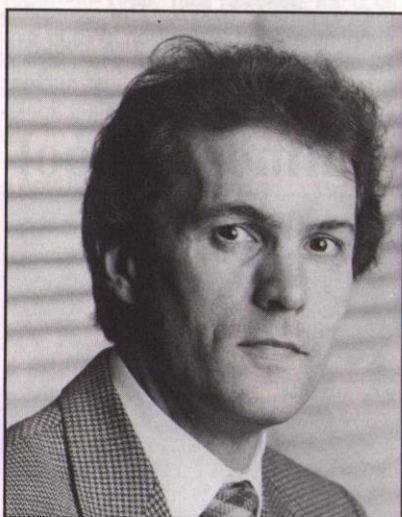




News

Fortnightly Journal of the Culham/Harwell Sites of the UKAEA

First Site Manager for Culham/Harwell



Stephen White—new Site Manager

From April 1992 a new service structure comes into operation in the AEA. The current Sites organisation will disappear and the first ever Site Manager at Culham/Harwell will be Stephen White.

His appointment comes as a result of the review of service provision conducted throughout the AEA by Andrew Hills, Managing Director, Sites & Personnel, the outcome of which coincides with the retirement of Culham/Harwell Head of Finance, John Wright and Culham/Harwell Director, Dr Peter Iredale. Dr Archie Ferguson, Head of Safety at Culham/Harwell, broadly retains his current responsibilities.

Other changes in the new services structure, as a result of the Review, are announced in August's AT (AEA Times).

Stephen first joined the AEA in 1975, after studying at Oxford. After two years in the Programmes Analysis Unit at Harwell he moved to CHQ, London, and spent the next 10 years working there in a variety of manpower planning and personnel policy roles, apart from one year (1981) as Personal Assistant to the then Deputy Chairman, Arnold Allen.

He moved to Culham in 1988 as Head of Culham/Harwell Financial Planning and Programmes, and became Head of Planning & Administration in April 1990. In April this year he was appointed to his current post as Head of Estates & Administrative Services Division.

As Culham/Harwell Site Manager, Stephen's responsibilities will include:

- local provision of accommodation and utility services
- overall management of the local services (such as transport, grounds, catering, emergency services, library and information services)
- being the appropriate focus for Planning Authorities and estates related local liaison
- co-ordinating all aspects of relations with the local community
- security needs and arrangements.

Big Boost for beating Legionella

Successful trials carried out on a water disinfection system at Harwell Laboratory have helped Tarn Pure Ltd achieve a 400% increase in sales. The electrolytic cell, designed to kill Legionella and other bacteria viruses and algae, was evaluated as part of AEA Technology's policy of testing commercial systems designed to prevent Legionnaires' Disease.

'The system has been thoroughly tested,' said Tarn Pure's Chairman, John Hayes. 'And has demonstrated its success in treating large-scale hot water systems, cooling towers, industrial process water and swimming pools. We are delighted with the results, and look forward to continuing growth in sales as more companies realise the effectiveness of the system.'

The Harwell-tested system is currently being used by major organisations in the public and private sectors in the UK, the USA and Japan. These include chemical companies, the coal, brewing, metals and food industries, hospitals, government

continued on page 2

New Corporate Personnel Director

From next April, Culham/Harwell Assistant Director, Peter Dawson, becomes Corporate Personnel Director, responsible also for Training and Occupational Health.

After studying history at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Peter joined the AEA in 1958. He spent four years at Harwell before moving to London to work in the recruitment, training and personnel policy field. In 1968 he was appointed Private Secretary to Sir John Hill, the Chairman of the AEA. He then became Head of Overseas Relations Branch before moving to the industrial relations field as Chief Industrial Relations Officer. He returned to Harwell in 1984 as General Secretary and was appointed Assistant Director of Culham/Harwell Sites in 1990.



Peter Dawson—new Corporate Personnel Director



BUSINESS NEWS

Beating Legionella continued

departments, banking and leisure business areas.

The Tarn Pure process employs an electrolytic cell, with electrodes of silver and copper alloy, and a solid state electronic control unit. The electrolysis process releases a minute stream of silver and copper ions into the water (within drinking water standards) which acts as low concentration biocide and algicide, minimising the possibilities of biofouling and the release of pathogenic organisms.

