



RAL Table Tennis Club...

...is looking for new members for the 1999/2000 season, especially anyone of a reasonable standard who would like to play in the local league. If you are interested in joining the club and using the good facilities on offer in the RAL Recreational Society or in taking part in the local leagues, please contact the organisers (details below) for further details or a try out for the league teams.

To play in the league you must be living in the area until the end of April 2000, and be prepared to give up at least one evening a week, perhaps two weeks out of three. However, we also want new members who just wish to play recreationally. So please get in touch.

Jonathan Duke, Secretary, R2.D01, ext. 5875 -jp.duke@rla.ac.uk Eric Thomas, Chairman, R1.161 ext. 6219 -er.thomas@rla.ac.uk

RAL Notices

RAL lectures
All lectures are held in the Pickavance Lecture Theatre at 9pm.

30 Sept
A Sale, Bletchley Park
WWII code breaking in Bletchley Park

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Christian Fellowship
"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God."

All meetings are held in Conference Room 1, Building R1 unless otherwise stated:

- August
- 12 Open meeting
- 19 Bible theme: Reflections on a Psalm (CR2, R1)
- 26 Picnic (location to be arranged dependent on the weather!)
- September
- 2 Meeting for worship and prayer
- 9 Bible theme: Reflections on a Psalm
- 16 AGM
- 23 Bible theme: Reflections on a Psalm
- 30 Our holidays (CR2, R1)



You are warmly invited to attend any of the meetings to share with us.
For further information, please contact Jonathan Wheeler, R27, ext. 5189.

Missing item
Badgige Fan HCH17, label number R38426, serial number FN13360. Last seen in 1.25, R65. If seen, please contact Sarah Corderoy, R65, ext. 5612.

DL Notices

DL public lecture
All lectures are held in the Merrison Lecture Theatre.

- 24 September 7pm
Medical uses of the SNS Liz Towns-Andrews, DL
- 1 October 6.30pm
Rocket Show Science Museum
- Contact Mary Jacks, ext. 3408 for tickets.

Articles, ideas and letters are very welcome!
Articles to the Editor or Correspondent by 15th of the month.

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LAB NEWS

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Quality assured!



Neville Sindgass receives the ISO 9001 registration certificate from Quality Manager Alan Grant (DL29/7313)

Congratulations to Engineering Division who have been accredited with ISO 9001. Since the formation of the division in October 1998 things have moved a long way on the quality scene.

This has been a tremendous achievement considering the accreditation covers five distinct groups within the division, based across both Daresbury and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. The division supports research council and technical programmes in all areas requiring advanced engineering and is committed to improving quality, cost effectiveness and customer satisfaction. Often the programmes are part of a collaboration where good project management and accredited ISO 9001 is a pre-requisite.

For more information about Project Engineering Division, visit their web site at <http://www.eng.diac.uk/Ped/index.html> For details of the Quality System visit <http://www.eng.diac.uk/Tqm/>

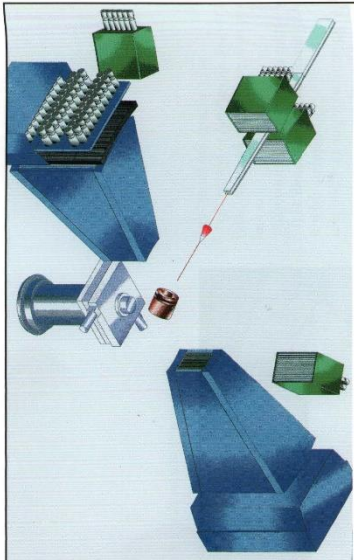


ENGIN-X - stress measurement for the 21st century

The EFRSC has recently agreed to fund a second generation strain measurement diffractometer to be built at ISIS, in collaboration with The Open University, Manchester and Salford Universities and Imperial College, London.

Neutron strain scanning was developed in the early 80s, with parallel work being carried out at Harwell, in Germany and in the USA. Pulsed neutron strain scanning is a non-destructive means of measuring stress fields deep within engineering components. It is used to further the understanding of failure in real components, and to characterise the ways that engineering materials deform at a microscopic scale.

