

County of Avon FIRE BRIGADE Magazine

Winter Edition 1984

Due to my impending retirement, this is the last occasion when I shall appear in the Brigade Magazine as Chief Officer. Having officiated over many years at so many retirements, I am finding it a little difficult to accept that it's "my turn". However, one has to face the inevitable and, in relinquishing my command, I do so in the knowledge that I leave a Brigade which is regarded throughout the United Kingdom as one of outstanding efficiency and professionalism.

The Brigade Magazine has played no small part in achieving that spirit of esprit-de-corps which is so essential in the service we provide and which has on so many occasions prompted comment from outside visitors. I trust that in your hands it will flourish and continue to be a means of friendly expression, repartee and truly a fireman's family journal.

I would be remiss were I not to express, both from my wife and myself, our deep appreciation for the kind and considerate manner in which we have always been received and welcomed at the many functions to which it has been our privilege to be invited. We shall, of course, miss these occasions very much, and the happy atmosphere which always prevailed. These events act as a barometer for the Brigade's morale, and I trust that they will always point to "Fair and Sunny".

It would be invidious at this time to mention by name all those who contributed so much to making my final years as Chief Officer such a satisfying one. However, I should like to pay tribute to my wife for her tolerance and understanding over the whole of my 37 years' service; to my personal secretary, Mrs. Jeanette Mapstone, for her efficiency, patience and particularly for her intuition in dealing with office matters in my absence; to the representative organisations which, despite our oft-expressed differences of opinion, maintained a mutual respect for each other's responsibilities and endeavours. My thanks, too, to all the support staff, both administrative and maintenance, and last but by no means least, to those officers and men at the sharp end in the operational field, whose courage, determination and resourcefulness will, I know, continue to add lustre and renown to the great traditions of the Service and the Avon Brigade in particular.

To you all, good luck and my best wishes for your future.

F.C. PONSFORD Chief Officer

29th November, 1983



Editorial

I am sure that we are all now aware that Firemaster Frank Wilton from Central Area is to be our new Chief Officer. It is thought that he will be taking up appointment in early March. I gather he is quite familiar with the area and will know a few faces especially in the north of the County.

Mr. Wilton will inherit a Brigade that is thought highly of, not only by its members, but by Fire Service personnel nationally, this being due in no small way to the efforts of Fred Ponsford and the supporting role that his wife Rose has played.

I know I speak on behalf of us all in wishing them a long and happy retirement (much of which I gather will be spent at their favourite hobby of gardening).

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all readers a very happy and prosperous New Year and finally, please keep copy for the magazine rolling in.

Front Cover

20 Bay Dutch Barn fire at the Duke of Beaufort's Estate, Little Badminton.

8 pumps attended, water being pumped by means of relay from the lake at the front of Badminton House.

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 and Places



John Hedges ex Leading Fireman A2 Southmead

Fireman George Hacker 21, footing the ladder at a 'working job'. Fireman Phil Haskins mounts the ladder and gets to work, casually rips a length of cast iron gu**ering and tosses it down catching George on the knee. Collapse of stout party with shriek of pain.

Enter Fireman John Hedges, the hero of this tale. Grabbing a piece of timber (debris from the fire) he thrust it snugly into George's armpit and using belt lines made it fast around his chest. Unfortunately the end under his arm was still smouldering. Picking George up our gallant first aiders hurried him off to the ambulance. Unfortunately the free end of the 'splint' was wagging about hitting the ground and finally burst into flames.

It was following this incident that John decided more first aid training was required and joined the first aid team.



John Hedges (alais Christine Keeler to local soccer refs who asked his name) was well known in the Bristol Brigade for his involvement in football, other favourite sports!, and first aid. He served in the Brigade from 1959—1969 when he and his family emigrated to Australia.

John and his wife Eileen recently visited this country for a holiday. Several get togethers were hurriedly arranged as they re-visited Bristol several times during the holiday.

A social evening was arranged at Brigade Headquarters where old Southmead members, safe movers, footballers and first aid team members gathered for a nostalgic evening. (I apologise to those I was unable to contact in time.)

John is now a coal miner. He still enjoys life to the full and sends his regards to those old friends he didn't see during his visit.

Colin Willians & Pete Hewitt

The brother of Senior Divisional Officer Tony Townsend, Aubrey who is at present working in Nishinomiya, Japan, recently presented a County of Avon Fire Brigade Helmet to the City's Fire Department.

The following is an extract of the exact interpretation of a report regarding the event.

"Nishinomiya Municipal Fire Department has recently received a gift of a helmet (see photo) from an Avon district fire station in England. When Mr. A.V. Townsend, Captain of Yacht 'Grace' which ws formerly owned by the late Queen Grace of Monaco and whose home port is now Nishinomiya Port, travelled home to England, he

brought with him a Nishinomiya's helmet for his elder brother who is a collector of firemen's helmets, and this brother made the return present to the city through Captain Townsend. Different from the Japanese counterpart, the English helmet is more beautifully made especially with the modern yellow designing.

Mr. Shoichi Kitanaka, Director of the city's fire bureau, to whom the helmet was handed, was thinking about the same heart, all over the world, of firemen who continue working very devotedly to fight the fire, trusthing their lives to helmets."

For those who find this report difficult to read, please try the newspaper cutting!





◆流を辿った消防へルメットの良力があったとりかったりに関密のからで、現在は四宮 を関エイボン地方の消防本部 からヘルメットが贈られた= を関北とするヨット、グレース を取扱とするヨット、グレース を取扱とするヨット、グレース を対したが、現在は四宮 を持ち帰ったが、その海が本部 と持ち帰ったが、その返礼 にことつかったもの。日本の にことつかったもの。日本の







Brigade Characters

a series introducing some familiar faces.

This month—Sub Officer Andrew Eddy from C1 Weston-s-Mare.

Belated congratulations to Andy Eddy. His book 'THE WEST MENDIP WAY' has now been published and reports seem to show that sales are doing well.

Andy joined the Bristol Fire Brigade in 1964 and saw service at Avonmouth and later at the old Bridwell Station. Despite the absence of his once famous 'pancho' moustache, he remains a well known figure throughout the Brigade. Nowadays, he has become almost as renowned to the citizens of his adopted town. As a committee member of Weston Civic Society, he is closely concerned with the affairs of the town. Very little that effects Weston-s-Mare escapes his watchful eye.

