

AUTUMN ISSUE



Review

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY
CENTRAL OFFICE OFFICIAL OPENING DAY**

JUNE 27th

1985



A TOAST - IT'S WATER

FROM THE EDITORS DESK...

This review is namely the Autumn edition as it would be inconceivable to refer to it as the Summer edition especially as we seem to have missed that season out this year, perhaps as a forfeit for the amazing Summer we had last year.

However, as dedicated English optimists I'm sure we all still believe Summer is just around the corner.

Even so it has been an eventful year for our Company with the opening of our new headquarters in Walsall.

Also the company has stretched out to engulf the world in all directions and has taken on an international flavour in its overseas connections and many of our staff are becoming regular travellers to interesting countries they would otherwise most probably never have seen.

I hope again the review features are interesting and please keep me informed about events.

CECILIA TURNER



OPEN DAY FOR THE FAMILY

Following the official opening of the Central Office Complex by the Earl of Dudley, The Company held an Open Day for employees, their families and friends on Saturday 29th June. The response by employees from throughout the Company was excellent with over 260 people attending what was an informal but instructive occasion.

Voluntary guides including Jim Carter (Managing Director) and Frank Heathcock (Project Architect) conducted parties round the new building and to the demonstration points at various locations throughout the complex.

The demonstrations illustrated the Company's progress in the uses of modern technology with regard to the control and renewal of the water supply systems, commitment to computer and improved service to our consumers regarding enquiries and dealing with water rates. The provision of a 'bouncy castle' proved popular with all our younger visitors and quite a few were mystified as to the source of the water in the fountain at the entrance.

I am sure our visitors appreciated the consideration shown by the guide and the interesting talks about the water supply business by the Staff manning displays. To round off the day, refreshments in the restaurant were provided for everyone and visitors going home made comments like:

- "I now know why he doesn't come home!"
- and "I never realised so much involved"
- and "These computers are clever, what will they think of next"

A most informative and enjoyable day.

ALAN EVERS

PENSIONERS OUTING

The weather forecast for the 18th July did not seem very promising, especially for the West Midlands.

However nothing daunted the pensioners and guests who duly arrived at the various departure points for the visit to Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire.

On arrival we were greeted by the Chairman of the Company, Mr E.J. Thompson and the Managing Director, Mr J. Carter.

At Prinknash, there were various pursuits to be undertaken. A visit to the Bird Garden and the Deer enclosure before it rained, a visit to the pottery and Abbey if it did rain.

Many of the visitors decided on a visit to the Bird Garden where it was possible to walk round at leisure and chat with old friends and colleagues. There was time for a cup of tea before the short journey to Cheltenham Race Course.

Once there we were again met by Mr Thompson before going into the Prestbury Suite for an excellent tea.

After tea Mr Thompson officially welcomed this years record number of pensioners and guests.

Mr Carter also gave a welcome speech and said a few words about the new offices at Green Lane, MR WALTER ARMS aged 91 who retired from the Company in 1959, gave the response on behalf of the retired members and guests.

He asked the Chairman to convey to the Board of Directors the thanks of everyone present for making the outing possible and for the continued support and interest in the superannuated members.

Tea over, we were able to remain in the Prestbury Suite and enjoy another get together with old friends. I would like to add my own thanks to Pat Rea and her team of Stewards for all the help and consideration given to all on the outing. Also to Alan Lander who deputised for CLIFF BATEMAN. Cliff as we all know was recovering from an accident received some weeks earlier. At seven thirty the coaches left for home after a very enjoyable day.

During the latter part of the afternoon the sun had come out so the weather forecast had been wrong, but we did see a rainbow on the way home.

BETTY GREENALL

EDITORS NOTE

WALTER ARMS was on the 2nd March this year given worthy coverage in the 'Express and Star' when he as the oldest member of St John's Methodist Church, Bloxwich, was chosen to conduct the PALM SUNDAY SERVICE. For Walter a life long churchgoer this was the fulfilment of a dream.

CLIFFORD BATEMAN contacted me because he was so overwhelmed by the many retired members and friends within the Company who had phoned him or sent him letters and cards to wish him well during his illness.

He wishes me to convey his gratitude to you all through the media of the news Review as there are really too many of you to reply to individually.

He hopes to return to work in early September perhaps initially on a part-time basis.



Monica Kennedy and her husband on the steps of the Prestbury Suite.



Betty Greenball, the author of this article in the centre with Marjorie Maisey (ex Revenue) on the left and Irene Philips (Consumer Response Centre) on the right.



Bert Newport and Reg Malbon (ex Walsall) both looking fit and well.



Edna Knowles (ex Admin. Central Services) and guest, Mrs Myers in the foreground. Edna used to organise this outing so she is no stranger to the pensioners.

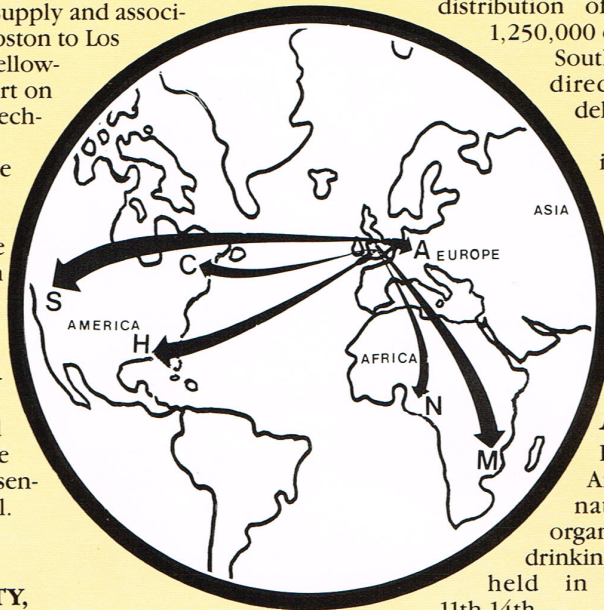
THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER COMPANY

OUTWARD

BOUND

SEATTLE

Terry McAllister has been invited to speak to the American Waterworks Association's Distribution Conference on September 10th, which this year is being held in Seattle, Washington State. The invitation follows his Winston Churchill memorial Trust Fellowship which enabled him to visit over twenty water supply and associated Companies from Boston to Los Angeles. As part of the fellowship he produced a report on certain managerial and technical aspects of water supply. The paper for the AWWA will compare practice in specific areas with particular reference to the work of the South Staffordshire Water Company. Terry firmly believes that many of the techniques and practices used by the Company are more advanced than the ones used in the USA and expects his presentation to be controversial.



CAMBRIDGE HARVARD UNIVERSITY, MASSACHUSETTS

Harvard University Business School offers several Management Programmes and two of our senior staff John Harris (Company Secretary) and Andrew Scudamore have already attended.

The courses give intensive training designed for managers whose future responsibilities are in General management.

From all over the world managers attend and 120 participants are selected on the basis of a broad spectrum of functional, industrial and geographical backgrounds and of demonstrated management expertise and potential.

The professional background of those that qualify varies and produces a group of experts who can learn from each other as well as from the faculties academic material.

The longest programme is for thirteen weeks and is rigorous. It is comparable with a twelve hour day, six days a week. (See separate article page 7)

HOUSTON TEXAS

Robin Comley, principal telecommunications engineer with the South Staffordshire Water

Company, gave a paper on telemetry to a conference, organised in Houston and Denver by the International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control.

The paper showed how South Staffs had brought into play new computer technology to improve the distribution of water to more than 1,250,000 customers.

South Staffs Water managing director Jim Carter was delighted.

"Our telemetry network is one of the most advanced in the country, and the fact that we were invited to make a presentation at the conference demonstrates our standing through out the industry," he said.

AMSTERDAM

Dr. Ian Fletcher (Chemical Analysis) attended the international symposium on organic micro-pollutants in drinking water and on health held in Amsterdam on July 11th-14th.

NIGERIA

The company have been contracted to advise the Lagos State Water Corporation on the rehabilitation of existing principal trunk mains supplying the city of Lagos. A contract between Tate Pipe Lining Processes and the Nigerian Government had already been awarded in 1983.