Measurements of residual stress started on ISIS with the construction of the ENGIN instrument in the early 90s. While still a world leading instrument, modern instrument building techniques and the chance to build a dedicated diffractometer will provide tremendous improvements in performance. As well as improving the data collection rates, ENGIN-X will allow studies which have, until now, been impractical.



Similar to the much less penetrating X-ray technique, neutron strain scanning uses the crystal lattice as an 'atomic strain gauge'. In comparison to conventional strain gauges, the technique gives a direct measure of the elastic component of the strain. There are many advantages of the technique over more conventional stress measurement techniques for example:

- ▲ non-destructive, non-contacting measurement of nearly all crystalline materials,
- ▲ sub-surface, 'bulk' material properties are measured, unavailable by any other technique,
- ▲ simultaneous and separate measurement of the strain of multiple phases within a sample.

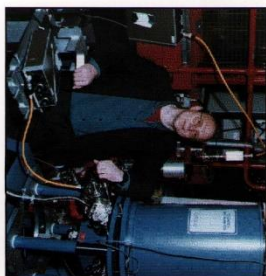
Neutron strain scanning offers improved insights into many material and engineering problems. ENGIN-X will open the door to exciting areas of research for both industry and academia.

Mark Dagnon and Mike Johnson

Cheap chips to come from careful X-ray choice

Faster and cheaper computer chips will be the result of a new way of looking at magnetic structures developed by a team from Daresbury Laboratory and CEA Grenoble.

In a paper published in *Science*, the team shows that polarised X-rays from a synchrotron light source can be used to solve simultaneously the magnetic domain and atomic structure of crystals. The technique demands that X-rays are tuned to an exact wavelength that both resonates the atoms and matches the repeat length of the magnetic microdomains. For materials containing iron, using a wavelength of 1.7 nanometres - 17 millionths of a millimetre - has revealed new information about magnetic structures of a similar size. This work will lead to a better and more accurate understanding of magnetic structures and, ultimately, a reduction in the size of those used in commercial devices, leading to improved performance and lower cost. DL's Gerrit van der Laan said, "This work represents an important advance in an area that has great commercial importance but that is notoriously difficult to understand. Though the work isn't going to lead to faster or cheaper computers tomorrow, it will have an important influence in the longer term."



Gerrit van der Laan

A new word is born



Staff at CLRC are used to seeing new techniques, fresh off the inventor's test-bench, promptly employed to crack old problems. But we are rarely concerned with the impact our gizmos, gadgets and methods have on language. It is not in our mission statement to add value to culture, least of all linguistics (date names for computer programs being a possible exception). Well, here's a chance for a double first, spanning the technological divide - a new technique for the techies and a new word for the global dictionary: 'tomoscopy'. It applies to a method of 'seeing a slice' through a solid object non-destructively recording the X-ray diffraction patterns of minerals inside the object.

The technique was developed by a team of researchers from Birkbeck

College and Cambridge University, funded by an EFRSC grant to study chemical processes several millimetres inside cement at the SKS. Initially termed X-ray diffraction tomography, it has been applied to the study of weathering processes affecting the interior of an 11th century AD Carabodian temple frieze and of post-burial effects of sea water on the handle of a 2000-year old shipwrecked amphora.

Tomography, however, is commonly understood to imply three-dimensional reconstruction of the internal volume of an object using X-ray or NMR imaging (eg body scanners). In the case of diffraction tomoscopy, what one sees is a slice through the interior (the word comes from the Greek *tomh* (slice) and the suffix *-scope* as in microscope and telescope). A more

technically precise term might be endotomoscopy, to distinguish it from external inspection of the surface of a slice. Perfectly obvious in its meaning even to Homer himself, although the great word craftsman might have some difficulty in comprehending why anyone might want to use X-rays to look into Agamemnon's gilded potty! Alternatively, the hybrid, and sufficiently esoteric for the layman, Greco-Latin term, *eso-* or *endo-* diffraction, might be used synonymously. I vote for the simpler of the three tongue twisters, tomoscopy. What do you reckon? Here's your chance to be godfathers/mothers to a brand new baby of a word. Upon my word rests my case.

