

PERME SOCIAL & SPORTS CLUB

AUTUMN

QUICKMATCH

SEPTEMBER 1983

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CLUB PRESIDENT	Dr B H Newman	Director PERME
CHAIRMAN	Bob McGuchan	Extn 210/240
SECRETARY	Adrian Francis	449
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EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

I hereby present and commend to you this Autumn issue of Quickmatch. It has not been an easy issue to compile since, with so many on holiday, I have had some difficulty in gathering reports from people and you may notice that some of the usual reports failed to materialise at all. To offset this I did receive some articles from sections not normally reported (Only because I kept on badgering them - It's wonderful what a midnight telephone call can do).

We are always looking for ways to improve Club publicity and have recently installed a new Notice Board in the Club Foyer. This board is for Club publicity ONLY. Please do not pin notices on this board without first contacting me. On the board you will see Event Calendar Sheets for up to 2 months ahead. We will try to keep this as up to date as possible but if I'm not notified of bookings it's not going to be easy.

There is also a new Post Box in the foyer for any replies, letters or booking forms. However, this should not be used if any money is included eg. when booking tickets for an event. In these cases please seal in an envelope and hand to the barman. A supply of envelopes will be kept behind the bar.

Ray Hackett, our fiendish puzzle poser is saving his strength for a really tough PERME CHRISTMAS PUZZLE but we do have two chances for you to win a fabulous bottle of plonk this time. There is a competition contributed by "Hedgehog" of BWD and a crossword compiled by "Glory Tram", whatever that is.

I had hoped to include the results of the Club Badge Competition in this edition and perhaps "blazon" the winning entry on the front cover. Unfortunately the three judges have been able to avoid each other so far but, provided they do eventually meet and provided they can agree on a suitable design, I shall be reporting the results in the next Quickmatch. This will be the Christmas edition. The deadline for contributions for the "Bumper Christmas Issue" will be on Friday 25th November. It will be especially important for this deadline to be kept since no one wants to get their copy after Boxing Day when all the highly publicised events have been and gone!

Norman Paul EDITOR

It's nice to get some favourable comments on one's efforts but, as you will see from the following letter I received, they always spoil it by finding something wrong:

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the recent Square Dance and Fashion Show Poster.

Just one small complaint. Can you make the maze a bit easier next time!!

Cheers,

Ian G.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

The languor of the long hot summer leaves me rather "chatless". In this heat I have just about enough energy to sup my pint and ogle at the bronzed figures in scanty summer wear - No! I don't mean Nigel, or Phil Dyke! I had hoped that I might have the same problem(?) as the Torquay beach wardens but no such luck. In the end I settled for laughs as the beer bellies took to shorts - what weird and wonderful sights (Only joking Paul!). Into the steaming nineties and the last bastion crumbled as Geoff Hooper was seen to take off his jacket and tie and muttered about migrating to cooler northern climes.

Thankfully a few manage to carry on working despite the heat and I have been most impressed by the efforts to further improve the Club. The office has been fitted out and at the moment there are transformations going on in the kitchen and ladies loo.

Considerable effort has gone into cleaning up the Main Hall. The main problem is keeping it tidy. I receive many complaints about this and can understand how frustrating it is to have to clear away and clean up the previous user's mess. In addition the cleaners are unable, in the time allowed, to clear the floor of furniture before starting to clean. The result is that the floor doesn't get a proper cleaning. Therefore we are implementing a ruling that ALL users of the Hall must leave it as they find it; ie. tables wiped and stacked away, chairs neatly stacked-not too high and not mixed types of chairs, rubbish cleared and ashtrays emptied. Bingo sessions have been a major culprit in the past and are not exempt from the new ruling. One or more of the regulars will have to assume responsibility and muster volunteers. We have checked that tidying up can be done satisfactorily by one person in about ten minutes - not a lot to ask really.

Bob McGuchan

SINCE THIS RULE WAS INSTIGATED TWO WEEKS HAVE ELAPSED AND WE WISH TO THANK USERS OF THE HALL. WITHOUT EXCEPTION (SO FAR) ALL USERS HAVE COMPLIED AND AS A RESULT THE CLEANERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REALLY CLEAN THE HALL PROPERLY AND THE FLOOR IS LOOKING BETTER EACH WEEK.

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM OUR TREASURER AND SECRETARY:

There has been some concern recently over the Fruit Machine which, on occasions, fails to pay out the full amounts shown on a winning line. This usually happens when two larger prizes are won close together. Players of the machine should be aware that there are occasions when the jackpot reservoirs are being filled after such a win that the machine cannot pay the full amount. There is a warning on the machine stating "insufficient funds for large prizes". In the past the Club has paid winners the difference from the bar. Having taken legal advice we now find that this practice is prohibited:

"It is a condition of the operation of jackpot fruit machines that the Club may NOT make up any deficiency in the payout of any winning line from the bar till OR ANY OTHER SOURCE". If the deficiency is due to a mechanical fault the deficiency may be made up provided the machine is immediately removed from play until the defect has been remedied. In no other circumstance must the club pay out, nor does the player have any legal claim for for a deficiency in payout". Gaming Act 1968.

Players are therefore advised that such deficiencies will no longer be made up.

Andy Clayton TREASURER
Adrian Francis SECRETARY

* O U T I N G S *

On May 17th 1983 AD, an intrepid band of press-ganged volunteers descended on the Greene King Brewery at Biggleswade. It was a very informative trip and I am informed that I enjoyed it. Support for it could have been better.

