



NEWS LETTER

Ser 3 Feb 94

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third News Letter. When you receive it rather depends on the acquisition of information but hopefully you are reading this in early March. The Committee hope that you all had a good Christmas and many will, no doubt, be looking toward Easter; if you are unaware, it is fairly early this year. Good Friday falls on the 1st of April.

We are using the mail shot to get up to date with new members so some will find their name tags enclosed and a re-print of the Constitution has just been received so those without one should now be satisfied. Unfortunately, using second class post does throw up the occasional problem. A letter was recently returned to me one and a half months after I sent it out whilst another from a prospective member took over a month to reach me. In both cases, the problem was due to a misreading of the envelope and with so many repostings and postmarks it was quite remarkable that they turned up at all. If you hear of any members complaining that they have not received what they expected then please give me a call so I can put things right. There have also been a few administrative problems like having to replace damaged miniature wheels and we managed to get a name completely wrong on a lapel badge. I have also sent a letter off to Holland with just a 19p stamp aboard!

For your reference, we have decided to provide an up-dated membership list with each News Letter and in addition we have, this quarter, included a new Committee list. You will also find application forms for membership and ties and, most important, an entry slip which you will be required to produce if you attend the AGM and we hope that as many of you who are able will come to this first full meeting. The date is the 18 Jun 94 so now is a good time to put it in your diaries.

FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING

We held our fourth Committee Meeting at RAF Locking in late January and discussed a spectrum of topics. These ranged from questions of our stewardship of Apprentice memorabilia at RAF Locking to discussing what we were going to do about our objective of recognising the merit of electronic students undergoing training at schools of technical training. The more important items are outlined below.

ENTRY SHIELDS

We have been concerned over missing entry shields and have conducted a search across RAF Locking to see if we could find them. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful and have had to conclude that they were probably destroyed by either a fire officer or an over zealous O IC Museum some years back. In fact, we are extremely lucky to have any shields left at all since responsibility for their care has never been formally undertaken. The only defender of such artifacts left over from the 25 odd years that Apprentices were trained at Locking is indifference. And, because of the problems of storage, such bygones have been constantly moved around with their consequent erosion over time.

So what we have left we now intend to look after. And with this aim in mind we are turning our attention to the damage being caused to the remaining shields. These are hung on the wall of the theatre at a height which allows objects to be

lent against them and there is evidence of damage on many. We are therefore instituting a plan to raise their position on the wall. The shields are from the 92nd entry onward which means all previous entry shields

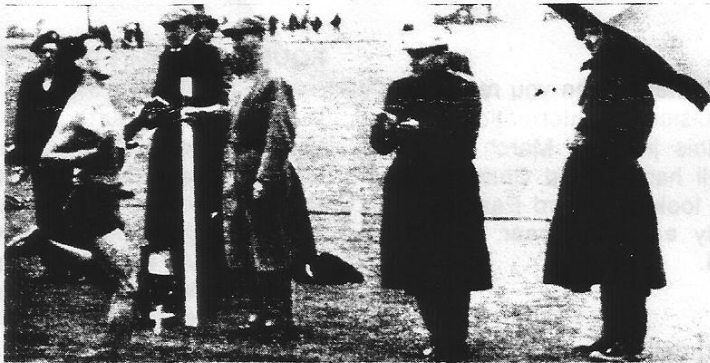


An updated membership list

are lost with the exception of that which belongs to the 72nd.

APPRENTICE VIDEO

Also discussed was the question of what we were going to do with the cine film now committed to video tape which came to light when the old tech cinema was finally cleared out. This film was shot by the Apprentice Photographic Club in probably the year before Cranwell moved to Locking and in the first year or 2 at Locking. In other words between 1950/51 to 1953. The video is of course in black and white, is unedited and very scratchy. It contains neither music nor narrative and consists of various shots of Apprentice life at that time. There are scenes of parades in Sleaford, a passing out parade at Cranwell, a sports day at Locking and finally an open day at Locking complete with air display and contemporary aircraft.



