

Bulletin

of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

5 Oct 1987 No.12

ROY GIBSON SPEAKS OPTIMISM AT RAL FAREWELL

Britain's role in Space is still very much alive, was the message to RAL space scientists by Director General of the British National Space Centre, Roy Gibson on his last official visit to the Laboratory on Wednesday 23 September.

The SERC's space programme is solid and contains a full menu of exciting and demanding projects. British industry is backing the future research programme for RADSAT and HOTOL. A new initiative, the founding of Space Ventures Ltd by the Space industry, confirms the private sectors faith in Britain's future as a space nation.

Even though BNSC's 'Plan for Space' is on 'hold' until the ESA Council of Ministers meeting in November, the Centre's voice is heard in the world of International Space, its advice sought and its opinions heeded. It may be that BNSC's plans to participate as big project builders will be shelved. It may have to settle for providing experiments, guidance systems, instrumentation, data systems and expertise, but this work is an essential part of the total programme.

"Never-the-less, there is a growing recognition of the importance of science to the country's technological expansion," said Dr Gibson. "The future is by no means drab."

For the present BNSC arrangements will be kept intact at least until the end of the year. I thank you all for your efforts. It has been a personal pleasure to work with you all and I'm sure this will not be the last time I see you."

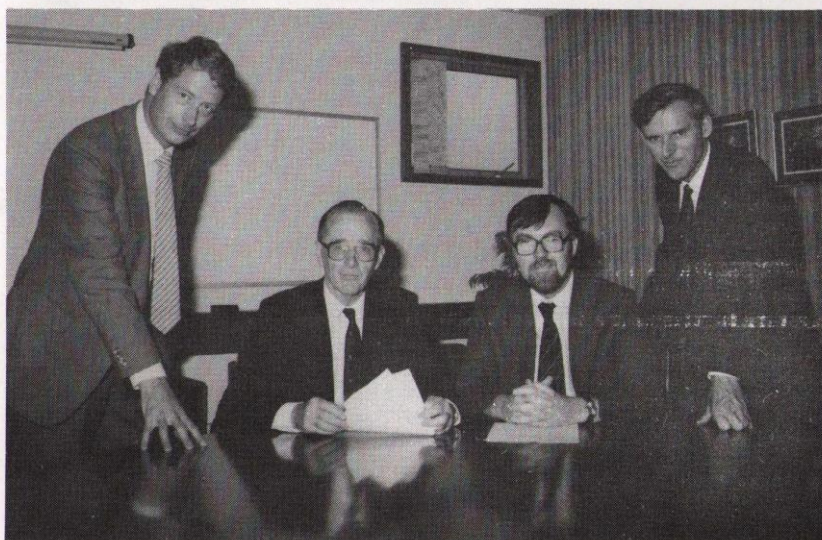
Thanking Roy for his presence, John Harries (Associate Director, Space Science Department, RAL) expressed the sadness that RAL's space community felt at Roy's departure and produced a surprise item, a plaque beautifully made by the workshops using their new CAD/CAM system. This he presented to Roy "with best wishes from all of us," and the assurance "You will always be welcome at RAL".

The next issue of the "Bulletin" will review the current space programme at RAL and our plans for the future.



Roy Gibson receives a surprise gift from John Harries.

87RC 4970.



A few final points being discussed by (from l to r) Mike Cruise (Head, Astrophysics & Geophysics Division), Roy Gibson, John Harries and Eric Dunford (Deputy Head, BNSC Division).

87RC 4967.

ext-6323 as an electrical specialist and Norman Beaton (ext-6249) as the advisor on mechanical engineering.

Safety Matters

RAL's safety record is very good and compares favourably with those of similar research establishments at home and abroad. Eric Hartley, the Laboratory's Safety Officer, and all the members of the Health and Safety Group which he leads are determined to keep it that way. Happily the Laboratory in general also cares about safety and the constant reviewing and updating of safety procedures is accepted and implemented quickly and without friction.

The work of the Group falls into two main areas, General Safety and Radiation Protection. There are two other professional safety officers covering all aspects of general safety, Alan Hodges (ext. 6249) as the advisor on mechanical engineering.