The evaluation at Harwell Laboratory involved an initial 8-week trial period to test the effectiveness of the process on an operating cooling tower using very high levels of a 'safe' bacteria in place of the dangerous Legionella bacteria. A spectacular million-fold reduction in organisms was achieved within 15 minutes! Continuing trials in 1990/91 also gave good long-term results from the weekly monitoring conducted by AEA Environment and Energy's Clinical Pathology Laboratory, and no Legionella bacteria were found.

Legionnaires' Disease, a form of pneumonia, affects very young people, those over 40 (mainly males) and anyone with respiratory problems. The Legionella bacteria can be transmitted through the air by fine aerosols (water droplets), especially those emanating from cooling towers and air-conditioning systems.

The bacteria are particularly nourished in stagnant systems, and multiply rapidly at around 35-39°C. The danger to the public comes from high concentrations of airborne bacteria emanating from systems started up after being dormant for as little as 10 hours or released during operation where the bacteria have proliferated into large colonies.

The disease can be combated by using chemical biocides, including chlorine, which are eventually discharged into sewers, streams and rivers or released into the atmosphere. The Tarn Pure method eliminates the problem at source, with no chemical by-products and is not likely to cause complications in the environment.

Fellowship congratulations

Professors F.E. Close and J.L. Finney, who both work at Rutherford Appleton Lab; Dr P.T. Greenland who works for InTec at Harwell; Dr K.H. Winters who works for D&R at Harwell and Dr A.J.T. Holmes who works for InTec at Culham have all been elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Physics in 1991 by Council.

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Japanese visitors from Tokyo Electric



L to R; Tony Hardacre, Ryo Ikegame, Ichiro Takekuro and Derek Pooley

Ryo Ikegame, the Vice President of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the world's largest private electricity utility, visited Harwell and Culham on Wednesday 17 July accompanied by Ichiro Takekuro, Deputy General Manager of TEPCO's London Office.

The visit was hosted by Derek Pooley, Managing Director of the Nuclear Business Group and Tony Hardacre, AEA's East Asia Marketing Manager.

At Harwell, which Ryo Ikegame first visited as a student at the Reactor School in the 1950s, the visitors were given briefings on Reactor Services by Juan Matthews and Trefor Williams; on D&R by Ron Webster and on Fuel Services by

John Wilkins, and included a visit to facilities in Building 220.

After lunch at Harwell they moved across to Culham for a presentation on AEA Fusion by Tom Todd, and briefed on the progress of the European Fusion programme by Alan Gibson, Associate Director of JET and given tour of JET by John Maple.

TEPCO supplies power to an area of 39,000 km² including the region surrounding and including greater metropolitan Tokyo. The company supplies around 205 billion kWh to over 22 million customers each year, 25% of their generating capacity is nuclear, comprising 11 BWR's generating 9 GW.

Culham's 28th Summer School



Summer School Directors Richard Dendy (extreme left) and Barry Alper (extreme right) pictured with School administrator Julie Bright (standing centre) and the 1991 students

The Culham Summer School in Plasma Physics this July was attended by 66 students from 17 different countries. Students had requested increased coverage of the basic principles of plasma physics, and of naturally occurring plasmas, which reduced the coverage of some of the more specialised fusion applications on the course. But not everything was

scientific—students, lecturers and administrators began the session with a sherry party in the Culham restaurant coffee lounge. Spouses and children were invited to join an evening boat trip on the Thames mid-week, with Wantage Brass Band entertaining, and the School ended with this year's dinner party in St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

GENERAL
NEWS

The last prefab



Retired staff who began the prefab closure programme joined Peter Dawson, assistant Site Director (centre front), and colleagues from the Housing department, Building section, Welfare, Personnel, Estates, Staff side and Trade Unions and members of the Vale of the White Horse Council, for a final photo-call with the last prefab.

Harwell's prefab closure programme, begun in 1986, has reached its final stage. The last of the tenants has been rehoused and demolition of the single remaining building is planned for the coming week. The Harwell prefabricated aluminium bungalows were designed to last 10 years; the Aldfield complex and most of the Chilton site were demolished in April this year—and so had lasted over 40 years!

