

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

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The Wolfe Award to Dr. J. W. King

On Friday 25th March, the staff of the Radio and Space Research Station assembled to witness the presentation of the Wolfe Award to Dr. J. W. King for his work on the analysis of results obtained from topside sounding satellites and their interpretation in terms of ionosphere theory. The presentation was made by Professor P. M. S. Blackett, President of the Royal Society and Deputy Chairman of the Ministry of Technology Advisory Council on Technology. Sir Harry Melville, chairman of the S.R.C. explained the origin of the prize. Under the terms of the Will of the late James Perrin Wolfe, the D.S.I.R. was empowered to award a sum of £500 every year for ten years after the death of the benefactor on November 17th 1957, to the research worker who at the sole discretion of the department, was considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the research work of the Department during the previous twelve months. Although the D.S.I.R. no longer exists, the award continues to be available to research workers of the fifteen research laboratories that formerly constituted the department, and the Ministry of Technology is Trustee ex-officio. Competition for the award is considerable; and Dr. King's is the eighth in the series.

There is a sense of fitness and satisfaction in the award coming to the R.S.R.S. for work on the topside ionosphere. The station has enjoyed a high international reputation for its ground based studies, dating back to early researches. Dr. King's work has ensured that in the new era of space research and topside investigation, the R.S.R.S. once more takes its place in the lead

/and

and we are delighted that his efforts should have been recognised. It was a wise move by Dr. Smith-Rose many years ago to secure for us the privilege of being the only establishment, additional to those concerned with the construction and launching of the satellites, to make use of the data. The R.S.R.S. receives telemetry signals at Singapore and in the Falkland Islands as well as at Winkfield, and processes them using equipment built at R.S.R.S. by Mr. Luscombe's group. The opportunity and the means having been provided, Dr. King rose to the occasion, and with characteristic energy and drive led his very able team to produce from the telemetry records of each satellite as soon as it was launched, new results about the height distribution of the electrons in the topside ionosphere, examining how it varied with geographical position, time of day and year, and occurrence of such events as eclipses and ionosphere storms. He realised the importance of this new field and quickly made deductions about, for instance, the scale height of the atmosphere and the way in which it indicated world wide variation of composition and temperature and the diurnal behaviour of the equatorial anomaly.

Dr. King is an active member of the "topside working group" which is planning a series of topside sounding satellites, and he is scientific consultant for a projected ESRO topside sounder. Thus the R.S.R.S. continues to be in the forefront of activity. The remarkable thing is that it costs us so little financially.

We are all extremely delighted that Joe's work has attracted the Wolfe Award, and we were pleased to hear him say that he could not think of any other establishment where he could have carried it out so effectively.

R. Dalziel

SANGUINARY JARGON

The following are extracts from "Suggested Operational Procedure", a U.S.A.F. document received by R.S.R.S. personnel participating in radar-refractometer soundings in Virginia:-

- "1. Carry out a calibration to be recorded with A-scope, tape recorder and bloody reds.
2. Begin sequence of R.H.I. and CAT photographs and S-band Doppler. Take V.A.D. pattern with P.P.I. and simultaneously record bloody reds."

We console our team with the following:-

RHYME FOR RECORDERS

"Don't worry if ink in the pens tends to clog,
If the reservoir looks like a thick purple bog:
Or if faulty tape reels you find you must shed,
You still have available those bloody reds!"

/With

"With P.P.I. pictures and Dopplers on tap,
You should be equipped to probe all the CAT;
But should these devices abruptly go dead,
You can always fall back on those bloody reds!"

Your V.A.D. patterns need taking with care;
R.H.I. angel echoes are notably rare:
But if on the A-scope these come overhead,
They must be recorded with those bloody reds!"

(We know CAT = Clear Air Turbulence.

Any offers for V.A.D.? Taking the pattern
of nurses sounds an interesting project,
but we hardly think this is the correct
interpretation).

GARGLE

(Group for the Acquisition of Refractivity Gradients at
Low Elevations)

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to:

David and Veronica Smith on the birth of their son.
David Eccles on his engagement to Miss Valerie Bolton.

Welcome to:

Mrs J. E. Jennings	Clerk/typist (Falklands)
" S. Flynn	P/T Cleaner
" L. M. Brindle	P/T Cleaner
Mr. D. A. Clifford	A.E.O.

