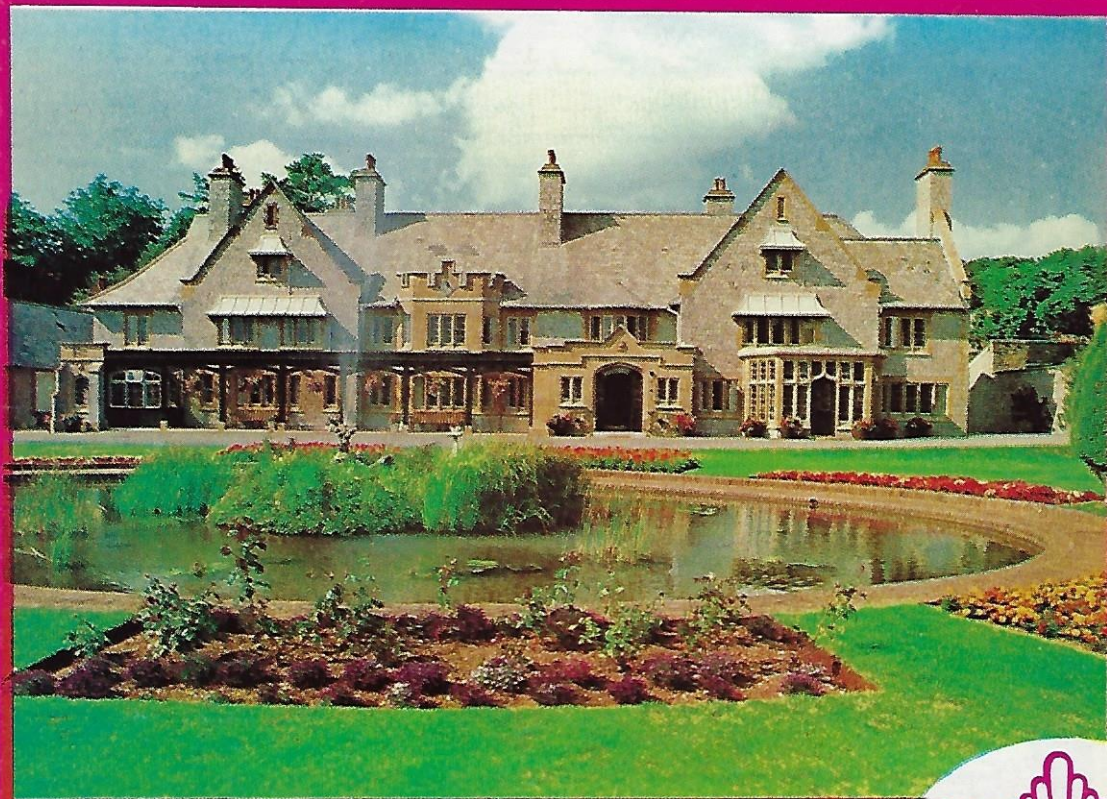


County of **AVON**

Fire Brigade Magazine



Summer 1984



COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE MAGAZINE



Foreword

It is with a deep sense of pride that I pen these words shortly after becoming your Chief Officer. **The County of Avon Fire Brigade** is held in high esteem within the Fire Service and I am mindful of the contributions made by many people, not least my predecessor, Fred Ponsford, towards the achievement of this enviable position.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all my personnel, both uniformed and civilian at all levels, for the splendid welcome that my wife, Betty, and I have received since joining the **County of Avon Fire Brigade**. We look forward to a long and happy association with you.

The future is very difficult to predict for, as you are all well aware, the financial restraints which have restricted so much development in latter years are still with us and are likely to tighten even further in the months ahead. However, having sounded the warning of gloom, I am confident that the Service generally, and our Brigade in particular, can respond in a manner which will reflect to our ultimate credit. Communication in its broadest aspect is essential at all times and it will be my continuing policy to ensure that all personnel are made aware of the factors having any bearing on the future of the Brigade and will, wherever possible, have the opportunity of contributing in a constructive sense to some of the solutions.

Having mentioned "communications", I am reminded of other ventures in this respect. Firstly, the imminent commissioning of our new mobilising system, and here I would like to pay tribute to our long-suffering Control Room Staff who have put up with so many demolitions and alterations going on around their ears whilst still maintaining a fast and efficient service on the bits of the old system still visible! Secondly, of course, there is the medium of this Magazine which I consider to be an important part of the Brigade's projection. My thanks are due to the editorial team for their continuing efforts and I am sure that they would wish me to say that it is **YOUR Magazine** – so we require **YOUR** submissions to keep it alive.

F.G. Wilton
Chief Officer

Editorial

Having been prompted by Mac Aston on numerous occasions, I obtained a Brigade plaque and arranged the day to visit the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund convalescent home at Harcombe House.

Harcombe House is situated at Chudleigh, just the other side of Exeter, and in easy reach of the South Devon resorts. There are 18 bungalows owned by the Fund set along with the house in 300 acres of rolling countryside.

We were made very welcome and duly presented the plaque to Heather and Clive who will warmly welcome any members of the Brigade on summer holiday in the area wishing to call in for an evening drink.

I would thoroughly recommend anyone to take up the invitation, to see how some of the cash we raise for the Fund is spent. The bar is immediately to the left of the main entrance of the property, shown on the front cover.

It would be remiss of me at this stage not to welcome, through the facility of the magazine, the new Chief, Frank Wilton and his wife Betty to the Brigade. (I am led to believe the country estate in Scotland has now been sold and a desirable residence in Northavon is being sought).

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in supplying copy for the magazine, but I am always looking for more!

Brian Sharp

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.

FACES & PLACES



Fred Ponsford's Retirement

Friday 27th January, 1984, the Officer's Club of the Brigade held a formal dinner in honour of the retiring Chief Officer and his wife. Guests included Sir Kenneth Holland and Lady Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Winning, H.M. Inspector of Fire Services, Terence McCarthy and his wife, Bob Hart and his wife and of course not forgetting the Laird of Lancashire Tony Parry and his Lady, 90 guests enjoyed a superb meal and the free-flowing wine made the speeches sound that much better, and of course the tributes also flowed freely to Fred.

It is however, pleasing to note that the ex Chief Officer granted forgiveness to the Senior Staff Officer over the issue of the disappearing cake!! The Chief presented to the Brigade a silver cake stand and server.