The above was organised by our last Outings Chairman, Allan Ball. Your new man in the travelling hot seat has a programme that he hopes to organise. The first would have been on August 20th to Sandown Park Races but a total lack of support ensured that the trip was cancelled. A trip on the River Lea has (was) organised for Wednesday 31st August. If the Mexican volcanoes still remain dormant for another month, we may yet have a fine day. If not, there is a bar on board so we can at least enjoy a drink or four. Over the coming months we hope to run a pub outing to a venue that serves a meal. Also suggested is an excursion to a night club and in late September/early October, a trip across the other side of the River Thames to Calais or Boulogne, either by your own transport or by coach.

(Editor's Note 1. For "across the Thames" read "across the English Channel" - Geography never was Nigel's strong point.
Editor's Note 2. I hope it's by coach cos my car leaks)

If there is somewhere, someone or something YOU would like to go to, go to see or to do, TELL ME! - although for most people that does seem too much to ask.

Nigel Evans
OUTINGS CHAIRMAN

.....
B A R T A L K

Phew! What marvellous drinking weather we've had. The Club is like a glasshouse and lacking air conditioning. The atmosphere gets rather stifling at times. If you felt hot, spare a thought for the Bar Staff - they have extra kilowatts of heat being churned out from the coolers etc.

Trade has held up remarkably well throughout the year, so much so that there has been no increase in prices apart from the usual Budget changes.

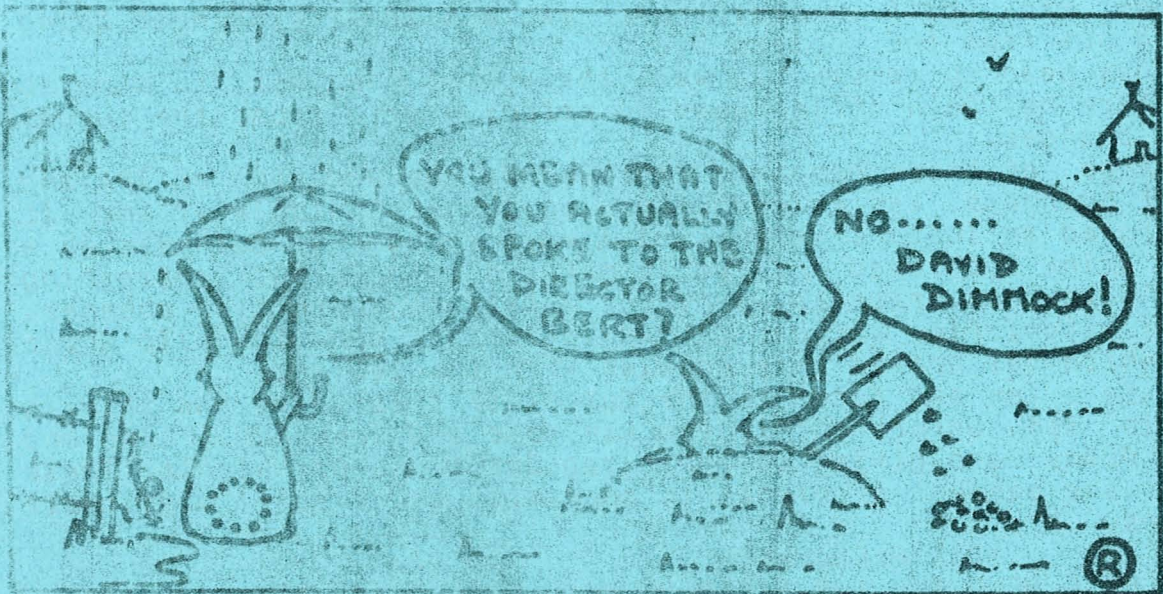
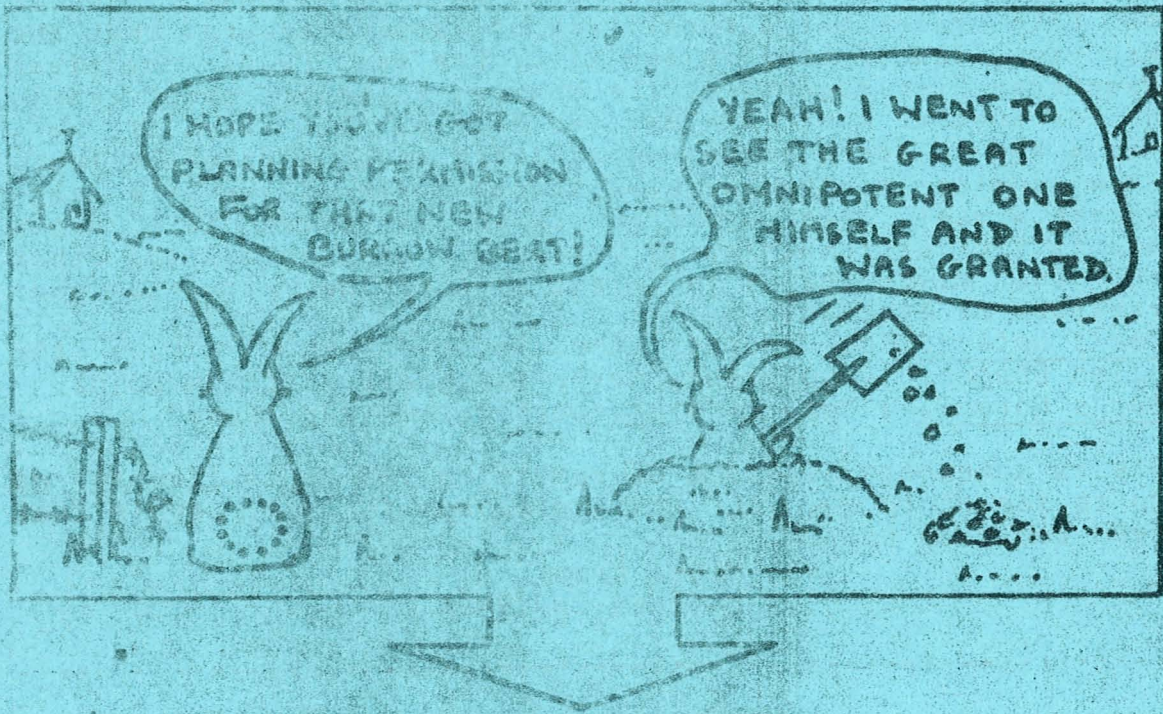
The range of beers has been improved by the addition of IPA and Draught Guinness. Yes Folks! We are no longer "Guinnessless" and it has proved an instant success. I always thought of Guinness as a winter drink but served chilled it makes a surprisingly refreshing summer drink. Our price is 68 p/pint - tell me where it's cheaper. Another astonishing success is "Appletise", a non-alcoholic apple juice which has proved very popular with the ladies.