In the past Andy worked voluntarily for the Citizens Advice Bureau. Certainly his knowledge has more than once proved valuable when the lads at C1 have sought guidance in legal, financial, or other matters. The cautionary—"Let's ask Andy first" has been a phrase often heard.

It is extremely difficult to find something that Andy has not been involved in. Ornithology, local history, marathon running, rugby and photography are just a few of the pastimes in which he has participated. Some of his photographs have accompanied news items in the local newspaper.

His great love these days is long distance walking, and his book is a necessary companion for those that wish to take that difficult, yet very lovely, walk over the Mendip Hills.

Regarded by all as being utterly dependable, Andy has that fireman's ability to dig his heels in when the going gets tough. A quality much in evidence on his recent solo hike across Exmoor and Dartmoor. Quite an achievement.

Although Andy has recently acquired a new home that requires complete renovation, I strongly suspect this will not prevent other ventures. Good luck Andy, our best regards to your lovely wife Linda and daughter Samantha.

Phil the Fireman

P.S. Watch out for the next in this series—it could be you!



Station Officer Reg (Andy) Andrews retired from the Brigade on 3rd September, 1983, after completing 30 years service. He originally joined the London Fire Brigade in 1953 after serving on the Royal Artillery as a Physical Training Instructor. In 1958 he transferred to Bristol Fire Brigade but not without a struggle, as they were short of personnel at the time as I understand they still are. I do not believe the money was a great attraction as his starting pay in Bristol at that time was £10 per week. (That won't buy very much these days!!)

He started his service at Avonmouth and then moved to Southmead until 1962 when he was promoted to Leading Fireman and transferred back to Avonmouth.

It was whilst he was serving at the Avonmouth Station that he was involved in the rescue of a man from the M.V. 'PORT TOWNSVILLE' as a result of which he was awarded the BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL for gallantry.

The early sixties were a purple patch for Reg as he was promoted in 1962—63—64 right through to Station Officer.

He has always had a good grasp of Fire Service matters and has made many friends due to his easily approachable manner and willingness to help out at any time. In 1973 he moved into the

Fire Prevention Department and then later joined the residential ranks on 'A' Division and has been part of the 'YATE' department for the last couple of years.

Despite his slim figure having served with him on various Stations, I know he took great pains to foster the goodwill of the cook at any station he served at. Andy is a caravan enthusiast who now uses his 'van' to take him and Pam to visit their daughter and relations in London and Devon.

Several avenues have been explosred regarding his retirement but I believe Pam has designs on his time regarding some work at home before deciding.

I am sure that all his colleagues and people he has served and worked with over the years will join me in wishing both Andy and Pam good health and a happy retirement.

MONTY BRITTON

Retirement of Fireman George L. Harris of B7 Kingswood

George Harris has retired from the Brigade on the 31st August, 1983.

George entered the Bristol Fire Brigade in September 1960 and following basic training, was posted to the Speedwell Station. He left the Brigade for greener pastures in February 1964 but returned to the Brigade in August 1965 and was posted to Brislington.

During November 1968, George transferred to the Gloucestershire County Fire Service and served on day manning at the Kingswood Fire Station.

Since the re-organisation in 1974, George has served as a member of Green and White Watch at B7.

George has been a keen sportsman and was a much rated player of the Bristol Brigade Football side, he was a very popular and respected colleague who will be greatly missed by all.

Fireman Tony Wynn of B6 Speedwell

Fireman Wynn became a member of the Bristol Fire Brigade in July 1959 and served at the

Bridewell Station following basic training. He eventually transferred to the Speedwell Station and served there for the remainder of his service.

Tony was a valued member of the Brigade and was twice commended.

In 1963, for having saved a woman's life by administering artificial respiration and for initiative and courage at an incident in 1966.

Always a keen sportsman, Tony was a past member of the Brigade soccer team and was always ready for a game of volley ball.

All colleagues wish Tony well on his retirement.

George Carpenter

In September, George Carpenter Town Crier from Wotton-under-Edge, travelled to the International Town Crier's Competition held in Halifax Nova Scotia. He represented the County of Avon and took gifts from Avon County Council and Avon Fire Brigade which were presented to him by Councillor Tom Turvey JP and the Chief Fire Officer.

George can be seen presenting a bronze bust of a victorian fireman and a scroll of greeting to Chief Officer Donald Swan of Halifax Fire Department.

George's wife Pauline travelled with George and is seen in the photograph.

Down Under to A5

Mrs. Peg Stiff from the ALDINGA FIRE STATION which is part of the South Australia Country Fire Service presents a plaque to Sub Officer John Rice of Patchway Fire Station.

Mrs. Stiff is on holiday in England visiting her son Chris Stiff who was a retained fireman at Pilning.

She has three grandchildren in the Aldinga Fire Service and herself an honorary member for fund raising activities.

The plaque, a piece of burnt eucalyptus with a badge, came from the severe fires they encountered last year losing two machines, and thirteen firemen from the area lost their lives.

Mrs. Stiff was a guest at Patchway Station and was given an Avon Fire Brigade Plaque to commemorate her visit.



A Sad Note

On Friday 15th July, 1983, representatives from the County of Avon Fire Brigade together with representatives from Brigades throughout the British Isles joined with the West Yorkshire Fire Brigade to pay their last respects and condolences at the funeral of Fireman J. Naylor, who died on Sunday 10th July, from serious burns and injuries inflicted while engaged in the rescue of five children at a house fire on 27th April, 1983.

Fireman Naylor's body was carried with full service honours by TL followed by his family, friends, and over five hundred Fire Brigade Personnel who marked the two miles through the town of Keighley, quiet and still in silent tribute, passing his Fire Station to St. Joseph's Church

where solemn requeim mass was held. Following the service the coffin was carried, led by a piper playing a lament, to the graveside at Utley Cemetery.

Twinning Visit—September 83

For many years Filton has been 'twinned' with a French Town St. Vallier and more recently a 'twinning triangle' has been formed to include a German Town, Wiltzenhausen.

Every three years one town is host to the other two, and this year on 1st—7th September, it was the turn of Wiltzenhausen. Approximately 130 people left Filton and 225 from St. Vallier were due to arrive in Germany on Friday evening 2nd September.

