

Bits & Bytes

No 12

Editorial

As promised in the last edition I have obtained a new organisation chart for ICL. I have been unable to work out in my own mind the logic and *raison d'être* of some of the groupings. Can some of you out there explain the new structure? The other problem is that changes are continuous, so the chart will not be correct by the time you read it!

The letter from Alan Davidson on the subject of Pensions in the last edition has created some debate and I have received four letters supporting Alan. Colin Marshall, one of the Pensioner Reps on the Consultative Committee, has replied in this edition.

I have thought about the problem of average pensions and would like to know how many pensioners took out a lump sum when they retired or were made redundant. I like many others I know, were given advice by an IFA to take out as much as I could. I ignored the advice and have a larger pension than those who did as suggested.

The subject of "Good Deals for ICL Pensioners" has been raised again. I published details of the "Voluntary Employee Benefits" in earlier editions of B&B. Apart from being told of problems I have no evidence that any of the offers were good value. In fact I have just renewed my car insurance and the quote I had from Guardian Advantage, (ICL Special Deal!) was £60 higher than from Tesco!!

Adrian Turner

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ICL Organisation

ICL appoints new chief executive

ICL announced on 6th December 2000 that the Board of ICL has appointed Richard Christou as chief executive. Mr Christou, who is 56, was appointed deputy chief executive of ICL in August 2000, and at that time assumed the role of acting chief executive, following the resignation of former chief executive Keith Todd. Since then, Mr Christou has played a key role in addressing the company's financial performance and cost base.

Michio Naruto, ICL chairman, said: "I am very pleased that Richard has accepted this role. During the four months he has been at the helm of ICL, he has made a significant impact in stabilising the

company, addressing the cost structure and making the tough decisions that need to be made to enable ICL to achieve its real potential."

Naoyuki Akikusa, president and CEO of Fujitsu, ICL's parent company, and ICL board member, said: "Richard has demonstrated the strong and decisive leadership needed to make ICL a world class services company and our standard-bearer for e-Business services in Europe. I am convinced he is the best candidate for the job and wish him every success in his new role."

Mr Christou, commented on his new appointment: "I am delighted to take up this position. ICL is a great company, with superb customers and very talented people. I view this role as a massive opportunity and relish the challenge of returning ICL to profitability and growing it to become a truly pan-European force.

During the last four months, Mr Christou has completed a strategic review of all of ICL's businesses and implemented a firm action plan aimed at restoring profitability and growth. The plan has involved reducing the company's cost structure, streamlining management, providing greater accountability and focus on revenue earning activity.

Mr Christou has held a number of senior executive roles within ICL since its acquisition by Fujitsu in 1990 and until August 2000 was ICL's director of commercial and legal affairs. He has a double first BA honours degree in Law and later an MA from Trinity College, Cambridge. He is married with two sons and lives in north London.

ICL Structure

Corporate

Richard Christou Chief Executive
 Fiona Colquhoun Human Resources
 Peter Earl Finance Director
 Richard Allnutt Legal Group General Counsel
 Rod Scott Company Secretary
 George Hall Corporate Affairs
 Andrew MacNaughton Commercial
 Toshio Yurino Fujitsu Relations
 Andrew Boswell Chief Technical Officer

Human Resources

Fiona Colquhoun Group Human Resources Director
 David Sillitoe Director, HR Operations & Services
 Elizabeth Lank Director CKM O&E Dev.
 Peter Long HR Director OSD Employment Policy
 Andy Montrose HR Director Large Projects
 Terry O'Brien HR Director, Key Customer Channel

Sue King HR Director, e-Applications
Claire Wright HR Manager, e-Innovations
Liz Tout Head of Community Relations
Dr Murray Roberts Company Medical Advisor
Bob Coe Company Pensions Manager

Business Support Centre

Hironmichi Hirata Executive Director
Roger Ashbrook Director, Group Project Office
Atsushi Nagai Director of Business Management
Shigeo Shimazu Director of Systems Management
Takashi Sano Director of Systems Development
Hodaka Imanishi Director of Business Assessment

Mergers & Acquisitions

Gordon Ewan Director, M&A Projects
Andy Woodham Manager, M&A Projects
Peter Malkin Manager, M&A Projects
TBA Manager, M&A Projects
TBA Manager, M&A Projects

