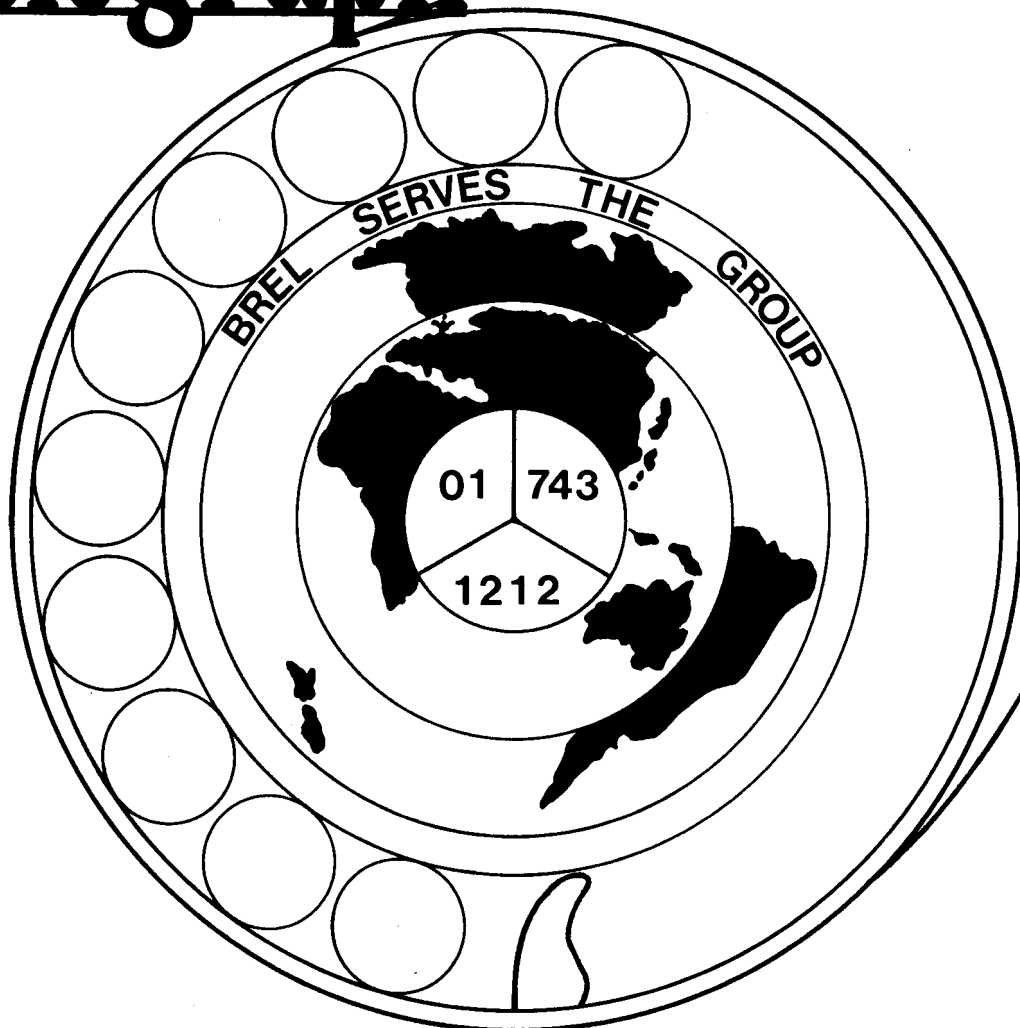


july 1978

bush

telegraph



# BUSH

vol. **20** no. **8**

# TELEGRAPH

the magazine of **R&EL** wood lane



## Cover

"Telegraph-Cable"  
by G. Price  
(joint winner of  
cover competition)

## Editorial Board

David Green  
Denis Groombridge  
Mike Hagger  
Richard Hammond  
Geoff Holder  
Ted Morrison  
Peter Revell



# Editorial

By now all staff will have been informed of the appointment of Mr Banks to the main Board of BICC Ltd., and we offer him our congratulations. It is some years since Wood Lane enjoyed direct representation at this level, and we interpret this new role for our Executive Director as a vote of confidence in R&EL and confirmation of the Company's commitment to technological changes.

Particular interest is to be placed on new developments outside the traditional cable activities of BICC, and the Company will be looking towards R&EL for the generation of ideas in this area. It is interesting to note from last month's Bush Telegraph that a number of "Bright Ideas" are already receiving active attention. This is encouraging both for the Company and for the individual responsible for the idea. Ultimately the number of fully exploitable ideas will be small, and people may feel discouraged as a consequence. They should not; there have always been more failures than successes in research and the percentages aren't going to change significantly. But the more we try the greater the results, and the nature of Mr Banks' new responsibilities clearly indicates that now is the time for such efforts to be made. We wish him, and everybody, good luck.

# Personnel News

## STARTERS

Welcome to:

Miss C.D. Haylock who joins us as Secretary to Mr F.D. Lam.

Miss A. Kirby who joins us as Personnel Assistant.

Mr E.J. Bonikowski who joins us as a Student Apprentice.

Mr R. Barrett who joins us as a Laboratory Assistant in the Physics Dept.

Mr M.K. Nieora who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Control Engineering Dept.

Mr K.J. Heard who joins us as a Laboratory Assistant in the Metallurgy Dept.

Mr D.K. Chalkley who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Transmission and Energy Dept.

Mr L.S. Cohen who joins us as an Electrician in the Works Engineering Dept.

## LEAVERS

Farewell to:

Mr Z. (Tom) Bonikowski who leaves us after 22 years to take up an appointment as Chief Engineer at BICC Pyrotenax at Hebburn.

