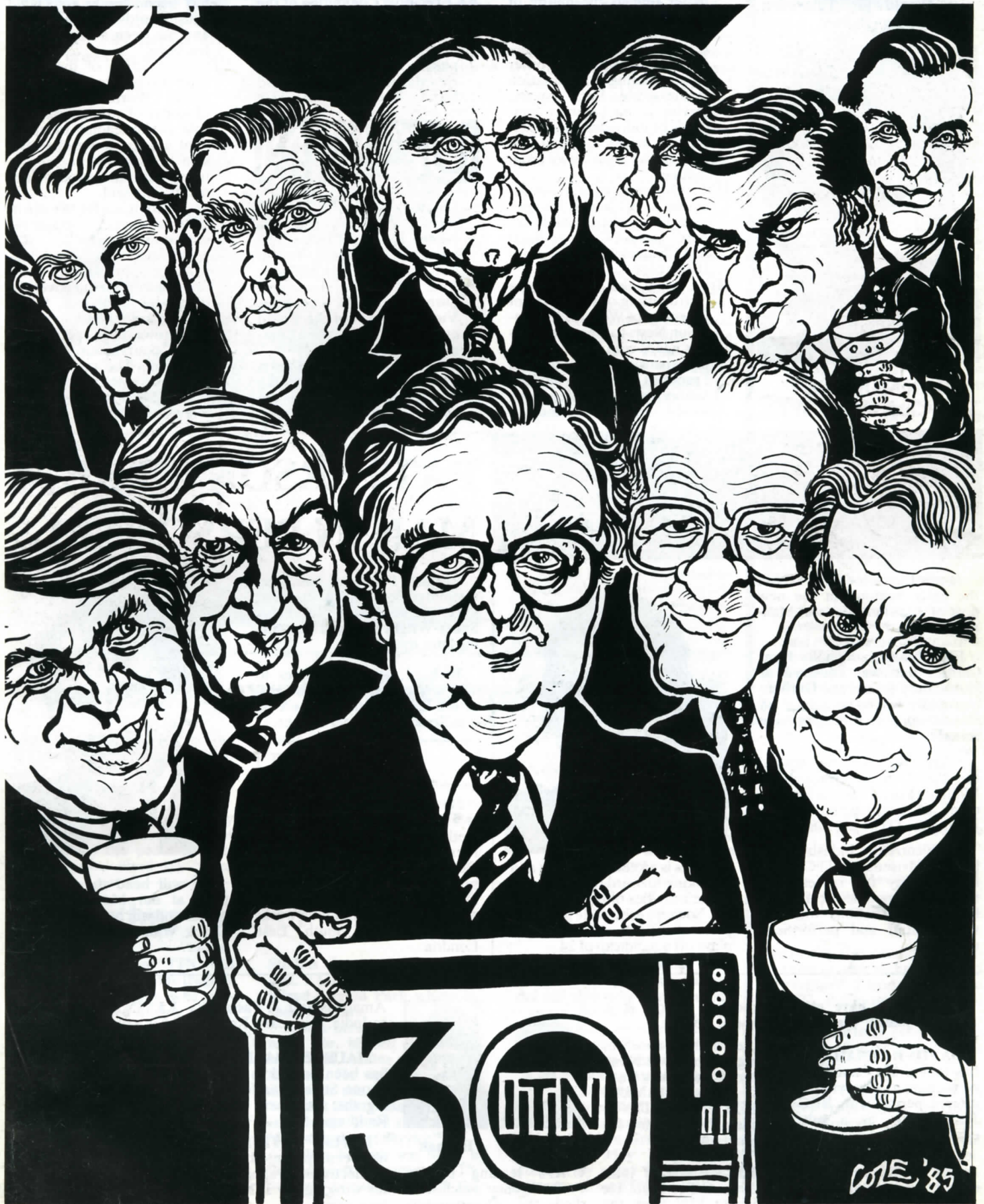


L. GIANELLA 601016



# THE LENS

The Staff  
Newspaper for  
Independent  
Television  
News  
May/June 1985 No. 14



ITN: May 1955 – May 1985

## MOLONEY STEPS UP IN NEW WTN BOARD

**A famous television news logo is to disappear as UPITN changes its name to WTN - Worldwide Television News Corporation.**



**DAN MOLONEY**  
Vice-Chairman of WTN

In making the announcement, UPITN Chairman Brian Cowgill said: "The new name better reflects the nature of the independent agency which disseminates more news material to more television stations than any other newsgathering organisation in the world. Each day the service is fed to many hundreds of individual television stations across all territorial barriers for their news programmes."

ITN will remain as main shareholder of WTN with 47½ per cent. Other shareholders are ABC News (42½ per cent) and Channel 9 Australia with 10 per cent.

Mr. Cowgill also announced a restructuring of the Board of Directors of Worldwide Television News to meet the agency's needs with its recent major expansions in London and Frankfurt, a new modern facility planned for New York within the next six months

and its continuing conversion into Electronic News-gathering.

An Executive Committee of the Board has been appointed to support the Management during this expansionary phase. Its members will be David Nicholas (Editor and Chief Executive of ITN



Limited), Richard C. Wald (Senior Vice-President ABC News), Kenneth Coyte (President of Worldwide Television News) and Dan Moloney (one of ITN's Executive Directors) who becomes Vice-Chairman of the Board and will Chair the Committee.

Dan Moloney has over 25 years experience in major media organisations including the Sydney Morning Herald,

Thomson Newspapers and since 1969, Independent Television News Limited. He has been closely associated with Worldwide since 1973 and has been a Director for ten years.

"The first action of the Executive Committee was to reaffirm Worldwide's prime objective of strengthening its role as the leading independent agency in world television news whilst keeping in touch with all new developments," he said.

Kenneth Coyte said: "We are in the final stages of a major re-equipment programme. Recently there has been widespread appreciation from broadcasters for our coverage of events in Bhopal, South Africa and Lebanon where our crews have performed with courageous professionalism. The restructuring will ensure that we remain first and best in international television news."