We held our fourth committee Meeting

We are endeavouring to make it into a more marketable package and hope to have it on sale at minimal cost at the AGM. Obviously the RAF Cranwell Apprentice Association have an interest in the video as well so we will be working with them to ensure a satisfactory outcome. First indications of the cost of making it marketable were so outrageous that we have decided that it will have to be improved on a DIY basis and we are raising the matter with Video Unit at Newton for advice and expertise.

NEWSLETTER

Some comments were received about the last News Letter and they were generally helpful and some were complimentary. We had hoped to publish a few of your letters but there was nothing controversial in the mail and seemingly you are a satisfied lot at the time of writing. Perhaps you would like to prove us wrong. No offers of material were forthcoming this month so sadly we have nothing as good as John Smith's article last time.

ADMINISTRATION

The Membership Secretary's report to the Committee last week was a heartening one. He told us that the membership had risen to 230 and that there were around a further 10 in the pipeline. This means that we are well on track to achieve our aimed for 250 in the first year. However, we are not complacent about the steady increase in the numbers applying to join. We are aiming to increase our advertising and looking at other ways of enlarging the size of our net

or perhaps decreasing its mesh. Meanwhile we enclose a membership application. Please pass it on to an ex-apprentice mate you have kept in touch with and please keep on spreading the word.

One of the points about membership which raised much discussion was the surprising number of enquiries received about life membership so subject to approval by the AGM, we have now decided to offer such memberships at £100. We also discussed the level of subscriptions for future years and now that we have a better idea of our outgoings the Treasurer will be putting forward his recommendations to the next meeting.

The Treasurer reported that our finances were in good order and that he would be producing a balance sheet as at the 31st January, this being the date we set for the end of our financial year. Since it will not be audited until after the publication of this New Letter, you will have to await the next one to examine it. Hopefully this

will be out before the AGM.

Currently, you will wish to know that our 2 bank accounts plus cheques and cash in hand add up to a total of £1560. Obviously money goes out of the accounts as well as coming in and we have to look forward to a large bill for a new order of ties. We will also need to purchase miniature wheels soon and it is likely that a hefty up-front payment will be required to produce the video.

AGM DETAILS

We now have a programme for the AGM which of course is on the morning of FF94. The new Station Commander, Group Captain Ian Sloss (105th Entr Halton), has given his blessing for us to hold it in 3(T), Block on the same lines as last year and we hope that all of you will try to make it a weekend to remember. A detailed annex of what you need to know is included at the end of the News letter.

Please be aware of the need to maintain the security system set up by the Station. It is not there to simply to impede your progress but to safeguard everyone attending that day. The general public are being denied access to much of the Station which means that all members attending must bring with them the pass printed at the bottom of the Annex. This will allow you access at the 3(T) Block road barrier. Please also note that you will have to pay the entry charge of £2-00 to the Flowerdown Fair payable at the Station entrance.

The Main social event of the weekend is the Dinner Dance on the Saturday evening (18 Jun 94). This will be held again at the Party and Dancesene in



... need to maintain security

Whitecross Road. The price per person is £12-50 and an application for tickets is enclosed. The Menu and the details of the evening's dancing are also included.

On the preceding evening, Friday 17 Jun 94, the bar of the Grand Atlantic Hotel is proposed as a meeting venue where members can enjoy the stylish Victorian ambience whilst greeting friends. And it is also proposed that on Sunday the 19 Jun 94 Association Members will lunch at the Sidcot Arms Hotel, Winscombe. This hostelry is situated on the A38 just West of Winscombe and is a convenient location to start off from for home which ever direction you are taking.

One final decision taken at the Meeting was that the Association would be running another Dinner Dance in the Autumn. The date for your diaries is the 29 Oct 94 and we shall be giving more details in the next News Letter.

RAF CRANWELL APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION AGM

Whilst on the subject, for those members who belong to both organisations, the RAF CAA AGM is to be held at RAF Locking on Saturday 24th September. It will commence at 9am with the normal Meet and Greet. Lunch will be taken in the Airmen's Mess and the AGM will follow immediately afterwards.