Phil Poncelet who leaves on completion of a Student Apprenticeship, to take alternative employment.

## WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr Peter Mercer, Works Engineering Department, on his marriage to Miss Patricia Moore on June 24th.

## CORRECTION

Mr J.P. Sergeant who was due to join us in June, at the last moment decided not to take employment with us.

# Biccarella



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## Thank you

To all my friends and colleagues.

My wife Patricia and I would like to thank you for contributing most generously towards our wedding gift.

We both appreciated it very much.

Peter Mercer

# The History of Electric Wires and Cables

## PART 7: THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLES

By R.M. Black

The heavily armoured second cross-channel cable was laid from the South Foreland to Sangatte near Calais in the autumn of 1851. The telegraph line was opened on the 13th November, on which day it was recorded that:-

"the opening and closing prices of the Funds in Paris were known on the London Stock Exchange within business hours, and guns were fired at Dover by communication from Calais".

Two further cables were laid between England and the Continent in 1853, one connecting Dover and Ostend and the other Orfordness with Scheveningen in Holland.

The same year also saw the laying of a submarine cable across the Irish Sea. The first three attempts to do this were unsuccessful due to the unfavourable weather and the stormy currents encountered, but the fourth was successful. In 1854 a second cable was laid between Holyhead and Howth.

At this period the Crimean war was in progress, and the desire of the British Government to obtain rapid communication with the army was responsible for the laying of a submarine cable from the Black Sea port of Varna to Balaklava in the Crimea. This became known as the Black Sea Cable and was similar in construction to the original Brett Brothers' unarmoured cable being but a single copper wire insulated with gutta percha. Despite this, the cable gave excellent results over a distance of more than three hundred nautical miles, and was of immense service, placing "our Military Authorities in England in direct communication with the Camp before Sebastopol".

It was not long before the success of telegraph cables in Europe reacted in America, and considerable lengths of land telegraph cables were laid. With the object of speeding up communication between the old world and the 'New' it was proposed to lay a cable across the Gulf of St. Lawrence connecting Newfoundland with Nova Scotia and thus with the North American continent. This would appreciably reduce the time taken for communication between New York and London, by running a line of steamers between Galway and St. John's, a distance of 1647 miles, and using a telegraph over the remaining distance to New York of 1050 miles. But the English engineer concerned with the project, F.N. Gisborne, met Cyrus Field and from that moment the whole plan was altered. Why should not a cable be laid across the route from Galway to St. John's?

An oceanographic survey had shown that the sea bottom conditions were almost ideal for a telegraph cable. As Lieut. Maury of the US Navy commented: "From Newfoundland to Ireland the distance between the nearest points is about 1,600 miles; and the bottom of the sea between the two places is a plateau, which seems to have been placed there especially for the purpose of holding the wires of a Submarine Telegraph, and of keeping them out of harm's way. It is neither too deep nor too shallow; yet it is so deep that the wires, but once landed, will remain for ever beyond the reach of vessel's anchors, icebergs, and drifts of any kind, and so shallow that the wires may be readily lodged upon the bottom".

The plateau is, in fact, some two and a half miles deep at its deepest part.

In the meantime, tests had been carried out with land lines to establish the feasibility of transmitting signals over distances as great as 2,000 miles. This could now be done without the attendant induction problems experienced with the first cross-channel cable. The necessary financial arrangements having been made and a Company set up to bring this about, it remained to manufacture and lay the cable.

The core of the cable was made by The Gutta Percha Company at its factory at No. 18, Wharf Road, off the City Road, while the steel armouring was applied by Glass Elliot and Company of Greenwich and by R.S. Newall and Company of Birkenhead. Both of these firms were wire rope manufacturers and possessed the necessary experience and equipment for applying the flexible stranded steel armouring. Each company contracted to supply 1,250 nautical miles of the completed cable, which they did within six months of the placing of the order.