As something different, this time it was decided many months ago, that a Cultural Exhibition would be taken across, depicting handicrafts etc. made by Filton residents. Our first problem was leaving the ferry at Ostend and being refused entrance until the Belgian Authorities had been paid a substantial fee. They would not accept these items were for show only and not sale. However after much arguing with the aid of interpretation by a teacher of French from Filton Technical College who was fortunately one of our party, we were allowed through without additional payment. We arrived three hours later than expected but everything soon settled down. Most familites have regular exchanges and only a few stayed in guest houses. Many official visits were arranged and this time we visited a cigar factor and were given samples!

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Twinning between the Fire Brigades of the French town St. Vallier and the German town Witzenhausen, and it is the sixth year Avon has acknowledged friendship. I intended to take some gifts to Wiltzenhausen, the main item being a trophy (chromed crossed axes on a wooden plinth, suitably inscribed in German—see photograph), commissioned by Avon Fire Brigade. I included an extra plaque for the French firemen showing the shields of the three twin towns.

I had planned to present all the official gifts on the Monday evening at a reception and had packed my uniform as the local press were due to be there. However, on the Saturday night, my host and friend Town Fire Inspector Karl Wilhelm Baumbach (who is the Volunteer Chief of WitzenhauseN), insisted I wear my uniform. After our meal the usual speeches were made with appropriate translations, when Area State Fire Inspector Reinhard Hoffman of the County of Hessen Fire Brigade looked towards myself and the Deputy Chief Officer who was representing St. Vallier and by the aid of interpreters, we realised we were about to be presented with medals. The German Fire Brigade Association has given only 30 outside of its Country since they were designed and I understand this was the first presentation to a British Fire Office. Of course I was very honoured by this decoration, both for myself and Avon.

Usually when I visit Witzenhausen, I notice all the changes made since previous stays and this time amidst the excitement of the medal presentation and press photographs, I had a chance to see the recent ideas on training and new equipment. Witzenhaused in the County of Hessen, a town of approximately 10,000 inhabitants with an extra 8,000 in surrounding villages, provides fire cover by 540 firemen and 176 junior firemen, all of whom are totally volunteer. In the Headquarters Station, Breathing Apparatus is serviced by members of the Brigade

and they have recently purchased a self-contained Air Compressor which can charge 5 cylinders simultaneously. An Emergency Tender has been added to the fleet in the last 3 years and I understand that a Water Tender is being replaced in January 1984. All their equipment is of the highest order and one of the most significant advances are their methods of communications. The four most Senior Officers have radio pagers with message transmission and all movements of machines. Red Cross Services and Police within a 40 mile radius of the Headquarters can be monitored and a further 28 key personnel have message transmission pagers for their turn out only. Should further men be required, a siren is used to alert them.

There are however many different organisations involved in our 'traingle' such as football teams, Youth Clubs, School exchanges, a Male Voice Choir and a Mixed Choir and a Youth Band. These separate groups visit Filton regularly in between official group visits and all Filton residents have the chance to take part in the arranged social events which everyone finds most enjoyable.



Brigade Lecturette Competition

Finalists of the competition seen here with the winner Fireman Gary Bowden from B6 receiving the presentation shield from Councillor Mrs. R. Walker, Chairman of the Public Protection (Fire Brigade Sub) Committee.

The subject of the winning lecturette was double glazed units and the problems they present to firemen.

Gary pointed out that attempting to break the unit with a can of lager proved unsuccessful—maybe he should have tried with the one 'that reaches the parts that other lagers don't'.



The First Ian Philip Chalmers Memorial Trophy Race

After months of planning the day had arrived (4th September, 1983) for the first Ian Philip Chalmers Memorial Race.

As most of you are aware, the reason a memorial trophy was to be held was in memory of lan who died tragically on 18th October, 1982, after an accident at B1 Bath involving one of the machines.

It was decided in conjunction with Mrs. Chalmers that the memorial trophy would take the form of a race from B1 Bath to the Royal United Hospital, (where his wife works, as lan did before joining the Brigade) and return, a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

It was a dry day but luckily for the runners not too hot, but it was very windy; at about 10.00 a.m. the first competitors and spectators started to arrive. By 121.00 a.m. 49 runners were on the start line with just as many spectators watching.



Mrs. Chalmers came to the start line with a starting pistol in her hand, she raised the pistol and said the famous words ready, steady and fired the pistol and the first memorial race had started.

Alan Lawson went straight to the front where he stayed all the way. But behind him runners were overtaking and being overtaken, with everyone putting every effort they could into the race.

Within 25 min 13 sec. Alan was passing the finishing line while some of the runners were only

just going through the RUH, but not one runner dropped out and everyone was back within 42 min. WELL DONE.

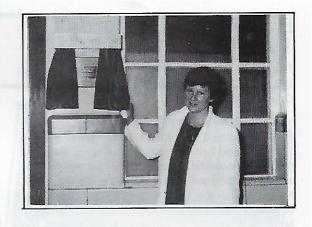
The Chief Officer said a few words and then awarded the individual trophies to:—

Alan Lawson 25 min 13 sec Tony Chapman 27 min 03 sec Kevin Escott 27 min 19 sec

The actual Ian Chalmers Trophy went to the first team, this being Red Watch B1 Bath Kevin Escott Andy Davis Graham Davis, with 20 points, followed by B4 with 35 points and B1 Green Watch with 39 points.

But today was also a special day for Mrs. Chalmers because the Chief Officer then asked her to unveil a plaque in the appliance room attached to the wall, which is dedicated to lan. After saying a few chosen words, Mrs. Chalmers unveiled the plaque.

The day was rounded off by a superb buffet for all.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the day for making it a success and of course to all the runners without who there would be no race, I would also thank the Chief Officer for coming over and awarding the trophies and to Mrs. Chalmers and lan's family for giving their support.

As this is an annual event, I hope to see every one next year plus new faces as well.

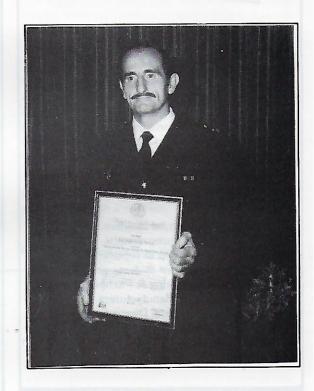
K. Escott, Red Watch, B1 Bath

Royal Humane Society Awards

The High Sheriff of Avon, Colonel C.J. Stewart, presented Royal Humane Society awards to Station Officer Phil Haskins, Red Watch, C1, and to Mrs. Woodfor rescue attempts which took place at Land Farm Hewish on 15th February, 1983.