Manolis Pantis

A taste of things to come

With the arrival at Daresbury of Michael Buck, the new restaurant manager from ARAMARK, there have been two theme weeks.

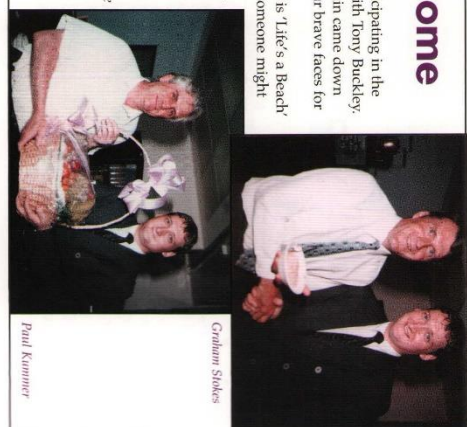
The first, 'The Pudding Club', held in June, included a raffle to win a free hot sweet every day for a year, which was won by Graham Stokes from the Mechanical Drawing Office.

The second, 'Shape up for Summer', held in July also included a raffle - this time for a basket of exotic fruit. Paul Kummer from ITD was the lucky winner. On 13 July Michael held a barbecue outside on the patio area by the Bridgewater Canal. This was very enjoyable and I was pleased to see

RAL PR staff participating in the activities, along with Tony Buckley. Sorry to say the rain came down but we kept up our brave faces for Michael!

August's theme is 'Life's a Beach' and who knows, someone might win a holiday to Bognor (not really - it's a disposable caneral).

Rita Smallman
Catering Committee



Graham Stokes

Paul Kummer

As we were going to Blewbury Fayre...

It was a lovely summer's Saturday - just right for a school fête. This year Blewbury School made their Fayre especially interesting by choosing a theme of Science, Space and the future. So off we went. There were wonderful cardboard and foil creations on their way to the model rocket competition and rather hot looking children covered in bubble-wrap heading for the fancy dress competition (I'm still not sure if they were astronauts or aliens...) And

there were all the usual fête attractions, but often with a science twist so we felt very much at home. Roger Emery attracted an enthusiastic audience of all ages with demonstrations projecting the Sun's image onto white card and explanations of how an eclipse occurs with the help of a beautiful old brass telescope, a golf ball and a football. Miff Nathwani spent several happy hours surrounded by small groups of children doing an ATRR jigsaw puzzle, and Claire Corcoran and I were kept

Mentoring

Are you interested in helping youngsters in local schools? A mentor is an adult, other than a teacher, who spends time with and talks to a young person, to motivate and encourage learning.

- Being a mentor involves**
- ▶ Meeting a young person periodically in school.
 - ▶ Taking an interest in the young person's progress at school.
 - ▶ Listening to and encouraging the youngster.

- ▶ Talking about the world of work.
- ▶ Becoming a friend to the youngster.

- As a mentor you would need**
- ▶ An initial briefing in school.
 - ▶ Time for typically one or two meetings with the youngster per half term, usually lasting between half an hour and one hour.
 - ▶ Willingness to establish a relationship with a youngster over one or two school years.
 - ▶ The support of your supervisor.

Successful 'year in industry'

Our 'Year in Industry' students from RAL exhibited their work at an exhibition in Reading on 1 July. The students were Yash Parmar and Richard Clements from Instrumentation, Dave Hammond from ISIS and Derek Marshall from Lasers. Derek is working on upgrading the Asra laser from two to three amplifiers and this has included writing an energy simulator for the laser, designing hardware for the system and research into a light absorbing coating.

Derek won two awards on the day for his work - second prize (£150) from the Engineering Employers Federation for contribution to the business and first prize (£100) from the Institute of Electrical Engineers for 'electronic engineering'.

All four students will be starting university in September and it is hoped that their experiences at RAL will help them to succeed in the future. Good luck to all of them!



