

MNC NEWS

No 91

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"IT USED TO BE A NICE QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD"

Q UOTH THE ABBEY SPECTRE



NK

I have been whiling away a quiet morning by looking back at past issues of this magazine - not bad reading on the whole - and I came across an article I wrote at the beginning of this year regarding the weather (then atrocious), and the then popular prediction that we might be in the next Ice Age within a century. I ended my piece, however, with the optimistic forecast that in about six months we would be sweltering in the middle of a tropical summer - with the rival experts to the Ice Age enthusiasts predicting the Earth's over-heating in the "runaway greenhouse" they were sure would soon be the result of the increased atmospheric pollution brought about by our modern society.

We have since had our summer. It was fairly dry - I grant that; but spring was so late spring flowers preferred to wait for two months; the strawberries (usually ready for my birthday in mid-June) did not appear until July; my terrapins, who are normally kept in until July solely to give the newts time to breed and vacate the pond, and then stay out until October, could not even think of going out before August and came in again in September; outdoor tomatoes have been a disaster, greenhouse ones late; and most of the swallows and martins turned back the other side of the Channel.

In a paper I read a few days ago, the experts were predicting that an Ice Age could be upon us in 20 years.

AN OPINION FOR NAUTICAL STUDENTS

As most virtuous parents will know, the majority of British children are still being taught a reasonable system of moral and ethical behaviour.

The canny parent tends to frown when little Willie comes home from school and boasts of how he has kicked a small school chum in the unmentionables - when the said chum is prostrate on the ground.

The Marquis of Queensbury and his rules still hold sway to a large extent in this country. But too often the canny parent whose own child has suffered as a consequence of fighting fair must feel that enough is enough, the Marquis should 'get lost', and send little Willie back to the playground with the cry "Get stuck in!"

By and large British exporters and official institutions tend to play the game of international trade according to agreed rules of the game. By and large they tend to wind up clutching their unmentionables.

This seems to be the case with "The British Shipbuilding Industry", along with many other British companies engaged in international competition suffered from our adherence to the Queensbury Rules.

An ONC I Student - B. LANE

RUGBY

'Twas early Sunday morning (21st) when 15 brave warriors called "Greenhithe Groundhogs" took to the battle-field to prove their superiority over a similar team from Poplar College.

After losing the Toss the Groundhogs had the wind against them for the first half. With ten minutes into the game both teams had settled in well, and a good game was in progress. Poplar began to put on the pressure in scrum and loose rucks, and were running well in the 3's. Shortly afterwards Poplar scored due to some brilliant running by their No. 10, who also kicked the conversion.

Groundhogs kicked off strongly and were pushing well. They got close to the line, but again the Poplar No. 10 showed some fine running to break through the pack and place a perfect kick down the pitch and into touch, right back into the Groundhogs' half. Poplar pushed on for the rest of the half, and the score went up against Groundhogs 12-0 at half time.

Play was similar in the second half, but with tackling harder and tempers getting the better of players on both sides. Poplar notched up the score, but were looking worried towards the end of the game when Groundhogs turned on some superb running in the 3's and good catching in the line outs, coming close to scoring several times.

Beakly Baldwin played hard and was treated the hardest and earned a few stitches. Ashlegs Barrow was unfortunate to be tackled down and land on his opponent's knee, spraining his back. After this incident the match was stopped with 5 minutes to play.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to support, the brave Ref. who stood in at the last minute, and those who ferried the wounded to hospital. Final score - 26-0.

Next match (hopefully) is against Gravesend R.F.C. VI.

Have you ever wondered if that Japanese-designed, Korean-made electronic calculator you bought in Bognor Regis is any good? Here's a test of its accuracy:-

Solve the following equation -

$$x = \sin^{-1} (\cos^{-1} (\tan^{-1} (e^{\log e} \tan (\cos (\sin 29))))^2))$$

What you do is enter the following into the calculator -

29, sin, cos, tan, x, n, e^x, x², tan⁻¹, cos⁻¹, sin⁻¹.

Yes, that right, Fred, the answer should be 29°.

If the answer on your calculator is within ± 0.05° of 29° you've got a good calculator.

Here's an example of how careful the writers of technical manuals have to be.

A plane crashed, and at the subsequent inquiry the man in charge of maintenance was asked what the manual said. He replied, "Remove the pin, examine it, and if it is bent, replace it". He was then asked what he did. "I removed the pin, saw that it was bent, and replaced it."

