

AVON FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

AUTUMN / WINTER 1995



THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE COUNTY OF
AVON FIRE BRIGADE





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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of the Avon Fire Brigade News, which may still require a little fine tuning - OK then a major overhaul!

Our thanks to everyone who has submitted articles. We are constantly on the lookout for any interesting articles and don't forget to use the magazine to let the rest of the Brigade know what's going on, of interest, on your Station or Watch.

Update on the Bunker here at Lansdown, for those of you who don't know where we are - just look for a radio mast on top of a hill! Anyway, back to the bunker, during rehearsals of the latest production, "Singing in the Rain! by the Lansdown Amateur Dramatic Society, a locked door has been discovered, which nobody knew about. A voice from behind the door said, "Go away you Ruskies. We're not coming out, and don't you try and fool us!" Could this be the missing Div Run person who left a station in morning, never to return?

Enough of this local banter, just remember "To err is human, to forgive is not Brigade Policy."

Editors: Geoff Cater and John Dando

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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

The County of Avon Fire Brigade would like to thank all who have advertised within this journal, as it is due to the purchasing of space herein that this journal can be produced and distributed.

It must be clearly understood however, that advertising space is purchased from the publishers and not the County of Avon Fire Brigade.

FOREWORD



It seems that for the past 12 months, every time I have put pen to paper in order to communicate with members of the Brigade, it has always been about the same thing - Local Government Reorganisation. Indeed, nothing changes, for I feel it necessary to continue to write upon the subject!

Undoubtedly, we in the Brigade are going to see changes. Not in the service we offer, or the way in which we provide that service, but more in the way that services are provided to us.

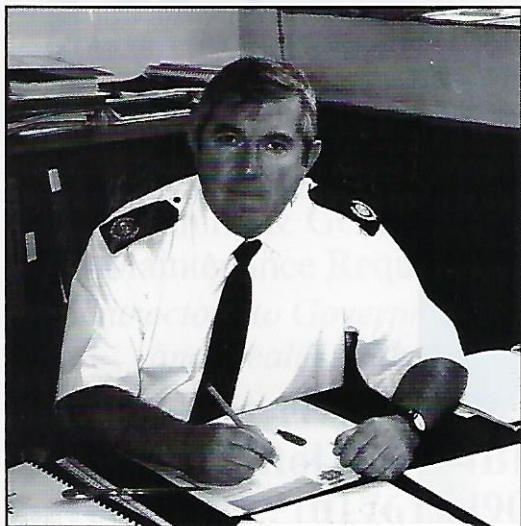
Over the years many colleagues within the County Council have worked directly with us and for us. Those people now face a far more uncertain future than we do. Some are moving away from the area to take up new posts, some have been offered positions within the new Unitary Authorities, but most are still waiting to see what jobs may be open to them in the future. We wish them all very good luck and our wishes for a happy and secure future. We hope that they will look back upon their time working with the Fire Brigade with both pride and fondness.

At the time when the last Brigade magazine was published, we were anticipating the election of the new 'Shadow' Fire Authority. That election has now taken place and the Authority has met 3 times. Many of the Members are new to Fire Brigade matters and we will no doubt be bringing them in to visit various parts of the organisation over the coming months and years in order to broaden their knowledge. I am sure all members of the Brigade will welcome the chance to 'show off' their skills and discuss matters of concern. We will be particularly pleased to welcome the new Chairman of the Shadow Authority, Councillor Terry Walker who is, of course, no stranger to the Brigade having served on Public Protection Committee for more years than most of us have been in the Brigade!

Whilst I am writing this foreword in the bright sunshine of the late summer, I am mindful that it will be a few weeks until the magazine 'hits the stands' therefore may I be the first person to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and share with you my hopes that 1996 will be a very special one for Avon Fire Brigade.

A. J. Walters
Chief Fire Officer

FOCUS ON 'S' DIVISION



The 'S' Divisional review was completed in March 1994, which concluded to keep the various disciplines as central support departments but within a different organisational structure. Following acceptance of this proposal by Brigade Management a further refinement was published in May 1994 to create five functional teams within a revised 'S' Division (*See Chart*).

The investigation into functions and roles resulted in some changes both in title and function and also highlighted areas requiring additional resources. The necessary changes were identified and researched within existing establishment levels, with a rolling implementation plan, which only came to fruition in February 1995. A fundamental and essential aspect of the changes was the need to relocate 'S' Division HQ.

Although the Brigade is not in a position to fully develop the Human Resources initiative at this time, there was a need to develop certain specific personnel issues and so a small team to just be titled '**Personnel Projects**' was formed. The evolution of Career Development initiatives has been a successful product of this.

In the **Technical Resources Section** the need to address long standing issues and the backlog of outstanding projects has dictated that progress was needed on a broad front in order to establish the new departmental structure and in some respects trial it's effectiveness. However, this policy, whilst providing team building experience, has naturally led to slow progress on some important issues to the frustrations of 'customer' divisions. In the light of this experience, a strict control of projects and initiatives is now made through the Operations Management Team and the Training User Group. Lines of communications have also been clarified in a further effort to make better progress.

Now relocated back at HQ the **Staff Office** are in a better position to control Brigade promulgations and to coordinate the creation of the new style Brigade Orders which in itself is a considerable task. An important feature of the new structure is the cross support between the functional teams and a monitoring process has been recently implemented to keep abreast of project progress.

The **Training Section** is forging ahead with an ever increasing diary, where wholtime and retained recruiting is now an annual event and EFADS and First Aid training represents an additional ongoing commitment.