Derek (left) receives the IEE award

Learning update

Project management review

A recent CLRC Notice (13/1999, July) explained that the Laboratory Management Board has set up a change programme to introduce a consistent approach to project management throughout CLRC that reflects current best practice. The benefits of good project management include helping managers to:

- ▶ direct scarce resources to what is judged the most important business to CCLRC
- ▶ keep control over a large number of projects running concurrently
- ▶ focus on the things that matter once projects are in progress

Steve Quinlan from Instrumentation Department is managing the project, and the project team includes representatives from each department. The Projects Group, a company specialising in project management, has been selected to work on the project with CLRC. Starting in August their consultant, Graham Fincham, will carry out a review of project management practice and skills by interviewing a sample of staff involved in projects and by issuing a questionnaire to all project managers. The review will lead to the production of a corporate project management handbook during the autumn which will be made available to all staff. The handbook will take into account existing systems in CLRC such as those based on ISO9001, and the requirements of major customers like ESA and CERN.

Once the handbook has been finalised a package of training opportunities will be created, tailored to each individual's likely project management responsibilities and addressing the skill gaps identified in the audit. The training will be delivered by a combination of courses and distance learning and will be accredited by the Association for Project Management. Where appropriate, staff will be encouraged to complete a professional qualification.

While the methodology and training programmes are being developed, staff are asked not to embark on any new project management training. Project management training which does not form part of this programme will not be centrally funded.

If you have any questions about this project please address them to your department's project team member:

Department	Representative
Administration	Keri Hartley
Computational Science and Engineering	Richard Blake Neil Bliss
Finance	Keri Hartley
Information Technology	Date Sutcliffe
Instrumentation	Paul Seller Tim Broome
ISIS	Chris Edwards
Central Laser Facility	Dawn Morris Norman Gee
Marketing and Business Development	Terror Edwards
Particle Physics	Paul Quinn
Space Science and Technology	
Synchrotron Radiation	

Rosie Slerry

Forthcoming courses

Month	Course
26	Making appraisal work for you (IDL)
SEPTEMBER	
7	Finance for non finance staff (RAL)
8	Learning and Development open day (RAL)
9-10	Coaching for performance improvement (RAL)
14	Customer care (RAL) and Recruitment and selection update course (RAL)
20-21	Recruitment and selection interviewing course (RAL)
22	Time management (RAL)
28 & 1 Oct	First aid at work (IDL)

New acquisitions for the RAL resource room:

- BBC video - Bullying at work
- Angel Productions - set of six videos 'Test Control' (about harassment in the workplace)
- Cover - set of five Investors in People videos - How to improve planning; How to improve development; How to improve participation; How to improve leadership; How to improve communication

All of the above are available for loan from Mary Gahnes on RAL ext. 6285 or Kim Talbot on RAL ext. 6018

LEARNING OPEN DAY

Visit our
Wednesday 8 September 1999
10am to 3.30pm
in the
Central Exhibition Area, R18
RAL

Universities, colleges and a range of training companies will be represented - so come along and see what opportunities are available for meeting your learning and development needs

◆◆◆
Competitions and demonstrations
Coffee available throughout the day
◆◆◆

For further information contact
Kim Talbot (ext. 6018) or
Mary Gahnes (ext. 6285) in the
Learning and Development Team

The Daresbury Dash

A record entry of thirty runners, for the eighth annual race, had to contend with a rare hot and sunny day, and a head wind along the canal towpath added to their discomfort.

Pete Weatherhead took off like a scared rabbit and was never caught. Behind him some interesting trussles took place. Haub Van Dam ran a strong race for a clear second.

John Lilley (61 years) and Joe Salvin (59 years) finished in eighth and tenth positions, showing a clean pair of heels to their much younger rivals. Kerstin Kiese beat a former winner of the ladies race, Bridget Murphy, by over a minute with Marian Bowler a good third.

There were also those running for fun who deserve a mention – everyone who started the race successfully completed it.

Thanks must go to all members of Daresbury Accelerators Running Club

for organising the event and also to Jane Whittington for time keeping and David Norman for starting the race and making the presentations at the finish. Aramark kindly donated the drinks.