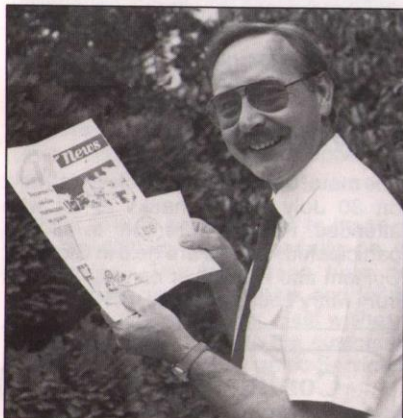
The homes were built in 1947/48 for ever increasing numbers of families moving to the new Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Creating the laboratory's own housing estates was the solution to the post-war demand for homes for new workers. By 1949 the 300 units adjacent to the site, as well as hostels, still couldn't meet the need for workers homes, and estates were built locally in Abingdon,

Wantage, Didcot and Wallingford. In 1964 a small estate was built in Clifton Hampden specifically for Culham Laboratory. In all, over 1,000 homes were provided. A large number of the houses on off-site estates has been sold to tenants in recent years.

'The prefabs', says Housing Manager Elaine Hyde, 'which were very modern and well-equipped when they were built just after the war, have been home to many hundreds of families. Along with the adjacent houses, they provided not only accommodation but a social centre for the laboratory. Their condition when they were dismantled confirmed that they really had reached the end of their lives.'

In the Rural Areas Local Plan, the Chilton prefab estate is an allocated housing site. So Harwell are in discussion with District Council officials about the way in which it should be developed.

Book Token winners



As an incentive to complete the questionnaire in our C/H News reader survey in issue 12, 26 June, (the results were published in issue 15), we offered two £5 Book Tokens. Pictured above with their copies of C/H News, their tokens and their smiles are winners Roy Taylor from E&E, Harwell (left) and Paul Haynes from Fusion, Culham (right). Roy and Paul were 'drawn out of the hat' from the 252 questionnaires you completed.

MaTSU transfer

The Marine Technology Support Unit (MaTSU), currently a department of AEA's Environment and Energy (E&E)'s Energy Technology Division will transfer to AEA Safety and Reliability (S&R) later this year, the expected date is 1 October 1991.

MaTSU has a long and distinguished record of providing project management and technical services to the Department of Energy in off-shore oil and gas research and development.

It has been decided that joining S&R will bring considerable advantages to both MaTSU and S&R and will provide the best way to meet the needs of MaTSU's present and prospective customers.

'We wish MaTSU well in the new structure,' said John Rae, E&E's Chief Executive, 'the transfer does not, of course, preclude continuing links with E&E and pursuing joint opportunities with our complementary skills and knowledge.'

'PhoneDisc' for Business Use Only

When BT started to charge for their Directory Enquiry Service the Authority purchased 'PhoneDisc' which is situated in the Telex Office in B77 at Harwell. The Directory Enquiry numbers 192 and 9-192 at Harwell are automatically diverted correctly and the service is available to all locations by dialling H 2118. It is run by the Telecommunications Section in order to save the Authority in excess of £6,000 a year at Culham/Harwell alone. The disc is updated quarterly and, despite some teething troubles, appears to be very successful. However, a lot of time is being wasted searching for numbers for **personal** use i.e. hairdressers, shoe shops, garages etc. This is a reminder that the service is for **business use only**. If you do not wish to use your own 'phone then please remember:
DIRECTORY ENQUIRY CALLS ARE FREE FROM PAYPHONES.
Telecommunications Help desk, B77, Harwell, Ext. H 2317.

First-Aid certificate course

The next 4 day course for the Health and Safety Executive certificate in First-Aid will be held at Harwell between Monday 16 and Thursday 19 September.

This course is open to all employees at Culham and Harwell and local businesses.

Under the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations, holders of this certificate qualify as 'suitable persons' under the terms of the regulations. Further details from Occupational Health Services, B.364, Harwell, tel. H 4400.



Out & About

Friends of 'Thomas The Tank'

Sun/Mon 25-26 Aug: The Fat Controller will be bringing a few friends of Thomas The Tank to 'The Cholsey & Wallingford Railway' on Hithercroft Estate, Wallingford (next to Habitat). Among them will be 'Bertie' the bus, 'Trevor' the tractor, 'Percy' the engine and 'Diesel'. Also visiting will be a small fair, burger/banger stall and bar. Starting at 12 noon until 5pm, £2 adults, £1.25 children (incl. 25p voucher). Details Dave Goodenough, H 4807.