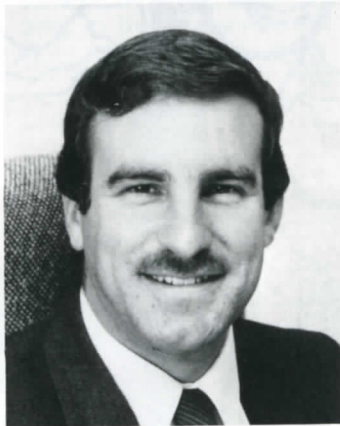
## ITCA MAN JOINS MANAGEMENT TEAM

James Lancaster joins ITN in the early Summer in the new post of Assistant General Manager.

James comes originally from Cardiff, and was educated at Shrewsbury School and Durham University where he gained an Honours degree in Engineering Science.

After University he worked for the London Borough of Waltham Forest and the Department of Employment before joining the ITCA in 1978.

He is currently Industrial Relations Adviser at the ITCA with responsibility for representing the ITV Companies at national level in negotiations with the various staff and performers' unions.



James is a keen sportsman and is looking forward to taking part in the activities of the ITN Golfing Society, where he plans to persuade the members that he plays off a handicap of 24.

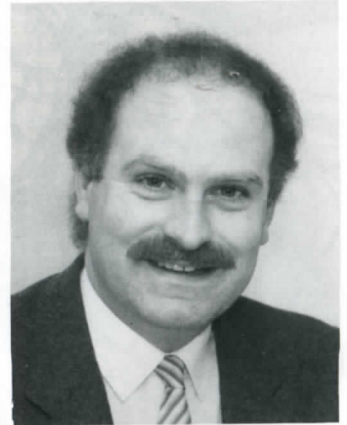
## PATTERSON'S THE MAN IN PERSONNEL

Richard Patterson has been appointed Personnel Manager at ITN in succession to Patsy Sykes-Wright who will be retiring later this year.

Richard, aged 35, comes to ITN house after a nine-year spell at the Sports Council, where he was Senior Personnel Officer.

### Graduate

He gained a degree in classics at Hull University and cut his teeth as a graduate trainee in Personnel with Amalgamated Dental International before spending three years as Deputy Director/Administrator of the Albany - a community work/arts centre in South East London.



He will head the Personnel team at our Mortimer Street offices and will be responsible to Derek Walker, the Staff Controller.

**The following have also recently joined the ITN staff:**

**DAVID HANNAH** (29) has joined the Channel 4 Newsroom as a copytaster after a period with BBC Radio news as a sub-editor.

**COLIN ROBSON** (24) comes to ITN House as a sound technician after completing a TV Studio

Engineering course at a Technical College.

After a year's absence, during which he was News Editor of The Times Business News, **DAMIAN GREEN** returns to ITN as Business Item Editor for Channel 4 News.

**BRIAN EMSLEY** joins the Press Office team. He comes to ITN from the



**O'Connell**



**Hannah**

U.K.'s leading cinema P. R. Agency which handled the Oscarwinning

Amadeus and A Passage to India, this year's Royal film.

**MAUREEN BALLARD** has been named as Telephone Supervisor following the retirement of Jo Redding.

**PETER ATKINSON** has been appointed Head of Electronic Graphics, after working for ITN as a freelance.

**KEVIN MURPHY** joins ITN as a plant attendant.

ITN's team of location lighting assistants has been strengthened with the addition of **TIM O'CONNELL**, **PHILIP WYNNE** and **DAVID PRIME**.

**GABOR RADO** joins the Channel One main newsroom staff as a writer.

# ITN CREW 'ADOPT' DACCA ORPHANS

ITN's report on the **Dacca orphanage** which has been "adopted" by British Airways crews focused attention on the plight of abandoned children in Bangladesh.

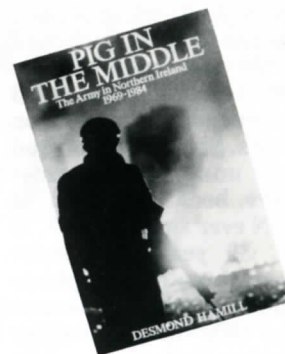
And, judging by the number of calls received by ITN over the ensuing few days, it helped swell the special British Airways fund set up to provide valuable food, medicine and clothing.

But the story also forged a link between ITN and three Bangladesh orphans – two girls and a boy. The news team – reporter Paul Davies, cameraman Shaun Gilmartin and sound recordist Steve Harrow – were so moved by the experience that they each decided to "adopt" a child on the spot. Each man has signed a covenant ensuring that a sum is paid to the orphanage monthly to help meet the costs of essentials for each child – and help meet the cost of the care staff.

The plight of the orphanage was discovered four years ago by B.A. stewardess Pat Kerr during a stopover in Dacca. She subsequently spent much of her free time helping at the centre and was subsequently joined by other volunteers forging a permanent link between the children and the air crews.

"We were all very moved by the work at the orphanage," said Paul Davies. "As soon as we appeared, dozens of kids ran towards us. Most of them were girls . . . it seems that many of them are simply abandoned by parents who cannot afford to feed them.

"Since boys are regarded as more valuable to the work effort, it's the girls who go first. It's all very tragic."



Desmond Hamill's new book *Pig in the Middle* – the story of the Army in Northern Ireland over the past sixteen years – contains the frankest recollections so far by senior officers involved in the campaign.

The book reveals how a military scientist, who was also a part-time territorial soldier, drew up intimate political, social and economic profiles of the Catholic and Protestant communities in Ulster, and profiles of the paramilitary and terrorist organisations on both sides. These reports then became the backbone of a training policy which allowed the Army to direct its intelligence and tactical planning accurately and with success against the men of violence.

## Aftermath

It contains the inside story of the clashes between the Army and police in the aftermath of the 1979 assassination of Lord Mountbatten and the Warrenpoint ambush which killed 18 soldiers. It also reveals the clashes within the Army itself over relations with the police. Hamill recounts in detail how the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, was personally briefed by both Army and police chiefs and how she reacted to calm Army fears by appointing a retired spymaster, Sir Maurice Oldfield, as a referee and 'an oiler of wheels' between the two forces.