ICL EMEA

Esa Tihila Group Executive Director
Andrew Ayres Commercial
Ian Hunter Marketing
Richard Chamberlain Financial
Tim Gibson Operations
Frank Boekel Holland
Derek Sayers UK
Vesa Tuomi Partners
Pekka Seitovirta IT Systems
Clive Keyte Mobile to Operator
Pekka Jarvinen Technical
Jeff Parker Director, Technical Architectures
Des Fitzgerald Country Manager ICL Eire
David Jones Legal
Karen Meakin HR

Corporate Infrastructure

Richard Reed Group Director
Juliet Wakefield Manager Corporate Infrastructure
Mike Noble Manager Infrastructure Support
Kevin Chave-Jones Manager IT Projects
Nick Voss Manager Business Services
Clive Telfer Director- Quality
Richard Dumbleton Programme Director - e ICL

Multivendor Computing

Marie-Anne van Ingen Group Executive Director
Paul Meehan Finance Director
Terry O'Brien HR Director
Martin Smith Operations Director
Paul Symmons Supply Chain Director
Nick Brown Tplc Director
Phil Murray DSSB Sales Director

Projects and Professional Services

Tim Escudier Group Executive Director
Dave Wilson Finance Director
Kevin Bean Commercial Director
Andy Montrose HR Director
John Kane Sales Director P&PS
Mike Stares Managing Director Pathway
Graham Taylor Managing Director Smart Card Grp
Les Pyle Joint Fujitsu Operations
Peter Cefai Director Travel
Stewart Preston Director Utilities
TBA Director, Finance

Kevin Bean Director Commercial
Mary Page Platerink Director Marketing
Gary Bunney Director Telco Applications
Gerry Marshall Chief Technology Officer
Tom Leishman Practice Manager
Rob Brouwer Director Retail Applications, Global
Martin Coombs Chief Operating Officer P&PS
Tim Wootton-Beard Director Local Government
Eddie Wakelam Director Retail Practice
Andrew Auty Director IT Consultancy, E&W
Andy Train General Manager SIDU E&W
Peter Hillard Director IT Contractor Services
Andrew Jarman Director App Mgmt, Eng & Wales
Martin Jones Technical Centre Manager, E&W
Ed Parton Director Technical Strategy

Large Projects

Peter Graham Director Large Projects
Tony Oppenheim Finance Director
John Hobson HR

Infrastructure Service Division

Alex Davidson Group Executive Director
Mike Coote MD Infrastructure
Martin Browning Business Director IT P&O
Gráinne Coker Commercial Director
William Fisher MD Global Infrastructure Ops
Bob Hawkins Director Business Development
Geoff Hopcroft Director Customer Satisfaction
Peter Hutchinson MD UK Operational Services
Peter Long Director Human Resources
Karen Meakin Director Organisational Dev.
Steve Menzies Director Finance and Business Ops
John Polatch Director Service Management
Chris Shaw Director Technology
Neil Stevenson Business Director HPS
David Wood Director Sales
Scott McGlinchey ICL Scotland
TBA ICL N. Ireland
Bruno Boucq ICL France
Jörn Sacksen ICL Germany, Austria & Switzerland
Maurizio Tomasso ICL Italy

Marketing

John Bennett Group Executive Director
Derek Hardman Marketing Director
Richard Hickman Client Management
John Jones MD ICL Africa
Yuki Tanaka Director Fujitsu Business
Bob King Programme Director Camelot

Africa

John A. Jones Group Managing Director
Elvin de Kock Finance Director
Tony Fairbairn Operations Director
Jane Collier Commercial Director
Aris Kypris Director Human Resources
Chris Botha Operations Director
Ntsundeni Madzunya Business Development
Mannie Sarris Technology Director

ICL INVIA

Henry Ehrstedt CEO, ICL Invia Oyj
Yrjänä Ahto Director, e-Infrastructure Division
Nicolaas Eikens Managing Director, Norway
Anne Haggrén Director, Human Resources
Juha Hallanoro Director, e-Business Solutions
Heikki Honkio Chief Technology Officer

Jan Henriques Managing Director, Sweden
Matti Järvinen Director, Finance
Jarmo Lönnfors Country Manager, Finland
Stefan Olemyr Director, Legal and Commercial
Morten Svendsen Managing Director Denmark
Petri Tuomi-Nikula Director, Marketing/Comms

KNOWLEDGEPOOL

David Wimpress Executive Chairman
Paul Butler Chief Executive Officer
Stephen Dann Marketing Director
Adrian Hart Human Resources Director
Vince Rowe VP & General Manager, USA
Mark Silver Chief Financial Officer

ICL Good News

NatWest Internet banking service gets ICL's helpdesk support

It was announced on 15 November 2000 that ICL, has won a three-year contract to provide helpdesk support for NatWest's Internet banking service. The contract will deliver technical support for NatWest's OnLine Banking customers, who use the service to monitor their account balances and transactions, pay bills and transfer money.