Tuesday 31st January, 1984, saw a retirement function at Brigade Headquarters Club where some 300 gathered to say farewell to Fred and Rose. Fred's former colleagues were there in number and I would imagine that there must have been a drain on Bristol's water supplies that night due to the number of major fires being attacked. Fred, surrounded by his family was presented with a portrait of himself on behalf of the Brigade from the Deputy Chief Officer Pat Aris and Mrs. Ponsford was presented with crystal by Glenis Jennings.

At the retirement hour they were towed from the premises on a 1908 Shand-Mason Pumper led by Bill Plenty and his pipes and drums returned to Headquarters, then having to sign the visitors book before being admitted to Headquarters or A1's Bar!!!

Chief Officer's Commendations



Fireman Nigel Mucahy and Dave Salter both of Blue Watch, A1 were recently awarded Chief Officer's Commendations for their part in rescuing a man from the head of a 130ft crane at Wapping Wharf.

They are photographed above, with the ex-Chief Officer and Councillor Tom Turvey JP (Vice Chairman Avon County Council) who made the award.

Since this award the same watch was involved with rescuing two window cleaners from their cleaning cradle at 14th floor level of the Bristol and West Building, Broad Quay.

Gréat stuff Murdock!!

Pete Morgan joined the Brigade in 1953, and carried out his training at Speedwell Fire Station until March 1954, under the watchful eyes of Cliff Allen and Pat Delaney. He successfully completed the course, due in no small measure to the good standard of recruits on that particular course!!? Incidentally, only one member of that course is still serving in the Brigade and his name appears at the end of this article.

Pete was posted to Spendwell Fire Station and served there until 1961, when he was promoted to Leading Fireman and attached to the Fire Prevention Department in the Corn exchange, Bristol. Judging by reports submitted, he fitted in very well there and stayed until 1964, when he returned to Speedwell. Promotion to Sub Officer was achieved in 1969, in which rank he served at Brislington, Speedwell and Temple until 1976, when he joined 'A' Division as Staff Sub Officer.

A main feature of his service has been that wherever he has served he has always been approachable and helpful to anyone he could help and although he is a man of quiet nature has managed to achieve results which have proved his ability.

Having known him throughout his Service I consider myself fortunate, and I believe he should retire with the thought that he can look back (if he wishes to) on a job well done.

I would like to wish Pete and Hilary a happy retirement and good health in the years to come.

National Wholetime Quiz



Photograph shows Chief Fire Officer Ponsford presenting Martin Kendall with Brigade Trophy.

The Brigade Knockout was held in the Lecture Theatre at Brigade Headquarters where B6 Speedwell Green Watch won a hard fought competition against A5 Patchway White Watch and C1 Weston-s-Mare Blue Watch

The successful Speedwell team consisted of Firemen Dave Saunders, Bev Bell, Glyn Cole, Martin Glanville and Sub Officer Martin Kendall.

The district final was held also at the Lecture Theatre at Brigade Headquarters where B6 had to compete against Devon, Hereford and Worcester, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Wiltshire were the winners of this final but not without a hard fight from our local team.

Good try B6.



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the thought that he can look back (if he wishes to) on a job well done.

I would like to wish Pete and Hilary happy

Promotion

Ernie Coghlan – Pen Picture

Ernie joined the Bristol Fire Brigade in 1964 at the ripe old age of 17 and embarked on the initial 2 year Junior Fireman's scheme run in the Brigade. He then had spells at Avonmouth and Southmead before promotion to Leading Fireman saw him transferred to Blue Watch at the new A1 Temple Station. With promotion to Sub Officer in 1975, he served on Divisional Staff, Training School and Fire Prevention before settling in on White Watch at A1. Promotion to Station Officer meant a return spell in 'A' Division Fire Prevention before becoming Officer in Charge, Green Watch, A1. (Ernie informs us that his 'time' with Green Watch commandos will long be affectionately remembered and he eagerly awaits the parachute jump in September that the Watch have planned).

Ernie's time off is spent between his family (he has two sons and a daughter), and football. When he's not involved with the Brigade club teams, he finds time to referee in the Suburban and Western Leagues. Ernie's sports interests are varied and very time consuming. He has completed two marathons, been twice winner of the Joe Cocker Memorial Team race, plays squash/badminton and has played for the Brigade's football, rugby, cricket, darts and skittles teams. At the time of going to press, Ernie is urgently seeking an extra two days in the seven day week so that he can get some decorating done at his Southmead Road home.

retirement and good health in the years to come.

Monty Britton



Early in 1984, Fireman Bill Lewis of A2 Southmead was forced to retire with a back injury.

Bill has been one of the true characters of the Brigade and will be sadly missed by many friends. He served some 27 years in the Fire Service as a Fireman at the former Bridewell Station and latterly at Southmead. He was recognized widely as one of the better drivers of the Brigade and used his P.S.V. licence to ferry men far and wide, particularly on football trips including the memorable visit to Inverness. Bill was also one of the fire-boat men and quite good at topography, particularly using public-house names as landmarks well known to him.

Bill was a Senior Official of the Fire Brigades' Union for many years, retiring as Regional Treasurer and his common-sense approach and brand of humour

will be missed in many meetings. He was always proud of the former Bristol Brigade but played a major part in concluding arrangements for conditions of service in the new Avon Brigade.

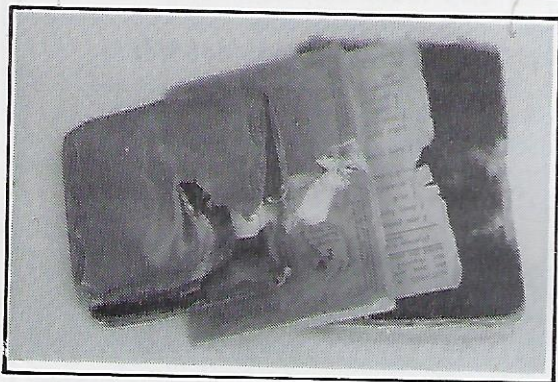
Bill and his wife Jean will, I am sure, still be available as marriage guidance counsellors to those who drop in for a wee dram and a chat, and I know we shall not lose contact and see them at Brigade functions.

It was pleasing to see so many people, including many retired friends at the farewell evening at Southmead, and the many presents and tributes were a fitting finale which we echo here. Good luck and happy retirement to Bill and Jean.