This type of consultancy work may involve the company in many overseas contracts in the future. (See opposite page)

MALAWI

The South Staffordshire Water Company has won a contract worth nearly £250,000 in Malawi.

The contract for the Walsall-based company is for staff training in identifying computer requirements, meter billing, automation and telemetry with the Blantyre Water Board.

Blantyre, the commercial centre of the republic, with a population of 300,000.

The contract will be funded by the UK Overseas Development Agency and over the next three years about 50 water staff will be visiting Malawi or training Blantyre staff in England. (See opposite page)

MALAWI

Malawi is a landlocked country in the southern part of Central Africa. As the country is well above sea level, 2-3000 metres, the climate is comfortable being neither too hot or too cold. There are three main cities within Malawi these being: Lilongue, the newly built capital, which is situated in the centre of the country; Blantyre, the largest and oldest city being the commercial centre of Malawi, which is situated in the south of the country and Zomba the old colonial capital which is some 60 miles north of Blantyre.

The project with which I am involved arose out of the Overseas Development Administration engaging the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company as consultants under British aid arrangements to advise and undertake training for the Blantyre Water Board. As such I was therefore based in and around the environs of Blantyre. The city itself is only approximately a 100 years old having been founded as a trading centre becoming today the main commercial and industrial centre in Malawi. Blantyre looks like any modern town with a full range of services eg electricity, water, telephones etc, so living in it is not so very different as living in a town in Britain. The people that live and work in the cities tend to have a higher standard of living, and higher expectations, than the bulk of the population who still live in the villages scattered throughout the country.

It is only when you leave the cities behind and travel into the country that you really appreciate that you are in Africa.

However, the views obtained as you travel along the road are themselves misleading as there are wide belts of cultivation on either side of the roads and it is only when you have penetration these belts that you see 'wild' Africa. The first vivid impression I obtained was the immense numbers of people perpetually walking along the roads. This was understandable near towns or villages but farther out in the 'sticks' it was difficult to understand where they came from and where they were going to. You soon have to adapt your driving style as most roads are narrow single carriageway and you have to become adept at dodging pedestrians and oncoming traffic. This is accentuated by the herds of cattle and goats being grazed on the sides of the roads. Regular bus services, except in the rainy season, connect areas all over the country and there is strong competition between the various bus companies using the same routes. This leads to the additional hazard of speeding buses racing each other to be first at a bus stop. It is quite a strange sight to see 200 people jammed into a bouncing, speeding single decker bus.

Malawi has distinct geographical and climatic zones from lowland river plain to high moorland. Between these two extremes you have a wide range of habitat including Lake Malawi which is over 380 miles long, constituting two fifths of the total area of Malawi, and is like an inland sea. Scattering along the lakeshore are various hotels and clubs which offer good accommodation, golden sands, sunshine and warm water swimming, a real tropical paradise.

There are game parks and reserves located throughout the country covering all different types of habitat. To see the familiar wild animals of Africa, elephant, hippo etc, close up and in their natural surroundings is an experience. I will never forget even though mosquitos, tsetse flies and lack of toilets do have their drawbacks.

The people of Malawi are very friendly and you have no fear in being in the back of beyond or walking city streets late at night. It gets dark at 6.00 pm every night without fail. The division between rich and poor is however, very marked with the bulk of the people being poor. This situation will probably not get any better until the 'family dependency' system is overcome. Family dependency entails that a member of a family has an obligation to all the other members of the family, no matter how distant.

The cost of living varies considerably, home produced items are relatively cheap however, imported goods, such as baked beans, are expensive due to both the cost of transport and importation duties. The shops and supermarkets are fully stocked offering a wide variety of choice unlike some of Malawi's close neighbours. Cars and petrol are very expensive and apart from town traffic there is very little traffic even on the main roads although it is advisable not to drive in the dark outside the main cities due to poor lighting and that some drivers don't bother to use their lights either.

There is no television and apart from World Service only local radio available, you therefore have to be prepared to mix with other people and make your own entertainment or join the local library.

Overall I have enjoyed my visits to Malawi and the experiences obtained, my only regret is in not having time to see more of a fascinating country.

DAVE ALLMONT

NIGERIA LAGOS STATE WATER CORPORATION



Mr Carter presents the Company's coat of arms to Mr G.O. Fasino. The group photograph shows from left to right, Mr A.J. Etenmobi, Mr Carter, Prince Sijuadi, Mr G.O. Fasino, Mr B.O. Philips and Mr D. Fayemi.

In February 1982, during a meeting at the British Standards Institution in London, I was invited to attend a meeting with a delegation from Nigeria, who were here to discuss the rehabilitation of the principal trunk mains supplying the city of Lagos. Having been involved in this type of work for the Company over the past 17 years, the delegation obviously felt that I could be of some assistance to them.

It was about this time that the Company were considering overseas consultancy work following a request from the British Waterworks Association, and the Managing Director, Mr Markham, readily agreed to our involvement in this overseas project.

Negotiations for the contract between Tate Pipe Lining Processes Limited and the Nigerian Civil Government were protracted and the contract was eventually awarded in 1983 and this was ratified by the Military Government earlier this year. The contract is the first phase of a major development, which includes a new reservoir, pumping station and distribution mains to improve the water supply in Lagos, and the total development will be partly funded by the World Bank.

In July of this year a party of engineers from Lagos visited the Company, where an explanation of our methods and experiences was given prior to visiting a number of work locations. The new Managing Director, Mr Carter, welcomed the delegation at lunch and presented them with commemorative framed copies of the Company's Coat of Arms.

Final arrangements have now been made for me to visit Lagos on August 5th for a period of two weeks as a consultant to the Lagos State Water Corporation and to assist with the planning of what is an ambitious and exciting project. I have already studied plans of the distribution network and some ideas have already crystallised, but I am sure that they will change dramatically when the situation on site is examined.

I would like to thank the Company for affording me the opportunity to share our experiences with others and trust that my visit will facilitate greater involvement with the Nigerian Government and other overseas agencies in the future.

R.J. WRIGHT

Mr A.S. GOME

Mr A.S. Gome Blantyre Water Board Clerk to the Board. He is the most senior African in the Blantyre Water Board. He spent his early career in Zambia. Later he worked in the Malawian Ministry of Labour before joining the Water Board. He is placed within Administration and Personnel



Services Department. He was particularly interested in practical organisational aspects of work. Mr Gome whose great personal charisma enveloped all who met him, was a person we will not forget. His seeming joy of England and life in general was infectious. It is hoped that we will be fortunate enough to see him in the not too distant future.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY

I arrived in Walsall on the 7th June for training in Waterwork Engineering. The training was to cover two months but the programme arranged after the initial introduction to the Works appeared to be more comprehensive.

Indeed I spent one day with the Operations Department, three weeks at Tadley Court on various courses, two days with the Telemetry and Communication Unit and the remaining period learning various aspects of electrical and mechanical design and maintenance.

I visited five companies engaged in pump motor and meter manufacture and repair, and one company which specialised in computer software design.

I thank members of management for organising my stay in Walsall into such a memorable event. I was able to learn both engineering facts as well as some of your rich history. I also thank members of the staff for their cooperation in all the activities I undertook. Particular thanks to Mr Coldicott who took a personal interest in my welfare and to members of his unit who made my learning so easy.

GEORGE AMBALI



Other overseas visitors with G. Ambali (from left to right) David Uko of Lilongua Water Board. He is attending Leamington Spa College to acquire a building qualification. George Ambali George Sargeni of the Blantyre Water Board studying at Chelmsford in Essex for an H.T.C.E. in Computer Studies.

On the left of George Ambali is Jonathon Mtsundano who also is from the Blantyre Water Board and spent some time with us and wrote a kind letter of appreciation to Mr & Mrs David Coldicott for helping make his stay in England a happy one.



MR GEORGE AMBALI

Mr George Ambali joined the Technical Service Department in early June for nine weeks training. Having gained a BSc degree in mechanical engineering at Hatfield Polytechnic in 1981 he was no stranger to the U.K., and our way of life.