Last but not least the **Communications Department** is in the process of finalising the adoption of the Brigade's new mobilising system at Lansdown. The busy summer period has fully validated the improved facilities that the new system provides. The last few years of development and the transfer to Lansdown had been a monumental task for essentially a small team, and there is still more work to do.

As we head towards LGR and the future, the progress of the Support Services provided by 'S' Division is continuously being monitored and evolving in line with current and future needs. Further issues will illustrate in more detail the work of each department.

Divisional Commander Paul Jones

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4 FOYATE HILL, EASTON, I.S.
BRISTOL, AVON BS5 6LP
TEL: (0117) 9518589

'S' DIVISION STRUCTURE

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER
SENIOR STAFF OFFICER

LGR Team
DO Sharp *

1

1 FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION

* supernumerary

Technical Resources

Appliances
Equipment
Breathing Apparatus
Premises
Water
Hydrants

Comms, MOB and Information Technology

Control
Mobilising Network
Telephone Network
Fireground Network

IT Development

Staff

Events Calender
Rosters
Promulgations
Routine Orders
Vehicle Accidents
Traffic Offences
Gen. Ops Planning
Insurance Issues

Personnel Project

Brigade Orders
Project
Job Descriptions
Career Development
Exam/Assessment
Procedures

Health & Safety
Welfare

Training

Recruit
Continuation Refresher
Special Projects
First Aid
EFADS

2 ESTABLISHMENT 33 + 1 (L/D Lff + 2 seconded L/D's)

DO I ----- DO III

DO III Kendall
ADO Jefferies
StnO x2 Lemm & Hunt
SubO Pownall
L/Ff x3 * Marshall & Addison

GFCO Smith
ADO Rice
L/Ff x1 Welshman

DO Jones
ADO White
StnO Glanville
SubO Stinchcombe
L/Ff Elson
* DO Condon

DO III Shilton
ADO x2 Cox &
Whitwham
StnO * Roberts

DO III Witcomb
ADO Manners
StnO x2 Millard & Doul
SubO x6 *
Gen Trg Leek Saunders
Hawthorn
Driving Lewis
Stafford
First Aid Webb
L/Ff x2 Leeworthy & Evans

* currently only 2
L/Ff Powell L/D LT sick

7 + 1 (L/D)

3

* supernumerary

6 + 1
(LGR)

* supernumerary

4

12

Retirement of Divisional Officer Ern' Perrott

As we are all aware the Brigade has lost one of its characters and respected Officers following the retirement in May of Divisional Officer 'Big Ern' Perrott.

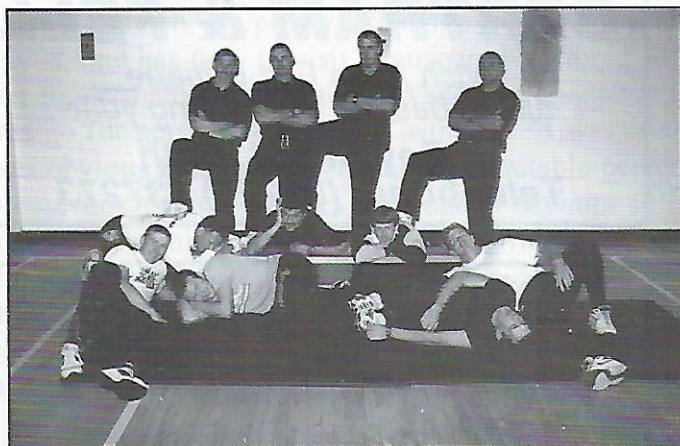
His Fire Service career started in Bristol in 1961, having previously served in the Royal Marines. After serving at Avonmouth for a period of 10 years, he was promoted to the rank of Leading Fireman and was transferred to Bristol Central Station Bridewell. Following promotion to Sub Officer in 1973, he was seconded to the Brigade Training Department where I am sure many of you will have fond memories of him training you as Recruit Firefighters.

Following Local Government re-organisation in 1974, he was promoted to Station Officer and transferred to Station B1 Bath. In 1979, his career changed when he took up the appointment of Assistant Divisional Officer and spent two years at the Fire Service College attached to the Breathing Apparatus section. On his return to the Brigade he spent a period at 'C' Division Headquarters before promotion to DO III. In this rank he served at 'B' Division as Deputy Divisional Commander, Divisional Fire Protection Officer Bath and Bristol and Deputy Divisional Commander 'A' Division. Ern's final promotion was in 1989 when he took command of 'B' Division, a position he filled until his retirement.

Stores and anecdotes are in abundance throughout the Brigade regarding 'Ern' and to recall a few would take up an entire magazine to give them justice. It is perhaps suffice to say that his assumed title of 'Big Ern' suits him admirably because he has proved to be not only Big in stature, but also Big in personality, Big hearted and I am sure that he will also be a Big loss to the Brigade.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication, hard work and support he has given to the service and to wish him and his wife Sandra all the very best in their retirement.

Divisional Commander Steve Bull



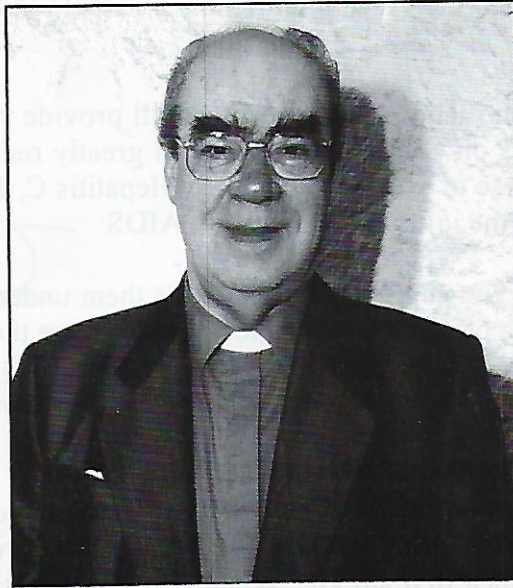
After a 7 week course at Lilleshall, the four Brigade Training Instructors, Simon Hill, Matt Hunt, Pete Moore and John Couzins, have spent two weeks putting some willing volunteers through their paces.