The official description of the cable was as follows:-

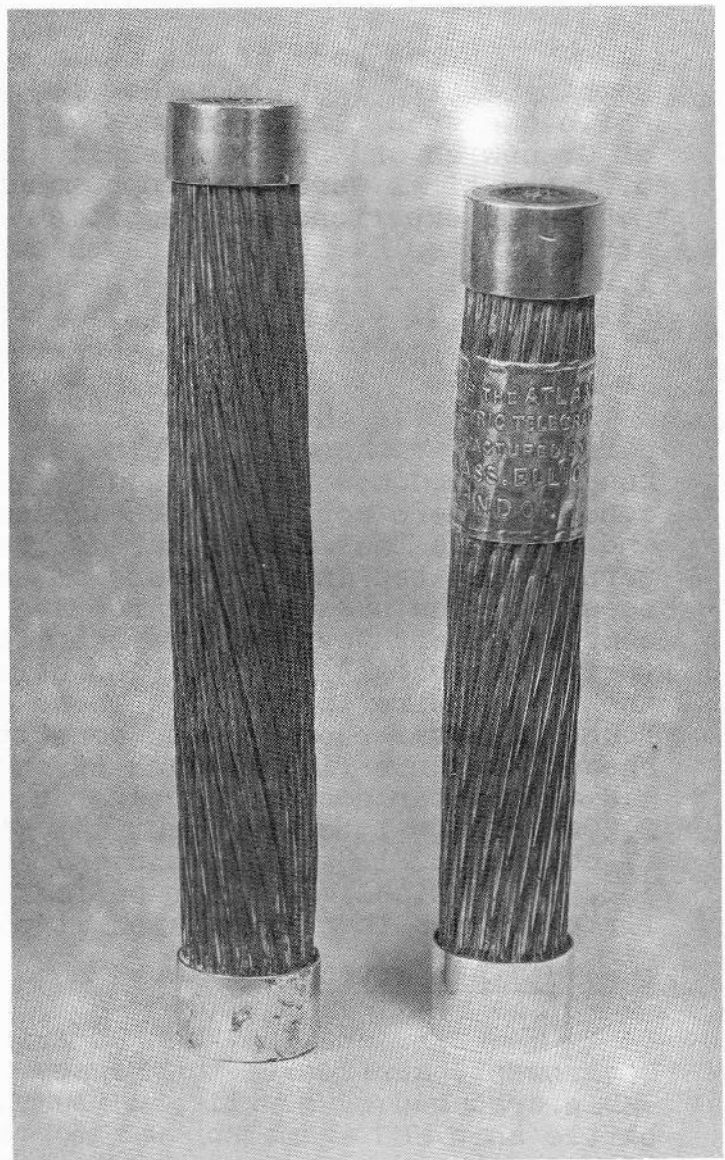
"For the conductor, seven No. 22 gauge wires of the purest copper then obtainable were twisted together, six around one, into a compact cord about 1/12 inch in diameter. To this conductor were applied three successive coatings of gutta percha, and the core thus formed was enclosed in a covering of hessian yarn, saturated in a compound of tar, pitch, linseed oil and beeswax. The outer casing for the protection of the whole comprised; eighteen strands of fifty-seven thread iron wire (bright charcoal), each strand being twisted in a like manner to the copper wire conductor. These eighteen strands were wound round the core ropewise and constituted a tight envelope for the sheath, at once flexible and strong. The cable when completed, had a diameter not much greater than a sixpenny piece, weighed 2,500 tons or 1 ton per nautical mile, and it contained 133 wires (7 copper and 126 iron), the aggregate length of these wires being 332,500 nautical miles, or sufficient to go rather more than fifteen times round the earth at the equator".

### The 1857 Expedition

In June 1857 the US frigate Niagara, lent by the US Government, arrived in the Mersey to take on board the half of the cable armoured by Newalls, while the British Navy's line-of-battle ship HMS Agamemnon was moored at East Greenwich to be loaded with the other half from Glass Elliot and Company. Both ships then sailed for Cork Harbour, where the final tests were carried out on the cable and all arrangements completed.

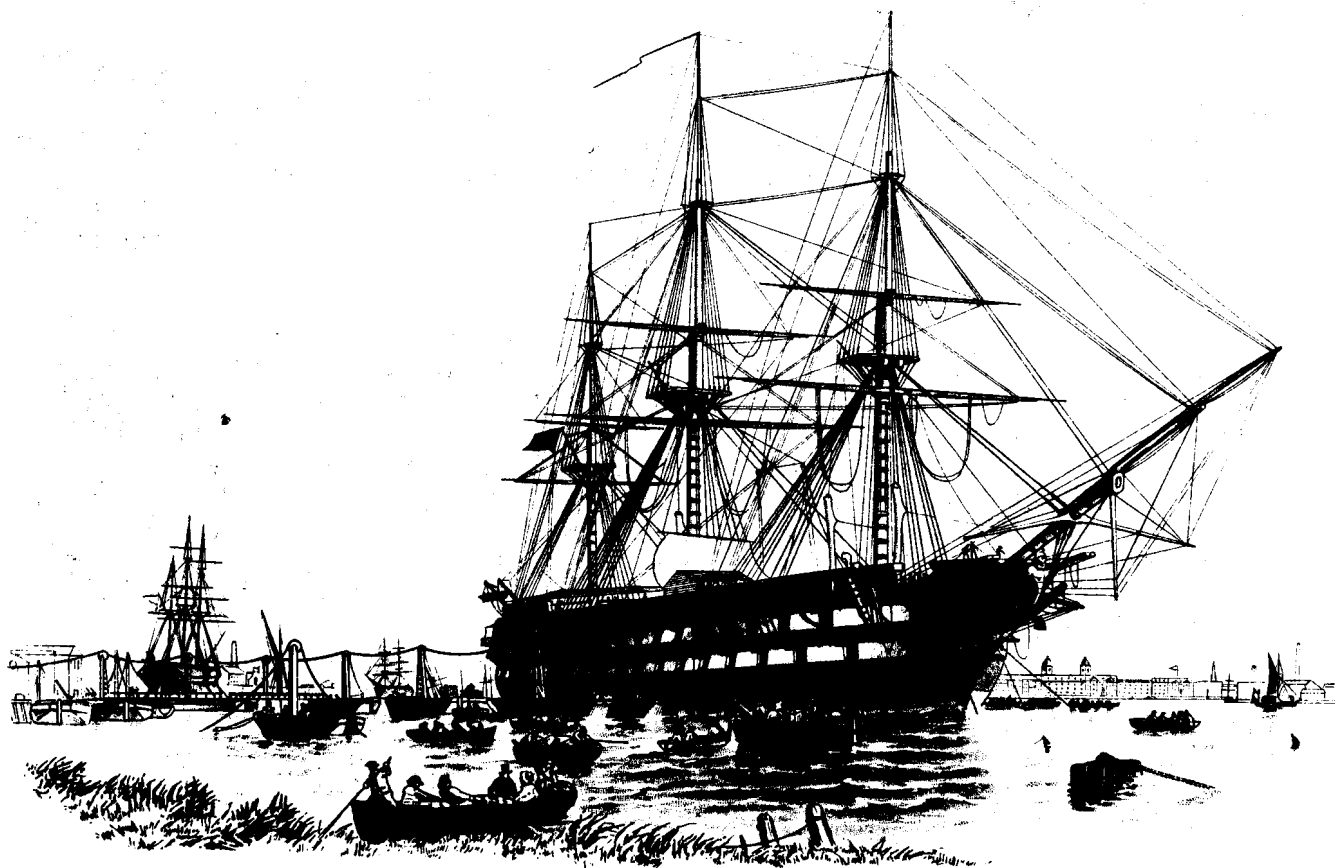
On August 5th, 1857, the shore end of the cable was secured in the little cove selected for the purpose in Valentia on the cliffs above which a telegraphic station had been erected. On the evening of Friday 7th August, the squadron sailed, and the Niagara commenced paying out the cable very slowly. "About four miles of the shore cable had been payed out, when it became entangled with the machinery, by the carelessness of one of the men in charge, and broke; all hands were engaged in trying to underrun and join the cable but it was too rough, and the Niagara came to anchor for the night. Next day a splice was made, the ship resumed her course and at noon on Sunday, August 9th, 95 miles had been payed out. The paying-out gear proved to be defective in the course of the 10th. On the evening of Tuesday, the 11th, all signals suddenly ceased. The cable had broken in 2000 fathoms of water, when about 330 nautical miles were laid, at a distance of 280 miles from Valentia".

