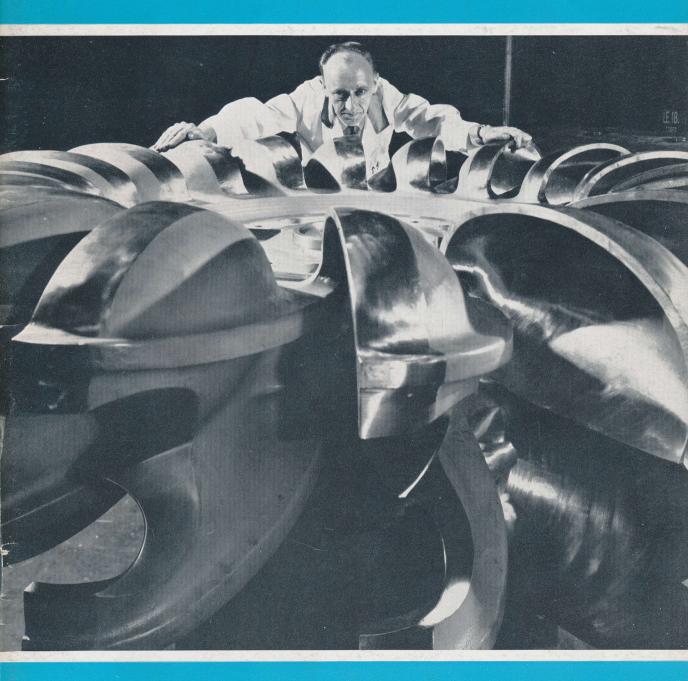


companies and their people



Volume 16 Number 9 April 1966 Sixpence



## The Voice of Kuwait

A contract has been signed for the supply and installation of Marconi equipment which will give Kuwait the most powerful national broadcasting station in the world.

The Voice of Kuwait will be radiated far and wide throughout Middle Eastern countries by three Marconi 750 kW transmitters. Each of these has nearly twice the power of the B.B.C. light programme transmitter at Droitwich, the most powerful service in Britain. The equipment is now being built at Chelmsford and a team of Kuwaiti engineers will be coming over for training in operation and maintenance.

This contract, won in competition with manufacturers in Europe, Russia, Japan and the United States, is another export order for Marconi's.

T. H. Gutteridge of Broadcasting Division has spent six months altogether in Kuwait since the tender was submitted nearly a year ago, and he signed the contract on behalf of the Company. He received a model of an Arab dhow from Trading Society Alkhalid, our agents, as a memento of the occasion. He brought the model home with him by air and below we publish the photograph of its presentation to Mr. Sutherland.

#### **Kuwait memento**

RIGHT: The Arabian dhow presented to The Marconi Company by Feisal Alkhalid and J. Henken of Trading Society Alkhalid, Kuwait, on the occasion of the signing of the high-power medium-wave contract, 1966. The dhow was brought home and presented to Mr. Sutherland by T. H. Gutteridge, of Broadcasting Division. Left to right, Dr. T. W. Straker, General Manager, Telecommunications; T. H. Gutteridge; the Chairman; T. Mayer, Manager, Broadcasting Division; and R. Telford, Managing Director

LEFT: The stern of a large, trading dhow, showing some of the decorative work. Dhows of this kind travel down the east coast of Africa to Mombasa [Camera Press]



An 'English Electric' Company

#### The Marconi Companies and Their People

Editor: L. W. B. Miller, M.A.I.E. Assistant Editor: Mrs. Elizabeth Ward New Street, Chelmsford

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#### **Front Cover**

\*English Electric' production ranges from microelectronics to high-precision heavy engineering. This is a Pelton runner for one of three English Electric 20,700 h.p. turbines for Bassi hydro-electric power station in the Punjab. See page 2



To enable us all to see the results of the year's work, the review of 1965 by the Chairman of The Marconi Company, Mr. F. N. Sutherland, has been circulated personally to everyone in the Company.

To help in building up a picture of the whole 'English Electric' complex, we reproduce here some extracts from Lord Nelson's address at the annual general meeting covering the main activities of the parent company.



Lord Nelson of Stafford, Chairman and Chief Executive of 'English Electric'

## IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF 'ENGLISH ELECTRIC'

I must report, first of all, the important steps we have taken during the past year in the development of our organizational structure. After a careful study of present and future needs and as a further development of the policy of decentralization based on product activities which has been in progress over the past few years we have set up four new groups, each responsible to an executive director of the Company:

The Electrical Products Group comprising product divisions at Stafford, Kidsgrove, Liverpool, Bradford and Accrington;

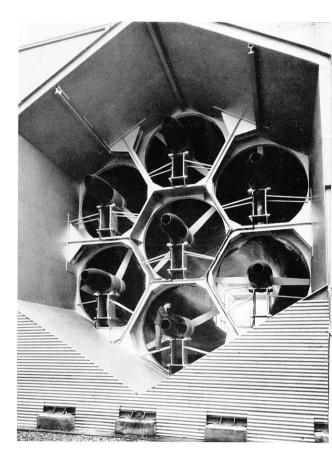
The Power Generation Group comprising product divisions at Rugby, Whetstone and Netherton;

The Electronics Group comprising The Marconi Company and its subsidiaries;

The Computer and Automation Group comprising English Electric–Leo–Marconi Computers Ltd. and English Electric Automation Ltd.

This regrouping and the re-definition of the responsibilities of the headquarters executives will,

Stafford Works supplied all the fan drive electrical equipment for Hawker Siddeley Aviation's wind tunnel for vertical and short take-off research. These 10 ft. fans of the final section are driven by 80 h.p. motors





we believe, give the Company a management structure with which to meet most effectively the challenge of the future.

Export orders obtained in 1965 amounted to one third of the total orders we received and is a record. The Company's order book remains at a satisfactory level, and there should be a further increase in turnover in the current year. It must be said, however, that trading conditions both at home and abroad remain very unsettled for various reasons outside our control. The Company continues to invest substantially in the future and during the coming year the investment in our new and very successful range of System 4 computers will be particularly heavy. In view of these conditions we do not expect an increase in profits comparable with that of last year.

Basically, the overwhelming need is to ensure continuous economic growth without periodic crises in our overseas trading position. In conditions of full employment this is only possible if productivity per capita rises ahead of salaries, wages and other costs so that prices can be competitive in world markets. Only in this way can the working population be assured of a real rise in the standard

The impeller assembly of the largest pump installed in the U.K. This pump is being supplied to the Ship Hydrodynamics Section of the National Physical Laboratory



Lord Nelson paid tribute to Mr. F. N. Sutherland's executive leadership of The Marconi Company over the last eighteen years and reported that The Marconi Company had had another successful year and achieved an encouraging turnover. Once again export orders amounted to more than 50 per cent of the total equipment business. Mr. Sutherland, above, became Chairman of The Marconi Company last year



Welding up the spiral casing of one of the three 11,360 h.p. water turbines for the Nkula Falls hydro-electric project of the Malawi Electricity Supply Commission

of living and those on a fixed income, such as the increasing number of pensioners, be protected from a deterioration in their conditions of life. There is an urgent need for industrial agreement on stability of prices and incomes in relation to productivity.

During a visit in 1965 to the Far East I made a special tour of Australia and I was much impressed with all I saw in that great country and also with



the rate of their economic growth. Our own facilities there are expanding.

A notable order from Australia for four 500 MW steam turbo-alternator sets for the Electricity Commission of New South Wales followed previous orders from this customer for generating plant.

I also visited New Zealand where we are building a factory to support our activities in that country.

### **Electrical Products—Transmission**

Your Company's leading role in the supply of equipment for the world's power networks was again demonstrated very fully during 1965.

We commissioned power transformers for the world's highest voltage system—the 735 kV Hydro-Quebec transmission line from Manicouagan to Montreal—also generator and auto-transformers of

Fifty of these new trains, for which English Electric have supplied power equipment, are going into service on the London Midland Region's newly electrified suburban services the highest ratings for the Central Electricity Generating Board.

We exported more large transformers than ever before, and secured important orders from U.S.A. and Australia.

We have been active in the promotion of high voltage direct current transmission in the world markets. The terminal station in Sardinia for the d.c. interconnection with the mainland of Italy is undergoing commissioning tests and the entire link is expected to be in commercial service later this year.

#### **Power Generation—Nuclear**

At Hinckley Point, the first of the three nuclear power stations entrusted by the Central Electricity Generating Board to English Electric in association with Babcock and Wilcox and Taylor Woodrow, power began to be delivered to the national grid early in 1965. The completed station was handed over to the C.E.G.B. by mid-year and its performance confirms that its capability is significantly higher than the 500 MW guaranteed. An output of 531 MW has already been achieved.

Work is also at the concluding stages on the station at Sizewell in Suffolk. Here, the first reactor was brought on to load early in the New Year and barring unforeseen events the second reactor should be generating power to the grid in March.

#### **Steam Turbines**

At home, site erection of the first 500 MW set at West Burton, and of the 375 MW supercritical unit —the first in Europe—at Drakelow, was completed. The first 350 MW unit in this country was successfully commissioned at Blyth, and the next three 500 MW sets have been tested in the Works and despatched to site.

Export successes were scored with industrial steam turbines as well. One, for a paper mill in Australia, is believed to be the largest geared turboalternator yet ordered from a U.K. manufacturer. Another, for a complete 12 MW power station for a new oil refinery in Yugoslavia, was part of a contract valued at over £1 m. secured jointly with John Thompson Water Tube Boilers Limited. Several home orders for industrial turbines both for power generation and for mechanical drives were secured against strong Continental competition, which is now a feature of the home market.

### **Gas Turbines**

Orders in 1965 substantiated last year's forecast of increasing interest in jet-powered expansion gas

turbines for peak load and emergency power generation. The C.E.G.B.'s order, believed to be the largest single order ever placed for plant of this type, for ten 25 MW sets valued at approximately £5 m., was followed by the largest export order yet placed in the U.K., for two 22 MW gas turbines for Johannesburg.