There are also candid observations on the background and events of 'Bloody Sunday' in 1972, the most controversial incident of the campaign, when thirteen people were shot dead after a civil rights march.

*Pig in the Middle* is based on three years research in Ulster and Britain, during which many former government ministers and officials, soldiers and policemen shared their memories and opinions with the author.

## It's good news for *Britannia Airways*

Holidaymakers returning to the UK this summer will be able to catch up with the news in mid-air thanks to a special service provided by ITN.

ITN has just started to supply a weekly in-flight summary of the news of the previous fortnight, to be aired on board

Luton-bound Britannia Airways flights.

The 15-minute news round up is part of a video presentation that also includes contributions from Thames TV, Euston Films and Capital Radio.

Britannia's new Boeing 767 fleet has been equipped with

video projection systems.

The ITN round-up, presented with commentary by familiar newscasters, highlights the major news stories from home and abroad and gives a broad picture of what has been happening in the fortnight before.

## Arthur Vincent – A man of great loyalty

Most people at ITN will already be aware of the tragedy of Arthur Vincent who collapsed and died during his retirement party in the boardroom on Friday, 10th May.

Arthur joined the ITN staff as a sound assistant in 1970, but had often worked in ITN House as a freelance during the two previous years.

His career in the film industry started in 1936 at Humphries Laboratories and after a short spell at Gainsborough

Studios (later to become the BBC's Lime Grove studios) he joined Merton Park where he spent 20 years.

It was here that he made a name for himself in optical sound and became an expert in his field. He was later associated with the successful films "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and James Bond's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service".

Arthur Vincent was never a flamboyant character at ITN but was certainly one of the

most loyal. He finished his career as a sound supervisor and will always be remembered as one of the most genuine and hard-working members of the "engine room" on whose efforts we rely so heavily.

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Dorothy and to all members of his family.

Arthur's cremation service, held at Golders Green crematorium on May 17th, was attended by many friends and colleagues from ITN.

In 1955, Jo Redding applied for the job of switchboard supervisor with a new television company called Independent Television News. She got the job and her unmistakable tones have been a feature of ITN ever since.

Now, 30 years and more than three million phone calls later she's answered the ITN switchboard for the last time.

"It's going to be a wrench. Thirty years is a long time with one company and my God, I'll miss it."

Jo Redding's retirement last month marks the end of an era. With her departure ITN has lost one of its oldest employees and the only person left whose name appeared on the company's first payroll.

Jo was employed back in 1955 by Tommy Trail as the company was being set up. She started work on the princely sum of £9 a week but she looks back on those early days with affection. "They were great times, the place was so friendly. There were only a hundred and fifty people altogether so we all knew each other."



# Three million thanks to J.R. — the silken voiced ITN pioneer!

Television itself was still in its infancy and the excitement of working in almost uncharted territory rubbed off on everyone who was involved. "It was all so new — even the BBC hadn't been doing television news for very long. I'll never forget the night ITN's first programme went on the air — we all sat on the floor of the dubbing theatre to watch it go out."

If the company has changed a great deal since she started at ITN Jo's job is essentially the same as it's always been. These days the Press Office deals with a lot of viewers calls but after 6 O'clock every evening it's up to the girls on the switchboard and Jo feels they're still the 'front door' of ITN.

understand them. If you don't like what's on the telly, you've got a button, you can turn it off. What really gets me is that some of the complaints we get aren't even for our programmes — they're Thames or the BBC.'

But there are times when answering viewers calls can be a traumatic experience. One incident stands out in Jo's memory — the day of the Aberfan disaster when a slagheap of coal collapsed on a school, trapping the

children of the village inside.

'It was dreadful. When the story went out I was here on my own and we were inundated with calls from distraught relatives. They wanted to know what was going on but there was nothing I could tell them. By the end of the night I was in tears. I've had to deal with a lot of terrible disaster stories here at ITN but I never want to go through that night again.'

Since the day Jo first started work for ITN the company

has expanded — almost beyond recognition but Jo has worked hard to keep alive the team spirit that characterised the early days. She still likes to know who everyone is — she has to, it's part of her job to know where to find them.

But it's always been more than just a job for Jo. She's always wanted to know about the people who work for ITN, as her work for the social club testifies. And so it'll be a wrench for her when she leaves.

It'll be just as much of a wrench for ITN to let her go.

## A SLICE OF HISTORY ON CASSETTE

In a joint venture to mark the 40th anniversary of the fall of the Third Reich, ITN and Granada are releasing a videotape featuring the triumphs and tragedies that paved the way to Allied victory.

"From D-Day to Victory in Europe" uses dramatic news film shot as the Allies broke away

from the Normandy beaches and began the gruelling struggle towards the heartland of occupied Europe.

The authoritative account is written and presented by top journalist Max Hastings, and employs footage from British, American, Russian and German sources.

There is already

worldwide sales interest in the videotape, which uses computer-generated maps and diagrams to illustrate the strategies and tactics of the opposing forces.

The project is the third collaboration by ITN and Granada, who worked together on "Battle for the Falk-

lands" and "D-Day — The Great Crusade" which was launched to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the historic Normandy landings.

The two-hour cassette is available to ITN staff at the special discount price of £12 plus VAT from Dave Clark (Purchasing Manager).

'What we really dread', she explained, 'are the animal stories — there's always a reaction to them. The worst thing of all is when the newscaster inadvertently reads out the football score just before a televised match. Then the phone never stops ringing. Some nights I've been here on my own and there have been 22 callers waiting to get through. You just give up.'

So what kind of people phone ITN with their complaints? 'To tell you the truth, I can't

# When a soundman dropped a 'bummer' in the path of Kennedy jnr.!

Cleverly disguised as a six-foot-seven prop forward the riot policeman bore down on us through the smoke and dust of the late afternoon. Alexandra township was burning and the sergeant was in an uncompromising mood.

Having been lavishly entertained only a few minutes before by a large crowd of young blacks anxious to cement relations with a few well-chosen rocks to the cranium vault, our new friend from the South African police was not exactly an unwelcome sight.

Events then took on a predictable course. No permit . . . one-way trip to the nearest police station . . . 900-dollar fine.