There are a few new faces on the Bar Staff these days and this is nice to see. Unfortunately you win some and lose some; Les and Eunice Adams are giving up their regular Bingo Bar Nights. These are not the easiest of nights to cope with and I shall miss their services.

Bob McGuchan.

N.B. PLEASE HELP THE BAR STAFF BY RETURNING GLASSES TO THE BAR.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU TAKE YOUR DRINKS TO THE OUTSIDE TABLES.

BUNNIES



SECTION NEWS

BRIDGE CLUB

Those who have keenly followed the fortunes of the Harlow League Team will already have deduced that the 82/83 season was crowned with success, PERME won the Kings Cup Knockout Competition. Provided that the Harlow Contract Bridge League Committee can find the cup and the captain can get to the AGM, it will be presented in September. The team will campaign for a League/Cup double in 83/84 !

Rubber Bridge continues in the club on Tuesdays. For further information contact,

Mike Healey (extn 282)

SQUASH

Good news for all those who have been wanting to join the Squash Club but refrained from doing so because Thursday night was not convenient. We have now moved to Wednesdays, although the playing time remains from 8.20 - 9.40pm, after all we are civil servants and you can't expect too many changes at once.

Already the change has resulted in the temporary departure of one member who is trying to improve his acting ability, or as some say, create one. Of him I will say no more at present although anyone who is wondering which pantomime they should take their children to at Christmas, watch this space in the next Quickmatch. I have often been asked why the squash club does not organise lunchtime sessions. The main reason is that we have a difficult enough time finding squash players for an evening session (perhaps there are players who can only make lunchtimes? Ed.)

However we are prepared to arrange a Lonely Squash Player Agency ! For absolutely free, if anyone wishes to play squash at lunchtime but does not have a regular partner or wishes to increase his choice of partners (there must be a less ambiguous way of writing that last piece) -(There is but personally I prefer to leave it as it is. Ed.), then if they will give their names to either myself or Ian Wallace (Extn 276/431) (That'll teach him to keep quiet) I will compile a list to send to all those expressing an interest. The Three Racquet Tournament has not been forgotten about, and if anyone is still interested please ring me and I will definitely get something organised.

And now for a piece for nostalgia lovers. The other day I was speaking to Lucy Lastic and said person was remarking on the new club competition for a badge design to be used on ties, T shirts, etc. and if said dress would be compulsory for admittance to the Club. I was just wondering what the next competition will be. Will it be like a certain children's TV programme: make a model of the PERME Club out of cigarette packets and bottletops and win a PERME CLUB BADGE (Now you've gone and spoilt it. Ed.), or follow a more select grownup club and have a competition for the most unusual handshake. That's your lot until the Christmas edition,

Ron Craik

SPECIAL NOTICE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASEBALL
IN WALTPAM ABBEY (TOWNMEAD)
IF SO CONTACT RAY OWEN (Extn 366)

CHESS

Very little to report at the moment as we are halfway through the Chess close season.

we shall again be competing in the Essex League (Div.II), both Divisions of the North Circular League and the Essex Commercial League in the coming season. Playing strength will be roughly the same as last year -in other words, we could do with more players! Officials elected at our recent AGM were as follows:-

Chairman	John Cook
Secretary	Ian Griggs
Treasurer	Terry Turner
Match Captains	Terry Turner, John Cook, Jim Raff and Bob Torry
Tournament Organiser	Dave Adkins
Correspondence Chess	Bob Jones

Thanks are due to Les Grindrod, our former Treasurer, who has served us so well over the years. He has been continuing on a "year at a time" basis for some seasons but at long last, we have persuaded Terry Turner to take on the job. As Terry works for a Scandinavian bank, we hope that the Chess Club accounts will not all be converted into some strange type of Kroner.

Whilst looking through an April 1975 issue of New Scientist, Bob Torry came across an intriguing article titled "ALCOHOLIC CHESS" which deserves a mention here since it could perhaps serve as an inducement for more members to take up chess. Basically, it involves playing chess by the normal rules except that all the "pieces" are represented by alcoholic beverages of varying sizes and strengths according to the relative value of each piece. For example, the Queen would be a Treble Brandy, Rooks could be Double Whiskies and Pawns Bottles of Brown Ale. But the main difference is that you not only "capture" your opponents pieces - you drink them as well! The main tactical thinking appears to be the realisation that the early loss of your Queen could in fact give you a terrific advantage. However, a real "blood and thunder" encounter with pieces being won and lost willy-nilly would almost inevitably result in a draw - with both players unconscious. My own thoughts are still centred on what Bob was doing reading an eight year old magazine - perhaps it had a picture of a motorbike on the cover !