Alan's duties include ensuring that the Laboratory complies with all applicable electrical safety standards. He also has responsibility for our fire precautions in close liaison with the AERE Chief Fire Officer and the Health and Safety Executive's Fire Inspectors. Most new entrants to the Laboratory meet him on the safety induction course and those unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident or a dangerous incident meet him in his accident investigation role.

Norman looks after similar aspects of the mechanical work at the Laboratory. He is responsible for organising the statutory inspections of lifting equipment and the testing of pressure vessels in close liaison with inspectors from a leading Engineering Insurance Company.

Both support Eric and in turn also support and are supported by the Safety Policy Committee and the Safety Committees in an endeavour to obtain uniform standards throughout the site.

Backing them and all the members of the Group is Margaret North (ext.5611) to whom general enquiries are directed and who will either answer or direct you to the member of the Group who can help.

The Laboratory's Radiation Protection Adviser - an appointment accepted by the Health and Safety Executive - is Bob Hack (ext.5253). He and his staff advise on all aspects of Radiation Protection; he is also an expert on Occupational Hygiene - the prevention and control of dust, fumes, noise etc.

Some of the work at the Laboratory, as at many similar research establishments, is involved with the use of ionising radiations and there is a consequent personnel exposure to them. There are Regulations governing this exposure which not only stipulate upper limits but require levels of exposure to be as low as possible. Careful monitoring of everyone who is permitted to enter a radiation area is carried out and Jennie Coates (ext. 5430) maintains the records required by these Regulations for all personnel exposures on this site and for exposures to RAL staff at other places of work. Where the employee has agreed these records are transferred to the National Radiological Protection Board and this information is then available throughout his/her working life.

Functioning in a technical support role is John Northover (ext.5157) who provides a service for radiation measurements (for ionising the non-ionising radiations) and is the first port of call should your work require the provision of radioactive sources.

David Perry (ext.5314) carries out a research role and advises for the future in areas of shielding, control of discharges etc. and carries out special radiation measurements.

Even though the Laboratory is receptive to safety initiatives we still have to be trained to know what is expected of us. A regular programme of safety training courses for all site staff, with refresher sessions and with special training for particular groups of people, is organised and carried out by the Group. Naturally the information imparted must be up to date, so a great deal of time is spent by the members of the Group in keeping abreast of new Regulations, associated guidance information and case histories. Liaison with other similar officers from industry, universities and Research Councils is closely maintained, as are links with environmental health officers.

Eric Hartley is a member of a Research Councils and Universities forum and the Government Laboratory Safety Officers Forum. The safety advice and information produced at RAL is used by many others for guidance and Eric is particularly proud of the fact that one of the Health and Safety Executive's own research establishments uses RAL safety information as the basis for its own in-house guidance - a real accolade!

Thanks

Cyril and Hilda Grindrod thank all friends and colleagues for the farewell gifts presented on Cyril's recent retirement, especially those he was unable to thank personally.

Jack Wheeler wishes to express his grateful thanks to his many friends and colleagues for the overwhelming send-off they gave him on his retirement. "The wonderful gifts were greatly appreciated and will ever serve to remind me of the happy times and good companionship with such friendly people. I derived great pleasure in working with you and thoroughly enjoyed my 27 years at the Lab. Be sure I shall miss you all very much," he writes.

Jack Summers thanks all who so generously contributed to his lovely retirement gift and for the chocolates presented to his wife Margaret. He would also like to say goodbye to all those he was unable to see personally.

John Wilkinson of EBW wishes to thank all who contributed to his retirement gift.

He is sorry he couldn't get round to say goodbye to all his friends but sends his best wishes for good luck in the future.



The next lecture in the series will be held in the R22 Lecture Theatre at 3.15 pm on Thursday 8 October.

VEHICLE SAFETY by

Dr I Neilson
Transport and Road
Research Laboratory

The Department of Transport needs a research wing: this TRRL provides.

The scope of the work is wide. It includes modelling studies, accident investigations and ideas for safety improvements. The development of safety features to a point where manufacturers will accept them and of test procedures for incorporation in regulations and directives, is also undertaken.

This talk will discuss recent developments. These cover side impact protection for car occupants, safer steering wheels, anti-lock braking and leg guards on motorcycles, and front under-run protection on Heavy Goods Vehicles. The example of side impact protection is presented in some detail because the work ranges from biomechanical studies of thoracic injury to design changes for cars.

