

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

No. 79

November 1967

The R.S.R.S. Whitley Council

The first Whitley Council in the Civil Service (named after its originator, J. H. Whitley, M.P.) was set up in 1919 with the following objectives:-

"To secure the greatest measure of cooperation between the State in its capacity as employer and the general body of civil servants in matters affecting the Civil Service, with a view to increased efficiency in the public service combined with the well-being of those employed; to provide machinery for dealing with grievances and generally to bring together the experience and different points of view of representatives of the administrative, clerical and manipulative grades".

This somewhat revolutionary idea meant that, at intervals, representatives of management and staff would meet in Council and there discuss any reasonable proposal which could lead to the fulfilment of the obligations stated above.

Since then, National, Departmental and Local Whitley Councils have been formed and have proved a successful means of communication between management and staff.

With the approval of the Director a local Whitley Council has now been set up at R.S.R.S. and a constitution, agreed by the Official Side and all staff associations, has been ratified by the S.R.C. Whitley Council.

The Committee consists of twelve members, five from the Official Side with the Director as Chairman and seven members from the Staff Side representing the staff associations.

The distribution of the Staff Side seats is dependent on the local membership of the respective associations and is at present,

Civil Service Clerical Association	2 seats
Institution of Professional Civil Servants	4 seats
Society of Civil Servants	1 seat

Local functions of the Committee include,

- (a) Provision of the best means for utilizing the ideas and experience of the staff.

- (b) Means of securing to the staff a greater share in and responsibility for the determination and observance of the conditions under which their duties are carried out.
- (c) The encouragement of the further education and training of the staff.
- (d) Improvement of procedures and organization and the provision of opportunities for the full consideration of suggestions by the staff on this subject.
- (e) The consideration and settlement of any matters referred to the Committee by the S.R.C. Whitley Council.

Recruitment, hours, promotion procedure, discipline, tenure, pay and superannuation can also be discussed. Principles underlying any disciplinary action may be discussed if represented as being desirable by the Staff Side.

It is important at this point to realize that, in combining to promote the greatest good for the Station and staff as a whole, none of the staff associations surrender any right of individual action.

The success of a local Whitley Council is, however, dependent on there being complete integrity on both sides and a genuine desire to reach agreement so that meetings can take place in an informal atmosphere and in trust.

It is also very important that the Staff Side shall practice an effective system of democracy so that their views fairly represent those of the staff. Staff Side meetings are therefore held and are governed by a separate constitution. At these meetings, no one association is allowed more seats than all the other associations combined and its Chairman does not vote. Whenever possible agreement is reached by discussion rather than by voting so that only matters of importance and carrying substantial uniformity of view are taken to the meetings with the Official Side.

It is the responsibility of the Director to ensure that any agreement reached with the Staff Side is implemented as soon as possible.

Copies of agreed minutes of the local Whitley Council are sent to the Joint Secretaries of the S.R.C. Whitley Council and a notice board is being placed in the main corridor to keep staff informed of the Council's work.

The first meeting of the R.S.R.S. Whitley Council took place on the 10th October in, we believe, just the atmosphere intended by Whitley and augurs well for the future management/staff relationship at the Station.

Matters discussed at this meeting include,

1. The Constitution of the Canteen Committee
2. Accommodation for staff overseas
3. The disposal of the profit of the former R.S.R.S. Tea Club.
4. The availability of plans for any future buildings at R.S.R.S.

The next meeting of the Council is due to take place next January but an earlier meeting is possible if matters of urgency arise.

Members of both the Official Side and Staff Side Committees can be varied but are at present:-

Official Side

Dr. J. A. Saxton - Chairman
Mr. A. F. Wilkins
Mr. F. Horner
Mr. R. W. Meadows
Mr. G. L. Addison - Joint Secretary

Staff Side

Mr. V. A. W. Harrison
Vice-Chairman
Mrs P. L. Elvins
Mrs B. Woodason
Mr. E. Golton
Mr. G. P. Harris
Mr. J. N. Tyler
Mr. V. Foley - Joint Secretary

V. Harrison

Confessions of a Senile Delinquent

I was that Bloated Plutocrat
Who swore his purse was far from fat
And kept his fivers in his hat.