A sign in the rear window of a very old, slow car seen in Manchester said,
"Please do not hoot loudly - it makes the paint flake off"

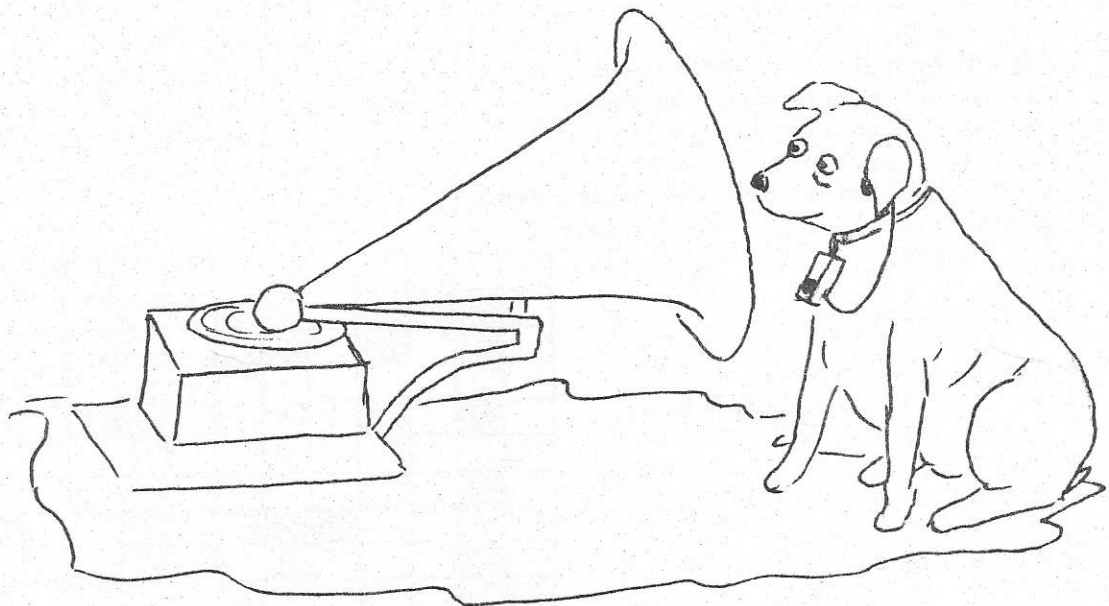
PLEASURE AND REPENTANCE

The Marlowe Mobile came to M.N.C. last night, asking and answering the question "What is love", in the light-hearted look at love, "Pleasure and Repentance", compiled by Terry Hands.

And what a pleasure it was! How enriching to be in the hands of so talented and professional a group, able to sway their audience despite the appalling difficulties of acoustics and noises off that attend speaking (let alone acting) in 430, 431.

Thanks are owed to the company, to the Student Union organisers, and to those 50+ supporters who earned the reward by attending. Commiserations to those who could not attend. MORE PLEASE!

DG



ALL ABOUT COMPASSES (?)

Deviation is when a compass absolutely covered by steel like a ship starts rocking about. The more the ship rolls the more the deviation will get.

No allowance is made for temperature changes in a liquid compass, as expansion chambers are fitted to prevent this.

The binnacle of my present vessel consists of a wooden cylinder surmounted by a

'ORRIBLE CROSSWORD

Clues Across

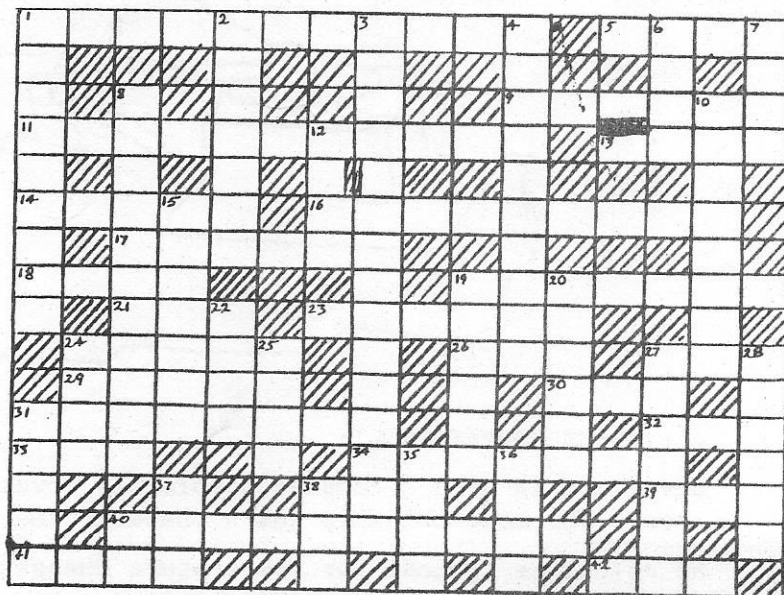
1. (5,6) Way for hardened gambler to lose money more slowly.
5. (4) Deeds, generally with intervals between.
9. (6) The French way in provides Papal representative.
11. (7,4) Space by the lines, or do they have their own measure?
13. (4) Black wood poetically shortened is still black.
14. (5) Get narrower and it will light the gas.
16. (4,5) Traditionally spent on the tiles - unless it's bad weather.
17. (6) Delivering request, from Royal Estate.
18. (4) What the skater needs.
19. (3,4) Lubricate, and it provides the means.
21. (3) Little father, changed, to sum up.
23. (6) Tether legs and walk painfully.
24. (5) Burning brightly shows talent.
26. (3) Open meadow is variable measure for yarn.
27. (3) According to Statute it must be obeyed.
29. (5) Something prone? - to calm fears.
30. (3) Vile turn left out and compete.
31. (4,4) Ablution costs nothing - perhaps involuntary!
32. (3) Watch, with it.
33. (3) Temporarily to pasture -
34. (7) - and concerning the deep.
38. (3) American company is shy.
39. (3) Hair protector,
40. (6,4) Musical shanty for camel driver?
41. (4) Agile- A out of the shower.
42. (3) Employ.