## Haunted

"Look at it this way," I said to Sergeant Smit, sitting in the police station surrounded by a crowd of haunted looking blacks. "If our jobs were reversed, you would be trying to film in the townships and I would be arresting you."

"Ya," said Sergeant Smit, with a heavy dutch accent, "But I would have got a permit first." A sense of humour was a rare commodity with the South African police that week.

It was the longest running story to come out of South Africa since the '76 Soweta Riots and with a macabre sense of timing reserved for the luckiest of ITN's foreign hacks, the killings in the Eastern Cape began at exactly the same moment as Norman Rees's feet touched South African soil.

## Bounced

It was Norman's first visit to South Africa since he was bounced out while trying to cover the '76 unrest. Jet-lagged and tired, he found himself in the middle of Sharpeville, hours after his arrival - and loving every minute of it.

The Rees itinerary looked like the Fodor Guide to Southern Africa, but it went up in flames as quickly as some of the Eastern Cape townships.

For the crew getting to Port Elizabeth, the centre of the violence, was like a trip to the dark side of Jupiter, with appalling airline connections and difficult conditions on the ground.

It was left to an untested black cameraman Sepewe Ralo to capture the best pictures on the unrest as 35,000 people marched to the funerals in the township. His camera-work was superb and within days he had the American networks and British agencies forcing contracts in his pocket.

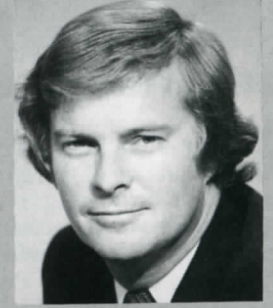
The violence in the townships has made it virtually impossible for white crews to operate with any degree of safety or efficiency. Riot damage insurance forms littered the office as the parking lots at Hertz and Avis quickly filled up with bashed and battered hire cars. Lucky escape of the month went to UPITN's Roger Harris and soundman Jonathan Partridge. Half a brick arrived incoming through an open window, missing both of them. It now sits on the dashboard as Roger's own good luck token. (don't really see it myself!).

Gaffe of the month goes to soundman Kenny Geraghty, swapping small talk with Senator Kennedy's son Bobby (who lost a leg from cancer when he was 12) Kenny inquired solicitously: "Why are you limping - stub your toe?"

When informed the condition was rather more serious - Kenny replied unfazed: "What

# Kennedy jnr.!

## PETER SHARP takes a lighter look at the frustrations of being a newsman in South Africa



a bummer!"

The Kennedy visit was, by the way, a nightmare. Sympathies to the Washington Bureau who are forced to endure regular gang-bangs like these.

Adolescent aides treated the press corps like recalcitrant children, threatening them with the ultimate sanction: "Shape up guy, or we'll pull your accreditation."

They were the sort of aides that give aids a bad name!

But my favourite story comes from cameraman Keith Shaw. It speaks volumes about

the sheer bureaucracy of the Afrikaner. Cape Town Airport and the police are insisting that Keith's camera be put through the high dose X-ray machine at security. This is not a practice normally recommended in the Sony 330 owners manual.

But to no avail, our Dutch friend was insistent - the camera goes through the machine.

Exasperated, Keith snarled: "You've got the brain of a peanut." The policeman replied with the immortal words "Its not my brain, sir, but the airport manager's brain."

## Glaxo science award for McGinty



Lawrence McGinty, Science Correspondent of Channel 4 News has received a prestigious Glaxo Science Writers Award for a range of work including reports on acid rain and test tube babies.

He was presented with his award in March at London's Apothecaries Hall.

McGinty received the award, which carries a £1,200 prize, from Glaxo chairman Sir Austin Bide, in the presence of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Editor of Channel 4 News, Stewart Purvis said: "It is very gratifying to see Lawrence receiving recognition for the outstanding work that he has carried out for us."

# RE-UNION WITH

# A VICTIM THE

# WORLD

# CAN'T

# FORGET

When the Vietnam war was at its furious height, cameraman Alan Downes witnessed a sight that he, or the world, is ever likely to forget when a little girl called Kim Phouc was hit by a napalm attack.

As the naked child ran down the road where he was filming, he helped douse her in water and eased her suffering.

A few weeks ago Kim Phouc and Alan met again when she talked about the incident and the pain that still makes life a daily trial.

With him was reporter Michael Nicholson, with whom he worked during the war, and sound recordist Don Warren, a newcomer to Vietnam. Together they covered 1,400 miles between Hanoi and Saigon, reporting on life in Vietnam 10 years after the fall of Saigon, for "Return to Vietnam" screened in late April.



June 1972 - Kim runs screaming after the napalm attack

## Memorable

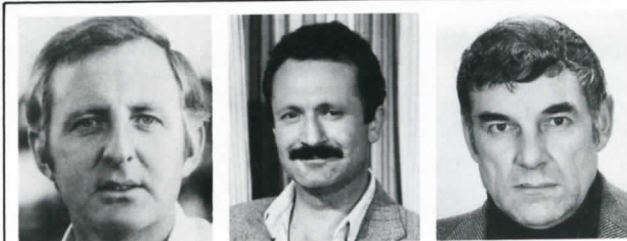
The whole journey was a moving return for the two newsmen who were returning to Vietnam for the first time since the war - but the hotel meeting with the 18-year-old student was the most memorable part.

"Although she is learning English, it is a bit limited. I found it very moving to speak to her in English. She has got a radiant smile," said Alan. "But she doesn't really remember being filmed, and she has only every seen the stills pictures.

Her injuries still give her trouble, the climatic changes causes the pain, as it can with eczma sufferers.

## Overwhelming

"I found the experience of meeting her again was quite overwhelming. I walked up to her not realising she was going to speak English, thinking I would have to talk through her interpreter and she said 'I am very glad to meet you'. It was really



NICHOLSON DOWNES WARREN

Vietnam may have changed, but for Kim, the painful horrors will always be there . . .

knockout because she is just a little older than my daughter.

"She isn't married although I can see no reason why she shouldn't be. We met first in the hotel and later went to a park that is normally quite calm, but our equipment attracted people like a honeypot.