ICL will provide support from 7.00am to 11.00pm, 7 days a week, to all users of NatWest OnLine Banking via its Foots Cray pan-European, multi-lingual helpdesk centre in Kent. The helpdesk will handle all technical enquiries from NatWest Online customers.

ICL worked with NatWest to plan for the volume and range of customer calls and to categorise calls according to levels of complexity. Also, ICL helped provide a set of guidelines so that NatWest staff can recognise immediately when a call should be passed to technical support staff. Now, agents can anticipate the nature of customer calls and answer them more effectively.

Dave Chapman, IT Infrastructure business manager at ICL, said: "Our mission is to help make it easy and convenient for NatWest customers to use the online banking service and encourage its widespread use. Quality of support is essential, yet the variety of device, browsers, modems and security configurations used by customers often complicates the diagnosis and resolution of customer queries. We helped NatWest to develop a set of procedures and designed a helpdesk that works in conjunction with NatWest's existing support function to handle the most complex problems." "ICL's knowledge and flexibility have enabled us to provide a high level of customer support during periods of significant growth in usage for our Internet banking service," said John Lyons, project manager, Electronic Delivery for NatWest. "With ICL as a partner, we have been able to focus on our core banking business and on further developing the online service, that provides convenience by allowing customers to bank whenever they wish."

NatWest expects to continue using ICL's expertise as its Internet banking services expand to include more banking capabilities.

ICL partners with the Ministry of Sound

ICL is helping the Ministry of Sound provide the world's clubbers with the very latest music and club news with the launch of the Ministry's new web portal

(www.ministryofsound.com). The revamped portal incorporates CRM software that will enable the Ministry to better understand its customers and offer extended services. In addition, a new content management system, slashing the time it takes to publish content from two days to half a day, means the site will offer all the latest music news.

ICL has designed, built and fully integrated the processes behind the site, implementing content management and CRM systems. The CRM capability will enable the Ministry of Sound to understand the behaviour of visitors to its website. Information gathered by the system will also demonstrate how long people remain on different pages during a session and the last page visited before leaving the site. This will help the Ministry provide the services that fans want and develop content which reflects their needs.

ICL has also designed and built a new chat room, enabling registered visitors to talk to fans with similar interests without the need to re-login. "The aim is to create an online community, enabling fans to share music information with each other" says James Bacchus, chief technical officer for the Ministry of Sound. "There will also be regular slots in the chat room when fans can put their questions live to one of our star DJs".

Re-designing the back-end systems behind the Ministry of Sound portal, and the implementation of a sophisticated content management system makes it much easier for the Ministry's journalists to input content on the site, by allowing text to be automatically converted to HTML. This significantly reduces the time taken to publish content, ensuring that fans receive music news immediately.

The system will also allow this content to be automatically syndicated to other news sites. ICL has established processes to allow the Ministry of Sound to prepare the content stored on the content management database and then syndicate it onto other web sites via FTP (File Transfer Protocol). This complete integration of the back-end processes brings further benefits for music fans. It has increased the e-commerce capability of the portal and helps to speed up the fulfilment process, giving fans more confidence when buying tickets for club nights and Ministry of Sound merchandise online.

ICL was chosen to work with the Ministry of Sound due to its extensive experience of designing, building and operating e-commerce sites. Derek Sayers, UK managing director of e-Innovation at ICL says: "We have enabled the Ministry of Sound to provide an interactive experience for music fans around the world. By outsourcing their systems integration to us, the Ministry is able to concentrate on its core business of keeping ever demanding fans up to date with the latest sounds."

ICL, using Microsoft's high-performance COM+ technologies and SQL Server developed the single-sign on membership system used in the Ministry of Sound portal. Content is managed by one of ICL's content management systems, significantly cutting the time taken to develop information for the site. The applications are implemented on a Windows 2000 operating system.

ICL online insurance quotation service

As part of an e-Business and managed service contract worth over £2 million, ICL, has delivered

OmniQuote - an instant online insurance quotation service for leading insurance consortium, Assurelink. For the first time, independent brokers in Ireland will be able to access insurance quotes online from an extranet* offering a greater choice of products as well as a faster and more competitive service for consumers. Also, the Assurelink companies will be able to launch new products quickly and more frequently in response to market needs.