Fire Service Career Advancement Courses

BUSINESS AND CAREER COURSES

- BC10 Money can make you Rich
- BC11 Packaging, Marketing and Selling your Child
- BC12 Career Opportunities in Corporate Health
- BC13 How to profit from your own body
- BC14 The Under-Achiever's Guide to Very Small Business Opportunities
- BC15 Supply Teaching in the Orkneys
- BC16 Tattooing your colleagues as an Income Supplement
- BC17 Credit Purchasing with your Kidney Donor Card

THE CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



A seemingly disillusioned firefighter remarked, "When I joined the Fire Brigade things were different, and a lot better!" I have a feeling that such a statement could represent the thoughts of many long serving members. Someone has defined a senior person as "one who was here before the pill, television, frozen foods, credit cards, ball-point pens, jet engines, supersonic flight, and the moon was for courting under, not for walking on."

It's so true, things have changed and not always for the best. But change has its benefits, and it is important that we appreciate what is new when at the same time we try to hold on to what was best in the past. I for one find this a painful experience. This came home to me when I tried to listen to a new and very modern piece of music, Harrison Birtwistle's "Panic", which was included in this year's "Last Night of the Proms". It was a change from the usual classical programme and it was hard to take! The inability to change is death, the power to change is life, so I shall have to work on that "Panic" piece! Whatever our age is, one has only to visit a museum where old firefighting equipment is on show and compare it with our modern shining machines to see that change is inevitable and the new can be very welcome. Does this go for personnel as well, I wonder. "I was completely changed", said Malcolm Muggeridge, and it was obvious that he was - from a disreputable person to a lovable and acceptable character. "Some people never change", so goes the popular saying. In Gramme Green's play, "Brighton Rock", the author makes one of his characters, Rose, say with great emphasis, "People change" - "Oh no they don't", replies the comfortable Ida. "Look at me", she continues, "I've never changed. It's like those sticks of rock; bite it all the way down, you'll still read Brighton Rock. That's human nature." But Ida is wrong, and people can and do change. The story of the past generations is that there is a power, a 'spiritual' power for want of a better word, that can melt the hardest heart and the most entrenched evil within human nature.

There is one factor about the Fire Brigade personnel that I have come to appreciate. It is the continuing dedication to serving the public. Behind the image built up by the media of the macho firefighter there is the unheralded quality of service to the community. This is a quality that has been in the Fire Brigade since the beginning, it has not changed nor must it, in a constantly changing society. It was Jesus who said, "I am among you as one who serves". Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the modern German christian martyr, wrote, "In Jesus the service of God and the service of the least of the brethren were one".

Obviously changes must take place, and we have to come to terms with them. But here is one great attribute within the Fire Brigade and amongst its firefighters, that must never change, 'service to the community'. Such service has a Divine quality and that lifts it to a great height - Godly heights!

Bill Cobley

Stay Healthy - Get into Latex

Latex first aid gloves have replaced the vinyl and are now available to be worn routinely whenever you are attending a casualty.

Since the latex gloves cling to your hands and wrists they will provide you with better protection against getting blood or other body fluids on your hands. This will greatly reduce the risk of you catching any blood borne infections in the course of your work, such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B (if you are not vaccinated) and to a lesser extent HIV, the virus that can lead to AIDS.

Also because the gloves do cling you should be able to wear them under your heavy duty gloves without the risk of the latex gloves coming off at the same time as you remove the heavy duty pair.

You should always keep a pair of latex gloves in a sealed plastic bag in your fire tunic pocket to put on as soon as you attend a casualty.

The gloves are disposable, so should be safely discarded after they have been worn and replaced immediately with a new pair. If the gloves get torn or damaged they can be replaced at the scene. Additional gloves can be found in the appliance first aid kit. When you return to the station don't forget to replace any gloves used.

When handling multiple casualties your gloves need to be changed when moving from one casualty to another to reduce the risk of cross-infection. You should stay with one casualty where possible and not move to another unless you have to. If your gloves are contaminated with body fluids they should be changed before handling another casualty.

If you are working in an environment where damage to the gloves is possible, remember the heavyweight rubber gloves now carried in the first aid kit will give you extra protection.

It is most important to remember that latex is a natural substance and will deteriorate. This will happen as the latex ages, if the gloves are exposed to sunlight or ozone and can occur very rapidly if they become contaminated with oils or grease. If the gloves do become contaminated during an incident change them as soon as practicable as they deteriorate rapidly and can tear. This can happen in minutes rather than hours.

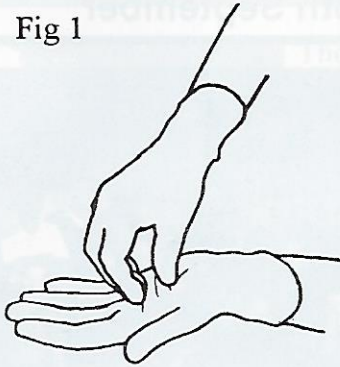
The gloves should be checked regularly for damage or deterioration and replaced if this has occurred. Also if the gloves have not been used after 12 months they should be discarded and replaced with others.

The latex gloves give excellent protection but any cuts should still be covered with adhesive, waterproof dressings before putting the gloves on.

