

Editorial

Foreword from the Chief Constable Avon & Somerset Constabulary

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to your magazine. It is important for both Services that we work closely together and are fully aware of each other's professional skills and responsibilities.

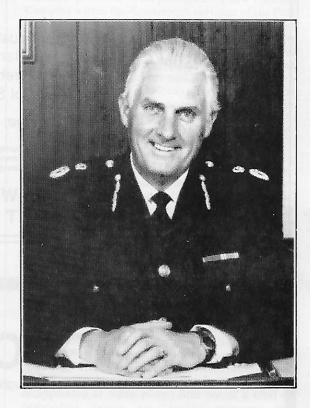
I want to briefly outline how I see the role of the Police in a democratic society and to comment on 1984 in policing terms. When you look back into history, beyond the 17th Century, there was a reluctance to admit the necessity for professional police. It was not until 1829 that the first full-time police Service was formed in London where 3,000 men were recruited. When the Metropolitan police was formed the Commissioner, Sir Richard Mayne outlined the police responsibility as follows:

"The primary object of efficient police is the prevention of crime, the next that of detection and punishment of offenders. If a crime is committed to these ends all the efforts of the police must be directed. The protection of life and property, the preservation of public tranquility and the absence of crime will alone prove whether these efforts have been successful and whether the objects for which the police were appointed have been attained."

This statement holds firm today, but I am afraid it has been long accepted that the police cannot expect to carry out this task alone. It must have the support of the public.

The first police Force in the city of Bristol was established in 1836 with an initial establishment of 232 police officers.

The Somerset Constabulary was formed in 1856 with 227 officers and the Headquarters at Glastonbury. The present Force which was formed in 1974 following Local Government re-organisation has an establishment of 3,020 police officers supported by 1,198 civilians. As the Chief Constable, I have the ultimate responsibility for operational policing which include appointments, training, promotion and discipline. I am supported by an Authority in matters of finance, building equipment etc. This Authority is made up of $\frac{2}{3}$ elected County Councillors and $\frac{1}{3}$ magistrates from the two counties.



Policing in a democratic society is based on certain obligations and expectations. The moral obligations of the citizen to obey laws of the land is the essential ingredient of success. They also have a moral obligation to assist the police in the prevention and direction of crime.

To cooperate with the police, the public have certain expectations of the police.

They espect the police to be fair and impartial without reference to social position, race or creed.

They expect the police to show compassion, courtesy and respect for the dignity of the individual.

They expect the police to use intillegent discretion and judgement.

They expect the policeman to be riend those who need him.

For the public, a policeman must be human as well as being part of a national institution. The public expects much and it is important that we consider their views when we decide on policing strategies.

How do we learn of the public's wishes? Well, in some cases we are told in no uncertain terms by individuals but we also spend a great deal of time communicating with the public in the course of our duties which includes involvement in community affairs such as youth clubs, community centres and, of course, schools. The increased social involvement is welcomed by all responsible people, but to maintain the traditional balance has become much more difficult now we are faced with the conflict between a high degree of community involvement and the duties of prevention and detection of crime.

1984 has been a significant year for the Police Service, and it is likely to be remembered in the minds of the Police and those who interest themselves in police affairs as the year of the miners' dispute. Just when the lessons of the urban riots of 1980 and 1981 had been digested and the riot shields stored away, when the effect of post-Scarman community initiatives were beginning to make themselves felt, when media attention seemed ready to focus elsewhere; just then started what was to be the largest and longest operation in the history of policing in this country.

With the famous three 'E's of Economics, Effectiveness and Efficiency, these are difficult times for accountable public services who have to absorb cuts. I know that your Fire Service has had to look closely at resources without reducing standards.

The working relationship between the Fire and the Police Services in Avon has always been excellent and there have been many recent operational successes to confirm this. Long may this relationship continue and may I wish you and your families best wishes for the year ahead.

Ronald Broome

From the Chief

The winds of change continue to blow and, having weathered certain financial storms (at least for the present), one is left wondering what other battles are yet to be fought to maintain the efficiency and morale of our Brigade and, wherever possible improve upon it.

Certain "seeds" have recently been sown which will hopefully be nurtured and blossom into additional amenities for the benefit of the Brigade in the foreseeable future. Firstly, it seems highly likely that we shall shortly be able to obtain our own sporting facilities in the form of pitches for football, rugby and cricket, etc., together with associated changing room and shower facilities. This amenity will benefit the Brigade, not only directly, but also indirectly by providing ideal facilities for hosting Regional and National fixtures under the auspices of the Sports and Athletics Association.

Another "probable" is the provision of a new Training Complex within the Avonmouth curtilage of the Port of Bristol Authority, brought about by excellent liaison between the Brigade and the P.B.A. The potential of this project is enormous and will ultimately bring the real possibility of increased income into the Brigade as well as providing us with more realistic training facilities. Big oaks from little acorns grow—and at least we currently appear to have a prolific little acorn to plant (any reference to suitable fertiliser has been edited out—suffice to say that we are going through the motions!)

The number of incidents attended by the Brigade during 1984 increased quite dramatically over previous years and totalled 10,657 (against 9,593 in 1983). This increased loading was dealt with in the usual best traditions of the Service and I am grateful to all personnel for the manner in which they have responded to this demand. Needless to say, this increased commitment has not been recognised by proportional budget adjustments—and the fact that we have absorbed the new Annual Leave Agreement without additional personnel has exacerbated some of our financial problems.

Congratulations are due to our Brigade First Aid Team, who represented the Fire Service at the St. John Ambulance Grand Prior's Competition held at Croydon last November. The Team themselves felt disappointed at being placed fifth out of a total of twenty-two Teams but, having witnessed the Competition, I feel that they should be proud of their effort as many of the Teams have greater advantage in training and competition experience. However, disappointment turned to triumph when it was announced that Assistant Divisional Officer Ray Underhay had achieved the highest individual result and was presented with a magnificent sword by Princess Margaret. Well done—and well deserved, Ray.

Socially, the Brigade has surpassed itself over the festive period and I was privileged to attend many of the events held. My thanks are extended to all personnel for their efforts in this sphere as well as in the continuing support for charitable causes. Keep it up—you bring great credit on the Brigade.

The current time draws close to the end of my first year in command of our Brigade. I have enjoyed this challenge—(one cannot say it hasn't been eventful in certain areas(!))—and look forward to the future with a degree of confidence that has been instilled by the loyal support of the staff, both uniformed and civilian. My grateful thanks to you all.

F.G. Wilton

Chief Fire Officer

Editorial

These last months have once again seen a tremendous amount of Brigade activity.

It is still great to see the Service involving itself in voluntary tasks, for example the help provided by the Benevolent Fund in the way of Christmas hampers to the families of former members, the production of the now traditional pantomimes and Christmas parties for our children. We do not, however, forget those outside of the Service as shown by the amount of hard work that is carried out to benefit local charities.