Ian Griggs

Thankyou Ian for a very amusing article. Just a couple of points. Firstly; Bob Torry is probably near the bottom of the circulation list for New Scientist since it generally takes about eight years to complete the circulation of each issue. Secondly, and I am only nitpicking but, although I welcome nice long articles to pad out each issue I do wish people wouldn't start their reports with "Very little to report" and then go rambling on for another 45 lines. Just joking Ian ? Ed.

SNOOKER

Not much to report on the Snooker scene. I hope to start the Knockout Competitions soon - details to follow.

The EDWASCA League starts in mid September so please bear in mind that match night is every Thursday (Both Tables),

Barry Barrett

FOOTBALL CLUB

As we are still in the close season there is nothing to report.
P.S. Disco - October 1st.
P.P.S. Training is in progress on Tuesday nights. Anybody
interested please contact Nigel Smith or Andy Carter.

PERME FOOTBALL CLUB are DELIGHTED
to INVITE YOU to BUY TICKETS for their forthcoming

D I S C O

On SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER 8 - 12pm
TICKETS NOW ON SALE from
Nigel Smith (extn 366) or Andy Carter (extn 356)

PERME SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Once again there was a splendid turnout of enthusiastic players whose ages ranged from 17 to 60+.

The 8 teams involved were split into 2 World Cup style Groups, and the top 2 teams from each Group were to go through to semi-finals. In the first game H10 beat PR 5-2(4 points a goal, 1 point a corner) H10 kept abreast of the times by fielding a female "Midfield General". PR countered by having a big tart (Andy Carter) for a centre forward.

Outstanding performances from Freddie Carr (BWD), Ken Sagers (Delto - Electricians) and Peter (lovely legs) Stone (PIGS-PI/GC) were not enough to spur their teams to victory and with Andy Carter missing even more shots than usual the following teams went through to the semi-finals:- Machine Shop, H10, Apprentices and Design Office. The results were:- H10 0 - Appr 2; M/C Shop 0 - DO 5. The Apprentices had beaten the DO in the 3 previous finals and were favoured to win again. But the DO drew on their years of experience and the "Old Men" won by a convincing 5 - 0. At the end of the day the trophy was presented to the winners by an unexpected VIP (see photo) to the roars of approval from the capacity crowd remaining (Mick Leonard and Dave Elderfield).

"An unexpected arrival presents the cup to the winning captain (Nigel Smith is on the left)."

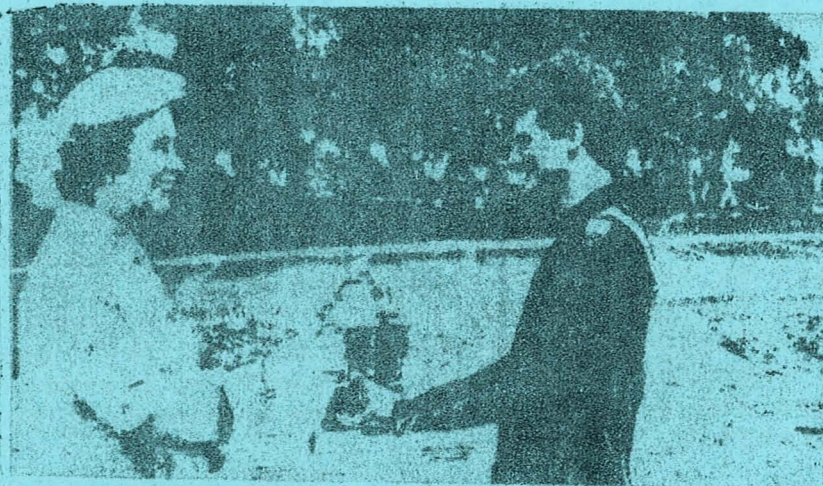


Photo by: Monty Arge

RIFLE CLUB

Contrary to popular belief the Rifle Club still exists! We shoot on Monday and Thursday Evenings from about 7.30pm at our range (corner of Lower Island Way by Highbridge Street).

New members are always welcome - in fact we could do with some! Club equipment is available so that you can try the sport without spending vast sums of money. Contact Paul Kennett (Extn 408) for more information.

As an aside we are trying to arrange a visit to the Pattern Room Museum at RSAF for late September/early October. Unfortunately this has to be restricted to FULL MEMBERS ONLY and numbers are limited so will be on a "first come first served basis". A small charge will be made for the visit. Will anyone interested in going please contact me as soon as possible.

Paul Kennett.

LADIES DARTS TEAM

New dart players are always welcome to the team. Own transport is useful but not necessary. Our matches are, usually, friendly
(Not from what I've seen. Ed.)

and mostly local but we do play a few games a year at Epping. Our next match at the time of writing is away at Epping on Tuesday the 23rd when we play the ladies from the Lindsey Street Community Centre - the first time we have played there. If anyone knows of any ladies darts teams in clubs or pubs who would like friendly games please contact me on Extn 284 or leave a message in the Post Box in the Club Foyer,

Barbara Coe.

TENNIS

Having donned my cap as Outings chairman elsewhere in this issue I'll now turn my hand to a Tennis report.

The Men's Team plays in Essex League Div.V and have performed remarkably well. We have Won 3, Drawn 3 and lost the rest.