Alan Totterdell

Faith or Fags

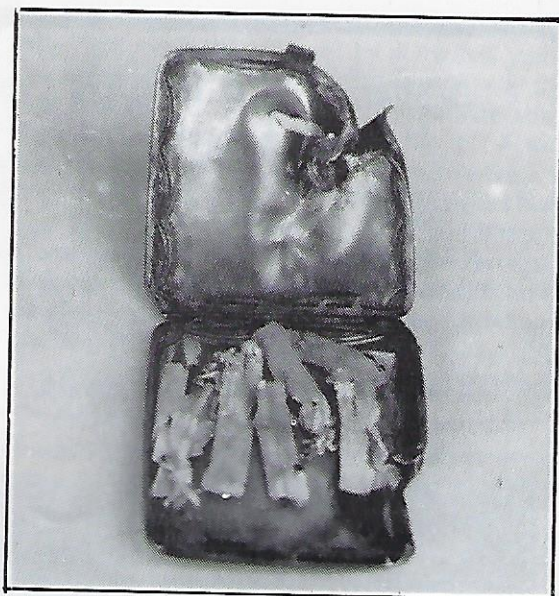
Prompted by Brian Sharp to share an unusual experience, and with due regard for the feelings of those who regard smoking as a health hazard, I am happy to record the following:-



As a youth I found smoking to be an accepted part of social behaviour. Addicts were catered for in cinemas, theatres, pubs, all forms of transport and even dining areas. (I remember with some wry humour that the First Aid treatment for shock was, warmth, air, rest, hot sweet tea and a fag!!! Not forgetting the 'loosen all tight clothing bit'). It was also considered 'Manly' to smoke and I do feel it could boost moral in certain situations, whilst it certainly had a tranquillising effect in times of stress. Hence, many servicemen involved in those war years of 1939-45 embraced the habit and a cigarette case became a necessary piece of personal equipment.

As an infantryman I had acquired a very strong case, capable of protecting its fragile contents from the 'thousand natural shocks' to which they were subjected during their brief pocket life. In the field this article took on a further roll of chest protector, being carried in the left breast pocket of the battle dress blouse and boosted by notebooks, Gospels according to various Saints (acquired en route to battle zones through transit camps from well meaning religious groups), steel pocket mirrors, jack knives etc. all wedged into the pocket to form a sort of 'Heath Robinson' bullet proof vest. (We fervently hoped). Old campaigners will also remember the shell dressings tucked between camouflage net and steel helmet thereby boosting head protection.

In the early hours of 10th July, 1944, during an attack on Hill 112 in Normandy, I had occasion to be extremely grateful for my good old fag case. Point 112 is a slight rise on top of a plateau which pushes itself out as a salient and commands the River Orne. Apart from a few hedges and a small wood the whole area was covered with standing corn and affords little cover from view. The Battle Plan was a 'set piece'



attack supported by a squadron of Sherman Tanks behind a barrage laid down by most of two corps of artillery in addition to 3 inch and 4.2 inch mortars, (so says the Battle History). Zero hour was 0500 hours and long before this time the weight of the artillery was bent on softening up the whole front. The attack was over 1,500 yards of open country and almost immediately we came under heavy mortar and artillery fire. Sgt. Hole of the Mortar Platoon describes the attack as follows:-

"It was just beginning to get light and the whole scene was illuminated by burning carriers and tanks. Flamethrowers were in action. The enemy, using Nebelwerfers was mortaring the advancing troops. Practically every weapon was in action - rifles, grenades, phosphorous, L.M.G.'s and tanks causing heavy casualties. Our mortars fired some 5,000 rounds".

The chance of coming through unscathed was about 50-50 and very early on I ran out of my first 50, being struck in the chest and left hand by shrapnel. We were kneeling at the time waiting for the barrage to lift when in split seconds I was flat on my back and I remember thinking 'Curtain' thoughts. However, after the initial shock I found wasn't feeling as bad as I'd expected and began a rather apprehensive search of the 'target area' with my right hand, expecting to feel the dreaded 'warm wet' but surprised to get a nasty scratch from something quite cold. Could'n't believe my eyes when I looked down for the camouflage jacket and battle dress blouse was quite wrecked around the pocket area and so too was the cigarette case with its seven precious contents, (a day's issue), together with the Gospel according to St. Luke and a notebook. I had also carried a pen and comb but all I found was the press

stud filler of the pen, still in its screw cap, whilst all that remained of the comb was the top spine fused in two and all the teeth missing. Left hand was a bit messy but the extreme relief and the utter disbelief caused me to think that this could only happen in films.

Didn't have long to enjoy the relief for within minutes we were concerned with the business of the day, reaching the hill crest and I'm happy to say that this was almost achieved without further personal injury, though around mid-day I was once more flattened when a burning tank exploded and part of the head harness and camouflage net, and scoring a groove

around the inside. Truly it had to be my lucky day. We never did reach the hill crest by some few yards because of the tenacious resistance put up by the S.S. troops which had weakened us to the extent that it was decided to dig in and hold. We had lost almost half the Battalion that morning. I had to leave just after for by now the hand had become useless but I shall always remember the many first aid posts and dressing stations through which we passed en route to England. The main treatment seemed to prevail at each – a mug of tea thrust into the good hand and you've guessed – a fag forced into the mouth.

Ron Marchant



B4 Watch of the Year

Blue Watch emerged as the winners of the B4 Watch of the Year competition for 1983, seen here receiving a plaque from Divisional Officer Graham Iles.

A keenly fought contest consisted of eight tests which included Fire Situation Drills, Practical First Aid, Fire Prevention and a Technical Quiz.

Red Watch were one point behind the winners with Green Watch third.

?????????

The Annual Agony

Once again the season of B.A. Refresher Courses has come and gone.

The Training School staff of course taking great pains to ensure that no-one misses the day out and free lunch at Headquarters.

However, as usual, the courses including Senior Officers always seem to promote most interest around the building.

Can you guess who this is emerging from the black hole!!!

