
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Bulletin

A Monthly Newsletter for RAL Staff

April 1994

RAL triumphs at final SERC Sports Day

RAL's sportsmen and women came top of the league in this year's Indoor Sports Day competition, winning no fewer than six out of the ten events. The event, held at the Link Centre and Superbowl in Swindon, was memorable for another reason, it was the very last time that teams from Daresbury

Laboratory, Swindon Office and RAL would compete under the banner of the SERC.

Receiving their prizes from Dr Ron Newport, Associate Director of Programmes at Swindon Office are, clockwise from top left: Richard Stephenson and David Farrell

(snooker), Eric Thomas and Peter Kent (table tennis), Richard Lawrence and Alan Stevens (badminton, men's doubles), Richard Holdaway (squash), Zoe Bowden and Alan Stevens (badminton, mixed doubles). Bernard Cooper, not pictured, won the chess tournament. ■



(94RC2044)



(94RC2037)



(94RC2041)



(94RC2040)



(94RC2038)

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Apprentices reach training milestone

RAL's first year apprentice trainees reached that all-important milestone in their training programme last month, the successful completion of their six-month probation.

As befitted the significance of the occasion, the apprentices, along with their parents and friends, representatives from Abingdon College and key staff at the Laboratory associated with the Engineering Craft Apprentice Training Scheme, attended a deed-signing ceremony and reception at RAL. The deed is a legal undertaking between the apprentices, their parents and the Laboratory, acknowledging their individual responsibilities during the four year period of training, at the end of which the apprentices can, with justifiable pride, call themselves skilled craftspeople.

The apprentices, pictured right, will go on to complete the remain-



RAL's first year apprentices (94RC2427)

ing six months of their training at Abingdon College before beginning their on-the-job training placements around site. They will even manage to fit in an outward bound course in

Wales, learning the sort of leadership and teamworking skills which will no doubt serve them well in their future careers. ■

Honorary Scientists

Dr Geoff Manning CBE, former Director of RAL, has become the sixth ex-member of SERC to be appointed as an Honorary Scientist of RAL.

The concept of Honorary Scientist, which was initiated by Dr Manning during his time as Director, allows selected ex-staff members, all of whom are highly distinguished scientists in their field, to retain formal links with the Laboratory.

The Honorary Scientists are:

Sir John Houghton CBE FRS - Director, Appleton and Deputy Director of RAL to 1983

Dr John Lawson FRS - IM Grade 5 in Technology Dept to 1987

Dr Geoff Manning CBE - Director of RAL from 1981 to 1986

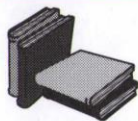
Sir William Mitchell CBE FRS - Chairman of Council from 1985 to 1990

Dr Godfrey Stafford CBE FRS - Director of RAL from 1969 to 1979

Dr John Thresher - Associate Director Particle Physics and member of CERN Directorate. ■

Congratulations ...

to Professor Richard Holdaway, Head of Space Systems Division in Space Science Department on his appointment as Visiting Professor in Physics at the University of Kent. Richard is also Visiting Professor in Engineering at the University of Southampton. ■



School report

For the first time, the Laboratory was involved in a Business Studies Problem Solving Day for Newbury Schools. Organised by the West Berkshire Education Business Partnership along similar lines to the Science Problem Solving Day in which RAL has participated for several years, this event involved 17 students aged 14 and 15 years spending the day at the Lab working on a 'real life' problem.

The students were set the task of organising an Open Day for Central Computing Department. Following an introduction by Dave Greenaway, they were given a tour of the Department, courtesy of David Rigby and Tim Kidd. They were then put in touch with staff around site who could give them advice on various aspects of their problem. Thanks go to Buura Azemoun, Monica Brown, Dave Greenaway, Jacky Hutchinson, Chris Taylor and David Williams who were our resident 'experts'.

Once the plans were in place, Dr Sue Gill kindly gave them guidance on how to give an effective presentation of their plans. The day ended in the Lecture Theatre where a slightly daunted group of students gave a surprisingly good account of themselves. Thanks to all who made the day possible, including Dr Brian Davies who made time to watch the presentation and present certificates to the students.

Other visits to the Lab included a class of children from Stephen Freeman Primary School who visited Space Science Department to look at ATSR and Cassini with Nick Moulton and Mark Willis respectively, and Wind Energy where they met Dr Jim Halliday and Alan

Ruddell and were given a presentation by Professor Norman Lipman. The visit was the culmination of a five day placement undertaken by their teacher, Chris Foord, under the Teacher Placement Scheme.

