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A legend in his own lurch-time . . .

Michael Nicholson, front man for News at 5.45, has picked up his first award as a newscaster. But it is doubtful whether it will be cherished as much as the "Reporter of the Year" and

other accolades which have come his way.

stress the wrong minor hostages." words.

In a recent Queens English Society lecture, Professor John Honey proposed an annual Lurch Award for those who

Nicholson's winning gambit was "The move seems to meet the conditions made BY the rebels FOR the release OF the

Now our hero is suggesting that Prof. Honey should be invited to address other reporters and newscasters . . . for sweet talk, no doubt!



24-HOUR CABLE NEWS BECKONS!

Domestic television in Britain is on the brink of a technological revolution which may change the face of the industry more dramatically than anything since the breaking of the BBC monopoly and the advent of ITV in the mid '50s.



BILL HODGSON
Director of Development

ITN has already had some success in the video field. The cassette on the Falklands war has now sold over 17,000 copies, and sales of the cassette based on the D-Day commemoration programme have totalled several thousand copies.

The vast reservoir of archive material in ITN's film and video library may provide scope for more programmes of permanent record, or for programmes to be used as support material for educational purposes once the volatile video market settles down.

But, undoubtedly, the main window for expansion for ITN lies in the provision of a continuous news channel for distribution on cable and via DBS. Such a channel would provide ITN with the opportunity to pioneer the next logical step forward in the development of news broadcasting in the UK. It would call for a new advanced studio centre and a significant increase in staff and resources.

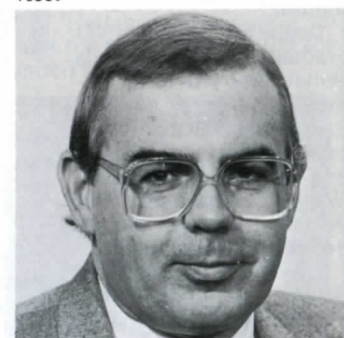
— That's the exciting prospect for ITN as domestic Television prepares to enter a new phase
by **BILL HODGSON** and **BOB HUNTER**

Feasibility studies into the likely development of privately financed broadband cable systems in Britain carried out by ITN have shown that growth may be slow for the first few years, and it is for this reason that ITN has waited to put its hat into the ring for one of the three channels on the DBS service due to start operating in 1987.

Already detailed discussions are taking place between the Government and the consortium of the BBC, the ITCA, Thorn EMI, Granada TV Rentals, Pearsons, Consolidated and Virgin, which will fund and operate the new DBS Company.

tion of any package of channels offered by the new DBS company.

The World News Channel would utilise the material already available to ITN through its own resources and those of other international news broadcasters and package it to provide an innovative, lively and popular service.



BOB HUNTER
Consultant/Producer

Attraction

Until now the talks have concentrated largely on the technical and financial aspects of the DBS service, but the emphasis is switching to the programme channels the service will offer.

ITN has prepared a proposal for a 24-hour channel of News and Public Affairs, the World News Channel, which it is convinced would enhance the attrac-

There is evidence that there is already a public appetite for such a service. Surveys in the UK of potential subscribers to cable have shown that more than half of them would be disappointed if they were not offered a continuous news service. A number of the operators who were awarded the first 11 pre-legislative licences for new broadband cable systems have already approached ITN and ex-

Opportunities

All these new forms of electronic distribution pose a threat to existing television systems, with the spectre of ever increasing audience fragmentation as viewers are offered multiple choice and freed from the dictates of the ITV and BBC programme schedulers. But they also provide ITN with fresh opportunities.

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People in the News . . .



MARGARET O'LEARY aged 23, who has been 'temping' at ITN since February, has joined as a permanent secretary in the Production Department. Her previous experience includes working as an Administrative Assistant to the District Personnel Officer at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Not only does Margaret like to swim, keep fit and read, she also finds time to take up duties with the Metropolitan Police Force . . . she's a Woman Special Constable.

We have three new trainee engineers in **JULIAN MASTERS**, **ANDREW MAUN**, and **DAVID SALMON**.

Julian (22) graduated from Plymouth Polytechnic after a four year sandwich degree course in communication engineering, which included practical work experience at two engineering companies. Julian swims, cycles, plays squash and badminton.

Andrew (22) is an HND graduate from Leeds Polytechnic where he studied electronics. He gained his practical work experience at an electrical engineering company in West Yorkshire. He likes music, cooking, home-brewing and winemaking.

David (22) was a student at Plymouth Polytechnic studying communication engineering. He enjoys rugby, writing songs and recording music.

MARIA KELLETT (21) is secretary to Eric Jessup, General Manager at UPITN. Before joining UPITN she was a secretary for just over one year to the financial manager and editor of Collins, the book publishers. Maria jogs, swims, reads, knits, and enjoys going to the theatre and ballet. But most of all she likes to cook strange dishes!

CLIFF GODFREY (51) has joined as a Facilities Assistant. He comes to ITN after working at Elstree Studios for nearly twenty years. At Elstree, Cliff worked first as a clerk in Prop stores and then as a Schedules Officer in the Production Planning Office.

He has also previously worked as a clerk for a wholesale trade association, as a duplicator mechanic, and as a telegraph and telex operator for the GPO. Cliff's hobbies are gardening, reading (especially historical works) and very leisurely swimming!

BRIAN GILES (38) joins ITN as a Management Accountant. In his last job he worked as an Accountant for a company providing political, economic and commodity information on Latin America and the Caribbean. Before that, he was a Management Accountant with a subsidiary of Warner Communications, and a



Regional accountant with two major British groups in East Africa and Saudi Arabia.

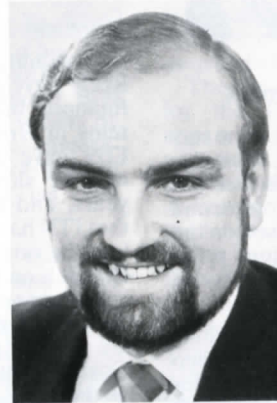
Brian is a much travelled man who enjoys photography and good food. During his last holiday he was able to combine both those interests on a gourmet tour of China!

KEVIN DUNN (right) is a 31-year-old reporter who comes to ITN from Reuters. He has spent three and a half years in Spain, and prior to that he was based in South America for two years. One of his last assignments before leaving Reuters was the Los Angeles Olympics.



Malcolm Beatson has another addition to his team. **DEBORAH SOANE** (28) joins as a Graphic Designer on a permanent basis. For the last two years she has been self employed, working for the BBC, TVS, LWT, Robinson Lambie Nairn, as well as for ITN.