ICL has provided consultancy, design, implementation and hosting of an extranet as well as having developed the applications, which underpin the service. In the future, Assurelink plans to extend the service to brokers internationally.

Assurelink, a joint venture between eight of Europe's largest life assurance companies, alongside the Irish Brokers Association and the Professional Irish Broker's Association, promotes electronic trading between the participating companies and independent brokers.

ICL beat off competition from e-Business consultancies and systems integrators to provide the extranet. This initiative reinforces the importance of the brokers as a channel-to-market. It will enable Assurelink companies to launch new products instantly to over 1,000 brokers creating fast access to policy information and more choice for both brokers and their customers. This was not possible before as the assurance companies had difficulty in reaching all brokers quickly and therefore on average, they launched products only once or twice per year.

With the introduction of the extranet and OmniQuote, the independent brokers will have the facility to generate instant online quotations. Previously, brokers seeking the best deal for their customers, had to re-enter customer data into each individual company's quotation software to source information which was a time-intensive process.

Gary Morrissey, chief executive officer of Assurelink said: "Assurelink's service, which will support a massive broker community, cannot afford to go down. Brokers will depend on 100% up time to get the best and most reliable service for their customers. ICL will provide a comprehensive managed service to meet these needs from brokers, which will allow us to concentrate on further developing our business.

Also, ICL's infrastructure gives us the flexibility to extend the online quotation service and provide additional services."

In addition to the development of the initial applications and infrastructure, ICL is providing a three year managed services contract for the extranet including the hosting and maintenance of the Assurelink site - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The technical infrastructure comprises: a combination of Sun and Fujitsu servers; Sun Solaris and Windows NT operating systems; and Oracle 7 and 8i databases.

ICL Double Majority Association (DMA)

The first meeting of the DMA took place at ICL House Putney on 16 October 1970 following an exploratory meeting in August 1970 in Letchworth. There were 60 members at the inaugural meeting when Arthur Humphreys the Managing Director of ICL became President.

Arthur attained his double majority on 24 November 1982. The first Chairman was Maurice Stretch who served for two years. The Secretary was George Mudd with the support of committee members

George Webb, Fred Felton, Hubert Hillen and Harold Beckwith.

The stated aim of the association *"was that those employees who had achieved 42 years service should be given the opportunity of meeting, and in addition to enjoying the normal social atmosphere, might like to have serious discussion on matters of mutual interest"*

In 1970 there were 37 DMA members still employed in the UK, 39 retired, 3 in Australia, one in South Africa, and one in India.

The First DMA Dinner was held at the Hanover Grand on 18 May 1973, and has taken place every two years since at various locations.

Bert Treverton took over from Maurice Stretch as chairman in 1972 and served in that position until 1984. Gordon Collinson who stepped down in 2000 succeeded him. Bernard Bassett was elected to be the present chairman in February 2001. Bernard joined the BTM in 1937.

The AGM held at ICL Stevenage 6 October 2000 welcomed the 400 & 401st members, James May & Bernard Palmer respectively. There are now 198 members with ten new people expected in 2001.

Roy Newbury, the present secretary, sent me these basic facts of the association. How many people still in ICL, will get to 42?! Ed.

ICLWay Internet Access

The information given in B&B No 10 (which was provided in good faith!) has caused many pensioners to ring me with complaints that ICL could not provide them with a CD. After considerable investigation I have finally tracked down the department that will issue a CD to pensioners who make a request.

Write to **Louise Mobbs, HR Direct, ICL Observatory House Slough SL1 2EY** quoting your personnel number.

Go-ahead for "LON11" Extension

John Prescott, the British deputy prime minister, has granted permission to property developers to add a glass extension to the side of a concrete 16-storey 1960s tower block in one of London's smartest suburbs.

The ICL tower ("ICL House" in Putney), once condemned by English Heritage, will have a 12-storey glass extension curving over the River Thames. The building will be sold off as flats, offices and a restaurant. The London Borough of Wandsworth, in whose area the building sits, had originally refused the plans and were "mystified" as to why Mr Prescott had overruled their decision. **Source: Time Out.**

LETTERS

Contributors are asked to give a telephone number on which they can be contacted.

