

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

March 1967 ✓

No. 71

The Chilbolton Opening

The field station at Chilbolton will be formally opened on Friday 14th April by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Crosland, M.P., before a large audience of invited guests. There will be technical demonstrations to the Press and to some other guests on the previous day, and members of R.S.R.S. staff will have opportunities to visit the station later, including some organised parties on Monday and Tuesday, April 17th and 18th. Details will be given when the arrangements are complete.

Discussion meeting on man-made noise

A one-day discussion on man-made noise was held at R.S.R.S. on 1st March 1967. Thirty-seven representatives from eighteen organisations were present, and the discussion covered the generation of noise, recommended and legal limits on unintentional radiation, and the influence of the noise on radio reception. Particular attention was paid to the information required in assessing the intensity of man-made noise on low-noise sites, such as one used for radio-astronomy and point-to-point communications.

The discussion revealed the apparent ignorance of radioastronomy and its requirements, on the part of some sections of industry, resulting for example in the operation of RF heaters in radioastronomy bands. Industry and broadcasting interests will undoubtedly continue to attach most importance to interference with broadcasting, and any legal standards imposed will be inadequate for the protection of radioastronomy; in fact legal protection is, and is likely to continue to be, rather ineffective even for broadcast reception.

There are a large number of national and international organisations concerned with man-made noise, but much of the effort is uncoordinated. A considerable amount of engineering information on the subject exists, but needs further examination and interpretation for application to radioastronomy and communication services.

Martin Hall

Polar Co-ordinates

Halley Bay, from which the British Antarctic Survey base derived its name was an indentation in the ice front where a gradual slope from the 100 foot ice cliffs gave access to the sea.

A few weeks ago the icefront for a distance of several miles broke back, removing headlands and the easy slopes to the sea. The resultant iceberg floated free and is now one of a multitude circulating in the Weddell Sea.

With the loss of natural shelter for ships and the lowest height of the iceshelf about 40 feet, transfer of stores between ship and base is likely to be a difficult task next year. Several hundred tons of stores are normally unloaded from the annual relief ship. Without easy access to the sea ice, seal hunting will be severely curtailed. Seals are normally found on the sea ice at the base of the ice cliffs and provide the main food supply for the sledge dogs while at base in addition to liver as a delicacy for the men.

It is perhaps fortunate that B.A.S. have started to rebuild the base three miles east of the old base, the station has been moving westwards since 1956 at the rate of 400 yards per year. Seven new buildings have been completed and the remainder will be supplied next year when the old base will be abandoned.

Another item of news from the south is that H.M.S. Protector is to be replaced by the "Anita Dan", purchased from Denmark. Before commissioning in the Royal Navy modifications will be made to allow operation of helicopters from the deck. No doubt the name will also be changed.

W. Bellchambers

A REMINDER

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE don't take library books, journals etc., home and leave them there. Recently one member of staff wanted four items and two of them were in the homes of the people who had taken them out. If you want to use a book or journal at home, take it over an evening or from Friday until Monday morning, but make sure it is available ON THE STATION when other people may want to use it. Remember it may be YOU next time who needs a book.

Thank you.
The Librarian

Note to Authors: an Apology

It is a matter of utmost regret that, owing to a deliberate oversight, which may even have been intentional, a number of essential words were not merely omitted from last month's 'Note to Authors', but actually left out. These victims of editorial ruthlessness included a well-matched pair of 'however's, one 'nevertheless', a fair sprinkling of 'as a matter of facts', an 'anyway' or two and, actually, an 'actually'. As a result, perfect nonsense was consequently made of an otherwise absolutely meaningless statement whose significance may, therefore, have been lost on some readers.

These difficulties notwithstanding, on the other hand, let me conclude by finally summing up: Dear Authors - if you have nothing to say why do so in one word (or none) if verbosity will hide that fact much more gracefully?

W. S. Newman

Staff News

Congratulations to:

Dr. and Mrs G. M. Courtier on the birth of their daughter Karen Mary.
Mr. and Mrs. Kerwin on the birth of their daughter Alison.
Tony and Margaret Young on the birth of their son David.
Mr. R. J. Knight on gaining the prize for his year in the B.Sc.Gen.
Pt. I examination.