The Abingdon Silver Group

Wed 25 Sept: The Group starts again for the Autumn session at Fitzharrys School at 7pm and welcomes current, new and lapsed members for at least 20 weeks of practical silversmithing. Details John Huddleston, H 3578.

Holiday Club - The Trailblazers Gang

27-30 Aug: For ages 5 to 11 years. Every morning at East Hanney Mission, between 10am and 12 noon. There will be competitions, quizzes, singing, stories, crafts, refreshments. Also a Treasure Hunt around Hanney for all the family, on **Thurs 29 August** ending with a barbecue at a secret location. A Trailblazers Gang Family Service incl. prizes for the gang at 10am, **Sun. 1 Sept.** Details Iain Gray, H 2091, Ab.

Wantage Music & Drama Workshop

Takes place each Saturday morning in term time, in the Adult Education Centre, attached to King Alfred's East, Springfield Road, between 9.30 am — 12 noon. Students, whose ages range from 7 to 70, can learn to improve on a whole host of musical instruments. Drama groups are offered to juniors under 10, and seniors over 10. Alternatively, if you choose to sing, a basic understanding of music can be given. The new term and enrolment, starts 14 **Sept.** Details, Tel. Ken Rawlings, H 3563. New teachers are also needed to broaden the scope of workshop. Details tel. Mary Harrison, Ab.

The MENCAP Horseless Horse Trials

Sun 29 September: The above sponsored event is for all the family to take part in. The course consists of a four mile Fun Run over more than 20 Horse Trial fences, 200 teams of five people - many in fancy dress - will scramble over obstacles, in aid of this charity which contributes to vital work needed for mentally handicapped children and adults. Venue: Blenheim Palace Horse trials, Woodstock, Nr. Oxford.

For future local events taking place, please send details to Sylvia Brown, Harwell, B.329, Rm G118.

Wildlife notes

by Tim Dixon

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me with wildlife sightings. By far the most exciting at Harwell this month was a sighting by the police. On one of their nocturnal patrols in the Meashill area, they came upon a **badger** on one of its nocturnal patrols! It was seen eating a rabbit that it had caught, and on being disturbed it picked up its catch and just ambled off.

Another predator of rabbits which has been seen about is a **stoat**. This has been seen several times in the Fermi Gate and B.488 area. Also in this area a pair of **little owls** have been frequently seen in the early mornings perching on the fence alongside Dido Road. **Spotted flycatchers** are nesting at the rear of B.156 on the judo hut, and are on to their second brood. Also seen from B.156 was a **muntjac deer** out and about in the middle of the afternoon! Young **lapwing** chicks are still about between Meashill and main site. One had a lucky escape when it fell into a road-side drain, two passing good samaritans from NDT



stopped and plucked the floundering youngster from the watery depths and released it to join its distraught mum! Another story with a happy ending was Dr Ruth Harper's **bat**. This made a full recovery in the hands of Dave Endacott, from the Oxfordshire Bat Group, and was released back near B.154. A **hummingbird hawk moth** has been seen outside photographic, these are noticeable moths because they look and behave in a similar way to real hummingbirds. Visible at many places around site are 'fairy rings'. These are darker areas of grass produced by **mushrooms** as their mycelium spread outwards and leave soil enriched by their waste. Other flora spotted are **pyramidal orchids** on the Rutherford site.

Exciting news at Culham is that the pair of resident **muntjac deer** in the nature reserve appear to have bred and have a single faun! Butterflies are out in abundance at the moment, 14 different species were counted on the reserve in one lunch hour! Notable ones to be seen are **brown argus**, **holly blue** and **brimstone**. Three species of dragonfly are to be seen about, including the large **brown hawker**. A pair of **green wood peckers** have been seen in the reserve wood. Please contact Tim Dixon, B.465, ext. H 5566 with your sightings of wildlife

AEA Police dog display



PC Hazel Frank putting her police dog 'Wookiee' through his paces

On behalf of the Police dog handlers, I wish to express my thanks to all the people who attended our display on Wednesday 17 July. After the event twentyfour Police Dog tie pins were sold at £1 each and this money, together with a small donation, will be forwarded to the Guide Dogs for the Blind. We are awaiting a further supply of the tie pins which will be on sale through PS Geoff Walker at the Main Gate Police Station.