Carol Watson
Healthpromotion
Frenchay Healthcare NHS Trust

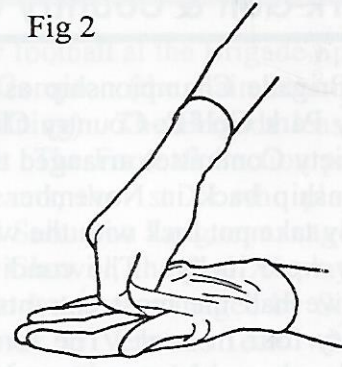
To remove the gloves without spilling any blood or body fluids that may be on them:-

Fig 1



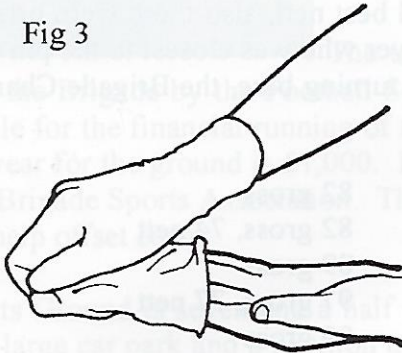
i) with one gloved hand take hold of the other glove by the palm (Fig 1)

Fig 2



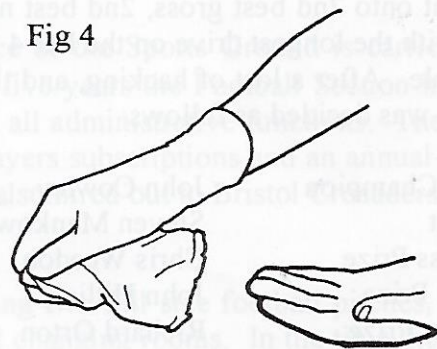
ii) pull the glove down towards (Fig 2) and past the fingers so that the glove turns inside out (Fig 3)

Fig 3



iii) keep hold of the glove that has been removed with the other hand (Fig 4)

Fig 4



iv) slip the fingers of the ungloved hand between the other glove and the wrist of your hand and push your fingers down towards the palm (Fig 5)

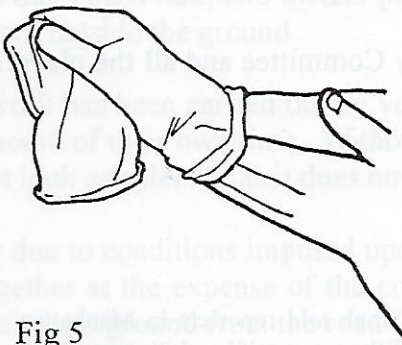


Fig 5

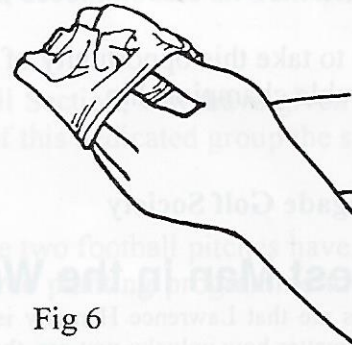


Fig 6

v) this will turn the second glove inside out as well, while also encasing the first glove inside the second (Figs 6 & 7)

vi) always wash your hands as soon as you can once you have removed the gloves

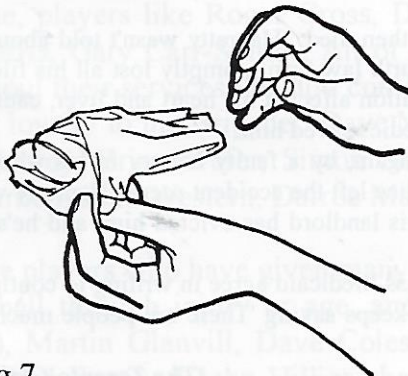


Fig 7

Brigade Golf Championship 1995

Tracy Park Golf & Country Club, Wednesday 13th September

This year's Brigade Championship as usual was held at Tracy Park Golf & Country Club. When the Golf Society Committee arranged the date for the championship back in November 1994 then you obviously take pot luck with the weather, but this year we were lucky. The conditions were perfect and we had the most entrants for some years - twenty four in total. The format of the day was stroke play with a maximum handicap of 20 and the players went off in three balls. The prizes were for the best gross player, Brigade Champion, and the best nett player. The prizes also went onto 2nd best gross, 2nd best nett, 3rd best gross, 3rd best nett, also there were prizes for the player with the longest drive on the Par 4 27th Hole, and the player who was closest to the pin on the Par 3 7th Hole. After a lost of hacking, and the air over Tracy Park turning blue, the Brigade Championship for 1995 was decided as follows:



Brigade Champion	John Cowley	H'cap 8	82 gross
Best Nett	Steven Mankowski	H'cap 8	82 gross, 74 nett
2nd Gross Prize	Chris Weedon	H'cap 13	89 gross
2nd Nett Prize	John Hillier	H'cap 20	97 gross, 77 nett
3rd Gross Prize	Richard Orton	H'cap 8	89 gross
3rd Nett Prize	Pete Liddington	H'cap 20	97 gross, 77 nett
Longest Drive Prize	Richard Orton		
Nearest the Pin	Paul Sweet		

Prizes were presented to the winners by Divisional Commander E. Coghlan during the evening dinner.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Golf Society Committee and all the players for making a memorable championship.

Bob Smith

Captain Brigade Golf Society

Unluckiest Man in the World

"It amazes me that Lawrence Hanratty is still alive," Dr. Mahinderjit Singh told reporters in Manhattan. "There is a saying that 'no matter how unlucky you are, there's always someone worse off than yourself,' and it's true. There is someone worse off, and he's called Lawrence Hanratty."

