We competed in the first Gala in Birmingham, but lack of support prevented us from entering a team last year.

Finally, a mention for Nick Baker, B7 Kingswood, who this year was picked to represent the English Fire Brigades in the first European Fire Services

Underwater Swimming Championships in Holland. Nick's team was placed fourth, and we are sure they will do as well, if not better, next year. Well done, Nick!

If anyone is interested in swimming (in any shape or form), please contact either Rory O'Connor, White Watch, A1 Temple, or Margaret O'Connor, Brigade Control.

Golf

The Brigade has an active golf section affiliated to Tracy Park Golf Club, which offers a 30 per cent discount. Annual subscriptions are due at the beginning of April. Full details are available from Alvin Craig at Brigade headquarters. Everyone is welcome, regardless of handicap.

Each year the section enters about 20 matches against other Brigades in addition to national competitions.

Badminton

Our section meets every Tuesday evening at 1700 hours in the Brigade gym. There is a nominal charge of 15p per evening to cover the cost of shuttlecocks and refreshments.

If you are interested, go along on a Tuesday or contact Janet Greaney in Finance. It's purely a fun game, and all standards of player are welcome.

To all Former Brigade Footballers

If you have played for the old Bristol Fire Brigade football team or in any of the Avon Brigade Teams, you are cordially invited to attend a Grand Football Club Reunion Dinner-Dance at the Linden Hotel, Kingswood, on Friday May 7, 1982. There will be a sherry reception at 7.30 p.m. followed by dinner at 8 p.m.

It is hoped that as many old players as possible will attend this Grand Reunion Dinner. Tickets (inclusive of meal and after-dinner entertainment) are priced at £6.50 each. Dancing and bar facilities will continue until 1 a.m.

If you have any old photographs or press cuttings of Brigade football and could forward them to me, Ernie Coghlan, A Division Headquarters, Temple Back, I will make sure that they are returned after

display at the Dinner-Dance with the past trophies won by the Brigade.

If you require further information or tickets, please contact Ernie Coghlan or Steve Bull on Bristol 22061 (ext. 252 or 219).

Skittles

The Fire Brigade skittles team started its 1981/82 season with the Old Comrades Skittles League on September 7. In the meantime we managed to reach the semi-final of the Knockout Cup before losing to the Devons. Out of 15 matches played so far we have won eight, with a few near misses and one or two hammerings!

Our season ends in May and we hope to be in the top group of the 21 teams in the League again, having come fifth last season and sixth in the season before. We haven't repeated our success of winning the league title in 1979, but we're working on it.

Our team members from A1, A2, A3, A7, Training School, Brigade Control and FP all have a good time and put up with each other's constant barking. The team also includes both new and retired members of the Brigade. Talking shop is not allowed unless we are playing front pin first, which

makes us play better! Our home alley is St Theresa's, Gloucester Road, Filton, on a Wednesday evening, and we play away in the Bristol area every other week at clubs and pubs.

If anyone is interested in coming along for a match please contact Pete Dobson, A7 Yate, our Captain (well sort of!), Dave Coles, A2, Mac Aston, Training School, Dave Hutchings or "Maggie" O'Connor, Brigade Control.

Kingswood Marathon

The Kingswood Marathon will be held on May 23, 1982. Those who do not already have an entry form may obtain one from Dave Hayward at Brigade Headquarters (ext. 289).

Those who prefer walking across pleasant countryside to road running should note that the West Midlands FSSAA are organising a 35-mile walk on June 19, 1982. This is a well-established annual event, primarily for Fire Service personnel, over a route which includes the six highest points in Shropshire.

Anyone interested in this or other long walks should contact Dave Hayward.



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