Many people who missed our display have asked whether we will be holding any more events. The answer is yes, the dog display team will be in action again on **Thursday 26 September 1991**, by B.328 gate at 1230 hrs

and, as before, proceeds from the sale of tie pins together with any donations will be forwarded to the Guide Dogs for the Blind. Come along and give your support. Alan Bennett
Chief Inspector

Stores Users Information

Work updating AEA/BNFL catalogues for Stores Coded items is in progress but will take some time to complete. In the interim, local **stock lists**, detailing stock available on a specific date, will be prepared and updated monthly. Stock lists for Sections 10, 11, 12, 38, 40 and 48 are available from Culham and Harwell Stores. Further issues will follow, eventually all Sections will be covered.

Various items of **office furniture for sale** are available for Site use at a 25% discount. Lists of items on offer can be obtained from Stores, B. 404 or Gina Goddard, ext. H 6692, Purchasing B.152.

The **metal users** survey meeting was held on 30 July. Many thanks to all who attended. Results were sent to all who participated. Copies are held in Stores at Culham and Harwell or can be obtained from Mary Lucas, Harwell, B.152.

Confidential waste burning service

Confidential waste can be burnt at Culham Laboratory at a charge of £5 per bag. Please contact Culham ext. C 3291 for further information.



D&R Devils take the prize

First prize for the fancy dress went to the team from AEA D&R taking part in the recent Uranium Factor Charity Challenge. 'The award is to be made annually' said the organiser of the assault course challenge, Richard Johnson of Culham—

Pictured receiving the trophy from Dr Philip Tasker, Manager of the Radwaste Disposal Division, are Carol Smallbone and David Adams, from D&R, Harwell.

'If a team wins it three years in succession we may consider letting them keep it!' Katie Burfitt; Mark Ord; Carol Smallbone and David Adams were the D&R Devils, complete with slinky all-black outfits and carefully crafted red tails and horns.

Vehicle maintenance

Have you acquired a vehicle or trailer and not informed Transport? If Transport are aware of the location of all vehicles and trailers at Culham/Harwell, with a contact name, appropriate servicing can be maintained. If you have a vehicle, or trailer, which you have recently acquired, or has been transferred, or which you think Transport may be unaware of, or, indeed, if you have any doubts at all about vehicle maintenance, please contact Transport Administration on ext. H 4589.

Acknowledgements

Kandola, Gurmit Singh (George). The family of George Kandola would like to thank all his friends and colleagues at Amersham International for their messages of sympathy and support after his sudden death.

Chris Arnold says cheerio to those he was unable to see personally on his retirement. Thanks for the help and comradeship over the years and for the marvellous farewell gifts. Best wishes to all for the future and (to the customers) 'keep using the Photographic Service!'

Bob Swan wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the many kind messages of sympathy and flowers, following the recent sad death of his wife. Thank you also for the generous donation which has been forwarded to the Dorothy House Hospice, Bath.

Harwell Laboratories Horticultural Society 49th Annual Show 11, 12 and 13 September 1991 In the Function Room The Restaurant Harwell Laboratory

Schedules and entry forms are still available for anyone wishing to exhibit, from Sue Burnay, B.401.8 and John McCann, B.347.3.

Admission times (please remember your site pass).

Date	On-site door open	Off-site door open
Tues 10		1800-2100 staging
Wed 11	0800-1000 1200-1700	0900-1000 staging 1200-1400 viewing 1800-2000 viewing
Thurs 12	1200-1400	1200-1400 viewing 1300 prize-giving
Fri 13	1145 on	1145-1345 viewing - until 1245 raffle 1230 auction approx 1245

Diary

September

9-10

Have you got I.T. ?

Yes, then we need your knowledge, experience and support to help Purchasing achieve the AEA's aim to move to the Site Facilities management concept for I.T. maintenance at the Culham/Harwell site.