Mrs. Wood received an 'In Memoriam' award for the efforts of her husband to rescue Martin Fewings from a slurry pit; these efforts resulted in the loss of Mr. Wood's life.

Station Officer Phil Haskins entered the slurry pit in order to rescue both men and regardless of becoming semi-conscious, preserved in attaching ropes to both men and getting them hauled to the surface. Attempts at resuscitation to both casualties failed. He was presented with a testimonial for his attempts to rescue both men.



R.S.P.C.A. Awards

The Right Worshipful Mayor of Bath presented R.S.P.C.A. Awards at Bath Fire Station on 25th October, 1983.

Leading Fireman T.H. Moore from Keynsham Fire Station and Fireman K.P. McInerney from P. Temple Back Fire Station, Bristol were awarded the much coveted Bronze Medal for animal life saving. Both these men entered the River Avon at Keynsham on the 18th August, 1982, attempting to secure ropes to a chestnut mare. They were both in a potentially hazardous position as the terrified mare repeatedly hurled them mid river close to a weir. A further presentation of

Certificates of Merit were awarded to the personnel of Keynsham and Temple Back Fire Station for their combined efforts in this rescue, and special mention was made on the Offership of the incident by Station Officer T.H. Jackson of Brislington Fire Station.

These are the first Bronze Medal awards to the Fire Service for some 20 years.



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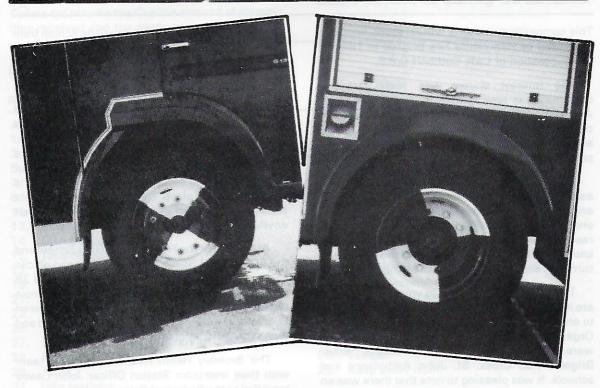
ALL TYPES OF WASTE DISPOSAL SITE CLEARANCE DEMOLITION

59 THANET ROAD, BEDMINSTER

BRISTOL 661615 & 660118

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Miscellany



Corresponding with firemen in different countries gives one an insight into how Brigades are equipped and operate abroad.

It was during such a correspondence with a fireman in Denmark who works for FALCK, the Danish Rescue Corps, that I became interested in a very simple, but unusual, idea. That is by marking an appliance's wheels in a particular way, its movement on the road is made more visible.

I therefore submitted the idea, under the Brigade suggestion Scheme, accompanied by photographs, and awaited a reply. Permission was duly given to me to try the idea out on the Water Tender at B6 and I painted the wheels accordingly.

They are quartered and painted red and white.

The theory behind the idea, which originally comes from Sweden, is that during rotation of the wheels, i.e. any time the vehicle is in motion, that a stroboscopic effect is produced. From a safety aspect, I believe that anything which distinguishes our appliances from other traffic on our ever increasingly busy roads can only be regarded as beneficial.

At the present the idea is still under evaluation but hopefully all appliances in the future could be marked in such a fashion.

Fireman Gordon Feaver B6

The Brigade First Aid Team have had a successful period from September to October, winning a total of sixteen trophies in seven competitions. It is well known that the Team go to competitions as far apart as Treharris in South Wales and Redruth in Cornwall.

The average margin between the winners and runners-up was 40 marks.

National Fire Prevention Youth Quiz

This competition, which is annual event, was first organised by Hampshire Fire Brigade in 1969 at the suggestion of Lady Cuthbert C.B.E.

The interest shown was such that the competition is now sponsored by the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association in conjunction with the Central Fire Liaison Panel, and teams from all over the United Kingdom take part.

The object of the Quiz is to encourage an awareness of fire hazards amongst young people, and from comments passed from the team leaders and school teachers this objective is being reached. Moreover, the competitors pass their knowledge on to their families and friends who in turn gain some awareness of the danger from fire.

The competition is open to young people who are in the age group 13 to 16 years and invitations to enter a team were sent out in January to Youth Organisations and schools. This year 34 entries were received from Guides, Scouts, Boys' Brigade, Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and schools. It was pleasing to note that there was an increase in the number of entries particularly from schools.

During the Knockout rounds, semi-final, County and District Finals the answers given to the questions posed during the Quiz showed that a lot of good work had been put in by the Brigade personnel who had given the instruction, and the competitors had shown appreciation for this instruction by their efforts to read and assimilate the knowledge contained in the literature given to them.

The competitors are questioned on a wide range of fire prevention subjects including the home, small businesses, industry, farms, hotels, flats and assembly halls together with their knowledge on the behaviour of fire, the use of extinguishers and the dangers of the L.P.G., petrol and paraffin heaters.

This year, a total of eight knockout rounds and semi-finals were held throughout the Brigade and at the County Final held at Brigade Headquarters on Tuesday 21st June each Division was represented by a team. The winners were Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets from 'B' Division with

36½ points, second was Colston Girls School from 'A' Division with 32 points, and in third place was the 60th Bristol Scout Troop from 'C' Division with 29 points.

It was a close run competition; at the end of the first round Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets and 60th Bristol Scout Troop were neck and neck with Colston Girls School only 1½ points behind them. In the second round Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets held their lead with the 60th Bristol Scout Troop dropping to second place and Colston Girls School took third place. There were only 3½ points separating first and third places, and it was felt anything could happen in the third round.

At the end of the Final Colston Girls School and the 60th Bristol Scout Troop had changed places coming second and third with 32 points and 29 points respectively. The Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets team of Nicola Bash, Jenny Tye, Karen Pearce, and Karen Tucker held on to their lead and won with $36\frac{1}{2}$ points.

The Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets team with their instructor Station Officer John Lawes travelled to the Somerset College of Agriculture at Cannington on Saturday 9th July for the District Final.

Because of the growing interest in the competition, there were eight teams entered, one from each County forming the District, this was the first year each County had entered a team and it augured a hard fight for first place.

