

THE LENS

The Staff
Newspaper for
Independent
Television
News

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Unity is the theme for continued success in the eighties. . . .

TOASTING A BRIGHT FUTURE!



I am pleased to be asked to wet the baby's head on the birth of The Lens. What a good title it is.

It describes exactly what connects us to our public whether we are dealing in action pictures, memorable words, the sight and sound of great events, the first flight of original ideas, or the human face in all its moods and passions. It all goes through The Lens.

In 19 years as editor or deputy editor I have had one overriding preoccupation about how ITN should be run: to do one's best to keep the company together with a strong unity of purpose.

A Correspondent's Tale . . .

An insight into the fascinating world of a foreign correspondent is the theme of Sandy Gall's latest book "Don't Worry About The Money Now" to be published on March 10th by Hamish Hamilton, price £8.95.

The Gall memoirs cover the period from 1953, when he made his debut in the London office of Reuters, to the fall of Saigon in 1975 when, as a member of the ITN team, he was one of the last reporters to leave South Vietnam. Members of the staff wishing to purchase the book at the discount price of £5.82 should contact Laura Lebetkin on extension 2573.

By DAVID NICHOLAS (Editor of ITN)

We have achieved our goals over the years because, whenever there has been a big news occasion which impinges on the national experience, ITN's incomparable team spirit has enabled us to command the heights.

Now, with a cornucopia of choices opening up for future development, that unity of purpose in ITN will be needed more than ever. We are moving out of earth orbit from the family business we have been over two and a half decades to the big international corporation we must be to survive and prosper.

The trick is not to lose the best qualities of the cottage industry which have brought us to this threshold; that sense of being a close-knit unit, with technically-minded journalists and journalistic-minded technicians: a formidable blend indeed.

We are among the world's foremost television news organisations, as I know from opinions which are offered - not solicited - from so many foreign sources. Everybody in ITN can take pride in that.

That is why I welcome The Lens. I trust it will play a central role in keeping people informed about what is going on, in opening a window to views and ideas, in giving a sense of belonging and common purpose.

Above all I hope that it gives you a sense, that if you work in television news, you are involved in one way or another in sketching the first draft of history.

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FOCUS ON SOME NEW FACES AT ITN



Sandra Shapira

A warm welcome is extended to the following on joining the staff of ITN:

MARY GREEN, 22, has joined the accounts department, as a general clerk, from pewter manufacturers Englefields, where she was an accounts computer operator. Apart from being a keep fit fanatic, she says she enjoys telling jokes for a joke in return.

JOHN GRUNER, 35, comes to ITN as a facilities operator, after twelve years with the BBC's telecine and VT departments. Before that he spent three years with the Civil Service in a section of GCHQ. Another new facilities operator is 26-year-old **COLIN NICHOLLS**. He has spent 4½ years in VT/Telecine at Thames Television, Teddington, and was previously a maintenance engineer for BBC radio where his colleagues persuaded him to make a parachute jump and try sub-



Nick Toksvig

aqua diving. He is a keen swimmer and reached the national championships one year.

Oracle have recruited **SANDRA SHAPIRA**, 27, as a keyboard operator. Recently she has been working as a temporary secretary but previously she has been an editorial secretary at both the Daily Express and the Daily Mail, where she worked for the managing editor, political editor and assistant editor. Sandra has travelled all round the USA.

SUSAN GALLIER, 24, has joined as secretary to Roger Simpson, chief accountant. Previously she has worked in hotels, for a printing company in Wiltshire and in retailing in Brighton.

MARTIN BOYD, 23, has joined the company as a vision mixer. He spent three years at BBC television news, sound and vision mixing and operating



Sandra Wellington

remote controlled cameras. Before that he spent a year as a trainee electronics engineer with Marconi Space and Defence at Stanmore.

SANDRA WELLINGTON was already a familiar face at ITN having worked as a freelance before joining the staff as Press Office Secretary. Aged 34 she has spent the past 20 years of her life in Brazil where she has become an acknowledged expert on Brazilian Indian culture. Her private collection "The Art of Brazilian Indians" has already been on display in Brazil, Holland and the British Museum, where it was seen by the Prince of Wales. She is currently preparing a book on the subject.

RYSHARD OPYRCHAL has joined ITN as a Facilities Operator in the Transmission Pool. He is aged 24 and was formerly a Videotape Engineer with BBC Television



Martin Boyd

News. Most of his spare time is currently spent renovating a Victorian House in North London which, he fervently hopes, will one day be fit to occupy!

Another former BBC employee is **ROBERT MITCHELL** who later worked with Sony before joining ITN as Supervisory Engineer, Facilities Maintenance. His seven year spell at the Beeb was spent as a Systems and Service Engineer on Ampex.

NICK TOKSVIG, 26, comes to us as a writer after a six-month spell in Washington D.C. where he helped pioneer a new satellite service to N.H.K. Broadcasting in Japan. He previously spent two years in London working as a satellite editor with U.P.-ITN, and has travelled the world extensively. His five years in Copenhagen has given him "a reasonable grasp" of Scandinavian Languages.



Mary Green

One of the more glamorous-sounding jobs goes to **LAURA LEBETKIN**, aged 31, who has been appointed Newscasters Secretary in succession to Sue Ayton, after working as a freelance at ITN for the past six months. Before coming to ITN House she worked as PA/Secretary for the Editor of the Sunday Times Magazine for seven years.

In 1972 she fulfilled an ambition when she lived in Israel for a year, including four months in a Kibbutz. When not at the telephone or typewriter, Laura enjoys cooking and playing tennis and squash.

Other newcomers to the ITN staff include **TERENCE EVENNETT** (Sound Technician), **TREVOR DAVIES** (Supervisory Engineer Radio Links), **HAMISH ROBERTSON** (Programme Researcher), **ROBERT TRAINER** (Vaults Labourer) and **PETER RILEY** (Facilities Operator).

PEERS GETS TRAINING JOB

Three appointments have been announced in engineering management following the retirements of Norman King and Allan Trainer:

DONALD PEERS has been appointed technical training manager in succession to Allan Trainer. He joined ITN from Ampex in 1981 as training officer;

ROY SHARP is now manager, studio services maintenance and has responsibility for both the sound and vision maintenance sections;

RON NEMES is manager, E.N.G. and facilities



maintenance and also manages the mechanical maintenance section.