Pete Weatherhead



(DL99/64/14)

(DL99/64/16)



Retirements

Ann Roberts

Ann Roberts started working at RAL - in the Bubble Chamber group - in 1975. She became full time in 1990 and in 1991 she took over the organisation of the particle physics summer schools. Ann will continue to organise this year's summer event. Paul Jeffery's comment, at Ann's presentation, on her excellent time management skills saying that she should come back as a consultant on the subject!

Paul presented Ann with some binoculars and a field guide to enable her to pursue her interest in bird watching, as well as some perfume and crystal-ware.



(99RC20/64)

Internal workshop on advanced data storage/management techniques

An invitation...

URC's facilities produce huge quantities of data. Keeping records, archiving results, disseminating new findings, as well as providing backup capacities is a major task behind the scenes.

New experimental, observational and computational techniques have encouraged the production of larger and larger quantities of data during recent years. Many different projects have been set up to tackle this challenge and substantial expertise has been built up in the departments. To benefit from experiences in other groups, to further inter-departmental collaborations and to learn about newest developments, we would like

to propose an internal workshop on data storage and data management.

- Initially we would like to cover:
 - ▲ High performance storage solutions.
 - ▲ Data mining for scientific data.
 - ▲ Data processing and visualisation.
 - ▲ Advanced data access and retrieval methods.
 - ▲ Data formats and data interoperability.

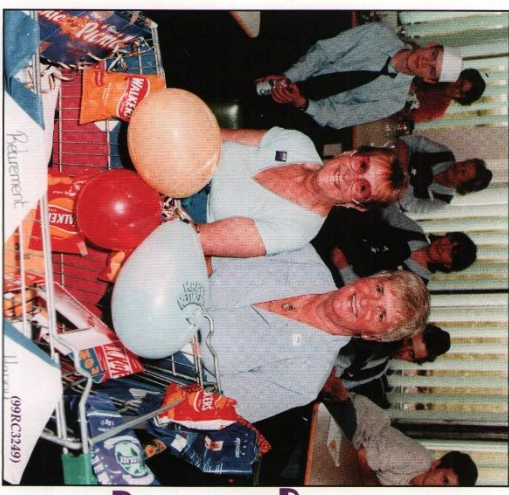
The workshop should provide a forum to present and discuss current and future projects (plans), as well as new ways to intensify the interaction between groups.

We suggest a two-day event, probably to be held at RAL, possibly on 25 & 26 October. Please let us know if you have any other suggestions, pass on your thoughts about this idea, let us know if you would like to come, and if the date for the meeting is convenient for you.

If you are interested in an initial overview of much of what's been done at CLRC please see URL: <http://rawase.drc.ac.uk/Activity/DMC>

Brian Read, ITD, RAL ext. 6492
Kerstin Kiese, CSE, DL ext. 3207

Rene and Phyllis



(99RC23/49)

Ending machine experts, Phyllis Herbert and Rene Arthur, retired recently after a collective 43 years service at RAL. Both plan to relax in their retirement.

At a joint party, held in the restaurant, Phyllis was presented with a sun lounger and patio set whilst Rene received a gazabo and a cappuccino maker. Obviously presents designed to help them fulfill their plans for a relaxing time!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my retirement present and cards. The garden canopy has already been put to good use with all the sunny weather we've been having. I've enjoyed my time in the restaurant and my tending job.

Thank you all once again. **]**
Rene

I would like to thank all my work colleagues at the restaurant and friends around site for their contribution to my lovely retirement gifts.

I will miss you all. **]**
Phyllis

RAL sailors show style and skill

On 13 June a coach left RAL for Plymouth with twenty expectant sailors, young and old, eagerly looking forward to racing against other civil service departments and agencies. RAL provided crews for three yachts, led by skippers who were all former RAL staff - Peter Burch, John Magraw and Ken Pavitt. Pete Burch took a crew of young graduate engineers in one of nine identical Dufour 35 yachts, and the old hands John and Ken took two of the older slower handicap boats. The event, the Interdepartmental Offshore Racing Championships, has been running in various forms for over 25 years, usually based at Cowes, and always well supported by RAL crews.

