



# NEWS LETTER

Ser 1 Aug 93

## WELCOME

Welcome to this the first News Letter of the Association. Our intention is to produce it quarterly after each Committee Meeting to let you know what we are doing on your behalf and to keep you in touch with what other members are thinking.

Enclosed with this News Letter you will find a copy of the Constitution together with a number of proforma. More information on these will be found below. For those members who did not join the Association at the AGM, you will find a letter of welcome from the Chairman plus your gilt Apprentice wheel.

But, firstly, here is a message from Joe Holroyd:

## THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"There were times (though not too many) in the past when I doubted that I would have the pleasure of writing to you through the medium of a RAF Locking Apprentices Association publication. To say that I am happy to do so is the understatement of the year!! I will not waste space and paper by wittering on. However, I must say, 'Thank you' to all of you, those who gave me support in the early days, offered advice on how to generate a response to the original call for members, sent cash as well as an sac, spread the word themselves and most importantly turned up at the inaugural meeting and the celebrations before and after it. In addition, we all owe thanks to the staff at RAF Locking for organizing the venue for our meeting - I have written to the Station Commander accordingly. Since the 19 June reunion and inaugural meeting there has been an encouraging number of enquiries concerning membership which have been passed on to Neil Castle our Membership Sec, I trust all of you are trawling for new members as well!!"

"We have now laid the foundations of our

association, your committee and I will be counting on your support to ensure it flourishes and grows, please be involved we would welcome your ideas and comment on how you feel we should operate."

"I have only one other point to make and that concerns our ladies/wives/partners. I do feel we should, whenever possible, encourage our partners and families to come to our gatherings in the future - time especially at the weekends is precious to us all. This topic is open for discussion through the Newsletter, I await your response."

## FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Inaugural General Meeting of the Association, held on the 19 June, 1993 did not quite go as planned. Joe Holroyd, having mislaid his prepared brief had to fall back on an unprepared Secretary. Nevertheless, the formation of the Association was achieved with the business of the day being got through in remarkably short time.

For those not present, the main business of the Meeting was to accept a draft Constitution, to form a Committee to implement it and to agree a joining fee to meet the expenses of the Association in pursuance of the objectives. Joe, our Chairman, in outlining the draft Constitution to the Meeting, said that it was modelled on the Cranwell Apprentice Association's Constitution which has been tried and tested over the past 8 years. There are in fact a few differences; the name has been suitably changed and the text has been put into SE or simplified English so that the Secretary can understand it. It is worth a read and will occupy only few minutes of your time. Any thoughts you might have on its content are of interest to us so don't keep it to yourself. Call the Secretary or discuss it with your Apprentice Representative. In that way, changes can be brought about at future Annual General

## Meetings.

Joe outlined the duties that needed to be performed in running the Association and introduced members of an ad hoc volunteer Committee who he recommended for approval. All had been involved in the run up to the Inaugural Meeting but an additional number were still required to be representatives for each of the apprentice groups. Altogether, the Committee voted into office by the Meeting consists of ten members under Joe's leadership. A list of this body with contact addresses and numbers is included in a later section.

On the question of finances for the Association, Joe again used the Cranwell Association annual fee as a guide. He outlined the sort of expenses that would have to be met but he also listed the benefits to members. After general discussion the Meeting voted to set the initial joining fee at £10-00 with subsequent annual subscriptions set at £8-50 or as set by future AGMs on recommendations by the Committee. As part of the initial fee it was decided that each member on joining would receive a miniature apprentice wheel, a name badge and a quarterly news letter.

Immediately after the Meeting the Membership Secretary, assisted by other Committee Members, opened the joining shop and signed up a total of 114 members. A further 90 have indicated their interest and Neil Castle is in the business of writing to them with invitations to join. We are also asking you to help by passing on the enclosed membership proforma to friends who may not have heard about the Association. All new members are very welcome and we are aiming to have a continually growing client list recruited through the membership network. Currently, we are aiming at a membership of 250 by next year's AGM.

## OUR FIRST REUNION

The Reunion that took place before and after the Meeting was coupled with an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia. So as well as a meeting of old friends, it was an opportunity to be reminded of times past. It was also a chance for the Committee to highlight the dismal state and lack of care of the few bits and pieces that record the presence of Apprentices at Locking. Many of the photographs that remain are

unidentified and have been used piecemeal by the History of Radar Museum for exhibits causing damage and in some cases complete loss. Many other articles and documents have been destroyed over the years and it now seems likely that some of the earlier Entry Shields will never be recovered.