Prior to that she spent three years working on the BBC's 'Newsnight' programme. Photography, cooking, fashion and the cinema are Deborah's particular interests. She also enjoys parties . . .



The News Information Department has a new stills photographer in **JOHN CURTIS** (28). John has a great deal of photographic experience at home and abroad having worked for the Mirror group and several other newspapers, magazines and top London photographic features agencies.



PAUL ROBINSON (25) who was a student at the London International Film School has joined ITN as a Studio Cameraman. Whilst in Newcastle he took a two year course in photography, and before that he was a tree planter. Paul likes shooting, sailing and fishing.

GINA MOORE, (32), will be joining Oracle as a writer later this month. She comes to ITN House from BBC Radio News where she worked as a writer on all four national networks during her three-year period at the BBC. Prior to working at Broadcasting House she had spells with both Radio Oxford and Granada Television.

IAN GLOVER-JAMES (37) is a reporter who comes to ITN from the Daily Telegraph where he covered home news, African and Middle Eastern affairs. Previously he has worked for the London Evening Standard, Evening News, LBC/IRN and the Birmingham Post and



Mail. Reading and writing are Ian's main interests.

KEITH HARBOUR (31) comes to ITN as an accounts clerk from British West Indian Airways, where he worked for three years as an accounts supervisor. Before that he worked for Polydor Records as assistant to the management accountant.

CAROL FISK (26) joins Oracle as a keyboard operator. Previously she was with Sperry Univac for five years as a software registrar and systems support analyst.

CHRIS WATKINS, a copytaster at Channel Four News, has been appointed a writer for the programme.



MARK NICHOLLS (26) takes up the City Desk job with Oracle, replacing Tony Hetherington who has moved to Channel Four News. Mark previously worked on the Daily Telegraph as Home News Sub and Chief Sub on the Times Health Supplement. He has also freelanced as a Sub on the Times and Financial Times.

Last Summer he decided to take up gliding and would like to encourage anyone to take it up, as it is quite an exhilarating experience. Is there the possibility of ITN forming a gliding club, if only to compete with the BBC?

Two new editorial trainees joined during September.

DAVID SHARROCK, formerly at St. John's College, Cambridge, is 22, has already gained practical journalistic experience with the Lancashire Evening Post and BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. While at University, he was editor of Stop Press, the University's weekly newspaper and last year was named Student Journalist of the Year in a competition mounted jointly by the Guardian newspaper and the N.U.S.

He is joined by **CAROLINE KERR**, 22, who also edited Stop Press while at Newnham College, Cambridge. She was a prime mover in establishing Corridor, a new student magazine which specialises in women's issues which was launched in January this year. She is a previous editor of the Varsity Handbook, and attended St. Catherines School, Twickenham before gaining a place at Cambridge.

CHRIS SHERIDAN transferred to News at One keeping the same role of Chief Sub Video.

TRAGEDY AND TEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



Staff transport . . . Afghan style

Dramatic film of the Afghan resistance to the Russians has been obtained by Sandy Gall and an ITN camera crew who have just returned to London after a 400-mile fact-finding mission inside Soviet-occupied territory.

Gall last entered Afghanistan two years ago, and both cameraman Paul Carleton and sound recordist Jon Hunt have previously risked their lives by crossing the border from Pakistan with the Mujahideen guerrillas. This time, however, they were to find a sharp contrast to their previous excursions.

Now the small communities had gone, leaving deserted villages and a steady trail of de-



The beard on location

jected refugees heading for the sanctuary of Pakistan as the Russians pursued their policy of "depopulation" with concentrated bombing and ground attacks.

The ITN team trekked through five provinces between the Pakistan border to the Kabul River near Sarubi, and back again. Most of their time was spent in Ninghar Province with the Yunis Khalis group, one of the main "fundamentalist" resistance parties. In spite of the high injury toll, and the stream of refugees, they found that the rebels are now better armed and organised, and were mounting spirited raids on the massive Russian convoys as they moved along the main roads.

The three men returned in September and ITN ran four special reports in news bulletins on consecutive days, including an interview with three Russian soldiers who were defecting to fight with the Afghan rebels. They also gave Sandy a letter to Mrs. Thatcher containing a request for political asylum in the United Kingdom.

(And it's not too cosy nearer home)



Arthur's lads in TV set-to

THE UNEASY truce between the miners and the television cameras erupted in the bar of Labour's Blackpool Conference Centre yesterday.

Startled delegates goggled aghast as a brawl between an ITN camera crew and drinking miners was narrowly averted. Arthur Scargill had come to the bar for a quiet drink with other NDM

Belfast, Blackpool and Yorkshire . . . it seems that wherever our ENG crews are sent, they run the risk of being jostled, obstructed and even punched by extremists who seem intent on venting their anger on the media. They even turned over an ITN car on one occasion.

Cameraman Nigel Thomson was recently punched while covering pickets in Yorkshire . . . and found things pretty uncomfortable in Northern Ireland when, together with sound-man Mick James, he was covering the Sinn Fein rally at which Martin Galvin made an unexpected appearance.

But whatever the problems, they always seem to come up with the goods . . .



The beard back home

The team also gathered material for a special documentary on the current situation "Afghanistan - Allah Against the Gunships" - which is to be produced by Central Television in association with ITN for transmission on the ITV network on October 23rd at 10.40 p.m.





Imagine touring Britain's seaside resorts and then spending time in one of London's finest old buildings listening to a well-argued debate.

It sounds very relaxing. But for ITN's political correspondents it's one of the more punishing schedules of the working year.

For them, the Autumn brings the four party conferences, each a week of non-stop action, before turning to the bills and business of a new session of Parliament. A journalist's work is always busiest at the start of a session because that's when the interest and concern over new bills is sharpest.

Three journalists from ITN will share out the work for the main Channel, dovetailing with Elinor Goodman, political correspondent for Channel Four News. They are led by Political Editor Glyn Mathias, who joined ITN eleven years ago as a political reporter after some

time with the South Wales Echo and a spell with the BBC.

Working alongside him will be David Walter and David Rose. David Walter is the youngest at 36 and he began his career with Nationwide. David Rose has been with ITN 12 years, the longest, and was previously in-

involved in all kinds of television programmes all over Britain.

None of the three are daunted by the long slog that Autumn brings. In fact they look forward to it and the breaking of a new spate of political stories.

As they see it, the Government has had a difficult time re-

cently with Grenada, GCHQ and the Paving Bill. But it will now have to cope with even more difficult issues like the Miners' strike and unemployment. At the same time Conservative backbenchers will be getting fractious, and Neil Kinnock will be trying to establish himself very firmly as an alternative Prime Minister.

WESTMINSTER — AND A NEW TERM FOR GLYN & CO . . .