A Section Engineer with the Blantyre Water Board, George came to the Company to build upon his skills in management and engineering. The training programme included three weeks at the Water Industry Training Association establishment at Tadley Court, several weeks in Company training undertaken by members of the Technical Services and Operations Departments together with visits to manufacturers works.

Although the intensive training programme often required George to work very late at night, we did manage to fit in enjoyable social occasions. There were visits to the stately homes of England, International horse show jumping, athletic meeting, wild life park, museums, churches and cathedrals as well as the 'obligatory' sightseeing Tours of London and Stratford. The knowledge that George has over a wide range of our history and way of life was very surprising. On one social outing to the battlefield at Bosworth he knew more about Richard III and Henry VII than many of us 'natives'.

Although hard work was the order of the day we were all very pleased to have been involved and wish George every success in his management and engineering career. He is getting married on September 14th and we wish him and his fiance every happiness for the future.

DAVID COLDICOTT



Andrew and his family meet President Reagan.

AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

On February 5th I left for the USA to attend a 13 week Management Programme at Harvard Business School, part of Harvard University. Entrance was highly competitive and the Company and I were very pleased I had been selected to attend.

Harvard Business School is in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just along the Charles River from Boston. It was founded in 1908 to provide practical management training and business leadership. Harvard University itself grew from a college founded in 1626 by John Harvard who was born in Stratford-on-Avon, and the town of Cambridge was named after Cambridge in England as being synonymous with educational excellence.

The area around Boston and the Business School is steeped in history: the War of Independence started there, the Boston Tea Party occurred in the harbour and George Washington first took command of the American forces at Cambridge Common.

At Harvard I lived in a residence hall specifically designed for the programme to facilitate the discussions and study requirements essential to the success of the course. The hall consisted of 14 room-group suites with 8 private rooms in each suite.

The teaching method at HBS is based on the case method—the study of an actual business situation with analysis and recommendations. This method makes exceptional demands on participants and encourages the development of practical solutions to managerial problems.

The workload was extremely heavy and the pressure intense. There were generally three cases to prepare for each day and this forced us to develop and use suitable methods of preparation and analysis. Classes were held 6 days a week. The atmosphere was very competitive and the level of competence particularly high. An extreme motivator was the constant knowledge that a professor could start any of the formal sessions by saying “Well, Andrew, what is your analysis of this situation?” You would then have to present and defend your analysis in front of the entire class. It was a salutary experience.

There were 24 nations represented on the course, which has given a wide network of friendships and contacts across the world, with all the ensuing benefits. There was constant interchange of views, opinions and

experiences through formal and informal discussion groups, living group study sessions and the formal classroom sessions. The discussion groups (8 people) and classroom sessions (2×55 people) were rotated periodically so that everyone worked with everyone else by the end of the course. In particular, the living groups were structured so that there was the maximum amount of cross-discipline/functional discussion.

For the last week of the course my wife Pam was required to attend the Business School for an academic programme so she came over with the children and that gave us scheduling difficulties as we both had to attend different classes at the same time!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the Harvard experience and there was a real sense of achievement on Graduation Day for all concerned.

After leaving Harvard we spent a fascinating 2 weeks visiting New York, Washington and Florida. In New York we stayed in central Manhattan and visited the Empire State Building, the World Trade Center (1440 ft high) and Times Square as well as shopping on 5th Avenue and walking in Central Park. Every other car seemed to be a yellow cab, and the whole atmosphere was exhilarating.

We took a coach tour of Washington and saw all the Government buildings, including the White House and the Capitol where we went into the Chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Arlington Cemetery and J.F. Kennedy’s grave were poignant and in a beautiful setting, across the Potomac river in Virginia.

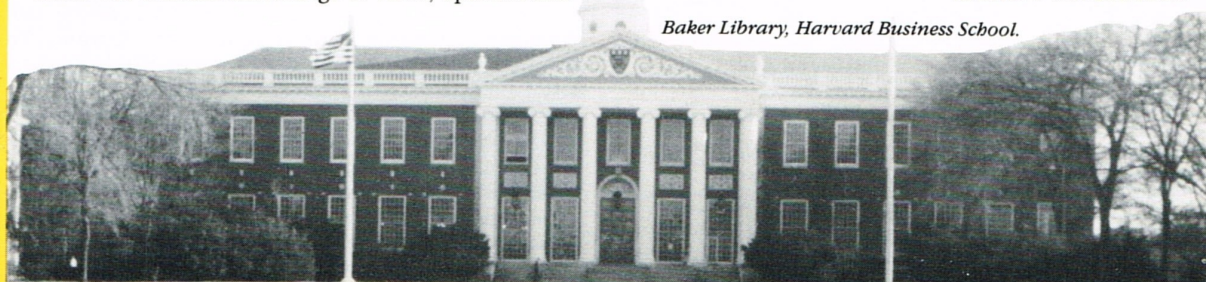
The Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institute occupied us for a day but we could have spent a week there, since there was so much to see. The actual lunar modules which went to the moon were on display, along with a 4-billion year old lunar rock that anyone could touch.

In Florida, we visited Disney World, Epcot and the Kennedy Space Center—all very exciting—but we also found time to lie by the hotel swimming pool and soak up some American sun!

The whole experience for my family and me was one we will never forget, and we have an extensive set of photos to look back on in years to come

ANDREW SCUDAMORE

Baker Library, Harvard Business School.



Water Aid

JOHN'S MARATHON AID

Sunday 14th July, 9.30 a.m., at K.G.S. playing fields West Bromwich was the start of the two marathons which followed the same route up to 9.3 miles. There you can decide whether to go for the full or the 13 mile escape route. Conditions on the day were heavy overcast and warm. There was a strong smell of various rubbing oils, Raljex being the favourite with which one prepared eager muscles (and lungs) for the start of the race. I, like Alan Lander, have suffered from the dreaded runs (internal type!) in the past, in fact we both met outside the loo as we have frequently done on race starts. However I had partaken in a secret potion of 3 in 1 mix (3 sand 1 cement) an hour before and was confident I would have no problems.

Bang went the start gun (in fact it was a hooter) by the Mayor of West Bromwich. The first mile was completed in 6 mins 50 secs. To finish in 3 hrs which was my goal I had to average 6.8 minute miles and as I would tire towards the end, my strategy was to go through the first 10 miles in 66 minutes and the rest in 1 hr 26 mins to 1 hr 28 mins. I had a club runner friend Gary Passmore whom I had chosen for obvious reasons as a pacemaker, he was attempting 3 hrs also. Things started to hot up around 5 miles the sweat was dripping off my forehead even though I had a sweat band on! As we went through Blackheath I could just see the heels of Alan Lander at 6 miles who was doing the half. As I came to his shoulder I knew he had problems by the look on his face. 'Blisters' he shouted but still managed a smile at 9 miles for a photo. Gary gave warning signs just before the two races split. 'The pace is too fast,' he shouted. It took me all my strength not to take the escape route as I felt the effects of the pace and distance on my tiring legs.

At 13 miles I was 1 hr 26 mins according to the stationary Sekonda car timer. My own stop watch had gone into spasms of flashing digits and alarms due to my sweat getting into it! At this point in the race I was alone as most runners went for the 1/2 marathon. In the distance I could see a lady runner and I needed a pacemaker. She was going strong, and being the first lady, the spectators gave an extra cheer which all helps at this stage in the race. I kept with her up until 22 miles but my recovery after a hill was bad and sadly I watched her flowing hair disappear into the distance. I knew she was in for less than 3 hours and I tried to hold on, who ever says that women are the weaker sex should think again! (all you girls can reward me later for that plug!!) The last 4 miles I cannot really remember as my concentration started to wander from reality and pain, to pints of lager and sun scorched beaches. At 23 miles, a class Tipton runner Micky Hill, was walking. I talked with my breath as I passed him to try and encourage him but he just managed to raise his hand up to his waist. I guessed I was not in for 3 hrs at 22 miles, but a hill at 24 miles from the estate on to a park toe path made sure. A policeman at the top looked sad as I approached him "You needed a hand rail to get up that one, mate" he said, "they have just sent one off in an ambulance here!" It took me 300 yds to get back into my stride after that.