Sadly, official apprentice memorabilia has never been maintained nor has it ever been anyone's responsibility until now. Neil Castle is taking the lead in this enterprise and, with your help, he believes that we can regain some of that which has been destroyed. He would be particularly grateful for donations of artifacts, documents and photographs or any other evidence of your life during Apprentice service at RAF Locking. Ultimately, the intention is to produce a comprehensive historical record of the Apprentice Wing at Locking from its inception to disbandment. It is also intended to provide articles in future News Letters about personalities who served over the years either as Apprentices or staff at No 1 Radio School and the Secretary would be delighted to hear from anyone with suitable material.

Those who attended the Reunion may recall that the SWO, WO Ian Norris was doing a fair trade selling first day covers. He was also inducing members to buy raffle tickets for a framed display of covers. One of the earlier purchasers of these tickets was a winner. The bad news was that he did not stay around long enough to learn of his good fortune. If anyone still has ticket No 31, please get in touch with the Secretary.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

A list of Committee Members with contact addresses are published at the end of the News Letter; do use them. They will be delighted if you contact them. Currently 6 are still serving and of these, 3 are stationed conveniently at Locking. Of the rest, Joe Holroyd expects to remain at Brampton so is centrally placed, John Leaper is currently at Brize Norton - on TCW, naturally - and Doug Cornford is at RAF Newton.

## THE ASSOCIATION'S TIE

Neil Castle has been working hard to have our Association Tie produced in reasonable time. The design was chosen from the responses he received from those of you who attended the Reunion. The largest vote was for the one illustrated here which was not actually on display. Many of you liked the initial design but questioned the need for the No 1 RS text. So this we have left off. We believe that the design matches the Association's mood of pride in service whilst avoiding the traditional military stripes favoured by many other Service organisations.

The vendor selected to supply us with ties is Mundays who have provided an attractive tender provided we buy a sufficiently large order. This means tying up a good deal of your money in holding stock but we will be able to provide ties at just £6-00 which includes postage. Our initial order for 150 ties in polyester with embroidered crest is now in and we look forward to delivery within 3 months.

A proforma is enclosed to enable you to order your tie. Doug Reid will be looking after this service so if you have any queries, give him a call.

## YOUR LAPEL BADGE

It was intended to send out members lapel badges with this News Letter. However, a quick glance at the information we had to hand indicated that in many cases we only had initials and in others only nicknames. In either event, owners may wish for something more to appear on their badges. In order to get it right, the

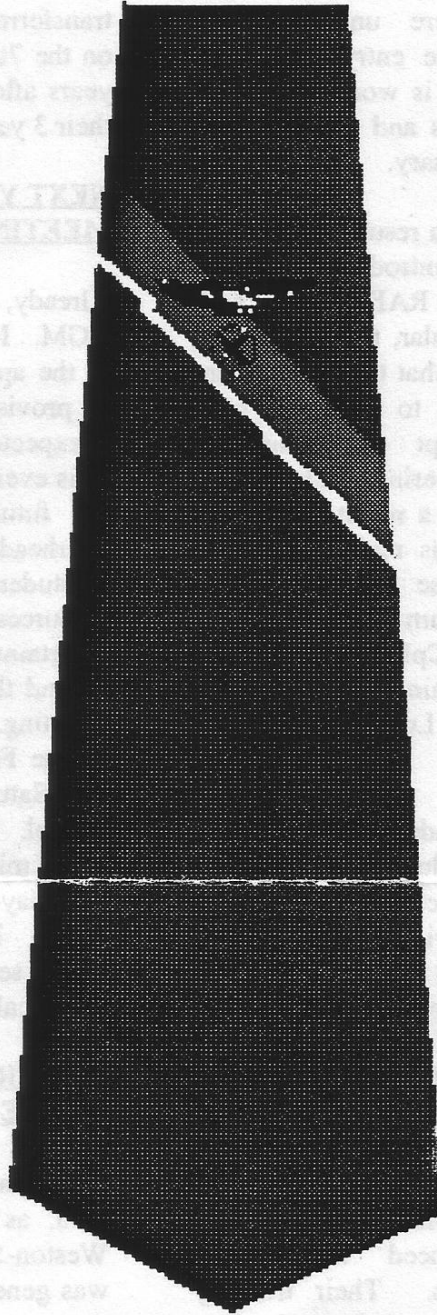
Committee decided that we should provide a proforma so that you could write in what you would like written on your tag. Please let us have this information by the 30 September 1993. If you are satisfied with the name and entry No displayed on the envelope in which you received this News Letter you need take no action.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The hundred-plus members enlisting at the Reunion have already been joined by others and the list grows each week. However, our aim is steady growth and various ways have been discussed of how we might achieve this aim. Our experience so far with advertising suggests that it is not cost effective and the numbers we already have are almost all due to someone, knowing someone. The network is therefore the way ahead and we are banking on you all to get in touch with old friends to spread the word about the Association. An application form is enclosed and it is suggested that you pass it on to a friend together with this News Letter. Alternatively, get them to telephone the Secretary. As a back up, we