Acknowledgement

Mr C Boyle and sons Andrew and Kevin wish to thank most sincerely all friends and colleagues of his wife Cathy, both at RAL and on the No.24 Harwell bus, for their cards of sympathy, flowers and kind wishes at their time of extreme sadness.

A donation by colleagues of £50 to the Oxford Kidney Unit Fund, in memory of Cathy, will be used towards an extension to the Oxford Renal Unit outpatient facilities at the Churchill Hospital.

Dave Craddock Cup

On Friday 28th August Wheeler's Wonders played Stores in the Final of the Dave Craddock Cup.

Stores lost the toss and were put into bat. After a good start both openers were out, creating a minor crisis, but Jim Denly batted sensibly and was undefeated at the end of the innings with 47 not out well supported by Derek Hill scoring 16. A score of exactly 100 was amassed off the allotted 10 8-ball overs. This seemed enough to win the match, until you looked at the strength in depth of the Wheelers line up.

The target of 100 was always possible and Wheelers got off to a good start but gradually they were pegged back by some tight Stores bowling. Wickets began to fall at regular intervals after the opening few overs and Stores at one point were favourites. Then

Apprentice Presentation

Two more home-grown electronics craftsmen, Ronnie Brumfitt and Kevin West, were welcomed to the fold on Friday 4 September when RAL Director Paul Williams presented them with their deeds of apprenticeship in the now traditional tankards.

Ronnie and Kevin joined the RAL scheme in early September 1983 and are now on the first rung of the ladder to fame and fortune with Technology Department.

"We are glad you've decided to stay with us," said Paul. "You've started on the right lines and though you may think you're at the bottom of a long ladder, may you rise rapidly."

Of the 12 apprentices who have completed the scheme since 1980, eight are still employed at RAL and two of these have been promoted to PTO, the most recent being Colin McKeown who completed his apprenticeship in 1986.



Director, Paul Williams congratulates Kevin (right) and Ronnie.

87RC 4854.

Golfing Society Matchplay Champion



Winner takes all.

87RC 4520.

"A new and worthy name on the Trophy this year", said Dougie House, Chairman of the Society, when presenting the winner's cup to Jim Valentine on Tuesday 6 August. The presentation this year had been delayed due to metallurgical problems - it had been necessary to re-plate the cup (too much polishing by previous winners perhaps!).

Jim, on receiving the trophy, noted previous illustrious winners and paid tribute to the finals player he had defeated - a Mr Douglas House. He also pointed out that it was unlikely that the silver would be removed by polish whilst on his mantelpiece - the 1987 tournament started almost immediately.

A permanent memento of Jim's victory, in the form of a copper cup, was also presented to him.

Glen Westlake, the remaining opener, took matters into his own hands crashing 33 runs off just two overs, swinging the game back into Wheelers favour. With one over remaining, 6 runs were required with one wicket left. Tony Kershaw was the batsman looking nervous as the fielders closed in. With four balls to face he forced the winning runs with a four over mid-off.

After the match everyone retired to R58 and enjoyed some well earned refreshments whilst Mike Key, Head of Laser Division kindly presented the Cups and Trophies.

I take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their help both on the day and behind the scenes and hope next year will be as good.

A Napper



Mike Key presents the Cup to winners, (l to r) Mark Wheeler, Tony Kershaw, Derek Howe, Dave Rippington, Glen Westlake, and Martin Purling.

87RC 4876.