Channel Four News has also announced three

appointments:

GRAEME WALKER as Chief Sub Vision, **CHRIS WATKINS** as copytaster and **NICK GLASS** as a writer.

Recent departures from ITN include: **SUE AYTON**, newscasters' secretary; **JOHN BARKER**, sound supervisor; **ANNE GRIFFITHS**, a production assistant; **JOHN GUMBLEY**, an Oracle journalist; **ALBERT JOHNSON**, a teleprint messenger who has retired; **PETER LEUTNER**, sound supervisor; **PHILIP MORGAN**, sound technician; and **BARRY PROUD**, a studio cameraman.



FALKLANDS CASSETTE TOPPLES SALES RECORDS

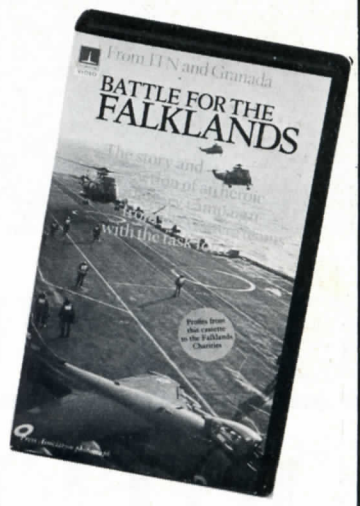
"Battle for the Falklands", the two hour video-cassette written by Martyn Lewis and produced by ITN and Granada Television International, has already sold over 10,000 copies, including 94 within ITN House. This makes it the biggest selling non-movie video-cassette. Previously the record was held by "The Royal Wedding" which sold more than 8,000 copies.

"Battle for the Falklands" has outsold the BBC's "Falklands: Task Force South" and it has also been compared favourably with the BBC's version.

Bill Hodgson, Director of

Development, said, "I think this is because ours was clearly conceived as a video programme and not a rehash of broadcast material. Alan Thompson, the editor, took great care to match the pictures and contributed to the cassette's technical excellence."

It has already realised profits of over £30,000 which are being donated to the South Atlantic Fund and the Falkland Islands Appeal, and has been voted the most popular specialist video in the U.K. Video awards for 1982. It was also runner-up in the documentary section.



If it's Geoff on the phone, it's a hot one!

What are two-line elements?

I have never really understood this piece of space jargon. I only know that if you feed the right ones into the brain of Geoffrey Perry out comes a story that makes world headlines. Fortunately, Geoff always tells me first.

Take the morning of January 5th, for instance, Geoff had some two-line elements for breakfast. He reached for the phone and woke me up (at home, on annual leave).

"Something interesting," Geoff whispered. "But you can't run it until I say so. I've got some checking to do."

I waited for a clue.

"Remember January 1978?"

"Cosmos 954?" I tried, hoping for ten-out-of-ten from the schoolmaster. Right, this time, thank God.

"Well, now it's 1402."

"What! You mean it's coming down? The one they put up months ago to spy on the Falklands Task Force?"

"Yep. They split it up successfully but it seems they've lost control of the nuclear reactor with 100 pounds of enriched uranium in it. No rush, though. It'll take a month to come down."

Statement

There followed several hours of waiting for certain people to be at their desks in the States. Meanwhile, Geoff was in touch with members of his world-wide network of satellite watchers, the Kettering Group. At two o'clock in the afternoon I made a vital call to the States after which

FRANK MILES pays a tribute to the man behind the Cosmos exclusive . . .



I told Geoff "I am advised to 'go' on the story now. An official statement is expected later today."

"Right," Geoff said. "Take this down." In the middle of all the notes is the circled date "February 7th" That was the date Geoff predicted the nuclear reactor would fall to earth.

The story broke on News at 5.45 and Oracle at the same time, and I was impressed that within seconds of dictating the story to Oracle it was on the screen as a newflash.

Within minutes the wire services and American networks were on to Geoff. The Russians denied it all - but later admitted it was true. The Americans issued their statement in time for the BBC to run something on their 9 o'clock news. Later the Beeb said the boys of Kettering School discovered all this. Rubbish. They were still on Christmas leave.

In all, more than 300 journalists contacted Geoff. He was rushed to London for a 13-minute live satellite interview at



The Cosmos connection . . . Geoffrey Perry

4.30 in the morning into ABC's 'Nightline'.

But all this didn't stop Geoffrey ringing me again two weeks later with another exclusive on the story. "I've checked the densities of the two bits circling the earth. Everyone seems to think the bit coming down in a few days is the reactor. It's not. The other piece is."

The facts came out in a David Chater interview with Geoff used on all bulletins on January 19. The Beeb pretended not to hear.

I went with David Chater to Herstmonceux to see if the world's most powerful camera could pick up the reactor. It did . . . it followed the 3ft chunk of metal from a distance of several hundred miles. We have seen the trace on the photographic plate - but it was too faint to show on the studio cameras.

Professional

Geoff Perry, MBE, is a physics teacher who became a self-made expert on Russian space activities. The U.S. Government consult him regularly. They called him to Washington just before Christmas to find out what he knew.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Space Sciences said this of the team he leads:

"(Their) techniques have given a highly professional, consistently positive, identification to many aspects of the Soviet space programme . . . which are not matched by any public release of data by the Soviet, United States, or British Governments."

And, they added: "The general public owe him a debt."



TRICIA MULHOLLAND and JOY JOHNSON have first crack at our "Open Page" by claiming that the opportunities for women aren't all that they might be . . .



OUTNUMBERED, OUTFLANKED, OUTCAST AND OUTRAGED!

Equality has become a major issue, and it is becoming increasingly evident that women are no longer prepared to be passed over in the promotion stakes or tolerate sexist attitudes.

A.C.T.T. has appointed a national officer and elects local representatives, and the NUJ has a similar set up. Discussions have gone on throughout the Independent Television Network, between colleagues, between unions and between unions and management. The issue is now taken seriously. But whilst ITN has promoted a few women to top jobs, overall the picture is bleak and leaves no room for complacency.

Traditional

The majority of women are predictably still in the "traditional" jobs of secretaries and clerks, on the Production side all 15 PAs are women, on the editorial side all nine news-desk assistants are women. Out of an editorial staff on Channel One of 112, excluding news-desk assistants, only 11 are women and two trainees. The two N.A.T. programme editors are women but below that there are NO women chief subs; NO women copy tasters, NO women deputy chief subs; ONE woman script-writer.