The week was one of light winds, blue skies and blazing hot sunshine, except when the sea was covered by thick banks of morning fog. The racing, organised by the Civil Service Sailing Association, consisted of three days of short races around buoys within Plymouth Sound, followed by a long offshore race along the coast. Several races had to wait for the fog to clear and one was held in fog thick enough to cause some problems finding the buoys to go round. Competition was keen at the higher end, especially from the Health and Safety Executive crews who had practised together before and looked slick in their matching tee shirts. On the RAL yachts newcomers to the sport were all shown the complexities of using the spinnaker, and the excitement of close quarters manoeuvring at race starts and rounding the buoys, not to mention the companionship of six living together on a small yacht in a marina!

For the final offshore race the fleet split into two. The nine Dufour 35's had a long 44 hour race back to the River Hamble, while the three handicap boats raced West along the coast to Torbay in Cornwall for their Cornish pasties and ice-creams. RAL did very well in both races. Peter Burch making an excellent effort in

Anyone interested in future sailing events should contact Mike Cornfield at RAL, ext 6642 or the CSSA Membership Secretary Ken Pavitt, 01235 764800.

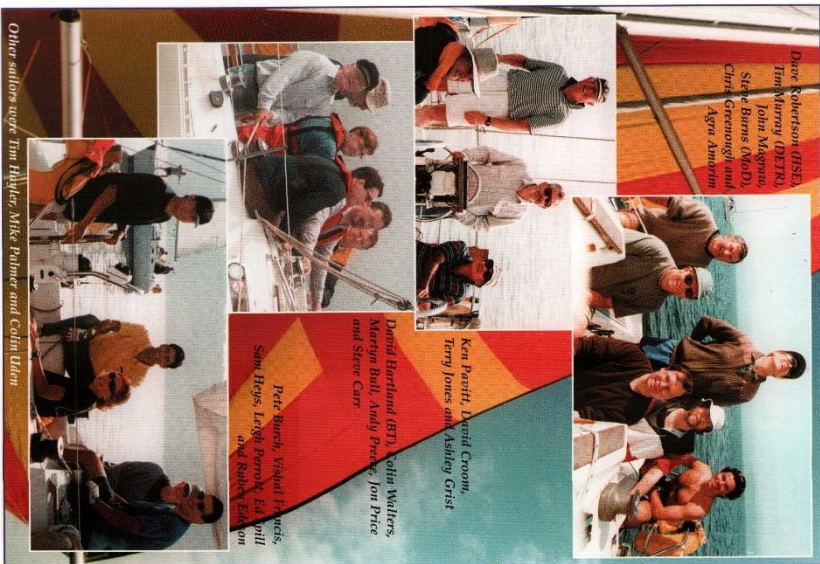
winning the main race in 'Knight Twicely', and Ken Pavitt winning the Friday race in 'Just Imagine'.

A special highlight of the week on 'Just Imagine' happened on Wednesday evening when two dolphins came and played around and under the yacht - the only CSSA yacht so favoured. A magical experience for all the crew. The crews of 'Just Imagine' and 'Amapol' also met in Whitland Bay on the Friday and anchored for a swim in the sea around the two yachts. A number of crew also

attended a shoreside barbecue on the Friday evening at the local civil service sailing club.

Overall the week was an excellent and enjoyable team building exercise for everyone with a good blend of sailing, socialising, learning and relaxing together.

The RAL boats did exceptionally well winning at least three trophies and published in a future edition of LabNews - Ed.



Other sailors sight: Tim Hylker, Mike Palmer and Colin Uden

Inter-establishment golf tournament

The 1999 tournament, hosted by Royal Observatory Edinburgh, was played at Peebles Golf Club, Borders, Scotland, on Friday 18 June.



The trip started on time, no delays loading the coach - a first! It was a long journey but spirits were high and after a couple of breaks we arrived safely at our hotels.

Thursday was slightly overcast for the practice round but after a hearty breakfast we were ready and eager to tee off at 10am on the golf. A little friendly competition was arranged and the game began. The course was the winner! Generous fairways, deep bunkers, hidden burns and lightning fast undulating greens. There were a few gluttons for punishment who went out for a second round, the rest of us took a gentle amble round the village and took in the dramatic Scottish scenery. Early to bed that night to conserve energy and strength for Friday's tournament...NOT!