Two samples of 1857  
cable showing the  
difference in lay  
between the  
armouring applied  
at Birkenhead and  
at Greenwich  
(Greenwich sample is  
the shorter of the two)



This was the end of the first attempt to lay the Atlantic Cable and it was decided to postpone any further activities until the next year when a further quantity of cable would be available. The remainder of the year was spent in recovering about 53 miles of the shore-end of the cable and landing the unused lengths at Keyham. Additional capital was raised and orders placed for a further 900 miles of cable to replace the lost length and allow for contingencies.

During the original manufacture of the cable, one of those interesting examples of Murphy's Law had occurred. No one had thought to specify the direction of lay of the armouring and in consequence the core armoured at Birkenhead had a left-hand lay and that at Greenwich a right-hand one. This no doubt gave rise to a certain amount of embarrassment when the Greenwich Cable aboard the Agamemnon came to be joined to the Birkenhead Cable aboard the Niagara for testing in Cork Harbour. In fact, it necessitated the design of an elaborate joint support to prevent the armouring of the cable unwinding under tension. The support consisted of a crescent shaped wooden yoke some 10 foot in diameter on which the two ends of the cable were laid in a convoluted figuration and covered by an iron plate. The yoke was kept from turning by a heavy weight suspended from it.



H.M.S. "AGAMEMNON" SHIPPING ATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE AT EAST GREENWICH, JULY, 1857.

(To be continued)



# View from the Top

The Bush Telegraph's discussion with Mr Banks this month naturally centred around the recent announcement that our Executive Director has been appointed to the main Board of BICC Ltd., and has also been made Chairman of R&EL, responsible to Mr De Ville. Mr Banks explained his new role in relation to the changing face of BICC. The cable industry is allied to the "energy" industry and, since the oil crisis, the pre-1973 growth of about 7% p.a. which the electrical supply industry had enjoyed had disappeared. It has been estimated that such performances are unlikely to return before 1990 as far as cables are concerned. Like many other companies BICC has sought expansion outside its traditional sphere. Mr Banks' new function will include establishing, co-ordinating, and maintaining scientific, engineering and technological policies and standards for all BICC's operations, reflecting the gradual change of technical emphasis within the Group. He thought it possible that some time in the future cables could represent the smaller part of the business, although BICC will maintain its position as leaders in the cable industry. R&EL has a full part to play in this change, and important non-cable areas involving Microprocessors, Energy and Polymers have already been identified as having growth potential.

A vital adjunct to development in these areas is to have the right people, and part of the present recruitment campaign reflects this requirement. The existing staff will also find that their projects and involvement will increasingly present challenges outside the field of cables. Mr Banks also mentioned that these changing demands may produce a requirement for more land than the 3.4 acres currently available.

Turning to his recent trip to Australia with Stefan Verne, Mr Banks reported that it had been very successful. The objective had been to promote the commercial interests of BICC's Australian subsidiary, Cable Makers Australia Pty. Ltd. (CMAP). In all major cities lectures had been given to technical representatives of major customers and the supply authorities on the subject of power distribution cables - both paper and polymeric types. Mr Banks expressed the hope that one, or both, of the presentations could form the basis of future Technical Society meetings.

As well as his new role with the Company Mr Banks has recently become Chairman of the Wood Lane Social Club. He envisaged his function as giving advice, encouragement and impetus to the Club's activities, and was looking forward to attending his first meeting of the Executive Council.

Other matters raised in the discussion were the recent break with General Cable Corporation which Mr Banks regretted, but thought was merely an honest reflection of the fact that the hoped-for collaboration had never been achieved and, at a domestic level, the frustrating delay in completing the new Wood Lane entrance which was due solely to delays by London Transport in transferring the land to BICC.

In conclusion, Mr Banks returned to the theme of change within BICC and mentioned once more the need for the generation of new ideas. He hoped that staff who had ideas and who proposed innovations would be sufficiently resilient to accept the fact that many of these concepts would be rejected. It was important to keep trying and not be discouraged by failures.

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## New Telephone Exchange

Work on the new system has continued, and the replacement of existing external instruments with the new push-button versions is almost complete. Completion of work on the exchange equipment is now behind schedule and, with Post Office engineers currently operating an overtime ban in support of their claim for a 35 hour week, the date for bringing the new system into operation cannot be estimated. Construction of the new console facilities in the main foyer is also being delayed.