Dr. Singh, a psychiatrist, then chronicled the series of misfortunes that have afflicted his patient, formerly a New York carpenter. "In 1984, while on a construction job, Hanratty sawed through a cable and was electrocuted. He lost his nose, and was in a coma for seven weeks. When he came to he was completely disabled and tried to sue the company for using unlicensed electricians, but halfway through the case his first lawyer, Jerome Speigleman, was convicted of grand larceny and disbarred.

His second lawyer Benjamin Sergi, worked on the case for six months, then died. Hanratty wasn't told about this for a year, but as soon as he heard he hired a third lawyer, who also died. The fourth law firm promptly lost all his files, then his wife ran off with a lawyer from the firm, and the after-effects of the electrocution affected his heart and liver, causing him to relapse into a coma, during which he technically 'died' three times, and paramedics saved him.

"Recently, things have gotten worse. Last month, he was electrocuted again, by a faulty battery in his wheelchair. A week later, on leaving hospital, a driver smashed into his car and, after the police left the accident scene, Hanratty was robbed of his savings at gunpoint. Insurance companies have cut off his benefits, his landlord has evicted him, and he's now been denied all further Medicaid, Social Security, and Welfare payments.

"Last week, lawyer number five passed away and, as of next month, unless Medicaid agree in writing to continue paying my bills, he won't have a psychiatrist either. What really gets me is that he keeps saying 'There are people much worse off than me!' - but I know there aren't."

(The Toronto Globe, 15/4/95)

The Brigade Football Section



The Brigade football teams play football at the Brigade Sports Ground, Marsh Common Road, Easter Compton (the main commuter link between Cribbs Causeway and Pilning). The Brigade lease the ground from ICI Chemicals Severnside. The Football Section proudly boasts the running of four football teams, the 1st XI who play in Premier Division Two of the Bristol and Suburban League managed by myself, assisted this season by Martin Glanvill, the 2nd XI play in Division Six of the Bristol and Suburban League, managed by Simon Shilton, assisted by John Davies. An over 35 Veterans Team who play in the Inter-Brigades National Knockout Competition managed by Sandy Powell and a Brigade Representative Team managed by myself who play in Inter-Brigade National and Regional Competitions, and who currently hold the "Devon Cup" as regional champions of last season.

The upkeep and maintenance of the Sports Ground is carried out on behalf of the Brigade by the Football Section. Over the past five years the Football Section have been responsible for the financial running of the Sports Ground and all administrative functions. The average cost per year for the ground is £1,000. Funds are raised by players subscriptions and an annual donation from the Brigade Sports Association. The football pitches are also hired out to Bristol Crusaders Football Club, to help offset costs.

The Sports Ground is seven and a half acres in size, comprising two full size football pitches, a cricket square, a large car park and a pavilion used as a clubhouse and changing rooms. In the time the Football Section have been responsible for the ground, major improvements have been made to the clubhouse. The internal structure has been altered to create four changing rooms, a separate changing room is provided for the referee. The outside structure has recently been re-clad, and the roof has been re-felted. Along with the clubhouse refurbishment, the old car park has been recovered from the undergrowth, new chippings have been laid, and the car park is now large enough to accommodate all vehicles without the need to park outside the ground.

All this work has been carried out by volunteers from the Football Section, who have given up a considerable amount of their own time. Without the tremendous effort of this dedicated group the sports ground would not look as splendid as it does now.

This year due to conditions imposed upon us by our landlords, the two football pitches have been moved closer together at the expense of the cricket square, to allow a tree planting programme to go ahead to screen the sports ground from the road.

Managing any football team is difficult, but the task of managing a Brigade team is even harder, due to our shift patterns and the difficulties experienced by players trying to arrange time off and stand in covers. However, we do have a loyalty and determined efforts of players who constantly overcome these obstacles who turn up and play football for the Brigade. Some of these players have been doing this for a long time, players like Roger Cross, Dean Iles, Ken Bennett, John Davies, Dave Clark, Steve Fisher, Dave Harris, Gary Carr-Smith. All of these players have stuck with the Brigade for ten years or more and without their services the club could not survive. More recently we have players who are also showing their loyalty to the Brigade. Dave McManee, Simon Hill, John Coleman, Martin Quigley, Jim Alder, Stuart Harvey, Brian Wafer, Simon Shilton, Ian Campbell, Phil Parnham, Paul Stokes, Justin Hobbs, Dave Burnell, John Western, Darren Main, Alan Ellis and Gareth Lloyd.

There are players who have given many valuable years service to the Brigade who have retired from playing football through injury or age, and deserve special mention, Steve Bull (25 years playing for the Brigade), Martin Glanvill, Dave Coles, Mel Rogers, Roger McKeown, Pete Hamblin, Dave Baldwin, Rick & Paul Fear and John Hillier, these players played when the Brigade Football Team enjoyed suc-

cess. For our teams to recapture those successful years, the managers require the support and loyalty of all Brigade members who play football. There are many good players in our ranks who could make a big difference to our playing standards, but they elect for reasons of their own to play for other teams. Its understandable if they play for teams in a higher standard, but I find it difficult to understand their reasons if they play for teams of an equivalent or lesser standard than ours. The Brigade football teams need new blood to progress and its new players like Shaun Kendall who will continue to give us the glimmer of hope that the Brigade football teams will return to winning ways.

The members who make up the committees of the Football Section meet on a regular basis, they are:-

Club President	Ernie Coghlan
Vice President	Steve Bull
Chairman	Bob Smith
Club Secretary	Gary Carr-Smith
Treasurer	John Davies
Ground Administrator	Martin Glanvill
Club Captain	Ken Bennett
1st XI Manager	Robbie Roberts
2nd XI Manager	Simon Shilton
Vets Manager	Sandy Powell
Ground Manager	Jim Alder

We are always looking for new players and people with new ideals, so please come and join us.

