



THE LENS

The Staff
Newspaper for
Independent
Television
News

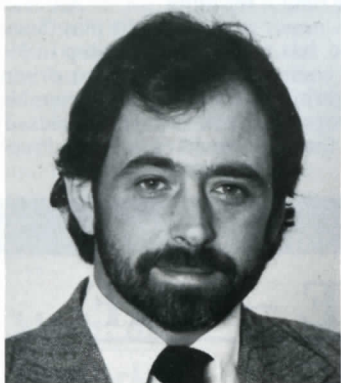
Dec. 1984 No. 12

ITN staff were greatly saddened to hear of the recent death at his home of sound recordist John Holland, following illness.

John, aged 40, joined ITN as a location lighting assistant in 1972 and was promoted to sound recordist in 1982. His career covered a broad spectrum of television news, but he was most proud of having been a member of the three-man ITN team who last year located the "lost" relief workers who had been captured by TPLF guerrillas in Ethiopia.

John, however, has left us a lasting legacy in the memory of his sharp and infectious sense of humour, which could be relied upon to either lift spirits or help ease tension. Nobody was more aware of this than cameraman Peter Wilkinson with whom John worked regularly:

"However sad one feels about losing John, it is impossible to think of him for more than a minute or two without smiling. He was the funniest man I have had the privilege to know and it was a joy to work with him.



JOHN HOLLAND

"In Ethiopia last year we sat in a shack of incredible squalor picking goat turds out of our drinking water. Casually, he turned to me and said: 'This isn't much like the brochure, is it?'"

"His humour touched and enriched the lives of all who knew him. The last time I saw him he said: 'Don't worry Pete - I'll beat this thing if it kills me.'"

John Holland, professional newsman and irrepressible clown, was buried at St. Mary's Church, Little Hallingbury, Hertfordshire on Tuesday, 11th December. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Maureen and his children Lisa (14) and Daniel (12).

*Laughter
is the
legacy
left by
ITN's
own
Court
Jester*



John's last job: The news conference after the Brighton bombing.
(Picture: Brighton Argus).

Busiest ever year for ITN network programmes.

1984 TOPS 'SPECIALS' LISTS

1984 has been a boom year for the ITN "special". Since January, more than 20 programmes, adding up to nearly 19 hours of transmission time, made it the busiest-ever year for the production of network specials.

The wide and varied range of televised programmes was bolstered by the in-depth coverage of the U.S. elections and the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Normandy landings.

While most programmes are meticulously arranged several weeks in advance, there is always the unexpected to be covered . . . like the two-part programme last month

of the funeral of the assassinated Indian leader Mrs Indira Gandhi.

In addition to the standard favourites, like coverage of the Royal tours and the Budget programme, the 1984 contribution to network entertainment has embraced such diverse subjects as the Russian presence in Afghanistan (a joint venture with Central TV) to the lighter mo-

ments of the humorous tailpieces in "And Finally . . .".

The Royals have, of course been a long-term favourite subject of the viewers. This year, however, even these showed a dramatic contrast, with Princess Anne forsaking the traditional Royal comforts and "roughing it" during her "Save The Children Fund" sortie deep into The Gambia.

At the other end of the scale, there was the Queen Mother making her first-ever official visit to Venice.

There was also the secrecy and security surrounding the Queen's visit to Jordan, and the two programmes covering her highly successful visit to Canada in October.

It's all news. Special news. And special news makes special programmes!

People in the News . . .



KEITH HARBER, (32), has joined ITN as an Accounts Clerk, and although his arrival was briefly recorded in the Autumn Lens, we regret that his name was mis-spelt.

Keith is a long distance runner in his spare time and recently completed the Canvey Island Marathon. He is now in serious training for the London Marathon in March and he is looking for squash partners at ITN for lunchtime squash sessions!

SANDRA WALLACE, (18), Sales Ledger Assistant, hails from Northern Ireland. After leaving school in Strabane she worked for a short time in a clothing factory before coming to London and joining UPITN. She enjoys disco dancing and reading Mills and Boon! (They breed them tough in Strabane!) She enjoys mathematics and starts a computer course next year.



MING CHIEN, (28), an Assistant Accountant with UPITN, came from Singapore as a child and grew up in Liverpool. He gained a degree in Management Studies at Leeds University and has since worked in the accounts departments of a construction company and a firm of international timber importers.

Ming enjoys Rock concerts, cycling, and rambling and enjoys travelling abroad. He is currently awaiting the result of his Cost and Management Accountancy Exam (part two).

RICHARD BERRIDGE (36) has joined ITN as an electrician after many years with the BBC. His hobby is training young football players for North Greenford FC who play in the Spartan League.

An ex-RN Radar Operator, he served in HMS Eagle the aircraft carrier, and later worked in aircraft hangars at London Airport.

MICHAEL SHERIDAN (26) has joined ITN as a reporter. While at Cambridge he edited Stop Press winning the Guardian Student Journalist of the Year Award for 1979. He joined Reuters and went to Rome as Pope watcher and covered the Papal visit to Switzerland in 1982.

He was then appointed Roving Correspondent covering Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon from where he reported the wars most notably that in Beirut. When he finally left that bomb shattered city in September 1983 his apartment was under fire (again) and Michael was forced to leave with little more than his notebook and pencil. He hopes to get his clothes and books back one day.

Since joining ITN he has been covering the coal miners strike.



LINDA ASHTON, (21), who has joined as Secretary to the Financial Controller of UPITN used to compile an in-house newspaper, when she worked as Advertising Manager for the Industrial Society. Her main job was selling advertising space in their glossy 60-page full coloured monthly called 'Industrial Society'. When away from work she enjoys sailing in the Solent with her husband.



SALLY JENKINS (20) has joined as a Clerk-Typist in the Personnel Dept. Previously she worked in Worthing for a chain of shoe shops with branches in London and Brighton, as Secretary to the Head of the company. Before that she was with the Accounts and Finance departments of two Area Health Authorities in Bedfordshire.

Sally likes cycling, swimming and roller skating, but points out that rinks aren't too common in Chelsea where she lives. She also wants to study German and to travel.

IAN RICHARDSON (40) has been working as Location Lighting Assistant with our Northern ENG crew for a long time on contract, but has now joined the staff. He has worked for other TV companies and also as Lighting Designer with Harrogate Repertory Theatre for a number of years.



For most of this year his toil has been to throw light on the drama in the coalfields, a tough task accompanied by the ever present risk of injury and abuse.