Leonard marks 30 years in TV News

Leonard Parkin, regular newscaster for News at One, has just celebrated 30 years in television news. The occasion was marked by a surprise luncheon attended by senior management and colleagues.

Before joining ITN in 1967, when he joined the team of newscasters for the newly-born News at Ten, he spent several years as a reporter with BBC Television news.

He reported from France, Algeria and the Congo, and was later appointed BBC correspondent in Canada (1960) and later, in Washington (1963-65).

He was a member of the Panorama team until coming to ITN to fulfil a triple role as reporter, presenter and producer.

He was front man for "First Report" in 1976 before it became News at One, and later switched to the 5.45 bulletin.

He returned to News at One to succeed Peter Sissons in August 1982 and has the unique distinction of being the only ITN newscaster to have presented all three main-channel ITN news programmes.



Example

The major new bill they say will be the one trying to abolish the GLC and the Metropolitan Counties. And they'll be keeping a close eye on the Commons' reaction when the Lords is televised early next year.

Their job at the Commons can often be fairly taxing. Glyn Mathias gave the example of a minister announcing a white paper in the house at 3.30 or later in the afternoon, as is usual. That leaves the TV reporters with only an hour or so to get the story together, and the minister will often only be available for interview 10 minutes before ITN's 5.45 bulletin goes on the air.

Singing

But their work does have its rewards. David Walter enjoys the party conferences because he loves singing and can join Labour on Welsh Night, the Liberals with their Glee Club and the Conservatives with their hymns.

And David Rose says with satisfaction that politics is the most demanding, subtle and different of all the areas he's covered.

And Glyn? It's just in his blood . . .

'HOTOL' SCOOP ROCKS SPACE EXPERTS

The four people gathered one lunchtime in the Space office on the roof of 16, Mortimer Street were sworn to secrecy.

Two graphic artists, Peter Atkinson and Duncan Maclean, were given the strangest commission of their lives. Tim Sumner, the director, was being briefed too.

"Design a spaceplane", they were told. "It must look like Concorde but with a fatter body to house a large fuel tank. It should have a sharp nose and a raked twin tailplane.

"Provide some air-intakes for the engine and see those engines don't protrude at the rear like the Space Shuttle's. Mount the plane on a sled which it must leave behind on take-off.

"But when the plane comes in to land have it lower an undercarriage. That's all - except, can you have it designed and ready for take-off by News at Ten tomorrow?"

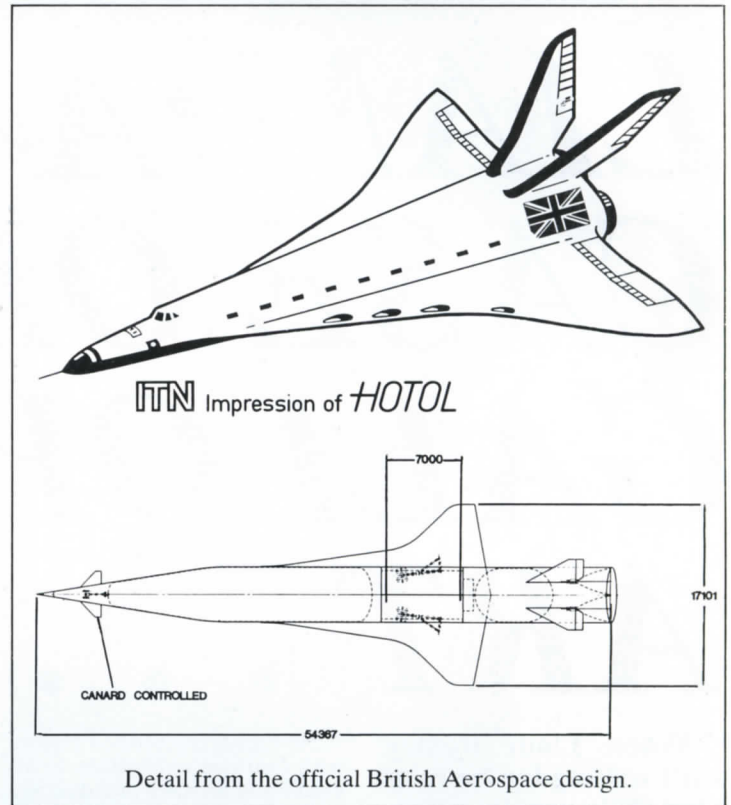
What appeared next day were the finest graphic sequences yet, and illustrated an exclusive report that there's a plan for Britain to have its own spaceplane within 20 years. The project, HOTOL, for horizontal take-off and landing, is on the secret list. Details of the body and engine designs are classified. British Aerospace plan to build HOTOL: Rolls Royce will work on the top-secret air-breathing engine.

Tip-off

The first tip-off Frank Miles had that Britain was likely to have an independent 'launcher' or rocket came when he



Frank Miles (right) with Britain's four would-be astronauts.



attended a space seminar in Brighton just two years ago. He informed the Editor. "Keep working on it," he was told.

But the story went dead for months with only an occasional confirmation something was afoot.

Mumbling

Then last December, as one contact was telling Frank about Commander Peter Longhurst training to be Britain's first man in space, another was mumbling something about an air-breathing engine.

Weeks later he checked this out only to find that details lodged at the patent office were classified. Two sources told him "Imparting information would be prejudicial to the defence of the Realm."

But then came the most exciting news: "The engine will be used in a spaceplane that will take off and land much like an ordinary plane - horizontally - using a runway."

Ahead

The military potential of such a craft, with a quick turn-around on the ground, had become obvious - which was why it was classified. "All I can tell you" said one source, "is that engineers have been working for twenty years to design such an engine. Now we know how to - and Britain has the lead over the rest of the world."

In August something remarkable happened. Frank was visiting British Aerospace (working on another exclusive with David Scott, the Apollo astronaut)

when he caught sight of a memo that referred to HOTOL, a name he had never seen before. But the three line description matched what he knew under a MoD codename. When he asked about it he learned that a 'doctored' model, with the air-intakes removed, would be on display at the Farnborough Air Show. He was refused permission to see it.

Back at ITN it was decided to break the story. The secrecy under which it was prepared puzzled some, but it was known attempts to stop us running it could follow a leak.

Denials

HOTOL was the News at Ten lead. Within an hour MoD, Rolls Royce and British Aerospace spokesmen issued denials but a day later, British Aerospace issued a statement confirming most of what we had revealed. They even let ITN have engineering drawings of HOTOL. And after Mrs. Thatcher had visited Farnborough saying "I have come here to see HOTOL" ITN were offered undisclosed details of the project - but not how the top-secret engine would work.