On the finishing straight many friends were cheering and I must apologise for not acknowledging them.

As I fell over the finish line my brother-in-law, Lawrence, who did the half marathon helped me into the St. John's Ambulance Tent. There two St. John's First Aid ladies massaged my leg muscles, it made it all worthwhile just for the treatment they gave me. I did not catch their names but I wish I could thank them for tending my shattering frame. Also I would like to thank all who donated to Water Aid by sponsoring me.

Will I attempt another marathon? The answer is yes, but I am getting older. Is there any young blood out there to crack 3 hrs in the Company? I am hoping to set 3 hrs next year and then I may hang my boots up and go for 10 miles and 1/2 marathons. At least then you have enough energy left to hold a pint at the end.

Results - Full Marathon

1st man	John Wagstaff	2 hrs 31 mins
1st lady	Mrs Ball	2 hrs 38 mins
71st	John Lindley	3 hrs 7 mins
141st	Gary Passmore	3 hrs 11 mins

1/2 Marathon

1st man	Alan Rushmer (1st)	1 hr 12 mins
1st lady	Sanda Lappage (18th)	1 hr 19 mins
	A. Lander	1 hr 29 mins

John Lindley



LOTTERY RESULTS

£25 PRIZE MONEY

JANUARY	PETER ALLEN	Revenue
FEBRUARY	MIKE WATKINS	Management Accounts
MARCH	DAVE OAKLEY	Management Services
APRIL	SIMON COLE	Water Quality
MAY	DAVE HINDE	Management Services
JUNE	IAN McPHERSON	Technical Services
JULY	WILF HAYES	Seedy Mill

The number of shares sold is now 261 but we would like more of you to make such as small commitment.

The new payroll system enables the *manuals* to also hold new shares.

If you want to join the worthwhile scheme to help those countries that are desperately in need of Water Aid, then fill in the form below and send it in.

By joining our local lottery you can win a monthly prize of £25 (may be £50 if enough people join) and be entered for a free national draw each year
each share costs 44p per month
2 shares costs 88p per month etc.

Please Fill In Form Below

WATER AID LOTTERY

To: PAYROLL OFFICER Nos
 WATER AID REPRESENTATIVE

Please allot me * 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 * units of 44p per month, which I authorise to be deducted from my pay as soon as possible.

Name Location

Signed

* circle the number of units you would like.

The 'LIVE AID' Show raised millions of pounds to help Africa and many of you may have donated to their worthy cause. Water Aid is also one of the many smaller charities working towards the same goal.

Water Aid

To raise funds for Water Aid the social club organised a race night on Friday 22nd March.

During the course of the evening, ten films were shown of horse races run in America and with the American commentators excited description of each race, spectators and punters were on their feet trying to cheer their horses past the winning post.

The evening was exceptionally well attended and bar takings were high as every one seemed to either drink to their success or tried to drown their sorrows.

It is hoped that this type of evening can be repeated again in the not too distant future.



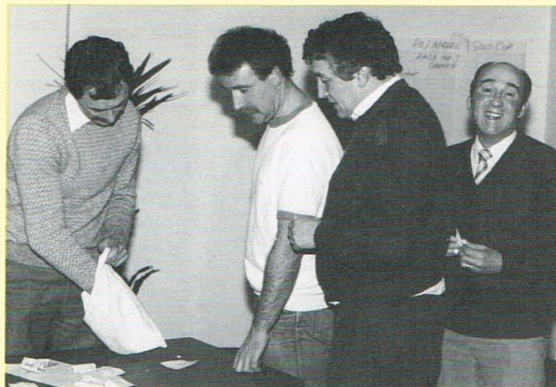
Bribery and corruption? Not so says John Wilson.



It obviously pays off.



Perhaps it wasn't John's day.



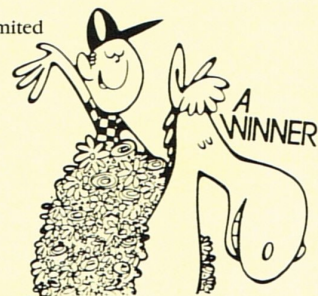
Brian Walker is obviously a happy man at the end of the queue.



Tracy from Transport is tickled pink.

Sponsors:

- Kodak
- Panther Equipment Limited
- Key Med Industrial Ltd.
- Alfred Marks
- Inspection Instruments (NDT) Ltd.
- Bromwich Catering
- JCB Limited
- T. Neary Contractors Limited
- Decor Profiles
- Stanton & Staveley (British Steel Corporation)
- Douglas Plant Limited
- B.J. Blasdale
- Tate Pipe Lining Processes Limited
- Per Temps
- Highfield Bromwich Limited
- Wednesbury Motors Limited
- Raj Mahal Restaurant
- Clanceys Plant Hire
- Sword Security



Race Night

CENTRAL OFFICE C

JUNE 2

Mr. E.J. Thompson, The Earl of Dudley, Mr. J. Carter, Sir Charles Burman and Mr. W.A. Markham raise their glasses to the future of South Staffs.



Those of us who have been located at Green Lane some five years have been witness to the birth of the New Office Block from its moment of conception.

During its growth and development we have occasionally been 'dogged' by small problems and inconveniences, what with temporary buildings, re-organised car parking facilities and even the re-siting of the restaurant but the amazing transformations, that we witnessed of the originally constructed concrete platforms supported by bare concrete pillars into the sophisticated architectural delight that we now work in, were worth all such inconveniences.

The Official Opening Day was preceded by days of flurried excitement, as everybody worked together to make the 'Big Day' run smoothly and with the new South Staffordshire Waterworks flag flying in a wind of perfect velocity, one could be forgiven for thinking we had even managed to arrange that.

While the Board meeting, which preceded the Official Opening took place, the wives of the Directors and the Senior Officers were escorted around and made to feel welcome by Mrs. Susan Cresser-Brown of the Biology Section of the Laboratory.

After lunch the guests and some of the staff congregated in the restaurant for coffee and biscuits and to await the arrival of the Earl of Dudley. Unfortunately the Countess was unable to attend. Mr. E. Thompson, the Board Chairman welcomed him and thanked him for accepting our offer to attend. He said it was most appropriate that the Earl, who had honoured us with his presence, should be asked to officially open our new Headquarters as the late Earl of Dudley, the great grandfather of the present Earl had turned the 'first sod' at the first opening of South Staffordshire Waterworks in 1856 at Lichfield.

After the welcoming speech we moved on to the Reception Area of the new Building, where the large round engraved plaque with details of the Opening was unveiled.

The Earl of Dudley acknowledged the Company's efforts over the years to improve the water supply and made lighthearted reference to the Chairman's connection to the Water Industry and Banks Brewery and revealed that he was in fact a new teetotaler who also tended to drink Perrier Water.

Mr. Jim Carter, our Managing Director made a comment to the fact that he was fortunate to enter the Company at such an enterprising time and had been able to take over the reins from Mr. Bill Markham, our former Managing Director who had already formulated the development of Walsall as the new Central office.

Then outside, to the area in front of the impressive domed rotating entrance doors, to view the beautiful Greek-like Goddess that sits with nonchalant permanency on the side of the pool.

Here Mr. Bill Markham switched on the water supply to the pool and water cascaded over the attractively contoured rock.

The Guests and selected staff members were then divided into small parties to begin a conducted tour.

I was attached to the group guided by Chris Pattison of Transport Maintenance & Electrical design.

The locations to be visited included the Cash Control, Control Office, Response Centre, Laboratory, Workshops etc., Computer Centre and Foyer Entrance.

THE CASH CONTROL OFFICE presenter Peter Allen described the new advanced machinery now installed, which has effectively reduced nineteen previous different manual operations to seven and sorts out on busy days over four thousand pieces of incoming post.