The first round of the District Finals was an observation test and in line with Rules the marks gained by each team were not announced until the end of the Quiz. By the end of the first round of questions Avon were in third place with Somerset second and Hereford and Worcester taking the lead. At the end of the second round the three leading teams had kept the same positions. It was not until the marks for the observation test were announced that a chance occurred; St. Michael's Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade Taunton, Somerset with 39 points were declared the winners and were presented with the Winners Cup by Mrs. Wilson, Chairman of the Somerset Public Protection Committee, Second place was taken by the 17th Worcester Scout Troop, Hereford and Worcester with 371/2 points and Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets, Avon, with 36½ points retained the third position which they had held throughout the District Final.

Although there was a degree of disappointment that the Bromley Heath Red Cross Cadets did not win the Cup the amount of training they received and the study each number of the

team put in showed itself when on their first entry in the District Final they gained only $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks less than the winners. Karen Pearce gained maximum points to her questions in both rounds. May they have better luck next year when they declare they will be entering the competition again.

Crossword

All answers are five letters.

Across

- 1. A series of notes.
- 2. Swallow liquid.
- 5. Blue Moon, Peace etc.
- 7. Flat, even.
- 8. Rasping tools.
- 12. Kingdom.
- 13. Large deer.
- 14. Disrobe, decoat.
- 15. Take responsibility for.
- 17. Creep around.
- 19. Low pitched hum.
- 21. Circular pattern of events.
- 22. Wasp's weapon.
- 26. Grow large, dilate.
- 27. Distance over which shot etc. is effective.
- 28. Beelzebub.
- 29. Rush.
- 31 Trim feathers.
- 33. Amusingly simple.
- 36. Interlace thread to make fabric.
- 37. Performed.
- 38. Dwelling.
- 39. Suitor or sweetheart.

Down

- 1. Measuring instrument.
- 2. Top of the milk.
- 3. Fantasy.
- 4. Cutlery item.
- 5. Marsh plants.
- 6. Fall in economy.
- 9. Drama to excite laughter.
- 10. Adult with mental age of 10-12 years.
- 11. Criminal ignition of property etc.
- 15. Bone of Middle-ear.
- 16. Of the Throne.
- 17. Of the Artic regions.
- 18. Machine used in carpentry.
- 19. Ate in style.
- 20. The same as.
- 23. Temper.
- 25. Keep away from.
- 29. Many headed snake.
- 30. Crop gathered.
- 31. Archway over door etc.
- 32. Brother or sisters daughter.
- 33. Of the Fleet.
- 34. Go into.

County of Avon Fire Brigade

Headquarters Club

SOCIAL EVENING TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER F.C. PONSFORD

Tuesday 31st January 1984 at 8.00pm

Tickets 1.00 inc. Buffet available from 'A' Division H.Q.

Avon and Somerset Fire Brigade Old Comrades Association

This Association organises social events and outings for ex members of the Brigade.

Anyone who is interested please contact:—

Ralph Fryer. Clevedon 873785. Ralph is at present recovering from a broken hip so give him a little time to get to the phone!!

Avon Ambulance Headquarters

Forthcoming dances for 1984, dates as follows:-

17th February

13th April

19th October

7th December

Anyone requiring tickets contact Central Ambulance Station or Ron Watkins at C4 Pill.

1984 Season Bristol Woodland Civil Service Philatalic Society

30th January—Have Gavel will travel, David Boyd (London).

10th March-Coach to 'Stampex 84' London.

26th March—Royal Portraits Study Group, Miss Lois Young (Worcestershire).

30th April-North & Southern Rhodesia, F.C.

Donaldson (Study Circle President).

To all stamp collectors and others admission free. You are welcome to all and any of the above meetings. Very informative and interesting.

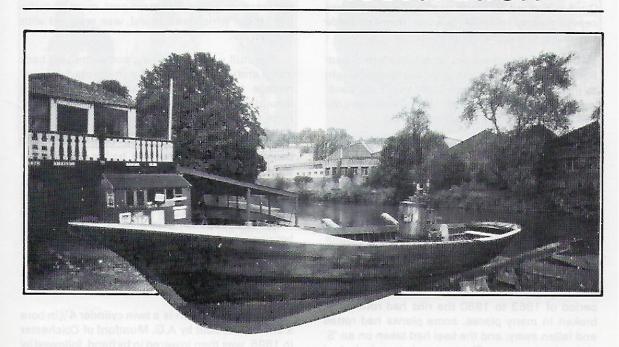
Further information from Ted Street, A2 Southmead.

Drivers for W.R.V.S.

W.R.V.S. Bristol City Office, 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol. Tel. 737071.

URGENTLY need DRIVERS, preferably under 65, to drive their vans for MEALS or books delivery in the City. Basic requirement is one morning duty a fortnight, from approximately 10.15 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Boat Restoration



The boat is called 'Lady Lena' and was built in 1890 as an electric launch by a firm called Burgaines who had their yard at Kingston-on-Thames.

The hull is carvel built (with the planks meeting flush at the seams) of Brazillian Mahogany on steamed ash frames (ribs and knees that the planks are riveted to). Originally the keel, counter keel, stem and stern posts were made of oak. (The keel and counter keel are the lowest timbers running from stem to stern on which the hull is built. The stem post is the curved timber to which the planks are joined at the bow. The stern post is the timber which the propellor tube passes through.) She has a clipper bow which curves down to the water line, and a counter stern that overhangs the water by 8 feet.

Overall length of the boat is 41ft 6in and the length at the waterline is 32ft and a 6ft 6in beam. The bow and stern decks are alternate teak and ash planks laid lengthwise to give a two-tone effect.

She had a board of trade certificate to carry 35 passengers. Protection from the weather was from a canvas canopy with a gap in the centre to allow the passengers to embark and disembark. Steering was via a wheel, mounted on the bow deck.

The boat stayed on the Thames until 1919, when she was purchased by the Bedford Steam Boat Company for their operations on the River Ouse at Bedford. She was used by them until they ceased trading in 1939. The last Board of Trade Certificate being issued in 1938.

In 1945, the premises of the Bedford Steam Boat Company along with their boats was bought by the River Ouse Pleasure Company. 'Lady Lena' was renamed 'Silver Stream'. She was in use until 1963 when she was decommissioned.

The hull was stripped of all useful fittings and left on the river bank until 1973. It was salvaged by a steam engineer and taken to his garden at Oundle near Peterborough. His intention being to restore the hull and fit a steam engine and boiler.