Confirmed

While the foreign and specialised press have confirmed the HOTOL story the BBC and British newspapers have largely ignored it although several space correspondents now privately claim they had been working on the HOTOL story "for months" and had been scooped.

LIAM: A SEVERE CASE OF GALLOPING ART . . .

When Liam Hanley isn't writing for News at One, he's usually painting pictures on a patch of Hertfordshire farmland just off the A10, somewhere south of Royston.

"I've always had two occupations," Liam says, "and I think it's worked." Marrying his two careers — as a journalist and artist — hasn't been a problem for him: "It's an advantage for me to live in the real world some of the time."

He's an accomplished painter with fourteen exhibitions to his credit and another one due in a year's time. He's also a journalist with more than thirty years' experience, and the two crafts are in perfect harmony when Liam reports on art for News at One.

Serene

For the last ten years the subject of his paintings has been six square miles of agricultural land at the tip of Hertfordshire — where he and his wife rent a tiny cottage.

He says the area has a "magnetic pull" on him: "It has

a rather sparse roly-poly nature but it's very serene. Each time I go back, each season, it looks different. I'm rather wedded to the land not as an agricultural mission, but I like to think of myself as a sort of poet-painter. I like to paint not just what is there, but the spirit of the place as well."

Holidays and weekends are spent here venturing out from his cottage each day to find a new aspect of the land to paint.

The cottage is called, somewhat modestly, The Hovel. Ironically Liam Hanley, artist in waiting, was born not in a garret but a Kensington basement. La-



WORDS . . . Hanley the scribe

ter he moved with his family to a rambling house in rural Wales where his love of the countryside took root.

His father, the novelist James Hanley, eked out a living writing short stories in the 'thirties and 'forties. "We were often quite poor, living in financial anarchy. When things were really difficult we lived off milk and eggs from local farmers," he recalled.

Freelance

After Wales and the war, Liam did his national service with the Marines. Then he went into journalism: first on the Montgomeryshire and Border County Times; later with a freelance agency in Cambridge:

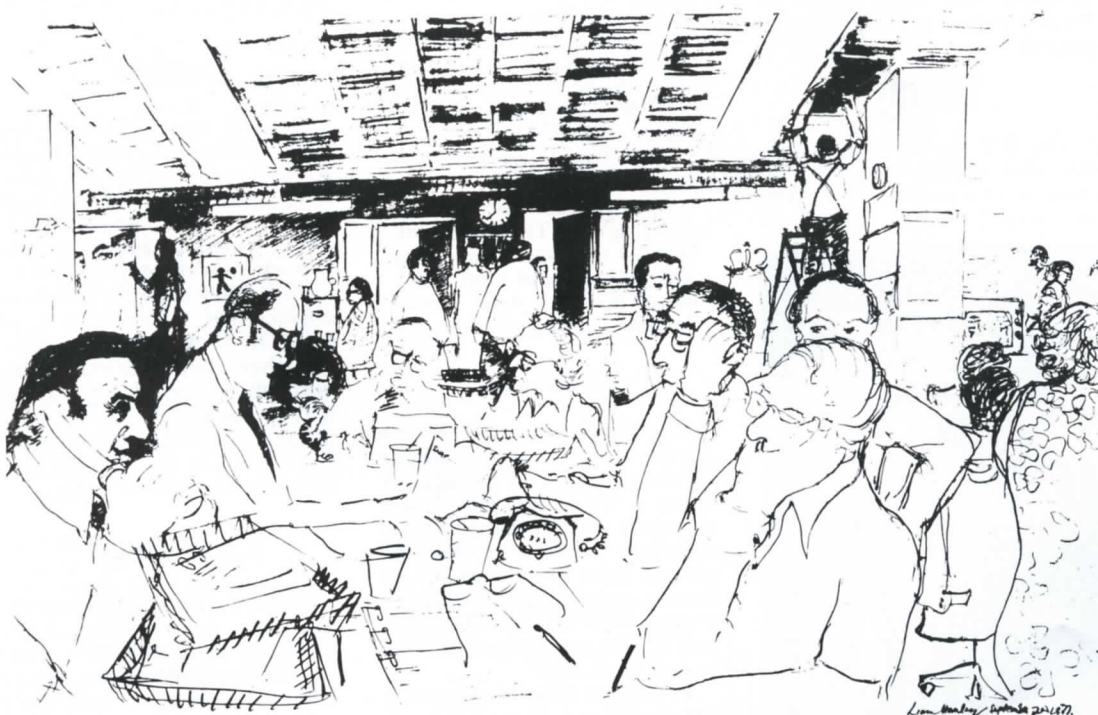
"One of my strongest memories of Cambridge was sitting at the back of King's College Chapel listening to Albert Schweitzer play Bach on the organ." But he felt Cambridge was too "rarified", so he moved to industrial South Wales, working on the Western Mail in Cardiff. From there he quickly moved on to Fleet Street.

Own style

Working as a night sub on the Chronicle, and later for the Daily Herald, gave him time to learn his painter's skills. "I didn't start painting properly until I was about 24, which is quite late. And I didn't even begin to develop my own style until at least fifteen years later."

He was living in Doughty Street on the edge of Bloomsbury, working by night and spending his days in art galleries — especially the Courtauld Institute.

He came to ITN in 1962. Here too he found the shift work allowed him time for painting.



A break with style . . . a sketch of the ITN newsroom for Andrew Gardner.

Inspiration in 'a hovel' . . .

"I had galloping art. I ate, drank and slept pictures. But learning how to paint for myself was exceeding slow."

Now, nearly a thousand canvasses and drawings later, Liam's range of work shows his style changing with time. Among his early works are bleak industrial portraits of Northern England. There are some abstract

Thackeray Gallery.

He's sold hundreds of pictures, and many of them have gone abroad. "It's always sad to part with a painting, but I try to keep a reasonable photograph of everything."

Now he's preparing for the Kendall exhibition next September: "They've especially asked for watercolours, and I've

"It's an advantage for me to live in the real world some of the time"

canvasses in oil. But the recent work is rooted in the soil — in those six square miles of north Hertfordshire. "They've been my vehicle for making paintings for ten years. I don't see them drying up."