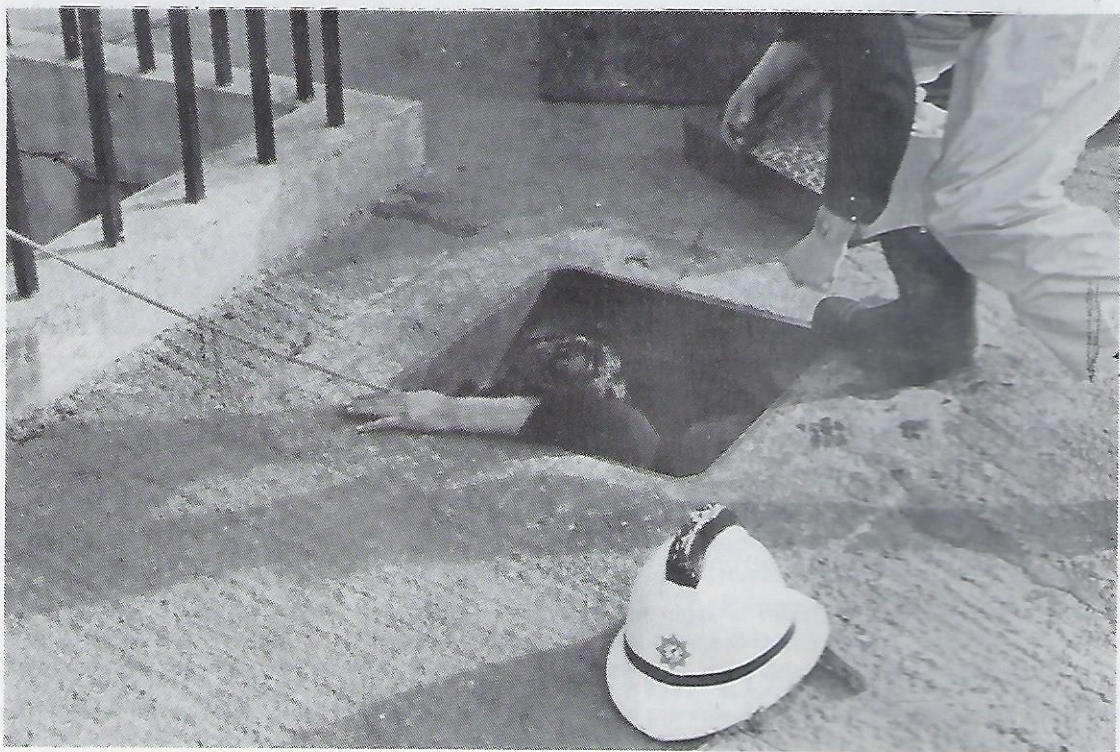
Do I see a member of Training School wearing a watch???



After service in the RAF, Noel Hackfoort (Taff) joined the National Fire Service in 1946 and later transferred to Somerset Fire Brigade serving at Weston-s-Mare until he retired in 1973 having attained the rank of Sub Officer.

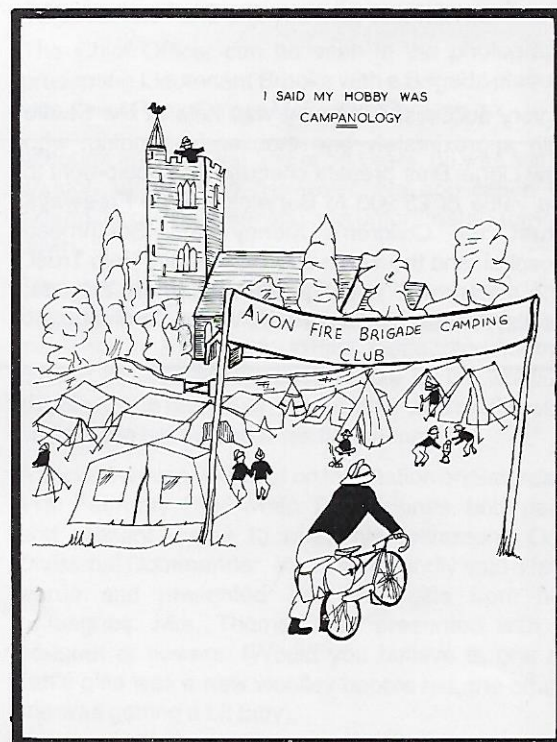
In 1974, after a short break from working in the Fire Brigade, he rejoined in a civilian capacity being attached to the Workshops at Weston-s-Mare. Throughout his service he has fully supported the aims and objectives of the F.S.N.B.F. to which he has given and continues to give valuable service.

In recognition of this a 'Certificate of Appreciation' was awarded to Taff by the National Executive of the



Fund and was recently presented to him at Bedminster Fire Station by Divisional Officer Brian Hellin.

Yes – you had to be right' A.D.O. Glyn Jones from 'B' Division uttering some complimentary remarks to Brigade Photographer.





Presentation Dance – Studio, Frogmore Street, 7th February, 1984

A very successful evening was held at the Studio with approximately one thousand attending, who saw Lionel Blair present cheques and equipment to the value of £3,900 to **Berwick Lodge Freeways Trust**, the Children's Kidney Unit, Southmead Hospital, and the Youth and Community Help Trust. The money was raised jointly by the Fire Brigade, Police, Ambulance Illuminated Water Carnival.

The three main organisers, Mike Hughes, Mike Peglar and Roger King expressed their sincere thanks to everyone who made the carnival and the Presentation Evening an overwhelming success.

A draw was held during the evening in aid of the Knightsbridge bomb victims and a total of £500 presented to the City of Bristol Lord Mayor Fred Apperly.

The Star Prize of this draw, a fourteen day holiday at the Savoy Hotel in Madeira was presented to Mrs. Gwendoline Gough of Yate by Mrs. Dias, a Director of Cabot Travel, East Street, Bedminster, who very generously donated this holiday.

Other prizes included a long week-end to Paris and a colour television.



Visit By Sub Mariners

Lieutenant Chris Brookes and Chief Petty Officer Bob McFarlane, both of whom were based at HMS Neptune, Faslane, recently spent four days in the Brigade lecturing about submarines and the difficulty that would face us should a fire occur. They played to

full houses on each occasion, and I am sure that we were a lot wiser as a result of their very informative lectures.

During their stay in the County they had several "trips ashore" and enjoyed their visit with us.

The Chief Officer can be seen in the photograph presenting Lieutenant Brooks with a Brigade plaque, with Chief Petty Officer McFarlane looking on.



Retained Leading Fireman Thomas of A7 Yate retired from the Brigade on Tuesday 7th February 1984 after completing 24 years' service.

David John Francis, otherwise known as 'Taff' to his friends, joined the Gloucestershire Fire Brigade on the 1st March 1960 at the old Chipping Sodbury Station. He moved to the new Station in 1969.

Taff did not want to retire, as being very active, and a keen badminton and volleyball player, he felt that

although attaining the age of 55 years, he was still fit enough to carry on. However, his application to extend his period of service was unfortunately turned down.

Throughout the years Taff gave loyal service to the Brigade, and giving 24 hour cover, attended most incidents in A7's area. Whilst responding to the Station he was easily recognisable by his woolley bobble hat. In fact, when the weather was really cold, he kept the hat on under his fire helmet.