#### **Hydro-Electric**

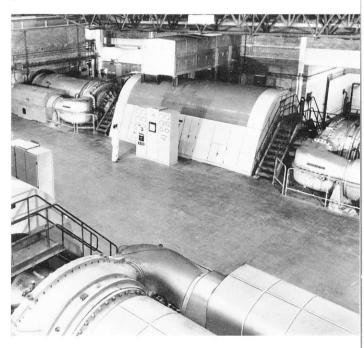
Our work is truly world-wide, with contracts in hand from Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe. In addition, important work is carried out in furnishing designs and other necessary information to the Indian Government's heavy electrical plant factory at Bhopal and to several other licensees in this field.

The conspicuous part which the Company has played in the special field of pumped storage plants was epitomised by the opening of the scheme at Cruachan in Scotland by Her Majesty the Queen in October.

### **Comprehensive Contracts**

Among many overseas power stations equipped by English Electric are several for which the Company has, in addition, overall responsibility as main

One of the two English Electric 56 megawatt gas-turboalternator sets at the Central Electricity Generating Board's power station at Earley, near Reading, which with a 112 MW installation at Liverpool, were Britain's first gas-turbine generating sets of this size to deliver full power to the national grid



contractors, notably the hydro-electric scheme at El Cadillal in Argentina, thermal power stations in Egypt and Hong Kong, and a diesel power station in the Sudan.

### English Electric-Leo-Marconi Computers Ltd.

In the autumn of 1965, English Electric–Leo– Marconi Computers announced System 4, a new range of computer systems which mark a major advance in this important field. It was received enthusiastically at all levels of commerce and industry. During 1965 we delivered more computer equipment than in any previous year. Notable systems have been those supplied to the Atomic Energy Authority, and those to the G.P.O. for telephone accounting. We have shipped computer systems abroad to Australia, South Africa and Czechoslovakia. Industrial computers have been put into operation in several important automation schemes in the steel industry and we have provided automatic data-logging systems for ocean-going ships.

In 1965 the Company made significant strides forward. We are now stronger than ever before to meet the challenge of the future in this field which is so important to the British economy.

### English Electric Automation Ltd.

Without automation as a most important factor in the modernization of industry it will be difficult for the United Kingdom to hold its position vis-à-vis our industrial competitors. English Electric has unique opportunities to introduce automation over a wide range of industry. The Marconi Company is prominent in the fields of data transmission and presentation, and English Electric-Leo-Marconi manufactures computers which form part of the more sophisticated automation systems.

As a further step to co-ordinate automation within English Electric, a new company—English Electric Automation Limited—was set up in April 1965.

## LONG SERVICE TO PERSONNEL

There are several people still serving at Chelmsford who can remember being paid their weekly wages by W. H. Ersser over the counter in Marconi House, London. But that is a long time ago, and Mr. Ersser has now retired.

It was in 1923 when he joined the Cashiers Department and he was there for sixteen years before coming in 1939 to the new head office building at



New Street. The building was no sooner up than it was camouflaged as protection against the raiders, and war work became important.

Then, in 1941, the Staff Department was started under C. J. Simpson. Mr. Ersser joined it and this for him was the start of twenty-five years' experience of personnel work. He became responsible for engaging clerical staff as well as other administrative duties. The department ceased to operate as such after 1948, but Mr. Ersser carried on with staff and personnel work under L. J. King, then Company Secretary. In 1960 a new department was formed at the College, which has now become Central Staff Services under J. F. H. Pease-Watkin, and has its headquarters at New Street with a staff of personnel officers dealing with every section of the Company. Mr. Ersser became Chief of Staff Administration in Central Staff Services.

He must have interviewed thousands of people for jobs during his twenty-five years' experience of

When W. H. Ersser retired after forty-three years service, J. F. H. Pease-Watkin, Manager, Central Staff Services, made the presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Ersser have gone to live at Frinton with gifts from many friends of binoculars, a barometer, coffee table and bookcase personnel, and he must have been involved in the engagement of several hundred staff a year. There are many people who remember being interviewed by him or receiving a letter of engagement from him. He says that in recent years there have been pleasant links with the past as he has interviewed and engaged a number of sons and daughters of former staff.

His work included all kinds of other jobs. Engineers will remember that he was responsible for fixing their foreign service agreements. He looked after cases of prolonged sickness, handled retirements, and, at one time also handled the review of salaries and increments for clerical staff. It is fair to say that in his time he has covered every aspect of staff administration.

At his presentation he received an autograph book containing the signatures of the Chairman and top management together with those of over 250 members of the staff who gave him magnificent parting gifts including a pair of binoculars, a barometer, a coffee table, a book-case and a cheque. Last but not least, he was presented with a leather wallet by the Managing Director for forty-three years' service.

## Amateurs on the air

Since the first radio ham went on the air nothing has proved a barrier to the amateurs who circle the world, via the ether, with their enthusiasm. Neither colour, politics, religion or language can halt this form of international friendship.

Buyer at Eddystone's, John Gwynne has been an enthusiast since the '30s and has formed friendships all over the globe and even behind the 'iron curtain'. Chairman of Bromsgrove Amateur Radio Club, he keeps his radio equipment in the garage and spends a great deal of his spare time on local and HF bands.

More recently he has taken his hobby one step further and has built equipment into his car so as to keep in touch with radio friends, even while on the road. His call sign is G2CLN.

Another enthusiast at Eddystone is technical writer John Bratby, who also built his own equipment and has the call sign G3GVA. Both he and his wife attend the radio club meetings.

Like John Gwynne, he has had many link-ups with amateurs all over the world and has also shared in the excitement of picking up an SOS message from an aircraft in trouble.

Other licensed radio amateurs at Eddystone are R. Wild (G3UXP), G. Douce (G3SGD), G. Wood-



A final check-over by John Bratby, left, Eddystone technical writer, and John Gwynne, buyer, before they take the latter's radio-equipped car out on the road

burn (G3AYW), C. Hartles (G3ENH), A. Summers (G5SS), E. J. Pickard (G6VA), and A. C. Edwards (G6XJ). Eddystone Radio's call sign is G6SL. Several members of the staff are studying for the R.A.E. examination and hope to be in possession of call-signs in due course.



#### New secretary for Benevolent Fund

C. P. Eastwood, Chief Cashier, left, and A. R. Eade, Assistant Secretary of The Marconi Company, second left, were appointed Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Benevolent Fund on the retirement of L. J. King. Next from left is W. A. Penkman of the Marine Company, a trustee; H. C. Maguire, General Manager, Marine Company, also a trustee; and right the Chairman, F. N. Sutherland

# AS OTHERS SEE US

### Some observations on Gallup Poll surveys conducted for Marconi Instruments

There is a delightful story of a boy's first day at school. Scampering home at lunchtime, he greeted his mother with the remark: 'I've been there all morning and I can't read yet.'

Rather similar feelings sometimes harrass publicity people, who can be dismayed at their public's apparent lack of interest even in full-page advertisements. Not appreciating, at the moment, that they are contending for attention with another hundred advertisers, they express anguished surprise—'But you must have seen it. Don't you look at anything!'

The reader of a technical journal spends, *on average*, rather less than four seconds looking at an advertisement. How much he will remember depends on such factors as his particular interests, human emotions, intelligence, and health but also

When an M.I. advertisement is seen, read, remembered, and causes customers to write to us, these are some of the people who answer their enquiries. Left to right, G. C. Briggs, Field Sales Manager U.K., with Gerry Griffiths, Isa Ayub and Gordon Anderson, technical correspondents in the Home Sales Department





Wonder if he has read M.I. advertisements? Seems just horsesense to take a Gallup [T. Gething]

on such controllable factors as the saleability of the product or service, and the skills of the artist and copywriter.

M.I., who spend a considerable amount on technical journal advertising, recently felt the need to test the pulling power of this particular branch of the publicity effort. A survey programme for the Company was conducted by Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Ltd., covering advertising in issues of *Wireless World*, *Electronic Engineering* and *Electronic Equipment News*.

The Company's performance rating for recall of advertisements by readers proved pretty good. For example, in *Wireless World*, M.I. gained second, third and eighth places with three advertisements in a field of 112 runners. In case publicity heads might get too swollen, however, some of the 'reader recall' remarks provided a definite dampener. Here are some beauties.

'A large picture of a signal generator with technical details which I can't recall at the moment.'

'A picture of a transistorised signal generator— MF/HF. It claimed great versatility. I can't remember any more.'

'It was an advert for a signal generator, and they claimed great versatility. I see so many adverts. There was nothing outstanding. It was only a competition sales-boost.'

'I've seen this one but I can't describe the advert —it's another box.'

But full marks to the gentleman who recorded with unerring accuracy: 'It showed an MF/HF AM signal generator with performance data by its side. It gave the carrier frequency and the output of 0.2  $\mu$ V to 2V r.m.s. You could write or telephone for further details and for the book which deals with AM and FM equipments up to 100 Mc/s.'

These reports have been carefully studied and M.I.'s advertising people are now producing a new breed of advertisements—compelling artwork, brief copy, striking message—so that he who runs may read, *and remember*.

In parallel with this interesting exercise, Gallup Poll conducted a Company Image survey for M.I. This showed that the Company is rated as the 'major manufacturer' of signal generators, attenuators, oscillators, bridges, frequency meters and wave analysers. It is listed No. 2 in response analysers and voltmeters, and No. 3 for counters and oscilloscopes.

And what particular virtues shown by the Company are most appreciated? Topping the list is 'useful and informative technical data', followed in second place by 'products well targeted to meet the needs of industrial consumers', and third in line is 'give customers good technical assistance'.

Not a bad image, really. Which takes us back to the opening paragraph and the haste complex of the child. Nothing worthwhile can be built in a day least of all a good company reputation, which depends upon quality, skill and service backed by intelligent public relations efforts.

K. A. MCKENNA

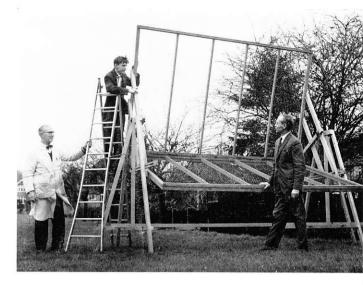
# Their own radio telescope

St. Albans now has a radio telescope. Not perhaps as big as Jodrell Bank but useful enough to undertake serious research work.

The idea came from Mr. G. T. Hutton, physics master at St. Albans Grammar School as an out-ofschool activity for the boys, two of whom were particularly keen on electronics. One of them, Philip Le Riche, has since joined M.I. as a student apprentice.