shall be making an entry on Channel 4 Teletext and other media outlets are being looked into but you, the members, will be the main source of increasing our numbers.

It was heartening to note that at the Inaugural Meeting there were few entries not represented by at least one member. Generally, the exceptions were those entries already having their own strong associations and, to these organisations, we send fraternal greetings.



## APPRENTICE ENTRY CHANGES

Many of the more mature members who attended the Reunion were unaware that different types of apprentice entry had been introduced over time and it is worth a line or two to outline these changes and explain why the modifications were necessary.

The first change occurred as a result of the 1964 Trade Structure which was introduced to meet the growing complexity of RAF aircraft and electronic systems. In particular, the impending arrival of the TSR2 showed that the reliance on maintenance by repair had to end. It was superseded by the concept of repair by replacement and all engineering trades were affected by this policy. As a result the single skill Aircraft Apprentice was replaced by the Technician Apprentice whose 3 year training covered the whole spectrum of the trade. Graduating in the rank of Cpl, he passed out with an ONC which gave him a considerable advantage over former Locking Aircraft Apprentices.

Also as part of the 1964 Trade Structure, Craft Apprenticeships were introduced to meet the Service's need for skilled craftsmen. These were introduced in the previous single skilled trades with a reduced course length of 2 years. Whilst the Technician Apprentices carried on with the Aircraft Apprentice entry numbers, the new craft Apprentices started a new series from 201. Finally, and again driven more by the needs of the aircraft engineering trades than by those of the communications and electronics trade group, a few entries of Mechanic Apprentices were introduced with entry numbers in the 400 series. Their training commenced in 1970 but lasted for only five entries.

For the record, the final Aircraft Apprentice entry was the 106; they passed out in 1966 as did the first two craft Apprentice entries. The first Technician Apprentice entry was the 107 passing out in 1967. Mechanic Apprentice entries, the first of which was the 402, completed a one year course. The final one, the 406, passed out in 1972. The final Locking Craft Apprentice entry was the 231st and the final Technician Apprentice entry was the 122nd passing out respectively in 1974 and

1976. There is still a final Technician Apprentice entry to pass out from Cosford, the Unit to which avionic apprentice training was transferred from Locking in 1965. They leave on the 7th of October this year just short of 73 years after the first batch of Apprentices began their 3 year training at Cranwell.

## NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Already, we are making plans for the next AGM. It will be held at RAF Locking subject to the approval of the Station Commander and its provisional date is the 18 June 1994 when it is expected that the Unit will hold an open day. This event is unlikely to be a Flowerdown Fair, the future of which is in the balance as overheads become prohibitive and low numbers of students impose too great a load on Station resources. We intend to make it a weekend entertainment with planned functions centred around the Reunion and AGM on the Saturday Morning. Suggested events are a dinner dance on the Friday evening and possibly a show on the Saturday evening in either Weston or Bristol. It has also been suggested that the ladies might appreciate a trip to say Wells on the Saturday morning whilst we are holding the AGM. If you have ideas on what you would like to see in the programme, why not give your Rep a call?

## THE PROPOSED OCTOBER DINNER DANCE

Also planned is the next Dinner Dance to be held, as before, at Party and Dancescene in Weston-Super-Mare. This initial low cost event was generally enjoyed by all who attended and many members have asked that we run a similar one in the Autumn. This has now been arranged; it is to take place on Saturday 23 October 1993. Enclosed are details with the cost. If you would like to attend, please send your application with cheque attached to the address indicated.

## FUTURE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

We would very much like to hear your views on what you would like to see put on over the year. Obviously, a function's viability depends on the numbers attending; moreover, attendance is governed by cost and as we all know, times are hard! However, weekends at Weston provide a pleasant break at affordable terms and, if there are sufficient numbers, discounts and special offers are available at some of the better hotels. If you want to see more events and have ideas please contact your Rep.