JOHN CURRAN, (above) has rejoined ITN, after a spell in the newsroom at TV-AM. He is now with Channel 4 News as a writer.

ADRIAN PIERCE, (22), who joins UPITN as an Assistant Accountant, got off to a flying start quite early in life. He learnt to fly when he was only 17 and now holds a Private Pilots Licence. He's something of a globetrotter too, having spent part of last summer teaching American youngsters to play Soccer at a summer camp in New Hampshire, then driving/delivering a car from New York to Los Angeles. He also likes to play Five-a-Side football.

Obituary

MARI EDWARDS

It is with the deepest regret that we learnt of the death of Mari, the wife of Ian Edwards, ITN's Sports Correspondent. She died on Thursday 8th November at the age of 40, after a five year battle against cancer. During this time she never lost her cheerfulness or her Christian faith. Her many friends will treasure her memory with love and admire the courage that she showed until the end.

Ian and Mari were childhood sweethearts: they were at school together in Bangor and later both studied at Cardiff University. They were members of the United Reform Church and were married in 1966.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Ian and his family.



ARCHIE – THE HEROIC SOUNDMAN

We are sad to report the recent death, at the age of 75, of Archie Howell, a founder member of ITN.

Archie joined ITN as Chief Electrician in 1955, and joined the film crews as a sound recordist the following year. He continued in this role until he suffered a heart attack in 1970.

During his career as a sound recordist, he covered a wide variety of news stories both at home and abroad. It was while covering the Biafran war in 1968 that he was

ambushed with cameraman Cyril Page and Peter Sissons, who was critically injured. Only the courageous action of Archie and his cameraman, who both rushed to the aid of their fallen colleague and carried him to safety – an action which undoubtedly saved the reporter's life.

His funeral was held at Beckenham Crematorium, and the British Heart Foundation would be grateful to receive any donations in his memory.

BACK TO THE LAND OF FROZEN ASSETS FOR ARCTIC SAM

Reporter Sam Hall will have the opportunity to become one of the select few to experience the solitude and excitement of Eskimo life in the High Arctic next year when he returns to the region to gather further material for his book, provisionally entitled "The Fourth World".

Hall plans to fly to Yellowknife, in Canada, and then north for another 1,200 miles to Grise Fjord on Ellesmere Island — North America's northernmost community. There he will study at first hand how the eskimos (or Inuit as they prefer to be called) live. The trip will involve travelling hundreds of miles by dog sled with Inuit families.

Thirty degrees

below zero

"We'll be living in skin tents or, if the temperature drops below around minus 30 degrees centigrade, in igloos, which the Inuits can build in as little as 40 minutes", Hall says. "It means leaving ordinary clothing behind in Resolute Bay and travelling the rest of the way in caribou and sealskin clothes and we will be living off whatever the hunters can provide: seal, walrus, bear, arctic hare and so on".

Sam Hall has been interested in the Arctic for some 20 years and has a library of more than 100 books on the subject. In the summer, he went with cameraman Bob Hammond and recordist Paul Dickie to Greenland for three weeks and in addition to the bulletin stories transmitted on their return, a special programme is scheduled for Christmas Eve.

Mush, mush —

It's Dickie

Paul Dickie's arctic experience with huskies gave the team their best laugh of the trip. Hall confides. "We had just hired a boat at enormous cost in Uumaannaq, a small settlement on the 71st parallel on the northwest coast, so that we could sail out among the ice floes to film a seal hunter in his kayak.

"We knew we had very little time available because it was about 11.20 p.m. and the midnight sun was sinking fast.

"The boat had just eased its way through a narrow, ice-choked channel when Paul discovered that we only had one tape. Our dilemma was whether we could afford to



Earlier this year, Sam Hall covered the voyage of a replica Viking ship from Norway, through the pack ice, to Greenland. The perilous voyage, last made 1,000 years ago, is the subject of a special ITN programme "Greenland — The Vikings Return" on Channel Four at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 24th December.

lose the light and go back for more tapes — or make do with the one we had. We decided to turn back and the boat put into a small, rocky cove. A short cut, our guide said.

"Paul, who to say the least is not exactly a dog lover, jumped ashore. Immediately, dozens of ferocious huskies leapt towards him, straining at their

chains, howling and yapping at his ankles. Paul scurried up the extremely steep hill and, as he discovered that quite a few huskies in fact were NOT chained up, disappeared over the crest as if he was auditioning for a sequel to 'Saturday Night Fever'.

"He struggled back ten minutes later, shoulder bag with tapes flying, in the fastest descent

of that particular hill on record".

In the event, Hall says, the delay enabled Bob Hammond to get some of the most memorable pictures of the entire trip — a solitary kayaker silhouetted against the icebergs and the midnight sun (radio mike in his sealskin hood so that every breath, every muttered comment, could be heard!)



THE ITN OLD BOY WHO QUIT A TOP SHOW 'JUST TO BE FREE'

Brian Connell looks like Santa Claus and sounds like an officer of the Royal Navy. During the 1950s his was the public face of ITN.

Connell was to ITV what Richard Dimbleby was to the BBC. Or, as he puts it himself, he was the best known national figure on independent television. He covered the coronations of Popes, the weddings of princesses and the funeral of John F. Kennedy.

Then, suddenly, in 1963, Connell walked out of This Week, which he was then presenting, and found himself 'free as air'.

Brian Connell was contracted to work for ITN back in September 1955, and, he insists, 'nobody goes back further than that'. He looks back on the early days at ITN with nostalgia. 'The BBC were so strait-laced. The birth of independent television was like the second coming of the Lord. It blew the whole thing wide open'.

'Suddenly there were no rules. We had to teach ourselves. And if you had good ideas they were adopted'. One of the biggest problems in the mid 50s was the shortage of

technical staff. Journalists and presenters flooded in from Fleet Street, feature films, from P.R. companies and, of course, from the BBC. But technical staff could *only* be provided by the BBC. And there weren't enough to go round.

They were both hard-nosed Fleet Street journalists. Connell had been a foreign correspondent, and Trethowan specialised in home news. Since they wrote the links for every bulletin they read, their influence over news programmes was enormous.

***NOW TV NEWS PIONEER
BRIAN CONNELL IS HAPPY
TO WRITE BOOKS AND HAVE
'A MEANINGLESS TITLE'***

Everything was more relaxed then, though. 'We overran the bulletin almost every night. And almost every night we sent a bottle of whisky up to MCR.