It took two years to build the receiver and the two aerials. These include four 10 ft.  $\times$ 10 ft. reflectors, arranged in pairs, which can be adjusted to sweep any part of the sky. The reflectors, made in the school workshop from timber and chicken wire, have been erected at the back of the science block.

With a project such as this it was natural that they should need help, and several M.I. people who used to attend the school went along with advice and test gear. Two automatic pen recorders have



Making adjustments to a pair of reflectors of the radio telescope built at St. Albans Grammar School is Philip Le Riche, now an M.I. student apprentice. Mr. G. T. Hutton, physics master, stands by to give advice

[Herts Advertiser Printing Company Limited]

also been loaned and these are being used to plot a record of solar radiation, with instrument readings being taken every minute.

The first research programme the boys of the school are undertaking is an investigation into the association between the radio emission of the sun and certain features of the reflection of radio waves by the earth's ionosphere. As Mr. Hutton told the *Herts Advertiser* recently, he believes that no one else is doing this kind of work at present, certainly with equipment built at a school.

# To progress export orders

Welcome to Pino Ballaro of Milan, who has recently joined M.I. and is in charge of Export Office administration. He studied foreign trade at the universities of Milan, Rome and Catania, his subjects including economics, statistics, commercial law and English. Furthermore, he holds the British Chamber of Commerce Diploma. He is married to an English girl he met in Italy.

### Can you beat it?

OPTIMIST: A girl who mistakes a bulge for a curve. FOOTBALL RESULTS: Here we err again.

HOLLYWOOD: Where everyone moves in the best triangles. [Sunday Post]



## MOVING TO THE LANE

We said *au revoir* to John Scott of Central Staff Services last month. He has taken up a new appointment as Head of Personnel and Training at the English Electric Valve Company, Waterhouse Lane.

His first job, in 1933, was in Marconi's Test Department under Mr. Norman Lea. He went to Aeronautical Development at Hackbridge in 1937, and later moved with that department to Writtle, where his chief was Mr. Christopher Cockerel, now famous as the Hovercraft inventor.

On the outbreak of war Aeronautical Division's maintenance department was transferred to Whitchurch aerodrome, Bristol, and the depot was set up in a Methodist church hall at Bishopsworth. It was from here that Mr. Scott was seconded to the R.A.F. and posted to Bomber Command to train



A presentation was made by J. F. H. Pease-Watkin, Manager, Central Staff Services, centre, to J. L. Scott, right, when he left to join English Electric Valve Company, and to Miss Gloria Ford, second from left, who has gone to the Ministry of Technology after fifteen years service with the Company

both ground maintenance teams and air-crew operators in the use of the new Marconi airborne communications equipment T 1154/R 1155 which was subsequently produced in large numbers.

At first he was at No. 6 Group H.Q. at Abingdon, working with the operational training stations where personnel were formed into crews and trained on the type of aircraft they were to use. In 1942 he was posted to Coastal Command on similar work, and, representing Marconi's, travelled all over Britain from Cornwall to the Shetlands. With a change of policy R.A.F. maintenance personnel were sent to Marconi College, and he was recalled to instruct them. A. W. Ladner was Principal of the College at that time.

Subsequently Mr. Scott changed over from teaching to the recruitment of technical staff, and for many years was concerned with the engagement of engineers and technicians for work on Company projects which included Vast and Rotor, the contract for renewing ground radar stations throughout Britain.

Recently he was a divisional personnel officer in Central Staff Services.

He has always been interested in the work of the Magazine and has been a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee since it started in 1950.

For many years he has been on the committee for the Company children's parties or outings and he and his wife give a helping hand with the hundreds of children who attend.

He has a fund of knowledge of the Company and its organization which was an invaluable source of lecture material for many a recruiting drive.

## Basildon Social Club's A.G.M.

1965 was a year of triumph for the Basildon Sports and Social Club. At the thirteenth annual general

The newly-elected Basildon Social Club committee with permanent officials. At the back, from the left, trustee Alan Sharp, John Peters, Norman Miller, Ron Archer, Mrs. Margaret Kopriva, Wally Wilson, Mrs. Beryl Freeman, Reg Gelder, Alec Tedder, and trustee Fred Gibbs. Front: Les Norton, Club Secretary; Chris Rivett, retiring Chairman; and Cyril Short, Honorary Treasurer. Not in the picture are committee members Mrs. Elsie Hall and Roy Annis [G. Hoare]



#### Farmer's friend for Overseas

To check the simplicity of the M.I. moisture meter and its instructions, Mrs. Elaine Samuel, Works Manager's secretary, was among the several people unused to the instrument, who were asked to measure the moisture content of a sample of grain. 25,000 of these moisture meters have been sold, mostly in the U.K., but this year the instructions are being translated into several languages and a determined attack is being made on overseas markets

meeting it was reported that membership had increased to 1,050, a rise of 229 on the previous year. Of the twenty-two sections, sixteen were active and included a new Judo Section, with the possibility of a Sub-aqua skin-diving Section also being formed.

The new football pitch was taking shape and under the skilful hands of George Young, the groundsman, the condition of the cricket square was greatly improved.

In the elections, R. Coldwell, Works Manager, was re-elected president, R. Safe vice-president in place of Dr. O'Kane, with H. Smith re-elected as the other vice-president. The committee are as follows: Mrs. Margaret Kopriva (330 votes), Chris Rivett (308), Alec Tedder (286), Wally Wilson (236), Norman Miller (215), Reg Gelder (214), John Peters (209), Mrs. Elsie Hall (193), Roy Annis (183), Ron Archer (175) and Mrs. Beryl Freeman (171). The chairman and other officers will be elected by the committee at the next meeting.

## Apprentice happenings at M.I.

Congratulations to Derek Taylor on his twentyfirst birthday. Derek is supervisor of the apprentice stores and it is due to his work that there are many young M.I. chaps able to construct their own radios and test gear.

Best wishes also to Rodney Howe, chairman of the M.I. Apprentice Association, who recently married Susan Wilson, Punch Card Supervisor. Rodney finishes his apprenticeship in April.

Also in April is the association's annual general meeting and as a new committee is to be elected it is essential for all members to do their duty and be present.

There was a big turnout on 12 March when a dance took place in the canteen. In attendance were the popular Vincents Group for which John Flood, Machine Shop, is lead singer.

# Pioneerflyers rescued in mid-Atlantic

The first aircraft ever to carry direction-finding radio on a transatlantic flight was forced down by fire in mid-ocean, but the crew were fortunately saved by the accuracy with which they were able to send out their position.

Captain Courtney made a valiant attempt in 1928 to reach New York in stages via the Azores and Newfoundland to demonstrate that a regular transatlantic service could be developed with flying boats, and The Marconi Company was interested in the project because he was using wireless, as it was called then, for safety and as an aid to navigation.

H. W. Gilmour of The Marconi Company, who has recently retired, flew with Courtney. He it was who transmitted the information which brought assistance while they drifted helpless in mid-ocean.

Recalling the experience he said, 'Time has shown how right Captain Courtney was in his judgement. We didn't get across, though our plight proved the value of wireless. Today we know all the answers: in 1928 this was an adventure.

'We started from Lisbon on the first stage of the ocean crossing. Taking off from the Tagus in a cloud of spray we left the crowd of yachts and tugs below and set course for the open sea and the Azores. True the engine cooling system failed and we had to return and do it all over again, but nobody seemed to think this very surprising.

'Operating a radio set in the air was a new experience for me and I was soon to learn that quite amazing feats could be accomplished with our little Marconi AD 6 communications transmitter/receiver, and AD 16 direction finder.

There is a volcanic mountain in the Azores called Pico which rises 2,000 feet from the sea, and in my innocence I supposed that we would see it as we approached. But when the time came to sight Pico, it wasn't there. The DF placed it well to the south of us, so I reported this to the Captain. The information was not welcome, but we were off course and when we turned south on the DF bearing sure, enough the tip of Pico appeared out of the clouds ahead. This gave me complete confidence in the use of the DF. The Bellini Tosi loops extended from wing tip to wing tip and from bow to stern, a fine aerial.

'At Horta we got news that our chief rival Captain Franco, General Franco's brother, had set out from Lisbon, so with a rousing farewell from the cable boys we were off for Newfoundland. And we were well on our way when we ran into thick mist. Then Cape Race had bad news for us: fog had closed in; it was thick along the coast everywhere. So there was nothing for it but to return to Horta.

'Captain Franco had not arrived. Later we heard that he had retired with trouble.

'On our next attempt we made good progress with promises of clear weather ahead. We reached mid-Atlantic at 2 a.m. Ships asked who we were and sent numerous good luck messages; positions and bearings were exchanged. We were on course and in the best of spirits. Then suddenly I saw that the cockpit was lit by a fiery glare, and with the Captain's thumbs down signal the precautionary fire drill became a reality.

Pierce rushed to turn off all twenty-one petrol



On his retirement after forty-seven years' service, H. W. Gilmour was presented with a swivel arm chair by P. J. Donnelly, Manager, Central Division. 'Gillie' as he was known to all his friends, many of whom came to his presentation, served for ten years at sea with the Marine Company before joining The Marconi Company and taking part in the Courtney flight. When he retired he was Manager, Spares Dept., Central Division



Captain Courtney's machine. In flight a 200 ft trailing aerial was used; on the water a 40 ft telescopic mast. For the Marconi Bellini Tosi direction finder fixed loop aerials were fitted from wing-tip to wing-tip and from bow to stern

taps. I switched over to emergency, wound in the radio aerial and joined Courtney in the dual cockpit. I saw the burning engine and the trail of flaring petrol, and then looked over the side. It was nothing but inky blackness down there. Courtney sat watching for the water, then made a remarkable landing along the swell. Somehow we got the fire out with extinguishers, and shook hands on it.

'There was no reply to our first S.O.S. so we decided to wait till 8 a.m. when all ships' stations would be manned. Celtic was the first to answer, then the hue and cry began.

'We felt very small objects as we gazed out over the Atlantic all through that day, feeling very sick. Then in the evening a trail of smoke came over the horizon straight towards us, and we were picked up by the liner *Minnewaska*.