ICL Pensions

The letter from your correspondent Alan Davidson in Bits and Bytes No 11 gives the impression that the Pension Plan is vastly over funded. However the calculations seem only to have taken into account the liability of those already drawing their pension. If I was still an active member

i.e. still working, I would be very concerned about this. Having paid into the Pension Plan for many years, active members are as yet not yet drawing their pensions, but have built up past service reserves which currently represent more than 50% of the total fund.

As of the 30th September 2000 there were approximately 11,000 active members, 5,500 deferred pensioners and 3,000 pensioners. All three categories of members' benefits are, of course, liabilities against the fund's assets.

An actuarial valuation of the Plan was undertaken at 5 April 2000 and the Company and Trustees of the Plan are currently considering the results. It is clear, however, that the funding position of the Plan has deteriorated somewhat since the last valuation in April 1997. The Consultative Committee was advised; at its meeting on 5 December 2000 that the Plan funding level had fallen from surplus to deficit over this three-year period. This deterioration has been almost entirely due to lower than expected investment returns (a factor that has affected many other pension funds over this period). As a result it is anticipated that the Company will need to increase its contribution rate to the Plan to fund the shortfall.

This increase in Company cost is probably one of the major contributory reasons why the fund is now closed to new entrants in favour of a defined contribution scheme. This is less expensive for the Company but sadly more costly for the new entrants to secure the equivalent benefits.

The existing active members must be relieved that the defined benefit scheme remains for them and that they do not suffer the same fate as the new starters.

As a relatively new pensioner I am pleased that historically the pension increases have kept up with inflation since the inception of the fund (1991). Long may it continue!

**Colin Marshall Pensioner Representative
Consultative Committee**

Fair deal from Pension Fund?

Three cheers for Alan Davidson. He puts a convincing picture for rule change with his facts and figures regarding the fund size increase and its liabilities. It was also very clear and concise regarding the position many of the longer-term pensioners are now in, ie those between GSS 14 and 19 who are considerably under the £7.7K average pension. It is this group of pensioners who are hardest hit, 1.8% of a small pension is a very small increase in the real world, in fact it is derisory. With the ever-spiralling increase in the cost of services and taxes, which we all have to pay for, our standards are eroding very fast. In many cases salaries have increased fantastically in recent years, we have seen airport baggage handlers getting £25K pa, just to give one example.

In talking to friends who also have company pensions (not ICL), I was told that their pension rules had been changed by the trustees when this was found necessary for the benefit of the members. I was also informed that the BAe Hatfield pensioners receive annual increases of 4%.

Alan puts a very pertinent point regarding what will happen to this massive fund as time continually takes out the older members. One only has to look at the obituaries to focus the mind on this point; how many old colleagues will appear in the next issue of B&B?

A final point on the high valuation of Pension Funds. The Daily Telegraph published on 27 January 2001 an article concerning British Airways pension fund with a £1.2 billion surplus. Questions being asked were "who owns the surplus and when there is a surplus should not supplementary benefits be awarded to the beneficiaries?" National Grid pensioners representatives are going to the House of Lords in the near future to determine the fate of £62 million surplus in their pension fund.

Anthony Lawrence Ex Stevenage/Letchworth

Laugh or Cry

While I was reading Alan Davidson's letter in the autumn edition of B&B I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. If only it was an easy job to persuade ICL to increase all our pensions at the true cost of living rate instead of 3% or RPI if less. ICL does fund the scheme for 5% or RPI but does not guarantee this.

I am sure any of our elected three members of the Trustee board must have felt the same as I did. I was a trustee for some years prior to retirement and can assure you Alan's suggestion has no chance of being adopted. Even if ICL were not in a difficult position such a change to the scheme would be most unlikely.

I hope I am not teaching you all to suck eggs but any increase in pensions is a long-term cost, which is guaranteed by ICL. Yes the fund is separate from ICL's accounts but as we all know any fund surplus can result in a payment holiday for ICL. For all I know ICL may be having a holiday right now.

What I do think may be possible is a review of pensions in payment taking into account the individual loss of buying power due to inflation. Such a review was carried out in the STC fund some years ago and many long-term pensioners had substantial increases. As we all know the ICL fund is a young one and we do not have pensioners who have been on pension for a long time. Any review such as I suggest would not affect many of our pensioners.

Even a modest review as suggested would still require the agreement of ICL. As they are going through a difficult time right now perhaps it is the wrong time to put the idea forward.

A further depressing point, as you all no doubt know the final salary pension scheme is no longer available for new starts to ICL. This was done to limit ICL's future liability. Do we really think ICL is going to increase the costs of the fund?