We also hosted a group of seven Careers Advisors responsible for counselling children in Oxfordshire schools on their career choices. As well as touring the Lab, they had the opportunity to learn about recruitment policy and the immediate changes regarding Research Councils from Miriam Waters and Bill Turner. They went on to meet several apprentices who spoke highly of the Engineering Craft Apprentice Training Scheme.

Individuals have also been out and about at local schools during March. Sylvia Fones visited Fitzharry's School to talk to Year 11 pupils about job applications and inter-

view techniques. Ken Hartley spent some time at Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary School talking on the topic of 'Change' and in particular 'how material is changed by stars and ends up in us'. Mark Bannister gave talks on 'Space' to children aged seven to eight and ten to eleven at Wanborough School in Swindon.

Finally, the Laboratory was represented at a Science Update Conference held by the Association for Science Education at Desborough School in Maidenhead. This is an annual conference for the Berkshire and Oxfordshire region of the Association, where members have the opportunity to attend talks and workshops on many aspects of science teaching in both primary and secondary schools. ■

Dawn Johnson



Problem Solving Day: Students from Newbury schools tackle the problem of organising an Open Day for CCD (94RC2274)

CLF loses its bright spark!

RAL's Central Laser Facility said goodbye to its electrical dynamo, Peter Gottfeldt, at the end of February after 29 years at the Laboratory.

A founder member of the CLF, Peter was responsible for all the electrical systems at the Facility. Paying tribute to Peter, Division Head Professor Mike Key recalls the critical role which he played in the operation of the CLF. "Peter was very dependable. All of us relied on him for the construction and safety of everything electrical in the section."

Peter can look forward to having more time to indulge his passion for skiing and mountain-walking. One of his first jobs in his retirement will be to buy a pair of new walking boots, courtesy of his friends and colleagues who contributed to his retirement gifts of a cheque, vertical drill and the customary CLF engraved tankard. ■



So that's how you do it!: Peter, right, and Mike Key trying out the vertical drill (94RC1927)

Nigel bows out after 37 years ... or was it 47?



Nigel and his wife Dorothy (94RC1938)

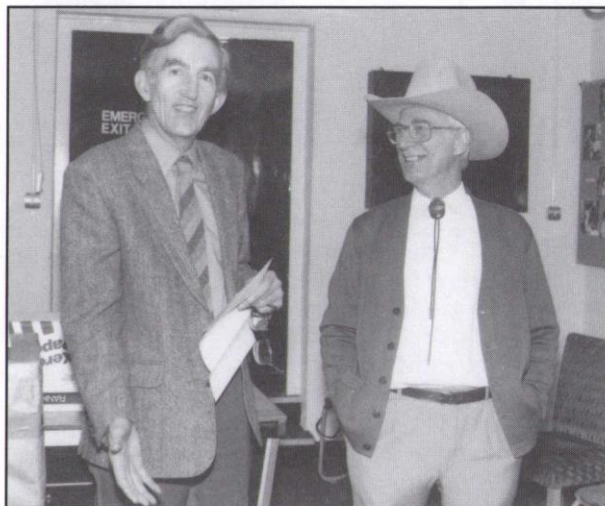
Nigel West of ISIS, retired on 28 February after 37 years at the Laboratory. Friends and colleagues who gathered to bid Nigel farewell, heard from his Department Head, Andrew Taylor, of his long and productive association with ISIS from the early days of NIMROD to his recent work on linear accelerators.

Tribute was also paid to Nigel's accuracy, although it was revealed that he had been known to make the odd mistake, or two! Nigel had apparently raised the number of his years of service on his last ACR by 10 years to 47 (anything to increase his pension payments?!). In clearing out his office, Nigel was reminded of another mistake. During one of his magnetic shielding calculations, he had calculated that a dropped spanner would acquire a velocity of over 800 mph before hitting the target. On reflection, he felt that this was wrong and promised to spend some time getting it right. Let's hope no one holds him to his promise! ■

So long Stan!

Stan Buckel, electrical craftsman in Engineering and Building Works Division, and erstwhile Royal Military Policeman, bakery van driver, maintenance electrician and knobbly knees contestant (only on holiday!), retired on 11 March after 13 years at RAL.

Stan's retirement promises to be as active and eventful as his working life. He and his wife June are planning a second holiday to Canada in September. In the meantime, Stan will be kept busy by his many and varied hobbies: fishing, darts, DIY and practising his electric organ-playing, which I understand, is some way from being of concert standard! ■



Where did you get that hat?: David Mann, Head of EBW, left, and Stan complete with ten gallon hat! (94RC2166)

ARA caters for quality

The catering and vending services operated by ARA Services at RAL received BS5750 recognition in January. The restaurant at RAL was one of 10 sites selected by ARA to pilot their Quality Systems within the British Standard for Quality.