Find out more and help us secure the best deal by coming to:

Culham Conference room G8, B E6 all day on 9 September

Harwell Restaurant Coffee lounge all day on 10 September

or tel. Sue Gorham on H3238 or Sarah Stephen on H 6678

8-10

European Association for Composites Materials and British Composites Society ECCM Composites—testing and standardisation
Mariott Hotel, Amsterdam
Further details from EACM, 2 Place de la Bourse, 33076 Bordeaux Cedex - France

10-12

IAEA Technical Committee Meeting
Avoidance and Control of TOKAMAK Disruptions
John Adams lecture theatre, Culham Laboratory
Further details from Tom Todd, AEA Fusion, E5, Culham. Tel. C 3534

10-12

University of Bradford, Silver Jubilee International Conference
The Changing Face of Europe—Disasters, Pollution and the Environment
Centre for Continuing Education, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire
Tel. 0274 733466

9-13

AEA Reactor Services and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency
3rd International Conference on Nuclear Criticality Safety
Venue: Christ Church College Oxford
Further details from Conference Secretary, John Bentley, AEA Technology, Winfrith

16-19

Solidification Processing of Advanced Materials
Technology short course
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH

17-18

IBC Legal Studies and Services Ltd
Focus on Environmental Law—EEC policy; air, noise and water pollution control; managing waste; planning and liabilities.
Venue: Cafe Royal, London W1
Chairman: Owen Lomas, University of Warwick
Further details from Alison Jones, tel 071 236 4080

Safety Facts

Radiological Incidents

29 July—8 August 1991

There were no radiological incidents that were designated at category 2n or above during this period.

Accidents in July 1991

Lost time accidents	Harwell	Culham
No. in July	1	1
Total No. in '91	7	4
No. reported to HSE in July	1	0
Total reported to HSE in '91	6	3
Total days lost in '91	47	123
Minor accidents (no time lost)		
No. in July	20	8
Total No. in '91	201	45

Film Badge Notice

4 Weekly films: Period 10M (colour stripe PURPLE). Week commencing Monday 9 September 1991.

Please change your film(s) promptly and return your old ones for processing.

Site Emergency Exercise

Preliminary arrangements are being made for a site emergency exercise which is to be held at **Harwell on Wednesday 13 November 1991**. The exercise will run for approximately 2 to 3 hours during which time the site emergency klaxons will be sounded, the gates will be closed and movement on site will be restricted.

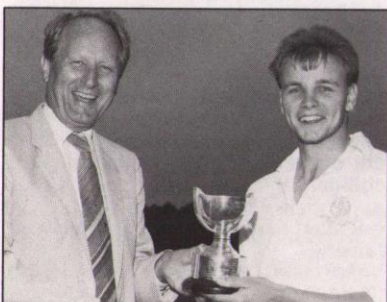
All staff are requested to avoid this date when arranging commitments with external representatives, as visitors cannot be guaranteed entry to the site during the exercise.

More details regarding the exercise will follow from the site emergency administration officer, B 364.6.

Harwell Volleyball Club

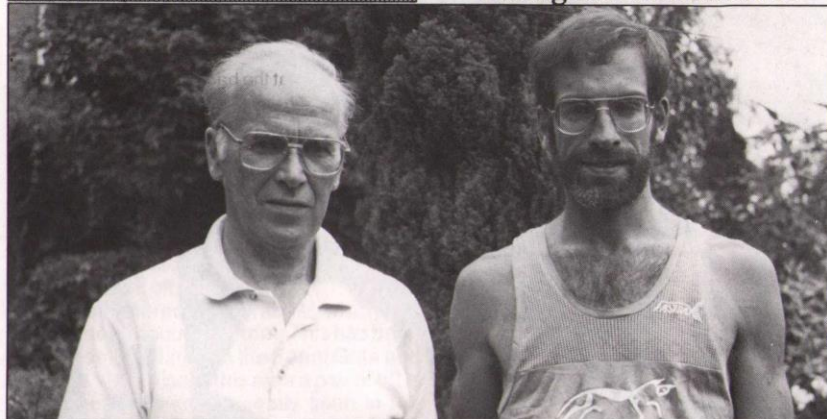
starts its new season with a practice on Thursday 5 September. Practices are held every Thursday from 5pm to 7pm, in the Air Hall just outside Harwell North Gate. New players and beginners especially welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 6 September at 12.30pm, in committee room 2 of the Recreational and Social Club, B.161. For details tel. the secretary, Michael Lain, H 4552.



Sport & Recreation

Culham Sponsorship for Abingdon Ambulance



Stan Green (left) who raised Culham sponsorship for his son Derek's marathon

Oxfordshire Ambulance Service League of Friends want to say a sincere thank you to everyone at Culham who sponsored Derek Green in this year's London Marathon. Out of the 25,000 who finished, Derek came 179th in just 2 hours and 24 minutes, of which, considering the top international competition, Derek feels rightly proud.