Friday's turnout was excellent; RAL entered 4 teams, DL entered 3 and ROE 2 with Swindon Office making up any spare places. ROE's organisation was excellent; to the competitors the day appeared to go very smoothly - I'm sure it wasn't like that behind the scenes! One by one the groups came home, points started to total, leads changed and individuals shone. Stories good and bad were told over lunch, then it was off for the second round. Oh, why did I leave the wet gear in the changing room? You guessed it, it rained! It wasn't too bad though and it stayed warm. It was a mixed bag of golf again for the final 18 holes, scores were varied and the totals unsure until the final trio came in. (It was that close)

In true tradition, no one can win more than one major prize so the



RAL: A Dick Carter, Derek Howe, Chris Cassagne, Gordon Walker, Ken Louch and Albin Morris, pictured here with Andy Langmore who made the presentations. Photo courtesy Reg Jones

leader board that follows does not show the true achievements of the individuals. A comprehensive result sheet can be obtained from me.

Congratulations to all the winners:

The Paul Williams Team Trophy was won by RAL 'A' with 267 points. ROE 'A' came a very close second, only one point behind. I Bryson, J Dunlop, A Longmore, F Morrison, K Laidlaw, S Pitt.

Robin Walters Scratch Trophy - Derek Howe (RAL) Gross 137.

Points winners:
36 holes: Gordon Walker (RAL)
Rimmer up, I Sutton (DL)
A.M. 18: K Laidlaw (ROE)
P.M. 18: Barbara Whitfield (DL)

A very big thank you to the organisers and hosts, ROE, namely Andy Longmore, Stuart Pitt, Dorothy Skedd, starters Janet Jones and Shona McEldern, scorer Alan Whitfield and Peebles Golf Club.

Thanks also to all the Laboratory Golf Society members for making it a pleasant, sociable and competitive competition.

Neal Griffin
RAL Golf Secretary

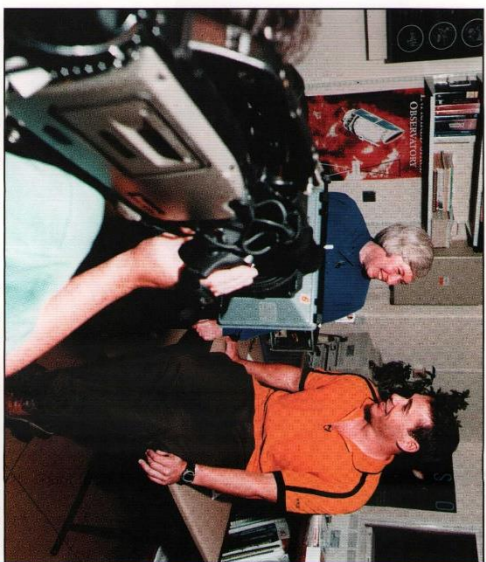
Dear Natalie
Through LabNews can I say a big thank you to everyone who sent cards and lovely messages following the loss of my mum. I really appreciated everyone's kind thoughts.

Graham Butler
R56 Storns





CLRC, and particularly SSTD, has been in the media spotlight recently - we've been in print, on radio and on TV, both nationally and locally.



Helen Walker and Mark Laughlin, presenter of the BBC Knowledge programmes, relax before the camera rolls (09RC3374)

his recent busy period started at the beginning of June when I had a phone call from Mark Laughlin at Inverclyde Films. This company is recording a series of 48 science programmes for a series called BBC Knowledge on the new BBC digital channel. Each programme was to start with a typical question the public might ask about science. An expert in a laboratory would explain the theory and this would be followed by a visit on location. This was where we came in - Mark had heard we might be able to help. I said I was positive we could and talked about some of the wonderful research carried out at our sites. After sending him lots of literature and talking through with him which topics interested him most, a visit was planned. He was taken on a whistle-stop tour and was given lots of information on potential stories. He decided to make two visits to RAL (unfortunately Daresbury was too far for a day's visit) - recording 3 stories on each visit. The result was that Roger Eccleston, Richard Harrison, Graeme Hirst, Stephen Rose, Ray Turner, Helen Walker and John Webster all found themselves in front of the TV cameras. I have been promised a copy of each of the six programmes when they have been edited.