## WANTED

The Committee seeks an Honorary Auditor to give their final annual balance sheet the necessary seal of approval. If there are any suitably qualified members who would like to provide this service to the Association, would they please get in touch with the Secretary.

## THE 70th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

A few members have asked about the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Plate which was conceived by Sqn Ldr David Taylor RAF(Retd) ex 56th entry Cranwell. The Plate commemorates 70 years of Apprentice training which was celebrated on the 18th of July 1992 at an Open Air Thanksgiving Service on the Embankment Gardens outside the Ministry of Defence Main Building. Over 500 ex-Apprentices attended the event and marched past the Statue of Lord Trenchard, MRAF Sir Keith Williamson (50th entry Cranwell) took the salute and also present was Air Mshl Sir Eric Dunn (48th Entry Cranwell) who is the Life president of the Cranwell Apprentice Association. Sales of the plate met the expenses of the Thanksgiving Service and the rest of the profit will go toward a permanent Apprentice Stand at the RAF Museum. Any residue will benefit the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

The Plate itself is of fine china and bears the crests of the No 1 School of Technical Training and No 1 Radio School separated by a figure of an apprentice in 1930s uniform. At the top and bottom is respectively the RAF cap badge and the apprentice wheel. The plate is signed on the

reverse side by Air Chf Mshl Sir Michael Armitage, Patron of the Halton Apprentice Association and Air Mshl Sir Eric Dunn. Each plate is serial numbered and 1000 were produced. David Taylor still has a few left so if there are any members desirous of purchasing one of these attractive souvenirs - they retail at £25 - please ring the Secretary.

## FEEDBACK

As already outlined, the Association, being an embryo organisation, is dedicated to serving its members. It came into being because that is what you wanted. Having now been formed it must develop and move on from mere existence to being a corporate amenity of use to its members. Let us know how it can better serve you and go on to further its objectives. Anything you want to put forward will be considered and discussed and we will report back via the News Letter for the views of others.

## THE FUTURE

Further News Letters will be published at roughly quarterly intervals. It is therefore hoped to have the next one out in November 1993. By then the Committee will have met and decided on a programme for next year. We will hopefully be able to deliver your tie and there will be news of other developments plus an update of how the membership is developing.

RAF LOCKING APPRENTICES  
ASSOCIATION

List of members as of 11th November 1993

SORT ORDER BY SURNAME			SORT ORDER BY ENTRY		
First Name	Surname	Entry	Entry	First Name	Surname
Brian	Aldridge	79	??	Michael	Street
Brian	Allcock	96	66	Jack	Rennison
Bob	Allen	99	68	Vic	Ludlow
Bert	Armstrong	99	69	George	Caple
Ian	Ashcroft	70	69	Rocky	Thompson
Rod	Austin	94	70	Ian	Ashcroft
Eric	Barham	91	70	Derek	Hitchins
Michael	Barker	85	71	David	Harn
John	Bates	94	71	Chas	Hart
Tony	Beard	84	71	David	Bestall
Colin	Bell	90	72	Colin	Brown
David	Bestall	71	72	Terry	Mullett
Barry	Bonser	76	72	John M	Smith
Stan	Branch	96	73	Ben	Cuming
John	Brooke	85	73	Chris	Lewis
Colin	Brown	72	73	John	Martin
Pete	Bryant	89	73	Kevin	Oultram
John	Burkley	87	73	Dave	Painter
Colin	Burns	85	73	John	Wright
David	Buse	92	74	John	Towhill
Doug	Buttery	98	74	Grant	Stewart
Bruce	Cain	103	75	Brian	Carpenter
John	Cairns	95	75	Peter	Platt
Dave	Calvert	96	75	Len	Scotfield
Jim	Campbell	98	75	Derek	Smith
George	Caple	69	75	David	Young
Brian	Carpenter	75	76	Barry	Bonser
Neil	Castle	76	76	Neil	Castle
Dave	Chappell	103	76	Mike	Collier
Dick	Cheeseman	84	76	Pete	Cornforth
Mike	Cheetham	81	76	Rex	Farrington
Chis	Chisholm	88	76	Bill	Forbes
Roger	Clark	96	76	Ron	Grant
Colin	Clayton	94	76	Mike	Home
Mike	Collier	76	76	Tony	Horry
Doug	Cornford	97	76	Brian	Johnson
Pete	Cornforth	76	76	Peter	Kay
Derick	Cotton	90	76	Terry	Kendall
John	Cross	88	76	Eric	Ellis
Peter	Crowe	95	76	Ken	Harris
Ben	Cuming	73	76	Jess	Jessup
Alan	Darbyshire	102	78	Les	Hardy
Bert	Davies	79	78	Donald	Innes
Taff	Davies	94	78	Bob	Jamieson
Ian	Davis	91	79	Brian	Aldridge
John.	De Naeyer	203	79	Bert	Davies
Tony	Dennett	100	79	Bruce	Graham
Peter	Dibben	89	79	Les	Longstaff
Dennis	Dorey	82	79	Dave	White
Paul	Edwards	94	79	Pete	Woods