'They gave us a wonderful reception in New York'.

When Mr. Gilmour came home and joined the Aircraft Department under J. M. Furnival, believe it or not his first job was to write the technical handbook of the AD 6. Then he went to the Marconi Croydon Installations and Maintenance depot, when Croydon was London's major airport. 'We were a busy team down there,' he said, 'many of the wellknown people of the Company such as L. A. Sweny and F. S. Mockford were associated with Croydon.

'With the declaration of war we moved, in a hurry, to Whitchurch, Bristol, and within twenty-four hours had the depot set up and in operation for Service aircraft in a Methodist church hall. Well do I remember setting up the office with George Jenner and Charlie Cole in a house which George had requisitioned on the spot.'

Early in 1940 Mr. Gilmour was appointed Deputy Chief of Aircraft Division. Later he moved to Hackbridge as Assistant Manager under Mr. R. Telford, to work on the production of the airborne transmitter/receiver, T 1154/55, for the R.A.F., which, by the peak of the bombing period was fitted in numbers of our aircraft.

Concerned with sales and contracts, he was in Field and Air Division after the war, and for many years in Communications Division until he became Manager, Spares Department, Central Division.



#### **Club leaders**

Members of the Committee of the Felling Sports and Social Club. Left to right: standing, L. Gorbold, Progress Dept.; A. Adamson, Verification Group Test; W. Clarkson, Quality Control Engineer; T. W. Richardson, Development Group. Sitting: Mrs. M. Stevenson, Business Dept.; P. Bradley, Divisional Accountant, Treasurer M.S. and S.C.; O. McClurry, Asst. Progress Superintendent



The special committee of the Felling Sports and Social Club responsible for organizing and running the very successful dinner and dance. Left to right: standing, H. Smiles, Section 15; R. Hunter, Verification Group; T. W. Richardson, Development Group; F. Mole, Progress. Sitting, Mrs. M. Stevenson, Business Dept.; O. McClurry, Asst. Progress Superintendent; Miss B. McKinney, Sec. to Chief of Production Group

## **Demonstration dance**

To celebrate its first anniversary, the M.A.S.C. Dancing Section held a gala evening at Beehive Lane where over one hundred and fifty members and guests enjoyed themselves.

Highlight of the evening was a demonstration by professional dancing champions Valerie Waite and Michael Houseman. This couple hold many amateur and professional titles and they gave first-



Members of the Dancing Section with the dancing champions. Left to right, Heather Saunders, Alan Powell, Mrs. Mavis Chittenden, Michael Houseman, Valerie Waite, Fred Chittenden, Mrs. Maisie Geer, Bob Adams, Club Secretary, Frank Geer and Mrs. Margaret Adams

class demonstrations of how the waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep should really be danced.

For the feminine readers, Valerie makes her own dance dresses and on this occasion she wore an apricot tulle and nylon net creation with sixty-five yards of material in the skirt.

The section which began in February 1965 now holds classes every Thursday evening in the Club at Beehive Lane, with instruction from Heather Saunders and Alan Powell. If anyone is interested, they should contact Fred Chittenden of Baddow D.O. who runs the secretarial and musical equipment side of things. Frank Geer, Baddow Inspection, holds the purse strings.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HACKBRIDGE

#### **New Committee**

During this month the election of the Social Club Committee for 1966/67 is taking place and nomination forms are on departmental notice-boards. Those elected will take office at the Club's a.g.m. in the Works canteen on Thursday, 28 April.

#### **Summer Outing**

Arrangements are under way for the annual summer outing on Sunday, 5 June, this year to the Isle of Wight. Present plans are for the journey to be by train from Sutton to Portsmouth, thence by ferry to Ryde. For those interested, a coach tour of the island will be available. Provisional costs are: members  $\pounds 1$ ; children 10*s*.; friends 29*s*.; and the coach tour about 7*s*.

#### **Photo Section**

At a recent practical session laid on for members of the Photographic Section, some very good lighting equipment and cameras were seen in action. Members experimented with black-and-white film taking portraits and other subjects—perhaps we shall see these in the Magazine at a later date.

#### Is this a record?

At forty years of age, could it be that R. G. Eaton, Chief Production Engineer, is the youngest member of the Marconi Veterans' Association? He joined the Company on 10 March 1941 and became a veteran in March 1966. Anyone beat this?

#### Swimming

Fancy a swim after work on Fridays? A Swimming Section of the Social Club has been started up and members are enjoying a swim at the Sutton public baths in Throwley Road. Anyone interested can meet at the baths. If there is difficulty about transport, committee members will be pleased to arrange lifts.

#### Go to Town

Plans are afoot for a Social Club sponsored outing to the Dominion Cinema to see *Sound of Music*, on Friday, 27 May. It is thought that stall seats will cost 15*s*. each and door-to-door transport by luxury coach will cost 5*s*. a head.



Hackbridge ten-pin bowlers in action at the Top Rank Bowling Alley at Croydon where they meet on the first Wednesday of each month [T. Dagnall]



For many years a centre for cock-fighting, The Fighting Cocks at St. Albans once served as a fishing lodge for the monks of the Abbey. Walter Cook, Chief Estimator, Hackbridge, took this photograph last year

#### Ye old Fighting Cocks

Apropos the news item 'Never far from home' on page 24 in the February issue, Walter Cook, Chief Estimator, brought along a photograph he had taken of the pub mentioned, while visiting St. Albans last year.

#### **Ten-pin Bowling**

Visits to the Top Rank Bowling Alley at Croydon have proved popular enough for this to become a fixture on the first Wednesday of each month. Although the game is competitive it is not proposed to form teams or enter leagues as the gatherings are friendly. For the record, Herbie Inniss got 5 strikes and 1 spare and scored 163 at his third attempt, whilst Harish Dave got 4 strikes and 1 spare and scored 140 also at his third attempt.

Organizer Terry Dagnall tells us that at the cost of 4s. a game this is good fun and as parents can bring the youngsters along to play as well, this is a family affair. Club members are very welcome to come along and play.

#### Can you beat it?

MIDDLE-AGE: Somebody ten years older than you. TV: Where all the little movies go when they're bad. [Sunday Post]



ABOVE: An artist's impression of the dish aerial which will be the centre of the satellite communications earth terminal on Ascension Island

BELOW: Looking East from East Bay across the island to Green Mountain on the right. In the foreground is a mass of lunar-like clinker

# APOLLO MEN

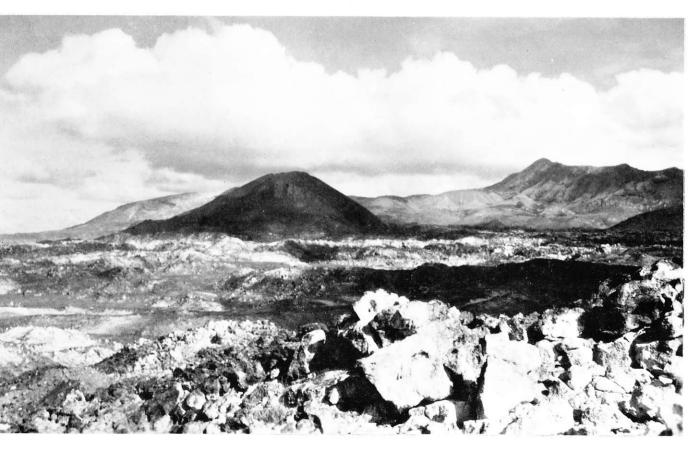
As The Marconi Company competes suc of satellite and space communication, cc strange spots . . .

A volcanic eruption, a speck in the Atlantic Ocean, a wilderness of clinker and lava with a township of wooden huts. This is Ascension Island, the tiny five-by-seven-mile area nominated as the site for one of the links in America's Apollo man-on-themoon project.

Arriving on the island to work on an earth terminal for a satellite communications link between it and America, Marconi men have crunched over a surface similar to that scientists expect the first man on the moon to bounce over. But English history is full of the conquests of barren wastes and unknown continents, so our men are not deterred.

It is we who are desk-bound at New Street and other Company centres to whom these conditions are a source of curiosity. After all, it is not every day a man sets up house on a heap of lava.

But, in spite of its geographical position, its



# ON THE MOVE

ccessfully in the ever broadening market contract work will take our men to many

geological composition and its forbidding air, the island has much to recommend it. Today, when overcrowding is an international by-word, the island has few occupants and boasts a climate which is more temperate than one would expect for a place less than eight degrees south of the equator.

It was partly because of the climate that for a time during its history the island became a ship, the H.M.S. *Ascension*. It was taken over by the Royal Marines in 1821 as a useful port of call for ships then engaged in the suppression of the slave trade on the west coast of Africa. Periodically, officers and men were allowed to recuperate in the favourable climate.

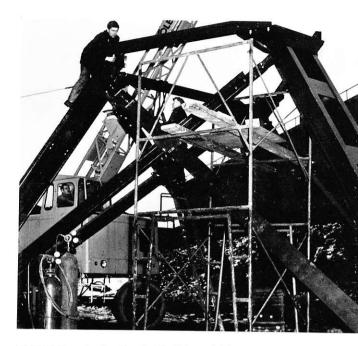
Since those days it has been permanently inhabited, though never overcrowded. Although the first Marconi men to arrive, after Space Communications Division announced the contract, last October, did not find conditions equal to those on other installations, they did find plenty of space.

They also found an island of contrasts, with the lower regions made up of rock and clinker, giving almost Lunik views, with eruptions and craters adding to a nightmarish effect. But, dominating the scene, the main peak, Green Mountain, rises to 2,800 feet and relieves the otherwise barren and uninviting terrain. It is the mountain that provides almost the only vegetation on the island, the greenery growing lusher as one gets higher.

Cable and Wireless Ltd., who sub-contracted the design, building and installation of the island station to Marconi's, are the main inhabitants of Ascension, and have had employees there for over sixty years. Marconi men working on the Apollo project will benefit from the amenities built up over the years by their Cable and Wireless colleagues. These include the principal centre, Georgetown, on the west coast.