One area in particular where several members have toiled carelessly is to obtain our own Brigade Sports Ground and I can report that negotiations for our own ground and pavi are at a delicate stage; hopefully by the next edition, these should have been successfully concluded.

Some serious incidents recently have seen a very close involvement of our colleagues in the Police and

Ambulance Service—one in particular where two young policemen were fatally injured in a road traffic accident. The obituary offered by Station Officer Keith White later in the magazine is a testament to our feelings.

The Saxon appliances have arrived and are now on the run. There have been a few teething problems—but in the words of the dentist—"nothing that a little filling, scale and polish cannot cure".

Several new ideas are being investigated by Project Teams in the Brigade, one being the rewriting and updating of Brigade Orders in a more concise form. I am sure we applaud this project which on completion will make our lives a lot easier!!

It is heartening that our sense of humour has still not been dented as illustrated by several articles to be found later in this publication.

Brian Sharp, Editor.

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.

Front Cover

A photograph of one of the new Saxon Sabre appliances now on the run in the Brigade.





Faces & Places

Donald Alfred Williams

Don Williams, the Headquarters Supplies Section's "man for all seasons" retired from the non-uniformed staff on the 2nd December 1984, having completed some 12 years service with the Brigade.

As a youngster he attended Colston's School and Clarks College, which he says left a profound impression on him.

Prior to seeing the light and joining Local Government in early 1972, he has worked in engineering costing, embracing such well-known Bristol companies as B.A.C, William Cowlin and Son Ltd., Ashton Containers, Gardiner Sons & Co. Ltd. and BDR (Machines) Ltd., interspersed with some six years Armed Forces Service overseas during the war years.

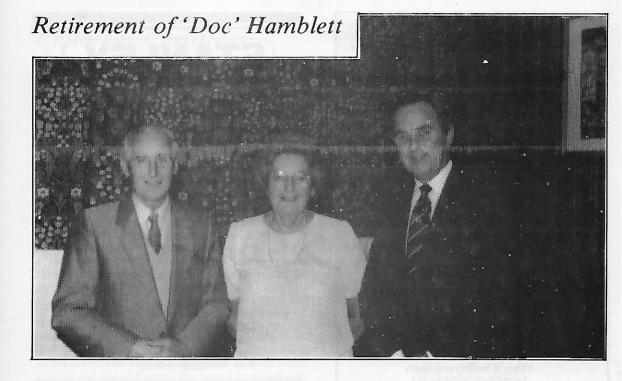
Don was the last male bastion in the Supplies Section, the others having been slowly eroded by the intransigence of their female workmates. He had a varied repertoire of tales and anecdotes and some quite strong views on capital punishment and the treatment of offenders, coupled with a willingness to supply both Her Majesty's Government (and other foreign powers) with gratuitous advice on strategic and economic planning.

Indeed, many of us thought he had qualified in the intricacies of population movement, as he was often heard to comment on where some members of our community might more readily be accommodated. In fact he said that one of his main regrets on retiring was that age precluded him from applying for the then recently advertised post of Equal Opportunities Officer.

Don was a tower of strength in a Section constantly under pressure and a man whose consistent good humour was only occasionally disrupted by his awareness of injustice to others.

I am sure that I speak for all personnel who came to know and respect him when I say that we will remember him with affection.





A Social was held at Brigade Headquarters to mark the retirement of 'Doc' Hamblett. We were pleased to see his wife, friends from the Brigade and also his successor, Dr. Cornwell.

'Doc' qualified in 1952 and until 1969 travelled the world as part of the Colonial Medical Service. His travels, he stated, even took him to Chipping Sodbury!! He now resides at Stoke Gifford.

During his speech he stated that although he enjoyed his stay as Medical Officer for Avon, his main reason for retiring was to get away from Barry Hook and Liz Taylor. Among his ambitions during retirement, he continued, was to get into local politics and get his own back on the Fire Brigade. There were several faces that he could not recognise. He explained that this was quite a normal problem with doctors as they are usually viewing lower parts of the body!

His final remarks were directed towards future activities and due to his experience with the Fire Brigade, he has decided to devote the rest of his life to the fight against alcholism.

On a serious note, however, everyone from the Brigade I am sure wishes 'Doc' and his wife a long and happy retirement, much of which will be taken up with his true hobby of ornithology, with particular interest in birds of prey.

ADO Ernie Coghlan, Brigade Training School, is still actively involved as a soccer referee as this recent photograph shows. The spy camera took this shot, but the circumstances of the wry smile aren't known.

Has he just sent some-one off?

Is he about to send some-one off?-or

Has he never been called that name before?



Red Watch - Cl Weston

Childrens Christmas Pantomime

After our successful venture onto the stage the previous year with our production of Red Riding Hood, Red Watch were set the daunting task of coming up with something better for the childrens' Christmas party.

After some deliberation, we decided on Cinderella and a script was written. Now for the allocation of parts, who would be Cinderella? Well Derek Comerford had got so many wolf whistles as Red Riding Hood last year that he was a natural and anyway he liked dressing up in womens clothing. Prince Charming could be played by Alan Bradley now getting his good looks back after finishing playing rugby for Weston. The fairy godmother was given to Terry Caddy who is a natural at making a fool of himself and looked forward to doing just that on the day. For the ugly sisters we needed two of the bitchiest men on the watch and we found them quite easily in Simon Young who trained Bill Beachgood to be his sister. The part of keeping the children under control and that of Buttons was played by myself only for the fact that no one else would take the part. Other

notable roles were played by Peter Addie as Town Crier, Graham Darlington as Footman and Tony Baxter as Bugler.

A lot of hard work was put into the production and even to the last we were not sure that everything would go right, — would the flash work when fairy godmother appeared, would the spider rush across the stage at the right time, would the curtain work, would we remember our lines and so on?

Well on the day everything went perfectly. Playing to a full house (engine) we couldn't have wished it to have gone better and if the children and parents got as much pleasure out of watching as we did in performing then everybody was happy.

Brian Gillett, Red Watch Amateur Dramatics





David Hutchings and Janise Weddell were married at Bristol Registry Office on Thursday 27th September, 1984.

The wedding was preceded by several intense days of intoxication whether in celebration or commiseration was not clear at the end, due to the fact that the end was not clear either.

A stag night was held at the 'Lion', Coalpit Heath suitably attended by many stags from the Brigade, particularly from Patchway, Temple and H.Q. Several people got home and don't know how to this day. A practise night was also held which had similar results.

The wedding day itself dawned with Dave, Ben and Alan having a quiet drink at Dave's house, continually assuring Janise over the phone (she was at her Mums!) that we were all O.K. and would not be late. We got to Quakers Friars on time, it was Janise in her Rolls who was nearly late.