Resignations:

Miss A. D. Arman	T/C.O. (sec.)
" J. B. Dean	T/C.O.
Mr. P. T. Manning	T/S.A.

Other Changes:

Mr. A. F. Wilkins	now	A/C.S.O.
Mrs M. M. Clarke	"	Personal Secretary
Miss K. Sumner	"	" "

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the R.S.R.S. Sports and
Social Club will take place in the Canteen at 5 p.m.
on Thursday April 28th 1966.

/Smith-Rose

SMITH-ROSE CUP 1965-66

This year the teams competing for the cup were re-arranged as follows:-

EAST - comprising Spurs A and B, Administration; and Workshops.

WEST - comprising Spurs C and D, and Winkfield.

Competitions were held under the headings of Tennis, Car-Rally, Bridge, Badminton, Table-Tennis, Chess, and Snooker. Unfortunately, a proposed Cricket competition had to be cancelled at the last minute.

In accordance with the rules for the competition the details of the points system for each event were determined by the committee in conjunction with the Section representatives, having regard, in particular, for the number of persons involved in each event.

Final scoring was as follows:-

EVENT	EAST team	WEST team	TOTAL POINTS AWARDED
Tennis	12	0	12
Car Rally	4	7	11
Bridge	12	0	12
Badminton	8	4	12
Table Tennis	8	6	14
Chess	6	6	12
Snooker	5	5	10
TOTAL	55	28	83

WINNERS OF THE SMITH-ROSE CUP FOR

1965-66:- EAST TEAM

Note

Tennis - 3 doubles matches were played; scoring 4 points per match won.

Car Rally - 1st car 5 pts., 2nd car 3 pts., 3rd car 2 pts., 4th car 1 pt.

Bridge - 12 points to the winning team.

Badminton - 3 doubles matches were played; scoring 4 points per match won.

Chess - 4 matches played; 3 points per match won.

Snooker - 10 games played: 1 point per match won.

Table Tennis - 7 singles and 7 doubles matches; 1 point per match won

/Bridge

BRIDGE CLUB

Two club evenings have been held since I wrote the last report of Bridge Club activities one on February 25th and the second on March 25th, when a Pairs Tournament was held jointly with the Road Research Laboratory. Twenty-six people played in R.S.R.S. canteen and the winners were Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Pratt playing E-W and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Smith playing N-S.

Two more NPL Inter-Divisional League matches have been played: on March 15th, Dr. and Mrs. Fooks and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Smith were placed fifth, and on March 29th. Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Zavody and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Smith were placed first - our first "first" this season.

I.C.I. have recently formed a Bridge Club and we entertained them for a match on March 30th, losing by 24 I.M.P.'s. Our team was:-

Dr. Bramley and Dr. Harwood	Mr. Gibson and Mr. Sandford
Dr. and Mrs. Fooks	Mr. Morgan and Mr. Pratt

We go to I.C.I. for a return match on April 28th and meet NPL on their home ground on April 22nd. The last club evening of the season was held on Friday 15th April. There are three more NPL League matches and we have entered two teams of four for the Tournament for the ex-DSIR Bridge Cup which is being held at Warren Spring Laboratory on May 8th.

Jean Fooks

Metamorphosis

When reading the lunch lists today,
We were very much tempted to say,
If the beef (or the lamb)
Turns out to be ham,
Are pickles still extra to pay?

Type of Ovidius Naso

LETTER TO THE OUTSTATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will have read of the presentation of the Wolfe Award and I am sure will join us all in congratulating Dr. King. He has been the first to point out that this mark of esteem reflects credit on all associated with the topside work - not least yourselves at the outstations.

Miss Arman has recently left us and we all wish her well in a new appointment. Her discretion and efficiency many of us know for ourselves, and they were praised by Mr. Ratcliffe in his retirement speech the other month. She should prove a great asset to whoever is now fortunate enough to have her as a personal secretary.

Last month I was fool enough to say that Spring is here. So far as the Calendar goes this is true, but anyone deprived of that useful table might well suppose this to be our midwinter issue, on the evidence of his senses. We have been subjected to gales, rain and steady snow sufficient to block roads and drift deep. At times day temperatures have soared to as much as 2°C.

This may be a meteorological feast, but most of us would rather forego it for a little monotonous sunshine; this includes

Yours sincerely,

The Editor