ARA Food Service Manager, Caroline Bailey, paid tribute to the enthusiasm shown by her staff over the last months as they approached the deadline for assessment. Caroline also highlighted the improvements which they have made in the monitoring and measurement of customer satisfaction and ARA's commitment to continually improving the service which they provide.

The achievement of BS5750 by ARA supports the Lab's own quality strategy which seeks to ensure that we only use suppliers of goods and services which can demonstrate a firm commitment to Quality.

Our congratulations go to ARA. ■

Your Bulletin needs you!

In case you haven't noticed (!), there is an obvious change to this month's Bulletin. The familiar blue typeface of the title and at the head and foot of the page, is now red to conform with the new red DRAL logotype. And the changes won't stop there!

We are planning a wholesale facelift for the Bulletin. In this month's issue is a reader survey, cunningly disguised as a prize offer, which is your chance to influence the style and content of your newsletter. By not responding to the survey, not only will you miss out on this unique opportunity to improve the Laboratory's newsletter but you will not stand any chance at all of winning a bottle of champagne ... or two! ■

More success for RAL's rounders team in 1994?

Out of the total of 24 teams which entered the 1993 Harwell Rounders Competition, three RAL teams reached the knock-out stage: the Oddballs, the Paper Tigers and Pen's Plonkers, with the Paper Tigers becoming the overall champions. Can the Paper Tigers repeat the success in '94? Who knows. The only thing for certain is that unless you get an entry form from Graham Dennie at Harwell, ext 2210, and enter a team before 27 April 1994, you won't be able to enjoy yourself in the sun this year and possibly provide RAL with yet another winner! ■

Training courses at the Atlas Centre

Central Computing Department runs computing courses in the Atlas Centre for users of its facilities. These courses are open to other DRAL staff and to people from the Research Councils and other Government bodies. A few of the courses are given by our own staff but most are given by outside companies. Courses are free to University users but there is a charge to other attendees to cover the course fees and lecturer's expenses.

For PCs, we run introductory courses on most of the popular PC software packages such as DOS, Windows, Word for Windows, AmiPro, Lotus 123, Excel, Access, etc. More advanced courses are run for some of these. We run courses regularly on Unix and C programming but are willing to consider running courses on any computing topics if there is sufficient demand.

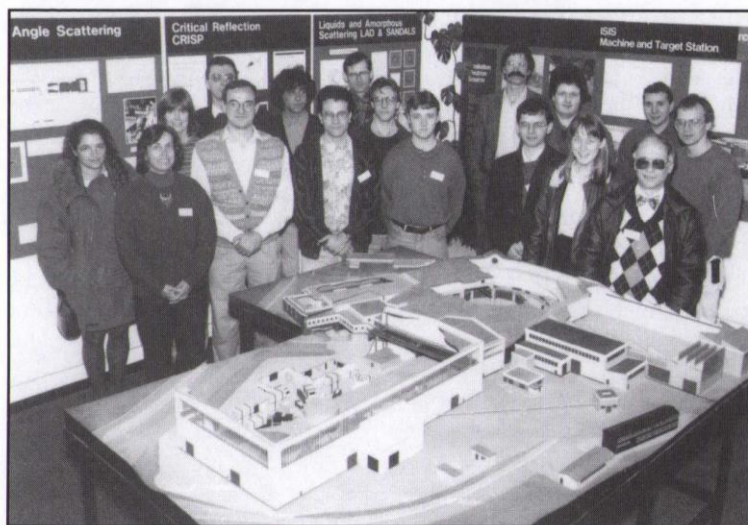
There is normally a maximum of six attendees for PC courses but the other courses can usually take up to 18. More details of the course contents and dates are published in the Atlas Centre newsletter, Flagship. If you would like to book a place on any of our courses or would just like more information, please contact Jacqui Graham on ext 5635, mornings only, or via e-mail, usadmin@ib.rl.ac.uk. ■

Tim Pett

Multinational course at ISIS

ISIS recently played host to an international training course in pulsed muon spin rotation and relaxation (μ SR) techniques, funded by the European Economic Community.

Twelve young scientists, from seven EEC countries, were selected from over forty who applied to take part in a week long combination of lectures, problems classes and experimental sessions. Each scientist had the opportunity to build their own spectrometer on the muon test beam, DEVA, as well as carry out an experiment on the new EC-funded muon spectrometer, EMU. Despite the packed timetable and the long hours involved, everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously and found the information provided by the invited speakers and ISIS staff a very useful introduction to μ SR science. ■



Students and speakers gather at the recent muon training course (94RC1319)

Noticeboard

BCA Prize competition - Design an exhibit

The British Crystallographic Association (BCA) is offering a prize of £50 for the best suggestion for an exhibit demonstrating some aspect of the joys of crystallography which could be used in an interactive 'hands on' area of a museum or travelling exhibition. The exhibit should be able to be made from commonly available materials, be robust, and usable by children without an attendant teacher.