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## Diary of Events

Date	Event	For Information
July 26th	5-a-side Football vs NHS (Bar open after matches)	Roger Roberts
W/E July 28th (provisional)	Finals of 6-a-side Cricket	Terry Alleyne
August 7th	Last Day for Contributions to Bush Telegraph	Editorial Board
August 14th	Sea Angling	Peter Walton
August 21st	Publication Day for Bush Telegraph	Editorial Board
August 31st	Last day for Puntoons	Editorial Board
September 29th	Photographic Competition	Denis Groombridge
	<u>Regular Events</u>	
Tuesdays	Badminton Tennis	Vic Banks Terry Alleyne
Wednesdays	Tennis	Terry Alleyne
Thursdays	Badminton Air Pistol Shooting Tennis	Vic Banks Denis Groombridge Terry Alleyne

# The Ballad Box

As a result of our "Know your muse" competition, Ken Baker sent us a copy of "Some Reprints from the Electrical Engineer's Book". The book was originally published in 1907 (Biggs and Co.) and included illustrations and humorous advertisements. A selection of the verses was reprinted in 1930 as a publicity gimmick by Croydon Cable Works Limited, manufacturers of Olonite and Pernax insulated cables, and Pernax patent bird guards! It is into this latter edition that we shall be dipping from time to time.

In this first extract, which appeared in "The Electrical Engineer" of Nov. 25, 1904, we realise that poking fun at the Irish is not the sole prerogative of the present generation. The poem is called "Ballydoneraile", and is signed "J.H.C.B". If anyone knows who he was, or what is the significance of Dunville's compound in the fourth verse, please let us know. (Same goes for the above bird guards!)

Ho! all you 'licthric engineers, come listen to my tale  
Of how they make th' 'licthric light in Ballydoneraile;  
The works is next the morturee, the boilers they are fed  
Wid anything-come-handy, and sometimes they miss the  
dead.

The plant was made by local men to benefit the place,  
To buy from Saxon foreigners they felt was a disgrace;  
So the engines was by Mulligan, N.B.G. type machines.  
He also built the dynamos, likewise the works latrines.

The cables was by Rafferty, who had ambitious hopes,  
He made them from a recipe that acted well wid ropes;  
A constant insulation is the mainsman's joy for such,  
'Tis point 0000I ohm, which never varies much.

The switchboard insulation being deal is not so high,  
So they put a stove beneath it for to keep the beggar  
dry;  
To help resuscitation from one-hundred-voltage shocks  
A keg of Dunville's compound is in every jointer's box.

The engineer is honest and he deals contractors fair,  
They do not need to get their dues by presents or by  
prayer,  
For a beautiful example in persuasion has been read  
To all the late chief engineers--wid dynamite and lead.

By dint of such good management, the station pays its  
way,  
But when the income's less than costs the stoker gets  
half pay,  
The meter reader's sacked--and this is never known  
to fail;  
And thus they run the 'licthric works at Ballydoneraile.

# Competition Reminder

Have you submitted your Puntoon(s)? No - then you have until the end of August. Full details in March BT or from any member of the Editorial Board (they're the ones whose names appear on Page 1 each month!)

.....

How many photos have you taken for our "Aspects of G-BREL" competition? Yes, we know it hasn't flown much but think of all those shots of Derry looking forlorn and miserable that you could have taken by now! Anyway you have until September 29th, so start snapping.

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## Successful Baptism Of G-BREL

The proposed first inflation and practice flight of the BICC balloon at Nettlebed, near Henley-on-Thames, on Sunday 18th June, had to be called off due to adverse wind conditions being forecast, which left the maiden flight to be made in the full glare of the public eye at Nottingham University the next day - not necessarily a good idea when the impression one wishes to create must be favourable! Nevertheless, the prospects on Monday morning seemed good, and the ground crew, consisting of Nick Thearle, Denis Groombridge and myself, assembled at Wood Lane soon after 9 a.m. to await the arrival of Derry Moore with the hoped-for favourable Met. Report. The words "Its on!" signalled our rapid departure for the M1 and Nottingham where our task, second to that of publicizing BICC, was to provide a platform for a film being made about University life in general. So it was that we arrived at the Students Union Office in the middle of siesta time (judging by the bodies laying about all over the Campus). Our contact, Eugene Curley, Union Secretary, was nowhere to be found, not even in the Bar, so after arranging for him to find us when he returned, we partook of some refreshment and discussed the afternoon's plans. Pilot Derry was sure that the weather was just too hot, and that we would have to wait until all the thermal activity died down. In the meantime, a visit to the proposed launch site confirmed that it was suitable, and that if the wind maintained its direction (WNW) the balloon should pass across the frontage of the main University buildings and give the cameraman the shots he wanted.

It also seemed certain that the balloon would be heading straight into the local Air Traffic Control Zone and that the flight would have to be limited to about 2 miles in order to avoid this. Possible landing sites in this area were therefore earmarked, helped by surveying the area from the top of the University building. It all seemed hopeful, subject only to the vagaries of the weather, and Derry was optimistic about this, too. Back to the waiting game, for a little longer, while Derry and Eugene gave tape-recorded interviews to reporters from BBC radio Nottingham and the commercial station, Trent Radio, for broadcasting that same day.