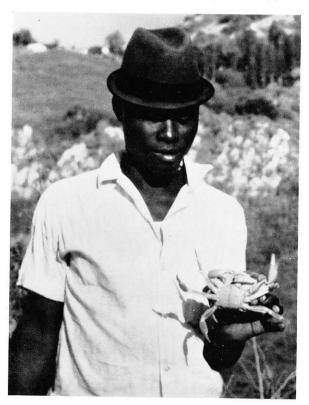
Members of Radar Division's Installation Group, led by E. W. G. Cummings, have visited the island to inspect the facilities available to the men who would make their homes there for some months, a consideration as important as the installation problems involved in working on such an off-beat site.

Most people know so little of the island that it has an aura of romance and mystery, but in fact it



ABOVE: A gantry for the Apollo dish aerial being erected for test at Felling Works before being sent to Rivenhall. Driving the crane is G. Rutter, Felling Transport, and the fitters are A. Ycaman, left, and W. Bell [Turner's, Newcastle]

BELOW: A West Indian employed on construction work on Ascension with a land crab [Three photos by L. Barclay]



offers most of the essentials for everyday living and even a few extras, such as an airstrip at Wide Awake Field and a place to relax in comfort appropriately named the Exiles Club.

Talks with Cable and Wireless staff put our Company representatives in the picture. They were told that most food was imported, with stocks varying according to shipments, and that a few vegetables were grown on a farm on Green Mountain an unreliable supply dependent on the rainfall.

Prices of 'Supermarket' items were said to vary by from 4*d*. to 6*d*. over U.K. prices, but cigarettes, canned beer and spirits were cheaper than in European duty-free shops. The availability of drinking water varied, and at the time of the visit the weekly ration was six gallons per head, plus a further six gallons per household.

Labourers are generally imported from St. Helena, and so are known as 'Saints'. There is a pronounced labour shortage, and many inhabitants tend to do two jobs.

So this is Ascension Island, the place in the sun where, for the next few months, a group of Marconi men will be making their homes, perhaps a little precariously, on a heap of lava. To us it would be an intriguing adventure . . . to them it is just another job.

## After the audit is over

While others are enjoying their Christmas parties, M.I. Accounts Department are busy balancing up the books, so after the auditors have gone, Accounts, their guests and friends, hold their annual party.

This year the party took place at the Waterend Barn, St. Albans, and the eighty-seven people present had a grand time. After the chicken or duck

When the band is away the guests start to play. At the M.I. Accounts annual party Mrs. Phyllis Wood and Mrs. Lilian Hodges, both of Accounts, with Mrs. Joyce Mullen, telephone exchange, provide entertainment if not music



came the speeches, outstanding among which were the reply to 'The Company' by W. A. G. Brian, Secretary/Accountant, on the subject of 'Effectiveness' and 'The Guests' by Clive Dumpleton, who spoke amusingly on the eight deliveries to members of the department and the full order book.

Music for games and dancing was provided by the Alex Miller band until 1 o'clock when the clause on the unusual menu came into effect that 'Any wife or husband not claimed within five minutes of cessation of hostilities shall remain the property of the committee, to be disposed of as it thinks fit.'

## It's quieter at M.I.

### (Comparatively)

Takes everything in her stride does Wendy Hopkins. Before she married and came to M.I. to be secretary to the Export and Home Sales Managers, she was a secretary on the Publicity staff of the London *Evening Standard*.

A large part of her job was to help arrange fashion shows at various seaside resorts. Then one day a model failed to turn up, her boss said, 'You're on,' and before she could reply 'I'm too shy,' she found herself parading in a swim suit.

The next day the *Evening Standard* printed on its front page a large picture of Wendy. Later almost life-size cut-out pictures of her were used to advertise fashion shows so that when she travelled round the country she was faced with pictures of herself.

As well as being efficient and very attractive, Wendy really is shy so there is no photograph here to prove that those advertisements were charming.



## Who does what

Ever since this Magazine started, M.I. Publicity's Babs Pomfrey, centre, has spent an hour or so each month in distributing copies mostly to St. Albans departmental representatives. As Babs has undertaken new duties in the Direct Mail Section, however, distribution of the Magazine is now being handled by Mrs. Trixie Wilkinson, Publicity, left, helped by Pat Whitehead, Publicity secretary.

In the newly-formed Direct Mail Section there are already many thousands of names and addresses on plates, all of which have to be kept up to date. Adrema plate and automatic envelope addressing equipment has been installed, and by this means information on new instruments can be quickly posted to customers at home and abroad: 8,000 replies to advertising and editorial were received in 1965, a fair proportion of which were not already on our mailing lists, so the addition of these provided valuable new contacts.

## All a-float

Marconi Apprentice Association is offering a tasty carrot in the form of a two guinea prize to encourage members to try their hands at designing a scientific theme for the float they are entering for this year's Chelmsford Carnival.

The theme must be adaptable for a lorry 7 ft. 6 in. wide and 22 ft. long and must not exceed a height of 12 ft., from the ground—so it can safely go under bridges. Designs should be sent to The Carnival Committee, c/o The Education Office, New Street, to arrive not later than April 29.



#### **Jack Copeland's Guides**

Quite often parties from schools and colleges visit M.I. to see how instruments are made. This is a valuable means of obtaining staff so Jack Copeland, Apprentice Training Officer, has recruited four young ladies from various sections to take parties round the Works and explain the various functions of the departments. Meeting to discuss a pending visit are Susan Williams, Assembly; Vicky Kaynes, Winding; Jennifer Smith, Printed Boards; and Mrs. Ann Willats, Special Products



#### T.M.C. man at work

Do it yourself. Ever thought of converting a bungalow into a house? Pat Freeman of Writtle is doing just that. He started work last May and now is putting the finishing touches to his two attic bedrooms. He has just put in the open plan staircase: before this his two children climbed a ladder to bed. Here, photographed by W. R. Crick, is Pat enlarging the existing attic window to a man-size one





# Safari in Miniature

Much of the beauty of nature is mobile and to capture it permanently in the lens of a camera involves not only expertise with the shutter but also in sighting the subject in its natural habitat.

'It was to try to rectify the misconception that British birds cannot compete with their tropical cousins that I directed my efforts in an endeavour to photograph, close-up and in colour, some of the birds we see every day in our gardens', says out-ofdoors man E. G. Dorey, Warden of Brooklands.

Having made the decision, he then had to overcome the problems involved in getting his subjects in front of the camera. 'The bird portrait had to be taken close up to get a large-sized image on the transparency, and lighting had to be considered as a supplement to the sun', he explains.

For this type of outdoor work Mr. Dorey thinks a 35 mm single lens reflex is probably the most useful choice with its interchangeable lens system, allowing one to use a variety of different focal length lenses. He chose a 200 mm lens that would give a good sized image—approximately threequarters of the 1 in.  $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$  in. format, when working at about a distance of four feet. He set up a small electronic flash unit at roughly the same distance, which not only had the advantage of lighting the subject but also of freezing any movement of the birds. With the technicalities of camera and lighting settled, Mr. Dorey then had to face the most frustrating and difficult task—that of getting the birds within working range.

'Many devices can be used', he says. 'I prepared a bird table and set out a twig as a strategic perch and started luring them with food. The greenfinch and chaffinch seem to have a preference for some of the commercial wild bird seed, which one soon learns

ABOVE: The greenfinch. The male is particularly striking, mainly green with a yellow breast

LEFT: Caught with gapes wide open these nestlings wait for titbits from a full-grown thrush, a striking British bird which has brown plumage relieved by a speckled breast to place to tempt the bird into the most advantageous position for the picture.

'Needless to say one needs to be hidden, and an ideal spot is a nearby shed with holes cut into the door for the camera lens and flash unit. To extend ones range further, one can photograph birds at the nest as long as great care is taken not to disturb either the birds or nestlings. 'When the nest is found a "hide" can be erected and moved closer as the birds become accustomed to it.

'The results of my own efforts have proved beyond doubt that the subtle and beautiful colourings of the blue tit and linnet, the rich red and slate blues of the chaffinch and the irridescence of our common starling are certainly a match for their tropical cousins' plumage.

You can experience all the thrills of a miniature safari when you suddenly hear the rustling of a returning bird and see, through your lens, the young opening their gapes in anticipation. You know that any second your bird, with a beakful of insects, will appear right before your eyes. This is it—but don't forget to press the shutter in the excitement.'



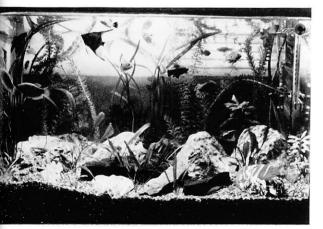
A member of the finch family, the linnet seen here at the nest changes colour with the season to brown, grey or pink

## A Fishy story!

Fishing is one of the restful occupations which has ensnared many a man—and woman. But unlike most men interested in fish, Ray Tanner, Foreman of Eddystone's Spray Shop, likes to keep his fish alive.

Ray's interest lies in the hundreds of different

Ray Tanner, Foreman of Eddystone's Spray Shop, took this picture of his two-hundred-gallon indoor tank, which is the home of many different varieties of tropical fish



varieties of tropical fish and since he became fascinated by them some years ago he has collected more than 200. He keeps them in a two-hundredgallon tank at his home and finds that they become more time occupying as he learns more about them. Feeding, cleaning and breeding take up most of his spare time and he always finds them more interesting to watch than most television programmes.

He has many rare varieties in his tank and is constantly on his guard against unknowingly introducing a killer type which would diminish his stock in a short time.

Ray also keeps fish in the garden. Less unusual types these are kept in an attractive pond which he built himself.

## Pools winners throw a party

To share their £52,000 nest egg with friends in Coil Winding and Coil Winding Test, the ten Basildon pools winners threw a party in the canteen with food and drink for everyone. From 7.30 till midnight two hundred people danced to the music of Fred Sharp and his band, ate, drank and made merry.



#### One a penny, two a penny . . .

A tasty morsel of Easter tradition. Did you know that hot cross buns are a combination of Jewish Passover cakes and ancient Pagan practices? No. Well, Good Friday often falls at the same time as the Passover during which the eating of such cakes is an important part of ceremonial. It is the cross that comes from the Pagans, who were offering cakes, marked with symbols, to their gods.

#### Notice to all M.A.S.C. members

The fifty-third annual general meeting of the M.A.S.C. will take place in the Club on Thursday, 28 April, at 7.30. Will all members please try and get along to this meeting.