THE CONTROL OFFICE, manned twenty-four hours a day, is equipped with the latest computerised telemetry monitoring system. It is the coordinating centre for re-directing water supplies, initiating action for repairs and maintaining service and up to date information. Bob Wright, Supply Controller of Operations Department was presenter to this location.

The newly formed RESPONSE CENTRE was the next location. Here consumer reports and enquiries are dealt with by S.W.I.M.S. (South Staffordshire Water Incident Management System). SWIMS is a complex computerised system that enables all consumer complaints to be handled quickly and efficiently and makes sure no computer recorded query is ever shelved without action. It produced a daily 'Hit List' detailing all incidents that have not been acted upon. Alan Rogers is the Response Centre manager and presented the data to us.

OPENING CEREMONY 1985



Not to be outdone by the Seductive Nymph, Carol Hodgson and Glenda Hadfield (Sec's to the Managing Director and The Company Secretary) compete for a place by the pool.

In the LABORATORY, Tony Woodward, Water Quality Manager explained the necessity to be constantly monitoring the Water Supply to ensure the consumer receives 'wholesome water' and some 34,000 samples are annually examined.

We as an industry must comply with the requirements and regulations of the E.E.C. and newly introduced extremely stringent regulations concerning Nitrate levels in water are causing some exaggerated press coverage and further problems to our busy Laboratory.

Before entering the Workshop Complex we were shown examples of mains, some so badly deteriorated that the insides had debris build up which almost closed the pipes and naturally if they were in supply they would reduced pressure.

Ron Lawrence and Brian Greenwood of Management Support and Development, jointly spoke on the area of supply and showed us new mains and described the process of scraping and relining of mains and showed us how the new equipment called a Fiberscope allows internal inspection of mains on site.

In the WORKSHOPS COMPLEX, Dave Coldicott Electrical/Mechanical Manager conducted us through the well laid areas and told us the principal work undertaken is maintenance and refurbishing. The Complex is divided into three main areas, the first main workshop with electrical and mechanical bays, machine shops and welding area. The second area, workshops for repairing water meters, steel storage and blacksmith shop. The third section Offices and Laboratory situated on a higher level overlooking the bays.

Facilities in the block also include shower and locker rooms and a garage.

The COMPUTER ROOM is almost in a secret hideout and is rarely viewed by staff not involved. We had to view it through a glass partition and it gave one a feeling of involvement in a 'Dr. Kildare Movie'.

Peter Graham gave a comprehensive run down on the prime uses of the Computer in the Company and impressed us greatly by stating that all data stored would amount to approximately 1,164 copies of the Bible.

We stopped off at a small area allocated to Telemetry and Data Logging. Robin Comley (Telecoms) and Anthony Capener (Management Support and Development) quickly showed us by small working models how the reservoir levels etc. are communicated to the Control Office and also described the necessity of data loggers (water meters) in the Company's Area.

We finalised our tour by viewing the beautifully engraved windows that are a feature of the Entrance Lobby. The young lady, Sarah Jones who designed these windows explained how and why she created the designs in this manner.

It was an interesting and very informative tour for our Guests and I was duly impressed by one of our Directors, Mr. H. B. Meynell, who was obviously intently interested in the equipment and who showed thoughtful consideration to the personnel concerned. At all locations

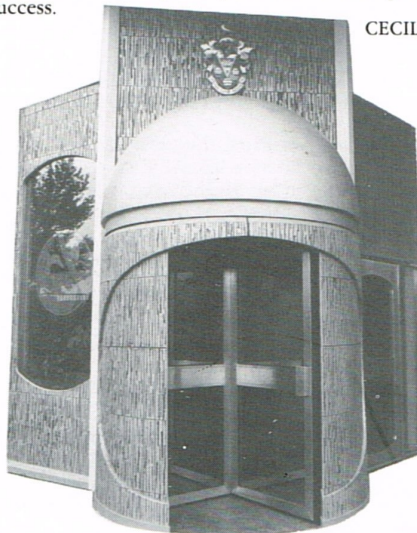
he remained behind to thank all presenters for their effort. A nice personal touch and greatly appreciated by those who had put so much work into the success of the day.

The Board Room on the top floor brought all the groups together again in a very congenial atmosphere. The Restaurant staff had surpassed themselves in the buffet display and the desire to do justice to their efforts was curtailed by the wish to communicate verbally with so many persons. I'm sure many like myself eventually made their leave disappointed that they had not found time to enjoy the beautiful cakes and sweets on offer but equally certain like myself it had taken a strong character to resist.

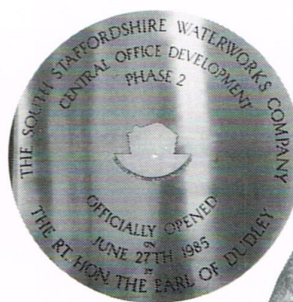
Mr. A.S. Gome, Clerk to the Blantyre Water Board of Malawi was a most interesting and stimulating conversationalist. I'm sure he was pleased to have been able to join us at such an important time in our Industry's Development.

There were many distinguished guests, too many to name in this article and I think we can say with pride our Official Opening Day was a great success.

CECILIA TURNER



The unusual domed entrance into the new headquarters.



The engraved commemorative plaque unveiled in the reception



STAFFORD COUNTY SHOW

MAY 22nd AND 23rd

We do take water for granted, the only time we become concerned is when that life-giving liquid fails to appear at the turn of a tap.

South Staffs were given the opportunity by Lichfield District to prove to a small section of our consumers that it takes much more than merely collecting rainfall and cracking a few valves to provide them with a wholesome supply of Aqua.

In producing the stand we relied on the photographic image, our main headings were 'At Your Service Science & Technology - Source and Supply' to complete the picture 'Leisure & Conservation'.

Not forgetting our beginnings, the early history of the Company is principally associated with the City of Lichfield with a scheme to utilise the springs and streams being devised in 1853. So as a feature of the stand, again with the help of photographs, we produced a potted History of the Companys early beginnings - our favourite extra was the work produced by Queens Croft School, Lichfield, these gems couldn't fail to attract passers by, on the other hand the Magic Tap came a close second. It never fails to amaze both young and old, especially the customized mop bucket version.

With stalwart assistance from Joe 'H' and Alf, Jane Edwards and I assembled and lit our stand.

The plant pots we borrowed didn't appear to suffer from spending four nights under canvas.

The general feeling from Mike Bowen, Barrie Hopkins, Jim Martin and Eric Baily who manned the stand was that our first venture was an undoubted success. We are booked in for next year. A spin off from Stafford was a joint venture with STWA for their Open Day at Clay Mills Sewage Treatment Plant near Burton. We extended one stand to include the Fibrescope, leak detection, and Reconditioning. Burton Depot displayed thrustboring and jointing. Sue Cresser-Brown explained water treatment and 'Valerie Vole' met Ron Lawrence, who was pleased to receive a Water Watchers Badge. Ron still talks about it and wears his badge proudly.

ANGI ROBSON



Valerie Vole meets Ron.



The magic Tap intrigues the children.



The Duchess of Devonshire greeted by Mr. J. Carter.



The display of the marvellous childrens entries.

TATES TROPHY TAKEN

What a great evening we had.

On Friday 8th March around mid afternoon we boarded our coach at central office to travel to Denton, Manchester, the home of Tate Ltd., the occasion was a sport challenge evening between a South Staffs. Waterworks and Tate Pipelining Processes Ltd. Competitions comprising of 5-a-side football, darts, dominoes, badminton, squash, pool and crib took place and on the day, the enthusiasm and dedication to duty produced a win for the South Staffs. team (the win margin however was just one point).

A silver salver, provided by Tates Ltd. was presented to the winning team and Ron Perks, as Chairman of the Social Club accepted the trophy on their behalf.

After the excitement of the challenge match a superb buffet was laid on and the evening was concluded with drinks and disco for some members of our party this part of the evening was the highlight and having delayed our turn for an hour we left one or two of the company's representatives there to enjoy the other sort of challenge and entertainment.

A great deal of effort had been put into organising the evening and credit must be paid to both your own and Tate Ltd., Social Clubs for arranging what can only be described as one of the most enjoyable and successful events for a long time.