BEAUFORT OVER LOCKING PRINT

We have just learned that a limited print of a painting recently presented to the Officers' Mess at RAF Locking is to be produced which will be of interest to some members. The painting is of a Beaufort Fighter-Bomber flying over RAF Locking. These aircraft were built in the Shadow Factory in the valley just south of the water tower and were then towed to Weston Airport along the then newly constructed Locking Moor Road before being ferried off to operational units. Bordering the main subject of the painting are several well known features of No 1

Radio School. These include a MPN 11/CPN 4 and a FPS 6. The latter, you will remember, supported the North East corner of 2(T) Block for around 25 years.

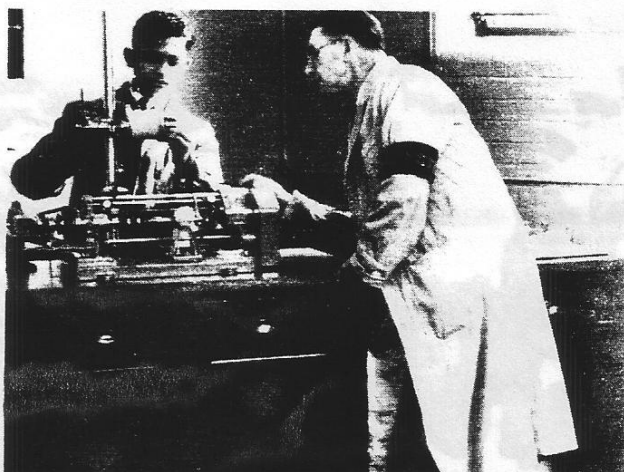
Unfortunately we are unable to include a photograph of the painting at this moment but the prints themselves will be on sale at the AGM.

RECOGNITION OF APPRENTICE TRAINING AT LOCKING

Apart from the Entry shields around the wall of the 3(T) Block Theatre, a 70 year Commemorative Plate displayed in Station Headquarters and a few photographs in the museum, RAF Locking has little evidence of its association with Apprentice training which covered more than half its current existence. The Committee agreed that we should do something about this but decided that it was not a short term decision. It was therefore agreed to discuss the matter at length at the next Meeting. We would like to know your views on this and any suggestions that you might have would receive careful consideration. We also discussed what recognition the Association could make for merit to students and staff. One of our objectives is to provide recognition in the form of prizes to graduates of electronic courses within the RAF but it was noted that many prizes are already on offer to students. On the other hand little recognition had ever been aimed at the staff and it may be that the Association's objectives could best be met in this direction which would at the same time provide an Apprentice memorial.

FLOWERDOWN FAIR 94

Some details of FF94 are now emerging. For the air display, Locking has been provisionally allocated the Red Arrows and the Falcons supported by a Tornado, Jaguar and a Nimrod. It is also intended to have an aerobatic display and the Arena activities will include the RAF Police Dog Display Team and the Western Band of the RAF. The Fair is open from 11 o'clock and goes on until 5pm.



... recognition of the staff

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We have already had a couple of instances where members have changed their address and we have been unaware of the fact when we have sent out mail. Would you please advise us of such changes as soon as you are able so that we can keep our database up to date.

CALLING ALL BANDSMEN

Were you in either the Pipe or Trumpet Band when you were an Apprentice? If so Peter Skellon, Director of Music of the Flowerdown Brass, (the RAF Locking Voluntary Band) would like to hear from you. He is planning a reunion of Apprentice Bandsmen both from Cranwell and Locking and is assessing the measure of support for such a meet. Already, he has run a successful rally at Halton and Peter believes that we can mount an even better day at Locking. If you are interested drop him a line; his address is:

Mr P Skellon
Voluntary Band
RAF Locking
Weston-super-Mare
Avon BS24 7AA
Day Tel (0934) 822131 ext 456

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

Several Members have suggested that the Apprentice wheel motif could be adapted to wall mounted plaques and possibly to ladies jewellery. It has also been suggested that gold earrings, brooches and scarf rings would be attractive presents. So what is the Committee doing about it? Well we are looking into

the costs of small scale manufacture and will let you know what is possible. Meanwhile we are enclosing a list of what is available right now through the RAF Cranwell Apprentice Association. If you wish to purchase any of these attractive items please drop the Secretary a line or phone 0934 621969:

Minature wheel - pin type	£6-50
Minature wheel - Tie pin	£7-00
Standard size Apprentice wheel	£7-50
Sparks motif	£7-50
Cuff links	£12-00

All the above are in silver and gilt plated.