The Bride looked radiant and the ceremony went without a hitch, the happy couple were met by a reception party of Temple Firemen with an archway of axes.

We were whisked away to Stoke Gifford Church for a blessing ceremony which included an aria from David's sister with background music from Paul Drake's laughter. Once outside for photographs, Patchway firemen dressed smartly as Victorian Firemen pointed their hoses at the happy couple and squirted them with confetti. Dave in true tradition gave interviews to the press and media who were there in force to see if it was really true.

We then went to the reception at the St. Andrews bowling club (Mine Host was 'Knocker' White) which went well with a good family and Brigade attendance, and lasted long into the night.

In the early hours (threeish) we got the happy couple home to find the house decorated and the car parcelled up nicely by Patchway firemen. We then settled down to the wedding night of bliss which was more drinks and Janise made black coffee. Dave and Alan had gone out again, checking on missing, drunken guests.

Best wishes to the happy couple.

Alan Totterdell P.S. If all this sounds like a good booze up, it was.



Brigade Lecturette Competition



At the Brigade Lecturette Competition the judges were Mr. Richard Hill, Councillor Tom Turvey and the Chief Fire Officer, who had a very difficult task in selecting a winner from the four finalists.

Leading Fireman T. Bolland spoke about the role of the Bristol Airport Fire Service in relation to the Local Authority Brigade. It was very coincidental that we attended two emergencies at the Airport — one being on the actual day of the final.

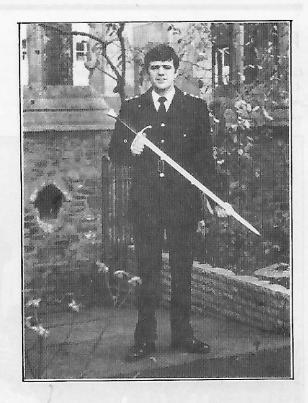
Ventilation and the need for a better understanding of the subject in relation to fires, was the subject chosen by Leading Fireman Martin Boskett. The subject chosen by Leading Fireman Gary Bowden was the hazards of Chlorine and the actions of the Fire Brigade at a leakage. Leading Fireman Bob Poolman gave a very informative lecture on the specialised subject of boiling points of liquified petroleum gas.

Leading Fireman Gary Bowden was judged the winner and is pictured with the Shield, other contestants and judges.

First Aid

The Brigade has once again represented the British Fire Service at the Grand Prior's Competition held this year at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon. Our team consisted of Ray Underhay, Barry Taylor, Dave Causon, Gary Bowden, with Dave Saunders as Reserve. The team were placed fifth this year, the winners being a team of policemen from the Stafford-shire Constabulary. Still, we have a good record of staying in the top five over the last six years, which is an achievement in itself. However, one man's disappointment at the team being placed fifth was soon changed to elation when Ray Underhay learnt that he had won the highest individual score and was presented with a ceremonial sword by H.R.H. The Princess Margaret.

This was a fine overall performance by a team of new faces. We wish them well for the future and our thanks must go to Ray Underhay for all his efforts over the years as he is retiring from competition work at the end of this season. A fitting finale.





Glenys Jennings joined the County of Avon Fire Brigade in September 1974 as a part-time typist with Headquarters. She moved to 'A' Division as a parttime Audio Typist — the only problem being that the Audio Equipment never materialised, but being Glenys she made herself useful as a Clerk/Typist in 'A' Division.

It was during these years that she took an active part in the social side of Fire Brigade life and provided valuable support on the Committee of the Headquarters Bar and assisted Ivor Waldron when he ran the Mess Club.

She stayed with 'A' Division until the grass became greener and she left in late '84 to join Welbeck Finance as Assistant Manageress in their Collection Department.

Her friends and colleagues in 'A' Division and in the Brigade wish her much success, but we will still maintain contact with her through husband Gordon, who remains with us.

Bob Hatherly

'A' Division F.P.

White Watch, Al Temple

Late Autumn saw 16 members of White Watch Al together with wives and children, leave Bristol for the South Coast town of Torquay. The occasion was the annual excursion to the sea, but this time it would be for the whole weekend staying at the Corbyn Head Hotel on the seafront. During the trip down the motorway it was pouring with rain and we feared that the whole week-end would have to be spent in the hotel bar (shame!) instead of only 95% of the time.



On arrival the hotel proved to be very comfortable, with all our party having sea view rooms. Arrival was timed to co-incide with the opening of the cocktail bar, following which we checked in an went to our rooms. After meeting for drinks at 1900 hours we sat down to a splendid meal, washed down with several bottles of wine and then drifted into the hotel disco and bar. There followed a pleasant evenings entertainment, highlights of which were undoubtedly the sights of Ian 'Archie' Andrews dancing with a tall, dark girl wearing nothing but an inflation valve in her back, of Pete Church amazing everyone with his skill on the piano (playing it I mean) and of almost everyone else taking too much of the hard stuff (except me — I only drank gin flavoured tonic water!).

The following morning everyone made it down to breakfast and I made the mistake of having the cereal with the loudest 'snap crackle and pop' I've ever heard. Gazing out to sea not a cloud in the sky and the temperature rising steadily. Having travelled down in cars, people were free to go wherever they pleased, although most opted for a walk into Torquay meeting at a pub for lunch and returning to the Hotel in the evening.

Saturday evening followed the same pattern (rain) with some being just a little more subdued (hope you're feeling better Jane!) but we were pleased to see bright blue sky again on Sunday morning. A number of families went to Brixham to watch Archie and Nigel do their 'Jacque Cousteau' impression, complete with wet suits, air bottles, knives, etc. or to just wander around the harbour.

After returning to the hotel for the final 5-course meal, it was back to the beach for a game of rounders with the kids, and then to the M5 for the journey home. It was decided however, that we would rendezvous at the Smyth Arms in Long Ashton to round off the weekend, and we arrived at opening time and stayed there until about 10 p.m. by which time everyone was beginning to feel the effects (of the journey!).

All things considered, a very worthwhile weekend, and plans are already being made to repeat the experience in 1985.

Chris Liberty

Brigade Quiz Final

This year the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association National Quiz was held for Retained Members, unfortunately only Nailsea and Thornbury were represented at the final. The Chief Fire Officer,

pictured above with the Nailsea team and their trophy. Nailsea will now represent the brigade in the district final.

Reminder:- It will be the turn of wholetime members next year so get swotting.



Aubrey Willcocks - Station C2 Clevedon



Aubrey has recently retired as Officer-in-Charge of C2 Clevedon. He was born on the 9th June, 1927 in Queens Road, Clevedon and was educated at Clevedon and then College, Weston-S-Mare.