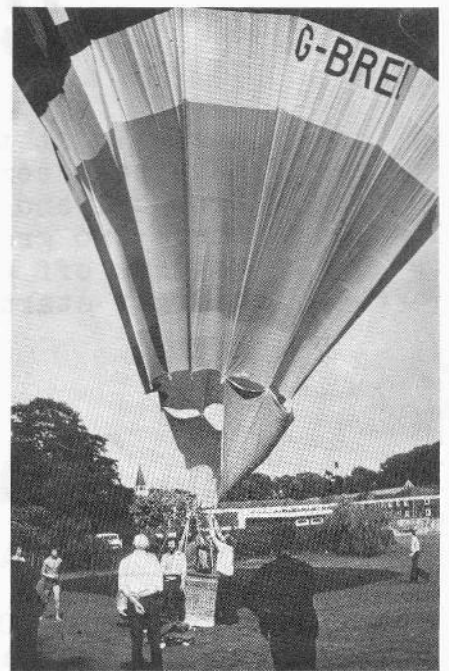
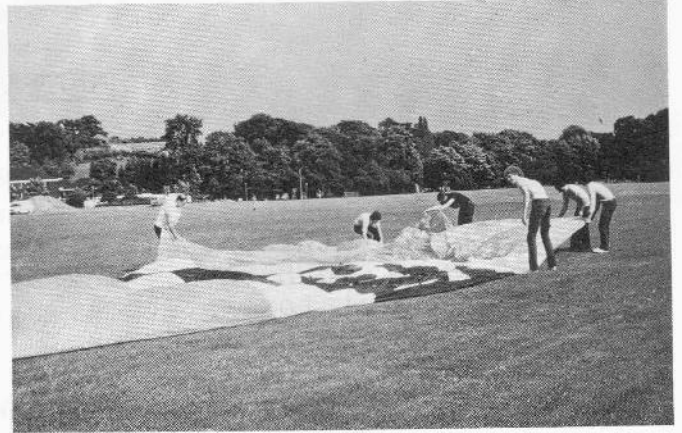
At about 4.15 p.m., conditions seemed to be improving, and it was decided to make a start. Balloon and crew departed to the far NW corner of the University playing fields, where the van was unloaded and the wraps taken off for the very first time, as an interested crowd began to gather. Denis and I hoped that it wasn't too obvious that the procedure was as new to us as it was to them! Nick, of course, had helped Derry before, and had a pretty good idea of what was what. Under Derry's expert guidance, everything was assembled in short order and the task of inflation began, not helped by a still playful wind. But with a number of willing hands holding things steady, the balloon and basket were soon upright and Derry was able to invite the cameraman and also Eugene to climb aboard. After a few more blasts from the burners, sufficient buoyancy was achieved and the order was given, "Hands off!" Away they went in a perfect ascent, to a round of applause from the audience, and hotly pursued about 30 seconds later by the recovery crew in the van, who had also recruited a student who had a good knowledge of the local by-roads. A wise precaution!

The line of the flight was near-perfect, across the front of the University and moving away at an angle, giving the cameraman all the shots he could want, including views of the City of Nottingham as well. But Derry had more important things to think about, and as the prescribed limit of the flight approached, he had to "drop" the balloon pretty rapidly after passing over one power line, before getting too close to the next. The landing, in a playing field he had previously noted, was not heavy by ballooning standards, but was complicated by a light wind which sprang up at the wrong moment, and as the basket tipped over, the cameraman, holding on with one hand and with his camera in the other, fell on top of Derry causing him to let go of the dump-line. The parachute valve in the top of the balloon therefore closed again, and the balloon did a gigantic hop across the field before Derry could sort things out. On the second contact, the basket was dragged across the field, and came to rest less than twenty feet from the bank of the River Trent. The balloon gently dipped its crown in the river, and Derry and passengers scrambled out, muttering words which could have been interpreted as "I baptise thee, G-BREL!" and thankful that the more ancient ceremony involving total immersion had been avoided.

With the arrival of the van, a few minutes later, the gear was soon stowed away, and a happy crew drove back to the Students' Bar for a well-earned pint or two.

All in all, a successful first outing. A good launch, a good flight, a good if adventurous landing, and the main purpose of it all, good publicity for BICC among the University students.

# Section Reports



# Section Reports

## FOOTBALL SECTION

Following the adventures at the Balfour Beatty sports day more 5-a-side matches have been arranged. On Wednesday 26th July three teams (2 mens, 1 ladies) are challenging N.H.S. at Wormwood Scrubs, kick-off 5.30. Entrance is at Artillery Road end, spectators welcome. It is hoped to arrange more matches and possibly enter a league.

Bar will be opened at Wood Lane afterwards.

Details from Roger Roberts.

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## Billiards Tournament

At the time of writing, (6th July), Group 2 matches have been completed, Group 3 still has a couple to go, but Groups 1 and 4 are a bit delayed. May I appeal to players in these two groups to get themselves organised and play these matches off as soon as possible, so that the quarter-finals may get started.

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## The Film Column

CINEMA SCENE A new West End (or North-West End) cinema has recently opened its doors, the Scala in Tottenham Street. Previously the Other Cinema, it is run by Nicholas Hart-Williams. There has been a place of entertainment on the site for many years, at least since 1772 when "The New Concert Rooms in Tottenham Street" were a popular attraction.

Currently showing at the Scala, in separate programmes, are a new German film THE MAIN ACTOR and an American documentary about a coal strike, HARLAN COUNTY USA.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE This month's seasons include "Russian Eccentrics", a series of off-beat films from the USSR; "Profession: Reporter" ranging from THE FRONT PAGE (1931) via CITIZEN KANE and THE FRONT PAGE (1974) to ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN; a Will Hay retrospective; and the first of a series on British Independent Film Makers, Horace Ové, including PRESSURE, which was shot mainly on location just up the road at Notting Hill. If you would like to receive copies of the NFT Programme Summary, contact Tom Ruben.

FILM RECOMMENDATION ALLONSAFAN, starring Marcello Mastroianni, Lea Massari and Laura Betti. It was directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, whose next film PADRE PADRONE has recently received much acclaim. ALLONSAFAN is showing at the Plaza, Camden Town.