As well as fourteen one-man exhibitions Liam has often exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Show. His next exhibition — at Abbot Hall in Kendall in the Lake District — was by invitation. The director saw his last exhibition at London's

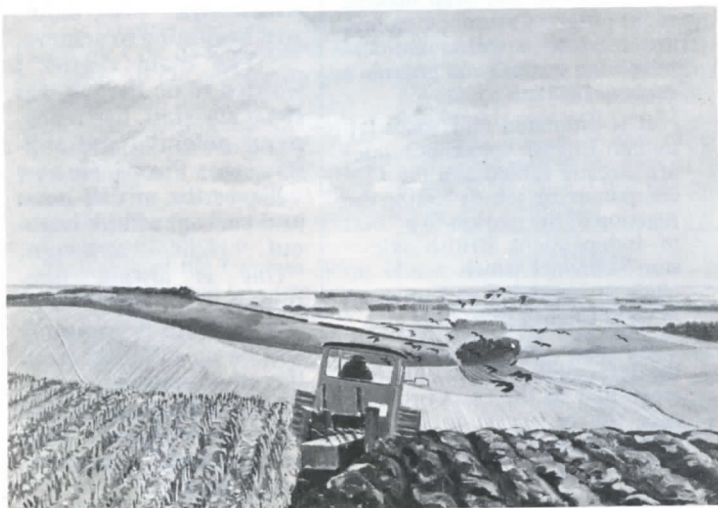
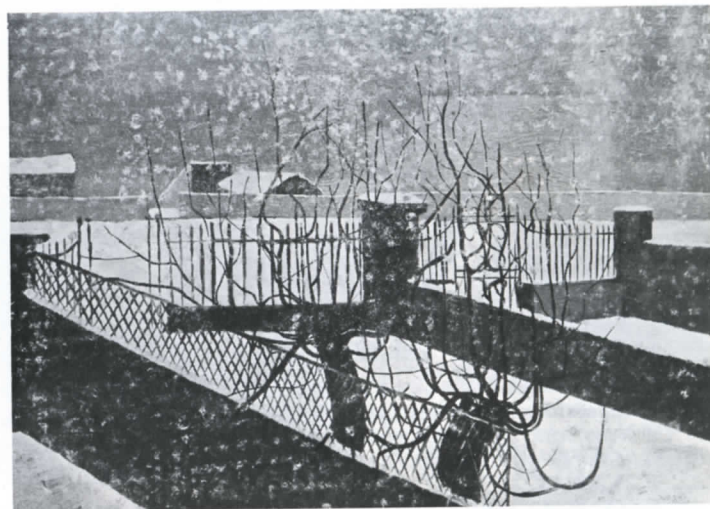
already done fifteen; there'll be some oils too."

So how has he been able to match two successful careers?

"Oh, ITN has been marvellous. The people have been very supportive. So many people have been to my exhibitions, bought my work, even commissioned it. I've always felt the people at ITN are as concerned with my painting as they are with my work as a journalist. I really don't feel there's ever been a conflict between the two."



PICTURES . . . Hanley the artist



South Africa—A moving triumph for Trevor

Trevor McDonald has covered a lot of ground since joining ITN in 1973. The job has taken him to all corners of the world to cover a range of topics which have put him through the entire gamut of human emotions.

So when he says that the fortnight he recently spent in South Africa was one of the most moving experiences of his life, the claim is not made lightly.

Trevor, currently Diplomatic Correspondent for Channel Four News, was sent by the programme to cover the elections for new separate assemblies of Indian and Coloureds — part of South

Africa's new constitutional framework.

One worry he had before going was whether he would have the tag of "honorary white" attached to him. He says he quickly learnt that such a title is meaningless because the colour barrier is so defined.

Status

Outside the hundred hotels and restaurants which have an "international" status to provide visiting non-whites with accommodation and food, South Africa is a country divided by race.

One of the more pointed examples of the

barriers that exist, came after Trevor had interviewed former Cabinet



TREVOR McDONALD

Minister, Connie Mulder, now a leading figure in an extreme Right-Wing party. Mr. Mulder had to ask his colleagues whether the ITN reporter would be able to lunch in any local restaurants.

Trevor says this incident brought home to him just how much South African blacks are removed from the thinking of the Whites.

"They discussed the matter as if I was not there — and in fact, to them, I was not," he says.

Letters

Since his return to London, Trevor has had numerous letters praising his reports from South Africa. He filed four stories during his fortnight there — focusing on the Coloureds, the Indians, the Whites and the Blacks. He says he felt his best interviews came with black leaders, Gatsha

Buthelezi, chief minister of Kwa Zulu, and Nathan Motlana, of Soweto's Committee of Ten. He says the white politicians he spoke to had trouble in accepting him as a journalist with seniority over a white South African camera crew and Channel Four News Item Editor, Graeme Walker.

As if to underline Trevor's view that apartheid will ultimately cause massive upheaval in that country, widespread rioting broke out shortly after his return to London.

Graeme Walker stayed on to file a number of reports for Channel Four News.



Celebration time . . . Jeremy Isaacs, Chief Executive of Channel Four News, congratulates ITN on the ratings for C4 News which had broken his 'unofficial' 750,000 target for the month of August. Earlier, bubbly had flowed to mark the programme's two million audience for the Scargill/MacGregor debate.

Continued from page 1

pressed an interest in taking a 24-hour news channel. Under the Cable and Broadcasting Act programmes transmitted via DBS must be relayed by the cable operators.

In America the Cable News Network, which offers 24-hour news has signed up almost 28 million homes in the four years since it started. That represents 77% for all the households in the USA with cable television.

Despite having started without any of the resources currently available to ITN, CNN has now established itself as the fourth major news network in America and all the indications are that it is about to move into profit.

But ITN's bid to operate a 24-hour news channel will not go unchallenged. Other broadcasting organisations are also seeking to bring continuous news to the UK, and there will be opposition from traditional programme schedulers who believe that what is required on both DBS and Cable is a constant diet of films and general entertainment channels, consisting mainly of re-runs.

In Britain the tiny cable industry is already being offered two competing film channels, a general entertainment channel, a music channel, a children's channel and a sports channel via low-powered communications satellites.

While the public debate about DBS and Cable in Britain is

gathering pace, the cable industry in Europe has been making rapid progress as public monies are used to upgrade national telephone systems and provide a cable network.

It is estimated that some ten million English speaking homes are already cabled and the ITV companies are jointly testing the reaction of the market to a "best of Independent British television" channel which would include a special Pan-European news in English from ITN.

Advances in technology and the deregulation of broadcasting mean that by the end of the decade the broadcasting industry may have changed radically.

ITN ignores the changes at its peril!

500-up — and it's double bubbly time for the C4 News team

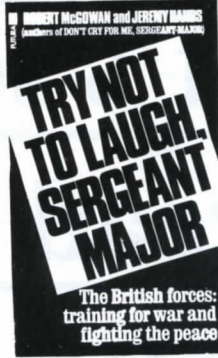
Channel 4 News will produce its 500th programme on October 23. The same week also marks a year for Stewart Purvis as Editor of Channel 4 News. That twelve months has seen Purvis and his team build on the reputation and ratings which the programme was beginning to achieve.