He was apprenticed to Bristol Tramways but later joined the family motor engineering business of Willcocks, Clevedon Limited, along with his father and two uncles. He later became a director of the company.

Whilst still at school during May 1944 Aubrey joined the N.F.S. as a messenger boy, thus following the footsteps of father who was from 1908 to 1915 engineer with the Clevedon Urban District Council Fire Brigade and of his Uncle Jack who first served as a messenger boy and then a fireman.

November 1951 saw Aubrey married to a local girl—Mary Hollyman— at St. Johns Church, Clevedon. They were met on leaving the church by a crew from Clevedon, complete with appliance and driven to their reception in it.

Two sons have followed in the footsteps of father, grandfather and uncle. John joined the Brigade in 1974 and is now stationed at C1 Weston and Andy joined in 1981 and is in Brigade Control.

During his service Aubrey has been a member of numerous Quiz Teams taking part in B.S.F.A. competitions and attended the Avonmouth Oil Fire in 1951.

It is of interest to note that he served for eight Chief Officers — J.Y. Kirkup, Bill Barratt, Aubrey Bullion, Leslie Johnson, T. Lister, T. McCarthy, F. Ponsford and finally the present Chief Officer, F. Wilton.

I am sure that everyone in the Brigade wishes Aubrey a long and happy retirement from the Service and I feel sure that the population of Clevedon are grateful to him for 40 years loyal service.

Photograph by courtesy of Bob Bowen, Wrington.

White Watch A1 Temple

On 19th December, 1984, personnel from White Watch A1 Temple attended the annual childrens party at the Tyndalls Park Childrens Centre. This was as the result of an invitation by the staff and parents of the handicapped children who attend the centre on a daily basis, and follows several months of help given to the children by White Watch.

Some 35 children were at the party, and presents and sweets for each child were provided by the Watch, and were distributed by Fireman Nigel Mulcahy, suitably attired in red cloak, beard and Brigade issue wellies. Two bottles of sherry were presented to the staff, opened, and disposed of quickly before they went 'off' in the cold weather.

In all an enjoyable afternoon for children, staff, parents and firemen which will hopefully be repeated next year.

Note for White Watch:

Notice that Mac still has his hands in his pockets. Also on Sunday 16th December, members of white watch took part in a 10 mile run from Bath to Bristol to raise money for new equipment. The event was a success raising over £500, the added incentive was that wearing fancy dress and carrying 'Father Christmas' on a stretcher, the quicker home base was reached, the better. In total, a sum of approximately £1,500 has now been raised for the Centre and many necessary items of equipment have been brought highlighting the enthusiasm the watch have to improve the facilities at the Centre.

Chris Liberty



Gateacre Press

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Call Out

Cromwell Road Explosion



At Cromwell Road, St. Andrews Sub Officer Alan Totterdell and crews were met with the situation that an explosion had taken place on the first floor, as a young lady had tried to light a gas boiler. She was seriously burned. Her flat-mate escaped un-injured. A fire had developed in the kitchen which was soon brought under control using hose reels. The internal walls had been cracked, ceilings brought down and the roof lifted by the force of the explosion. Crews were involved for some three hours on salvage.

A gentleman had moved into the flat below on the previous day and on the morning of the explosion had placed money in the gas meter, but when he went to light the gas fire, there was no supply. He didn't smell gas and thought no more of it. It was later found that there was an open ended gas pipe in the cavity between the ceiling of the ground floor and first floor timbers which allowed a free flow of gas into the bathroom and kitchen on the first floor. On attempting to light the gas boiler, the explosion took place. The young lady who received serious burns, later died from her injuries.

Road Traffic Accident, Portway, Shirehampton

Crews from A3 Avonmouth and A5 Patchway, with Divisional Officer O'Driscoll as Officer in Charge, went to the above road traffic accident which involved the rear of one car in collision with a lamp standard. The driver and front seat passenger escaped with minor injuries. The impact to the rear of the car had seriously injured a young man in the back seat. Ambulance personnel diagnosed serious back and spinal injuries and sent for the BRI Flying Squad. The Brigade removed the front seats of the car to allow the doctors access for treatment. The rear door was cut away and the casualty released, placed on a paraguard stretcher and removed to hospital.

This was a superb professional rescue carried out in near silence and everyone connected with it are to be congratulated for their skill in handling this very delicate situation.

7 Kensington Park, Easton

At 0622 hours several calls were received to Kensington Park. The first two pumps arrived with Station Officer Ivor Player in charge to find smoke billowing from the first floor and attic rooms. Amid the smoke from the attic room two young persons were screaming for help. A ladder was pitched and the two were rescued by the Brigade.

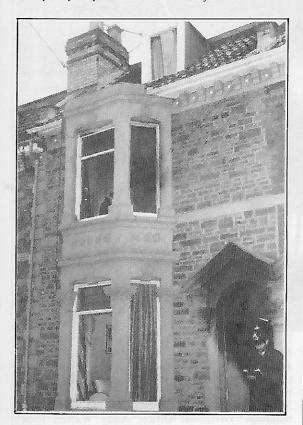
On the 'Persons Reported' message ADO Ernie Coghlan attended and took charge of the incident.

Six breathing apparatus wearers went into the building to carry out a search. They had to extinguish a serious fire in the hall, stairs, first floor landing area, which was quickly achieved with two high pressure hose reels.

Two young men were rescued from the first floor bedroom. They were taken to hospital but found to be dead on arrival. The third young man in the room was also found to be dead. Two residents escaped from a rear room on the first floor by climbing on to a roof and down a drainpipe, and another young man smashed a ground floor window and escaped.

The fire had started in a ground floor cupboard under the stairs and spread rapidly up through the staircase and horizontally into the hall.

A young man has been remanded in custody by Local Magistrates charge with three counts of manslaughter, arson with intent to endanger life and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.



Watershed-Canons Marsh

Station Officer Ivor Player and crews from A1 had a long and arduous task on their hands locating and dealing with a fire that was burning in the decking of the first floor restaurant. The fire was thought to have started in an electrical switch room and had spread through the cavity between the ceiling and first floor, burning through in several places.

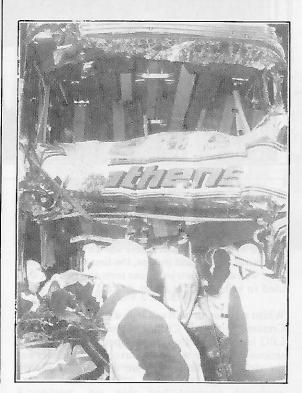
It was just over two hours before he was satisifed that all seats of fire had been located and dealt with and subsequently sent the stop message. Relief crews remained at the scene until 7 in the morning, the incident being finally closed at 0900 hours after inspections.