## There must be a record here, somewhere!

There are only six operators in Engraving and they are all veterans—a record here, do you think? Between them they have completed one hundred and eighty years' service and not one of them has ever worked in another section at Marconi's. Another record, surely. Surrounding a tool of their trade they are, from the left, Eddie Rita (26 years), George Smith (26), George Judd (40), Dennis Wye (29), Jock Donald (31) and, last but not least, John Campbell. (28). As veterans they are all planning to enjoy themselves at the annual reunion next Saturday (23 April).



#### Flying in

After eight years as a two-some, Dave Swan, Beehive Lane, and his wife Danelda were very happy to announce the arrival of David Malcolm. As the babe arrived at 8.30 a.m. Dad just had to get a pass out! All three are doing well.

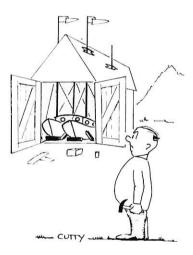
#### New arrival

Congratulations to Jim Durey of Radar Division and his wife Carla on the birth of a daughter, Lorna, 8 lb. 1 oz., sister for Carla-Maria. Jim tells us she arrived on premium bond day—1 March.

#### Tight fit

After three years of evenings and weekends Tony Pink of Baddow Workshop has built a Mercury class catamaran. And there's no truth in the rumour that he can't get it out of his garage.

With time now on his hands he's taken up pottery—throwing clay around instead of his weight!



#### Three men in a boat

After a week of excitement and planning, three Basildonites, Wally, Rusty and Vic, set off at 2 o'clock one Sunday morning for a day's fishing on the Broads. They arrived at 5.00 and fished all day—and their catch; one 6 oz. roach between them!

#### Gone to earth

For some time Publicity's Distribution Office has been sending one of the Company's publications to a professor at Manchester University. The last issue was returned with a note saying the gentleman was deceased three years earlier and the magazine enclosed in the original envelope marked 'No forwarding address'.

#### Had an accident, Jim?

Hobbling round Basildon with a souvenir from his trip to Austria is Jim May of Marine Test. He tore a ligament while ski-ing and for his pains has his leg in plaster up to the knee.

#### **Farewell sister**

Surrounded by a great many gifts suitable for a mother-to-be, Assistant Sister Valerie Cockshott was given a great send-off when she left M.I. J. J. Bliss, Personnel Manager, made the presentation on behalf of her friends.

#### Fending for themselves

Rumour has it that there has been a shortage of *Practical Householder*, *Home Decorating* and *Do It Yourself* magazines in the local newsagents lately. And the reason? Alan Rawlinson and Peter Ling, sheet metal apprentices at Baddow, have moved into a flat. With their experience of the decorating business they are now in a position to give advice. Any takers?

#### Hive buzzes

Visitors to the hive need not be alarmed by the incessant buzzing coming from all corners: most of the buzz is caused by hordes of worker bees who are busy carrying out a 'Cinderella to princess' transformation of the whole establishment.

And what a contrast it will be to those who can remember, during the last war, how the Marconi Division of the Home Guard spent many pleasant hours down there on weapon training. The whole area then was just a worked-out sand pit with hardly a building in sight.

When the transformation is complete the hive will be one of the cleanest—and house some of the busiest bees—in the business!

#### No begging letters, please

After many weeks of frustration and rainbow chasing, a struggling syndicate of twelve at Beehive Lane managed to get an all correct line on the pools. Unfortunately they chose the week when there were sixteen draws on the coupon.

Many forecasts were made as to the amount: one hopeful (identified by a beard and motor-cycle but otherwise nameless) had a yen for sheep shearing in New Zealand while the sender of the coupon suspected a day and night watch had been put on to him.

And the amount? £71!

So no begging letters, please!

#### A bevy of beauty

These attractive young ladies all work at Billericay—sorry gentlemen, no phone numbers—and were congratulating Receptionist Janet Cardy on her twentyfirst birthday when the cameraman caught them. Janet's friends in Specialized Components and Ferrite Research and Production Groups gave her a gold bracelet and made the day an unforgettable one for her.

#### Food for thought

Hoping for some early plants, Bill Miles, Baddow Workshop, planted sixty broad bean seeds in paper cups (ex tea machine issue) and left them in his greenhouse to germinate. A mouse in residence soon caught on and took the lot—much easier than scratching about in the garden for food!

#### Writtle writings

Congratulations to George Ottley, Teleprinter Development Group, Writtle, on winning the President's Trophy for the most points obtained in the Chelmsford Motor Club's closed rallies. The handsome cup was presented to George by the famous motor racing driver John Sprinzel at the annual dinner held at the Civic Centre.

... On his way back to Writtle at lunchtime, Peter Wells, Data Group, got a puncture in his Mini up Rainsford Road. With great presence of mind he ordered out his three passengers—all colleagues in Data Group—and made them act as human jacks to hold up the car while he changed the wheel. And his





latest boast? 'Who needs a jack when you can change a tyre in two minutes flat by my method!'

... A change of address for HDA, Writtle, who have now settled into their new home at Billericay.

#### Eggs-actly!

The ancient Egyptians and other nations regarded the egg as a symbol of creation and when the early. Christians were adopting symbols to represent their ideas and beliefs they chose the egg to represent the idea of the resurrection.

From the egg comes the chicken, and the mother hen lives again in the life of her offspring.

An Easter thought for those lucky enough to be presented with an egg.

#### How're your muscles?

Wanted; eight, strong hefty men to form a tug of war team to take part in the Festival of sport being held at Melbourne Park, Chelmsford, on Whit-Monday, 30 May. It's a catchweight competition so there's no restriction on weight—in fact the heavier the better.

Organized by the Chelmsford Sports Advisory Council, the competition will be run on a knock-out basis with a prize for the winning team. It's only open to local firms, so come on muscle-men, let's see if Marconi can pull their weight.

For more information contact Vic Church, Building and Facilities Group.

#### Clocking out for the last time

When he retired at his own choice, Harry Sutton, M.I. Maintenance, clocked out for the last time. Harry, who joined M.I. in 1948, is a skilled bricklayer, but he had a useful hand in most of the moves of departments and machinery during his eighteen years with the Company.

#### Every man Jack . . .

In spite of pleading from the ladies, members of Wembley Machine Shop are adamant. Their annual trip to Brighton will remain all male.

A party of forty, including a few apprentices, descend on the Regency resort by coach and will pass their day in a variety of ways, several lazing it out on the beach—as usual.

#### That old boot

Easter time is wedding time and many an old boot will be tied to honeymoon cars as they make a quick get-away this week-end. But why do this to the blushing couple?

This is a survival of an old Bible custom described in the Book of Ruth, where a shoe is taken off as a token that certain rights of possession are surrendered, on marriage.

#### A model in perfection

Working to a copy of the original plans of the Cutty Sark, Eddystone Senior Development Engineer Geoff Woodburn, has nearly completed this 4-ft. model of the famous sailing ship. Accurate to one-sixth of an inch to the foot it is made of pine, brass, aluminium, copper, and plastic. Many hours of painstaking work have gone into it and many more will go into the model train engine Geoff is planning to make next.



### MARCONI MAGAZINE ART EXHIBITION

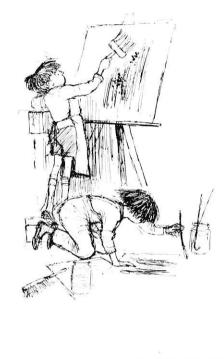
## **Marconi** Artists

There will be an exhibition of paintings by Marconi people on Gala Day 16 July.

We would like to hear from painters who have regularly supported us and we extend a special invitation to those who have never exhibited. Please contact the Magazine office, int. 511, ext. 394, and let us know if you can take part.

If you have not shown in the Magazine exhibition before there is plenty of time to complete and frame a painting between now and 16 July. So we would like to hear from you.

This display has attracted and interested many people on previous occasions, and it is by



special request of the Gala Day Committee that we are including a *children's and young people's section*.

## Tell your sons and daughters of the painting competition

There will be four classes with prizes in each for boys and girls of up to sixteen years of age for paintings in oils, water colours or any other colour medium. Entries must be in colour, though need not be framed. Paintings can be of any subject provided you think that they are your best work. You can send one or two entries.

Three prizes will be awarded in each class, for pictures executed with the most skill and talent.

The age groups are: 1. Up to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  years. 2.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 11 years.

3. 11 to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  years. 4.  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to 16 years.

Prizes: Classes 3 and 4 £1, 15s., 10s.

Classes 1 and 2 15s., 10s., 5s.

Father or mother please notify Magazine office of your son's or daughter's entry.

## Austrian Adventure

A coach load of first-timers will set off from Basildon later in the year when twenty-one Basildon Marconi Club members leave on their first trip abroad, to Austria. Crossing from Dover to Ostend, after a coach drive of a day, they will arrive at their hotel in Claus, Vorarlberg. There they will take long walks through the beautiful countryside and go on coach outings to Switzerland and the Black Forest, while in the evenings they will join in the gay Tyrolean festivities. It may still be a way off yet, but all are making exciting plans.

## **Coming Events**

There's a busy year ahead for Basildon people, with weekend outings and evening trips to the bright lights. At the end of April there's a visit to Woburn Abbey, followed by Stratford-on-Avon in May, and London Airport in July. These are all day-long visits. Evening outings are to see *Sound of Music* in May and June, *Hello Dolly* in July, and the *Black and White Minstrel Show* in September. Also in the boiling pot with no dates fixed yet are visits to Cheddar Gorge and Whipsnade. Watch the notice boards for dates of future events.