Welcome to:

Mr. F. G. Hardie	Non-Perm A.E.O.
Mrs. W. E. Smith	Non-perm S.T.O.
Mr. H. L. Foo	Non-Perm Tech. Officer
Mrs N. Morales	Non-Perm Grade II Typist (P.T.)
Mr. H. F. C. Cutler	Non-Perm C.O.
Mr. C. L. Foo	Non-Perm Tech. Officer
Mr. A. R. McWhyte	Non-Perm Labourer
Mrs V. H. Scott	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mr. R. S. Fitchew	Non-Perm E.O.
Mrs A. Hayes	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mrs B. M. Tew	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mrs M. E. Richards	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mrs J. M. Gillard	Non-Perm Clerical Assistant
Mrs E. Hurst	Non-Perm S.A. (P.T.)

Resignations

Mrs E. Pilkington	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mrs P. G. Devonshire	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mrs E. A. Brown	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mr. D. Logwinowcz	Non-Perm Labourer
Mr. A. W. Salter	Non-Perm Storeman B.
Mrs V. H. Scott	Non-Perm Canteen Assistant (P.T.)
Mr. J. M. Bruce	Est. S. A.

Sports and Social Club News

Smith Rose Cup; Badminton Tournament

Last year widespread illness on the day of the tournament played havoc with the organiser's plans and resulted in only a few of the scheduled games being played. This year none of the players were taken ill at the last moment and so the three mixed couples from both North and South opposed each other on Thursday 2nd March. In spite of tough opposition from North, South won the tournament by seven games to two, and were thus able to avenge some of their defeats in other sections of the Smith-Rose Cup competition.

Malcolm Chivers

Smith Rose Cup: Table Tennis

The Smith Rose Cup contest was held in the Old Building on Tuesday, 7th February. Fifteen games were played and resulted in the South winning by three games.

M.G.W.

Football

A practice football has been obtained and is available for use by anyone interested in helping to promote the new football section. The ball is kept in Spur B. It is hoped to organise some matches later in the year if support is strong enough.

R. Lucas

Tennis

The first club evening will be on Wednesday 22nd March. New members are welcome and if sufficient support is forthcoming, a regular Saturday afternoon session will be arranged.

Richard Smith

Cricket

It is hoped that our activities in this sphere will be fairly well organised this summer, with matches, internal and external, about once a fortnight (weather permitting, of course). At a recent meeting, the following officials were elected:

Team Captain:	B. R. May
Treasurer:	I. L. Freeston
Secretary:	G. R. Thomas
Groundsman:	A. Abayaratna
Baggage-man:	M. Colbourne
Team Selector:	A. D. Johnstone

The responsibility of team selection is to be shared by the captain and the selector. The groundsman will be responsible for the motor mower which we hope to purchase in the near future.

Graham Thomas

Bridge

We were successful in our return match against Road Research at Crowthorne, R.S.R.S. were represented by Dr. and Mrs Bain, Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs Gordon-Smith and Mr. Pratt and Mr. Thornton. We won by seventeen match points.

Martin Bowman

Chess

Eight players turned out for the Smith-Rose matches on 13th February and 6th March. The result was an overwhelming victory for North. We played in a very professional manner by using chess-clocks - except for one pair which had to make do with a stop-watch.

I have now ordered two B.C.M. 111 type chess-clocks and we should be able to make full use of them the next time we play, on 3rd April.

Albin Zavody

Letter to the Outstations

Dear Colleagues,

The day of the dish approaches. You will have seen, earlier in the Newsletter, of the proposed arrangements for the viewing and opening. It remains for me to say 'wish you were here'. Unfortunately it doesn't seem likely that the Treasury would sanction flights to the U.K. for a one-day visit, so next issue will, it is hoped, contain some more detailed information about Chilbolton. It will then be up to you to eke out our imperfections with your thoughts.

During last month or so, we have been a little in the public eye, for some aspects of our computer were shown on television. The link story was about a rabbit, not out of a hat, but, in racing parlance, by Digitiser out of Pegasus. One outline of a rabbit was traced, digitised and fed into the engine; a number of identical outlines, in assorted sizes, appeared with the help of the graph plotter output. We hope the audience was impressed.

This mathematical method of reproduction is all very well in its way, but there's a great deal to be said for the old system, don't you agree with,

Yours sincerely,

The Editor