Crews from Thornbury and Patchway and the Major Rescue Tender from Patchway were mobilised to the M5 between junctions 14 and 15 where a passenger coach had collided with the rear of a cattle transporter on the hard shoulder.

The coach had embodied itself about 8ft into the rear of the lorry fatally injuring the driver and a courier. There were about 30 sheep killed on impact and many more injured, these were removed from the 3 tiers of the transporter after a hole had been cut in the front section.

The coach was anchored and then the transporter was winched forward leaving the wreckage of the coach. A crew were then able to carry out the unpleasant task of releasing the unfortunate victims.

It was nearly five hours from the time of call when Assistant Chief Officer John Terry sent stop message from this incident. A terrific amount of hard work carried out by all personnel concerned at this accident.





B1 Bath had a very busy spell in the week leading up to Christmas. Firstly with a call to Rush Hill where contractors were impregnating a silicon damp course into a house under renovation. The vapours were ignited by an LPG heater, there was an explosion and on arrival of the first pumps, the first floor and roof were well alight. Two jets, hose reels and two BA were used to bring this fire under control.

Whilst clearing up at Rush Hill, a call was received to Crescent Motors in Crescent Lane, where a portable LPG heater ignited cellulose vapours. This caused a serious fire in the workshop involving four cars and the structure. Three jets were used to achieve the 'Stop'.

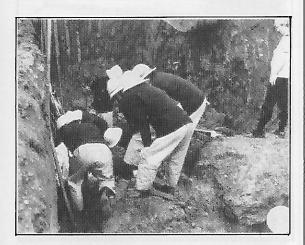
Late the following evening a call was received to New King Street where a fire had occurred in a three storey Georgian terraced building. P.C. Graham McQuilan had seen the blaze and knowing there was someone in there, decided to carry out a search but he himself had to be rescued by the Brigade from an upper floor. One occupier was rescued by ladder from a first floor window. The fire involved one bedroom which was badly damaged and soon extinguished using hose

At a call to Walcot Reclamation, Walcot Street, Bath, a large building at the rear of the Company backing on to the river was found to be well alight. Pumps were made 6 and crews had a tremendous fight on their hands to achieve separation from other adjoining buildings. Divisional Officer Andy Walters took charge and sent the 'stop' 1½ hours from the time of call. 8 jets and 4 BA were used. All personnel are to be congratulated on a superb 'stop' at this incident considering the combustibility of the adjoining buildings.

reels. Six BA men carried out a complete search of the building.

Tilbury Site, Kingsfield Lane, Hanham.

An appliance from Kingswood and the Rescue Tender from A1 Temple responded to a trench collapse trapping two workmen. Divisional Officer Peter Yeates responded as Officer in Charge. It was found that a large section of side wall in a 15ft deep trench had collapsed. One male was trapped from the thighs down and was soon released. The other casualty was trapped up to his neck in a rocky subsoil. The task of freeing him was extremely difficult because the extent of his injuries were not known and small sections of the soil had to be broken away with picks and removed by hand. The rescue operation took three-quarters of an hour and the workman was taken to Frenchay Hospital later diagnosed as having multiple injuries, and unfortunately died some hours later.

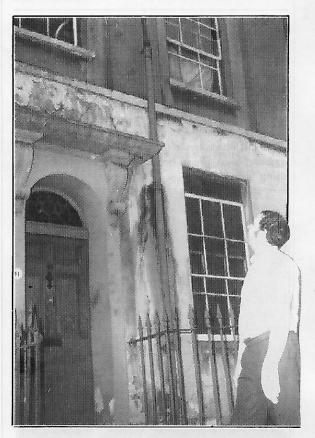


Station Officer Pat Causon was in charge of crews called to smoke issuing at 41 Somerset Street, Kingsdown. He was met by off duty fireman Chris Cook who informed him that there was an elderly lady inside and was most probably in a back room on the second floor. There was a severe fire in the hall which was extinguished by 2 B.A. men using a jet, the other 2 B.A. men were sent to the first floor to carry out a search and a 105 ladder was pitched to the second floor and 2 men made an entry from there also to search.

A casualty was found on the ground floor, she was removed from the house and taken to fresh air where an awaiting ambulance took her to hospital but she later died.

Chris Cook was at his Mothers house next door to the fire and as soon as he became aware of the fire, entered the house to try and rescue an elderly occupier, he received first degree burns to his left arm, some burns to his right arm with other burns on his feet and lips.

Since the time of the fire, Chris has been notified that he is to be awarded a Chief Officer's Commendation for his attempts.



27, Park Crescent, Frenchay

A crew from Patchway was called during the early evening to a chimney fire at the home of David Knowlson, his wife and teenage daughter.

Sub Officer John Rice and his crew set about putting out the chimney fire watched closely by the Knowlson family. Low and behold, smoke appeared from the kitchen: the evening dinner had caught fire on the stove! but A5 were on hand with an extinguisher to also sort that problem out.

It also appeared that earlier in the day the daughter had a fire in an electric toaster, when the pop-up device had failed.

Three disasters in one day—no wonder John Rice declined the offer of a cup of tea and decided to get his men safely back to Patchway before disaster struck again.

Crews from C5 were called to Northfield House, St. Catherine's Mead Street where there was a report of a fire in a flat on the fourth floor. As they went to the fire they could see smoke issuing and they could see there was someone in the flat.

B.A. men entered the building and quickly rescued an 80 year old occupant who was slumped in the living room. After being given oxygen by the Brigade, the occupant was taken to the Bristol Royal Infirmary by ambulance. A fire in bedding was soon extinguished using hose-reels.



Station Officer Mike Mullany was in charge of two pumps from C5 called to 15, Padstow Road, Knowle, at just after seven in the morning. As they approached they could see the house was well alight. A family of seven had escaped by climbing out of the bedroom window on to the porch over the front door and then lowered to a neighbour below.

Four men in B.A. using two jets extinguished the fire, which was caused by young children playing with matches with the unfortunate consequence that the family were left with just their night-clothes that they were wearing.



County Of

AVOIT

Fire Brigade

Magazine

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Spring 1985

Fred Rivers

Fred Rivers has retired from the Brigade and a very enjoyable evening was held at A2 Southmead amongst his friends and colleagues to mark the occasion. Fred joined the Brigade in 1956 after working at Frenchay Hospital as a Male Nurse for four years. He settled in well to the Service and showed in the early days the feature which remained with him throughout the Service—the ability to get on with people. Fred has always been keen on sports and was particularly good at Football and the Brigade team benefitted from his services.

He had a "rush of blood" in 1961 and lef the Brigade to take up a career in the Butchery trade but, the call of the Fire Brigade was too much for him, and he returned in 1962.