The first ITN bulletins were read by Robin Day, who was a lawyer, Ludovic Kennedy who was a writer and Chris Chataway who was 'an Olympic athlete and a clever chap', Connell recalled. All three had left by 1957 and Connell took over, along with Ian Trethowan.

When asked how he thought he'd contributed to Television news, he wasn't stuck for an answer.

'When we came along, reporting from abroad was in its infancy. The BBC chaps sat around in studios in foreign cities wearing DJs,' he said'.

At first ITN correspondents did the same. But Connell had served an apprenticeship in Fleet Street. 'There were riots going on in Paris and I was in a studio. I said to myself, what

the hell am I doing here? I took a camera crew out to where the trouble was going on'. It was a first.

He also claims another main contribution – the introduction of the tailpiece, familiarly known as the 'and finally'. 'Every day' he explained, 'I demanded the spike with all the discarded stories. I always found a funny'.

Connell welcomes the new approach of Channel 4 News, but he'd like to see News at Ten making some changes too. 'I'd never criticise News at Ten for spending the first half of the bulletin on a major story. And it concentrates too much on trivia. I don't think people want to know about all these sick babies and homeless mothers'.

If ITN has moved on without him, Brian Connell has certainly got on without ITN. He's written seven books and collaborated in writing another nine! But his link with Independent Television isn't totally severed – he is still employed by Anglia TV as a Programme Adviser.

'Programme Adviser,' he mused, 'that's a nice general meaningless title'.

About 20 years ago when computers were still big, simple-minded babies, it was already clear that they'd soon be moving on from counting to reading and writing.

So with that in mind, an ambitious experiment was secretly undertaken at Cambridge University.

The largest computer was selected — the sort that TV drama workshops used to turn out looking like banks of two-inch VTR machines decorated with strip-lighting and shaver points, and they'd whirr a lot.

This electronic darling was then programmed to absorb the following: the Bible (both testaments), commentaries thereon by the church fathers, the works of renowned atheists (Marx and Nietzsche), the arguments of modern theologians, and the Koran and Talmud were thrown in for good measure.

Ultimate Deity?

It didn't take long for the machine to devour them all, and the learned Cambridge experimenters prepared for the day when a single, difficult question would be put to the computer.

The day, came, and the awesome question was typed on the terminal: "Is there a God?"

The huge computer seemed almost to tremble for an instant,

Not so much a newsroom God — more of a trusted and reliable disciple!

then three seconds later its printer calmly chattered out this reply: "There is now."

Believe that and you'll believe anything.

Still, at the risk of giving the impression that I'm a candidate for ITN's equivalent of "Thought for the Day", I might suggest there's a warning grain of truth in the tale.

By the time you read this, fancy new terminals (with the unpronounceable name 'QUME') will have started to appear in the main newsroom.

It would be a fair point to ask: "Do we need all this?" The glib answer is probably something like: Yes, as much as we needed ENG. The truth is that it's no more (nor less) perfect than a B-registration family saloon.

As most of the newsroom staff at ITN now know, what the Basys computer system does is to shift words — your words, or the ones you want, and puts them where you want them!

Addis or the Monte?

At the touch of a few keys, it can turn up three accounts of a press conference in Addis Ababa; automatically collect for you reports on everything that's likely to happen next Thursday; display transmission times on Boxing Day, satellite arrangements from Perth, the names of the camera crew in Londonderry. Or, in case you've forgotten it, the phone number of the Monte Bello.

The important bit in this is the word "you". It may seem obvious, but it's surprising how often it's forgotten; the computer is only useful in so far as it helps the people who work at ITN to do their jobs, helps get the next programme on the air.

So if you don't like what the computer does, how it does it, or want it to do something else, please tell us.

Beware, Basys can already digest the Bible (but only just, so please don't try to feed it in).

And now for something completely different . . . ?

— Dayton, Ohio has a big new library.

— *Huh? Not exactly lead story material, even on the local news of that no-account Mid-Western town.*

— Ah Yes, but then ITN's subscribing to the library.

— *Really? So ITN's going to send me on Concorde to check the spelling of Exxon?*

— Yare-yare. No, listen. In the back of News Inf. on the right, there's a little computer terminal. It's directly linked to this giant main-frame in Dayton. It's called Nexis. It is a computerised reference library. It stores every recent edition of over 100 publications from "Coal Week" to "Nuclear Fuel" through "Defence and Foreign Affairs Daily" to the whole of Encyclopedia Britanica.

— *Worthy stuff, huh?*

— Yes, and try asking if a certain cabinet minister has ever been seen at the same function as Ms Gloria Lithebody, and you'll get the answer in seconds. Incidentally, Nexis point out that if you'd asked their computer about Mehmet Ali Agja before he tried to shoot the Pope, you'd have found he was an escaped murderer who sent a threatening letter to JP II in 1979.

— *Okay, okay. Pity about Concorde. Typical ITN penny-pinching.*

BOB SEES HIS BOOK TAKE OFF

The third volume of the History of Croydon Airport, covering the period 1939–1940, was recently published by the London Borough of Sutton, and means the start of another period of research for co-author Bob Learmonth.

"Writing contemporary history, particularly a history of such an eventful period as the Battle of Britain, was both challenging and rewarding. To talk to people about the events of the summer of 1940, not just the pilots but the ground crews and local residents was really fascinating.

The clarity of people's memories to those events of 40 years ago was really remarkable. The next volume will cover the period from 1941 to 1946 and I'm sure will be just as interesting, though probably less dramatic."

Anybody interested in obtaining a copy should contact Bob in News Information (Ex. 2223). Although published at a price of £3.95 Bob can offer a discount price of £3.25.



He helped to mould ITN . . . He put Anglia TV on the map . . .

The 'Emmy' winner who sent Robin Day to cover sport and made the Minister stop holiday traffic!

"A chippy, talkative, fire-cracker". That's how the great Arthur Christiansen once described Arthur Clifford – undoubtedly one of the most influential men to walk into ITN when it started transmission in 1955.

His fiery enthusiasm and pioneering spirit as a news editor in the early days of the station are warmly remembered by those who knew him then.

Now, almost thirty years later, and after an absence from national television news of twenty years, Arthur's back – working for ITN's teletext service, Oracle.

In the intervening years he earned distinction as an architect of first-class regional television. At Anglia first, as head of news and current affairs; later at Tyne Tees as Head of Programmes.

He devised network programmes which are still running today – About Britain and Face the Press are two of them.

He won a television Oscar – an Emmy Award – for a documentary about shipbuilding. In 1976 he was awarded an OBE for his services to broadcasting. Four years later the Royal Television Society honoured

Dagenham, Fleet Street, and the Guards

him with a fellowship for his contribution to the development of television journalism.