# PITCH N PUTT

Once again an intrepid band of golfers set forth from Wood Lane on a cold November - sorry July - evening to do ritual battle with the nine-hole courses at Gunnersbury Park.

The first foursome away were Yvonne Ferrier, Neil Franklin, Denis Groombridge and Wally Mascarenhas, who seemed to take about 20 minutes before finally "teeing" off - there must have been some snooker players amongst them! The next four away were Carol and Andy Platt, Terry Alleyne and Keith Sichel, the last of whom obviously thought we were off on an outdoor survival exercise, judging from the layers of clothing worn, and everybody liked the hot-tea cosy. The remaining fours, Sue and Tony Jordan, Sandra McCormick and Vic Banks, Roy and Silvia Fraser, and Keith Elder and Stuart Castle followed rapidly before exposure set in.

Keith Elder opened well with a beautifully sliced drive into the rough, hotly pursued by Stuart Castle. Roy and Silvia were more steady, taking three daisy-cutters to reach the green.

The real drama of the evening occurred between the 5th and 6th holes on the far side of the course, where Keith Sichel lost his ball, which was of course found immediately after Keith had departed to explain his sin to the course keeper. Immediately afterwards Roy lost his too, but fortunately Keith Sichel then found another and so the evening turned out all square in the end!

Past individual winner Keith Elder was keeping very quiet about his score up to the seventh, but finally rose to the occasion with a three and a four. Roy Fraser drove right on to the green on the final hole, the only problem being it was the wrong green!

The two foursomes on the Red course finished shortly after those on the White course and scores were totalled with frozen hands. The results were:-

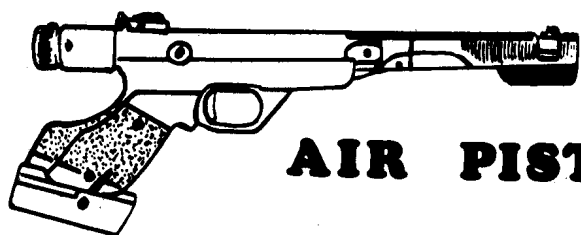
Denis Groombridge (38)	+	Walter Mascarenhas (38)	76
Keith Elder (45)	+	Stuart Castle (45)	90
Terry Alleyne (44)	+	Keith Sichel (56)	100
Tony Jordan (46)	+	Sue Jordan (55)	101
Roy Fraser (45)	+	Silvia Fraser (60)	105
Neil Franklin (52)	+	Yvonne Ferrier (54)	106
Carol Platt (65)	+	Andy Platt (44)	109
Vic Banks (50)	+	Sandra McCormick (61)	111

## Prizes:-

Best Individual and Best Pair	-	Walter and Denis	(£2 each)
Best Lady	-	Yvonne	(£2)
Booby Prize	-	Carol	(£1)

All participants then retired to the Bulls Head for warmth and refreshment, where they were met by Derry Moore and Nick Thearle drowning their sorrows for their non-event at Chiswick. A good time was had by all, and the motion carried that next year's event be arranged in the summer!





# AIR PISTOL SHOOTING



Member of

Shooting Averages at 6.7.78

Pos.		Ave.	Pos.		Ave.
1	Stefan Verne	46.0	6	Pete Walters	33.0
2	Joe Lou	45.0	7	Pat Donovan	32.4
3	Denis Groombridge	38.8	8	Keith Sichel	31.3
4	Tom Dore	38.0	9	Roger Millward	27.5
5	Bob Maidlow	35.1	10	Roger Roberts	26.8

## JOLLY OLD BADDERS AND ALL THAT

Rumour has it that many years ago, many a fierce battle was fought on court and through the efforts of one Kulkarni, some Anglo-Saxons and an ageing Celt, quite a heavy blow delivered to many an opposing team.

Rumour now has it that some ageing warriors have again taken up the battle-cry, but reports reaching the BT show that the battles were not like those of old.

Seeking revenge and grasping the opportunity availed by the change of the transfer law, negotiations were held for the loan of a Wimbledon Aztec. Having agreed that play would not take place north of the Scrubs in some medieval setting, where one battled both roof beams and opponents, only to finish forced to go home still sweaty and definitely dry, the stage was set for a home match (and hopeful win) - 7 p.m. start.

6 p.m. full of Keen-ness to show his fellow team mates that it was easy to beat a Wimbledon Aztec, the gauntlet was thrown down. Forgetting BA rules 4 and 5 (no shielas and no poofers) he conceded the first game to a duck in just under 4 minutes, but being a fair sport carried on to the end, only to collapse in front of the bar muttering "I'm poofed". Little more needs to be said, other than that Vic Banks broke nearly three blood vessels rushing round his newly-formed mixed partnership.

The next pair to menace the opposition was the 3rd floor partnership of Denis G. and Dennis C. Playing well together, they covered the court with ease, and at times it was as though they might even have been tied together.

The Aztec being the wisest, picked a young colt as a partner and stood at the net directing operations ("Yours!") thus conserving enough energy to enable him later to serve the drinks.

Well done lads! BICC 6 - St. Pauls 3.

# Irish Crossword

Across.

1. Green vegetables.
6. Female sheep.
7. They lay eggs.
8. They surround the land.
9. They are often dropped.

Down.

1. A tool.
2. A boxer delivers it.
3. A mixed drink.
4. Judy's friend.
5. A horse; Suffolk -----.

Answer on page 17

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

1	P	2	P	3	P	4	P	5	P
6	U	U	U	U	U				
7	N	N	N	N	N				
8	C	C	C	C	C				
9	H	H	H	H	H				

## DUMMY HELP FOR BOSSES

BOSSSES who have no time to talk to their staff, should have life-size dummies put in their offices.