Derek has to date raised £800 for the Oxford Ambulance Service. £150 of that was donated by Culham staff and contributed to the purchase of a PneuPac

Resuscitator for the Abingdon Front-line Ambulance.

Stan Green, who is Derek's dad, works on Tokamak at Culham, and persuaded his colleagues to sponsor Derek's 3rd London Marathon. Without the incentive of the sponsorship, Derek is sure he would not have gained such a good place in the finish. 'Running has been an exciting and rewarding experience in my life,' said Derek who is an electrical engineer working on medical equipment at the John Radcliffe hospital, and has been running since 1982.

Cricket Championship



Cost Account's Martin Ridley, batting to NRPB's Andy Mayall, bowling.

On a typical summer evening—cold, damp and threatening rain—NRPB, reaching their first final, won the toss and put the mighty Cost Accounts team in to bat.

The reigning champions set off at a pace, scoring 16 off the first four overs. Accounts were pushing hard, even to the point of sliding in for singles (thereby proving that Teflon is not an ideal material for cricket shoes), but little did NRPB realise just how hard the champions would push them.

The scoring rate gradually increased, and after their 18 allotted overs Cost

Accounts had moved on to a total of 158-3, (Chris Butcher 63 not out, Martin Ridley 41, and Paul Butcher 34). The only batsman not to trouble the scorer was poor Deane Rockall, run out before facing a ball! NRPB would need to score at nearly nine an over to win, but were they down-hearted? Well.....they made a purposeful start in reply, Andy Silver and Alan Edwards taking every available run. Edwards was first to go, having scored 13, quickly followed by Silver for 16. NRPB's captain, Rik Tanner, led from the front and took the attack to the bowlers, but when he was run out on 25, resistance crumbled and the challengers finished at 97-8, Cost Accounts winning by 51 runs.

Thanks to all who competed in this year's tournament, to Dave Morgan and Ray Woodage for umpiring the final, Penny Oliver for scoring, and Steve Oliver for organising another successful competition.

Left: After an enjoyable evening, Dr Peter Iredale presented Simon Row, the victorious captain, with the Evening League Trophy. Mark Harraway of Cost Accounts (who took 2-27 in the final) won the award for the competition's best bowler, and Alec Inns (220 Pensioners) was again awarded the Best Batsman trophy.

Go for Gold

Have you got the know-how to lead a party of 24 girls aged 17-19 on an eight-day expedition? Someone who has just returned with the know-how is Ian Rodham of AEA Fusion, Culham, an Assistant Leader for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Oxfordshire.

The girls, from an Oxford School, were completing their Gold Award expedition on the Isle of Arran, Scotland, after a variety of stamina building challenges from an afternoons' orienteering on Shotover Hill, to six-days' camping and walking on Dartmoor.

Ian said 'I managed to stagger through the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards at school and while I was at University in Leeds'. He well remembers, with a rueful grin, completing his final Gold expedition in the most appalling incessant rain on the Isle of Mull, Scotland, but this did not put him off — he now enjoys helping lead the scheme and says it is 'Something I will probably do until I drop.' Ian's most vivid memory of his efforts in gaining the whole award was when he disappeared up to his waist in a Yorkshire bog! His second most memorable moment was receiving the award from Billy Connolly and Pamela Stephenson accompanying the Duke of Edinburgh at the award ceremony at St. James' Palace.

Ian has been an assistant expedition leader for four years. Building up his hill-walking experience by having navigated his way over most of the mountainous areas in the UK, back-packing in the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park in the USA and Italian Alps and ice-climbing in Norway; he is training for his mountain leader qualification in Wales later this year.

So, what are the general requirements for leading groups of back-packing teenagers? 'Patience and tolerance, common sense, lots of experience in hill-walking and having confidence in your own ability to carry out the tasks necessary' said Ian. 'Most of all, you must enjoy being a leader'. Leadership is voluntary but has its rewards, one of which was in the form of a huge fresh salmon — a gift to his party from some fishermen on a remote sea loch in Scotland. 'Probably the most satisfying part is watching young people through the various stages to the final Gold expedition and seeing them mature and become far more responsible, self aware and independent', he said. However, he still regularly reminds one group, who later turned up quite safe and well, of the time he acquired bleeding and blistered ankles from trekking around for miles looking for them when they hadn't turned up at a pre-arranged rendezvous! 'You have to know when to help

participants and when to let them act on their own initiative', he added.