LEFT: Best wishes and farewell to popular Mrs. Pam Smith, secretary to L. Harrington, M.I. Production Manager, Feeder Shop 2, who presented her with a bath, blankets and other baby things on behalf of her friends. RIGHT: Best wishes for a happy retirement to Arthur Philby, Machine Shop viewer, after twenty-two years with the Company. Group Supervisor L. N. Angier made the presentation on behalf of Arthur's friends



LEFT: On the retirement of Harry Sutton, M.I. Maintenance, his friends gave him a tape recorder. N. Callear, N.D. & P. engineer, made the presentation. CENTRE: Twenty-first birthday so Ray Jordan, M.I. Test Schedules, was given a Parker pen and a new car (in a match box) to replace his pranged one. The presentation was made by R. Titchmarsh, Senior Test Engineer. RIGHT: A double presentation in Wembley Accounts to Mrs. Pat Thomas and Kathleen Cardy, who received a number of household gifts for her future home. The presentation was made by J. Mitchell, Chief Accountant [N. Butterworth]



LEFT: A travelling rug and photographic equipment for Mrs. Minnie Hone of Printed Boards Section who has left the Company to devote her time to a spastic child. Foreman of the section G. Snell, made the presentation on behalf of her many friends. CENTRE: A happy retirement to Len Barfield, Security, who has been at Basildon twelve years. His friends gave him a cheque, presented on their behalf by H. Boden, Security Supervisor [G. Hoare]. RIGHT: A tankard from his friends for twenty-one today Philip North, M.I. Printed Circuits, which was presented by R. Gibbs, Group Manager



LEFT: A leather wallet for S. O. Nazar of International Division when he transferred to Broadcasting at Waterhouse Lane. H. Baker, Manager, made the presentation. CENTRE: Wedding bells for Pauline Tribe of Beehive Lane, and her friends gave her an electric iron, casserole dish and tea towel, presented on their behalf by J. Warner, Foreman [J. Dufton]. RIGHT: A gold-watch for John Millard-Evans, Chief Inspector at Sanders for the last eleven years, when he retired. The presentation was made by Works Manager B. J. S. Tetlow



LEFT: Farewell to Valerie Massey, who left Wembley Works to marry. A clock and other gifts were handed over by her friends in Progress [N. Butterworth]. CENTRE: An electric clock for wireman assembler Robin Windsor from his Basildon friends when he married. The presentation was made by R. Jones, Production Foreman, Aeronautical Assembly, left [G. Hoare]. RIGHT: Retiring after forty-three years with the Company A. W. J. Welch's friends in Accounts Department gave him a transistor radio, Parker pen and cheque. The presentation was made by Chief Accountant D. F. Bishop



LEFT: Friends of G. V. Hunt, International Division, gave him cutlery and, as he is partial to them, a large cigar, when he left the Company after fifteen years. The presentation was made by H. Baker, Manager. CENTRE: 'Now you are twenty-one.' Best wishes and a travelling case for Judy Avern, secretary to C. Lane, M.I. Personnel Officer, who made the presentation. RIGHT: Wedding bells for Barbara Robinson so her friends of M.I. Printed Circuit Group gave her a carving dish, water set and other gifts, which were presented by R. Gibbs, Group Manager



LEFT: Wedding bells and an electric toaster from her friends for Carol Workman, secretary to Basildon's Plant Engineer, W. Cork. Mr. Cork made the presentation [G. Hoare]. CENTRE: A pram cover and baby clothes for Mrs. Maureen Nelson from her friends in the Print Room when she left the Company. The presentation was made by C. E. Harper, Supervisor, Print Room. RIGHT: Off to start a new life in Australia, Mrs. Maureen Nemeth's Print Room friends gave her a writing case, presented on their behalf by Print Room Supervisor C. E. Harper



LEFT: A gold charm for her bracelet for Jo Scillitoe when she left Sanders to rejoin Mr. P. L. Wilde who resigned recently from Managing Directorship of Sanders. The presentation was made by Personnel Manager M. G. Amos. CENTRE: When Geoffrey 'Jim' Staplehurst left the Company after twenty-four years to go to the Valve Company, his friends in the Tool Room gave him an electric clock, presented by A. E. Parish, Tool Room Superintendent. RIGHT: Best wishes and a coffee table for Bill Boon, R and D Estimating, when he married. The presentation was made by R. C. Aston, Chief Estimator, R and D



LEFT: A host of gifts for Mrs. Maureen Cops of Baddow when she left the Company. Her friends gave her a travelling case, sheepskin rug, camera attachment and bouquet, presented on their behalf by E. B. Marshall, Baddow Administration, second left. CENTRE: Leaving Sanders to join Decca's, R. W. E. Larkin of Development Division was presented with a car coat (à la Harold Wilson) by A. Hook, for many years a colleague in the division. RIGHT: A sheepskin rug for Adie Brewer of Section 16 when he married recently. The presentation was made by C. A. Martin, A Group Foreman



### CHELMSFORD

#### Calling all V.W. enthusiasts

Anyone interested in forming a Volkswagen Owners Club? If so, contact Dick Edwards of Audio TV Test, New Street (int. tel. 438) who wants to get one going.

Membership will be free to those who belong to the Marconi Auto Club.

#### Hockey for men

The First XI continues to hold its own against various Essex teams and despite the very wet season, plenty of lively hockey has been played. The Second XI has continued its winning streak and in its present form is proving a hard team to beat. Of the six games played since Christmas, only one was a loss. This success is due to a sound defence, with Tucker outstanding at centre half, Penny and Hampshire at backs, and to a good forward line who scored eighteen goals in six matches. In a game against Crittall Second XI the team won 7-0, both Kerridge and Spooner (captain) scoring hat-tricks.

The one that got away. Left winger Kliskey doesn't quite get the ball away from his opponent

#### Start of tennis season

The tennis season officially opens on Sunday, 1 May, with an American tournament—everyone plays everyone else. Match practice for the Essex Cup competition which starts next month is taking place at the Beehive courts: men on Sunday mornings at 10.30, ladies in the afternoons from 2.30. Anyone interested in playing in these matches is invited to come along to a Sunday session.

Teams have also been entered in the Essex and Chelmsford and District leagues.

#### **Mixed hockey**

The record of the mixed hockey team is the best for many years: of seventeen matches played, thirteen have been wins for Marconi's.

Home and away victories have been scored against Young Conservatives, Chelmsford and Crittalls, and amongst other teams which usually depart with the honours but have been beaten this year, are Rayleigh, Rochford, Little Baddow and last but not least Wickford.

Team spirit is high and several of the team share floodlit training facilities with Cromptons.

#### Take a cue

With the popularity of the game and the Billiards and Snooker Section re-housed in somewhat lavish surroundings, the large fixture list has gone all too quickly and the competitions and tournaments are just being concluded. Remarkable and outstanding performances have been witnessed on occasions, individual skills far out-weighing 'Mister fluke'.

The section has been restored after its enforced long rest and keenness is most notable. All members are looking forward to the annual concert on Friday, 29 April.

A pat on the back to Aled Owen for his prompt circulation of the score sheets, and to Johnny Waskett for his attention to the Pretyman competitions.

All players start from the scratch mark so the stronger element has proved fairly successful. Heading the Billiards League are Baddow A, followed by Central Division, Stores and Section 15, with Supplies and Production Engineering, Baddow A, Baddow C, S Group A and Section 15 fighting it out in the Snooker league.

#### Duplicate bridge

Attendance at the weekly Tuesday evening duplicate sessions is still on the increase, with ten tables normally in play. By the time these notes appear the midseason pressure will be easing off and the a.g.m. will precede cut-in rubber bridge play during the summer months. Allowing more time both for play and for helpful discussion (or post mortems), this is probably the best time for intending members to get to know the club and to pair off with regular partners ready for the new duplicate season in September.

Meanwhile all four club matches have been won, but hopes of the Essex Cup for Clubs have been dashed with the section's elimination in the first round.

The Second XI before the match against Rochford Casuals which Marconi's won by 4 goals to nil. Back, from the left, Peter Hampshire (team secretary), John Penney, John Reed, Ron Potter, Bob Windley, Tim Roper, Neil Ghinmulgund, Justit Singh. Front, Roger Nightingale, Arthur Spooner (captain), Bill Agar, Geoffrey Kliskey







#### Football season extended

To try and relieve the heavy programme of mid-week matches the playing season has been extended to 28 May. Despite this there is still a sizeable fixture list to fulfil as several games have had to be postponed owing to waterlogged pitches.

Another reason for the build-up as far as the Border League side is concerned was the great 'run' in the Essex Intermediate Cup. With victories over Fairlop, Grays Athletic, Hainault Forest Leyton Reserves, Marconi's and reached round 6. The game at Brentwood against Manor Athletic finished our interest in the cup. At half-time our lads were leading by one goal to nil, and at the end of 90 minutes the score was one goal each. In the first period of extra time the Manor Athletic team got the all-important goal and despite a great fight by Marconi's, no further goals were scored. Nevertheless it was a good performance to get so far in this competition and there is always next season. This record in the Border League puts the team in a much better position than last season and if present form can be maintained we should finish in the top half of the table.

#### Archery practice

Silhouetted against the sky, members of the newly-formed Archery Section shooting on the Beehive Lane sports ground

RIGHT: 'Where did mine go?' Left to right are Peter Leach, Derek Cast, Fred Leach, Debra Leach, Karl Gericke

Best achievements to date are good away wins against Colchester United A and Orwell Works, and a 2–2 draw at Brantham. The Reserves are having mixed fortunes but put on a good show when they beat a strong police side by 2 goals to nil on the 'law's' home ground. In Division II of the Mid-Essex League the A team is also missing that bit of luck although the team beat Baddow 4–3 and Writtle Reserves by 5 goals to 2.

Taken all round the outlook is encouraging and with an improvement in the weather perhaps the latter half of the season will show a similar improvement in the 'games won' column for all three teams.

#### **Rifle club**

Prospects for the season looked dim when the first night found only a few members present. However, the usual



competitions were entered and fingers crossed in the hope that more people would come along.

The old faithfuls have drifted away and new members who have joined since are making a splendid effort to keep the club on its feet. The fact that the club is in the unenviable position of being bottom of the league is not detering members. Averages are creeping up and who knows, next year Marconi's may be top dogs.

The Chelmsford Council are holding a Festival of Sport during Whitsun week

and three Chelmsford Rifle Clubs have joined in organizing events for the Festival for small-bore shooting. Events will be held in the Marconi range and it is hoped that facilities will be available for visitors to come and witness some of the shooting.

To encourage beginners, a second range evening on Wednesdays is being arranged and instruction will be given. No competitions will be held during these sessions but those members who show promise will be entered into events which will be held on Monday evenings.