On input all four news editors are men. Admittedly, the Senior Foreign Editor is a

woman but all three duty foreign editors are men. ITN has an admirable policy of promoting through the ranks - at the moment there are very few women in the ranks who can be promoted.

Specialists

Channel Four News has made an attempt to break the tradition and employs two women specialists (that's two better than Channel One) and a woman reporter but otherwise it is male-dominated.

Technical areas are even worse:

of the 58 outside camera and sound operators, there are no women;

Central facilities/ transmission - 54 men but no women; Station Engineers - no women;

OBs excluding four floor managers - no women;

Studio camera crews - no women, and so it goes on.

Senior Management also remains a male preserve and out of 54 middle management/departmental heads, only four are women.

It could be argued that women don't apply for technical jobs. If it's true it may be that they can't see a way of overcoming the prejudice

they encounter at interviews. How would men feel if they were asked "How would your wife/children feel about unsocial hours? . . . As a man would you be able to control a crowd? . . . As a man do you think you carry enough authority to tell others what to do? . . . Do you consider yourself a career boy?" Thames Television employs an Equality Officer precisely to prevent those kind of questions being asked.

Appointments

The recent spate of appointments in the camera section could have been a golden opportunity to recruit and train women in the same way as some of the recent male appointments have been. America has done it.

Why aren't there attachments? This would benefit men and women. Why isn't there a more flexible attitude to training? If women are not applying they should be encouraged to do so.

Is anything going to be done about it?

* * *

Footnote: Any reaction to this article will be given an airing in the next issue.

Help to keep the Control Room under control!

A limited facility is available to take guests into the Studio One control room. However, we should be grateful if you would observe the following guidelines:

Please ring the Press Office ext 2228/2328 to check there are no other visitors. The Press Office will notify the director, programme editor and floor manager of your guests.

* * *

The maximum is two guests. ITN staff need not sit with them as it is not possible to talk during the rehearsal and transmission and it takes up more space.

* * *

No one under sixteen is admitted to the control room.

* * *

As News at 5.45 is transmitted from Studio Two it is not possible to have guests to see this programme.

* * *

The director and programme editor may, at any time, if they wish decide not to allow guests if it will impair the programme.

* * *

For individuals or groups there is an excellent display at the IBA's Broadcasting Gallery, which includes a multi-screen sequence on a day in the life of ITN. If you wish to arrange a visit please contact Michael Hallett, Independent Broadcasting Authority, 70 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1EY. Tel: 01-584 7011.

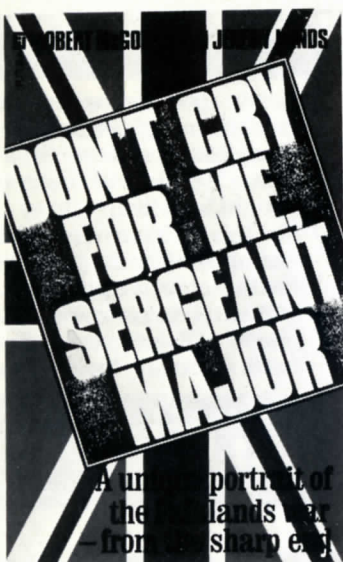
FOR SALE

CANON 80-200 zoom lens. Perfect condition. Very Sharp. £110.

CANON 135mm f3.5 Breechlock lens with case in original box. Unused. £30.

TAMRON 38-100 Macro zoom lens. Canon Adaptall mount. Unused and in original case. £70.

Alan Downes - Outside camera crews (Ext 2204) or Tel 428 4658.



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA ADDS UP TO A GIGGLE!

Graffiti at Port Stanley: "That's another fine mess you've got me into, Stanley."

Graffiti, black comedy and an essential basic humour - that's what really kept the soldiers of the Falklands conflict going, eight thousand miles from home. And it's the subject of a new book by ITN reporter Jeremy Hands and Bob McGowan of the Daily Express.

The book has 'absolutely nothing to do with military history' Jeremy says. 'What's in the book could have happened at any time and in any place - it's purely about soldiers and their humour.'

The publishers, Futura Books call it "a portrait of the British soldier in all his mud-stained glory . . . funny, moving, incisive, occasionally bitter". It's a fitting tribute, for the book is explicit about the reality of the conflict and the humour it produced. The

jokes are complete and unabridged, just as the soldiers told them . . . sometimes macabre, invariably filthy and usually very funny. The manuscript's a hundred thousand words long but it has been claimed that without the four-letter words, it's only forty thousand!

Jeremy and Bob met for only the first time at Ascension, on their way down to the Falklands. It was then that they thought of the idea for the book - something that would tell the story of the men they were with from day to day. They agreed to keep notes and to meet up when they got back.

Both were in the thick of the action: Jeremy landed at San Carlos with the Royal Marines at 4am on May 21st - Bob with Three Para, at Port

POLISH TEAM TAKES A PEEP AT LONDON HEADQUARTERS

ITN's Warsaw staff were treated to a view of the other side of their operation when three of them came to London to visit ITN in Wells Street in January.

Danuta Przylyvska, the office manager and assistant in Warsaw, was impressed with what she saw. 'It's a bit different from home' she said.

In Warsaw, there's a total of eight people working for ITN - including 32-year old cameraman Slawek Wrzosinski and 24-year old soundman Wojtek Witkowski. Both were with Danuta on the trip to London. For a weekend they were simply tourists, then ITN took a hand in showing them how everything works from this end. For the rest of their fortnight they were based on the foreign desk and sent out with crews and watched the bulletins go out from the control room instead of from a television screen.

The Warsaw office has been operating since 1981. Their office party - held on December 12th of that year - turned out to be the party to end all parties. By the time it was over, martial law was in force and the ITN crew faced a life of growing restrictions. Reporter Nik Gowing was given an official pass but Danuta could no longer go out on stories as she used to.

Things have eased a little now and Nik Gowing has finished a two and a half year stint in Poland. But Warsaw will remain an important centre for news coverage of Eastern Europe.



"So this is how it's done . . ." ITN's Warsaw staff were given a crash course on the workings of the Wells Street connection during a fortnight's visit to London. With Nik Gowing are (left to right) cameraman Slawek Wrzosinski, sound recordist Wojtek Witkowski, and office manager/assistant Danuta Przylyvska.