Suggestions should be described using not more than two sides of A4 paper and sent to Professor J B Forsyth, R3, RAL, before 1 July 1994. A sub-committee of the BCA Council will decide the winner, and the design will be published in 'Crystallography News'. The Council will also fund installation of the exhibit at a suitable site, and encourage a manufacturer to make it widely available for sale to schools, museums and other interested parties.

The exhibit might include appreciation of some of the following topics: symmetry, patterns, tessellations, shapes and model structures, and how they can be fitted together in two or three dimensions, but other ideas are welcome.

The competition is open to anyone. You can submit as many entries as you like, the more the better.

In the future, the BCA may encourage children to marvel at their own



model crystals by an exhibit exploring jewellery and crystal structure. For example, you might answer the question: 'Why *do* diamonds sparkle more than ice cubes?'

RAL Art and Crafts Exhibition

This year's event will take place from 17 to 19 May inclusive in CR12/13, R68. Opening times are from 12 noon to 2:00pm daily and 5:00pm until 8:30pm on Wednesday 18 May. Entry forms and information from Jenny Coates, R25, ext 6498.

Lost

Datron digital voltmeter - Property of the Engineering Loan Pool. Ref. 2013. Last seen in 1991. Please call Mr R M Cutler on ext 6534 or 6840.

Dialogue or duel? - A public debate

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend Richard Harries, is to meet John Mortimer, playwright and professional agnostic, for a public discussion on the necessity - or otherwise - of faith.

The meeting, entitled Dialogue with Doubt, will take place on the

evening of Friday 27 May at AEA Technology, Harwell, and is the inspiration of Reverend Chris Stott, Rural Dean of Wallingford Deanery. The Co-ordinator is Mrs Elizabeth Roberts, telephone 0235 834295, from whom pre- and post-event press information and tickets may be obtained.

Rec Soc News

On Saturday 26 March, over 100 staff and guests enjoyed the dance to commemorate the passing of the SERC. Congratulations to Penny and Brian for scores of 5.9 5.9 5.9 and 6.0 for their performance of the Cha-cha-cha! Thanks to all who helped with the organisation.

Andy Napper

Training course in vacuum technology

To be held at RAL from 4 to 6 May 1994 inclusive. Presented by Scanwel Ltd., the course will include basic vacuum theory, components of vacuum systems, systems design, materials selection and leak detection. The course is free to DRAL staff. Contact Sue Gill in Training Section on ext 5266 for further information.

Noticeboard



'Phone changes - Early warning

All UK national codes will change on 16 April 1995. All geographic area codes will be lengthened by an extra digit '1' after the first 0. Thus 0235 becomes 01235. The International access code will change from 010 to 00.

The changes will be implemented in August 1994 and the new and old codes will run in parallel for eight months to give you plenty of time to implement the necessary changes before the 1995 deadline.

Diary

Nimrod seminars

18 April 2:00pm CR3, R61
A new mechanism for minijet production
A Donnachie (Manchester)

HEP seminars

27 April 11:00am CR3, R61
Hadronic contribution to g-2 of the muon
E de Rafael (Marseilles)

The first inaugural Pickavance Lecture

21 April 3:00pm R22 Lecture Theatre
HERA: A novel accelerator and the structure of matter at short distances
Prof B H Wiik, Director General, DESY

Acknowledgements

Peter Nichols would like to say goodbye to all the people he did not manage to see before he left and thanks everyone for the wonderful presents and send-off. It was a memorable day.

Nigel West thanks all his friends at RAL for their generous gifts and bouquet for his wife, presented at his retirement send-off. "I have enjoyed my time at the Laboratory. It has been a privilege to work with so many talented people on ISIS. I wish both you and the facility a long and prosperous future."

CSMA

Brian MacNamara, Frizzell's Regional Manager, will be available for consultation regarding CSMA benefits: Britannia Rescue, car insurance, contents buildings insurance and many other benefits,

at lunch-time on the first Monday in June, August and October, in the R22 foyer. Application forms for membership can be obtained from the CSMA noticeboard in the R22 foyer.

Christian Fellowship

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 14 April | Quiz |
| 21 April | Bible study 'The Upper Room' |
| 28 April | Discussion 'Why do we pray?' |
| 5 May | Prayer meeting |

All meetings will take place in CR6, R2 starting at 12:30pm.

RAL Bulletin

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