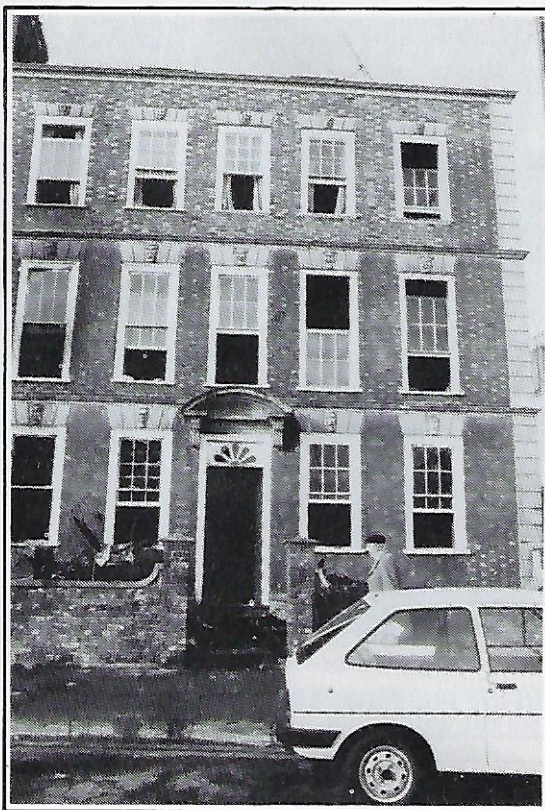
A social evening was held on the Station on Saturday 11th February 1984 when Taff's friends, both past and present, came to mark his retirement. Our Divisional Commander, Mr. Britton, kindly said a few words and presented Taff with gifts from his colleagues. Mrs. Thomas was presented with a bouquet of flowers. (Would you believe it, one of Taff's gifts was a new woolley bobble hat, the other one was getting a bit tatty).

262 Hotwells Road, Bristol

The first of twelve calls was received by Brigade Control at 0355 hours on the 18th January 1984. En Route to the incident the crews were advised that there were persons reported and as the appliances approached, thick dense smoke could be seen issuing from the property. Six people on the first and second floors were leaning from the windows and screaming for help at the front of the building, whilst two more persons were visible from the side and one from the rear. All of these people were rescued using 135 and triple extension ladders and the Turntable Ladder.

Meanwhile Station Officer Coghlan sent the following radio message:- Multiple persons reported, make pumps 5. The fire had rapidly spread from the ground floor up the stair case and into second floor rooms. The Chief Officer took command of the incident which was finally brought under control by the use of 3 jets. Six B.A. wearers had searched the building to check for any further persons requiring rescue.

All the crews involved are to be congratulated on a very cool, efficient and rapid rescue and in obtaining a successful 'Stop'.



Sub Officer John Sleight and White Watch were recently confronted with yet another high-rise rescue. It was, however, the Bristol and West Building Society and not the cranes of Wharf on this occasion. Two window cleaners had made an early start on the building and just after 8 a.m. a fault developed in the cradle winch motor, trapping

them at 14th floor level. The Brigade were called and under the direction of ADO Phil Clark removed a window glazing unit and lifted the men into the building.

Westgate Street, Bath

A pumping drill near the city centre of Bath was interrupted by a fire call to Arlington House, a residential building of four floors. On arrival, Station Officer Alan Lawson was met by the caretaker who said that there was a small fire in the rubbish chute which was affecting electrical cables.

After assessing the situation, it became apparent that there were numerous people on the smoke-logged upper floors requiring evacuation. Two B.A. crews were sent in initially to perform rescues.

Pumps were made four and D.O. Richard Brimmell took charge.

A total of ten people, mostly elderly, were led to safety, some wearing the B.A. facemasks of their rescuers.

There was a total of ten B.A. used, some for search and rescues, others for firefighting. The small fire was extinguished using hosereel and a CO₂ extinguisher.

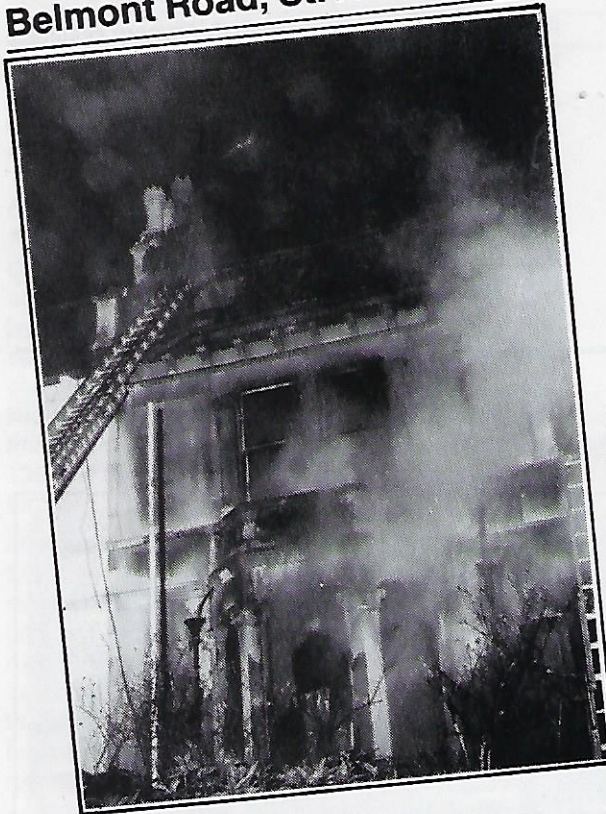
F. W. Hawker & Sons, North End, Bath



An open sided timber store positioned in the centre of timber production buildings was well alight on the arrival of two pumps from B1 Bath. These buildings, due to the intense heat, were about to ignite. Station Officer Colin Morris made pumps 3 and got three jets to work. On the arrival of the third pump, a fourth jet was got to work and although the exteriors of the

buildings were charred, the 'Stop' was achieved. It was good to note how the Company publicly praised the crews in managing to save the buildings especially the production shed. The fire was recorded as of doubtful origin.

Belmont Road, St. Andrew's



Station Officer Chris Liberty was confronted with a severe fire situation on responding to this 'persons

reported' call. He quickly ascertained that the occupier, a man of 75 years, was out of the building. Pumps were made 3, 2 jets got to work at ground level. Two B.A. men were sent inside the building also with a jet. Within a few minutes fire began to show through the roof and a 135 ladder was pitched to parapet level and a jet got to work.

Inside the building there was an incredible amount of rubbish stacked to a height of about five feet in every room.