Apprentice statuettes	1938 pattern	£17-00
	1922 pattern	£17-00

These items are silver plated and made to order.

Apprentice plaque with wheel & sparks	£18-00
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Hall marked silver statuettes - consists of 2 apprentices, one in 1922 pattern uniform the other in the 1938 rig - mounted - made to order £160-00

96TH ENTRY REUNION

The 96th Entry are organising a reunion for the 8 October 1994 and are still trying to find 'the last few stragglers.' Do you know any former members of the 96th Entry (1960-63)? In particular, they are seeking:

John Bateson	Paddy Farrell	Chris Palin
Tony Bestwick	Allan Godfrey	George Pinn
Thomas Cook	John Mills	John Smith
Mick Davison	Austin (Mitch) Mitchell	



... calling all bandsmen

Would anyone with any information which might help, however insignificant, please contact Dave Calvert on 0453 731054?

END PIECE

Finally, does anyone remember the following piece of writing. It appeared in the 1957 edition of the Locking Review and Neil Castle suggested that we include it this month to bring back memories of what concerned some of us in the low tech days of the 50s.

Here it is exactly as it appeared.

THE TRIAL OF GRID TRIODE

At the Pre. Amplifier today, the trial of Grid Triode opened. He was accused of the murder of Flip.

Grid Triode, aged microsecs was said to have been convicted before because of unstableness, for which he was sentenced to be grounded, but this was quashed due to a dry joint in the circuit. Since then he has become a well known multivib player.

Eddy Current prosecuting, said that Flip was well loved and his death was deeply laminated in the iron core. Continuing, Eddy Current called upon an armature to explain the cause of death. He said it was due to a heavy negative current pulse.

The armature left the witness box and was replaced by a private detector. The detector said he was hired by Grid Triode's wife, a real humdinger, because she suspected low fidelity. Continuing, the detector said that on the 8th pip he followed Grid Triode in the circuit for 2 periods. He seemed worried and was

scared of using the blocking escalators. He left the circuit shortly after the 10th pip and went to watch CRTV.

There was a play presented by the makers of the Harpic Generator, about 'Trans.' It was so fantastic that Grid Triode grabbed the Electron gun, pulled the Schmitt Trigger, and cut off Flip. The detector then arrested Grid Triode with the help of Overswing Diode, a boxer. His resistance was low and when charged he broke down and began to ring.

The detector then stepped down and the prosecution rested its case.