Robbie Roberts
1st XI Manager

Overtaken Petrol Tanker

Junction 21, M4 Motorway, Aust - 1st June 1995



At 06:51 hours, 1st June 1995, the Brigade were called to a Petrol Tanker overturned beneath the M4 Motorway at Junction 21, Aust.

On arrival the Officer-in-Charge found an articulated tanker overturned and blocking both carriageways of the roundabout system. There were no serious injuries and no other vehicle involved.

Petroleum spirit and diesel fuel was flowing from several visible ruptures to the tank and was flowing towards the roadside gutter and entering the drainage system. There was an ever present possibility of explosion and firefighters worked in this dangerous environment for some considerable time until a foam blanket could be lain over the whole area involved.

The entire contents of the tanker, 34,000 litres of petroleum spirit and 5,000 litres of diesel fuel was discharged, the majority of which entered the drains. Fortunately, the drains in that vicinity flow into a nearby detention pool and with the exception of minor contamination to a local stream the great majority of the product was prevented from polluting the environment. The National Rivers Authority and a Representative of the petrol company involved attended promptly and were able to quickly instigate a clean up operation.

The Brigade remained on the scene until the tanker had been removed and the site declared safe.

M4 Coach Crash - 23rd May 1995



At 16:18 hours the Brigade were alerted to a Road Traffic Incident involving an overturned coach on the eastbound carriageway of the M4 Motorway.

Two pumping appliances from A3 Avonmouth, together with the Major Rescue Tender and Pumping Appliance from A5 Patchway were immediately despatched. On arrival, the first Officer-in-Charge was confronted with an exceptionally serious situation involving multiple casualties. Having initiated rescue operations with the personnel at his disposal, he then requested additional Pumping Appliances and Rescue Tenders to deal with the enormity of the task.

Commercial Contractors specialising in the provision of heavy vehicle recovery equipment were also mobilised as it became clear that Fire Brigade lifting equipment could not be expected to cope with the situation in hand.

Divisional Officer Hutchings, Divisional Commander 'A' Division took charge of Fire Brigade operations at the scene at 16:45 hours.

Whilst in the circumstances of the accident the rescue and welfare of seriously injured passengers was in itself a demanding task, there is no doubt that the most harrowing part of the incident for the Fire Brigade personnel was the extrication of the trapped fatalities which could not be compensated for by the saving of life or the easing of suffering. The working conditions were far from ideal and all concerned are to be commended for their actions in quite exceptional circumstances.

During the incident, crews from A3 Avonmouth, A5 Patchway, A1 Temple, A6 Thornbury, C1 Weston-super-Mare and B7 Kingswood attended and it is significant to note that this is the first occasion on record that three of the Brigade's four specialist Rescue Tenders have been in simultaneous use at the same incident. The Chief and Deputy Chief Officer both attended.

During recent months the Brigade, together with the Avon Ambulance Service have developed and implemented a joint meeting initiative involving Fire Crews and Paramedics working together as clearly identifiable rescue teams. This enlightened strategy most definitely provided life-saving dividends on this occasion and dovetailed very successfully with the command and control principles at Major Incidents that have been developed with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

The Brigade prides itself on the particularly good working relationships that exist with sister Emergency Services and on this occasion the reality surpassed all expectations.

Brigade personnel remained in attendance until 22:00 hours to check the scene following removal of the coach. In total 14 different crews, together with four Senior and Principal Officers were involved.

A Note for your Diaries!

A Brigade Christmas Carol Service will be held at 3 o'clock on Sunday 10th December at St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Street, Bristol.



Merry Christmas
Everybody

Annual Quad Ride - Blue Watch C1 Weston-super-Mare

When my son Richard was two and a half years old, he required life saving heart surgery which was carried out successfully at the BRI.

I then wanted to offer the people who cared for my son some sort of gratitude. I approached my Watch and a sponsored bike ride was thought of.

We borrowed a six wheeled four seater promenade pedal machine, which was duly named "The Quad". This, in time, was transformed by the Watch into a sort of "fire appliance". Various parts were scrounged from all over the place and the finished contraption complete with sound system, blue lights and two tone horns was ready to hit the road. This was in May 1991.

The first trip was from Weston-super-Mare to Weymouth over 3 days, which raised £2,600.00.

Pedalling this half ton fully laden contraption all the way to Weymouth was a feat in its self, with only one puncture and one snapped pedal for our sins.

Great fun was had by all and this was to be the start of a now annual event.

The following year 1992 saw us go to Torquay via Exeter which raised £1,701.00.

1993 - Salisbury to Bournemouth £2,110.94

1994 - Exeter to Weymouth £1,823.12

1995 - Camborne to Falmouth £2,417.64, which was our best yet.

1996 will see us again on the road to Southampton via Salisbury.

Chris Lock
Red Watch C1 Weston-super-Mare



The Crew (left to right) Paul Coombs, Roy Ramsbottom, John Wilcocks & Chris Lock

The following is a breakdown of monies collected and donated by Blue Watch C1 Weston-super-Mare over the last 5 years.

£4,112.50 to Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

£2,211.50 to South West Childrens Heart Circle

£850.50 to Clic

£1,055.48 to Meningitis Trust

£2,047.00 to South West Childrens Hospice

The original members of the Watch, now not many, each year find it a little harder to pedal as fast as they used to.

The hangovers last a little longer, abused bodies take longer to recover, but they are all ready and willing again for the next year.