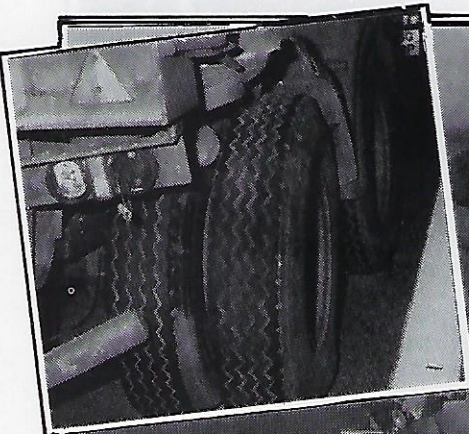
The stop was achieved with very little damage occurring to adjacent property.

Amongst all the rubbish £4,000 in bank notes, new 35 mm cameras, 10 bicycles and an ancient pork pie were salvaged.

Appliances from A5 and A7 responded to a road traffic accident on the eastbound carriageway of the M4 Motorway near junction 18, with A.D.O. George Hacker in charge.

A car carrying 5 passengers was travelling to the Annual Crufts Dog Show at Earl's Court when it collided with the rear of a heavy goods vehicle and somersaulted across the eastbound carriageway, landing upside down, trapping three of the passengers.

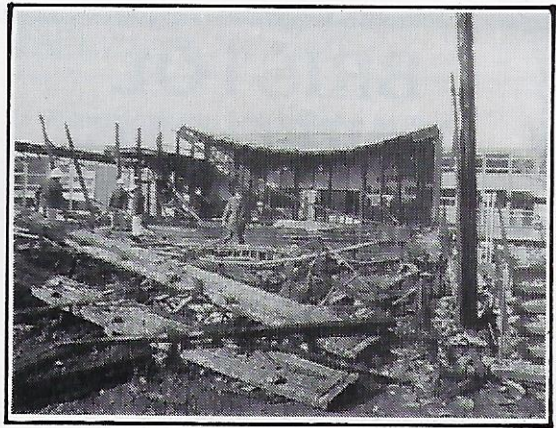
The task of freeing the passengers took about 30 minutes. As a result of the accident, two adults lost their lives, one adult received serious head and leg injuries and a 12 year old girl received serious head and internal injuries.



Wyvern School, Weston Super Mare

Blue Watch from C1 with Station Officer Trevor Osborne, were confronted with a severe fire in the central area of the school. Pumps were made 4 and Rescue Tender for salvage purposes. There was a strong wind blowing from the north fanning the flames toward the Domestic Science Block and from the Changing Rooms into the Gymnasium.

Although the Main Hall, Changing Rooms and Sports Store were destroyed a very good stop was achieved by well positioning of jets preventing the spread of this fire through the adjoining corridors.



A total of 6 jets and 4 B.A. were used.

MISCELLANY

These examination papers supplied by Stn O Jackson. B4 – Happy retirement Tom?

Examination for promotion to the rank of Fire Sergeant – Paper 1

11th April, 1931
English

- Write an essay on the following subject:-
"Fire Fighting as a career".
Essay not to be less than 150 words in length.
Time allowed – 1 hour
Maximum marks – 12

Paper 2

11th April, 1931
Arithmetic

- Rewrite the following and place totals in the space provided:-

£	S	D	£	S	D
3	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	34215	4	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
15	6	1	1	14	1
274	18	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	911	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	4	6	1015	17	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
9	6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		1	2
8	1	4	6	11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
11	12	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	81	19	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
121	17	10	21	1	1
4023	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		16	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	3	11

Paper 3

11th April, 1931
Hydraulics

- How many gallons in 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of fresh water?
- How many gallons are contained in a tank 200 feet long, 30 feet broad and 6 feet deep?
- Water is flowing through a 6 inches pipe with a velocity of 3.5 feet per second. How long will it take to fill an underground tank of 10,000 gallons capacity?

Time allowed – 1 hour
Maximum marks – 18

- Find the area of a field 738 feet wide and 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards long. Give your answer in square yards.
- What is the cost of 27 tons 12 cwt 3 qrs. of coal at £1.13.4 per ton?
- A woman purchased 4 lbs of bacon at 1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per pound; 14 lbs of sugar at 63/- per cwt; 7 boxes of matches at 18/- per gross; 7 lbs of cheese at 1/9 per pound; 2 pounds of butter at 1/11 $\frac{3}{4}$ per pound, and received 1/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ discount on the bill. How much had she left out of £2.10.0?

5. A railway truck contained 30 tons of coal. How much would remain after 6 carts took 1 ton 14 cwt 1 qtr. from it?
6. If a man's step is 33 inches, how many will take him 3 miles?

Time allowed – 1½ hours

Maximum marks – 12

Paper 4

11th April, 1931

Fire Brigade Duties

1. How would you make certain that the priming pump on a Turbine pump was maintained absolutely efficient to work on a deep lift?
2. Give a list of 10 causes of fires.
3. Sketch two safoam units coupled together ready for action.
4. Sketch a wiring diagram of a duplicate ignition system on a Leyland or Dennis four cylinder petrol engine.
5. Describe briefly the working of the Proto Smoke Helmet.
6. What do you know of spontaneous combustion? Give two examples, and explain how you prevent fires occurring from these two causes.
7. What do you know of calcium carbide?
8. Give two distant causes of fires due to electric lighting.
9. Gamewell Fire Alarm System
 - (a) Is it a closed or open circuit system?
 - (b) Explain the advantages or disadvantages of this system.
 - (c) What would happen if three alarms were given on any circuit simultaneously?
10. Describe any Motor Fire Engine and give full detail of the equipment carried on it.

Time allowed – 3½ hours

Maximum marks – 72

P.C's Dave Morgan and Ted Lawrence of Clevedon Police Station would like to thank all Firemen at Clevedon Fire Station for their help and support before and during their Lands End to John O'Groats cycle ride last September, and especially to LFM. Tony Hutchinson who gave up two weeks of his own time to drive the 'back-up' van. The ride was not only enjoyable, but has raised almost £1,000 for charity. We have decided that £700 will go to our main charity, the BBC's "Children in Need" appeal, £100 to the Police Benevolent Fund, and the remainder, £164, is to be divided between four worthy causes in Clevedon.

Volunteers Needed

St. Peter's Hospice, Tennis Road, Knowle.
Care for terminally ill cancer patients.

Many of these patients are nursed in their own homes, but need the stimulation of coming to our day unit, where they can be physically and mentally cared for and their lives made more interesting for that day.

We are in desperate need of drivers to help bring these patients to the Day Centre at Knowle.

If you think you can give a few hours of your time each week or fortnight, please do not hesitate to contact:-

Mrs. June Manney,
Co-Ordinator Volunteers,
Tennis Road,
Knowle,
Tel. No: 774605

These patients are quite able to travel in a normal car. Petrol expenses will be reimbursed.