I was the Star of Stage and Screen
Who made, to every Movie Queen
Suggestions that were quite obscene.

I was that victim of the war
Who gave his shirt-tails to the Poor
And praised himself for evermore.

I was the Dog with a Pair of Tails
Whose deeds were sung in Darkest Wales
By bards with beards and blackened nails.

I was the Monarch of the Glen
Whose mates were mingled in one pen -
Just fine for deer, but not for men.

I was the Lord of the Underworld
Whose spear was into battle hurled
Before the banners were unfurled.

I was that Priest of the Only Way
Who taught the People how to pray
Then read his fan-mail every day.

I was that Master of Disguise
Who seldom caused the least surprise
Because his name showed in his eyes.

But if you think your conscience clear
Be warned! The end is drawing near:
A TV-man with bated breath
Now waits to say "THIS IS YOUR DEATH"

J. Weathersby

Staff News

Congratulations to:-

David and Veronica Smith on the birth of their son Jeremy Edmund.
Mike Colbourne on his marriage to Miss Mary Wilson on 4th October.
Clare Seabrook and Tony Bishop on their engagement.

Welcome to:-

D. R. Lepine	Perm. S.O.
T. Cutforth	Tech. Officer (Falklands Staff Training at Winkfield)
G. Bennett	Perm. S.O.
D. C. Dewick	Non.Perm. S.A.
Mrs M. Hunt	Non.Perm. P.T.Tracer
S. M. Hussain	Perm. A.E.O.
Miss V. May	Non.Perm.Clerk/Typist (Falklands)
G. L. Addison	Est. S.Ex.O.
M. D. Lawden	Perm. E.O.
Mrs D. Baldwin	Non.Perm. C.A.
P. R. Kermode	Perm. A.E.O.
G. F. Flynn	Perm. C.O.
E. F. Bence	Non.Perm.C.O.
S. Amarasinghe	Perm. A.E.O.
M. F. Reid	Non.Perm.S.A.
Miss P. J. Dadds	Non.Perm. S.A.
J. A. Crawford	Non.Perm. S.A.
P. J. Bannister	Non.Perm. S.A.
B. R. Martin	Perm. S.S.O.
R. J. D. Hewitt	Non.Perm.Handyman (ESRO) (Locally recruited Falklands)

Resignations:-

J. W. Hopley	Est.S.Ex.O.(Transferred to London Office)
S. F. Taylor	Non.Perm.S.A.
B. R. May	Perm. S.S.O.
T. Cutforth	Tech. Officer

Sports and Social Club

Come back Guy Fawkes

Readers of the main notice board will no doubt have seen the remarkable letters and pictures sent by some of the seventy children from local homes who were invited to this year's R.S.R.S. bonfire celebrations. The children clearly enjoyed the occasion, as did the R.S.R.S. employees and their families who came, swelling the numbers of those present to something like three hundred, a record I believe for any social function here.

After two days of almost continuous rain and drizzle it seemed possible that the bonfire and fireworks would be a wash-out, but at the last moment fate took pity on us. Just as it was getting dark the rain stopped and at six o'clock

the gallant team of bonfire operators waded through six inches of water to throw can after can of liquid on the fire with spectacular results; when the moment of ignition arrived, away went the bonfire with a roar, reducing the splendid guy to ashes in a matter of minutes and generating a column of sparks which must have been visible for miles.

With the bonfire taken care of, the team got to work on the fireworks and soon the air was filled with exotic pyrotechnic blooms such as "Chinese Flyers", "Cascades" and "Golden sunrise". One rocket, outdoing all the others, vanished into the clouds and no doubt produced a brilliant display somewhere up there. Perhaps the most popular items were the "parachute lights", which did indeed produce parachutes, eagerly pursued and pounced upon by some of the more exuberant children.