ITN 'SPECIALS' GET NOD FROM ITV NETWORK

ITN is to produce a special series of programmes for the ITV network on the Royal visit to Australia and New Zealand in March and April. The team to cover the six week tour of the Antipodes will be Anthony Carthew with cameraman Chris Squires and soundman Chris Hease. Mike Nolan will be the editorial fixer and Stewart Purvis will concentrate on the preparation of the series of six half-hour features in Australia which will be sent back by satellite each weekend.

A 30-minute "special" on the Queen's tour of the

Caribbean and America is to be made by ITN for transmission on Sunday, March 13th. An additional half-hour programme about the Pope's visit to Central America will also be screened on the same evening.

ITN is gearing itself for a June election. Alastair Burnet will be the anchor-man with Diana Edwards-Jones directing, Sue Tinson producing and David Nicholas as executive producer. Dave Mannion will be news editor and Terry Shore is co-ordinating technical and production facilities.



San Carlos at exactly the same time.

Back in England, any doubts about the difficulties of writing a book with someone else were quickly dispelled. 'It was surprisingly easy' said Jeremy, 'we just set ourselves daily targets and within a month it was finished.'

As a measure of their success, they've already sold 20,000 copies to NAAFI, and it's the paperback trade's lead title for April. One hundred thousand copies are being printed on the first run and there's talk of a second. 'Don't Cry For Me Sergeant Major' is published by Futura on April 5th, and costs £1.95. For those who feel that they can't wait until next month, here's a sneak preview:

Chaplain of a Parachute Battalion: 'Gentlemen, the next entertainment this morning is a church service. For all those who aren't interested, just . . . off.'

More graffiti at Port Stanley: 'Sorry we're late, but we've just had to undergo the most dangerous thing in the world - trying to get here with an officer with a map.'

Promotional tape offers ideas for ITN

ITN has produced a promotional tape explaining the various kinds of continuous news service it could offer to cable and satellite operators.

Its first showing outside ITN will be in March at the largest demonstration of cable television

seen so far in Britain. The organisers, Rediffusion, asked Bill Hodgson, ITN's Development Director, for a contribution from ITN.

The programme, called, "News when you want it" is presented by Martyn Lewis, written and produced by Stewart

Purvis, and directed by Derek Guthrie.

Stewart Purvis explains:

The first half sets out why ITN is uniquely qualified to provide an all-news service because of the material that already comes into the building, and the years of experience in news-gathering

and production. The second half gives some examples of what a cable news service in Britain might look like.

"For this we have tried to be as up to date as possible with new equipment. Quantel have loaned us their 'Paintbox' video arts system, their stills



Proud parents Michael and Annie Oliver with baby Emily

Congratulations to the three ITN reporters and the cameraman who have just become fathers.

David Smith, Derek Taylor, Mike Oliver and Derek Seymour all attended their 'Parent Craft' classes regularly and are now adept at avoiding leg cramp should they ever become pregnant...

Pam Smith was the first to have her baby - Mark Patrick was born on December 30th at 2am and weighed in at six pounds ten ounces.

Next was Annie Oliver's baby, Emily Alexandra, seven pounds five ounces and born at two o'clock on January 6th, at the West London Hospital.

Then came Daniel, Deborah Taylor's baby. He weighed eight pounds thirteen and a half ounces and was a huge 23 inches long (Derek says that's very long!). Deborah was in the same ward as Pam Smith at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. What's more they're both American and both fathers did their breathing exercises at the same place.

Most recent was another Daniel, the 8lb 3oz addition to the Seymour family, born in Epsom Hospital on January 19th and looking so much like his Dad (even down to the hooter!) All four are reported to be doing well and the fathers, after brief celebrations, have all become confirmed "baby bores".

ITN takes top RTS awards

ITN's success at winning three of the Royal Television Society's major awards marks its finest achievement in one year and pushes the total to sixteen titles since 1970.

Michael Nicholson shares the "Reporter of the Year" accolade with Brian Hanrahan of the BBC. Both reported the Falklands war with the BBC cameraman Bernard Hesketh who was working with the BBC/ITN pool. Hesketh was named Cameraman of the Year and Bob Hammond was highly commended for his coverage of the Falkland Islands.

Nicholson and Hanrahan also shared an award presented by the Variety Club of Great Britain.

It is Nicholson's second "Reporter of the Year" award; the first was in 1978 for his reporting in Angola where he, together with cameraman Tom Phillips and soundman Micky Doyle, spent 17 weeks trapped in the bush, hounded by M.P.L.A. and Cuban forces.



Nobody can argue with the Falklands decision. It was a supreme test of the entire organisation and the R.T.S. awards reflect the professional achievement in circumstances we are unlikely to experience again. It was made all the more difficult because, for most of the time, ITN had no pictures and it should be remembered that sound recordings and the pictures drawn by artist Bob Williams, provided a highly creditable alternative.

Still with the Falklands, ITN's report of the return of the Canberra won the hard news home award. Our entry was the Sunday evening late bulletin and it was that, coupled with the live 'special' that morning, which won

They went green at Philip's force eight appetite!

THE THINGS WE DO TO BRING THE NEWS

OUT at sea with the defiant Danish Euro-MP KENT KIRK has been a ghastly experience for the twelve journalists on board—most of whom have been violently ill from the moment they set sail from Esbjerg.

The Force Eight gales have lashed the 140-ton trawler to such an extent that all they have been able to do is cling on and be extremely poorly.

KEN REES, the spinach-green faced ITN reporter aboard, beats that it is the worst weather he has ever endured.

To add to the utter

horror of it all, whilst all around were dying one man was scoffing three meals a day.

PHILLIP BYE, ITN's 33-year-old cameraman, has been insensitively downing raw herrings, prawns, cheese and pickles.

Cameraman Philip Bye's rise to fame during the recent Fish War (Daily Mirror, January 7th) seems entirely justified when you learn of the appalling conditions to which he and the other news teams were subjected on board the Sand Kirk.

Philip not only became renowned for being the only journalist who wasn't sea-sick during the Force Eight gales in the North Sea, he was insensitively downing raw herrings, prawns, cheese and pickles (a typical trawlerman's diet) while his colleagues were suffering.

His sound man, Mike Coe, who had then been with the company only for a few weeks, didn't

fare so well and neither did the reporter Ken Rees! But it wasn't just the sea-sickness that made them suffer... the Sand Kirk has bunks for only five and four were, reasonably enough, taken up by the ship's crew. No-one's saying who got the fifth bed - but those who didn't had to rough it on a covered deck, without the airbeds that had inadvertently been left behind.