The trophy is to be played for again and on the 12TH OCTOBER it is hoped to entertain Tates Ltd., this time on our home ground. Please watch the notice board for further details as the evening is guaranteed to be memorable once again.

JOHN BRYAN



Mick Troke, a proud champion.



Lisa Kelly and Sandra Adams who together won all of the six squash games they played, receive the trophy on behalf of the squash team.



Sue Milan, Terry Tapper and Alan Rogers, ardent supporters.

BRILLIANCE AT BADMINTON

No its not the annual horse trials at Badminton but the kind one uses shuttle-cocks in. Tates who threw down the gauntlet and challenged us to this sports evening did not know what was lurking around the corner.

Yes, the likes of Greg Lloyd, Mike Lewis, Alan Lander to name but a few and for those I have not mentioned I apologise. Mr. John Grace M.D. of Tates and his wife looked extremely impressive whilst 'warming up'. However, once play commenced there was no stopping South Staffs. We triumphed throughout every game and took the event trophy home. Not only did the badminton team do us proud but also the squash and domino teams which concluded the overall result in favour of South Staffs.

I believe Tates want a return match sometime in the near future. I look forward to keeping a firm hold on the treasured trophies and salver.

Thanks to all who contributed/participated to the evening. A great time was had by all. Tight reins.

ELAINE (Labs)



Elaine Lycett and Greg Lloyd take on the challenge for badminton.



John Wilson shows he can turn his hand to most racket sports.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

CENTRAL OFFICE CLUB

FUTURE EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

Beer and Skittles Night
(exact date to be fixed)

Sunday 22nd

Treasure Hunt

OCTOBER

Saturday 12th

Sports Challenge S.S.W.W. v Tates
(To be held at Manor Farm Sports
Centre, Rushall)

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd

Bonfire Night Party/Disco

Friday 15th

Tommy Mundon/Black Country Night

DECEMBER

Saturday 21st

Christmas Disco

Saturday 14th

Christmas Party for the Children

SIXTIES DISCO AND DANCE

A sixties night was held at Central Office on Friday 3rd May 1985 when the clock was turned back for a lot of people who either danced, jived or simply listened to the golden oldies of 20 years ago. The music was produced by a live band 'Finders Keepers', who came from Wolverhampton and are reputed to have been around even longer than Slade. In between their two sessions, more modern day music was provided by a very flamboyant D.J., The General. You either loved him or hated him but he certainly made his presence known to one and all and he remained a talking point for some days after the event.

An enjoyable evening was had by all who attended despite having to pay above average prices for drinks at the bar (we now have our own licence). The Social Club is still in its early days and we are learning all the time. . . for future events we hope to have better lighting facilities and curtains or blinds up at the windows.

ARTHUR WORTHINGTON

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Following requests regarding membership to the Social Club from several retired employees on the Superannuated Members Outing, we have pleasure in informing you of the membership terms when joining the Club.

1. All retired employees who, on the amalgamation of the Walsall and Birmingham Social Clubs, were existing life members of either Club are classed as the same within the new club.
2. Any retired employee who wishes to join the new Social Club may do so at an annual cost of £4.80 or £0.40 per month, deducted direct from pension.

Being a **subscribing** member entitles you to reduced prices for all functions organised by the Club and free entry into the monthly draw for £30, £10 or £5 prizes (existing life members who are not subscribing are entitled to reduced prices but **not** entry into the draw). The functions are publicised in the News Review and/or by leaflet to your home address.

Examples of reduced prices are as follows:

- (i) Trip to the Loire Valley - members reduction £5.
- (ii) Trip to Gulliver's Kingdom - members' reduction £2.
- (iii) Attendance at locally organised dances etc. - members reduction 50p-£1.

If you wish to take advantage of membership, put your request in writing to Debbie Kinsey, Revenue Department, Central Office, Green Lane, stating your preferred method of payment. If you wish to pay by cheque for the remaining period, allow up to 40p per month until 1st January, 1986 when fees are next due. (Payable to S.S.W. Social Club). If you opt to have a deduction from pension this will continue until you request the withdrawal of the facility.



ANNUAL OUTING WINDSOR

A good time was had by all on Friday 14th June when 2 coaches departed from Green Lane on route to Windsor. An early start left a few people with weary eyes! but we were soon on our way - passing through a scenic route including Henley-in-Arden and Stratford, travelling towards Oxford, through the pretty village of Woodstock. This was of particular interest to our Malawi visitors who had an opportunity to take in some lovely views of English countryside.

We arrived in Maidenhead at lunchtime where we boarded the boat which was to take us down the Thames to Windsor. Along the river we passed the homes of the 'rich and famous', including such people as Micheal Parkinson and Terry Wogan.

Once in Windsor one and all were let loose until late afternoon, when those who wished to could sample a little 'local brew' before returning to the fold for a 'sleepy' journey back to Green Lane.

The Castle was of particular interest to most people, but unfortunately the State Apartments were closed due to the forthcoming visit of the Queen, preparing for the Order of the Garter.

The return route took us back via Gloucestershire arriving back in Walsall at 10.30 in the evening.

JANE HEDGES, Tech. Services Administration

BURTON SOCIAL CLUB

ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

1st February	A.G.M.
17th April	Mick Harding Show
7th June	B & Q
19th June	Cricket Match plus two return matches
30th June	Raft Race
14th July	London Trip (Family Outing)

ANNUAL RAFT RACE, 30th June 1985

Once again the local Technical College held their annual raft race on the River Trent and once again our Social Club entered a crew!!!

The usual warm up took place, arms bending and chins wagging in the local pub. From there onto the changing rooms at Burton Depot where the crew!!! got to work with the mascara, lipstick and eye shadow (no they are not queer). This year we went along as clowns, some might say we would find this quite natural to be.

After loading the raft onto the lorry and the usual formalities, posing for photo's etc. Off set the lorry for a tour of Burton Town Centre then joining in with the St. Peter's Bridge Carnival which was taking place on the same day to commemorate the building of the new bridge across the River Trent. On arrival at the Branston Road end of the new bridge, we circled the new roundabout spraying spectators and especially the Police with water from the stirrup pump which was strategically placed on the raft. Unfortunately the spectators did not seem to appreciate our efforts, (it must have been the Seedy Mill Water).

On the start after battling our way through the Carnival Procession, we finally arrived at the historic Ferry Bridge where the usual battle took place and in the confusion of flying soot, flour and any other missiles that could be thrown, someone started the race.

By this time crews and spectators were thoroughly drenched, still nevertheless it was all good fun and I am sure we will be back again next year.

BOB LAVER

SEVERN TRENT CHALLENGE

GOLF NEWS

The golf season started well in May when the company represented by Arthur Astbury, Tony Jowle and Keith Marshall took the major honours at the S.T.W.A. Annual Championships held at Kirby Muxloe in Leicestershire.

Tony returned the best gross score of the day shooting a 74. Keith Marshall returned the best nett score of the day with a nett 66, which also clinched the championship. A special prize to the highest points winner on the day was won by our own Keith Marshall.

In June Keith Marshall represented S.T.W.A. in the National Water Authority Championships. The team comprising of six players failed to take the title by just two points, finishing second to Thames Water.

In the S.T.W.A. Divisional Knockout Competition, South Staffs. had a difficult first round draw being paired against R.H.Q. and subsequently suffered the consequences, a 'WHITEWASH'.

Tony Jowle and Brian Webster lost 4 and 3. Malcome Sharpe and Pat Parry lost 8 and 6.

Keith Marshall and Arthur Astbury lost 1 down.

As a final note the Society is short of Golfers, as the above results suggests, so if you are a budding SANDY LYLE, please contact Keith Marshall.



Keith Marshall

BADMINTON

Having won at Tates a few weeks before, a quarter (2 ladies, 2 men) played Badminton at the Hinckley Leisure Centre organised annually by the Severn Trent Water Authority. Teams from Water Authorities and companies from all over the country travel for this great event.