Clues Down

1. (5,4) Excess fat no motorist should be without.
2. (3,4) Source of pedal-power!
3. (4,6,5) Test of marksmanship not for the pot.
4. (6,4) Blackpool road Whittington sought in London?
6. (4) Side-stepper could be a hermit.
7. (4) Spotted - two points to the Eastward, or Poles twice East.
8. (3,3,5) Street of the pot menders?
10. (8) Mexican cake.
12. (4) Gape wearily.
15. (3-4) Lake des - no, not French but Scottish river valley, in Debatable Land, though!
19. (6) Indebt through service rendered.
20. (6) How the baker gets a rise.
22. (4) Slatern lacking colour.
24. (4) 25A less learner must be paid.
25. (4) Young to be haggard, this bird - but may stoop to anything.
27. (7) Blood suckers beloved of physicians.
28. (6) East in anger, and it could show respect for deceased.
31. (5) From fluff losses comes rough silk.
35. (4) Hard lump may have unpleasant content.
36. (4) Female relative - someone's sister.
37. (3) The answer - to a locked door!
38. (3) Baby distress call.
40. (1.1.) Initially one way to decide where you are.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

P O R T I A B R A G W
 I A B U B A T T E R Y
 C H I T A L S T O R E D A
 K N G A S H U T G R
 T B O S W O R T H F I E L D
 U O T O T E S S
 B E W A R E T H E I D E S O F
 E H D E E P
 M A R C H R E I N S E
 L E D M E A N T
 T H E B L A C K D E A T H H
 O T H A R E D I T
 B U R N H A M S K U A N
 B O R I D R A Y
 W I L L I A M R I
 T E S H A K E S P E A R E



R N L I FACT SHEET

What is the RNLI?

The Royal National Life-boat Institution is a registered charity which exists to save life at sea. It provides, on call, the 24 hour life-boat service necessary to cover search and rescue requirements to 30 miles out from the coasts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The RNLI entirely depends on voluntary contributions for its income.

The Life-boat Fleet

The RNLI has an active fleet of 133 offshore and 126 inshore life-boats. There is also a relief fleet of 31 offshore and 25 inshore life-boats.

Lives Saved

929 lives were saved in 1978, 565 by offshore and 364 by inshore life-boats.

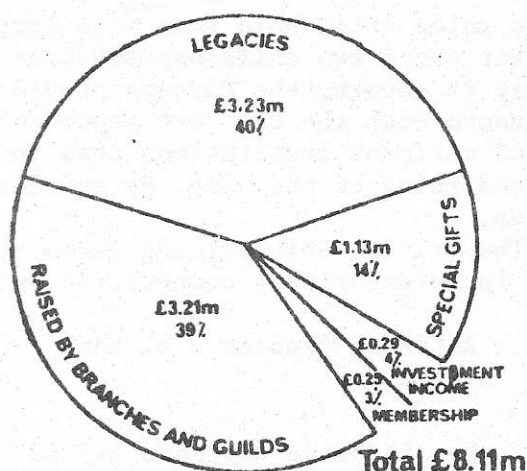
Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its life-boats have saved over 104,000 lives.

Running Costs

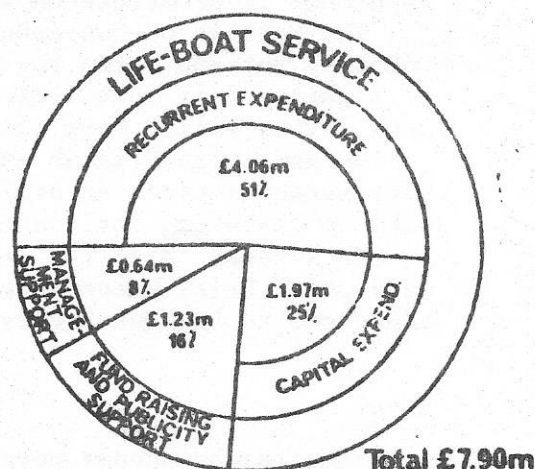
In 1978 it cost nearly £8 million to run the RNLI.

The charts below show how the money was raised and how it was spent.

How the money was raised



What it cost in 1978



Cost of Life-boats

Offshore life-boats:

Arun	£300,000
Waveney	£260,000
Rother	£210,000

Inshore life-boats:

Atlantic 21	£18,000
16ft. inflatable	£3,100

Life-boatmen

Life-boatmen are volunteers. There is a full-time motor mechanic in each crew. The men receive a small allowance to compensate for loss of earnings when they are on service. This is £2-25 for the first hour and 75p each hour afterwards.

A TRELLIS PUZZLE

Four-letter words hidden in the sentence below fit into the grid, as shown:-

"a dAB LEad the LEADing CRAB"



CRAB, ABLE, LEAD

Tall and clean shaven, I was wearing an Arabian robe when I met Anna in Aden and we sat at a table drinking mead until she could bear to tell me her name.