But he says that rejoining ITN nearly three years ago was almost like starting out again. "It could have been difficult but it wasn't. It was almost as though I hadn't been away. Of course I am delighted to be a part of ITN once more. It's still a family. That surely remains one of its greatest strengths."

Arthur's career began more than forty years ago in his native Essex, as a teenage reporter on the Dagenham Post. From there he moved to a Fleet Street newsagency. Then came the war and service with the Brigade of Guards. He stayed abroad sometime after the war to launch a newspaper for the new Rhine Army. He returned to Britain to the BBC as a sub-editor in radio, and later, briefly, as a reporter.

BBC Radio led him to BBC Television, and among his many credits he has the distinction of being the first chief-sub of television news, in 1954 at Alexandra Palace.

"It really was magic lantern journal-

ism. The format was staid but it whetted my appetite for television news. I must have been like an eager Labrador prowling Ally Pally. When ITN came along, I was there."

He got an interview at ITN by writing a sample bulletin for Aidan Crawley, the first editor. He was taken on as deputy news editor. Within three months he was promoted to full news editor.

Those who remember his early work say Arthur's originality was abundant.



Aidan Crawley: Liked the Clifford style and took him on as a founder member of the ITN team.



Ludovic Kennedy: As an early newscaster, he was one of the "front men" of the new-style news.

He persuaded Duncan-Sandys, then housing minister, to knock on East End doors to tell people about his slum-clearance scheme.

"I even got Ernest Marples, who was transport minister at the time, to stop

holiday traffic and tell motorists to drive carefully."

He sent the young Chris Chataway to interview Teddy Boys at the Elephant and Castle one wet Sunday morning. And lined up for a dubious Robin Day – an interview in America with the

The black and white cricket show

legendary boxer, Sugar Ray Robinson.

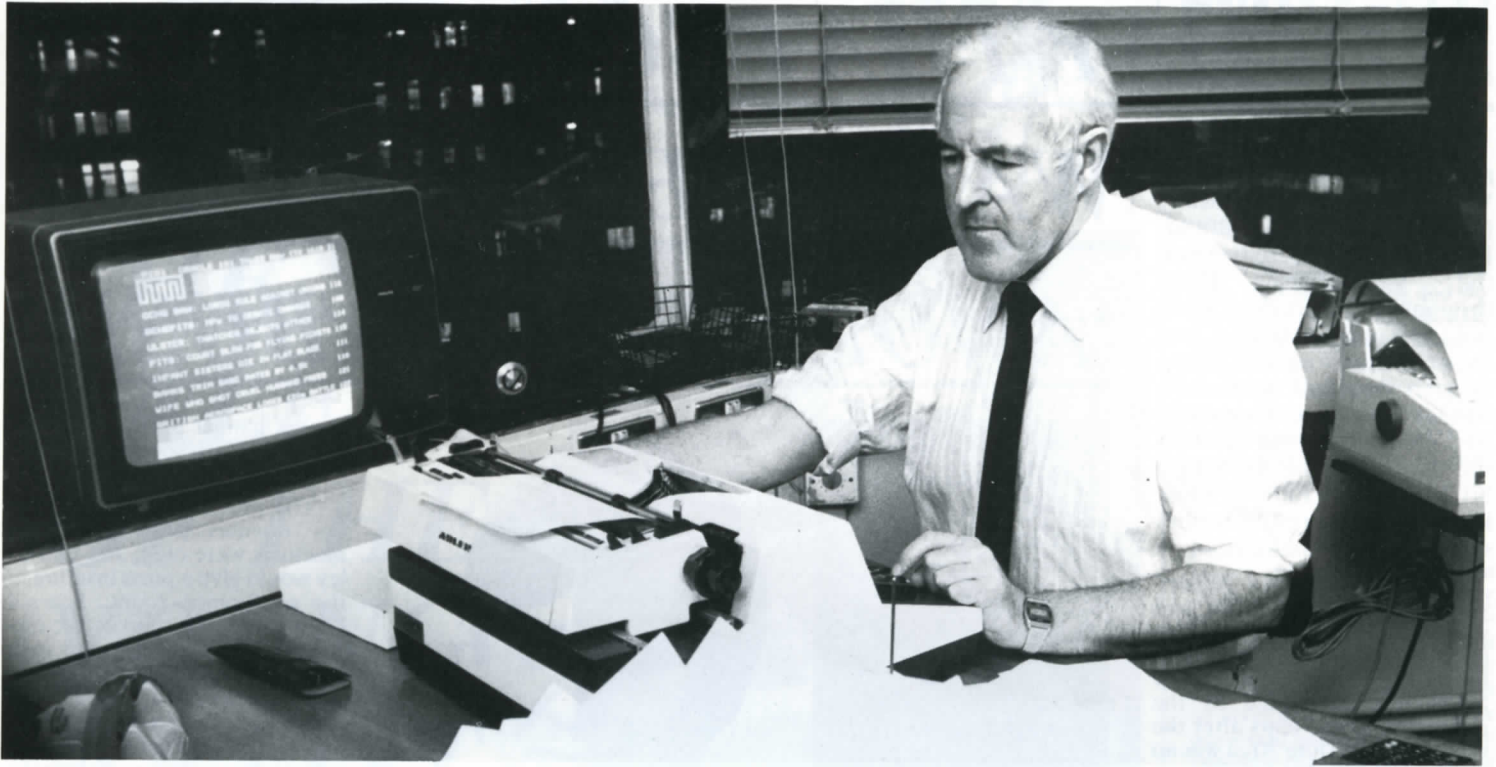
"It was our first Roving Report, and Robin said to me 'I understand you want me to interview this prize-fighting chap!' But when we saw the interview – in the ring – it was as though Robin had been a boxing reporter all his life. He would never do anything less than perfectly."

Arthur says he always tried to approach each story in a different way, although his decisions sometimes earned him criticism. When the South African test team flew to Britain shortly after scores of blacks had died in the Sharpeville massacre, Arthur sent a black Trinidadian reporter, Ernest Eyle, to interview them.

"Ernest had been a very good cricketer in his day, but some people thought I'd sent him as a gimmick. I hadn't. At the airport the South African skipper came up to be interviewed, and said 'Oh Ernest, how lovely to see you,' and they embraced and did a very good piece."

Arthur now admits his early days at ITN were the happiest of his life.

He re-shaped Tyne Tees . . . He is Arthur Clifford OBE . . .