On settling back into the Brigade, Fred found his interests in Fire Prevention which he entered in 1964 and served there, rising through the ranks to Station Officer until the formation of Avon where he served as Officer in Charge, A5 Patchway and A2 Southmead. Although always a quiet individual, (I understand from Marion that he could be noisy at times) he was always available for a word of advice and a helping hand. His experience in Fire Prevention and nursing has stood him in good stead as he has now taken up a post as Hospital Fire Officer for the Southmead Health Authority.

I am sure that I will be joined by all the people Fred has served with in wishing both him and Marion a very happy retirement and good health for many years to come.

Monty Britton

Miscellany

Union Jack Club

The Union Jack Club was founded in 1904 to provide residential Club accommodation in Central London for members of the Armed Forces below commissioned rank and their families. This it has been doing ever since and up to the present day over 12½ million servicemen and women and their families have been accommodated.

The Club was completely rebuilt on its original site opposite Waterloo Station between 1972 and 1975 and now occupies a large modern building with comprehensive facilities. There are presently 417 single bedrooms and 63 twin bedded rooms for families each with its own wash hand basin. Lavatories, bathrooms and showers are conveniently placed on each floor. There is a Members' Dining Room run on Cafeteria lines and other public rooms include a billiard room with three tables, bars and television rooms, a library, a reading room, a children's playroom and a launderette.

The Club is wholly independent and is not owned or controlled by the Ministry of Defence and so must generate sufficient revenue from its operations to meet its very considerable running costs.

Accommodation charges for members, which are reviewed in October each year are currently £10.25 per night for a single room and £19 for a twin bedded room. Children from 3 to 12 are charged £5 per night and children under 3 stay free when sharing parents'

room. The average cost of a full cooked breakfast is £1.65 and that of a 3 course meal will range from about £2.30. Half portions at half prices are available for children.

Well Done

B6 held a successful dance on New Years Eve when the sum of £280 was raised. This is shortly to be presented to Radio Lollipop along with a donation to the Benevolent Fund.

Fun Weekend

On the 3/4 August, 1985, the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade in conjunction with Windsor Safari Park, Windsor, are running a 'Fun Week-end' in the Safari Park. This will be the third year of this particularly successful event which is designed to give Fire Service families in particular an opportunity to meet their counterparts from all areas in the UK and enjoy a full day or two in the Windsor Area. In addition to the normal attractions of the Safari Park, we in Berkshire, will be hosting a National Canoe Race, a National Tug of War Competition, a Veteran Fire Engine Rally, and many other attractions, all within the confines of the park.

For those who would like to spend the week-end in Berkshire, there is also a Caravan and Camp site available inside the Safari Park which would allow you ample time to sample one of the other major tourist attractions in the area.

Entry fees for the Park will be half the normal charge and for those who camp in the Park a modest additional charge will be made. All in all, if the past is anything to go by, we can assure you of a super day out as our guests, with a tidy sum being made for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund as well.

Advertising literature will be on all stations by April, though should you require further details they can be obtained from the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade Headquarters, 103 Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading.

Save It!!

The recent controversy regarding projected overspends, and from that, who is going to save what, prompted the anonymous author to forward suggestions for saving a few pounds. The following lines were received by Senior Management for approval before going out as a standard letter.

"Dear Sir.

Fire Precautions Act, 1971

In accordance with Section 5(3) of the above Act, it will be necessary for one of my officers to inspect the above premises.

You may be aware that due to the financial climate drastic economies have been introduced by the Fire Authority. One such measure has been to severely restrict the use of Brigade Transport for Fire Prevention Duties.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could contact this Headquarters to arrange a time and date, of course convenient to yourself, when you could collect and convey one of my officers to your premises and return him once the inspection is completed.

It should be explained that these measures are of a purely temporary nature and that once the financial transaction involving the purchase of four secondhand bicycles from Messrs. Stan Butt (Quality Butchers and Purveyors of Fine Meats) is completed, the transport problem will be greatly eased.

Yours faithfully,

For Chief Fire Officer

-and the reply from above!

Reference Financial Savings-Fire Prevention Department

It has come to my notice that you have recently applied your initiative in order to reduce the Brigade's expenditure on Fire Prevention Officers' transport.

I am, however, concerned to note that the ultimate aspiration is a bicycle, albeit one between three officers. You have obviously failed to appreciate the gravity of the situation as the anticipated level of capital expenditure involved will unfortunately preclude luxuries of this type.

In future I expect Fire Prevention Officers to hop about their business on one leg in order to ensure that one shoe is worn out at a time, thus doubling the projected wear period of a pair of shoes.

As an alternative, I am prepared to accept that the more conscientious, athletic members of the Department, such as yourself, may choose to walk about on their hands in order to achieve an even more significant saving on footwear. In such cases I am prepared to give favourable consideration to an annual issue of industrial leather gloves.

Fate Decreed

Until now I have never given much credance to Horoscopes in newspapers, but am now convinced that your actual Birthday does have a bearing on your life. What else but a Chief Fire Officer could anyone born on Ash Wednesday be.

Oracle

Why do they do it?

Two appliances and a staff car have been mobilised. An ambulance crew are also on their way. It is a wet, cold night, but no matter because the response is to a house fire with persons reported, and the adrenalin is pumping. On arrival there is no sign of fire at the house, no sign of activity anywhere, the occupants are probably sleeping. It is confirmed that no emergency exists. It has been just one of the housand malicious false calls that this Brigade has to answer every year. One person is very pleased. He observed the incident from just around the corner, out of sight, but the problem is how to identify them.

Well, we didn't catch him the first time and he wasn't caught the second time, but by now he had realised how easy it was and he was establishing a pattern. The officer in charge at each incident had reported back the address, Brigade Control recorded the time of call and the telephone number of origin. When the records of many malicious calls are examined, as they regularly are, the repetitive patterns begin to emerge. He is calling us to the same district, at about the same hour, from one or two call boxes. At this point we stand a chance of catching him. All malicious call information is sent direct to the Police Division concerned on a fortnightly basis. They investigate by keeping a watch on his usual call boxes at the predictable time and, with a little bit of luck, he is caught red-handed. This recently happened to a man who had called out Brigade on twelve false calls to addresses in the Upper Horfield area. It is then a great help if the culprit pleads guilty, otherwise it can be very difficult to prove. As an aid to identification, the Police may invite a suspect to listen to the taped recording of the call at Brigade Headquarters. This can prove to be a useful jog to the memory as it is a bit difficult to maintain one's innocence when a clearly identifiable recording of the call exists! Two months ago we where having a bit of trouble at an address in the Thornbury area. Three calls had been received, one a week, and the timing of the anticipated fourth call was predicted. Luckily the prediction was correct because Brigade and the Police and British Telecom were waiting for it. The telephone engineer worked for over two hours patiently tracing the origin of the call to the line that had deliberately been left open. Brigade personnel and the Police visited the house and identified the caller. A letter has since been received. thanking all concerned, from the grateful mother of a young family for having relieved her of this nuisance. But why does it happen, why do they do it?