Training includes instruction on how to be independent in the mountains, for example, navigating with a map and compass, camping, eating the right high-energy rations, first aid and cooking. One lad did not need any help with his training in the commercial sense — on an extremely hot, sunny day, he had carried oranges in his rucksack to the top of Buckden Pike in the Yorkshire Dales and sold the lot at the top for £2 each! Well why not? He carried them up there!

Involvement with the scheme does not have to cease on receipt of the Gold Award, many participants wish to put back in what they have got out of the scheme. Anyone with a particular skill can supervise and help out but one of the more socially oriented activities is the network of Gold Award Holders Groups. As Secretary to the Oxfordshire Gold Award Holders Association, otherwise known as Oxfordshire Old Golds (who are actually all quite young), Ian gets involved in all sorts of weird and wonderful events from a social gathering in Edinburgh to competing in the Golds Challenge, in Somerset — building rafts which they then had to race across mud filled lagoons! They came fifth (out of six!). The Old Golds also help out with expedition training in the county. Ian would be pleased to hear from anyone with a Gold Award or a specific skill who is interested in becoming involved in the scheme. Tel. Culham: 4135.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Weather Poem:-

It rained and rained and rained and rained,

*The average was well maintained,
And when our fields were simply bogs,*

*It started raining cats and dogs.
After a drought of half an hour,
There came a most refreshing shower,*

*And then the queerest thing of all,
A gentle rain began to fall.*

*Next day 'twas pretty fairly dry,
Save for a deluge from the sky,*

*This wetted us to the skin,
But after that the rain set in.*

*We wondered what next we'd get,
As sure as fate, we got more wet.*

*But soon we'll have a change again,
And we shall have A DROP OF*

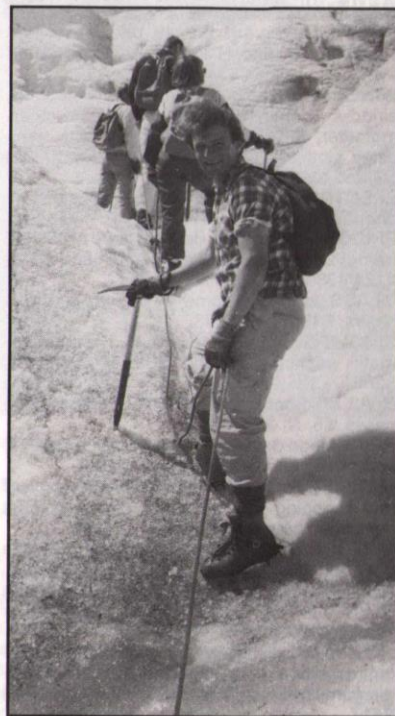
RAIN!

About the Scheme

From back-packing to stamp collecting there are over 300 activities which can be chosen as part of the three awards. The Scheme, started in 1956, is open to all young people between 14 and 25, the latest date for entry being the 23rd birthday. It provides opportunities for personal achievement, community and social involvement, adventure and a widening of leisure interests. The three Awards — Bronze for over 14s, Silver for over 15s and Gold for over 16s each contain four



Spare Time?



Ian roped up on the Nigardsbreen Glacier, Norway, in June this year.

sections to each Award — a skill or interest (anything from bell ringing to tinkering with cars); physical achievement in almost any sport or physical activity; service (which can be either practical service in the community or can involve being taught in a particular service such as the police or fire service); and the expedition, for which the Award is probably best known. The time commitment and level of proficiency expected increases as the participant passes from bronze, through silver to gold level at which a residential course of some sort must be completed such as outward bound, sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, etc. New activities are constantly added to the list of those considered acceptable under the awards — often the limitation comes only when the participant tries to find someone suitably qualified or interested enough to assess them. The Award always welcomes people willing to offer to teach or assess participants in carrying out a particular activity.

GMCG

Alps Adventure

If you are currently completing your Gold Award, or wishing to start soon, the West Berks Industrial Project of the Award Scheme is looking for participants in a venture to the Swiss/Italian Alps in August 1992. One more leader is sought. He/she must be the holder of a Mountaineering Instructors Certificate, have a unique sense of humour and understand that improvement is a greater height to reach, than perfection by some. Contact: Mark Leatham, Wantage 2837.

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