

Bulletin

of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

27 April 1987 No.5

Stan Orme visits RAL wind-energy site



Labour Spokesman for Energy, Mr Stan Orme, MP was given an intensive briefing on all aspects of SERC's wind-energy programme when he visited the Wind-Site at RAL recently.

Mr Orme's party (including Dr Steve Ladyman, prospective Labour candidate for Wantage) were accompanied on the tour by RAL's acting Director Dr Paul Williams and the head of the Energy Research Group Dr Norman Lipman. Representatives from several universities and industrial companies participating in wind-energy projects were also on site.

In a tightly scheduled two hour programme Mr Orme was introduced to the work being covered in some 11 projects involving groups from seven universities and their industrial partners.

Stan Orme (left) in conversation with Peter Musgrove (Reading University), Norman Lipman and Paul Williams.

Jim Halliday and Paul Gardner presented their findings on the feasibility of integrating wind-generated electricity into the national grid system. Indications were that wind-energy could produce 20% of the annual load.

Wind-generated electricity was already being contemplated for island systems such as Shetland where a 750 Kw machine is due to go into service later this year. Wind-deisel systems for use in remote areas are also well advanced and small battery-charging wind machines are under study.

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The visitors were also shown work in progress on studies of energy storage using flywheels and a project studying non-steady aerodynamics of vertical wind turbines.

After the tour Mr Orme said that he was impressed with the work being done and with the young researchers involved.

Please let us know

In order to reduce distribution costs, the *Bulletin's* mailing list is to be reviewed. Would external readers please let the Editor know if they wish their names to remain on the list.

French VIPs tour RAL



87RC 1935

On Monday and Tuesday March 9 and 10 the Laboratory was the chosen venue for a meeting between senior members of SERC and France's CNRS. The SERC team was lead by the Chairman, Professor E W J Mitchell and the French team was lead by the Director General of CNRS Monsieur Feneuille.

The meeting was one in a series of exchanges between the two organisations to discuss possible

areas of collaboration in scientific and engineering R&D. As the smiling faces on the photograph show the meeting was held in a very friendly atmosphere and certainly strengthened links between the two organisations.

On the morning of the 10 March RAL Division Heads took the members of the meeting to see examples of the Laboratory's programme. Everybody visited ISIS and the Central Laser

Facility and individual groups also visited an exhibit of Space Technology, the DELPHI solenoid and microelectronics. Following the visits the Laboratory was congratulated on the high standard of the programme and the enthusiasm of the people presenting their work. We were also thanked from all sides for the smooth organisation of the visit and the hospitality offered to the meeting.

Sales to Employees

Sales of scrap materials to RAL employees will take place from 1200-1230 hrs in the R24 scrap compound on 8 and 22 May.

Film Badge Notice

It is period 5 colour strip BLUE. Please return all old film badges and be sure you are wearing the current ones.

NEXT FILM ISSUE
Monday 18 May.

Missing

The following item is the subject of a loss report. Please contact P Bailey Ext: 6352 if you can help to trace it.

Fluke digital multimeter No. R038403.

Jean Wood asks that the person who borrowed her pocket Oxford Dictionary return it, please.

Suggestions Award winners

George McGee, Terry Adams and Alan Ross had a bright idea a few months ago. It saved them hours of tedium, the Lab a great deal of time and money, and produced for each of them a nice little bonus.

On Wednesday 11 March they were given cheques for £300 each by acting Director Dr Paul Williams. "RAL is a centre of excellence because we have excellent people working here," he said. "They get caught up in the excitement of an R & D environment and put far more into their work than would normally be expected. George, Terry and Alan have done this and I'm pleased that the Awards Scheme recognises their accomplishment."

The idea? A more efficient way of side wiring stacks of Aleph detector petals - a total of 16965 soldered joints on each side of every stack. Originally soldered singly these joints are now made in batches of 13, saving months of monotony and a deal of money. The Lab is much indebted to the three.



The happy trio with a satisfied customer.

From left to right, Alan Ross, Paul Williams, George McGee and Terry Adams.

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The next lecture in this series will take place in the R22 Lecture Theatre at 3.15 pm on Thursday 7 May.

FOOD SURPLUSES & STARVATION

by
Prof. C R W Spedding
University of Reading

The contrast between too much food produced in one part of the world and massive hunger in another strikes many people as wrong to the point of obscenity. Yet starvation is really a consequence of poverty rather than overall food shortage and could be cured by a redistribution of wealth - probably more efficiently than by a redistribution of food.

The long-term solutions must be based on hungry people being able either to produce their own food or to find employment that will allow them to buy what they need.

Developed countries should direct their aid to strengthening small-scale agriculture and helping small farmers to raise their levels of productivity. Appropriate research and development are needed and developed countries' research capacities could be oriented to the task of helping developing countries to raise agricultural productivity and to create their own R&D capability.

Crib League

The lunchtime league programme for 1986/87 has just been completed, 8 teams took part each playing 8 home and 8 away games.