The man in his environment: Arthur Clifford with typewriter, teletext and telephone.

"It was a pioneer outfit. It was completely informal, slightly wild, there was a feeling of liberation in the air. I wouldn't have missed a second of it. We had scant resources, far too few bodies, we were up against a giant BBC machine, and yet we won — mainly through ideas."

Those ideas were in great demand, and after joining Anglia he got an hour-long documentary about factory farming into the top ten TV ratings. Perhaps its success was due more than anything to the inspired title: "*Switch on the chickens, put the cows on the roundabout.*"

Then came Tyne Tees, where he was programme chief.

"Tyne Tees was completely different to Anglia. I went from the granary of Britain to an area which had been brought to its knees long before the recession hit the rest of Britain. North

From the end of the pier to a top award

Easterners were fed up with being seen as if through the wrong end of a telescope. I wanted to take Tyne Tees from being an end-of-the-pier showbiz station to a company with a real regional force."

It was an ambition in which he succeeded completely. As well as devising programmes like *About Britain* and *Face the Press*, he took TITV successfully into children's network drama, with a series called the *Paper Lads*.

But his greatest success was a documentary contrasting the ultra-

modern efficiency of a Swedish shipyard, with the more traditional methods of the North East.

Arthur sent the head of the boiler-makers' union and the boss of Swan Hunter shipyards across to Sweden to wander around the hi-tech Swedish yard together under the watchful eye of the camera. "*Big Deal at Gothenburg*" won television's highest accolade: an Emmy Award.

Although that award set the crown on the turn-around in Tyne Tees' fortunes, Arthur Clifford's reward came in a more modest way: "Shortly afterwards a man came up to me in a pub and said



Chris Chataway: The Olympic runner who was sent to interview Teddy Boys on street corners in South London.



Robin Day: Dubious at first, but returned from America with the perfect package on Sugar Ray Robinson.

"Mr. Clifford, you've given this region back its pride.' That made it all worthwhile for me."

But at the peak of his success Arthur left Tyne Tees. He had his reasons:

"I found that ITV politics was com-

ing between me and making programmes. ITV is a hard world full of accountants talking about investing in packages instead of looking at human lives."

He wanted to prove to himself he was still a good journalist, and joined Essex County Newspapers as Group Editorial Manager. He wrote a great deal here — features, leaders and his own regular column.

But within three years he was back at ITN working for the Oracle news service.

"I see it as another piece of ITN pioneering. Oracle is widening its horizons all the time, the audience is growing and the service developing. It's tomorrow's newspaper, tomorrow's technology today. And writing for Oracle is a challenge to any newswriter in the business. It's the art of the short sentence: five paragraphs to tell the lot. Ernest Hemingway would have flourished there."

But, inevitably, there is the odd regret . . .

After thirty years of pioneering British television Arthur Clifford's extraordinary achievements speak for themselves. It's tempting to ask whether this tall sturdy man approaching sixty has any regrets.

"On reflection, I perhaps regret having left ITN in the first place. My wife says if I'd been more of a diplomat, I'd have been a more successful journalist."

If Arthur Clifford had been more of a diplomat, British television and ITN would have lost a very distinguished journalist, a real "firecracker".

THE DAY THAT SCARGILL

WAS FILED UNDER

'ANONYMOUS ABUSE'

In 1953, a Communist Party organiser called Frank Watters arrived in Barnsley from the Scottish coalfield. He'd been sent there because the Communist Party thought the Yorkshire coalfield had more potential, and over the next fourteen years, Watters worked with left-wingers – some Communists, some not – to develop the left inside the Yorkshire NUM. At the time, it must have seemed an uphill struggle.

After the successful miners' strikes of 1972 and 1974, and with a third national strike now in its eighth month, it's easy to forget the extent to which the NUM was dominated by the right-wing in the years after the war. The Yorkshire Area was no

'Much of his success is due to his clever television technique'

exception. But in the late 1950s and throughout the 60s, the left in Yorkshire became more organised; in 1969, and again in 1970, they led unofficial national strikes – against the wishes of the national leadership.

Arthur Scargill, who was part of the group, is the heir to their success.

Michael Crick's book *Scargill and the Miners* documents the rise of the left inside the NUM, and charts Scargill's route to the Presidency of the union. Although it's been written at speed (it was commissioned only in August) there's a lot of new material in it.

The flavour is similar to

Following the recent publication of his book 'Militant' – a study of the extremist faction within the Labour Party, Crick – a writer with Channel Four News – has turned his attention to the topicality of the miners' strike and takes a penetrating look at the strengths and weaknesses of the N.U.M. President.



Crick's first book on *Militant*; a look at what goes on inside the smoke-filled rooms when deals are being done. Both Michael and his researcher David Akerman spent weeks in the Yorkshire coalfield, interviewing people.

Much of Scargill's success is down to television. In the early years, when he was still only a branch delegate at Woolley pit, and when the right was trying to keep the left in check, he was able to use television to become known to the union members.

The Labour MP, Austin Mitchell, then a YTV reporter, remembers:

'Yorkshire Television created Arthur Scargill. He was just the voice of the articulate left-wing Yorkshire miner that we wanted. It was our Barnsley stringer who put us on to him, but if he hadn't, I think we would have had to invent him'.

Scargill also used television astutely in his battles on the NUM Executive with the then President, Joe Gormley. In the

book Channel Four News' industrial correspondent, Ian Ross, explains.

'The practice was that about ten minutes after Executive meetings were over, Joe Gormley would give a press briefing in the conference room. Scargill knew this, so as soon as the Executive was over he would rush down, and sniffing out a television camera or two, would tell us all his version of what had happened and we'd get his criticism

'He would upstage Gormley in spite of the facts'

of what the Executive had decided. Joe used to get very annoyed about it – quite justifiably sometimes because Scargill's version wasn't always right. Once or twice Joe would say, 'If he's given you an interview I'm not going to give you one'.

Scargill's come a long way since his first, unidentified, reference in the ITN film library at the time of the Saltley Gate picket ten years ago. The card in the index reads, 'Mid-shot. Man shouts abuse at cameraman'.

'*Scargill and the Miners*' by Michael Crick is published by Penguin on January 3rd, price £2.50.

A Vulture? I was simply doing my job . . .

The coal dispute has led to people across the country re-examining their thoughts – not least journalists.

I suspect the statement Arthur Scargill made at the Edinburgh television festival when he was invited to debate the miners strike, was spot on. He said about the media "You are anxious and concerned because you are under attack."