Barry	Ellender	93
Pete	Elliott	91
Eric	Ellis	76
Douglas	Every	102
Bob	Fairchild	85
Brian	Farrell	96
Rex	Farrington	76
Mick	Fell	85
Dave	Fisher	86
John	Fisher	95
Bill	Forbes	76
Neil	Foster	406
John	Fryatt	107
Gordon	Gambrell	102
Brian	Garratt	87
Tom	Gerken	100
Ian	Gibbon	93
Boris	Gilbert	216
Tom	Girvan	85
Bruce	Graham	79
Neil	Grant	90
Ron	Grant	76
Barry	Gray	98
Paul	Guy	102
Bill	Hamiton-Irvine	89
Roger	Harding	85
Les	Hardy	78
David	Harn	71
Mervyn	Harris	89
Ken	Harris	76
Peter	Harry	104
Chas	Hart	71
Robert	Hewitt	80
Colin	Hicks	99
Mike	Hill	91
Derek	Hitchins	70
Tim	Hockley	102
Graham	Holbrook	94
Bob	Holland	92
Joe	Holroyd	85
Mike	Home	76
Mike	Horlock	83
Tony	Horry	76
Syd	Hutchinson	96
Peter	Iddenden	105
Colin	Ingram	88
Donald	Innes	78
Bob	Jamieson	78
'JJ'	Jardine	100
Jess	Jessup	76
Brian	Johnson	76
Simon	Johnson	208
Graham	Jones	107
Steve	Jones	213
Peter	Kay	76
Dec	Kehoe	103
Terry	Kendall	76

80	Robert	Hewitt
81	Mike	Cheetham
82	Dennis	Dorey
82	Paul	Rosbottom
83	Mike	Horlock
84	Tony	Beard
84	Dick	Cheeseman
84	Tony	Mooney
85	Michael	Barker
85	John	Brooke
85	Colin	Burns
85	Bob	Fairchild
85	Mick	Fell
85	Tom	Girvan
85	Roger	Harding
85	Joe	Holroyd
85	Godfrey	Littlejohns
85	Alan	McLachlan
85	Reg	Nanson
85	Roy	O'Connell
85	John	O'Keefe
85	Barry	Price
85	Frank	Sansom
85	Taff	Scrivens
85	Alex	Smith
85	Joe	Tonepohl
86	Dave	Fisher
86	Derek	Powell
86	Doug	Reid
87	John	Burkley
87	Brian	Garratt
87	Tiny	Kühle
87	Mike	Rush
88	Chis	Chisholm
88	John	Cross
88	Colin	Ingram
88	Dave	Thompson
89	Pete	Bryant
89	Peter	Dibben
89	Bill	Hamiton-Irvine
89	Mervyn	Harris
89	Clive	Peddle
90	Colin	Bell
90	Neil	Grant
90	Mitch	Mitchell
90	Jack	Standen
90	Derick	Cotton
90	Dick	Wharmby
91	Ian	Davis
91	Pete	Elliott
91	Mike	Hill
91	Roy	Tanner
91	Dave	Trueman
91	Eric	Barham
92	David	Buse
92	Bob	Holland
92	Colin	Kent