#### Home winemaking

An informal lecture given by a founder member of the Marconi Wine Guild, Bill Millett, was the subject of the February monthly meeting. The lecture lasted just over half an hour and the twenty-three members who attended then bombarded him with questions for a further hour and a half. Newcomers as well as the more experienced winemakers learned quite a lot and the variety and number of questions asked showed that the interest in home winemaking is still very much alive.

In March the annual cheese and wine party was held at the Club. The April meeting will take the form of communal judging—dried fruit wine.

People interested in home winemaking who would like more details of the Wine Guild's activities should contact T. B. Renouf, Hut 7, Writtle: external phone 29.

Essex Wine Federation winners for 1965 with their trophies are Tom Renouf, left, Gren Brewer and Louis Argent. Gren won the cup for the best white sweet wine and an award for the best wine in show



#### Drama

The Chelmsford Festival filled the horizon at the latter end of February and beginning of March. Members were involved in every production, either on stage or backstage, and in administration. The Art Exhibition and Poetry in a Pub were both organized by individual members.

The quality of all productions was high but unfortunately numbers of the audiences were not.

Concerning the spring play, *Mother Courage and her children*, the dates have been changed from 19–21 May to 12–14 May, due to a clash with another production.



'You should say the shoes are too tight, not the feet are too big'

#### The click of ball on bat

Once again the cricket season is almost here: it seems ages since players were last chasing that elusive piece of leather. The first match takes place at Beehive Lane on Sunday, 1 May, against Great Baddow. The section is always on the lookout for new faces: anyone interested in playing should contact J. Bower, Section 162, Programming, New Street.

The a.g.m. was held on 25 February and although only sixteen people attended, discussions were both interesting and lively.

This year the section is entering the Chelmsford Cricket League and will meet teams like Chelmsford, United Banks, Harway and old friends Hoffmanns. Marconi's are also entering a side in the six-a-side knock-out competition which forms part of the Chelmsford Festival of Sport, to be held on Whit Monday at Melbourne Park.

It was with regret that members accepted the resignation of Pat Saltmarsh as chairman. He put in some very hard work in this capacity for the last four years and the section is most grateful for his efforts. He is succeeded by Billy Lee—it was much appreciated the way he volunteered for the job.

Results of matches played last season are as follows: Sunday XI, played 23, won 10, lost 5, drawn 8. First XI, played 15, won 5, lost 4, drawn 6. Second XI, played 10, won 4, lost 4, drawn 2.

Top of averages: Sunday XI, batting, A. Hughes; bowling, G. Ottley; catches, P. Saltmarsh. First XI, batting, R. Morgan; bowling, G. Ottley; catches, C. Denny. Second XI, batting, G. Robbins; bowling, J. Bower; catches, R. Sleet.

### BASILDON

#### Seventy-six trombones . . .

The Band Section of the Basildon Marconi Club after several years of struggle is making quite a name for itself.

Now a popular section of the B.M.C., it has twenty-seven members, divided into three dance bands and a guitar group. Last year the bands played at all social functions in the canteen and also at several gatherings for the handicapped children of Basildon and their parents. In January the Old People's Welfare gave a party to two hundred old-age pensioners in the canteen and these were entertained by one of the groups, *The Marcons*, under the direction of Les Burton.

The bands are pretty heavily booked for this year but they still have a few vacant dates, so if you need music at a function contact the band secretary Don Baylis, Section 015, Marine.

Several section members belong to the Basildon Brass Band, in fact Les Burton is secretary. If anyone is interested in playing a brass instrument there are several vacancies: contact either Les, 07 Section, or Don, 015, for more details.

Who knows, one day the B.M.C. may have its own brass band.

#### **Table tennis**

With the close of the table tennis season at the end of April, the four teams in the Basildon and District League are playing off their last games. The A team, in the Premier Division, at time of writing, is lying fourth, while B and C teams, in Division II, are lying second and near the bottom respectively. The D side in Division II is halfway up the table.

League championships are played off during April and singles and doubles events are now taking place.



#### From the M.I.S.S.C. Chairman

Once again I have the privilege of being asked to take the chair at the meetings of the M.I. Social and Sports Club for 1966.

The committee this year has four new faces: John Buying, Export; Reg Beck of Assembly Test; Mike Mangan of Assembly Test; and Rodney Howe, apprentice. Sid Beck is once again hon. secretary and Ned Kelly remains as treasurer. Mrs. Lilian Hodges, Wages, Terry Copperwheat, Tool Room, Reg Rogers, Service Division, and Judy Avern, Personnel Office, complete the management committee.

I offer my sincere thanks to David Elsdon, Reg Collins, Mrs. Janet Hooper and Mrs. Pat Dixon for their past services to the Social and Sports Club committee.

With 1965 behind us, I am glad to say the financial position of the club is now more stable than it has been for a long time.

*M.I. defending their goal from a corner* by Cheshunt. M.I. lost 3–1 The two children's parties were a great success and the financial assistance from the Company gave us the opportunity to give the children a party to remember.

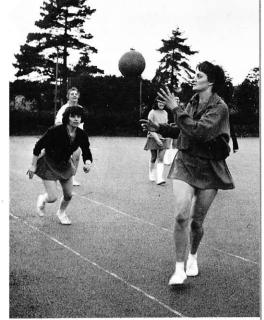
The 18th annual ball at Watford Town Hall gave 700 people a most enjoyable evening, including many of the Marconi Instruments Ltd. management—whom we were pleased to see. Once again we are very grateful for the help and assistance we received from many members.

I would like to congratulate the various section committees for the work and time they have given to organize their members' functions.

Our main ambition is to have our own club house and 1 am sure, with enough will and encouragement, we will one day succeed in being able to give to the members and their families a meeting place.

The sportsground provided for us at Cotlandswick has seen much activity this year with either football, cricket, hockey, netball or archery taking place in the evenings as well as on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We welcome your support any time you care to come along.

On behalf of the committee I would welcome your help in organizing functions. New ideas should come through the representatives and we will do everything possible to put them into motion.



Mrs. Pat Dixon, captain of the M.I. netball team, in action in the game against the Pioneer Youth Club at Sandfield School, M.I. won 33 to 18

Contact your representative and he or she will give you information about all functions, some of which are:

- 23 April. Horticultural Society spring show, 2.30 p.m.
- 30 April. M.I.S.S.C. social evening for the whole family, 3 to 9 p.m.





Beat for some of the younger supporters at the Cricket Club dance

7 May. End of season Old Tyme dance

21 May. Football dinner dance.

2, 3 and 4 June. M.I. Theatrical Society.

18 and 19 June. Archery competition (sportsground).

- 16 and 17 July. Archery competition (sportsground).
- November and January. Children's parties (dates to be given later).
- January. Annual ball at Top Rank Ballroom, Watford.

Many other functions will, of course, be organized and posters will be shown on the notice boards.

If you are not a member, join now, 6*d*. a week. You are very welcome.

W. WALKER, Chairman

#### Future of football

"What is the future of the M.I. Football Club?" is a question being asked by the players. The committee, who give a large amount of their private life to keep the club going, also feel that it is not enough just to maintain a club in County league football.

From the playing point of view M.I. have suffered more than most other clubs with the drift to senior football. Now that the standard is not so high it is easier for players to get in these senior clubs.

The club has had a marvellous record during recent years and even this season, when it is not doing quite so well, it is the only local club to reach the quarter finals in both the Herts Intermediate and Aubrey Cup competitions.

It would be a pity if the club was unable to maintain its high standard, so anyone who can play or help on the committee will be welcomed by G. Clabon, J. Sears and G. Walker.

Several interesting games have been played recently. The Cheshunt Herts Intermediate Cup game should have been played away but their ground was water-logged so it became a home match. M.I. were unlucky not to have had a two-goal lead, but Cheshunt, coached and managed by Terry Medwin, formerly of Spurs, took a 3–1 interval lead and although under constant pressure in the second half held out to win 3–1, and will meet Hitchin in the semi-final.

M.I. maintained their position in the top half of the table with a 5–0 home victory against Saffron Walden and a 3–0 away victory against Hemel Hempstead Rovers. G. w.

#### Netball

Not much is heard about netball at M.I. but a team of enthusiastic young ladies play most Saturdays and are about half way up the first division of the St. Albans and District Netball League. Mrs. Pat Dixon, who has been chosen again this year for the Hertfordshire County team, is captain of the M.I. team and Mrs. Shirley Roffey is secretary. Shirley, by the way, is very keen to hear from any girls who would like to play.

All the members of the team have made themselves new uniforms this year and have enjoyed some exciting games with fairish success. On Saturday, 26 February, an away game was played at Sandfield School where four courts were in use for an umpiring test. It was a fine sunny day, though windy, and the team's opponents were the Pioneer Youth Club who gave a good game. M.I. won 33 to 18.

#### The dancing cricketers

The St. Valentine's dance held by the Cricket Club in the canteen was on the wicket with a good social and financial success. The members, their guests and friends had a real good time and as a result the club will be able to buy new equipment. Music for dancing was provided by The Vincents Group and the Frank Harwood dance band while Arthur Adolph as M.C. kept things well mixed.

During the evening Miss Valentine 1966 was chosen. From a line of attractive girls the judges decided that Kay Gurney was the title holder closely followed by Laurel Black and Sally Martin.

The cricket season will soon be with us and we hope the new equipment bought with the proceeds from this dance will help the club to have as good a season as it did last year.

#### Top of the table tennis

The M.I. Table Tennis Club, which started with four players not so long ago, now has a first team at the top of their division of the St. Albans and District Table Tennis League. They have played 17 games, lost 1, and have one game in hand over the two nearest opponents.

The other two teams are 5th and 7th in division 5. The third team recently surprised everyone by beating the league leaders, St. Michaels D, 7–3.

There will be an open tournament at the end of the season so all you M.I. players watch the notice boards for the date: come along and try your skill. By the way, Reg Wells, club secretary, could do with some new members.

In an effort to improve their game four members of the club have booked some coaching from Jack Carrington, ex-England player.

#### **Outside back cover**

Spring comes to Danbury Park and daffodils turn their faces to the sun. This lovely photograph was taken by Karl Richter of Beehive Lane and is our Picture of the Month



After a difficult job the judges picked Kay Gurney as Miss Valentine 1966, with Laurel Black, left, and Sally Martin as second and third at the Cricket Club dance

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