CHAMPIONS -TWENTYNINERS-with 26 points
RUNNERS UP-MISFITS -with 25 points

TWENTYNINERS team: Martin Rudman (captain)
Mark Bond
Ronnie Brumfitt
Tony Kershaw
Colin McKeowan

MISFITS team: Jack Akhurst (captain)
Barry Childs
Vernon Jones
Tudor Morgan

Congratulations to these and all those taking part.

It was another hard-fought season with only 5 points separating the first 6 teams.

The league Knock-out is now under way and the winners will be decided by early May.

Arts & Crafts exhibition

13-15 October 1987.

Entry forms are now available for those who would like to exhibit, but who have not already been sent one.

Please contact Fran Childs, R1, Ext: 6499

Crib Evening

The annual gathering for an evening of Singles and Doubles competitions will be held on Friday 15 May in the Rec Soc building R58.

All are invited to join in, not just league players.

RAL staff may each bring one guest.

Play begins at 7pm sharp.

The bar will be open and light snacks available.

Entry fee £1 per head.

Entries please as soon as possible to Tony Lubbock, Room 2.66 R1 (or through team captains).

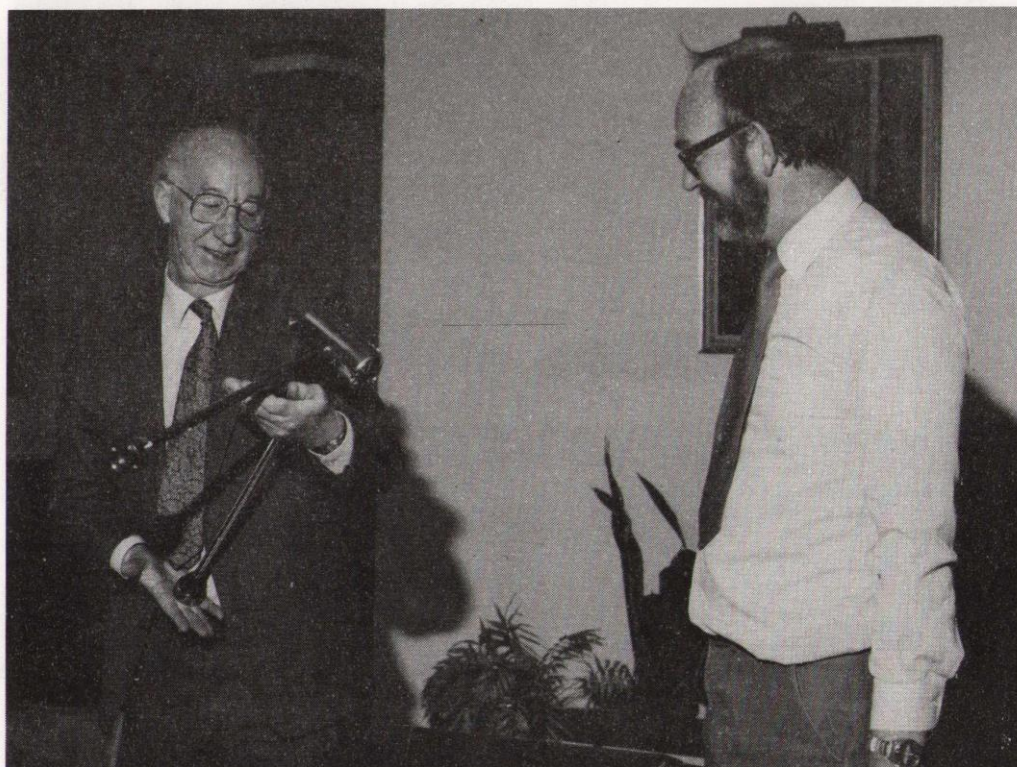
Christian Fellowship

The Fellowship meets in the R2 conference room at 12.30 pm every Thursday. Visitors are always welcome.

May 7 Prayer Meeting - Katrina J
14 Bible Study - Ray Powell
21 Christian Approach- Rev W Sto
to Buddhism
28 Open Fellowship

For more information, please ring Margaret Summers Ext: 5617.

Swan song



Just what I've always wanted. John (left) admires the gift with Paul.

RAL's massed choirs sang their farewells to John Dickson on his retirement day, Thursday 19 March.

With great courage he remained for the rest of the ceremony, where a remark by presenter Paul Williams explained his outstanding bravery. "John had always been at the sharp-end, in his work at the Lab", said Paul.

"John joined the Laboratory from Harwell on 1 April 1959, (something he's still wondering about). He made many important contributions to the

PLA, before transferring his expertise to Nimrod where he became group leader of the Physics Development Group. In the mid 60s he became involved with CERN accelerators, and in 1969 helped with high field cavities at Fermi.

John's first diversification came in 1975 when in response to the changing programme of the Lab he became Head of Health and Safety Group until in 1981 he leapt once more into a completely new field, Admin Computing.

Today John comes to the end of a long and distinguished career," said Paul

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as he prepared to present gifts from appreciative colleagues. "We thank him, and offer our good wishes for the future."

Thanking everyone for the gifts of lawn-raker, hot-air paint stripper, Ray Roberts card, and shiny bright drift-tube, John said how much he had enjoyed the privilege of working with so many interesting people. "Thank you all for your company through all these years, and thank you for coming" he said.

Bulletin

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