The boat remained untouched in his garden until 1980 when in May I purchased the hull for £1, and transported it down to Bath.

The first phase of the restoration was to regain the original dimensions of the hull. From the period of 1963 to 1980 the ribs had rotted and broken in many places, some planks had rotted and fallen away, and the keel had taken on an 'S' shaped appearance. The bow and stern decks had

fallen in as the hull opened up to a width of 8ft.

The hull was laid on trestles. The sides were then pulled in with sash cramps and spanish windlasses (a rope was passed around the hull, the ends tied together and then a piece of wood was used to twist the rope to tighten it). Lengths of 3in x 2in timber were then nailed to the gunwhale (upper edge of boats side), and held firmly in place by timber struts hammered into the ground at an angle of 45°. The counter was supported on props and finally trestles were laid along the length of the hull.

Next, new ash ribs were steamed and fixed alongside the remains of the old ones. The ribs which measured 2in x 5ft were put into a wooden chest and then subjected to steam for a period of 30 mnutes. The steam makes the wood easily bendable. They were then located in the hull and nailed through the top planks into the 3in x 2in false gunwhales.

The planks were renewed starting from halfway down the hull to the garboards (planks next to the keel), and then nailed through the ribs using copper nails.

The keel was then replaced, as mentioned previously, the original was made of oak. To re-use oak would have been very expensive and so it was decided to use kervine which is relatively cheap and very durable. The sterm post, also of kervine, was then replaced followed by the counter keel which was made of strips of american oak laminated together. The stern post, apart from the top 1ft 6in which was sound, was replaced with english oak.

The hull was now getting some strength back into it and we were able to finish the planking and replace the garboard strakes. This done the labourious task of riveting hundreds of copper nails was started.

Ash floor supports were then fitted, and bearers for the engine and boiler were bolted through the hull using ½ in brass bolts.

The hull was then sanded down, cuprinoled and varnished and then caulked (a wool type material in rope form is pressed into the gaps between the planks) and then two further coats of varnish were applied.

The propellor tube, propellor shaft and rudder were next to go in.

The engine which is a twin cylinder $4\frac{1}{2}$ in bore x 5in stroke, built by A.G. Mumford of Colchester in 1895, was then lowered in by hand, followed by

the boiler which required the assistance of a J.C.B. digger. It weighs 8 cwt and was built around 1940 by Merryweather for use in a fire pump. It operates at 120 p.s.i. and is fitted with both a whistle and a steam siren. In between rain spells, the pipe work is being installed and water tanks and coal bunkers being manufactured.

In the meantime the bow and stern decks are being installed and the stringers added (lengths of 2in x 2in ash running the interior length of the hull at seat height). The thwarts (seats going across the boat) have been made from $1\frac{1}{2}$ in teak and screwed to the stringers.

Work still to be done includes the installation of seats and lockers and general fitting out.

When launched, sometime this autumn, the boat will be kept on the River Avon at Bathwick, and when the Kennet and Avon Canal is opened further, I will take the boat onto the Canal.

Fireman Knill B1 Bath.

Kids Show '83



'Perks of the Job!'



The display unit was at the British Exhibition Centre for the five day duration of the 'KIDS SHOW' and miraculously escaped unscathed! Which is more than can be said for the nerves of Bob Hatherly and Ed who manned the vehicle.

However, we managed to get the 'word' over to

thousands of children and their Mums and Dads. We were well looked after and shared the coffee pot with the adjacent Police Stand.

We were kept well groomed for the event by the staff of 'Shafts' of Shirehampton prior to each day's exhibition.

Clevedon Bed Race



The 1983 Clevedon Bed Race was again a great success. The number of entries was down this year though to 25 but still over 250 took part in the event.

The day was windy and the Scouts battled to put up the tent for the hot dogs. Fireman turned scout, and it wasn't long before the smell of sausages cooking soon filled the air.

The beds began arriving at about 09.45 a.m. and there were some sights!

The Judges, led by the Chief Officer, had an unenviable task before them. Of the six classes, the best fancy dress and the Judges Competitive Prize had to be decided upon. After deliberation amongst themselves, the Judges decided upon the 'Turkish Delights' as winner of the Fancy Dress. Their bed depicted an Arabic flavour, complete with Camel, but I think the fact of eight sexy scantily clad females had not gone unnoticed by the male judges!! (Definitely full of eastern promise.)

The Chief Officer, and Mrs Hilda Baker, a local councillor, started the race at 11.30 a.m. and at

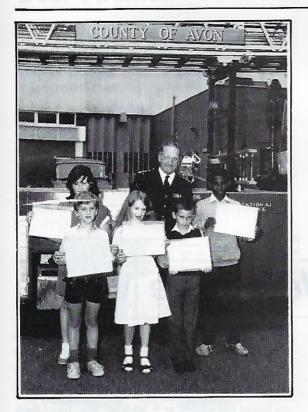
one minute intervals the beds made off on the eight mile course, but disaster struck for Bed 10, only yards after the start. Their bed collapsed! But not to be outdone, they carried the bed for the $7^3/_4$ miles! This grand effort earnt them the Judges Competitive Prize.

Fireman Pete Piscina C1 and his friends deserve a mention for giving a great boost to the race and entertainment to the people on the route. Dressed in just about the briefest undergarments, they had painted themselves from head to toe in the most psychadelic way possible. They gave everybody a laugh, though some might say a bit 'cheeky'.

Clevedon Garages won the fastest all male bed in exactly one hour, with Clevedon United F.C. only seconds behind them. Next year, they said they are determined to win. Turkish Delights also won the fastest all ladies bed, and scooped the best sponsorship trophy with over £250. The fastest mixed team was won by 'Chaffins Chariot' who were residents of the Chaffins Clevedon.

I would like to thank all the people who helped on the event, the committee, the Judges, the

1983 Project Fire



The Chief Officer and successful children photographed at the presentation ceremony.

This project is run in close co-operation with the School Libraries and this year over 5,000 children were spoken to in Libraries.

A fine effort by all Officers concerned and we are already looking for a great success in the competition next year.

Patent Applied For?



It was while I was taking part in the recruits Pass Out Drills that I had the idea to get a damaged pole from a 135 ladder, fit a male instantanious coupling one end and a female at the other. As luck would have it, the 45mm coupling was a close

fit all it needed was a pit of packing. I then drilled through the pole and couplings and fixed them on with self-tapping screws.