Under these conditions, it wasn't the easiest of trips, but Philip let us into the secret of his survival; before working for ITN, he had a job for a firm which delivered boats.

Across the Atlantic!



Link with cable TV News Service!

storage facilities, and examples of their very latest 'picture manipulator' - the Mirage, still at the prototype stage."

Purvis and Guthrie have also experimented with new programme ideas. For instance, the tape includes a pilot of a finan-

cial news programme in which Industrial Editor, Giles Smith, at the Stock Exchange, gets the very latest share news from a broker who is on the Exchange Trading floor wearing a radio microphone.

Bill Hodgson stresses that

these are not definitive plans by ITN for a cable news service. "All we are doing at this stage is saying that if somebody wanted a cable news service from us here's why we think we could do it well and what it might look like," he said.

"What we are not doing is

saying that we definitely will do such a service. There are all sorts of major issues to be discussed before then." The programme was shown on the internal television system in February.

s for Falklands, Canberra and El Salvador, so it's . . .

GOLDEN TREBLE!



Michael Nicholson



Tony Carthew



Jon Snow

more public acclaim than any story for years. It was another strong team effort; the judges specifically mentioned Anthony Carthew's commentary, and the award has a special significance for him since he was Reporter of the Year and Foreign Correspondent of the Year while with the Daily Mail. The only other journalist to win

awards for both newspaper and television achievements was John Pilger, who crowned his newspaper career with an award-winning T.V. documentary.

If Columbus was credited with discovering America, then it must have been ITN and Jon Snow who discovered El Salvador. His reporting of election day in the

central American state won the Hard News - International award, and he shares the accolade with cameraman Alan Downes and sound recordist Don Warren. Snow was Television reporter of the year in 1980 and in 1981 and he was presented with the Valiant For Truth award for his direct and humanitarian reporting of El Salvador.

**Alice
and Co.
brought
extra
warmth
to that
cuppa!**



That welcome cuppa seemed to lose a little of its cheer when three members of the popular "trolley brigade" left recently after clocking up a total of 42 years service.

Alice Tregent (centre) started wheeling the welcome wagon 21 years ago in the old Kingsway building during the halcyon days when tea was served in yellow cups and saucers, and was always served fresh from the pot.

Jessie Morris (right) has clocked up 13 years service, and Elsa Bruggemann has been with us since 1975. We would like to say a sincere "thank you" for their service over the years, and wish them a well "urned" retirement.

(Note: A vacancy now exists for a caption writer)



CHANNEL FOUR? A ROUGH CROSSING BUT THE OUTLOOK IS IMPROVING!

says Derrik Mercer (Head of C4 News)

Three months after Channel Four News went on the air it went through what the press called a "relaunch". Why?

The audiences had declined by less than those for Channel 4 as a whole, averaging 370,000 for the first two weeks in January and had never, for the record, averaged the much-publicised nil-rating. The reviews (and previews) in the national press had become mostly favourable, offsetting somewhat the sneers of weeklies whose combined circulations would not equal Channel 4's least popular programme. And it was only three months old when, as veterans of the early days of Newsnight, Nationwide, and other ITN programmes attested, news programmes traditionally need six or nine months to settle down.

4

Before looking at what went wrong, let's look at what went right. Channel Four News was set up to be Britain's first daily television equivalent of a serious or quality newspaper. It had specific contractual obligations to expand the reporting of business and financial news, science, technology and the arts. It was to bring a foreign perspective to the reporting of world affairs.

These requirements were not imposed over the kicking and screaming protests of ITN; they were what we wanted to do because these were precisely the areas where the gaps in existing news coverage were greatest. Finally, the programme was scheduled to fill another gap: the three hours between six and nine o'clock when there were no news programmes on the other channels.

Channel Four News thus had no more chance of matching *This is Your Life*, *Coronation Street* and movies such as *Superman* than newspapers such as the *Financial Times*, *Times* and *Guardian* have of outselling the *Sun* or *Mirror*. Nor should we try to: Channel 4 is about extending viewer choice and that, in terms of a wider range of coverage, is what Channel Four News offers.

Our coverage of business and financial news has been better-informed and

more comprehensive than anything previously offered on daily television: we were first to reveal Whitehall's hardening opinion in favour of a June election, first to show Serpell's rail proposals, first to reveal the budget date, first to recognise the significance of the pound's troubles.

4

On science, technology and medicine we have similarly been first with reports on robotics, spina bifida and *Opren*; our arts reporting has confounded the sceptics by its volume and range; our foreign coverage has been fuller than has previously been possible for any other ITN programme; and we have had a succession of big-name interviews including exclusives with Presidents Carter and Mubarak.

Even this brief summary does less than justice to the efforts and qualities of the C4N staff. To recite it suggests complacency. Not so: it simply states a somewhat more accurate picture before discussing why, like all new programmes, we have been making adjustments.

Some of our problems were not of our own making. Nobody predicted the overall slump in TV audiences, the Equity advertising dispute and Channel 4's own unpopularity - let alone the combined effect of the three. These difficulties also torpedoed hopes that there might be more money available to boost limited resources.

4

And then there were our mistakes. Everybody (well, almost everybody) thought it would be a good idea to try and do a news programme without desks. It would, we felt, give the programme the informal yet informed air we were seeking. It didn't. The volume of scripts was too great to be juggled easily and, most important of all, there was no feeling of inter-reaction between the presenters. The latter was particularly galling since the atmosphere within the newsroom has been one of much good humour; this stopped when people reached the set and stiffened up.

Mistake number two was to interject news summaries through the body of the programme. Far from breaking up the longer pieces, they meant people had to wait a long time to get what they regarded as "the news". It also led to some confusion about what came where within the hour.

This leads to mistake number three. We under-estimated the competitive demands of the 7-8 o'clock hour, not so much in terms of the entertainment programmes on rival networks but also the varied activities of families during that time - meals to be eaten, children to be got to bed and so on. What the new structure offers us - with news on the hour and halfhour - is a chance to grab viewers who have not got a full hour to spend. Some may come just for the news but we hope we can provide a sufficiently attractive bill of fare that some will also stay the distance.

4

In terms of programme content I think I would make two generalised self-criticisms. One is that with a staff of perhaps three or four writers and one general reporter available per day we have tended to assign these forces to cover the main running stories of the day - and too rarely have we gambled resources on the off-chance. This is unfortunate because a capacity for the unexpected is essential for good journalism.