Farewells

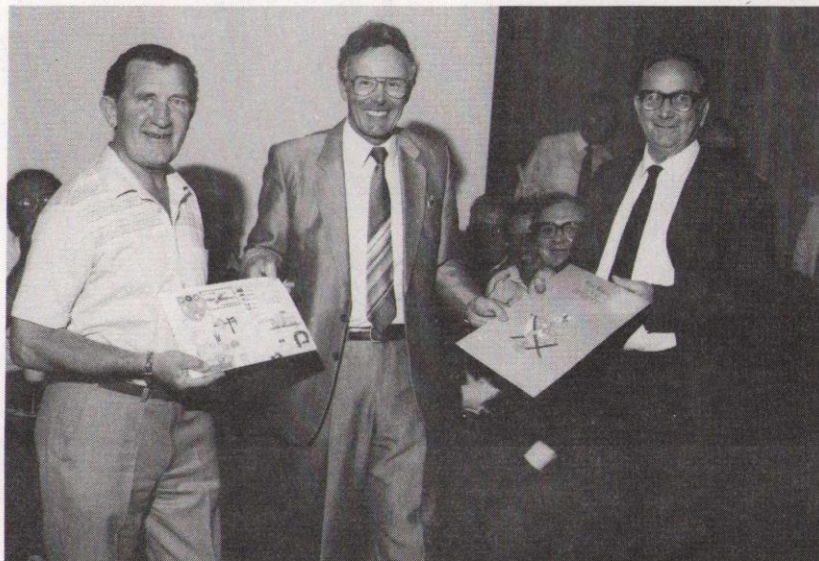
Jim Hawthorne & Cyril Grindrod

Jim Hawthorne and Cyril Grindrod wanted no fuss making over their retirements. So, at a quiet little ceremony in the Social Club at lunchtime on Tuesday 1 September, Peter Clee presented mementoes to them both on behalf of the small group of friends who could hardly squeeze into the place.

As they had arrived at the Lab only a year apart in the early sixties and had followed similar careers, starting with the old PLA and ending as Geneva veterans of Physics Apparatus Group, a joint farewell seemed almost inevitable.

Peter thanked them both for the many good years they had given to the Lab and wished them well for the future.

Their farewell gifts were different though, Jim receiving a decanter, glasses and a starter pack (Bells) and Cyril a Bowling bag and watch.



A pair of cards - Cyril on Peter's right, Jim on his left. 87RC 4848.

Jack Wheeler

Jack Wheeler entered Public Service in 1938. By 1960, having sorted out the Borough of Reading and Reading General Hospital, he felt the need of a challenge and joined Rutherford Lab.

Twenty seven years later even with the reputation as a Mr Fix-it and "zealous keeper of the public purse", his service was extended by eight months. A tougher nut?

During this time he cast his pearls before Bill Paying, Travel and Claims and Admin in the Old Atlas Computer Laboratory. He was DAO to Nimrod, SNS, Neutron and ISIS divisions. Several committees benefited from his service including the Suggestions Committee (he actually received an Award once), and the Grounds Committee where he indulged his love of gardening. His working knowledge of the French language was also invaluable.

Thanking him for all his efforts on behalf of the RAL, Bill Turner presented him with a brass plaque and a brochure - for the greenhouse which was to follow him home. A presentation card by Mike Perkins with eleven pages of signatures, and a crowded Coffee lounge bore witness to the esteem in which he is held.

A second presentation of gifts of a lighter, a tankard and a drop of good cheer was made by Trevor Hyman on behalf of ISIS Division.

Jack thanked everyone for coming to see him off, and for the gifts. "The time has passed pleasantly, I have been fortunate in the many friends I have made and I promise to keep in touch", he said.



Jack's not sure, but Bill's amused.

87RC 4731



Cliff (left) shares the joke with Bob.

87RC 4857

Cliff Pavelin

Cliff Pavelin's farewell was conducted in true 'Informatics' style - a group of people in a darkened room viewing a small screen, with accompanying commentary.

Cliff's career, said 'commentator' Bob Hopgood appeared to run in three year cycles, beginning with a degree at Cambridge, 3 years at English Electric followed by a PhD at Edinburgh. In 1971 he joined Atlas Computing Centre where the same phenomena continued - three years on the 1906A High Level Scheduler followed by a similar period on the Interactive Computing Facility. Then came PRIME, Starlink and, in 1982, responsibility for all systems development at RAL, from IBM mainframes to minis. During the last period of his RAL career he was responsible for Alvey activities, mainly in the IKBS area, but also MMI and SE for part of the time.

Presenting Cliff with compact disc and biscuits? - a gift from his colleagues, Bob said that Cliff's departure would leave a gap difficult if not impossible to fill. He wished him well in his new job.

Cliff thanked everyone for his gifts - promising to keep the biscuits until at least 10 a.m. the following day.

Film Badge Notice

It is period 11. Film strip colour PURPLE. Please be sure you are wearing the correct dosimeters and that you return all old ones.

Bulletin

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