Andy McConachie. Aberdeen.

Early Hollerith Tabulators c1924!

The recent issue of Bits & Bytes No11 contained a paragraph, which jogged my memory cells.

The last remark in Peter Porter's notes on page 6, to which I contribute the following, occurring when on a visit to Uncle Courtenay in Johannesburg. I recall my own early fascination with Hollerith tabulators (non-printing), circa 1924.

On opening a panel, a display of about 60 lamps flashing in time with each 45 col. card as it passed down the feed, maintained a rhythmic beat. These bulbs were about the size of a 60watt light bulb, had carbon filaments for a very special reason!

When current made contact through the card to the motor block there was a delay due to carbons high resistance when cold.

(You recall that early experiments with the development of electric lamps had to be assisted with heat from a match when using carbon filaments.) *I'm too young! Ed*

This property was employed to prevent "make" arcing on the motor block. The "break" arc was avoided with "break contact" tripped by the counter clutch, similarly on the control unit.

King Palmer Fremont California USA

Cyptic Crosic

The first letters of the 6 answers spell the Christian name and the last letters of the same 6 answers spell the surname of someone we all know and to whom we all are indebted!

1. In the heart of Ankara, rather cleverly concealed, was the site of Noah's Ark (6 letters)
2. Undo a confused clue for the German name of the river that's blue. (5)
3. Round-hole punched card copier is a parent! (10)
4. Israel Baline's adopted name. Did his Siberian homeland inspire "Blue Skies" or "White Christmas"? (6,6)
5. One name is put around. It's a windflower, literally. (7)
6. Only a man's French letter strangely uncovers Slade Prison's popular inmate, from the TV programme (6,7,8)

Dennis Goodwin Romford

Answer to Cryptic Crostic page 8

Reunions

Punch Card & Stevenage Labs Reunion Group

As I reported in the last edition of B&B it was decided to meet each year rather than bi-annually.

The next reunion will be at 10:30 for 11:00 on Tuesday 2 October 2001 at STE04. The speaker will be **Jack Houldsworth** an ICL Fellow who used to be the manager of No3 Factory in Letchworth. Jack will tell us about the "Specials" that his group of engineers produced over many years.

Tickets for this year's event can be obtained by sending an SAE and a cheque for £10, payable to **The Punch Card Reunion Group to Adrian Turner 5, Nun's Acre, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9BE.**

A limit of 100 is placed on the number of seats so get your order in early.

Adrian Turner 01491 872012

New Midlands Group

Last May we had a get together of retired, moved on and current ICL staff and decided to meet annually. The next meeting is on Friday 27th April this year 7 30 onwards. Venue The Black Horse Leamore Walsall, on B4210 at the junction of Bloxwich Road and Harden Road. We have not decided on a name so will call it ICL Midlands Group, and contact me for any information.

Brian Trow 2, Burford Road Stafford ST17 0BT 01785 257317, brians@iclway.co.uk

Oxford Region

Due to ill health Mr. Albert Brook can no longer organize the Oxford Club. We would like to thank him

for all his work and effort in the past and wish him well for the future. Ken Jones, with the help of Vic Belmont, would like to revive our twice-yearly lunch meetings to keep in touch with colleagues.

Would all interested members please send Name, Address, and Tel No. and E-Mail address if you have one, to

**Ken Jones 25 Bridge End, Dorchester on Thames Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 7JR
01865 340388 gwynken@btinternet.com**

West Kent Engineers

Again, we West Kent Engineers reunion group have been forced to move our meeting place due, once more, to being thrown out of our watering hole. This time it's not so serious, though - only a few isolated incidents of brawling and indecent exposure. We will now meet at The Bull in Wrotham village, only two miles south of our old venue just off the A20 near Borough Green. Our meeting time is also changed from evening to midday (at the insistence of the police rapid-response team) and will be on the first Thursday of every even month (April, June August etc.) at about 12.00a.m. By the way, any ex ICL employee is welcome; despite our group name, we are not all ex-engineers nor do we all live in Kent!

Ron Harding 01732 761076

Dataskil Reunion

It is still hoped that a reunion will take place 12 May 2001 but the response has so far been very poor. It may be a problem with being unable to contact Dataskilites. Bits & Bytes is unlikely to reach many people who used to work for Dataskil and it is hoped that the reunion will be advertised in national IT publications.