Secondly, we need to fine-tune some of the reports more carefully. Attention to production detail will cut some occasional flabbiness and enhance diversity within the programme. In order to achieve this, from February 1, the roles of the producers were slightly changed and a chief sub vision added to the production team. I am even forsaking the delights of such bodies as the Editorial Resources Committee to wear my editor's hat more often.

It will never be easy to balance our news programme obligations with our current affairs aspirations. It will never be easy to win large audiences for serious journalism at our time of the day. But it is a challenge which, for the sake of everyone within ITN, must be won.

FLASHBACK ONE: To the days when Royalty bought paintings and beer flowed through the Studio Two Control Room

CHEERS! IT'S THE ECHO OF THE OLD BOOT

The plaque at the entrance to ITN House provides a lasting reminder to us all that Her Majesty the Queen visited the premises in 1969 to perform the official opening ceremony.

Few realise, however, that our Wells Street site had been patronised by Royalty and the nobility two hundred years before ITN moved in! The heady links with the Royal Family started in 1750 when the warehouse and showrooms of Bourlet Brothers, the Fine Art dealers, occupied the site of our O.B. Workshop and garage. The staircase leading down to our film and tape vaults provides a rich link with the past, for it is down this wonderfully preserved spiral, that the regal patrons must have descended to select their paintings.

Showrooms

Not all the building, however, can boast such heritage. When completed in 1966 it was called Mornay House and had been designed to be let as a fashion Trade Centre with showrooms and offices, but this was purely a speculative venture which was never realised. The notion of such a centre for the rag trade was logical enough; Wells street is situated right in the heart of the fashion industry, and Mornay House actually rose from the ashes of dingy workshops which had occupied the site from early Victorian times.

Mrs Maria Pavli, now aged 61, still lives above Wolsey's Wine Bar and remembers the cramped conditions, the blackened brickwork, and a Kosher cafe which once stood on the site of Studio Two. Between this cafe and the ageing flats adjacent to our building was a narrow alleyway called Rebecca Court. This can be traced through what is now ITN's M.C.R. and Vision Maintenance Department joining Bourlet Close at the entrance to our garage.

Hunting

The Green Man pub on the corner of Bourlet Close was an integral part of Victorian life during the days of the rag trade sweatshops. Its official address was then Union Street, which ran into Riding House Street where, as the name suggests, there was a large stable block and a "riding house" where the gentry would mount before hunting in Soho fields.

Although records show that Wells Street was formerly called Wells Lane, the precise origins

of its name are uncertain. It is known that the area boasted several chalybeate mineral springs and it is thought that, in the 17th and 18th centuries, it might have been a health spa. It is also revealed in records dating back to 1654 that several large fields in the area were owned by Mr George Wells.

Fashionable

Whatever the facts, Wells Street later became highly fashionable, boasting several impressive town residences, and in 1847 a splendid Gothic church was erected near the corner with

Mortimer Street. At the turn of the century, however, the area began to lose some of its appeal and the gentry moved out, taking St Andrews Church with them! They dismantled it stone by stone and rebuilt it in the fashionable suburb of Kingsbury, near Wembley.

And a final line for the grafters of the Studio Two Control Room. Records dating back to 1832 show that there was a pub called "The Boot" on exactly the same site, so if you hear someone hoarsely whisper "Time" during transmission of News At 5.45 it could just be . . .

*JOHN de VERAS
ferrets through the
Wells Street archives*



FLASHBACK TWO: To the days of the Kingsway Studios and another Day . . .



A newsroom belonging to a bygone age when even ITN sub-editors and scriptwriters had time for a casual smoke. The presence of Robin Day (centre, back) proves it is the late 'fifties at Kingsway, and Reggie B. is on the left. Can anyone help with the other names?

It's 'Farewell' to three long-serving stalwarts of ITN



Allan Trainer with his wife Hazel at the ITN party to mark his retirement. His new "brain" - a video-cassette recorder - was presented by David Nicholas.

FROM 'PIONEER' TO TRAINER - ALLAN'S SEEN IT ALL!

In January, ITN said goodbye to one of its founder members, Allan Trainer, Manager of Technical Training.

He had been with the company from day one as one of the three studio cameramen when ITN's first bulletin went out on September 22nd 1955. That was in the days of Television House, Kingsway, when the studio was on the seventh floor. Getting the equipment up so many flights of stairs was not exactly easy . . . while the other two cameramen ended up with proper tripods, Allan had to balance his camera on a beer crate.

His career with ITN followed an inevitable path; from the studio to Telecine, then to Master Control Engineer, Maintenance Engineer and Supervisory Engineer. During this time, Allan saw the change from monochrome to colour transmission, which necessitated the move to new studios in Wells Street, and also witnessed the massive developments in the field of video-tape and satellites. He was even involved in one of the first multi-satellite projects, which linked Mexico, Spain, Rome and London to Nippon TV in Japan.

Until four years ago, he was Operations Supervisor and was a member of the team responsible for ITN's coverage of the Commonwealth Games in '78, Poland and Rhodesia's progress towards independence. In 1979, he was made Station Engineer

and a year later, Manager of Technical Training.

The ITN management presented Allan with a video-cassette recorder and his staff colleagues gave him a small computer aptly named 'New Brain'.

He has planned a busy retirement; apart from playing with his new computer, he hopes to commission a new boat in addition to the one he already keeps on the river near his home in Esher, Surrey. Allan ran a photographic business before joining ITN, so photography's on the list of activities too! Apart from that, there's always the organ music that he loves . . .

Whatever he does, we wish him well in his retirement.

Derrick Taylor, accepted by colleagues as a sartorial trendsetter since the day he arrived for work with a pet python draped around his neck, is another "founder member" whose retirement marks a sad dislocation with ITN's early days.

He joined the company as a studio cameraman with Allan Trainer on 22nd August, 1955 - and has since worked in every technical department except sound. Prior to joining ITN he had served with the Royal Marines and pursued a career in photography, and in the early years he was largely responsible

REMEMBER WHEN COMEDY WAS KING?

Norman King has retired as Assistant Director of Engineering after 24 years with I.T.N.