The following letter was found under the filing cabinet at A2 last week. Due to its author now holding a senior position in the Brigade we have decided to withhold his identity, in order to prevent his embarrassment.

Dear Mum and Dad,

I just thought I'd write to let you know how I got on in my first week at the Fire Station.

Having been taught so well by those very nice men at the Training School, I've been able to use my knowledge to tell all the older lads where they are going wrong. I know they are impressed because they always stand aside and let me show them how to do all the work properly.

The other day we went out on a Fire Engine to test some hydrants. The other lads let me carry the canvas bucket that we use to catch the water in and carry it away to empty down the drains (so as not to get the road wet), it was very hard work but I enjoyed it. The others must really like testing hydrants, they were laughing and joking all the time.

We've got some very unusual equipment in the Fire Brigade. The other day I was sent to Brigade

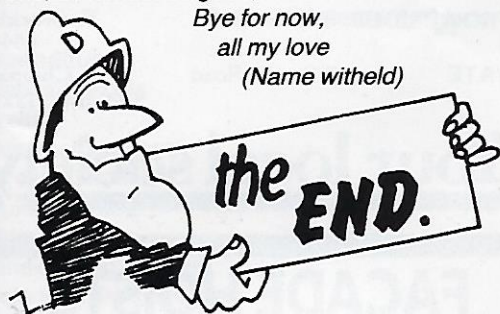
Stores to get a water hammer and some elbow grease. The storeman said he hadn't any in stock at that moment as they are very hard to come by. He was a very happy man as well.

Our station Officer has only just been promoted, and hasn't yet had time to mark his kit properly, so on our first night I was asked to paint his boots white to match his helmet. The station officer was very moved by this and started crying, when he recovered he said that I should go far in this job, he suggested I might advance my career well in London. The lads agree with him took they said that with my brains I must be first-rate officer material.

I know that I've been noticed by all the senior officers because they always smile and give me a grin when they see me.

I would have come home this weekend, but some of the words the lads use I've never even heard of so I have to look them up in the dictionary. By the way, what is a Frontal Lobotomy? All the others say I've got one, so it must be good, mustn't it?

Bye for now,
all my love
(Name withheld)



Oh, Captain Shaw

Captain Shaw is mentioned in most books on fire-fighting, but until now he has never been the subject of a full-length book.

This has now been put right with the appearance of *Oh, Captain Shaw: The Life Story of the First and Most Famous Chief of the London Fire Brigade*, by Ronald Cox. The foreword to the book is by Ronald Bullers, the present Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade, who suggests that Shaw is to the British Fire Service what Nelson is to the Navy.

The full story is there: his early career as an adventurer and soldier; his attitude to his men and to his employers (fairly unreasonable in both cases); his social life, including involvement in a famous divorce case (with a Duke, a General and the woman's own Doctor); his massive work for better fire protection and escape in theatres; the eccentric inventors who kept knocking at his door; the West Country linen draper (he worked for a Bristol firm) who made twice as much money in a 'good' year out

of fraudulent volunteer fire brigades and bogus firemen's charities in the London area as Shaw himself earned.

Oh, Captain Shaw is published by Victor Green Publications, price £12 (or direct from the publisher at 128/134 Cleveland Street, London, W1P 5DN, for £13.50, including postage and packing).

The Cake by N.O. Crumbs

The cake was presented by the Crest Hotel, For photo's with the Chief to be taken, Let's keep it in the kitchen till then, And by the staff it can be eaten.

The time drew near, the S.D.O. went to collect the cake,

He opened the fridge, it wasn't there, Not a sign, not a crumb, not a flake,

"But I put it in there", the S.D.O. said, Becoming red in the face,

"Why didn't you tell me it was the fridge, I thought it was the safe".

The cooks and firemen scoffed the lot, due to a misunderstanding,

Something must be done, and pretty damn quick, The Chief's wife was standing with knife in hand,

She had heard the cake was mighty grand, The S.D.O. said "What can I do now

The cameras are waiting, the Chief's ready to bow". Then up piped Bruno "I've saved the crest,

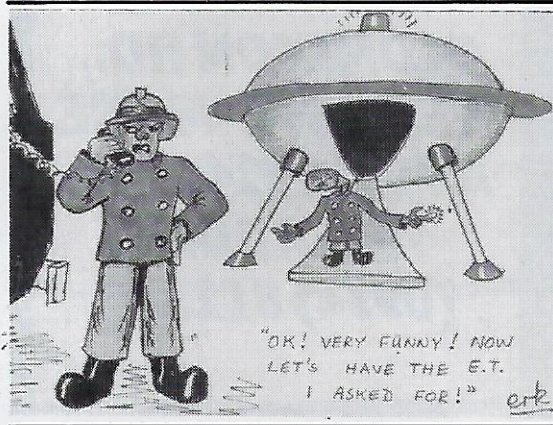
It was a work of art.

Just leave it to me, I'll put it on this, it's my apple tart". He re-shaped the tart and sat the crest on a pile of cream,

The cameras clicked, the Chief had his snaps, you should have seen them beam.

This story is true, or so I've been told, So you will see the reason why,

It always pays to have the real thing, Because pictures often lie!



Sharpy's Snooze

On 2nd February we received a call,
But the P.R.O. was not on the ball,
Hawkers Ltd was the scene of the fire,
Our P.R.O. was in his night attire.
Control phoned him up with information to pass
Like, size and dimensions, location and mass.
As L.F.C. Op Dyas started to speak,
Our dear P.R.O. went back to sleep.
The chap in control felt quite a bore,
Especially when Brian started to snore.
The zzzzzzzzz's they were flowing thick and fast,
Tut we managed to wake him, eventually, at last.

It's only 3 pumps not as bad as it seems.
So put down the phone Bri, and go back to your
dreams.

County of Avon Fire Brigade Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1983

Expenditure:	'A'	'B'	'C'	Total
Hospital Parcels	32.61	39.45	51.04	123.10
Wreath			5.00	5.00
Christmas Hampers	405.00	720.00	900.00	2025.00
Hardship Grants	104.00	616.00	100.00	820.00
Orphans Grants	380.00	1425.00	2170.00	3975.00
Widows Grants	135.00	270.00	60.00	1680.00
Handicapped Children	150.00	450.00	150.00	750.00
Prolonged Sickness			308.00	308.00
	<u>2421.61</u>	<u>3520.45</u>	<u>3744.04</u>	<u>£9686.10</u>

Income:	'A' Division	£3507.44
	'A' Division	£3691.48
	'B' Division	£3691.48
	'C' Division	£7145.43
Donations via Chief Officer	£	387.85
		<u>£14732.20</u>

The above statement shows that in 1983 the expenditure for Avon Remained the same as last year at around £9,700.00, but the income has increased by £2,232.49 on 1982.