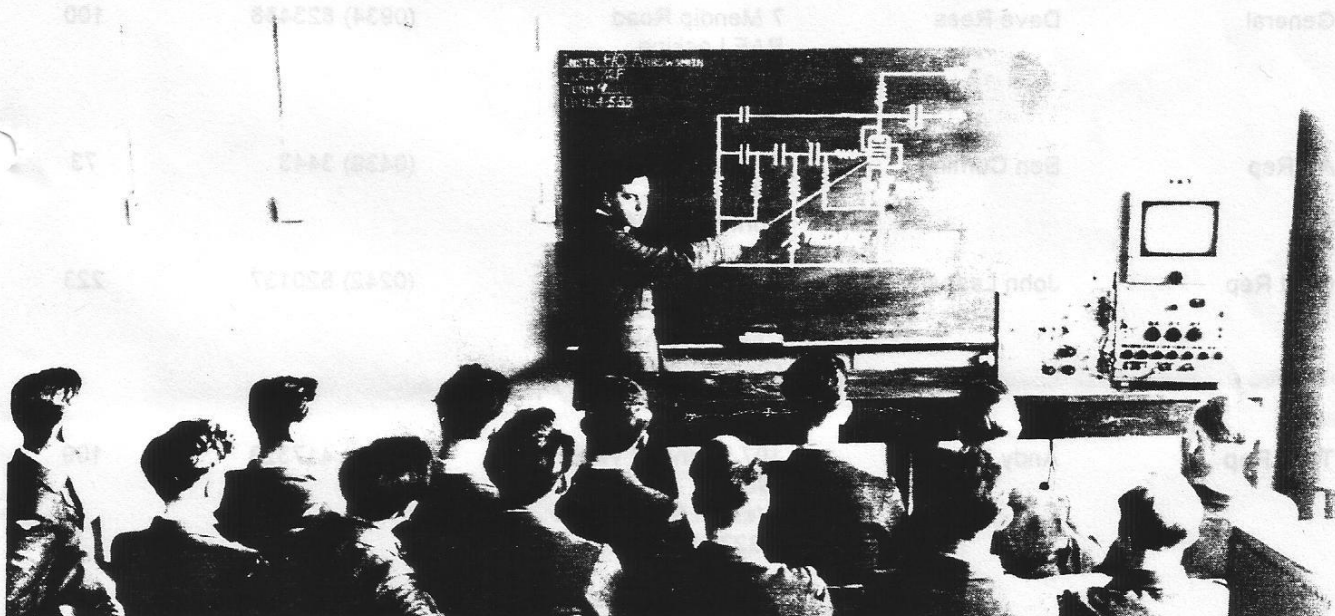
Sir Hartley Colpitt. O.Sc., defending, said that Grid Triode admitted this, but had a sore tooth due to Niller run-down disease. The play on CRTV caused the unstableness to re-occur. The defence then placed Grid Triode at the mercy of the jury.

The judge, Mr. Justice, in summing up, said it was a crystal clear case of cumulative action.

The 12 electrode jury then retired into class C for 10 microsecs. to consider their verdict. When they returned the foreman said they had reached a verdict of guilty but unstable.

The Judge then sentenced Grid Triode to 99 microsecs hard conduction.

986 A.A. TUCKER D. K. (80)



The low tech days of the 50's

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel	Entry
Chairman	Joe Holroyd	Well Cottage 36 High Street Guilden Morden Royston SG8 0JR	(0763) 853742	85
Secretary	Charles Hart	9 South Road Weston super Mare BS23 2HA	(0934) 621969	71
Treasurer	George Ring	9 Milburn Road Weston super Mare BS23 3BF	(0934) 633757	95
Membership Secretary	Neil Castle	30 Sandford Road Winscombe Avon BS25 1JA	(0934) 844140	76
RAF Locking Liaison	John Hall	494 Locking Road Weston-super-Mare BS24 8QY	(0934) 517649	212
Service Rep	Doug Cornford	12 Church View Bottesford Nottinghamshire NG13 0AE	(0734) 427911	97
General	Doug Reid	7 Cadbury Close Burnham-on-Sea Somerset TA8 2UL	(0278) 795240	86
General	Dave Rees	7 Mendip Road RAF Locking Weston-super-Mare BS24 7AE	(0934) 823488	100
AA Rep	Ben Cuming	Redcar House Gilling East York YO6 4JA	(0439) 3443	73
Craft Rep	John Leaper	7 Waterside Close Andoversford Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 4LG	(0242) 820137	223
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston Super Mare BS22 9BZ	(0934) 417323	109