Crews are easy targets

I was in Blackpool for the Labour Party Conference and whilst it wasn't the first time I have encountered hostility when wearing a Press badge, it was more intense than ever before. And we all know of camera crews who have been

JOY JOHNSON reflects on the hostility towards the media

attacked. They are readily-identifiable targets.

On the day when Arthur Scargill and other executive members were due in court ITN, along with the BBC, had the cameras trained on him for much of the morning. In fact they were switched on for only about 15 minutes, so was I the "vulture" a Labour Party delegate called me? If anything had happened that day, we were determined to get the shot. Indeed, we would have been in trouble had we missed it.

But is it essential to record Arthur Scargill's every move? Sitting in a Conference Hall listening to one of Neil Kin-

nock's long-winded speeches, none of us would maintain an expression of rapt interest. But the cameras zoom in on Arthur Scargill hoping that he'll pull a face for an appropriate 'cut-away'.

Scribes 'at the sharp end'

If we are now under attack, we have to ask why. For the first time journalists are at the sharp end in a confrontation that has involved more people at any one time than anything we've seen for a long while. Attitudes have polarised and people involved in the dispute

are not prepared to accept the image or views that the media present as unbiased reports.

A degree of hostility in these circumstances is inevitable. It's not good enough to say I'm sympathetic to the miners, or I'm donating money, or the blame lies with the proprietors. At least now the debate on bias in the media is wide open to everybody and not the province of academics and media experts.

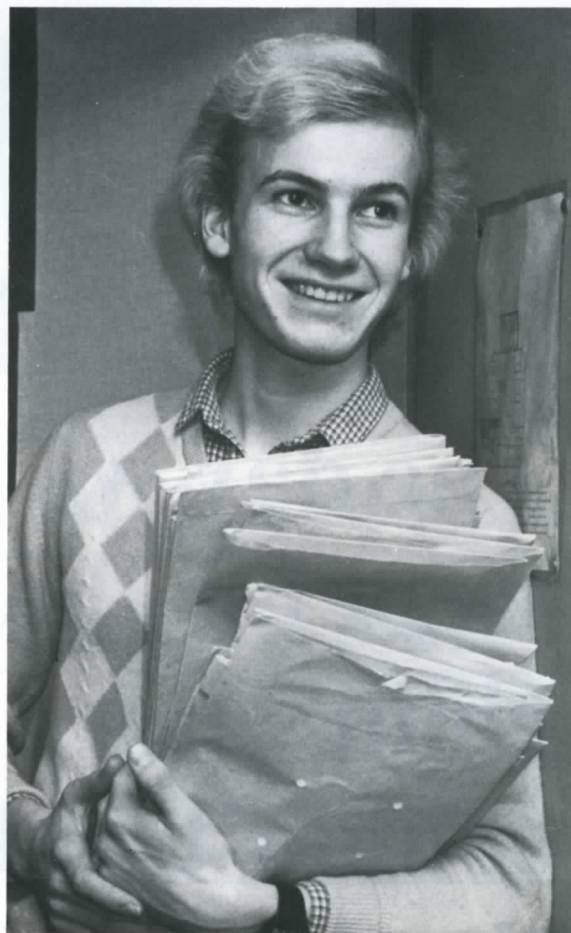
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**THAT'S THE
WAY THE
MONEY
GOES . . .**

by Dan Moloney

THE SHY TALENT OF THE YOUNG ARTIST ON THE FOURTH FLOOR



Adam Freeman has been hiding his light not so much beneath a bushel – more under a mountain of envelopes since joining ITN a year ago.

For Adam's talents lie in his artistic hands – hands which have been juggling with the internal and external mail since joining the post room as a 16-year-old junior.

But once away from ITN House, those hands fulfil a completely different role as he embarks on his all-consuming hobby of painting and sketching. He specialises in pencil portraits which have surprised more seasoned artists, who agree that his work displays a skill and maturity rarely found in one so young and relatively inexperienced.

Adam, however, has a problem. To draw portraits, it is rather necessary to have the subject available for a series of sittings. But Adam admits

to being more than a little shy – particularly with women! So instead of working with 'live' models, he produces his portraits from photographs . . . and saves his blushes!

One of his early inspirations since joining ITN was Mary Green from Accounts who, not surprisingly, was extremely impressed (and more than a little surprised!) by Adam's talent. And in return, young Mr. Freeman admits that she has proved to be one of his most successful – and enjoyable – subjects!

Award

He is completely self-taught, and has always had a hankering to pursue art and graphic design. As an eleven-year-old, he won a local council Award for his artistic talents, but has had little opportunity to develop them commercially.

Indeed, he is lucky that he can still pursue his hobby after

recently surviving a motorcycle accident in which his machine was severely damaged during a confrontation with a lorry! Fortunately, Adam escaped serious injury, and his pencil was able to continue working on Miss Green's portrait!

Like many before him, Adam's ambitions lie beyond the confines of the post-room. He is keen to absorb as much information as possible about the new techniques being developed and adopted by ITN, and he has absorbed much during his 12 months. But his ultimate ambitions are still directed towards graphic design . . .

Meanwhile, he is developing a technique of his own for creating colour portraits from black and white photographs. He has his own developing and enlarging equipment at home, and is applying his own skills with a paintbrush.

So, presumably, it won't be long before Mary Green and the others appear in colour!

It is part of pensions admin lore that very few people are remotely interested in the subject of pensions until they reach 50 years of age – and then they are usually too depressed to think about it! Attitudes are, however, changing and many are becoming aware of the implications of proposed legislative changes and the potential threat to the privileged tax status of pension arrangements.

We, at ITN, set up our own representative Pensions Advisory Committee back in 1978 to promote a better understanding about the subject in general and our own Scheme in particular. Since then, the Committee has met at irregular intervals (some have said too infrequently) to consider the nuts and bolts of changes in legislation and the Scheme's investment policy.

Recommended

Indeed, last year after exhaustive consideration of presentations by a number of professional fund managers, it recommended that future monthly contributions by the Company and the Members should be allocated evenly between Scottish Widows and SCAMPI – Mixed Managed Funds. These cover the entire range of gilts, equities etc.

The Trustees and the Company approved and implemented this proposal. It might surprise Members to know that the aggregate value of funds invested by the Scheme is now over £25 million and growing at the rate of some £3 million a year!

Changes

Anyway, the point of this article is to signal a somewhat higher profile in terms of information about the Scheme and some of the legislative and taxation changes which seem to be in the pipeline and which could have a profound effect on us as individuals.