(The observant among you will have noticed that he hasn't said how many matches they've played! Ed.)

This is a vast improvement over last year when I think we achieved one or two draws.

Our final position in the League will be reported in the next issue. We also field a Mixed Team but have had extreme difficulty in getting enough ladies to play. As a result, next year, we are unlikely to run a Mixed team unless the ladies team "pool" increases their numbers. Nonetheless, the results have been creditable with 1 Win, 2 Draws and only 7 Losses. A Mens Singles and Mixed Competition has been running since Mid-May and the finals will be played on Saturday 3rd September at 11.00pm. Entrance fee to the No.1 Court will be £5 per deckchair and £2.50 standing - Double these prices for the Centre Court - that's the one in the middle. All Club Members are welcome to attend. New members are always welcome at the Tennis Club, sessions are on Thursday Evenings and Sunday Mornings and some of us are mad enough to play on the latter session throughout the winter!

Nigel Evans (Extn 451).

SAILING CLUB BIT

Bonjour Matelot (Ancient French Nautical Greeting),

The new boat house now has electricity for lighting and power and is available for boat storage, repair and can be hired for parties. All bookings via the bo'sun.

The old Wineglass has been in use fairly regularly this year but is getting bored with the same old bums on its thwarts. As a result it is resigning from the club and has since nominated an Enterprise to take its place. this craft is smaller, sleeker, faster, yar (ref. High Society) and altogether more fun.

The club is going places - this is the time to join before we have to close the membership. The membership secretary will be manning his 'phone for 24 hours on the 1st of August so ring now! If you fancy getting your feet wet any Wednesday from now till the end of the season (31st October) call Paul Kennett (408), John Alexander (320) or Jack Howe (258).

OLD COMRADES

The Old Comrades normally meet in the Social Club Hall on the First Thursday of each Month.

The August Meeting, however, was not held because of the Annual Reunion the following day. Many Old Comrades came to the Reunion, which was the best yet - although it would have been better still if more serving members of PERME had come along too.

(I thought the existing Bar Staff managed to serve everyone quite well! Ed.)

The hearty thanks of the Old Comrade members who attended the reunion is expressed here to the Benevolent Fund Committee Members and their helpers - Well Done ! Don't forget that any ex-member of ERDE/PERME WA who is drawing a Ministry of Defence Pension, and/or their spouse, is entitled to join the Old Comrades Club - to join just come along to a meeting First Thursday of the Month - Remember.

Bob Brown.

GRAFFITI

ANTI-RADAR MISSILES?

DON'T BE ALARMED

THERE'S NO HARM IN THEM

THE LIGHT YOU SEE
AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL
IS PROBABLY AN APPROACHING
EXPRESS TRAIN

IF YOU WANT TO PROFIT
DONT ROF IT !!

WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE MONOPOLIES COMMISSION ?

S P O R T S

This year's trip to the Ministry Sportsday at Chiswick was quite a success, especially for Dave Elderfield who won the 100 metres in the fast time of 11.5 seconds. Dave also ran a respectable 4th in the 200 metres.

John Cook ran a remarkable 5,000 metres, finishing 5th out of a field of about 40 runners. His time was 16 min.46 sec.(a personal best). John also ran in the 1,500 metres finishing 6th in a time of 4 min.40 sec.

Our shot putter, Bill Rogers ended up 7th against some very strong opposition.

I think everybody enjoyed themselves at Chiswick, including our mascot, Cliff Blunt.

There's a whisper going round that next year Ike is going to enter the 765 metres race. It just so happens that the nearest pub is 765 metres from the coach park.

PERME is also forming a Six-A-Side Football Team. More details in the next issue,

Barry Barrett SPORTS CHAIRMAN.

1983 DARTS INTERSECTION LEAGUE COMPETITION

The Intersectional Darts League came to a close in Mid July with P2 winning the title for the Third time in Five years. PRP, led by Stan Berry once again finished Runners Up their crucial game being a 2 - 1 defeat at the hands of PRS.

A maximum score of 180 was recorded this year but modesty will not permit me to say who hit it.

TEAM	FINAL POSITIONS	
	PLAYED	POINTS
P2	9	23
PRP	9	21
PRS	9	18
RICKS ROCKETS	9	15
PRISE	9	14
BOTTOM RUNG	9	13
BROAD ARROWS	9	11
PERME LADIES	9	9
PRATS	9	7
ALL STARS	9	5

1983 PERME DARTS KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

By the time you read this the 1983 KO Competitions will be well under way but for those still involved a reminder that ALL GAMES must be played by the date given or you will be ELIMINATED. The onus is on the player(s) not supplying a phone number OR the player(s) on the top of the draw.

A date for the Finals has yet to be arranged but it should be late November,

Keith Fowler.

THE PROPELLANTS EXPLOSIVES AND ROCKET MOTOR ESTABLISHMENT
WALTHAM ABBEY
ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Contributed by Malcolm McLaren, Management Services

PART III UP TO THE PRESENT DAY

For centuries the entire production of the Factory had been gunpowder but by the middle of the 19th century there was growing interest in two new explosives: guncotton and nitroglycerine.

Guncotton had been made by Schonbein of Basle in 1846 by the action of nitrating acids on cotton, and a plant for its production was set up at Faversham, now once again in private hands.