The suggestion comes from the *National Management Journal*, a magazine for executives. It is a warning about the hidden dangers of bosses neglecting themselves in their roles.

Acknowledgement  
"Sunday Mirror"

# Balfour Beatty Annual Sports Day

## Five-A-Side Football

June 17th 1978

Wood Lane actually took the plunge and entered 4 men's teams and one ladies team for the five-a-side tournament. We started off on a dull Saturday morning, which eventually turned out to be nice and sunny. Due to unforeseen circumstances we arrived at the ground 3 minutes late, and although the tournament started late, one team was disqualified. After discussions with the Referee (Boo) he would not let the team take part in their match, but they were very good supporters for the rest. Our first team of the day to play were Rutherford, who were led on to the field by Tony Jordan, who played very well. The game was very good, Andy Platt I feel was unlucky, but with Clive Carroll and Nick Thearle's aggression and Dennis Cooper's speed (what a pair of knees Dennis!) Tony was able to score twice, but in the end we lost 3-2. Our next game was one of delight because we won, thanks to Peter Raw's penalty and Olric Morrison's goal. Olric also had a caution from the Ref (Boo) for a mistimed tackle. Neil Franklin also played very well. The third team on the field played with great courage, especially Ian (let me at 'em) Ringrose, Pete Walters and Tim Cozens, but the other team were far superior, and Dave Green took the ball from the net four times (shame on you Dave). In the 2nd round our team were beaten 1-0. By now there was fun and games on the touchline, with Terry Alleyne walking round with his coconut and Derek Glockner just about standing, and some rude suggestions to the Ref. (nice one Bill). Next to play were the ladies. They played remarkably well, especially Lesley Marti and Jan Walters. I must say that Angela Thornton did extremely well with a splendid body check which left her opponent stunned and Angela flat on her back, but with great courage she bounced right back. At this stage in the game we were losing 1-0 but thanks to the very skilful Yvonne Dobrowski, who scored a superb goal, we made it 1-1. Yvonne Ferrier defended the net superbly but eventually the other team scored again and we lost 2-1. Bad luck ladies.

Now the football was over and the disco had started. Wood Lane Ladies and Gentlemen took to the floor with gay abandon and a good time was had by all, especially one senior citizen who bribed me with scotch to keep his name out of this article. One gentleman, namely Peter Wardle, whilst dancing with 2 young ladies had a slight mishap and split his trousers - not a pretty sight.

I would like to thank Balfour Kilpatrick and their social club committee for their sports day and especially for the free buffet. I would also like to thank Yvonne Dobrowski for hiring the coach. I would also like to thank all those who took part in the games and the supporters.

Roger

P.S. There is now a fan club for Angela and Yvonne, so please contact Neil Franklin or Peter Wardle.

(Thanks also to Roger for his efforts in arranging Wood Lane's participation and compiling the report and the photographs shown opposite - EDS).

SPORTS

Varsity Football



Varsity Football



Varsity Football



Varsity Football



Varsity Football



Varsity Football

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT SCREAM

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

It was a night in June such as this whence travellers from distant parts of the Kingdom (i.e. Stoke Newington, Balham, Acton and other equally exotic places) gathered in our humble meeting place under the sign of the long eared dog. They came to savour such delights as ale, fruit juices, spirits and Grünhülle whilst making merriement to the melody of the mystical musical machine.

Herewith lies an account of such goings on compiled from opinions and comment of fellow revellers of Wood Lane.

I think it was agreed that there didn't seem to be such a good selection of music as was enjoyed in 'Friday Night Fever' "there was too much soul and not enough knees-ups". There were also quite a few records played featuring "Hi-Voltage" and the dynamic duo Olivia 'n' John Revolta.

Well done Olric for getting people going though generally people didn't seem too keen to get up to dance.

"My missus says Wood Lane men are not fit".  
Maybe the light evenings held them back.  
"Last time you could hardly see who you were dancing with".  
When one o'clock came, it all seemed too sudden.  
"There were no smoochies at the end".  
Everyone sat round as if waiting for an encore.

The bar kept up its usual good service throughout the evening.

"Good value for money".  
"I got a hangover drinking that grotty Export Lager".

Many thanks to everyone who stayed until half past two clearing up.

"I wish people would bring their glasses back".

The general opinion was favourable and maybe a larger turnout would have made it better. A final comment:

"Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, at least they should have done by the amount of drink we sold".

Has Snoopy gone to the dogs?

R and R

# Who dropped a brick?

COMPANY UNHINGED BY SHOCK PLANNING BLUNDER - NEW WALL KNOCKED DOWN IN COSTLY GATE MISCALCULATION HORROR

An awesome feeling of shocked apathy reverberated through the corridors of Wood Lane recently when it was realised that a section of newly-built wall, containing quite a few bricks, had been knocked down. The wall, part of the long-awaited "New Entrance Scheme" was found to be incompatible with the re-alignment of the site's legendary, barbarian-proof, security gate. Rapid new computer miscalculations failed to resolve the tangle of economic possibilities attendant upon the question of solving the problem with a new gate or another new wall. Resolution of this dilemma was finally achieved via a contractor's employee and a sledge-hammer. A full investigation into this appalling horror has been ordered. In the meantime the "Bush Telegraph" will leave no brick unturned in its attempts to discover the truth.

NEXT MONTH - "WALLS, GATES AND CHAINS - MY STORY"

by J. McKinney (Miss)



"They only sent eight stovels and they won't come up til they've all got one to lean on"