Ron	Kennett	96
Colin	Kent	92
Vince	Kerr	104
Dave	Kirk	94
David	Kitching	94
Tiny	Kühle	87
John	Leaper	223
Chris.	Lewis	73
'Plynt'	Lines	103
Godfrey	Littlejohns	85
Les	Longstaff	79
Vic	Ludlow	68
Malcolm	MacPherson	93
Rod	Marshall	96
John	Martin	73
David	Mayes	103
Alan	McLachlan	85
Pierre	Miles	102
Mitch	Mitchell	90
Tony	Mooney	84
Ian	Mowat	115
Terry	Mullett	72
Stan	Murray	92
Reg	Nanson	85
Roy	O'Connell	85
John	O'Keeffe	85
Mike	O'Neill	96
Kevin	Oultram	73
Dave	Painter	73
Nick	Palmer	98
Graham	Paterson	107
Clive	Peddle	89
Andy	Perkins	109
Peter	Platt	75
Ted	Pounds	105
Derek	Powell	86
Barry	Price	85
Glyn	Price	102
Pete	Purdy	94
Ted	Reed	100
Ron	Rees	103
Ron	Regan	100
Doug	Reid	86
Jack	Rennison	66
Trevor	Reynaert	105
George	Ring	95
Brian	Robertson	96
John	Rodgers	226
Trevor	Rodgers	96
Paul	Rosbottom	82
Keith	Rowland	96
Mike	Rush	87
Chris	Russell	105
Mike	Sanders	102
Frank	Sansom	85
Bob	Scanlon	103
Len	Scofield	75

92	Stan	Murray
93	Barry	Ellender
93	Ian	Gibbon
93	Malcolm	MacPherson
93	Ron	Stoves
94	Rod	Austin
94	John	Bates
94	Colin	Clayton
94	Taff	Davies
94	Paul	Edwards
94	Graham	Holbrook
94	Dave	Kirk
94	David	Kitching
94	Pete	Purdy
94	Al	Thomas
95	John	Cairns
95	Peter	Crowe
95	John	Fisher
95	George	Ring
95	Doug	Webster
96	Brian	Allcock
96	Stan	Branch
96	Dave	Calvert
96	Roger	Clark
96	Brian	Farrell
96	Syd	Hutchinson
96	Ron	Kennett
96	Rod	Marshall
96	Mike	O'Neill
96	Trevor	Rodgers
96	Keith	Rowland
96	Dick	Scrivener
96	Guy	Slingo
96	Malcolm	Turner
96	Brian	Roberson
96	Ron	Spain
97	Doug	Cornford
97	Gordon	Shores
98	Doug	Buttery
98	Jim	Campbell
98	Barry	Gray
98	Nick	Palmer
99	Bert	Armstrong
99	Colin	Hicks
99	Mike	West
99	Bob	Allen
100	Tony	Dennett
100	Tom	Gerken
100	'JJ'	Jardine
100	Ted	Reed
100	Ron	Regan
100	Chris	Waller
100	Ken	Weston
101	Mick	Thieme
102	Alan	Darbyshire
102	Douglas	Every
102	Gordon	Gambrell



Dick	Scrivener	96
Taff	Scrivens	85
Gordon	Shores	97
Guy	Slingo	96
Alex	Smith	85
Derek	Smith	75
John M	Smith	72
Pete	Snape	221
Ron	Spain	96
Jack	Standen	90
Pete	Steele	213
Grant	Stewart	74
Ron	Stoves	93
Mike	Strange	104
Michael	Street	??
John	Sutherland	104
Roy	Tanner	91
Mick	Thieme	101
Al	Thomas	94
Dave	Thompson	88
Rocky	Thompson	69
Joe	Tonepohl	85
John	Toomer	104
John	Towhill	74
Dave	Trueman	91
Malcolm	Turner	96
Bill	Walker	102
Chris	Waller	100
Richard	Webber	218
Doug	Webster	95
Derek	Weller	102
Mike	West	99
Ken	Weston	100
Dick	Wharmby	90
Dave	White	79
Pete	Woods	79
John	Wright	73
David	Young	75

102	Paul	Guy
102	Tim	Hockley
102	Pierre	Miles
102	Glyn	Price
102	Mike	Sanders
102	Bill	Walker
102	Derek	Weller
103	Bruce	Cain
103	Dave	Chappell
103	Dec	Kehoe
103	'Plynt'	Lines
103	David	Mayes
103	Ron	Rees
103	Bob	Scanlon
104	Peter	Harry
104	Vince	Kerr
104	Mike	Strange
104	John	Sutherland
104	John	Toomer
105	Peter	Iddenden
105	Ted	Pounds
105	Trevor	Reynaert
105	Chris	Russell
107	Graham	Jones
107	Graham	Paterson
107	John	Fryatt
109	Andy	Perkins
115	Ian	Mowat
203	John	De Naeyer
208	Simon	Johnson
213	Steve	Jones
213	Pete	Steele
216	Boris	Gilbert
218	Richard	Webber
221	Pete	Snape
223	John	Leaper
226	John	Rodgers
406	Neil	Foster