Unfortunately, a serious explosion destroyed the plant and following explosions elsewhere in Europe little interest was shown in guncotton except in Austria where the processes were improved. So much so that the Austrian Government offered details to the British Government and Frederick Abel, the War Office Chemist, was instructed to examine these improvements. Abel commenced experimental production at Waltham Abbey in 1863 according to the Austrian recipe. Later, he developed his own process for pulped guncotton which could be compressed into any desired shape suitable for use in mines and torpedoes or for blasting purposes. In 1872, he was authorised to set up a plant to produce 250 tons a year. Eventually this plant proved to be inadequate to meet the ever increasing demand and a new site on the southern side of Waltham Abbey was acquired - the South Site.

In 1872 Colonel Younghusband, the Superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Factory wrote: "A great future may fairly be anticipated for Guncotton. As regards safety in manufacture, storage, transport and use, it is unrivalled by any other explosive, while in power it has not been surpassed by any substance with which it has been compared".

Nitroglycerine, a liquid explosive, first made by Sobrero in 1847 by the action of nitrating acids on glycerine, was the subject of much experimentation by Nobel but after several accidental explosions its importation and manufacture were prohibited by many Governments. Nobel's experiments were directed towards making nitroglycerine more easily handled than it was in its liquid state and one product he prepared was a mixture of nitroglycerine, guncotton and camphor. At this point Abel took up the action for the Government and made a mixture of nitroglycerine, guncotton and mineral jelly which gave promising results. This mixture which could be made into a charge of cords or rods received the name cordite. In 1891 a nitroglycerine plant was erected at the Factory together with the necessary buildings for the making of cordite. A second plant was built shortly afterwards and during the Boer War the production of nitroglycerine was about 18 tons a week.

Modifications to the original processes were introduced for all three products; guncotton, nitroglycerine and cordite, and for cordite there were variations in the ingredients. Production of cordite was about 40 tons per week in 1907 but at the height of the 1914-18 war it was about 64 tons per week.

The time between the wars were lean years for the Factory but even with a depleted staff research continued and improvements made including the introduction of nitroguanidine, or picrite, into the cordite to lessen flash and smoke. Also a solventless process, which was safer and eliminated a drying stage was introduced.

Although Colonel Younghusband had spoken in 1872 of guncotton in such glowing terms this did not prevent the search for other explosives. Abel comes back on to the scene again for it was he who suggested "picric powder", a mixture of saltpetre and ammonium

picrate, and arranged for its manufacture at Waltham Abbey.

TNT, probably the most widely known high explosive, is made by the action of nitrating acids on toluene, but, although it came into use in the British Services in the First World War, it was not until 1933 that it was made at the Royal Gunpowder Factory.

At this time the Factory was a production unit, whilst at the Research Department at Woolwich, work was being carried out to improve old processes and to introduce new explosives. One line of research led to the Research Department Explosive -RDX, and plant for its production was set up at Waltham Abbey in 1938. RDX or cyclotrimethylene trinitramine, has been called the high explosive of World War II. It is therefore significant that for the first years of the war the Waltham plant was this country's sole source of production.

As the war continued so other Ordnance Factories took over the production of the various explosives and the contribution of the Royal Gunpowder Factory decreased. In the winter of 1940-41 an enemy land mine put out of action the last of the gunpowder mills and the production of gunpowder which had given the factory its name was not resumed. Towards the end of 1943 most of the plant was being run down and on 28th July, 1945, the Royal Gunpowder Factory was formally closed after nearly 160 years.

However in 1944 the factory site had been surveyed and a report submitted recommending use of the site as an Experimental Station of the Armament Research Department at Woolwich. On the 1st of October 1946 there came into being the Chemical Research and Development Department with a nucleus of scientific staff drawn from the explosives and propellant branches of the Armament Research Department. Thus the link with Woolwich which had begun with Sir William Congreve, was continued.

In 1947 the name of the department changed to the Explosives Research and Development Establishment. Conversion of the factory site to the new Establishment was an immense task but gradually rehabilitation proceeded. The first programme of the new Establishment was divided into eleven items each of which was a distinct branch of research having a direct relationship to Service problems: Liquid Propellant Systems, Plastic Rocket Propellants, Colloidal Rocket Propellants, High Explosives and Intermediates, Initiators, Chemical Engineering, Small Arms and Mortar Propellants, Materials, Unorthodox Propellant Systems, and Ancillary Chemical Services.

But change has never been far from the Establishment's activities and the passage of time has seen it in six different Ministries with the number of branches increasing in the 1960's (9 in 1963) and decreasing in the 1970's reflecting the changes in those activities. Following the formation of a joint Establishment with the Rocket Motor Establishment at Westcott in 1973 a reorganisation in 1977 led to the creation of PERME.

Even now change is once more in the air - but as Churchill stated in his History of the English Speaking Peoples - "The future is unknowable but the past should give us hope".

19th August 1983.

This third chapter concludes the series. If you have missed any of the previous chapters or would like a full copy of the entire article please contact the Editor.

I would like to thank "Mac" for all the work he has put into writing this article for us. Ed.

=====
C O M P E T I T I O N P A G E
=====

First the results of PERMEPUZZLE No.1:-

This competition proved to be very popular yielding a record number of entries (well 12 anyway). I even had an entry from a non-member and one from somebody at Westcott. All the entries were put into a hat and the winning entry drawn was none other than our beloved chairman Bob McGuchan. Fiddle I hear you cry? Well I can only say that this entry was drawn by an entirely independent member in the next office (Ross Millar) and I can assure you that the fact that he is also of Scottish extraction had no bearing on the draw. Our Chairman has received his bottle of wine and Julie tells me that she enjoyed it very much.

Ray Hackett, the compiler of the competition is working on an even more fiendish one for the Christmas edition.

Now for this issue's competition sent in by "Hedgehog" of BWD.