When he joined the company in 1959 he already had an impressive career record behind him, having worked for Ealing Film Studios with such great stars as Stanley Holloway, Alec Guinness and Bette Davis. He worked on many British film "greats" including "The Cruel Sea", "Scott of the Antarctic" and many of the fabled Ealing comedies. Most of all he says he enjoyed his spell on Harry Secombe's only feature film to be made at the studios, "Davy".

His Ealing career was disrupted by the war, during which he spent five and a half years with the R.N.V.R. Some of his war service was spent in "audio deception" and to this day David Nicholas is sure that Norman's been keeping his hand in through ITN . . .

He left Ealing when the studios were taken over by the BBC, joining ITN as Supervisory Engineer Sound.

Teamwork

By the late 1960's, Norman had become Head of Sound, and at that time Peter Ward became Head of Vision. The two worked together in marvellous partnership until the end of his career. When Peter became Chief Engineer, Norman moved to be Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations and Engineering, concentrating mainly on his special interest - sound. Operations and Engineering were later split and Norman and Peter, still together, took over the engineering side with Norman as



Assistant Director of Engineering. In December 1978 he received an MBE from the Queen for his services to the industry.

He intends to spend his retirement quietly, perhaps travelling to the United States for a second time, and will be taking up a company consultancy.

The ITN Management presented him with a video tape recorder and the staff a portable colour television - but he'll treasure most an old 16mm camera, lovingly restored (but which doesn't shoot sound!), and a handmade model of a CP16 made by Richard Andrews, Head of Mechanical Workshops. Norman King was responsible for the Workshops for several years before he retired. We wish him a happy retirement.

The Taylor-made scarf that hissed

for designing and building the first tele-recording channel ITN ever had. Like Allan, he moved through various sections in Facilities - from the Camera Control Unit, to Telecine and the two-inch VTR machines - which is where he remained until 1977.

It was then that Derrick became seriously ill, with heart trouble. After extensive open heart surgery, his condition improved and two years later the company welcomed him back.

For the rest of his time at ITN, Derrick worked in the helical cabin, compiling and editing two fifteen minute satellite programmes a day, which went out to

around 800 million viewers in more than a dozen countries.

He is well known in the company for his rather unusual taste in pets . . . a python called Tarquin (and it used to be two) occupies a vivarium in his bedroom. 'It was just an interest that grew' he said.

He is a great lover of foreign travel - particularly the more remote islands - and vividly recalls the occasion in Tonga when he saw only one tourist on his entire trip! He is hoping to visit Australia next winter.

His farewell gifts included a set of camera lens from his colleagues and a television set from the management.

GOLF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE PRE-MATCH 'WARM-UP' RULING

Mike Batchelor will be captain of the ITN Golfing Society for the coming season. His appointment together with that of Geoff Moyses as Vice-Captain, was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society at the end of January.

The meeting agreed to changes in the rules which allowed for an extra member on the committee and also permitting a member, who had served for two years, to submit himself for re-election. Previously members served for two years only. This means that the retiring captain, Derek Seymour will remain on the committee together with Wally Moss, Brian Pendry, and Gordon Hickey. The secretary,

Brian Edmonton, and treasurer, George Harrison, were thanked for their work during the year and re-elected.

Advantage

The question of members going out and 'having a few holes' before a meeting was raised and it was suggested that this was against the rules and provided a possible advantage over others in the competition. Stan Crockett said that practice on the course was permissible in match play but not in stroke play. Jack Chatterton, the president, said the committee would examine the matter and report.

The major trophy, the Ed-

wards Vase (presented by Donald Edwards, former Managing Director of ITN) was won this year by Geoff White, an associate member from Granada, with 181 points. Roger Dove was second with 177 points and Gordon Hickey and Ken Dixon were joint third with 159 points. The Ron Newberry Memorial Trophy at the London Meeting was won by Mike Batchelor. The Countdown Trophy for the most improved golfer went to Robin White who began the season with a handicap of 24, won the first two meetings and now has a handicap of 18. The average turnout per meeting was about 35.



Mike Batchelor

ITN CLUB NEWS ...

Dinner-Dance plans under review ...

Following the pattern of previous years the ITN Committee under the Chairmanship of John Copleston hopes to arrange several social functions during 1983. The first event on the calendar is a Disco at The Phoenix, Cavendish Square on May 25th from 8pm to Midnight. This type of event has been very well supported in the past and all three Discos in 1982 were sold out.

It wasn't the same story with the club's Dinner Dance at the Europa, and the Committee was disappointed that, of the 328 people who attended, only 83 were club members. As interest seems to be waning in this annual event (last year was the ninth) the Committee is considering other possibilities such as a less formal event on a cruise liner.

We have already heard that it might be possible, between cruises, to arrange overnight accommodation on board when in dock at Tilbury, preceded by a Dinner Dance and cabaret etc.

The Children's party at the American Church in December was a success according to the 183 five-to-elevens who attended. This event cost nearly £10 per head but was subsidised like all other social and sporting events and affiliated societies, from club funds. Donations to these societies during 1982 totalled £2,500.

Anyone fancy a bite?

The ITN Angling Society is a small, friendly club with a keen nucleus of members who support the regular club activities. Coarse fishing trips are held once a month, usually in midweek, and most locations are within an hour's drive of central London. Additional trips to Wales and Ireland have been a feature of the club's calendar in recent years.

The club is affiliated to the London Anglers Association, which offers a comprehensive selection of waters to fish. Anglers who would like to chase "the one that got away" should contact Secretary Alf Penn (Ext 2480), Chairman Ken Wells (2326) or Treasurer Gerry Stone (2243).

* * *

The Independent Television Annual Angling Weekend will again be held at Saundersfoot, Dyfed, from Friday 9th September to Monday 12th September, with accommodation at St. Brides Hotel. Activities on the Saturday and Sunday will embrace coarse, game and sea fishing and the cost of the weekend is £57 (excluding fishing charges). Accommodation is on a first come, first served basis, and all entries close on March 31st. Further details from Ken Wells (Ext 2326).

ITN CLUB NEWS ...

Welcome to the boffin's world

The ITN Computer Club, a small band of members who baffle the rest of the staff by their coded conversations in micro-computer language, recently celebrated its first anniversary and is now established as a thriving organisation within the company's "extra curricular" framework. Inevitably, most members are drawn from technical areas, but this doesn't mean that the world of the microchip is exclusively theirs.

Until recently, the cost of fully-assembled computers was prohibitively high, at £500 or more. They were available in kit form for considerably less, and therefore enthusiasts with basic soldering ability and a basic knowledge of electronics, were able to build their own.