After the display, all made for the Elephant Shed, where tables were piled high with hot dogs and coffee urns, manned (if that is the word) by some of the nubile young women of R.S.R.S. Three hundred and sixty hot dogs were consumed (containing, for those interested in statistics, fifteen pounds of onions. This gives some idea of the devotion to duty shown by the onion-peelers!).

By eight o'clock, the last hot dogs were eaten and although many adults remained (the bar was open) most of the by now sleepy children were being taken home to bed. "Can we go back to your work again tomorrow Daddy?" asked my three-year-old son Timothy, still clutching a half-eaten cold hot dog. He seems to think that we have bonfires and fireworks here every day!

The smoothness of the organisation may have concealed to some the hard work involved, but the enormous success of the evening was not accidental; the organising team led so ably by Veronica, Paul and Eric, worked extremely hard and deserves the thanks of us all.

M. E. Farman

Motor Club

A Motor Rally was held on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd October. It was a fine sunny afternoon, but unfortunately the weather brought out the Sunday afternoon motorists in large numbers and roadworks on a roundabout near the start led to unexpected traffic congestion. However, all participants managed to find the tea control at Box Hill, and were later able to enjoy an interesting second half on quieter roads. The event was won by Bob Slater and Chris Boulton, second place being a dead-heat between Tony Bishop and Clare Seabrook, and Mike Sandford and Robert Pratt. There were two other successful finishers, but the last three competitors lost their way near the end and went straight to the rendezvous at the Wheatshaf, Old Windsor, leaving the poor marshal waiting in vain for them at the final control near Englefield Green. Thanks are due to Veronica Lovell who obtained the route for us, and Martin Bowman who acted as a marshal.

A. J. Gibson

Camera Club

The Club's annual outing took place on 16th September 1967. Beaulieu was the destination of the two-car party, which inspected the vast range of exhibits in the Montagu Motor Museum, followed by a quick look at the model railway and a search for the most photogenic angles in the Abbey ruins. Some of the party then disported themselves in go-karts, before visiting the Maritime Museum at nearby Buckler's Hard, building-place of many "wooden walls".

The Club has purchased some studio lamps which have proved suitable for the Tyler technique of portraiture. On 7th November, John Tyler displayed the photographs he took on the Advanced Photography course at Barry Glamorgan Summer School.

Henry Rishbeth

CHRISTMAS DANCE

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE -
SATURDAY, 16TH DECEMBER - 8 pm-12 - IN CANTEEN AT
R.S.R.S. - BAR - BUFFET - DANCING TO THE HI-FI'S -
TICKETS 7/6d EACH FROM THE COMMITTEE.

But on the other hand

I would rather people asked why there was no statue to my memory
than why there was;

Cato

Letter to the Outstations

Dear Colleagues,

It would not be quite true to complain that the furious winter's rages are upon us, but there is a nip in the air o'mornings and leaves lie on the ground in quantities great as our trade gap. In addition we have marked the passage of the year with our usual bonfire and fireworks. The motives underlying this ritual seem complex. The cynical might suppose that Fawkes is annually burnt in effigy for failing and being caught at it, rather than in a public act of righteous wrath at such an enterprising attempt all those years ago. Anyhow, up went the Guy in a blaze of glory and in the rockets' red glare the dark old gods within us were once more appeased.

The bright new gods prosper. Staff at Ditton Park were recently allowed to have an audience of the ICT 1905, now undergoing the mysteries of commissioning. The Engine accepted our tribute graciously and all gazed admiringly at its peripherals (see how your Editor has mastered the trade cant). These duly performed for us; tapes were transported, cards counted and diagrams drawn. We were allowed a glance at the processor; the heart of the matter, a source of logic in a sea of seemingly random wire; and it spoke, or at least typed, to us. The more thoughtful among the company noted, with a slight chill, a certain tendency to the imperative in its tone of voice.

The Greeks were aware of this problem, they tried to cope with the Furies by calling them gentle names, let us go and do likewise. Let's pretend this new master is as much a respectful servant as,

Yours sincerely,

The Editor