MEMBERSHIP LIST - 14th FEBRUARY 1994

66	J.H.	Jack	Rennison
67	Allan	Allan	Kime
68	V.J.	Vic	Ludlow
68	M.J.	Michael	Street
69	G.F.J	George	Caple
69	B.	Brian	Montgomery MBE
69	R.J.	Rocky	Thompson
70	I.	Ian	Ashcroft
70	D.	Derek	Hitchins
71	D.E.	David	Ham
71	C.M.	Chas	Hart
71	D.G.	David	Restall
72	C.J.	Colin	Brown
72	G.R.	Bob	Gooch
72	J.M.	John M	Smith
73	B.W.	Ben	Cuming
73	R.M.	Rod	Kent
73	C.L.	C.L.	Lewis
73	J.	John	Martin
73	K.	Kevin	Oultram
73	D.	Dave	Painter
73	J.	John	Wright
74	G.	Grant	Stewart
74	J.	John	Towhill
75	A.	Alan	Beedham
75	B.	Brian	Carpenter
75	M.D.	Mike	Gentry
75	P.	Peter	Platt
75	L.W.W.	Len	Scofield
75	D.	Derek	Smith
75	D.	David	Young
76	B.	Barry	Bonser
76	D.N.	Neil	Castle
76	M.	Mike	Collier
76	P.	Pete	Cornforth
76	E.	Eric	Ellis
76	R.C.	Rex	Farrington
76	B.	Bill	Forbes
76	R.	Ron	Grant
76	K.M.	Ken	Harris
76	C.J.	Chris	Hibbett
76	M.J.	Mike	Home
76	A.	Tony	Horry
76	Norman	Jess	Jessup
76	B.	Brian	Johnson
76	P.H.	Peter	Kay
76	T.	Terry	Kendall
76	J.R.	John	Morley
78	L.	Les	Hardy
78	D.G.	Donald	Innes
78	C.V.	Bob	Jamieson
79	B.	Brian	Aldridge
79	A.E.	Bert	Davies
79	B.S.	Bruce	Graham
79	R.	Ray	Hill
79	L.	Les	Longstaff
79	E.B.	Bud	Nalton
79	D.G.	Dave	White
79	P.R.	Pete	Woods

80	R.	Robert	Hewitt
81	M.J.	Mike	Cheetham
82	D.	Dennis	Dorey
82	P.M.	Paul	Rosbottom
83	D.W.G.	Dutch	Hollands
83	M.	Mike	Horlock
84	C.	Chris	Armes
84	A.J.	Tony	Beard
84	R.	Dick	Cheeseman
84	T.	Tony	Mooney
85	M.G.	Michael	Barker
85	J.P.	John	Brooke
85	C.	Colin	Burns
85	R.J.	Bob	Fairchild
85	M.J.	Mick	Fell
85	T.	Tom	Girvan
85	R.	Roger	Harding
85	J.	Joe	Holroyd
85	G.A.	Godfrey	Littlejohns
85	A.	Alan	McLachlan
85	R.C.		Nanson
85	R.	Roy	O'Connell
85	J.M.	John	O'Keefe
85	B.	Barry	Price
85	F.	Frank	Sansom
85	A.G.E.	Taff	Scrivens
85	A.	Alex	Smith
85	J.	Joe	Tonepohl
85	M.J.	Mike	Wittamore
86	D.B.	Dave	Fisher
86	D.	Derek	Powell
86	D.	Doug	Reid
87	J.	John	Burkey
87	B.M.	Brian	Garratt
87	H.	Tiny	Kohle
87	J.M.	Mike	Rush
87	J.D.	Chas	Trussler
88	I.M.	Chis	Chisholm
88	J.	John	Cross
88	C.W.	Colin	Ingram
88	D.	Dave	Thompson
88	M.G.	Michael	Watson
89	A.P.	Pete	Bryant
89	P.	Peter	Dibben
89	W.D.	Bill	Hamilton-Irvine
89	M.C.	Mervyn	Harris
89	R.C.	Clive	Peddle
90	C.	Colin	Bell
90	W.F.	Derick	Cotton
90	N.	Neil	Grant
90	J.P.M.	Phil	Mills
90	T.	Mitch	Mitchell
90	J.	Jack	Standen
90	R.J.	Dick	Wharmby
91	E.	Eric	Barham
91	I.	Ian	Davis
91	P.J.B.	Pete	Elliott
91	M.A.	Mike	Hill
91	R.	Roy	Tanner