As the first pole I made was 16ft long (I had intended to suspend it between two appliances) it was rather long to be carried on an appliance, however as I was testing the pole, the Chief Officer had the idea that we could cut the pole in half and instead of using appliances, use the extension ladders as Bi Pods lashed with a line and that way no appliance would be needed as we could use a hydrant to supply the water, it was also suggested that instead of drilling holes at random, the holes should be uniform. This was done and as you see by the picture, it was a great success.

I have to thank the Chief Fire Officer, A.C.O. Boyne and Stn. O. Williams for encouraging me with the idea for this project. Taffy Jewel

White Watch (Station A1) Open Toy Library

Personnel from White Watch, A1 have recently funded the opening of a toy library, based at the Hartcliffe Health Centre in Hareclive Road, Bedminster.

The library, which operates in the same way as a conventional book library, will provide educational and remedial toys for deprived or physically/mentally handicapped children in the south of the City. It is estimated that there are some 400 children, aged up to 10 years, in immediate need, and community health workers have said that the decision by White Watch to provide the entire £576.00 needed has enabled the project to open at least two years earlier than had been anticipated.

This type of library has been operating very successfully for a number of years in various parts of the country, and is co-ordinated by the Toy Libraries Association, who provide regular information on the types of toy available.

White Watch hope to maintain a link with the project by way of repairing and renovating broken toys, or perhaps providing new ones.

Chris Liberty

A1 Temple-White Watch

On Wednesday 27th July, 1983, the personnel of White Watch A1 gathered at Temple to start their annual pilgrimage to the sea, accompanied by wives (some) and children (many). The destination this time was Butlins at Minehead, although shovels were available for anyone wishing to tunnel out and visit the town.

When the coach arrived—the driver bearing a striking resemblance to a member of Red Watch—everyone made sure that wives and children were safely aboard, and the Station Officer checked his supply of light ale and lager.

After a journey of some two hours, the only exciting part of which was seeing some of 'C' Division actually out of their stations and dealing with a motorway RTA, we arrived at Butlins and, having booked in advance, were able to jump the queue of people waiting to get in. The second priority was to find the Coffee Shop and enjoy a cup of hot melted polystyrene and a two-day old doughnut.

Suitably revived and refreshed (well, the ladies anyway) scouting parties set out for the bars—the first one said 'Open 5 p.m.', the second 'Open 8 p.m.' which nearly left women and children on their own for the rest of the day, but fortunately other areas were found which opened at a more

respectable hour (although they still closed at 2.30 p.m.). An enjoyable day followed, with everyone doing as they pleased, and no-one being too ill as a result of too many rides in the fun-fair. Swimming and sunbathing were prescribed until it was time to board the coach at 5.30 p.m., and head back towards Bridgewater, where arrangements had been made to stop at a local oasis (recommended by Bridgwater Fire Station) and have a buffet supper.

This proved to be a very comfortable hostel, with gardens and swings for the kids, plenty of room, fast service and a large, well presented buffet—the name of the establishment can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope, enclosing donation, to White Watch.

We arrived back at A1 at about 2200 hours with most of the youngsters asleep, and everyone agreeing that it had been a worthwhile day (even the coach driver, still looking like a Red Watch man, who muttered something about 'now going on nights to protect the public' etc. etc.)

In conclusion, I would urge any Watch to think about this type of event if they have not tried it before—it is a good way to help promote Watch morale and togetherness, which will surely spill over into the job.

M2B

Jokes & Cartoons

Dear Firemen

Message left for A1 personnel to a recent call:-

"Dear Anyone, I have popped out to

- Ask the Fire Brigade what to do with a smouldering socket in the kitchen.
- 2. Do some shopping.

I have turned the electricity Off.

Nellie, 1045 a.m., will be back within half-anhour, please wait.



Sir, I Wish to Report!

During an inspection of the above premise it was found that No. 7 no longer exists as last year, and that next door to No. 7 is No. 7 and also the other side is No. 7.

No. 7 is self-employed, also is No. 7 but No. 7 is a voluntary worker and not employed.

No. 7 has no fire extinguishers but No. 7 and No. 7 do not come under the Act.

A contact number for No. 7 is 313368.

Although not confusing for a mere Fireman, I think a Station Officer should see me when he comes down from the ceiling.



Rumour has it that . .

as a result of the introduction of the computer in Brigade Control, the ranks of Control Room personnel are to be changed to:—

Organic Peripheral (OP)
Leading Organic Peripheral (LOP)
Senior Organic Peripheral (SOP)
Group Organic Peripheral Controller (GOPC)

RUMOUR HAS IT THAT

Lord Lucan is alive and well and living in 'B' Division.



P.S.

South Yorkshire residents are urged in a current poster campaign to keep their homes and businesses safe from fire by a cartoon character called WILLIE WATERTENDER. Why not provide a Winnie to partner Willie, suggested Councillor Pauline Gilbert at a meeting of the local fire service committee. Harry Wright, the fire chief, argued that Willie was chosen 'to represent the masculinity of the fire service'.

Hm! Hm!

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Call out

On arrival at this building in Excelsior Terrace, Midsomer Norton, Station Officer Coles found it to be well alight.

There were three occupiers including a printing firm, photographic colour laboratory and a semi-precious stone polishing and mounting processor.

Fire fighting was made extremely difficult by the collapse early on in the fire of the metal trussed roof and interior floors.

Division Officer Graham Iles made pumps four and a water relay was set up from a stream in the village, supplying three jets.



6 Pumps attended a fire at McVal's Club, Whiteladies Road, Bristol. The crews were met by extreme heat and smoke on the first floor and the threat of a possible flash over. The fire was brought under control by 10 men in BA with 2 jets.

During fire-fighting operations, 5 men developed a rash of blisters around the face, neck and back, they were sent to the Bristol Royal Infirmary for examination and treatment but none were retained.

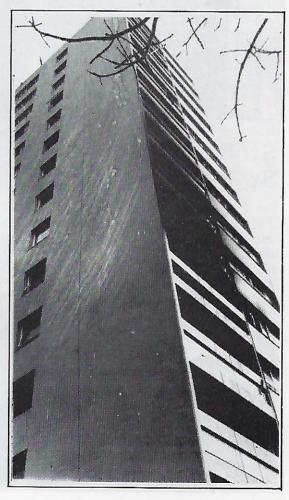
The Deputy Chief Offocer instructed that all men entering the building were then to wear chemical suits. The County Scientific Services visited the scene and took samples for analysis and determined the cause of the rashes was due to fumes from decorate laminate boards used in the Club.