Here are some of the motives that have been established during cases heard at the Magistrates' Courts. A group of anti-vivisectionists thought it a good way of getting at someone who worked at an animal laboratory; a jealous hemosexual used the Brigade and other Emergency services to disturb his partner's affair with another man by calling appliances to the house at about mid-night (this episode took place in Brislington); a divorced person uses the malicious calls as a way of getting at his exwife; or the man who made false calls to work of a grudge because the Police had caught him for displaying a false tax disc on his car, that he had bought (for £5) from the hippies on Inglestone Common!

During the past two years a working relationship has been established with the Police that has fast communication and yet is cheap to administer, with a regular exchange of information and this has helped towards the identification of persons who between them have been responsible for more than one hundred calls. The Brigade does not ask the Court for costs to be paid where it would be unreasonable to do so, e.g. if the person is elderly and out of work, and a juvenile is normally let off with being cautioned, but on many incidents both for malicious calls and in cases of petty arson the courts are awarding us costs by way of compensation towards the expense of our attendance. The malicious caller, or arsonist, doesn't always get away with it.

Gordon Jennings Brigade H.Q.

The following is the substance of a paper prepared by the Chairman of the Public Protection Committee (Fire Brigade Sub) following her attendance at Fire International and Conference last year.

"I was honoured to attend the Fire International Conference '84 at Birmingham and am grateful that the Committee elected me to take part. I was there on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and though this was a short period, I attended as many seminars as possible.

I looked round the Exhibition with Mr. Wilton on the Thursday afternoon and paid special attention to the manufacturers who make our appliances and equipment. The piece de resistance of the Exhibition was, of course, the Sabre Water Tender manufactured for Avon by Saxon SVB Limited.

The design of this machine was largely due to the work of the Brigade's Technical Committee which comprises officers and men from both Management and the representative bodies. They have introduced ideas and innovations which are a huge improvement for a Water Tender and Mr. Wilton and I were proud of the hard work and ingenuity which went into the production of this handsome machine. The water tank especially was attracting the interest of bypassers at the Exhibition because of its 1,000 litre capacity and galvanised steel construction, thus enabling it to have a very low profile which has helped to reduce the centre of gravity of the appliance considerably. These appliances are now, of course, on the run in Avon.

I attended as many of the seminars as was possible and outline some of the points which impressed me as being important:—

In the fire prevention field smoke is a greater hazard than fire and disorientates, frightens and confuses people; therefore, we must have smoke-free escape routes and smoke extraction units.

Computers were discussed and favoured as a means of reducing manual labour. I do not want personnel to be reduced, but computers should be there to free firemen for more skilled duties.

The public must be allowed to train with fire equipment in their place of work and must be alerted of the fire drill in sports centres and other leisure areas. We are too incredulous at people's illogicality in fire situations, but this happens because the public is not sufficiently educated and trained about fire prevention and how to behave in emergencies.

It was said that arson was the cause of 40% of all fires, and many businesses were still under-insured and therefore suffered enormous losses.

There was an increasing risk of fire due to toxic products and radio-activity which meant that only 10% of a fireman's job was concerned with actual fires. In my view the Brigade should be called the Fire and Rescue Service.

I was worried about the move to the private sector for five prevention consultancy as I know that Avon provides an excellent service at present and standards could be lowered by privatisation.

The seminars were presented excellently and the Conference was organised with great precision. Consideration is being given to an International Conference at five-yearly intervals instead of every ten years because of its success.

I wish that there had been more British stands at the Exhibition as there seemed a majority of Germans and other nationalities. Nevertheless, a most enjoyable and instructive Conference which I found to be of great benefit.

Rosalie Walker Chairman Public Protection (Fire Brigade Sub) Committee.

Obituary



It is always sad to write of road traffic accidents and loss of life, more especially when those concerned are also engaged in providing a service to the public as we do, and doubly regretful of course when such a loss occurs over the Christmas period.

Such was the case in the early hours of Monday 29th December when the Water Tender from A3, Station Officer White in charge, attended an accident on the Portway involving an unmarked police car which was completely wrapped around a tree, thus badly injuring and trapping the two front seat occupants.

Upon arrival the Officer in Charge established that the driver had a pulse and efforts were made by the crew to reach the passenger inside the car. A foam blanket was applied before forcing the passenger door with hydraulic equipment, thus establishing that for the passenger it was already too late.

At this juncture it was confirmed that the persons involved were 'police colleagues' and needless to say no effort was spared, this being enhanced by the timely arrival of A5 with the Major Rescue Tender. Leading Fireman Chris Deverill was instructed to extricate the driver, which was very professionally achieved.

During this operation the driver, even though cardiac treatment was applied by the B.R.I. Hospital team, was also lost, and the sad impact of the situation was very apparent.

Everyone stopped!! The two young men, Peter Deans and Jonathan Stapley, were removed from the wreckage quietly and A5 personnel returned to home station weary from a sad outcome. There followed extensive investigation and careful plotting of the area by the Police, assisted by the crew from A3 with lighting etc., until the vehicle was cut from the tree and removed for further investigation.

A3 returned to station three hours later equally depressed. A very sad night's work. Our condolences were expressed at the time and I am sure we all share those sentiments.

Sth. O. Keith White A3. Avonmouth.

County of Avon Fire Brigade Fire Services National Benevolent Fund Statement of Expenditure and Income for 1984

Hospital Parcels
Wreath's
Christmas Hampers
Hardship Grants
Orphans Grants
Widows Grants
Handicapped Children

Prolonged Sickness

Expenditure

Income

'A' Division
'B' Division
'C' Division
Donations Via Chief Officer

'A'	'B'	'C'	Total
20.04	69.95	18.16	108.15
11.50		5.00	16.50
525.00	915.00	975.00	2415.00
300.00	716.00		1016.00
	1420.00	2095.00	3515.00
1442.50	355.00		1797.00
150.00	560.00	150.00	860.00
	156.00	358.00	514.00
£2449.04	£4191.95	£3601.16	£10242.15

3001	<i>p</i> 58
4039	72
7619	61
647	20
£15308	11

Convalescent Rest Accommodation:

During 1984 15 cases were provided with convalescence, 8 from 'A' Division, 4 from 'B' Division, 3 from 'C' Division.

The above statement shows an increase in expenditure over last years figures of £556.00. Although hospital parcels were less. If you know of someone in the brigade who is off sick and would benefit by a hospital parcel please let your station rep know.

Our income rose by a similar amount as expenditure and is pleasing to see above the £15,000.00 mark. This is purely due to you as this is your fund. Someday you may be in need of a little help yourself so please continue to help in raising funds. If you have any fund raising ideas please let your station rep know.