Lynda Hewlett 47, Lowther Rd Wokingham Berks RG41 1JB Tel: 0118 9785713

ICL Central London Group

The next get together will be on Wednesday 18 July 2001 at the usual venue - The Fox at Epworth/Paul Street, from 12 noon.

John Doo 01245 259862

STE04 Office and Retail Systems

Derek Tourell 020 8386 9465

CAFS Reunion

Hamish Carmichael 0181 337 3176

Liverpool Engineers

George Lynn 01744 29984

ICL Double Majority Club

Roy Newbury 01763 852241

Leo Computers Society

Geoff Parry 01628 770129

West Gorton Reunion

Eric W Watts 01457 875080

Watford-Harrow- Feltham Group

Please note the new contact name.

Mike Ray 020 8635 5010

Copthall House Newcastle Staffs
Bob Green 01782 657763

Letchworth Group
Dennis Evans 01462 811273

West Branch Engineers
Eric Reynolds 01452 712047

East Grinstead 81 Club
Gordon Franklin 01342 328479

East Midlands UB40s
Brian Skeldon 0115 9725119

The Walthamstow Mob
Derek Windsor 01992 522761

Tin Hut Reunion Group
Olaf Chedzoy 01278 741 269

OBITUARIES

John Brook

My friend and long time colleague John died suddenly in York on 19th September 2000. I hope you will allow me to express the sadness that his passing has left, not only me, and his family but also to his many friends and associates throughout the world.

John was a colourful character and a very likeable bloke. Those of us who were fortunate to have known him will no doubt readily recall a memory or anecdote about him from the past, mostly amusing, but some not, like the time he bollocked me for using a piece of card to clean the points of a cam contact. I was a green new boy, fresh out of training school "helping" him at Pearl Assurance. His warning stuck with me for the rest of my career.

His introduction to complicated mechanisms found in machines for wrapping sweets was John's grounding before he joined "The Tab" in the thirties. Soon thereafter he found himself in the R.A.F. *not as an airman*, but doing something very secret and exciting at Bletchley Park, looking after a wide range of punched card machines supporting the Code Breakers - exotic stuff like Pierce Alpha tabs etc., and masses of Collators too.

It was there that he met his beloved Peg and after the dust of war had settled John and Peg married and set up home in Peckham, raising their sons Martin and Michael. John worked in London Office looking after the Victoria House Bureau equipment and I was his Punch Boy. With his Bletchley experience, and his natural Yorkshire humour he was very popular, particularly with the customers among which was Met Water Board, Royal Insurance, and a host of others. His obvious talents ensured his promotion and as an Inspector many of us were helped out of tricky spots by his action as trouble-shooter.

The expansion of business in the 60's and the mergers, led to the City office being opened and John operated successfully from Clifton Street displaying his skills as a common sense manager controlling a large team and at the same time keeping an eye on his staff's expense claims, thus protecting his departmental budget. However John's first love was "hands on" work, which he took up at every opportunity.

Following much reorganisation, John was appointed special trouble-shooter, reporting to Tom Griffin at Stevenage and was successful at saving many potential disasters from occurring.

On his retirement John and Peg moved to York, in the county of his birth and they enjoyed many visits and holidays together, and with friends and relatives over the years. Unfortunately Peggy died suddenly on a trip to London a few years ago.

For many years afterwards he took an annual "round the world" holiday in the spring calling on friends and relatives as far apart as South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. John used to boast how cheaply he could circumnavigate the World, with stop-offs, on these trips. On one holiday in the U.K. he made close friends with a Lincolnshire lass called Margaret with whom he shared a number of fun days including a "flight" on the London Eye.

My last telephone conversation with John was the usual vibrant, cheerful chat during which he expressed total happiness with life. He clearly went out with a bang!

I shall miss him and I know that many people throughout the world will share my feelings. It was a privilege to have known John Brook.

Peter Walker

ICL/Nortel Fund

Taken from the autumn and winter editions of the Nortel "Newslink"