Blue Watch would like to thank everyone in the Brigade who has made this event possible with your excellent support. Thank you Blue Watch.

Seen on a hospital notice: "The first three minutes of life can be the most dangerous."
Added underneath: "The last three minutes are pretty dodgy too!"

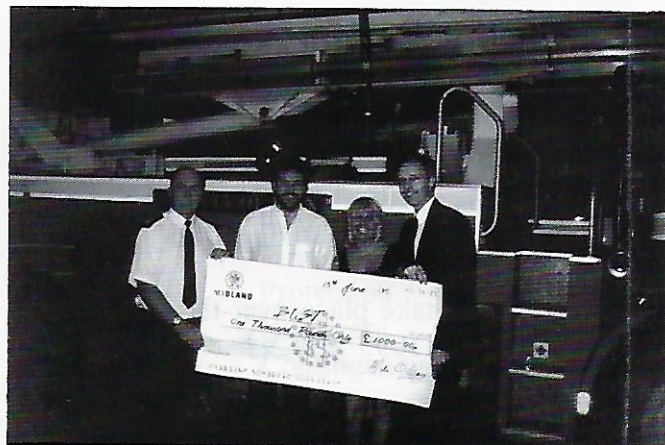
Seen on a contraceptive machine: "Insert baby for refund!"

Skittles Knockout

The 1994/95 skittles tournament proved as popular as ever with 26 teams taking part.

The new format of the competition which started with teams being split into 6 groups, playing on a league basis before being cut down to 16 teams taking part in the knockout stages of the competition allowed everyone to play more matches and gave a greater opportunity to renew friendships.

The semi-finals brought together the team from the Control Room against Blue Watch C5 Bedminster and the Station Cooks against White Watch B6 Speedwell. The final was contested by the Station Cooks team and Blue Watch C5 Bedminster. As the final progressed and Blue Watch started to take control of the match Monica the Cooks captain tried to halt play by offering the opposition the opportunity to have a break so they could partake of the buffet prepared by the cooks. However, the captain of Blue Watch was conscious that a break in play could result in a few of his star players who were yet to play retiring to the treatment room (bar) for further refreshments which may affect their performance, so the offer was declined until the end of the game. This proved to be a tactical masterstroke as the Blue Watch players continued to show the skills that got them into the final, thus winning the game to become the new Brigade Skittles Champions, leaving the Cooks team in the runners up slot for the second year in succession. John Marshall of A7 Yate had the highest score of the tournament which was 39 points.

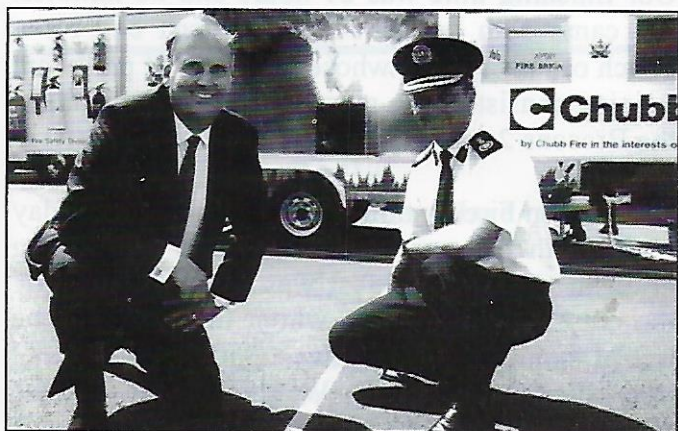


Skittles presentation evening at B6 Speedwell, 13th June 1995, (left to right) Stn. Officer Ian Thomson, Ken & Belinda (licensees of the Maypole P.H.) & Dr. Simon Cawthorn from Frenchay Hospital.

I would like to take this opportunity through the magazine to thank Mike O'Leary and Geoff Strachan for organising the competition (not an easy task), the Maypole for free use of the alley and my watch (B6 White) for staging the presentation evening. Also thanks to all the participants who paid a £1 each time they played which resulted in £1,000 being raised for this years designated charity which is BUST (Breast Ultrasound Scanner Trust) situated at Frenchay Hospital.

Ian Thomson

Mobile Chip Pan Display



Due to the increasing number of chip pan fires that the Brigade attends, it was decided to combat the trend with a demonstration unit.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, who already have a demonstration unit, gave us some valuable advice and ideas.

Chubb Fire Ltd. were approached and generously decided to help finance the project.

Brigade Workshops were approached and they offered to undertake to build the display unit. Many thanks must go to Fleet Engineer Paul Beard and Mechanic Richard Ball who, with their usual enthusiasm, have produced a terrific mobile display unit.

The picture shows the official handover at Brigade Headquarters where the Managing Director of Chubb, Mr. Reg Keys, presented the Display Unit to Chief Fire Officer Andy Walters.

3 Peaks Challenge

Getting to the top of 3 mountains, with 500 miles between the first and last, in a 24 hour period seemed quite daunting. Not impossible, but daunting. Especially for a team of 7 not so young Firefighters (I considered myself as a spritely boy amongst them as the challenge would be a day after my thirtysomething birthday).

The event was to take place over the weekend of 24th - 25th June 1995 and what a weekend it turned out to be.

Pre-event literature consisted of frightening information concerning the Peaks. For Ben Nevis, it mentioned large snowfields on the summit. In June?! No, surely not! Scafell Pike offered possible problems to knees and ankles. I didn't even want to read about Mount Snowdon. The lads decided that we were going to go through with it.