"The main reason I wanted to do the job was the ITN staff had enormous potential and ability," says Purvis. He now believes the mix of news and current affairs is about right, although, "One is always fine-tuning."

The 500th programme will be no different from the other editions — presenting the news of the day to viewers, with background, comment and analysis.



Jeremy Hands



The paperback writers are at it again . . .

Following the success of "Don't Cry For Me Sergeant-Major", the best-selling collection of the wit and observations of British troops in wartime, ITN's Jeremy Hands has again joined forces with Bob McGowan of the *Daily Express* to produce a sequel "Try Not To Laugh, Sergeant-Major".

The new volume is a study of British forces in peacetime,

and is equally as irreverent. Research took the authors to Norway, Cyprus, Turkey, Gibraltar and, of course, West Germany.

Hands has fingers and everything else crossed hoping that it will be as successful as the previous publication which sold over 200,000 volumes, outstripping the 40-odd books which hit the bookshelves following the Falklands conflict.

Why you'll find Brown's novels among the 'Fs' . . .

When Tony Brown was summoned to Television House in Kingsway in 1956, he was offered a two-week spell as holiday relief newscaster.

Geoffrey Cox, then in his first year as editor of ITN, saw him as the ideal, but definitely short-term, stand-in for Ludovic Kennedy and Robin Day, who talents were beginning to blossom.

Young Brown chewed it over and decided that a fortnight reading news bulletins might be fun, even though it had been made clear that there was no question of a permanent position.

But that period as a holiday relief went on . . . and on . . . and on – and by the time he read his last news bulletin in 1965, Tony Brown's fleeting flirtation with ITN had stretched to nine years.

Goodbye – Hello again

"Periodically, Geoffrey would call me into his office for a 'final thank you' – and I would think that it was all over at last. Then the following week he would telephone me again, and ask if I was free to read the bulletins for a couple of days.

"It was great fun, but I never really regarded myself as a permanent part of ITN – more of a freelance who would come and go whenever needed."

But although he dismisses it lightly, his contribution to ITN was considerable. He also built a strong reputation for his in-depth interviews with leading political figures for Regional television (mostly Tyne-Tees), and has met each of the last five Prime Ministers. He will be remembered too, for breaking the news of President John Kennedy's assassination to a shocked British public . . .

It is almost 20 years since Geoffrey Cox bade farewell to his 'temp' for the umpteenth and final time, and since then Tony's career has continued to flourish . . . although paradoxically, his reputation as a current affairs news-man is now being challenged by his popularity as a writer of historical fiction.

Devotees of the Captain Justice adventures will be surprised to learn that author "Anthony Forrest" is a pseudonym for the combined talents of Tony Brown and his co-author Norman McKenzie. The partnership was born during a walk across the fields near Tony's home in the Weald of Kent, during which they were comparing their sepa-

rate histories of the early nineteenth century. The result was a concept of espionage/adventure novels based on their combined research . . . and "Captain Justice" – spy, officer and gentleman in the days of the Napoleonic wars – was not only born, but published.

Acclaim

The pair developed their hero further in "The Pandora Secret", which received wide acclaim in America, and have recently published their third Captain Justice saga "A Balance of Dangers" (Allen Lane: £7.95).

The mythical author "Anthony Forrest" wasn't



TONY BROWN . . . a nine-year fortnight.

selected with a pin from a telephone directory. Indeed, it commanded considerably more thought than that.

"We reckoned that the name would put us on the bookshelf somewhere between Freddie Forsyth and C. S. Forester," said Tony. "All things considered, that's not a bad place to be."

Before siring Captain Justice, Tony wrote several books for children, including "Great Ideas In Communication" and "Dangerfoot", which is also set in the Napoleonic era. He was also the author of the seminal book "Lloyds of London" which provided further valuable background for material for the Captain Justice series.



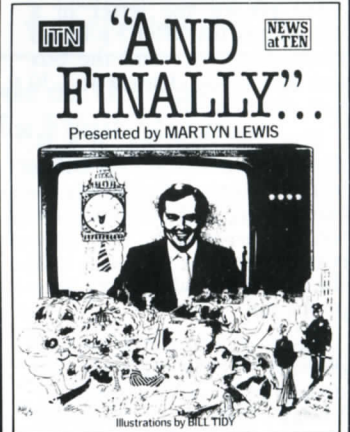
Martyn Lewis

"And finally . . ." has firmly established itself as a television catchphrase. The two words which introduce a lighthearted news story at the end of news bulletins, started on News at Ten, and now pops up daily on most television news bulletins – including the BBC!

Now it is poised to stretch beyond the world of television to the bookshelves . . .

Martyn Lewis, presenter of the 20-minute special programme "And Finally . . ." in January, has produced a collection of some of the best tailpieces from ITN news programmes – and the result is an anthology of the funniest, strangest and most bizarre tales ever to bring a smile to the faces of News at Ten viewers.

Stories like the 400 lb house-trained pig . . . the cat with a size 15 collar . . . the sausage eating champion . . . the world's heaviest onion . . . or the wedding witness who ended up as the bridegroom!



Illustrated with some hilarious cartoons by Bill Tidy, "And Finally . . ." is published by Century Publishing and will be in the shops from October 25th, price £3.95.

200 years on — and the postman cometh . . . (well, — eventually)

There were a few red faces around the Post Office headquarters recently, when reporter Keith Hatfield covered the anniversary celebrations of the Bristol to London Royal Mail coach.

The journey, organised by the Post Office, was marking the bi-centenary of the inauguration of the service. The ITN man was invited to hand a letter to the coachmen for delivery to London . . . and just to convince himself that the post service had improved over 200 years, our wily scribe invested 16p in a first class stamp and posted another letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, who runs a confectioners shop at 57, West Smithfield, London EC1 — close to the Post Office headquarters.



KEITH HATFIELD

He posted the letter in a Bristol box just after 3 p.m. on Wednesday . . . and the box was due to be cleared at 3.30 p.m. the same day.

Thursday morning, at 8.34, the coach arrived at Post Office headquarters — Keith duly received his hand-delivered letter. He also went to Mrs. Lewis's shop — but the only mail she had received was her telephone bill.

Keith checked the second delivery . . . but there was still no sign of his posted envelope. Friday's mail produced similar non-results. And on Saturday, the postman did not call . . .

Monday's mail — and the letter arrived with an apology from the Post Office. It had been delivered to the wrong address around the corner.