SILLYCON QUIP

The following advertisement for Evening Classes has obviously been written on a computer word processor that has serious flaws in it's design and it has either misspelt certain words or got the wrong word entirely ! What you have to do is to decide which words are incorrect and write in the correct word. There are 37 mistakes and the first person to send me a correct version will receive a prize, yet to be decided, but probably a bottle of wine.

The first mistake has ben done for you so all you have to do is find the other 36. Send your entries to the Editor as soon as possible.

EVENING CLASSES

September is the month to unroll (enrol - easy isn't it) for evening lasses. There are so many things you can undo ! Maybe your general edification needs brushing down?

Is your English grandma a little weakling? If so, would it help your job or commotion prospects if you could compress yourself more affectedly.

Perhaps its your moths that get you flustered. Be honest, did you really come to grips with Algy's-bra at school?

Does your dairy round leave little scope for creativity? Then why not take up panting, learn to throw a pottie or become a cordon bleu crook? How about choral art or floral singing?

Worried about keeping fat? Phill you need instruction in self defiance? Then one of the marital arts, like ludo, could be the answer. On the other stand, international underhanding is much preferable to aggression so learning a florin language might be a bitter idea.

Whatever you choose, your're sore to have fun and make nude fiends. It doesn't do to be stuck in a hut, does it? We all need flesh experiences to keep our minds lovely and get the most from life.

Hop along to your focal evening institute. There's bound to be a curse to suit YOU !

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE
RED DEVIL OF PERME.

WHAT COLOUR IS FEAR?

Did you realise that our emotions are coloured? Anger is red and sadness is blue. But what colour is fear?

It was about three years ago that I decided that it was time to learn to fly, aeroplanes that is, I'm not senior enough in the Civil Service to consider any other method. When ever I've gone flying with friends new to the world of aviation, it was always with considerable humour that I'd describe the inhabitants of the club next door as being "those likeable but crazy people who for some unknown reason choose to jump out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft". That is until July 2nd 1983 when for some unaccountable reason I joined the Ipswich Parachute Centre, with the sole aim of jumping out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft.

At 9am on the Saturday Morning I presented myself at the Centre to begin training. It's not as tough as that of the "Paras", but they work you hard until about 9 at night, with only a few breaks for food or to have a wee.

Lectures on equipment such as clothing, boots, and helmet. On the parachute, how it's made, what it's made of and how it works. Safety, how to behave in the airplane, where to sit and how to control the 'chute in the air and how to land.

How to land is fairly important. It's only the last 1/16th of an inch of the jump that can hurt, and if you do what you're told you won't even get bruised. At least not in the jump but I can't say the same for the training session. It must have been for at least two hours we practiced Parachute Landing Falls, PLF's or Painful Leg Fractures as they have been called. Forwards, backwards, forward right, backward left and so on until we got it right every time. Two hours of jumping off a four foot high table onto the sun baked grass of Ipswich Airport.

Finally it was time to don our jump suits, boots, helmet, Main Parachute and reserve parachute. Our final briefing. "Don't forget, very few people get killed and only if they don't obey the rules. Don't forget to turn into the wind for the landing and if you only remember ONE thing, hold the landing position with your body and you'll be OK"

"OK into the plane." The plane was a Piper PA32 Cherokee 6, a six seater. At least it would have been if the seats had been fitted. the pilot sat on an orange box (I lie). Four of us and the jump master. Because I'm a pilot they wanted me to jump first on the first 'lift'. They thought I'd probably known where I was over the field. I was the last in. Static line firmly attached to the plane and checked (and again). I sat on the floor, no hand holds and next to the door. Well next to where the door would have been if it had been fitted. I sat next to this big hole in the wall. By all I've ever learned I should have slipped out of that hole during take off. It was all very unreal.

1500 feet according to the jump master's personal altimeter, and climbing. "X-ray Juliet running in 2000 feet". I know Ipswich well from the air. I knew where I was and it would soon be time. My heart pounded. I sweated. I tried to smile to my friend who was going to jump number two. Why was I there? I was shaking. I have never been so frightened in all my life, and I couldn't go back.

The jump master looked at me, smiled and said "into the door". "please don't let me fall out" I prayed to anybody's god. I moved into the door, perched on the right cheek of my bum, legs dangling, looking forward and up into the slipstream.

GO -- One thousand, two thousand, three thousand, four thousand check Canopy.

FEAR is BROWN !!

But when you see that canopy perfectly shaped pulsing as if it were alive all fear goes and you're left with a feeling that is as exhilarating as the fear is frightening. I would like to thank all my friends and colleagues who gave me moral support and financial sponsorship. With your help, through this jump I have so-far raised £125 with about another £15 to come in.

This money will be going to the Spastics Society, Jacques Hall Centre, towards their mini-bus/ambulance appeal,

Bernie Howes

A LETTER OF THANKS

Many of you at PERME sponsored my run in the recent London Marathon. Please see below a copy of a letter received from Greenwich Hospital following the presentation last week.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all my sponsors at PERME for their generous contributions,

Best wishes,

Graham Osborn
MQAD Woolwich.

Dear Mr.Osborn,

9th June 1983

Donation - Special Care Baby Unit

I refer to the presentation yesterday afternoon and enclose an official receipt for the £1262 cheque which you very kindly donated to the Special Care Baby Unit.

May I once again thank you on behalf of the Unit for this most generous gift which, as you know, will be used to provide items which cannot be obtained within our limited revenue resources. As promised, Miss Tilt will be letting you know what is purchased in due course.