To this end, we are in the process of preparing an "Annual Report" to Members. Also, John Copleston, the elected staff Trustee, has suggested a regular question and answer column on pensions in 'The Lens'. Seems like a good idea, especially as John has undertaken to provide the answers!



Coming back from Ethiopia, almost the first thing that everybody said was: "It must have been a harrowing experience for you."

Of course, in many ways it was. But not in the way we might have expected.

In fact, one of the most interesting aspects of the trip was the way our own emotions dealt with what we saw. Strangely enough, it wasn't the fields of starving people stretching far into the distant horizons that touched us.

There's something almost unreal about that anyway. And it's as if the brain brings an automatic cut-out into play . . . it's there all right, but it's too big to make an emotional impact.

What really moved us were the small incidents . . . events that happened always unexpectedly and usually on a one-to-one basis.

We were all in tears the day that Cardinal Hume visited the relief camp at Makelle, the capital of Tigre province and one of the areas most badly in need. There must have been 15,000 people, dazed with starvation, sitting in front of us, but there was one little girl, four at the most, trying to rouse her dying mother.

She was hysterical with fear and non-comprehension . . . frantically shaking the frail, unresponsive body lying beside her. That particular event was a focus for everything.

None of us could stop the tears. Tom Phillips could barely see through the camera lens, his eyes were so full. And it brought home, full-force, the terrible sense of helplessness.

The day we wept for the child who couldn't waken the dead . . .

Report by JOAN THIRKETTLE

There was absolutely nothing we were able to do to help that little girl, and our crying at her distress was really no help either.

Several other incidents had a similar effect. It sounds callous to say it, but by the end of the trip, we had become almost hardened to the deaths of babies and small children . . . so many of them died in front of us.

We spent an hour in a small feeding centre run by the Red Cross. In that time, four babies died . . . two of them in their mother's arms.

The overall effect of all this intense emotion was to heighten our senses in other ways too. Things that would have been faintly funny in normal circumstances became uproariously so. And it wasn't total gloom and doom. Far from it.

One night we stopped in a small town about 200 miles from Addis Ababa and booked into what passed for the local hotel. Roger Dove found the prospect of spending the night with a mountain of bed-bugs more than he could cope with, so he snuggled into his sleeping bag and attempted to sleep bolt upright in the wooden chair beside the bed.

This mildly amusing sight became devastatingly funny. It's only fair to say that we were at that time a little tired and emotional, but the sight of Roger had us aching with laughter.

In the end, he gave in to the forces of gravity and exhaustion . . . keeled over onto the mattress and joined the bed-bugs in deep slumber.

500-UP and the Reform Club echoes to the sound of good news!

Any "QUIET, PLEASE" signs in the Reform Club library were definitely out of order when Channel Four News celebrated its 500th programme recently.

Some 300 guests were invited to the club by Channel Four to toast the success of the programme. Amid the leather-bound volumes, a pipe-puffing Tony Benn held court in one corner of the library. Francis Pym and former Northern Ireland Secretary, Roy Mason, with bodyguard, were among the other political guests. Actor Terence Stamp and theatre and film director Richard Eyre were among those representing members of the arts world who have appeared on Channel 4 News.

The ITN staff working for the programme were also fully represented and gained glowing praise for their efforts.

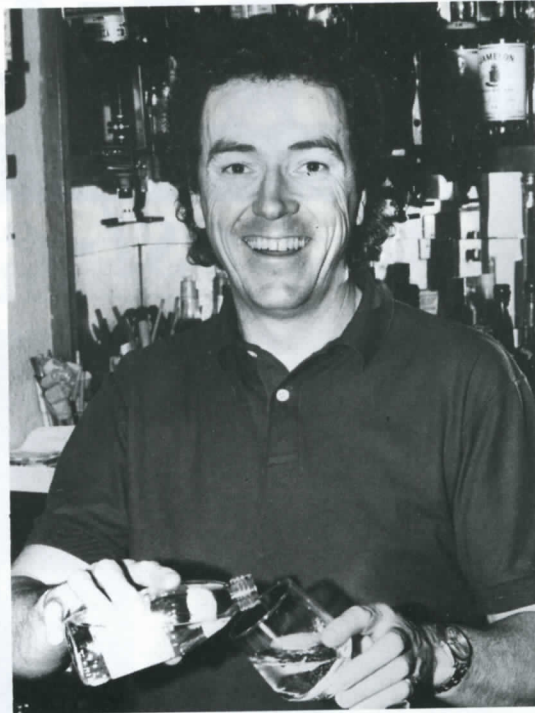
"It's not easy to start a new, news programme these days," David Nicholas told the guests. "A nightly news becomes part of the viewers family. It's got to be accepted and recognised, pass a familiarity test and earn the viewers trust. And Channel 4 News has done all that."

He particularly paid tribute to Channel 4 News Editor, Stewart Purvis, and main presenter, Peter Sissons. (Who led the applause at this point!)

Channel 4 Chief Executive Jeremy Isaacs also spoke with pride about the programme. "It has seen off the doubters and the scoffers and firmly established itself as a valued and fixed landmark on the broadcasting scene," he said.

In proposing a toast to Channel 4 News, Isaacs said he looked forward to the 1,000th edition of the programme — when he confidently predicted it will have an audience of more than a million people.

It's a toast to the old and the new



ANNIE BOWS OUT AFTER FIVE YEARS AT THE BAR

Annie Scott, the ITN Club stewardess who coupled a vibrant sense of fun with the sharp tongue of authority, retired last month after a five year spell behind the bar.

The club committee entertained her to a special luncheon at the Rugby Club of London to mark the occasion and after presenting her with a cut-glass candelabra, club chairman John Copleston thanked her for her years of devoted service to the club and

its members. He made special reference to her success in obtaining sponsorship for the club's affiliated societies. All at ITN wish her a long and happy retirement.

Annie's successor is Alan Brown (44), an ex-lighterman who worked on the River Thames for 22 years. He is a Freeman of the Company of Watermen and has run his own watering houses in the East End of London for a number of years.

Mr. Otis

regrets
that the
lift-off
is off!

Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman ever to fly in space, says one of her most unnerving experiences was getting stuck in an ITN lift.

It happened 20 years ago — a few months after her historic spaceflight.

Valentina had just arrived in London and was driven straight to ITN — then at Television House in Kingsway — on the seventh floor.

She stepped into the lift with the Russian ambassador and a producer. But then 13 heavily-overcoated Russian officials insisted on escorting her, squeezing into a space meant for "maximum 12 persons".