How ITN's bulletins differ from the Hong Kong variety

My first realisation that television news in England was going to be very different from that of Hong Kong came long before I went on air. For the first time I didn't have to try and explain to the make up artist, in awful pidgin English that "me news, me no want blood, me no want scars, no wig please!"

Much of the programme content on Hong Kong television consists of dramatic local soap operas. My pleas were not always understood and there were numerous occasions when I read the news looking like some tarted up eighteenth century Shanghaiese princess who went to an English boarding school.

So what, you might ask, has this got to do with the question at hand. "What is the main difference between TV news here and in Hong Kong?"

Problems

Well, not a great deal, except that it illustrates, albeit in a ridiculous way, the problems that can arise when working in two mediums. And that is the big difference.

Each of the two commercial television stations in Hong Kong is obliged by its charter to provide two separate channels, one in Chinese, and the other in English. This colonial command set by Her Majesty's Television Licencing Authority does not make commercial sense. The Chinese channel caters to 98 per cent of the 5 million population, (not counting about 7 million viewers in Canton). The English channel, and especially the News, is targeted at the influential minority — the government and the business community.

Commercial

Given the word, the two stations would drop their English channels without shedding a tear. They do not make a profit, and in Hong Kong terms, that is inexcusable. The News departments are in even worse positions, for although the stations are commercial, the News is not.

So here we have a situation of an English language news service, run by Cantonese speaking technical staff, put out by a handful of so called "western journalists" catering for a minute but powerful audience . . . and governed by a very tight budget.

The mechanics of producing two news programmes a night out of one newsroom have been finely tuned to production line efficiency. On a story,

It's so nice to read the news without being made up like an eighteenth century tart!

A comparison by MICHELLE HAN

one crew will be shared by an English and Chinese reporter. Most large establishments, i.e. the Police, the transport departments etc. will have bilingual if not two separate spokesmen, and at press conferences interviews tend to take on the appearance of a badly distorted echo.

The two programmes however, are not carbon copies of each other. The Chinese side is naturally very concerned with local issues. The English news while also a local station, also has to decide whether its audience (that magic two per cent that counts!) is really interested in the rising cost of squatter huts.

Satellite

Without the resources to produce its own foreign news, both the English and Chinese services rely on UPITN and Visnews for their coverage. Given such an extensive choice from the daily satellite feed, it is interesting to note that ITN pieces are favoured over the others, although one probably wouldn't know it, hearing Jon Snow dubbed in Cantonese!

While Hong Kong television news has been described as the best in Asia, outside of Japan, it would not stand up to any competition from this end, either in the technical production or in content.

Unbiased

Until recently, the news format was modelled on that of British news programmes, but recently one station fired all its "British" speaking presenters, and hired Americans. The reason given by the news director was that he wanted unbiased reports on the approaching return to China of Hong Kong in 1997. Given that kind of reasoning, one wonders when all the Chinese reporters will be given the boot.

The matter of press freedom in Hong Kong after 1997 is a subject which has not yet received much high level discussion. Come that date, or even before, there will no doubt be a number of TV journalists hoping to make the dash to either England or the States.

If their choice is London, my only advice would be, for God's sake learn about cricket!

The magnificent crew in their flying machine . . .

Such a refrain must have crossed the minds of the ITN crew, assigned this month to cover the flight across the Atlantic of balloonist, Joe Kittinger.

John Suchet, cameraman Mike Garner and sound recorder Paul Dickie, took a light air-

craft and a helicopter to chase the 'dirigible' across France.

As it emerged that Kittinger was being forced towards Italy, Suchet and the crew switched helicopters, boarding one with the appropriate licence to cross the border.

They filmed the balloon landing in a pine forest near Genoa. Approaching the balloonist, Suchet learnt Kittinger had hurt his leg in the landing. "How's the foot?" he asked. Came the down to earth reply, "I think it's broken."

Magnificent, indeed.



The following tribute to Phil Long, the ITN dispatch rider tragically killed in a road accident earlier this year, has been passed to us by his colleague Dave Denford. In publishing it, we express our deepest sympathy to Phil's family and friends on their bereavement.

We called him the Gentle Giant. He was over six feet tall and was unmistakable in his motor cycle boots and waterproof trousers (supported by braces) which he would always wear - even on the hottest days.

He was a smashing chap who derived genuine pleasure from helping people. Each day he would appear with a large bag - normally full of "spares" for motorcycles or cars - all for other people.



PHIL LONG

He would help us all with our bikes, whether it was simply mending a puncture or advising on a mechanical problem. He would help anybody, whether it entailed shopping or mowing the grass . . . or even taking one house-bound gentleman to the hairdressers, which he did regularly.

Phil's family were overwhelmed by the generosity of his friends at ITN. As you all know, we made a collection and raised over £800. It was the decision of his family to donate the money to the hospital where Phil spent his last days. We are sure that's what he would have wanted. As a dispatch rider and friend of Phil, I would like to thank ITN and all his friends for their generosity, help and sympathy.

Dave Denford
Dispatch Rider

FAREWELL TO TWO STALWARTS OF SOUND

Stan Nelson, Transfer Supervisor of Sound Operations, retired in September.

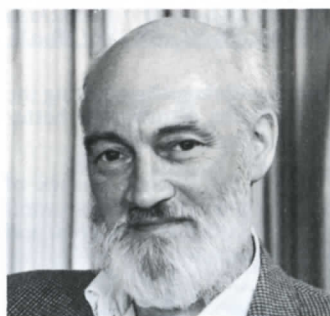
Apart from a brief departure elsewhere in the late '60s "Uncle Stan", as he is affectionately called to all who know (and love) him, spent twenty-four years with ITN. To mark his retirement a farewell celebration was held in the Boardroom.

His department colleagues presented him with a specially mounted microphone, with the hope that he'll always have fond memories of his time at ITN.

Dunkirk

"Uncle Stan" is well remembered as being particularly reliable. Having served in the Royal Army with Queen Victoria's Regiment during World War II and taken prisoner at Dunkirk, Stan also 'did his bit' nearly forty years later when the Falklands dispute arose. He personally took all the incoming reports on his shifts during that period!

Few who met him will forget that he was a passionate advocate of the canteen, recommending it to all who would listen. For this, and many other reasons, "Uncle Stan" will be sadly missed.



Another loss to ITN is Sound Transfer Supervisor, Roy Lacey, (above). Roy has transferred to the Salary Security Scheme due to ill health.

He joined ITN as a projectionist twenty-four years ago, and later transferred to the Sound Department as Technical Assistant. In 1973 he was promoted to Sound Supervisor.

Now Roy, who spends most of his time at home with his wife, continues to pursue his ham radio and home computer interests. He said he would be delighted to hear from his colleagues at ITN, and can be reached at: Oak Tree Bungalow, Lambourn, Woodlands, Newbury Berkshire. Telephone: 0488 71 849.