We had made sandwiches for the long journey to Glasgow, which was to be our overnight stop before arriving at Fort William, the day after. Chris Jackson had brought a crate of cider that he planned (us) to carry to the top of Snowdon for a celebratory drink. It never got there. It and the sandwiches were gone by Tewkesbury. Bill Pratt wanted to stop off in Kendall on the way up. Bob Ersser said, "I know a pub in Kendall." Bang went our emergency rations money, and a night out in Glasgow still lay ahead of us.

Bill, Bob, Jacko, Ernie Wise and myself set off at our allotted time. Two and a half hours and 4,000 hard sweaty feet later we reached the summit, where, would you believe it, we had a snowball fight. IN JUNE! Jacko decided to look over the edge, until he was told in uncertain terms that he was standing on snow only. Coming down was as hard as going up, but waiting for us were our faithful happy drivers. Bernie Beachgood and Pete Marsh also turned out to be excellent suppliers of food and water. We spent almost an hour sitting in an empty, dark car park eating Ration Pack food supplied by Royal Marines Reserve, Bristol. Other teams were tanking it down the motorway to the next peak.

We started Scafell Pike at 6.00 Sunday morning. We slept (after a fashion) in the van on the way down. Even Pete and Bernie found time for a nap, and I'm still not sure if it was always at separate times. Scafell was short, sharp and very, very



(Left to right) Pete Moore, Bob Ersser & Chris Jackson on top of Ben Nevis, 26/6/95

steep. The 3,000ft. of ruggedness started to show on the knees. My poor, old, tired knees. Another ration pack meal was waiting for us. Our Egon Ronay's choice this time included Chicken Supreme with boiled rice.

Mount Snowdon was, as were the other peaks, bathed in sunshine. And, as the other two, it was also bathed in people. It was busier than Picadilly Circus in the rush hour. To reach the 3,500ft. summit we went via the Pyg Track and at times it was a bit of one. Especially when one member left his sunglasses halfway up (or is it down?) and wanted to go back for them. At the top of the mountain is a restaurant and a railway station. No one told me there was a train!

Our finishing time was 21 hours and 58 minutes. We came 18th out of 36, which isn't bad for a bunch of mature men whose sum total of pre-event training consisted of a morning's amble up a hill in the Brecons 2 weeks previous.

Caernarvon Fire Station was our venue for Sunday night, with of course, the obligatory sightseeing drink in town. Breakfast was again supplied by the duty watch, some of whom turned out to be one of the other teams. They came 1st with a time of a little over 16 hours. We came away with the knowledge that we had beaten the challenge, on a personal note, the knowledge that there lies a piece of covered turf behind a rock on a Welsh mountain side that will be forever English.

Sub Officer Pete Moore

The Instant Phrase Computer

Column 1

Integrated
Total
Systematised
Parallel
Functional
Responsive
Optical
Synchronised
Compatible
Balanced
Multiple
Heuristic
Standard
Full-power
Subroutine
Predetermined
Methodological
Versatile
Elapsed-time
Multistage
Non-linear
Homothetic
Error-actuated
Load-and-go
Programme-generated

Column 2

Management
Organisational
Regression
Monitored
Reciprocal
Digital
Logic
Transitional
Incremental
Third-generation
Policy
Strategic
Density
Auto-correlation
Sequential
Macro-block
Nonessential
Word-mark
Codified
Rerun
Zero-sum
Isomorphic
Stochastic
Core-storage
Audit

Column 3

Options
Flexibility
Capability
Mobility
Programme
Concept
Time-phase
Projection
Hardware
Contingency
Analysis
Throughput
Processing
Entropy
Validation
Schedule
Parameters
Obsolescence
Transaction-merge
Violation
Nexus
Symbology
Discipline
Evaluation
Network

Select a word from Column 1, add any word from in Column 2, and add these to any word in Column 3.

The resulting phrase will provide a moment of glory, guaranteed to impress your superiors, gain respect from your family and friends, and silence the expert who will not dare to show his ignorance.

Total possible combinations = 15,626

Allowing 5 per week, this will give this chart a useful life of 62.5 years.

ADDRESS: Weston Woods
Monks Hill
Weston-super-Mare

TYPE: Car Fire

C11 STOP: False alarm good intent. First Aid rendered to passer-by who has been bitten by a passing grey squirrel.

"What we want to know - was the squirrel out collecting nuts?"

ADDRESS: Beach Road
Weston-super-Mare

TYPE: Petrol Spillage

C11 INFORMATIVE: Large spillage of oil and petrol, District Council required for provision of 0.5 ton of sand.

NOTE THE ADDRESS!!



On 29th June 1995, Clevedon and Weston firefighters responded to a fire and explosion at BFI Waste Management, Strode Road, Clevedon. Tragically, a man was severely injured in the explosion.

Crews from Temple Back and Southmead were called to a serious RTA on Monday 11th September 1995.

Two cars had been involved in a head-on collision on the dual carriageway section of the Portway, Shirehampton. Three people had to be cut free by firefighters.



Performance Related Ability Table (PRAT)

Performance Factors	Leading Firefighter	Sub Officer	Station Officer	ADO	DO
Quality	Leaps tall buildings with a single bound	Must take a running start to leap tall buildings at all	Can only leap over a building with no spires	Crashes in to buildings when attempting to jump	Cannot recognise buildings
Timeliness	Is faster than a speeding bullet	Is as fast as a speeding bullet	Not as fast as a speeding bullet	Would you believe a slow bullet	Wounds himself with bullets
Initiative	Is stronger than a locomotive	Is stronger than a bull	Is stronger than a bull elephant	Shoots the bull	Smells of bull
Adaptability	Walks on water consistently	Walks on water in emergency	Washes with water	Drinks water	Passes water in emergency
Communication	Talks with God	Talks with angels	Talks with himself	Argues with himself	Loses arguments with himself