Many thanks to everyone who helped during 1984 whether fund raising or visiting the sick and we look forward to your continued support in 1985.

J.S. Dowse. Hon, Treasurer.



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Tuesday & Thursday Mornings Only

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Indoor/Outdoor Swimming Pools

Solarium

Sauna

Multi-Gym

Enjoy the full sporting facilities of Redwood Lodge Country Club, Failand at a ridiculous cost of Approximately £4. The exact membership fee for the year 1st April, 1985, to 31st March, 1986, will be circulated by poster to all stations when known.

Members of the club can make full use of all amenities on any visit, such as the fully equipped multi-gym, then relax in a sauna, swimming pool, or over a game of snooker.

A fully licensed bar is also available for use.

For full details and memberships contact:—

Fireman G. Hutchings Blue Watch Al Temple

The 7th Annual Jog took place as usual on Boxing Day around the perimeter of the Station A1 Temple and Dispite the cold weather 60 runners turned up, which considering we had only had confirmation from 6 runners, was most pleasing. Originally about 140 firms were contacted and asked if they would be prepared to give either a money donation or an item that could be used in a raffle. We had 35 answers that were willing to give one or the other, some in excess of £50, and it is hoped to raise £400 from the raffle alone.

At this moment in time the final sum is not known but it is hoped in the region of £1,000 will be presented to the "Special Burns Unit", Frenchay Hospital on March 1st with a donation also going to the Ben Fund and Brigade Sports Assoc.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking first of all the joggers who without their presence the event could take place, the Chief Officer for allowing the event and also for providing beer and wine refreshments for the joggers, "Knocker White" who had a cake made in the shape of Brigade H.Q. which was cut by the Chief Officer's wife and handed around to everyone in the bar afterwards and last of all to those who we have not mentioned but helped in any way towards making this event successful.

Pat Causon. Dick Green

Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade

3rd Annual Canoe Race for

Two Man Canoes with

WILL

Eight People in a Team Paddling from

Bristol to Windsor

on

3/4 August, 1985

For full details and race rules, contact the event secretary, Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade, 103 Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire.

Telephone Reading 418222

Volleyball

The Volleyball Team is still doing well in the Avon League despite the lack of recruitment and training facilities. At present we are top of the league and have played eleven games and only lost one. However, our victories have not always been as convincing as we would like, so once again if anybody is interested in playing for the Brigade please contact me; I am sure you will not only learn to play to a higher standard but will enjoy a good social evening either after match play or training.

Martyn Baxter (C5) and Bb Leppier (A1) recently represented the South West District in the National District Knockout Finals held at Worthing, Sussex. The rest of the squad comprised of Gloucestershire players and myself.

Without having played together before, Martyn and Bob blended into the team well but unfortunately they did not reach the final.

On a lighter note the Volleyball Team recently played P.H.A.B. (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) at A5 Patchway. P.H.A.B. is an organisation to promote integration between physically handicapped and able bodied and mainly consists of younger people.

Their Secretary wrote to the Sports Association asking if they could have an old volleyball net. The Committee offered to donate a new net and ball. It was arranged for us to play them and present the net and ball on the same evening. Needless to say the Brigade Team lost its second match this year. Our only excuse is that it was minus 2°C, raining, dark, and we were outnumbered 3 to 1.

After the match members of White Watch, A5 gave P.H.A.B. a guided tour of the Station whilst the volleyball team sulked in the bar.

Thank you very much to everyone involved with that evening as P.H.A.B. enjoyed it tremendously.

Dave Carpenter

Volleyball Secretary



Fire Brigade Sailing Association

Last year we sailed to France, Holland, Belgium and the Channel Islands with firemen and their wives from London, Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire. The yachts were large and luxurious and the company great. We all made a lot of new friends.

We can't all sail in the Americas Cup but we can all enjoy the excitement and achievement of sailing to the continent on fast, modern luxury yachts. There is something for everyone from the experienced yachtsman to the complete beginner as full instruction is given (we hope to be able to award Royal Yachting Association qualifications).

If you would like to join us sailing in 1985, please contact Mac Aston, Brigade Training School.



Date	From	Cruise	Cost
27 April-4 May	Lymington	French Cruise	£147.50
4 May-11 May	Ipswich	Dutch Cruise	£122.50
11 May-18 May	Ipswich	Belgium Cruise	£122.50
15 June-21 June	Lymington	Channel Islands	£147.50
29 June-5 July	Lymington	French Cruise	£147.50
13 July-27 July (14 days)	Lymington	Channel Islands	£358.00
14 Sept-21 Sept	Ipswich	Dutch Cruise	£131.00
28 Sept-5 Oct	Lymington	French Cruise	£133.50

Cost inclusive of food, morning fees, fuel etc.

Skittles

The Annual Presentation evening to present trophies for last season (September 1983 to May 1984), was held on Saturday 8th December at Bristol St. Andrews Bowling Club. Guest of Honour, Mike Rafter and brother Will.

A great night enjoyed by all, with buffet and dancing till midnight, having presented the following awards:

Clubman of the Year - Mel Cummings — knocker's mate.

Highest averages (31.22) Dave Coles, A2.

Highest individual score (43) Mac Aston, Training School.

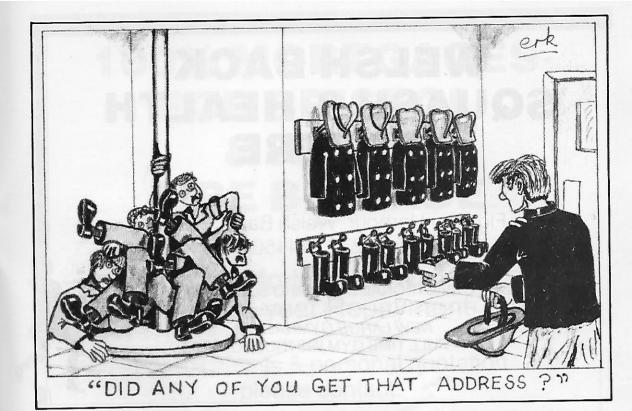
Lowest individual scores (14) Maggie Aston.

The booby for most ducks scored was shared by three players A7, Alan Totterdell, A1, and Chris Elsbury, A2.

Special trophy for Jan Hutchings, Maggie Aston and Lin Coles for being stalwarts on the score book.

At the time of writing this article I can report that this season we have played 13 league matches, won 9, lost 4, and postponed one. We are also through to the final of the league knockout and will play the Grenadier Guards, having beaten the Coldstream Guards in the semi-final in January.

We will have a night out at the end of this season (May) which hopefully will be a boat trip, thus celebrating the achievements, good and bad, for the current season.



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