All at ITN wish Roy well.

NICE ONE, ALAN!

"That face looks familiar," muttered staff in the ORACLE office as they scanned the Dempster column in the Daily Mail.

Mr Dempster had managed to get his name, age, profession and nationality wrong, but there was no mistaking the suave features of the man escorting the beautiful Bianca Jagger from Langan's Brasserie in Mayfair.

It was none other than former ORACLE writer Alan Tomlinson.

"She must have fallen for his charm and charisma," whined a green-faced former colleague.

Alan left ORACLE to freelance in Central and South America a year ago. But he was back in London during the summer to finish an item for Channel Four News.

And at an exclusive interview with Lens in the Crown & Sceptre, he told anyone who would listen that he had met Bianca in her home country, Nicaragua, and had arranged to see her over here.

"We're just good friends," he said smugly.

Computer Club gets new home

The ITN Computer Club now has a home of its own! It has inherited the old Portacabin on the roof of Studio One, with access via the door opposite the Channel Four Newsroom.

This latest move comes at a time when the Club is broadening its activities, and members have access to both the BBC micro and Spectrum computers which the club has now acquired.

The Spectrum has a micro drive, and it is hoped that the BBC micro will soon have a disc drive. Members will also be able to use a printer with either computer.

In code

The section is currently flourishing, and anyone who wishes to broaden their vocabulary with such strange staccato terms as byte, ram, peek and poke will find the minimal cost (£5 to join and £5 a year membership fee) a good investment. And Treasurer Mike Turner in Facilities will be pleased to take your money . . .

The software available to be copied comprises programmes written by members, or copied from magazines. The club has also purchased a number of programmes which are obviously subject to copyright laws. These can be used by members to determine whether or not they wish to purchase them.

Ode on the Passing of a Fruit Machine

So, "Hot Dog"

You have gone at last.

A one-armed bandit they called you

But that was silly

Because you have buttons, not an arm.

(Gordon Hickey got seven nudges once

Instead of four

But he has very big hands).

For ten pee you paid out a hundred pounds

For four brown dogs,

Though it never happened to me -

Always to some other lucky sod.

Once, I won ten pounds for three dogs

But lost it all in the other machine

By the window.

Still, it helps to keep bar prices down.

So cheers, Hot-Dog!

Al Fresco

It's Whiskey and Water for the golfers . . .

'GOLDEN' SEYMOUR SHINES ON HIS OWN DOORSTEP



Derek Seymour with his golden putter presented by Alan Clark, Marketing Manager of Jack Daniels. J.D. promotions girl Liz Hoad is the sister of golf pro Paul Hoad . . . and she plays off six!

ITN Golfing enthusiasts have again been tramping the fairways with two Society meetings and the ITV London meeting in recent weeks.

Cuddington Golf Course, at Banstead, was the venue for the first meeting to be sponsored by Jack Daniels, and it provided a day to remember for cameraman Derek Seymour, who lives little more than a seven iron away from the course.

Sporting a new set of clubs, he casually strolled across the road and put together his best round for years! His total of 40 points won him the Carris Trophy (for handicaps of 20 and under), a gold-plated putter for the best performance of the day, and a generous helping of the sponsor's all-American whiskey. The runner's up prize was taken by Associate member Ken Dixon.

The Angora Cup, for members with handicaps between 21 and a hundred saw Dan Moloney and Frank Duesbury tie with 36

points, with Duesbury taking the trophy after returning a better score on the back nine.

Prizes for various flashes of unstained brilliance also went to John Gallagher, Bill Frost and Steve Giedzun.



Bob Redburn, the Society's oldest sponsor, marked his 15th year of support with another successful meeting at Hendon. Bob was introduced to the Society by Stan Crockett, a former cameraman with ITN, and foots the bill for the prizes from his own pocket.

On this occasion, the recipients of his generosity were Wally Moss, with 42 points, and Society captain Geoff Moyse (38 points). Other prizes were collected by Mike Batchelor and the ubiquitous Duesbury F.

Not such good news, however, with the London Meeting for the ITV Cup, which was held the day after Hendon but in sharply contrasting conditions. ITN fielded two teams in near-monsoon conditions which flooded the greens and made it impossible to play a full 18 holes.

The winners, based on a curtailed round, were Thames Television's 'B' team, with their 'A' team taking second place. Mike Batchelor was subsequently awarded a heavy dose of 'flu.

The one highlight however, for the ITN teams was the appearance of Mary Newberry, widow of ITN's former Construction and Planning Manager. A keen golfer, Ron was one of the leading lights in the creation of the annual London Meeting, and the Ron Newberry Plate provides a permanent reminder of his work in establishing this highlight of the golfing calendar. This year's recipient of the award was Cyril David of LWT.

Thomson goal puts our boys in the pink

The football season is upon us again – and ITN is again contesting the London Friendly League, determined to improve their mid-division grading.

Fate played some unkind tricks on the team last season. Not the least of these was the inclusion of the team's dirty red socks into a wash of their otherwise all-white uniform. The result led to suggestions that the team should call themselves, "The Pink Panthers" and join an even friendlier league!

A sizeable batch of purple dye has left the team kitted in the more acceptable new colours of maroon and white. Thus dressed, ITN's honour was defended in the first game of the season against The Guardian.

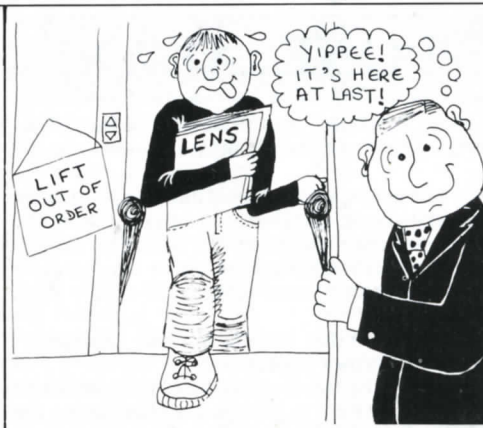
When the two sides last met in February, the print left their television counterparts nursing a 5-0 defeat. This time, however, the ITN team held the paper to a respectable 1-1 draw with a goal by John Thomson – which bodes well for the rest of the season. There is a full fixture list with matches until the end of March in both the London Friendly League and the Buckingham Palace Cup knockout competition.

Last season's squad is strengthened by newcomers Mario Mooney, Kieran Plunkett, Mike Inglis, John Thomson and Brendon Burns.

As others see us . . .



(Inspired by Bristow)



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 first week in November 1984.