More recently, the anniversary of the moon landings has provided an opportunity to get our staff in the public eye. Alan Penny was interviewed on Central News South

about the moon landings - responding to a report by someone who claims they were faked. He then spoke on local radio (BBC Thames Valley FM) in more general terms on the moon landing theme. Manuel Grande gave an interview for the new Oxford TV Channel 6 about his instrument which will be analysing the composition of the moon in 3 years. He also gave an interview to Tim Radford of the Guardian that featured in the science supplement. Staff from SSTD were kept very busy indeed on the topic of the solar eclipse. Sue Nelson and the BBC News 24 hour TV team interviewed Chris Davis and Dave Pike, and Martin Redfern interviewed Chris Davis, Dave Pike, Ken Phillips and Allan Ridgley for BBC radio and the World Service. The questions

Jacky Hutchinson, Press Officer



CERN, Professor Luciano Maiani, Director General of CERN,

commented, "Bulgaria's membership of CERN is another step forward in the unique European collaboration in fundamental physics research. We are delighted to welcome our Bulgarian colleagues to our community." Currently CERN's 20 member states are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

Wind energy

The July issue of LabNews carried an article about the field testing of two wind turbines by the Energy Research Unit. The work is being carried out by ERU under contract from Imperial College London as part of a project supported by the European Commission under the DGXII Non-Nuclear Energy Programme (Contract no. JOR3-CT98-0270). The other project partners are BBSF Partnership of London, University of Stuttgart, and MECAL BV of the Netherlands.

ESA Council Chairman

Alain Bounouas, currently President of the French Space Agency CNES, is the new Chairman of the European Space Agency's Council. He was elected at a recent meeting of the ESA Council and will start his two-year term on 1 July 1999, taking over from the Norwegian Hugo Parr. Alain is an engineer by training and holds a doctorate in mathematics. He has been a member of the ESA Council since 1996.

New DESY Head
Albrecht Wagner, Professor of Experimental Physics at Hamburg University has become Chairman of the Directorate of the German particle physics laboratory, DESY, in Hamburg. He succeeds Bjorn Witik, who died in a tragic accident earlier this year. Wagner's research has focused on the investigation of elementary particles, especially in collisions of electrons with their antiparticles, positrons. He was involved in the planning, construction and operation of the OPAL experiment at CERN's LEP storage ring and, since 1991, has also focused on physics at electron-positron linear colliders - the next generations of high energy particle accelerators like DESY's planned TESLA facility.

Cool scientists
Scientists working on the Dark Matter experiment deep in the Boulby Potash mine in North

Yorkshire can work in comparative comfort now that air conditioning has been installed. When the unit was switched on the background temperature in the cavern dropped from a stifling 58 degrees C to a 'cool' 25 degrees. "It's brilliant", commented Nigel Smith - UK Group Leader for the project. "Our underground team were delighted when the project's funding was extended, as this allowed us to install air conditioning to counter the use in temperature resulting from changes in mining practices over the last year. Both scientists and the electronics are much happier working in Mediterranean temperatures rather than those found in a desert!"

Bulgaria joins CERN

The Bulgarian flag was hoisted to join the other 19 flags of CERN's member states at a ceremony recently, in recognition of Bulgaria becoming a full Member State of

Telephone number changes
You may have heard that some of the STD codes will be changing in April 2000. The new numbers are already in place for a period of parallel running, so you can start updating your directories now. An internal note will be circulated soon - but in the meantime you might like to note the changes:

	old code	new code	added prefix
Cardiff	01222	029	20
Coventry	01203	024	76
London	0171	020	7
London	0181	020	8
Northern Ireland	various	028	various
Portsmouth	01705	023	92
Southampton	01703	023	80

For example, the new code for 0171 123 4567 will be 020 - 7 123 4567.