The lift strained upwards but gave up between the 4th and 5th floors.

It's said ITN first knew what had gone wrong when an alert PA reporter downstairs realised what had happened and phoned his newsdesk. Within seconds a 'SNAP' came over the ITN teleprinter.

Whatever the truth of that, Security managed to prise open the lift doors and Valentina and the ambassador climbed up the lift-shaft to squeeze through a narrow gap onto the fifth floor.

In reminding Frank Miles of this the other day Valentina said: "I remember that five minutes as vividly as my flight. If ever you want to interview me again, fine — but let's make it my place, not yours!"

Footnote: Within minutes of writing this piece, Frank Miles was hot-afloat to the news-hungry publishing tycoons in the Press Office. On the way to the fifth floor the lift stuck. Nothing changes!

| | |
|--|--|
| ITN CLUB presents | |
| CHRISTMAS PARTY-BUFFER! | |
| Saturday 22nd December | |
| MENU | |
| Corn on the cob with melted butter | |
| Grilled lamb kebabs | |
| Barbecued spare ribs | |
| Devilled chicken legs | |
| Prawn and pineapple salad | |
| Baked jacket potatoes with sour cream, chive dressing & coleslaw | |
| Pistachio almond ice cream with chocolate flakes | |
| Coffee | |
| 7.45pm - 1pm | Regent Crest Hotel Carburton Street W1 |
| Tickets | |
| £5 member's + 1 guest | |
| Additional guests £7.50 | |
| (LIMITED TICKETS RESERVED IF REQUIRED) | |

The Riverboat party that made Linda burst into verse

At 7.30 all was well,
Who would turn up, it was hard to tell
Though Mark Webster bought a bargain ticket,
He missed the boat by half a minute!
But at 8 o'clock it was ship ahoy,
The fun was starting — Boy! oh boy!
The 'Naticia' impressed — we liked the style,
And people relaxed after a very short while
We were soon bopping, and some would sing
Although others were content to have a fling!
When the food was served, there was an orderly rush,
It was quite fantastic — not the usual mush!
Baked potatoes went down a treat,
But not long after came the aching feet
Tangos, twists and rock and roll,
We even had some northern soul.
Then came the raffle, everyone was shy,
A volunteer was needed but no one would try
But with the leaders persuasion a winner was found,
The volunteer was bribed for only a pound!
A number was drawn after a time,
Les Nobbs came up with 69!
At midnight precisely we heard Big Ben chime,
What a shame it had ended, but what a great time!

— Linda Smith

15-1

Highest score in best-ever season

ITN are having their best season ever, under captain Mike Inglis. His maverick style has led them to second place in the London Friendly League and into the second rounds of both the League Cup and the Baber Cup.

In the last eight games, ITN have won seven and drawn one. A 2-2 draw with the Green Man saw ITN come back from 2-0 down in the last ten minutes, Nigel Thomson scoring the equaliser with a superb goal, the ball dipping and swerving beyond the goalkeeper's grasp.

In their next League match ITN's fortunes took an upturn with a gritty 2-1 win over high-fliers Slowgun with new discovery Mario Mooney al-

ways prepared to chase lost causes.

Last month a strong ITN team produced a dazzling display of footballing skills as they thrashed lowly Bush Green 15-1. Playing superb one-touch football, ITN kept the bottom of the League club pinned in their own half for much of the match, with Paul Dickie, fresh from a loan period with Streatham Strollers, controlling the midfield.

The opposition for their last match was provided by the ageing, but energetic Battersea FC, who were brushed aside by a new cock-a-hoop ITN outfit. Goals by J. Thomson (3), Hawksworth and the young-at-heart Nick Dodd saw ITN cruise to a comfortable 5-0 win.

Their heads went down when we were behind, but they came through and we won with three great goals."

Travelled

In the League Cup, ITN beat inform Beavers 3-2. Beavers seemed content to play for a draw, but an early ITN goal forced them to alter their defensive tactics. John Thomson, ITN's only close-season signing, showed why he is leading scorer as he sent two defenders the wrong way, and hit the winner.

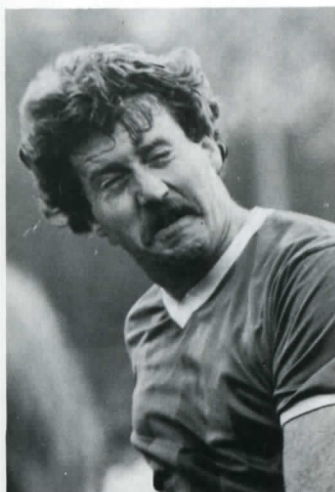
Said skipper Inglis: "I'm thrilled for the lads. We trained really hard for this one. I told them at half-time that we couldn't let the fans down after they had travelled all this way and given such superb support."



Dickie power . . . midfielder maestro Paul Dickie resists two challengers to score and (right) Ian Aldridge on his way to a hat-trick in the 15-1 win. (Pictures: Jim Dutton).

In the Baber Cup ITN were drawn against notorious hard men Kensington Police. In a bad tempered match that saw several players from both teams cautioned, Mick Hawksworth and John Thomson scored the all-important goals.

So all in all it looks like a good season for ITN. Certainly a change from the gloom surrounding The Wells Street terraces this time last year.



The Captain's example . . . grit, determination and a smile for the camera from Mike Inglis.

PERFECT SHOOT LANDS DOUBLE FOR FOAKES

The Autumn Seashoot again proved popular, and despite a rough crossing from Portsmouth everyone had an enjoyable time.

Results from the competition were. High Gun - Brian Foakes. Runner-up - Fred Rich. 3rd - John Sharman, Top Lady - Wendy Sharman, watch out John.

The November Clay Shoot saw a change in venue. Because of a poor turnout the previous month at Markyate, it was decided to hold the Shoot at Holland & Hollands ground at Northwood. This proved a good move; attendance was very good, the weather perfect, and this was reflected in the scores with some members putting in

personal best.

A 50-bird competition was held, with Brian Foakes winning with 50 out of 50. Second were John Sharman and Fred Rich, both with 45 out of 50. Ladies prize: - Caroline Yates, 39 out of 50. It was good to see Dennis Peppal enjoying his retirement and shooting well. The Pistol shooting is progressing, under

the guidance of Harold Richardson.

The next and last event of the year is our Christmas Shoot being held at Cotsfield Shooting Centre, Cotsfield, East Sussex, on Friday, 14th December. Book through Dave Clark, £10.00 to include lunch and shooting.

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 January 10th, 1985.