Greg Lloyd, Ken Taylor (Electricians), Julie Butcher and myself (Laboratory) set off to see if we could improve on last years defeat. Having not played together as a team let alone partnered one another before, our first attempt proved successful. Julie partnered Greg, and Ken unfortunately lumbered with myself, came up trumps. Yes, what brilliance again was displayed by the South Staffs. team losing only in the Semi Finals. So close yet so far – perhaps next year.

ELAINE (Labs)



FISHING CLUB NEWS

Three contests have been held at Chelmarsh so far this Season, with the heaviest fish being caught on 28th July by C. Riley. This weighed in at 2lb 2½ oz, but by far the heaviest bag caught so far was from John Harris, Water Quality, which totalled 17lb 1½ oz!!

A few permits are still available, at £2.00 each, for any interested Company employees and five further Contests are to be held on the following dates:

Saturday, 7th September, 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Sunday, 15th September, 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Sunday, 29th October, 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

– Joint Contest with S.T.W.A.

Saturday, 19th October, 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Sunday, 10th November, 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

– Fur and Feather Contest

All Club members may fish in the Contests and it would be great to see a few of the new members competing.

By the way, the Club would like to extend its warmest congratulations to Walter Arms, who was 91 years young on the 5th March.

Tight Lines, WALTER!!
JANE EDWARDS



CRICKET

THURSDAY 28th MAY

On a delightfully sunny day for a cricket match. Northern's Captain, Dave Brisbane opened the batting.

Central, soon in trouble, lost opener Gary Hazelhurst in the first over. A stubborn stand between John Anderton (15 runs) and Charles Shakespeare (20 runs) helped, before falling to the bowling of John Taylor and Dave Brisbane respectively. A fine innings of 28 not out by Central's Terry McAllister saw a total of, 101 for 5 at the end of 20 overs.

Northern's Dave Brisbane and Ian Salmon opened the batting. Dave Brisbane's (19 runs) and Ashley Hughe's (11 runs) started Northern off reaching 30 for 1 at their dismissal. Even John Taylor's (22 runs) and John Stone's (12 runs) were not enough and Northern were all out for 89, giving a victory to Central by 12 runs.

WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE

Central batted first, but due to some penetrating bowling by John King, they only managed to score 52 runs. Only three of their players, Mike Crowe, John Anderton and Pete Graham managed double figures. Northern's Mike Bowen scored over 20, then there was a sudden collapse of wickets to 48-6 with Dave Brisbane and Ron Laver 'weathering the storm', the former hitting the winning runs with plenty of overs to spare. Northern gained revenge.

THURSDAY 4th JULY

With the weather hot and the bar doing a roaring trade, the batsmen were stimulated into action. Northern batted first, amassing 165 runs from their 20 overs. Mike Bowen and John King made a great start with the former retiring undefeated on 20 runs. The highlight of the evening was Dave Brisbane's spectacular collapse trying and failing to catch a Terry McAllister special.

THURSDAY 25th JULY

The last match of the season, Central needed a win. Northern's John King batted first, hitting a splendid 50 runs. After 20 overs Northern reached 103 runs all out.

Mike Crowe's (28 runs) and John Alderton's (18 runs) put Central well on the way to Northern's total and after Charles Shakespeare (15 runs) and Dave Wrighton's (12 runs) (plus extras) the day was won with 9 balls left to play.

The series finished even at two wins to each side.

YOU NEED LEATHER BALLS TO PLAY RUGBY

... or so the saying, but a gallant team of strapping men from South Staffs. proved this wrong. After many begging letters and bribes, a team to face Pitney Bowes was eventually assembled – some for the love of the game, others as an excuse for a pint, and some like myself for both.



THE TEAM	
FULL BACK	A. ROGERS/S. CAMPBELL
WING	C. FERNEYHOUGH
CENTRE	J. HARRIS
CENTRE	M. BOWEN
WING	P. GRIFFITH
FLY HALF	D. WRIGHTON
SCRUM HALF	J. BISSELL
PROP	P. OAKES/P. GRAHAM
HOOKER	A. JONES
PROP	I. WALLACE
LOCK	M. MARSH
LOCK	D. COLLEY
FLANKER	S. BIDDULPH
No. 8	J. STONE
FLANKER	P. ALLEN

Pre-match warm up was very simple. Pete Griffith lit up another cigarette, Alan Jones downed his last pint before the match and Alan Rogers did some weight lifting exercises with his wallet.

The smell of linament was intense. Some of these legs had not seen the light of day since the day they were born. The referee called the Captains together to toss the coin and the match was ready to start – South Staffordshire RFC to kick off.

The game got off to a blistering start with the South Staffs pack behaving like caged tigers. Did I say caged tigers?? well more like untamed kittens. Anyway, it wasn't long before I could see that this match was no joke and we had the makings of a matchwinning side. In fact, it wasn't long before we were in front. The pack won the ball about 25 metres out, fed the ball to the backs and it was the veteran of the side Mike Bowen who went over in the corner for the first try. This was converted by myself with the aid of the post. The first blow had been struck!!!

The match restarted with Pitney Bowes determined to level the score. Good defence by both sides limited any further scoring until just before half time when pressure from Pitney Bowes eventually paid off with a try being scored. This was converted making the score 6-6.

HALF TIME.

A couple of changes at half time brought on S. Campbell and P. Graham and the match restarted.

None of the determination had been lost during the short interval and both teams were again at war. The pack dominated in all aspects. The scrums were solid and the lineouts were a dream to behold. Mick Marsh rose so high that I'm sure his father must have been a salmon!! Their guts and determination soon paid off. Again it was their hard work that won the ball. The ball was fed to myself and I chipped over the approaching defence. Mike Bowen, who was following up like a high speed trolley-bus, collected the ball and dived over for his second try. The crowd went crazy – we were in the lead again. The conversion attempt was a disaster, two sure points wasted.

Pitney Bowes restarted knowing that they must pull back the

points immediately. The easiest time for a team to score is just after the opposition has scored when they are reliving their triumph and this was proved correct. Pitney Bowes scored another try to make the score 10-10 with about 15 minutes to go.

Personal battles were now being fought – most of them out of the referee's sight – but J. Harris could hold himself back no longer. He squared up and towered over his opposite number (a 5'2", 10 stone giant). The referee jumped in between and managed to separate them and both players were lucky not to be getting an 'early bath'.

Last 10 minutes and South Staffs were awarded a penalty about 25 metres out. I consulted with Alan Jones and decided to have a pot at goal. The silence was deathly. Over it went, South Staffs 13 Pitney Bowes 10.

Could we hold on – these last few minutes were crucial! Pitney Bowes threw everything they had at us and it was only sheer determination that kept them out. Suddenly we found ourselves applying the pressure once again and we were close to their line. The backs moved the ball out to the wings, then back inside to myself. I saw the gap and managed to drag myself through for a try. That must be it. We were seven points ahead with a conversion to come and only minutes to go. The conversion again was a disaster, drifting outside the post. What a waste, let's change the kicker!

The game restarted with everyone from South Staffs waiting for that final whistle. Seconds became minutes, minutes became hours until eventually, there it was, the end of the game. South Staffs 17 Pitney Bowes 10.

WELL DONE LADS!!!

DAVE WRIGHTON

SCORE – S.S.W.W.....17
Pitney Bowes.....10

TRIES: M. Bowen 2. D. Wrighton 1
PENALTY: D. Wrighton 1
CONVERSION: D. Wrighton 1

WHERE'S ME PARROT

Bob Wright's holiday to a land of exotic birds inspired him to purchase a Parrot. Not a real one because of obvious Custom's restrictions but a rather splendid colourful model substitute.

To display it to his friends in the office the PARROT was perched precariously among the foliage that appears in profusion in The Open Plan Office.

During the following day, it was suddenly noticeable by its absence and Bob was seen to wander aimlessly dejected murmuring at intervals, "who stole me PARROT?" None too sympathetic colleagues spread the word and from corner to corner of The Great Open Plan and even to the top of the New Office Block, the question on everyone's lips was "whose got the bird?"