"It was a tremendous trip, and I would have been heartbroken if anyone else had gone. I regretted not being there at the end; I was doing the Queen's trip to Japan, and before I could get back Saigon fell."

The team's hectic schedule was very tiring, but Alan found

the most harrowing part was the visit to the notorious Killing Fields in Kampuchea.

"It was a bit like Belsen must have been. The enduring memory of Kampuchea was the fact that women outnumber the men vastly because of the work of Pol Pot."

## Fascinating

Don Warren found his first trip to Vietnam fascinating. "Saigon comes across as a sad place because you imagine it as it must have been before the fall," he said. "A lot of the South Viet-

namese told us that they didn't like it today, and they spoke only when they felt it was safe to be open."

Michael Nicholson, admits to being very moved by his return to some of the locations in Vietnam that he came to know so well.

"We visited old, familiar filming grounds and took paper handkerchiefs with us," says Nicholson. "The assignment was a tremendous experience for us and proved to a very memorable journey."

But like Downes, he found Saigon a completely different

d to Vietnam ten years after the end of the war . . .



place. Gone are the girlie bars that prospered before the Vietcong arrived, and the teeming shoals of Honda bikes that were once a feature of the city that is now renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

The ITN footage showed Saigon children dressed colourfully, buildings looking bright and well decorated, and Christians practising openly at their Cathedral.

## Sunseekers

At taxi ranks, stand lines of garish, finned American cars from the 1960s, left by their departing American owners and now serving as prestige cabs.

And when an eye towards Eastern bloc tourism, the once notorious Da Nang beaches — where GIs waded ashore — are being primed for an invasion by sunseekers.

- “Return To Vietnam”, the 40-minute special programme to mark the 10th anniversary of the end of the war, was shown on the ITV network on 25th April, when it was watched by more than four million viewers.

# IT'S GOODBYE TO THE NEWSROOM TYPEWRITER!

**The world's largest and most sophisticated broadcast system came on stream last month when ITN completed its transition to fully-computerised newsrooms.**

Installation of the Basy's news system has streamlined the entire production process, while providing the four ITN daily programmes with an instant worldwide news monitoring service. It has also made the newsroom typewriter virtually obsolete.

In the competitive world of news, speed is all-important. The high-speed technology of the Basy's system enables journalists to work faster and more efficiently. Past stories and bulletins can be retrieved and viewed instantly, scripts can be edited on the terminal, and agency copy is distributed to everyone simultaneously. Collectively, this saves valuable time previously taken by assignments and newsroom management.

The system also provides a comprehensive contacts library, storing details of up to 25,000

names, addresses and telephone numbers. The installation embraces a total of 179 terminals to serve the four news programmes.

But technology, like news, does not stand still. With the newsroom system fully installed and running, ITN are looking at a portable version for use by reporters in the field. It can be used either as a straightforward typewriter, or can be transformed into a fully-operational computer terminal by plugging into a telephone circuit. This will enable an ITN reporter to use the facilities offered by the news-

room computers from anywhere in the world . . . providing he has access to a telephone.

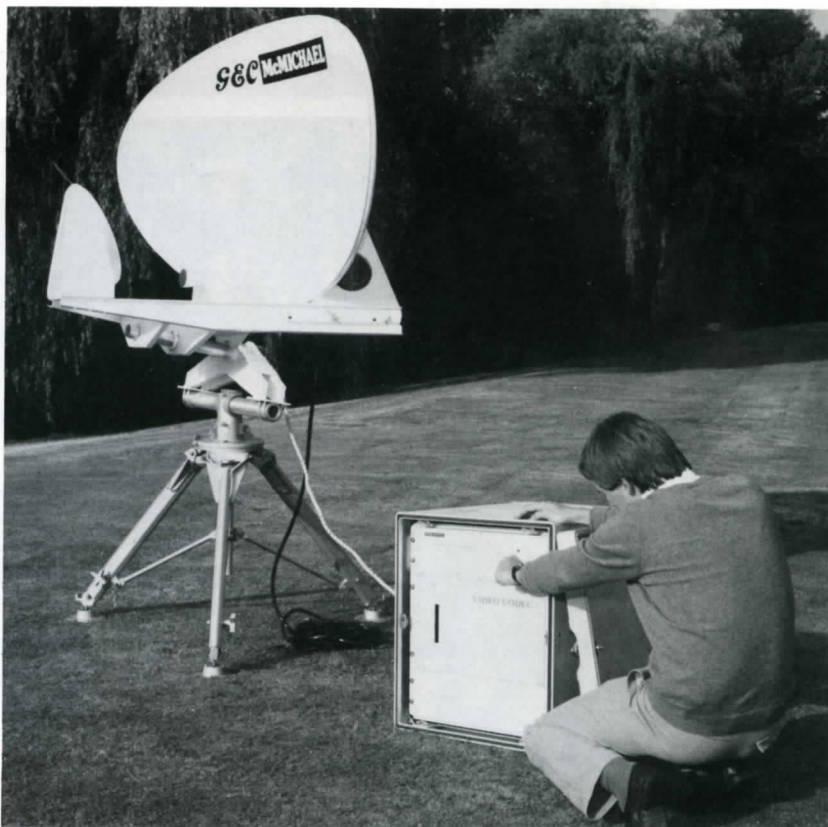
## SUMMER SOUNDS

Capital Radio's five-week Music Festival starts on June 15th with over 1,000 concerts catering for all tastes.

High spot is the Jazz Parade at the Festival Hall with Fats Domino, Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie, the MJQ and Miles Davis all appearing during the week commencing July 15th.

Full details from Capital Radio, Euston Tower NW1.

# GO-AHEAD FOR NEW PORTABLE EARTH SATELLITE STATION



**It seems ITN just can't keep out of space these days. First they buy a berth on the space shuttle and give it away to school children. Now they're buying themselves into the space race — by investing in a state of the art transmitter for sending news via satellite.**

So the summer of '85 sees another landmark in T.V. news history when ITN news crews will start beaming news back to base with the first truly portable ground station.