The committee would like to thank all the personnel, families and friends who helped to raise such a fine amount and we hope the above statement shows to you how some of the money raised is spent in Avon.

Convalescent Rest Accomodation:

During 1983 19 cases were provided with convalescence, 7 cases at Marine Court, Littlehampton, 1 case at Munson House, Littlehampton, 11 cases at Harcombe House, Chudleigh Devon.

J.S. Dowse, Hon. Treasurer.



Rupert disappeared on a cold grey wet December evening and despite extensive enquiries and a continuing search, his loss remains a total mystery which has baffled the countries finest brains.

He was seen on that fateful day by his friend Badger Bill, who saw Rupert trying to escape from a plastic 'Tesco' carrier clutched in the dirty hands of a drunken sea dog. Bill sent Podgy for the police and tried to follow the desperate pair but lost them in the Christmas crowds.

On receiving the call the police despatched Constable Growler who with the help of Pong-Ping, Gregory and Aldy combed the area.

Eventually the drunken Matelot was found sprawled in the mud on Bedminster Down with the bag . . . but empty.

We can only hope that Rupert will be found but in the meantime we must all be vigilant in our search and remember Rupert Jones in our Prayers.

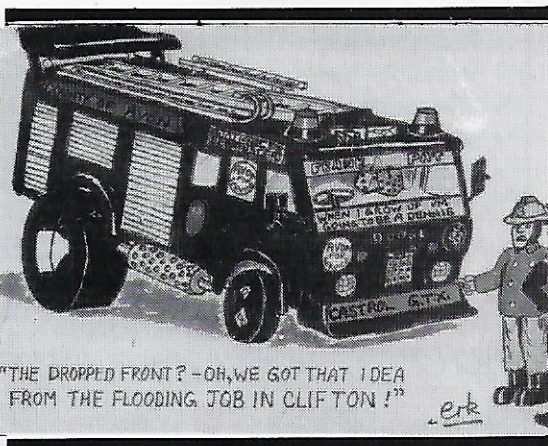
Army Cadet Force

Is your lad between the ages of 12½ and 18, interested in the life of a soldier and would like to take part in a very worthwhile pastime, then send him along with his mates to Avon Army Cadet Force, Whiteladies Road on any Tuesday or Friday between 1900 and 2130 hours, your son will be trained in many things. To name a few he would learn map reading, camping, shooting, fieldcraft, self-discipline and much more. He would also be entitled to go on a day trip to Larkhill or Warminster or any other trip that is on at the time. There are weekends away camping, walking and other training.

Once a year there is a two week camp, normally late July, early August at an Army Barracks. The 1983 camp was near Dover and the 1984 camp is near Newquay and all it costs a Cadet is £25 for two weeks away.

Why not send, or bring, your lad along to Whiteladies Road, The Artillery Grounds, and have a cup of tea and a chat.

Your contacts for any further information are:-
2nd Lt. S. Cook Green Watch A1 Temple
Sgt/Ins. R. Yandell Blue Watch A1 Temple



Cricket Section

A meeting took place at A2 Southmead in January with the hope of getting the cricket section active against in the Brigade this coming season. The meeting was quite well attended and about 35 members have shown interest.

Because of the timing of this meeting, local fixtures are difficult to arrange as most clubs carry dates from season to season, however at the moment about eight matches are arranged and I hope in the end to have about 12-15 local games, mostly mid week, coupled with inter-brigade matches against the south west area brigades, hopefully Surrey Fire Brigade home and away and also Lancashire Fire Brigade who are touring in this area 3rd-7th September, 1984, and expressed a wish to play Avon and if possible be our guests and stay for one or two nights in Bristol.

As soon as a fixture list is nearing completion, it will be circulated to all stations, hopefully by mid April, as the first match is mid May.

If there are any brigade members that are unaware of this section coming to life again and would like to play, please contact either:-

Pat Causon Green Watch	A1 Temple
Mike Mullany Blue Watch	C5 Bedminster
Pete Deney Red Watch	A2 Southmead
Mike Hares Red Watch	A3 Avonmouth

Pat Causon, Secretary

1984 Wyvern 10 Road Race, Sunday 11th March, 1984

Alan Lawson of White Watch, B1 Bath, showed his quality in this race, won by Richard Samuel of Shaftesbury Harriers in a record time of 49.33 minutes.

Alan's time of 56.36 minutes was good enough for 22nd position, and helped Bath and Percy Athletic Club gain 3rd place in the Avon County Team Championships.

Five other Brigade members ran the race, and were pleased with their performances. 270 runners finished the race.

Position	Time	Name
126	66.24	Stan Tingle
147	67.30	Phil Haskins

161	68.56	Mike Mullany
187	71.58	Pete Hopcraft
218	74.47	Andy Coe

The 1985 Wyvern 10 will be run two weeks before the Bath Half Marathon, and hopes are to double the entries to run this picturesque course from the Tropicana along Weston promenade to Sand Bay via the Toll Road and back to the Tropicana.

A Challenge from A6 Thornbury

From some years the County of Avon Fire Brigade darts trophy – "The Len Lane Championship Cup" has held pride of place in our Club. We are also the holders of the "A" Division Skittles Championship. We cannot understand why we have not been challenged for either of these prestigious titles.

Unlike the Americas Cup we have not bolted the trophy to the bar, but we are confident we can keep these titles against any opposition. All challenges should be directed to Fireman Steve Pearson at A6 (Home telephone no. Thornbury 417051).

Preliminary Notice

**The "Joe" and Lindsey Cocker Memorial Race –
28th October, 1984
Blaise Castle Course**

Avon Brigade Championship: One Lap
Inter-Brigade Race: Three Laps

The Championship race will be held first, followed by the Inter-Brigade Race.

Athletics Fixture List, 1984

29th April	Kings Lynn	Road 10m
10th June	W/Yorks	Road 5m
19th August	Worcester	Road 7m
30th September	Bolton	Road 6m
14th October	Middlesborough	X-C 6m
28th October	Bristol	X-C 6m
11th November	Coventry	X-C 6m
2nd December	High Wycombe	X-C 6m

If you are not one of our regular runners, and would like to be included in any of the fixtures above, please contact Alan Lawson Home no. Bitton 3969 or at B1 Bath.