The event took a sinister turn when a Ransom note was received and the kidnappers demanded at least £1.50 for Water Aid, for the safe return of one distressed PARROT or the destruction of said PARROT would be carried out. To make sure their threats were not to be taken lightly a small symbolic coffin appeared on the branch that the PARROT has previously perched.

Bob's distress was acute and as the days passed his hope for his dear PARROT'S return grew less.

Then came that awful day, time had run out, Bob on entering The Restaurant was presented with PARROT pie.

A colourful dish with two upturned PARROT claws sticking out of the top.

Bob was, as you can see in the photograph,

perhaps relieved to know his dear PARROT had been put out of his misery and suffering at last.

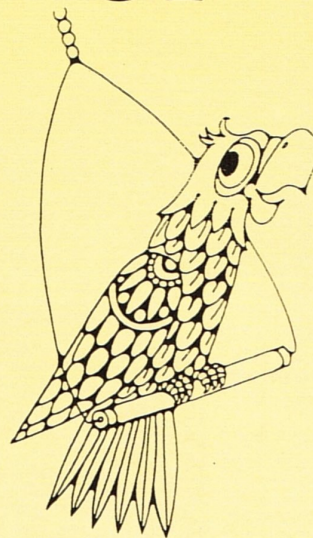
However, this is not the end of the story, as it would seem some unfortunate, less important parrot's demise was used to produce the PARROT PIE and when John Lindley looked for sponsors for his 'Water Aid' Marathon, he approached Bob.

Bob, quick to grasp all straws to aid his kidnapped friend, offered £2.50 as a sponsor subject to the safe return of the PARROT.

Within days a yellow ribbon appeared on the branch (the old oak tree) with these words of hope; 'I'm coming home and I've nearly done my time.'

We offer our support to Bob through these difficult times and although one doesn't want to encourage crime we feel Bob has no alternative but to pay up.

CECILIA TURNER





mainly people

MARRIAGES



11th May. Karen Simms (Revenue) married Ricky Jonathan Beards at Quinton Parish Church.



3rd August. Diane Taylor (Typing Centre) to John Lee (Sandwell Council) at St. Marks Church, Cheslyn Hay.



27th April. Jacqueline Noakes (Revenue) married Anthony Peter Good at Walsall Wood Church.



19th July. Tony Jowle (Tech. Services) to Valerie Roberts at Walsall Registry. A second marriage for both.



27th April. Geoffrey John Denham (Tech. Services) married Jacqueline Barbara Homer (Birmingham Council) at the Church of Ascension, Hall Green.



1st June. Glen Tymon (Northern Area Office) to Dawn Bannister (Nurse) at St. Mary's and St. George's Church of England in Church Gresley, Derbyshire.

18th May. Steve Colella (Revenue) to Jacqueline Curtis at Quinton Parish Church

17th August Susan David (Computer liaison) to Mark Paul at Acocks Green Church at 3.00 p.m.

17th August Ashley Hughes (Burton Office) to Michaela Jowett at St. Johns Church at 2.00 p.m.

ENGAGEMENT

Jean Flint (Wilma) (Restaurant) became engaged to David Lowe (Miner at Littleton Colliery).

RON WIGLEY

Ron Wigley joined the Company on the 1st May 1939 as a junior clerk in the order department at the princely sum of £30 per annum.

During the war he served in the R.A.F. as a air gunner at the rank of sergeant.

Returning to the Company, he was made a deputy buyer on the 1st January 1959.

He is well known in the Company and his friends were perturbed when he was struck down with a mystery illness which hospitalized him for some months. Fortunately he has recovered and hopefully the problem will not return.

He was our 'pools' man and we all hoped he would bring us luck and when the tracing pool won £91,000 in 1978, he was the receiver of a collectors bonus and shared in their good luck.

He was presented with a video recorder as a retirement present and also became the first long serving employee to receive the company's framed coat of arms.

He has three daughters and as the last one was married and left home on the 20th August, he and his wife are once again alone and with only themselves to please.

I'm sure he will take all opportunities to listen to military bands, which are a hobby with him.

We wish him all the best in his retirement.



Ron Wigley with his friends and colleagues on his last day.

BETTY GREENHALL

Betty Greenhall joined the Company in 1955. She worked on water rate ledgers but after a course on accounting machines, she took charge over various machines.

As new technology improved the machinery so Betty kept pace with the changes. She spent some time in the wages section but moved on to assist in the preparation of salaries and pensions, together with associated records and statistics.

She is well known to personnel outside her own department because of the friendly and efficient way she has dealt with personnel who used the company's thrift fund. She was honorary treasurer for eight years.

At the annual general meeting of the thrift fund this year she was presented with a cheque and a bouquet of flowers for her services to the fund.

She is also well known among our gardening enthusiast for she and John Morrall together have shared in the organisation of many of the gardening trips to beautiful places of interest.

Betty plays the piano in her spare time and enjoys Scottish dancing. She is also vice president of the Halesowen Business and Professional Women's Club.

In her retirement she is not planning to be idle for she has opened a small business to keep her occupied.



Betty Greenhall receiving her retirement present from J. Morrall.



Tom Griffiths on the left shares a farewell drink with Albert Cooke.

TOM GRIFFITHS

The large gathering of old and new friends at Tom Griffiths retirement farewell reflected how much he was respected throughout the Company.

Joining the Wood Green Workshops in the Meter and Fittings Department after completing National Service in 1950, he quickly proved to be a keen and capable employee. Over the years Tom has been involved in a variety of jobs - fittings testing, pumping station metering, foreman of the meter shop and also well known on the "district" for work on the distribution system maintaining valves on special meters together with pipe cutting activities.

After nearly 35 years with the Company Tom has decided to take early retirement so that he can enjoy his many interests.



Mr. A. Astbury presents Eric Lancaster with his cheque.

ERIC LANCASTER

Eric Lancaster, the Oldbury Waterman for the past 24 years, retired on 29th May, 1985 also the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday.

Prior to his Company service he was a much travelled professional gardener working on estates in Cheshire, Cambridge, Surrey, Suffolk, Shropshire and Flintshire, employed at various times by Lord Ennisdale, Lord Mostyn and Bee's Seeds Ltd.

He joined this Company on 11th December, 1961 and received his initial training from the late Phil Sutton, confessing that washing a tap was beyond his scope at that time.

Much appreciative of the Company's provision of employment and accommodation, Eric repaid with loyalty and devotion to duty. His conscientious approach to his job earned him the respect of everyone. Plumbing operatives enjoyed the dry shut offs provided by his bar and key.

Mr. A. Astbury, Manager at Tipton Area office, presented Eric with a cheque subscribed for by his colleagues which will be used to provide equipment for his greenhouse where he will spend many of his retirement hours.

PERSONNEL WHO HAVE LEFT THE COMPANY

Name	Department	Date Left	Service
S.P. Haines	Operations	28.2.85	55 yrs
R. Wigley	Administration	31.3.85	46 yrs
T.A. Griffiths	Technical Services	31.3.85	55 yrs
E.M. Penny	Personnel Services	30.4.85	18 yrs
B.R. Greenhall	Personnel Services	30.4.85	30 yrs
T.A. Smith	Financial Accounts	30.4.85	18 yrs
J. Johnson	Operations	31.5.85	55 yrs
E.C. Lancaster	Operations	29.5.85	24 yrs
E. Horobin	Technical Services	31.7.85	16 yrs
L.J. Field	Operations	31.7.85	25 yrs
P.E. James	Computer	31.8.85	18 yrs

DEATHS IN RETIREMENT

Our sincere sympathy goes to all the families of our ex-employees in their grief. We endeavour to publish all known bereavements and regret any notification that has been or will be omitted owing to ignorance.

Name	Died	Name	Died
Mrs. H.M. Britt	10.01.85	T.N. Fleming	30.04.85
Mrs. S.C. Collins	06.02.85	A.M. Stevens	04.07.85
Mrs. M. Moore	15.03.85	J.W. Tiley	14.07.85
E. Cattell	28.05.85	Miss D. Waitfield	Not Known - May Sometime