Now, the broadening popularity of the computer and the "every home should have one" approach to advertising campaigns, prices have tumbled and the choice has broadened considerably. The current trend is to sell only complete and tested machines, offering anyone the chance to dabble in computer programming without the need for a strong technical background.

The Computer Club's quick commercial is that newcomers are welcome at the meetings (normally held on Monday lunchtimes in the Boardroom). Contact Jim Cartwright (Facilities) Ext 2235.

Interested in guns or runs?

Social activities within ITN received a shot in the arm at the beginning of the year with the inauguration of the Gun Club, and its declared aim "to promote the sport of shooting in all its forms within the Company".

Club Chairman Brian Foakes tells us that an application has been made for affiliation to the N.R.A. at Bisley, where it is hoped that they will be able to rent ranges. The club is keen to find a suitable location for its own range but will meanwhile use other clubs' facilities when available.

Tuition can be arranged for newcomers to the sport and anybody wishing for further information should contact either Brian Foakes (Ext 2310) or Secretary Fred Rich.

* * *

If anyone is interested in playing for ITN CC in the coming season please contact the Club Secretary Duncan Jones, on ext 2426. We will play about 10 matches this season all on Sundays. We also need some more fixtures, so if you know of a team needing a match please let the Secretary know.

Ron's Friends Help To Say 'Thank You'

A new ward designed as a bed-sitting room for a patient and a relative has been built at the Michael Sobell Institute, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood in memory of Ron Newberry. The money was subscribed by Ron's family, and friends at ITN and West Herts Golf Club. Ron, who was ITN's construction and planning manager died last February at the Michael Sobell Institute.

The ward was previously two rooms with a connecting door - one room for the patient and the other for a relative. Now they have been completely reconstructed into one architect designed room for sleeping and used as a living room during the day.

"The conversion is first class and much more suitable for

the patient and relative", said Dr. Robert J. Dickson, Director of the Institute. "Staff from other hospitals have admired it and I think it is now being repeated elsewhere".

Wards are not named officially at the Institute but the new room is known as the Newberry Ward. "I'm delighted that the generosity of so many friends has helped to make this ward a reality", said Mary Newberry. "I would like to say thank you to everyone for their kindness".

Ron was a golfer and is seen here among the winners with John Freeman, Chairman of London Weekend and then Chairman of ITN, at the London meeting for which Ron was such a tireless worker. Ron's contribution to golf has



been marked by the presentation at the London meeting of

the Ron Newberry Memorial Trophy.

The New Year brought some joy at last to the ITN football team. A run of good results in January made up for a disappointing start to the season which brought five defeats in the first seven games.

The mini-revival was achieved with a mixture of "old and new", with the serving player Ronnie Lakeman defying the years by making yet another come-back against a Showbiz XI. Donning the green jersey late in the game, he made two spectacular saves to help ITN to a 4-3 win. All four ITN goals, incidentally, were scored by Jim Dutton, playing in his first season.

Elbow-bending

ITN has always had a pool of good players but because of the demands of shift-work, it's not always possible to field the strongest team. Even on the occasions when they are able to name their "first eleven", the heavy rigours of their bar training programme is seen to take its toll.

The last couple of years have also seen a struggle to re-establish ITN's good name, after being thrown out of the fledgling London Friendly League in 1980 for alleged rough play and abusive language. Mike Inglis and Mike Hawkesworth both protest their innocence to this day.

Hazy history

The ITN football club was founded in the early 'sixties, but the exact date is not known as all the record books have been lost. It started with some friendly fixtures and the club later joined the Sunday Advertising Football League. There were then ten teams in the League and matches were played on various GLC

park pitches. The first team (according to John Harwood's records) was: D. Harwood, R. Newberry, J. Harwood, F. Hickey, J. Lodge, G. Butlin, G. Hickey, B. Pendry, G. Snell, R. Lakeman and L. Jenkins. The first season brought triumph as ITN won the league title by a very wide margin. Others who played in those halcyon days included Jim Clark, Brian Edminton, George Loxston, Patch Tobin and Ken Mason.

Since the early days more fixtures have been added, including

the ITV Cup and various Charity matches, at which the club excelled! Memorable occasions include a match in aid of the Hospital Broadcasting service at Chelmsford (it poured the whole 90 minutes but 400 people turned up) and a game at the Police Training College with a forward line consisting of Jacky Gillott, Esther Rantzen (yes, the Esther Rantzen) who played in a yellow dress and carried a hockey stick, and a third lady whose name escapes me but the first name was Hilary and she did the

orange juice commercials with a husky voice. She was a very shapely lady!

A match in aid of Spina Bifida saw us line up against a ladies team at Boreham Wood. Our entire forward line was made up of a five-girl pop group called the Mission Belles, and the opposition substituted their regular centre half for one Billy Wright, the ex-England Captain. ITN has also played World of Sport, with both Billy Wright and Jimmy Hill in their side.

Only occasional appearances these days from Richard Simons and John Underwood. Richard is believed to be the only ITN player ever sent off, for felling an opponent. To be fair, he "walked" off like the sporting cricketer he is, before the referee even had the chance to produce his "red card".

* * *

Bad news for Ivor Gaber. Hurrying back to ITN after a game, he left behind an almost new jockstrap. Colleagues identified it, but none could steel himself to pick it up. Sorry, Ivor!

John Underwood perhaps lost confidence after incidents during the legendary 1981 ITN tour of Cornwall. He was repeatedly jostled by his lady friends from the South-West, who all wanted him to sign their pension books at the same time.

Offside notes by 'Soccer Stud'

Difficulties too for Nigel Thomson. He returned from Beirut with a shaven pate, and was victimised by opponents who were out to "get the skinhead". Incidentally, the names of Nigel and the

ageless Hugh Thomson are being forwarded to the Guinness Book of Records, as contenders for the longest surviving father and son partnership still playing together!

* * *

Home fixtures are played in Battersea Park, or on Wormwood Scrubs playing fields. All ITN employees who are interested in playing should contact Secretary Ian Aldridge (News Information) or Chairman Duncan Jones (ITN film/eng editor).

* * *

End of season fixtures: 6th March: Beyer F.C.; 13th March: BBC TV News.

The Next Issue . . .

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The next "Lens" will appear in two months time. All copy, letters, advertisements and comment for consideration should be forwarded to the Press Office by the end of March.