Leading Fireman Geoff Bayliss was taken to hospital from the incident suffering from torn ligaments and tendons of the ankle.

Station Officer Liberty and crews from A1 dealt with a severe fire in a flat at Barton House, Barton Hill.

The effects of this fire on the fourth floor had exposed the internal steel work and completely destroyed the lounge wall separation to the balcony.

Salvage was successfully carried out on the floors below.



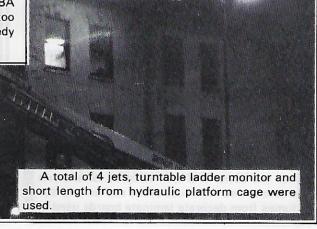
Appliances from Balgdon, Chew Magna and Cheddar attended a roof fire at Ubley. The whole of the roof was destroyed but a very good stop achieved.

There was no damage to furniture and contents and only slight water damage to some of the carpeting.



St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's, Bristol.

3 derelict premises were involved in a fire which affected all floors and roof areas. On arrival the crews were informed that there was a possibility of 2 vagrants sleeping in the building. Men in BA searched the building until conditions were too dangerous and Divisional Officer Bill Kennedy withdrew all personnel.



A Daimler Regina was badly damaged in a fire at Langford Service Station, Churchill. 4 appliances attended and prevented the fire spreading to the main part of the garage.

The fire started in the Daimler. A very great loss to Mr. Richard Seymour as there were only 5 of these vehicles manufactured.

A6 Thornbury were called to Thornbury Industrial Estate one Saturday morning to deal with a chemical incident. The original call came through on the admin. line, the caller was enquiring after the telephone number of Thornbury Fire Brigade?

Upon arrival the O.I.C. George Foulger was faced with a considerable cocktail of chemicals,

individually packaged, which has become mixed in transit, in an unmarked trailer unit. A.B.A. team in full chemical protection soon had the offending chemicals isolated and safely contained in plastic sheeting to await disposal by environmental health.



Sports Section

County of Avon Sports Association Section Organisers

1. Football

Saturday 1st Team. L/Fm. Hamblin, A1 Green Saturday Res. Team Fm. Coles, A2 Blue Wednesday Team Fm. Killbee, A5 Green

2. Rugby

Fm. Rundle, C5 Blue

3. Skittles

Stn. O. White, A3 Red

Golf

S.F.C.O.p Hollister, Control 'C' Watch

5. Squash & Badminton

Stn. O. Liberty, A1 White

6. Athletics

Stn. O. Lawson, B1 White

7. Swimming

L/Fm. O'Conner, A5 White

8. Cricket

L/Fm. Dewey, A2 Red

9. Sea Fishing

Jones D., A1

10. Darts

Fm. Walker, A2 Blue

It's A Knockout 1983

The event this year was held at the new sports stadium in CWMBRAN, Gwent, on the 27th August, 1983. Avon were represented with a somewhat scratch team consisting of M. Parker, P. Jones, P. Hale and G. Vaughan from A3, R. Yandell from A1 and D. Arthur from Control. The ladies were Dave Arthur's wife Lyn, Carol from 'C' Div. H.Q., Claire, Ruth and Louise from Control and Verena from 'A' Div. H.Q.

Although, when we met in the yard at A1 on the Saturday morning, it was the first time the team had been together, spirits were high and on arriving at the stadium we felt certain we would do well. After close inspection of the equipment and a few test jumps, we selected our entrants for each event and decided on which game we would play our Joker. The afternoon began with a race where two of our girls had to dress in Fire Kit and basically empty a bucket of water with a stirrup pump, with the aid of Gareth Vaughan. Things did not go too well and we finished last but one. Still we were not downhearted. We suffered a serious setback in the marathon when Lyn Arthur injured her back and had to go to hospital. As the afternoon progressed we decided that we may not win after all but that we were certainly going to enjoy ourselves.

When we came to the final event, we were in serious competition for last place but missed out when we beat Gwent Ambulance and finished last but one. We may not have been the most successful Avon side ever to compete but we finished the wettest by a long way after a series of duckings in the portable dam.

A special thanks to Claire's Dad for the round of drinks he stood the team in the bar afterwards, and thanks once again to those members who took part and waved the Avon Flag. See you all next year.

N.B. Claire's Dad goes under the alias of Mr. Terence McCarthy.

Gordon and Glenys Jennings are having a good run in the Redwood Lodge Tennis Tournament. At the time of writing the taller one of the two has reached the Semi-Final round of the Men's Singles, and Glen is already in the final of the Ladies Singles and the Mixed Doubles. Her partner in the mixed is a former England tabletennis player.

This has rounded off a good season for Glen in her first year as Captain of the Ladies League Squad. They attribute their success to regular, but moderate injections of real ale!

London Marathon

Tony Stonehouse and Ernie Wise would like to thank everyone who sponsored them in their successful 'London Marathon' attempt enabling them to raise the Grant Total of £435.83 pence for the 'British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association.

Apologies for not being included in previous edition —Ed.

The Joe and Lindsey Cocker Memorial Race F.S.S.A.A. 6 Mile Cross Country League Race South West District Cross County Championship

This National event was run as a 6 mile cross country race for the first time this year, and attracted representatives from eight Brigades including Avon.

The course was different from that used in the relays in previous years, having chosen the route taken by local cross country leagues, which was a 3 lap circuit over grassland, bridlepath and footpath.

The race was dominated by G.M.C. with 4 men in the first 5. Twelve Avon men represented their Brigade, some of the runners are now running in another inter-brigade races.

It was decided at District level to route the S.W. District Cross County Championships at Avon. There are six Brigades in the district, and it was disappointing to find that only Avon fielded any runners. Avon therefore won this inaugural event.

Before the start of the race, an engraved glass bowl was represented to Peter and Eve Carr as a token of our Brigade appreciation for their hard work and support.

Peter, who is, amongst other things, Secretary of the Athletics Section at National level has done a great deal over the years to help and promote athletics in the British Fire Service.

The presentation and reception was held at Brigade Headquarters after the race, when the Chief Officer presented the trophies.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped and supported this event, to make it the enjoyable race that it was.

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