Of course, using a satellite for this kind of work is nothing new. What's significant about ITN's transmitter is the size. The 2.4 by 1 metre elliptical dish was developed by GEC McMichael to specifications laid down by ITN engineers. The brief was to build an 'up-link', or ground station, that could be packed away and carried like any other news crew equipment. What GEC McMichael have come up with represents the smallest transmitter that satellite technology, for the moment at least, will permit.

## Footprint

The ITN ground station will be able technically to operate anywhere within the 'footprint' of the European Communications Satellite; an area stretching from North Africa to as far north as Helsinki. That's if the communications monopoly of the host country permits, of course. But within the United Kingdom itself we are hoping there will be no restrictions on its use.

It is anticipated that the transmitter will be used at least once a fortnight, particularly in three

kinds of location. Firstly, the inaccessible places — anything from a trades union conference in the Channel Isles to a prestigious opening of a North Sea oil rig. Then there's the occasions when all the alternative terrestrial land routes are blocked by over use . . . at a party conference, for instance. Next September it'll be quicker, and easier, to send reports from Blackpool on a forty four and a half thousand mile detour, via the ECS.

Finally, the transmitter will come into its own in locations where a land-link is available, but the route is highly compli-

cated . . . in the case of a by-election in a remote area, for instance.

On an international level, the ground station will be a valuable asset in the coverage of major sporting events.

## Technology

So where does all this put ITN in relation with the competition? "The BBC were ahead in time and way behind in technology" says Mike Neusten. The BBC

have built a transportable earth station themselves, although it's considerably larger. With a three metre antenna, the equipment has to be trailer mounted, which gives the ITN transmitter a distinct advantage. It also has the distinct advantage of qualifying as "excess baggage" on most international airline routes.

While the ground station clearly puts ITN ahead in Satellite News Gathering, Mike Neusten sees it more as a step in the right direction, although at this stage he confesses "It's not quite as small yet as we'd like."



**The giant "footprint" which shows clearly the range of the new ground station. It will be able to operate anywhere within the range of the European Communications satellite, and has the advantage of being classed as "excess baggage" for travel purposes.**



The bridge and Col. Bogey have long gone, but it's still —

# MISERY ON THE RIVER KWAI — 40 YEARS ON!

DESMOND HAMILL

takes a  
look at  
one of the  
great war  
stories in  
celebration



of the 40th anniversary  
of the building of the  
legendary bridge

Indian file they walked through the forest undergrowth, along narrow paths, helping each other over the more difficult places, sharp bamboo thorns occasionally catching at their sleeves. Men now in their sixties, some in their eighties, some with wives, or friends or their children.

It was very hot in the forest, and quiet except for the rustle of dried leaves underfoot. They scrambled up from a dry river-bed onto the stone remains of a railway bridge. The cameras came out again. There was some explanation, for the newcomers, of what it had been like as Japanese Prisoners of War working on the Death Railway between Thailand and Burma.

But mostly this journey back in time merely emphasised to them the awful waste of young lives. They say one POW died for every sleeper laid on this 450 kilometre line, but here, north of Nam Tok, the embankment merges with the tropical forest, the sleepers and the rails long gone. Now, only 130 kilometres of the line that cost the lives of some 18,000 POWs, and some 100,000 local workers, is still in use.

## Horizons

We had used this part of the line to get here from Bangkok, travelling through the flat countryside with paddy fields stretching out to horizons smudged with early morning mist.

As the sun rose we moved into the hilly country around the River Kwai itself. We crossed by the steel bridge; the old wooden trestle bridge made famous by the film had long since disappeared. *'Nothing like the real thing!'* snorted one, as old soldiers always do, and there was agreement all round.

There were murmurs of satisfaction, however, when we



Not quite like the one in the film . . . Roger Dove on the bridge which now spans the River Kwai.

came to what must be the most impressive structure of all, the Wampo viaduct. The massive teak timbers still tower above the river, clinging to the edge of the gorge, and our train slowed to a crawl. Some of the veterans had helped to build it; one of them had been in charge of the party which had laid the rails over which we were now travelling. Packed in amongst the local travellers, adults, children and a saffron-robed monk, they peered excitedly out the windows.

Later that day long, narrow fan-tailed speedboats took us another forty miles up river to reach the jungle rafts where we would spend the night.

It was strange to pass so easily through a countryside where the POWs had worked and suffered and watched their comrades die.

For most of them this was the main reason for the long, long journey — to remember their comrades. One recounted how three of his friends had escaped, been re-captured and

taken that same night to the cemetery where their heads had been cut off.

Others remembered those who had died of disease, or who had just given up the will to live. In Kanchanaburi cemetery, they searched the long lines of headstones. Bending down by one, a veteran said, "He was my mate". He rubbed his fingers across the inscription. "But he had no family. I suppose I'm the only one who remembers."

Then sheltering in the deep shade of a mango tree, they gathered for a service led by a veteran who is now a lay preacher. The service was simple and the words familiar with long usage. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old . . ." Far from the fields of Flanders the red poppies were bright in the sun.

It was strange, then, for us to travel that very same day 300 miles north-east to the sound of guns on the Cambodian border. Here, the Vietnamese were attacking the last main guerrilla stronghold just inside

the border at Tatum. The Thai Army would not let us go there — it is too dangerous, they said, and indeed it was overrun the following day after its commander was killed. But we did visit two of the refugee camps this endless fighting has produced.

One of the most striking features of both camps were the number of children. They easily outnumbered the adults, and while they seemed pretty cheerful and healthy, it is a terrible way to start life.

As we left, a man walked out of a hospital tent with what looked like a fishing rod and line. On the end of the line was a little boy and a second look showed he had a drip inserted into his wrist.

He squatted down and had a pee. He was born a refugee and there seems every chance he will remain one, if he survives. The monsoon starts in two months time and these camps will turn from dry dust-bowls to wet mud-baths and all the dangers that will bring.



One on the cheek for Mitch from a well-known director . . .

# 'MITCH' BOWS OUT AFTER 30 YEARS OF ACTION

After nearly thirty years on the video engineering staff Studio Supervisor/Lighting Director Cliff Mitchell retired on April with a farewell party attended by many engineering 'old boys'.

Mitch began his electronic career, as a radio mechanic in the army and he describes himself as a "founder member" of World War II. He saw action in France at the very beginning and is a veteran of Dunkirk. Later in the war he worked with the embryonic radar systems, and when peace was restored he graduated to video equipment which was then in its infancy.

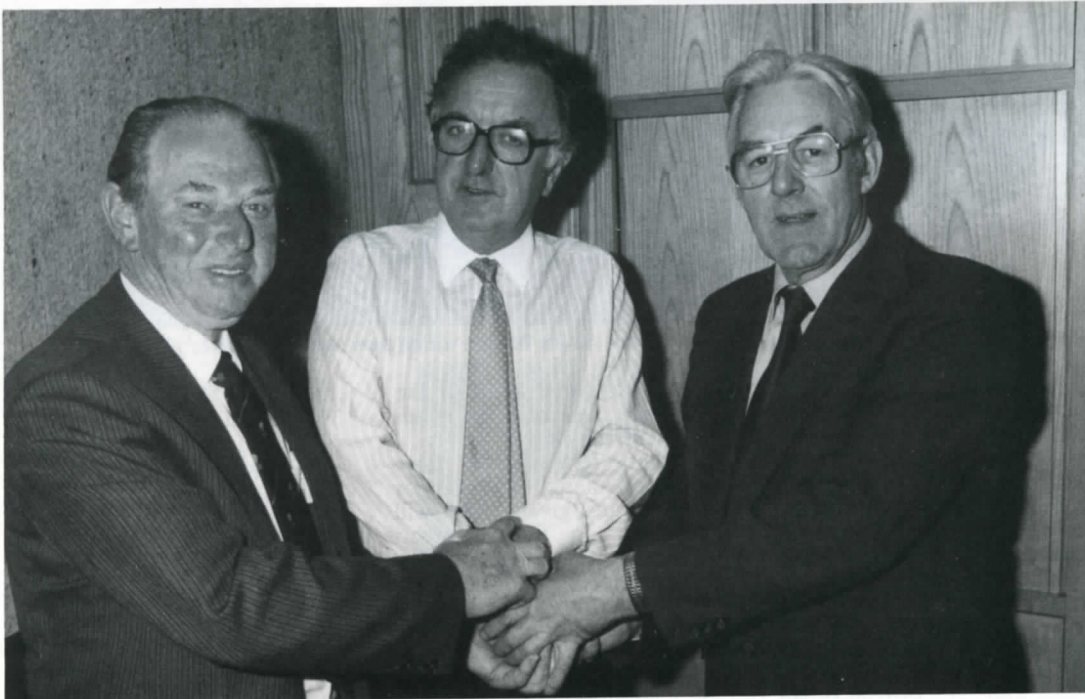
Mitch remembers "It was all valves and black and white pictures in those early days, and during my time in television it has progressed through transistors and colour to the digital equipment based on microprocessors that we have today."

Many of the changes that have directly affected ITN staff during the last thirty years are due to Mitch's efforts. Through his work in the ACTT the very structure of our staff grading system has been arrived at by negotiation with the management and Mitch has been constantly involved in this. He has filled every position in the union over the years, in the early days he even held the positions of Chief Steward, Chairman, and Treasurer simultaneously! He was also very active for several years on the General Council of ACTT.

His leisure time has always been occupied by lively pursuits like flying and dinghy sailing. When the weather doesn't allow flying, Mitch stays sharp by practising take-offs and landings on his home computer flight simulator. The program package for this was one of the gifts from his many friends.

His wife Joyce was with him at his retirement party. They met when they were both members of an amateur band in the NAAFI during the war, Mitch played sax and Joyce piano.

## *'Son et lumière' duo take final curtain*



"Should auld acquaintance . . ." Wally Moss (left) and Tony Piddington in a three-way handshake with Editor David Nicholas at their joint farewell hooley in the boardroom.

The Spring saw the retirements of two stalwarts from ITN, Wally Moss who joined in 1961 as Head of Outside Lighting crews, and sound recordist Tony Piddington who has been with the company for 20 years.

At their joint retirement party they light-heartedly reminisced about the old days and the many occasions on which they have worked together. Coincidentally, both men used to work as Stage Electricians in their previous careers with Granada Theatres.

In his time at ITN Wally Moss has been to many of the world's exotic places but his calm unflappable character has allowed him to take it all as a matter of course. Even the bombs and bullets of Belfast where he "did time" as he says, have not left any remarkable memories with him. Laconically Wally says "I just did my work wherever the job took me, I'm not one of the glamour boys."

Tony Piddington on the other hand has the reputation of hav-

ing chatted up Lady Diana Spencer during that will-she-won't-she-be-the-one period, before she became engaged to Prince Charles. One day as she was walking along a street near her home, pursued by cameras and reporters, Tony drew up alongside her in his car and offered her a lift. She declined!

We wish a happy retirement to this fading son et lumière pair, and look forward to seeing them at many ITN Golfing Society meetings in the future.

Being a third-timer in "the London" as marathon runners call it, made me feel something of a veteran. (Nowhere near the 46 runs clocked up by Jimmy Savile, but seasoned, nevertheless).

Arriving at the start was some achievement because preparation is always hazardous. Sixty per cent of marathon runners sustain some kind of related injury every year. Working for ITN was inevitably an added risk because of the difficulty of getting enough regular training time and the possibility (the reality for our "best" hope Seb Rich) of being sent overseas at the time of the run.

For those who made it, the day was near perfect. Early morning sun warmed the dewy grass at Greenwich, but thankfully never became too hot as the morning wore on. The mingled atmosphere of carnival-cum-athletic event helped dispel pre-run nerves and became a needed inspiration as bands and cheering crowds urged us through the streets.

The disabled wheelchair racers got a special cheer and spurned efforts of help. There was a new twist this time to the problem of preventing dehydration. Drinks were thoughtfully provided in sealed boxes with straws - much easier than slurping from a cup and choking in the process, and fostering the general spirit of camaraderie by enab-

**A hole-in-one by Russ Padwick in the first ITN Golf Society meeting of the year saw the new season get away to a flying start.**

Suitably, it was achieved at a meeting sponsored by newly-elected Vice-President Wally Moss, who held a meeting at his own West Herts course as a "thank you" to all members prior to his retirement.

Russ, who plays off 15, sunk his tee-shot at the ninth, to emphatically claim the "nearest-the-pin" award.

First prize for the day went to Geoff White (39) with Peter Wicking and Steve Giedzium taking second and third places.

Others to figure among the glittering prizes were Mike Batchelor (best front nine), Geoff Moyle (best back nine),

#### VIVIENNE FAIRLEY

We are sad to report the death of Peter Fairley's wife, Vivienne. She died on April 27 of cancer, which she fought bravely for two years.

Peter, former ITN Science Editor, has decided to endow a bed at King's College Hospital, where Vivienne received treatment during her long battle, as a memorial to her and her courage.

# EVERGREEN!



ing drinks to be passed on. But you could also get an unexpected shower when someone trod on a part-drunk carton which popped like seaweed.

boiled sweets (not realising that the likely consequence for the carbohydrate-stuffed runner would be to make him or her sick).

walk last year. But though I kept on running, after a much slower start this time, I gradually realised I had no chance of bettering my '83 time (3 hours 20 mins) and it was with some relief to my leaden legs that I staggered over Westminster Bridge in 3 hours 32 mins.

**MICHAEL GREEN, ITN's Industrial correspondent who admits to being 40-plus-a-bit puffs over his Marathon memoirs!**

As if engaged in some mission to help the world's undernourished, mums and children proffered slices of orange or

I felt some relief as I got past the Tower, which (undertrained and limping from a tendon strain) is where I slowed to a

My grateful thanks to all who pledged money for the NSPCC if I stayed the course. If I haven't collected yet, you know where to find me!

## HOLE-IN-ONE SETS

## PACE FOR GOLF YEAR

and Bill Frost (best score on par threes). The booby prize went to Tom Watson!

**Footnote:** Adjudicators were called in to study the Royal and Ancient rules when Gordon Hickey lodged a lighthearted complaint after putting his tee shot two inches from the pin at the ninth. His claim that Russ Padwick's ball was down the hole, and therefore four inches from the cup was unanimously rejected!

the Brennan Bowl after returning 37 points. Russ Padwick returned 35 and Wally Moss 34 to take second and third places. Geoff Moyle took the first nine with George Cutts returning the best score for the back nine.



**Bunker flash:** President's Day, held at Worthing last week, saw Geoff Moyle retain his prize-winning record for the season, winning the Cup (presented for handicaps up to 20) presented by Society President Jack Chatterton. The President's Salver for rabbits 'twixt 21 and 26, went to John Connor.

★ ★ ★  
Second meeting of the year was held at Woodcote Park, Coulsden, saw Peter Wicking lift

### Tennis date

Will Amanda Boden retain her title? Will Nigel Thomson's lobs get higher and higher? Will the Sports Desk procure the tournament sheets? And will Mary Lambe bake more of her legendary banana bread?

All these questions will be answered at this year's ITN Tennis Tournament which will be held on Friday, 21st June at the usual venue, Kensington Memorial Park.

Apart from the singles events, the organisers would like to receive sufficient entries to justify a Mixed Doubles competition. There is a promise of superb trophies for the winners and runners-up in each event, so the tip is: "Out with the racquets and concentrate on improving your ball technique!"

Normal post-play activities will be held in Mary Lambe's garden and we are asked to emphasise that non-players are very welcome.



## 'Regulars' pip Veterans to take Holland Cup

ITN veterans failed narrowly in their bid to become the first holders of the John Holland Memorial Cup, going down 4-3 to the all-conquering "regular" ITN side.

It was the silver-maned idol

Hugh Thomson, electing to play alongside his boy Nigel, who gave the regulars the lead with a deftly-timed back-header. Jim Dutton (two) and Mario Mooney added further goals for the regulars with Laurie Read, Duncan Jones

and Geoff Moyse (with a suspiciously foul "flying-wedge" effort) scoring for the oldies.

The John Holland Memorial Trophy is to be a lasting tribute to ITN's former sound recordist who died at the end of last year, and will be played for

annually by the Veterans and ITN's young men of the moment.

Picture shows both ITN teams at Battersea Park prior to the official kick-off performed by Editor David Nicholas.

**The ITN soccer team has clinched a unique double by winning both the London Friendly League Championship and the League Cup.**

And, like Everton, they came close to pulling off a memorable treble but were outclassed in the final of the Baker Cup on Sunday.

It is the first time that the team has won either the League Championship or the Cup... and it is the first occasion that any team has landed both trophies in the same season.

### Challenge

The League Cup was clinched with a goal apiece from Jim Dutton and John Thompson in a tight match against Slowgun F.C. who themselves had been challenging for the double until a few weeks ago. Coincidentally, the ITN team also clinched the League championship by beating Slowgun 3-1.

Victory in the Baker Cup would have provided ITN with a clean sweep of awards in Mike Inglis's first season as captain - but alas, it was not to be. The competition is a

**The Next Issue of Lens will appear in two months time. All copy should be forwarded to the Press Office by mid-June.**

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# DOUBLE!

16-team tournament organised by Buckingham Palace F.C. which attracts much stronger opposition than ITN encounter in their normal League and Cup programmes. They faced Tic-Tac F.C. and crashed 6-0 after being

three down in the first ten minutes.

"It was a triumph to get through to the final," said striker Jim Dutton. "We had already achieved the double at our own level but this was European Cup stuff compared to

our normal standard of opposition."

But in spite of their crushing defeat, the ITN team did not leave Kensington Gardens empty-handed - inscribed runners-up medals were presented to each player.

# TREBLE!

*There's no stopping "young" Gordon Hickey these days. Following his recent successful exploits on the soccer pitch and the golf course, he recently competed in the British Veterans Indoor Athletic Championships at Cosforth and walked off with three titles - including two National records.*

*His triple triumph gave him first place in the high jump (1.55 m), the triple jump (11.13 m) and the shot putt (13.41 m).*

*Both the shot and the triple jump were new records in the over-50s age group, and his effort in the shot also won him the cup for the best field event in the over 50s bracket.*