91	D.A.	Dave	Trueman
91	C.	Charles	Tyler
92	D.R.	David	Buse
92	R.	Bob	Holland
92	C.	Colin	Kent
92	S.	Stan	Murray
93	P.G.	Pete	Boley
93	B.J.	Barry	Ellender
93	R.M.	Ian	Gibbon
93	W.	Chiz	Krzyzanowski
93	M.	Malcolm	MacPherson
93	R.	Ron	Stoves
94	R	Rod	Austin
94	J.J.	John	Bates
94	C.	Colin	Clayton
94	G.W.	Taff	Davies
94	P.G.	Paul	Edwards
94	G.	Graham	Holbrook
94	D.	Dave	Kirk
94	D.J.	David	Kitching
94	P.W.	Pete	Purdy
94	A.J.	Al	Thomas
95	J.	John	Cairns
95	P.	Peter	Crowe
95	J.P.	John	Fisher
95	R.	Roland	Higgins
95	G.	George	Ring
95	D.A.	Doug	Webster
96	B.	Brian	Allcock
96	S.	Stan	Branch
96	D.T.	Dave	Calvert
96	R.W.	Roger	Clark
96	D.J.	Dave	Collis
96	B.G.	Brian	Farrell
96	I	Ian	Hunter
96	S.	Syd	Hutchinson
96	R.	Ron	Kennett
96	R.J.	Rod	Marshall
96	H.S.	Harry	North
96	M.	Mike	O'Neill
96	B.	Brian	Robertson
96	T.	Trevor	Rodgers
96	K.	Keith	Rowland
96	D.	Dick	Scrivener
96	G.	Guy	Slingo
96	R.A.	Ron	Spain
96	M.E	Malcolm	Turner
97	D.	Doug	Cornford
97	G.	Gordon	Shores
97	M.	Martin	Sparshott
98	D.	Doug	Buttery
98	J.	Jim	Campbell
98	B.	Barry	Gray
98	N.R.	Nick	Palmer
98	M.R.	Mick	Rafferty
99	R.P.	Bob	Allen
99	A.	Bert	Armstrong
99	R.A.	Bob	Finlayson
99	C.	Colin	Hicks
99	T.	Terry	Mullett
99	M.A.	Mike	West
99	K.D.	Ken	Williams

100	A.	Tony	Dennett
100	T.	Tom	Gerken
100	J.	'JJ'	Jardine
100	E.	Ted	Reed
100	D.	David	Rees
100	R.	Ron	Regan
100	C.J.N.	C.J.N.	Waller
100	K.J.	Ken	Weston
101	M.A.R.		Heat
101	M.D.	Mick	Thieme
102	A.	Alan	Darbyshire
102	D.	Douglas	Every
102	G.	Gordon	Gambrell
102	P.R.	Paul	Guy
102	T.G.	Tim	Hockley
102	P.	Pierre	Miles
102	D.G.	Glyn	Price
102	M.F.	Mike	Sanders
102	B.	Bill	Walker
102	D.	Derek	Weller
103	B.	Bruce	Cain
103	D.	Dave	Chappell
103	D.	Dec	Kehoe
103	R.	'Plynt'	Lines
103	D.	David	Mayes
103	R.J.	Ron	Rees
103	R.	Bob	Scanlon
104	P.	Peter	Harry
104	V.	Vince	Kerr
104	M.J.	Mike	Strange
104	J.	John	Sutherland
104	J.	John	Toomer
105	P.	Peter	Iddenden
105	E.W.	Ted	Pounds
105	T.	Trevor	Reynaert
105	C.H.	Chris	Russell
107	P.J.C.	John	Fryatt
107	G.S.	Graham	Jones
107	G.	Graham	Paterson
108	P.	Phil	Humphrey
109	A.	Andy	Perkins
115	I.	Ian	Mowat
203	J.	J.	De Naeyer
207	Jack	Jack	Charlton
207	M.	Mick	O'Donnell
208	S.	Stewart	Blackburn
208	S.	Simon	Johnson
212	R.	Robin	Amos
212	J.	John	Hall
213	S.A.	Steve	Jones
213	P.	Pete	Steele
216	B.	Boris	Gilbert
218	R.J.	Richard	Webber
219	D.A.	Dave	Ferris
221	P.J.	Pete	Snape
223	J.	John	Leaper
226	J.S.C.	John	Rodgers
226	K.W.	Keith	Shaw
406	N.	Neil	Foster