Birmingham'm	Dewell	Harry	23/07/00	75
Carlisle	Fell	Annie G	24/04/00	70
Croydon	Gregory Johnson	Frederick	23/09/00	78
		Raymond G	11/08/00	78
Durham	Kitt	Alfred	08/03/00	90
	Martin	Hubert J	05/06/00	83
	Parfitt	Henry	01/09/00	83
	Curbeson	Clifford	11/09/00	61
Forest Gate	Chandler Smith	Eric Ernest	30/06/00	64
		Albert		
Glasgow	Barbour	John Mc	08/06/00	77
	Walker	Robert Bell	24/08/00	74
Kidsgrove	Catterall	Alice	13/10/00	75
	Davies	Taff E	28/08/00	69
	Michalak	Sylvia H	02/06/00	73
	Milligan	James R	28/07/00	84
	Stokes	Anthony	11/06/00	75
	Tench	Ernest	21/04/00	81
Leeds	Holmes	Geoffrey	12/07/00	70
Letchworth	Bayman	George C	26/10/00	85
	Bickerstaff	Frank	22/07/00	90
	Boyd	John E	03/06/00	76
	Cook	Eric James	23/10/00	89
	Cooper	Clifford	07/06/00	68
	Denny	Gordon S	08/08/00	75
	Gardner	Peggy	09/06/00	68
	Gibbs	David	05/03/00	65
	Goodman	Eric John	23/10/00	79
	Graham	Arthur	08/05/00	87
	Hall	George A	04/09/00	69
	Hall	Malcolm P	05/08/00	80
Healy	Joseph	14/08/00	68	
Henderson	Robert F	22/09/00	75	
Hibbert	Martyn R	22/08/00	69	
McBride	Patrick	03/07/00	75	
Reynolds	Ernest E	15/05/00	82	
Singh	G	19/05/00	82	

	Stephens	Jesse N	19/08/00	78
	Thorn	Frank W	16/06/00	77
Liverpool	Stiling	Vernon H	16/06/00	78
London	Child	Charles E	22/09/00	77
	Smith	Joan M	01/09/00	80
Manchester	Brennan	Thomas E	23/09/00	63
	Diskin	James R	02/04/00	71
	Porter	Wilfred A	13/10/00	85
	Rathbone	William E	11/06/00	78
	Smethurst	George H	15/04/00	91
	Smith	Irene	12/06/00	79
Newcastle	Young	Robert J	22/09/00	70
Norwich	Britt	Gerald P	14/09/00	74
	Ironside	Hugh H A	15/02/00	84
Putney	Knight	Helen K	03/09/00	82
	Lucas	John W	08/07/00	75
S'hampton	Fuller	Frank B	11/09/00	80
	Mazurek	Eugene K	11/09/00	80
	Rayburn	Mick	26/06/00	77
	Sherman	James H	29/04/00	59
Stevenage	Brook	John C	19/09/00	79
	Cusdon	John E	02/07/00	72
	Huhasz	Andrew	05/04/00	87
W.Gorton	Lassey	Harry	03/09/00	77
Other ICL				
Locations				
	Bagnell	Raymond	04/06/00	73
	Cosgrove	Michael	04/05/00	64
	Duffy	Edward	18/05/00	79
	Gill	Alfred J	20/02/00	88
	Gordon	Peter R	31/12/99	70
	Patel	Vithalbhai	07/10/00	73
	Shearly	Clifford M	19/10/00	75
	Shields	Geoffrey D	05/12/99	79
	Skilton	Leslie H G	19/01/00	81
	Sutton	Peter	06/10/00	87
	Ward	Lawrence	24/07/00	68
	Ward	Tony L	11/05/00	69
	Webster	Frederick	19/06/00	88
	Whelan	Denis T	21/05/00	79

ICL Fund

BIR03	Franey	John	23/09/00	60
BRA01	Griffiths	Charles J	25/10/00	59
BRS07	Howes	George T	15/09/00	65
ELS01	Brown	Clive A J	12/02/01	61
FCY01	Druce	Kenneth L	07/02/01	70
HOM99	Sutton	Dennis A	23/10/00	70
KID01	Carter	Pete	22/01/01	52
	Turner	Yvonne	26/02/01	58
	Webster	Clem	30/11/00	69
KID02	Deighton	Albert J	26/12/00	64
MAN05	Barron	Harold	04/09/00	70
REA08	O'Brien	Jonathan	11/01/01	64
SLH06	Macpherson	Sheila M	20/09/00	61
WIN01	Whitney	Colin J	14/08/00	49

Cryptic Crostic

- 1.Ararat (word hidden in text).
 - 2.Donau. (anagram)
 - 3.Reproducer
 - 4.Irving Berlin
 - 5.Anemone (anagram)
 - 6.Norman Stanley Fletcher (anagram)
- The 1st letters spell Adrian
The last spell Turner!!

PENSIONER REPS

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NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the Autumn 2001 issue must be submitted by 1 September 2001 but would be appreciated earlier.