Your efforts are very much appreciated and I should like to take this opportunity to thank also your family, especially your wife: you have all made sacrifices over a prolonged period for the benefit of the hospital. As you touched on in your presentation speech there must have been many occasions when you were tempted to stay in the warmth of your home rather than go out training in the depths of winter! We are all pleased that you resisted this temptation, carried on with your training despite a personal injury and were successful in completing the London Marathon.

With kind regards and Best Wishes for the Future,

R.F.Coles

Unit Administrator
GREENWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL

* CHILDREN'S CORNER *

The following "story" was related to the Editor by an unknown masked person who purported to work in Admin somewhere. In view of the uncertainty on the future of the Establishment I am unable to corroborate this story,
Ed.

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CONFIDENTIAL

"THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH"

The story begins in late Autumn 1981 when the first chill winds of winter were blowing throughout the land.

Director/PERME STOP URGENT MISSION STOP REPORT TO ME SOONEST STOP CER.

Knowing that his Staff report was due he sped forth like a flash of light and was instructed to carry out an immediate feasibility study into the transfer of Bishopton to Waltham OR vice versa.

On his return to his domain he called forth his Deputy, Deputy's Assistant, Number 1 Admin and his Assistant, and told them about this CONFIDENTIAL mission and that they should plan a visit to Bishopton accordingly.

"I will make the plans" said No.1 Admin. "No, No, No" cried the Deputy and his Assistant. "This is too important and too big a job for the admin. We need the SCIENCE GROUP to COMPUTE AND PLAN our every step".

A look of horror passed momentarily across the countenance of No.1 Admin but he did accede to this inane suggestion.

Several weeks passed by before Deputy and his Assistant were summoned back into the presence. "Where is the feasibility study you promised to COMPUTE AND PLAN" pleaded he who is mightier than the wind and waves." "It's still at the Planning Stage" whimpered his Deputy. "Snow is falling and transport is crawling so we have not yet visited Bishopton".

With a sighhhhh!, he, who is mightier than All (excepting CER and the occupant of No.10), mightier than the wind etc. etc., sank to the floor. His usual placid face changed through delightful autumnal shades of yellow, crimson and scarlet red. Finding his voice he commanded "Go by dog or by sledge or I'll have your heads".

(Contd.)

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

Knowing that his index linked pension was in serious jeopardy the Deputy's Assistant quickly phoned transport.

Sorry! "No Sledges or Dogs" he was informed (Fido has left! Ed.)
- "try the Stores Office".

Within 24 hours a handpicked team of select Icelandic Huskies plus sledge were encamped in the Stores compound.

After being checked by QA the team of dogs and sledge were then ceremoniously driven to the Deputy's parking bay and the "Gang of Four" set off for the frozen north.

By the fourth day they arrived in Cumbria.

Suddenly, Deputy espied wolves pursuing them. Nearer and nearer they came, their bloodshot eyes and yellow slavering fangs luminous against the driving snow. Knowing full well that he had not planned against hazards such as this the Deputy said, "The mission must get through at all costs" "For Queen and Country" he cried and promptly threw himself off the sledge into the path of the wolves. But half the wolf pack still came on after the sledge. Not to be outdone the Deputy's Assistant cried "For Maggie and Privatisation" and also threw himself to the wolves.

Still a half dozen wolves continued to close on the sledge knowing full well that if they could catch the cream of the Admin it would be a gourmet meal unsurpassed in the Annals of Lupine Gastronomy.

Slowly but surely the wolves drew nearer and nearer until they were almost upon the sledge.

No.1 Admin, with a benign smile, turned to his Assistant and said "I think that Now is the time to break out the rifles!"

MORAL: BEWARE OF SHEEP IN WOLVES CLOTHING

P.S. (Not PS) The two scientists who gave their lives so honourably have since been replaced by facsimiles. For security reasons we are unable to discuss this any further.

P.P.S. There is no truth in the rumour that kilts are now a stock item in the Stores.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD by "Glory Tram"

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ACROSS

DOWN

1. Ideal spot for a library in Berkshire (7)
5. Small section with nothing in store (5)
8. Fashions U-section coins in a most delightful manner... (13)
9. ...and not in ignorance (3)
11. Fat material for a wicked thing (6)
14. Solely over church (4)
16. My wandering hero, Vera (5)
18. Affirmative gesture to a point of focus (4)
20. Common head born to the french to gain dishonest advantage in the tote (6)
23. Use the map to measure the current (3)
25. French here must join with 20 to prevent fire (13)
26. Made a mistake, causing the queen embarrassment? (5)
27. Rub me correctly in the right direction and I'll talk in a strange language (7)

1. Product and what we could get if we don't make it? (6)
2. Socially acceptable, being in the list every year (6)
3. One who cuts tooth? (7)
4. The signal to go - and be sick? (5)
5. Indeterminate way to hinder (5)
6. Although supine, almost five have been tested (6)
7. It is shortly to, plead for fine fabric (6)
10. It's a sign that people need love (4)
12. Yearly appendix with nothing to get excited about (3)
13. Grub screw (4)
15. Officer in the mountains (3)
17. If one is in the correct duty-list it can be great fun (7)
18. Self explanatory sign on water (6)
19. Can red be used to entertain? (6)
21. Wander round inconsequentially like a bee? (6)
22. The tired newt needs payment (6)
23. Right small sea with weapons too! (5)
24. Install only vertical water pipes (5)

WINNER GETS USUAL BOTTLE PLONK - ENTRIES TO EDITOR BY END OF SEPTEMBER - RESULTS AND ANSWERS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE