

NCR Forty Years Ago

The front page of the First Quarter issue of the NCR World in 1980 had as its feature "Five critical issues" facing the United States in the new decade (and by implication NCR).

In his introduction 'Perspective' to the special issue of NCR World, W.S. Anderson said "General optimism characterized the start of the 1970s, but not so the 1980s"

What created the gloomy view which so many Americans have of the future? Mr Anderson, chairman of NCR outlined the five critical issues as follows:

Inflation... it was said that the USA was moving into a recession, brought on by government policies that fuelled a virulent inflation which has gradually eroded consumer buying power which at the beginning of 1980 was 4% lower than a year before.

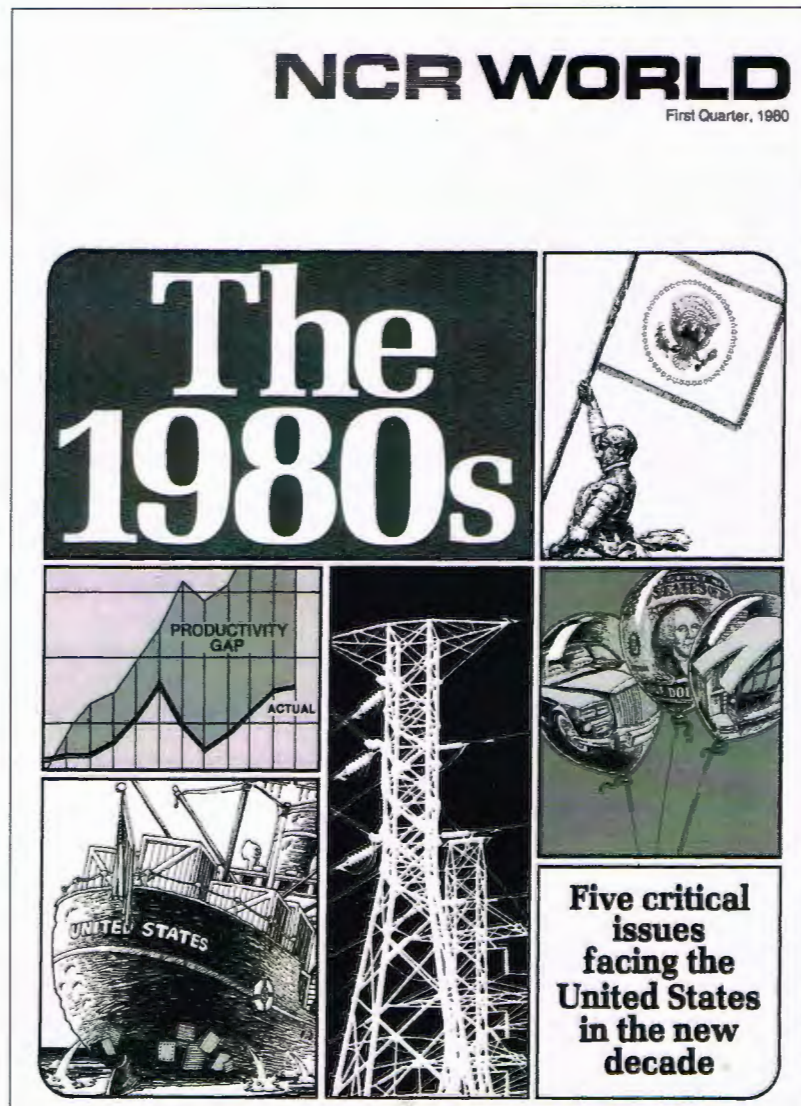
Energy.... Growing electricity demands in the long term and the existing reluctance to use Nuclear power especially after the Three Mile Island incident which took place in 1979 where a partial meltdown of No. 2 reactor caused panic: the remaining reactor there continued working until September 2019 (ed). The government focus on using coal, which was supplying 41% of the electricity needs, was also a big cause for concern with its reduction in air quality around power stations and other industrial users.

Our Perilous Productivity Decline.... The steadily deteriorating economy is leading to fewer jobs, less wealth and a lower standard of living. The argument was that for the past ten years the United States had the lowest rate of productivity growth of any modern industrial nation. The article by the President of the Chase Manhattan Bank went on to say that "Winston Churchill once observed that 'it was a socialist idea that making profit is a vice. The real vice is making losses'" That's one message we must make sure is not lost on our legislators.

The Deteriorating World Role of U.S. Business.... The business community was said to lack confidence both in the economic future of the United States and the World with Government intervention in the marketplace frustrating economic expansion. Trade deals, and barriers, with other countries were seen as a major factor.

A Crisis of Leadership.... In this last article, Jack Kemp, a member of the House of Representatives, opened his argument by stating that President John F. Kennedy captured the American viewpoint when he conceived the epigram "A rising tide lifts all boats." It inspires a feeling of betterment and more important of unity.

But that message seemed to die with Kennedy. After the 60s public life degenerated into the politics of confrontation. A style that now pervades the Carter Administration and the reason for President Carter's unsteady popularity.



NCR has survived the last 40 years, despite the dire warning in this particular issue of the company magazine, but not in the form that most of us would recognise from our time with the company.

What is amazing is that within each of the issues discussed the themes can be easily said to be applicable at the start of the 2020s; The threat of a recession, Energy and the reliance on fossil fuels and there effect on air pollution, Productivity decline, US Trade deals and barriers and lastly the dissatisfaction with government and the unpopularity, in some quarters of the US president and other world leaders.

Editorial



So, Christmas is well behind us now which means time to start reading what has been going on around the regions for the NCR Fellowship

All the regions have had lunches over the last few months and I have included reports for all of them (except Region 9) so that takes up the bulk of the newsletter.

In addition to the lunch reports we have four obituaries; namely Norman Bowen, Jim Joyce, Trevor Steenkamp and one for Gordon Smith provided by his wife, Ann, and includes a poem written and recited at Gordon's funeral by his three grandchildren.

Our archivist/historian, Ian Ormerod, has also written an informative piece entitled 'The Growth of NCR as a Major Computer Manufacturer', Part 1 of which is printed towards the back of this newsletter. The front page is an article from NCR World that came out 40 years ago outlining five critical issues at the time. It was originally published in 1980 which was also the year the Sheldon office in Birmingham opened (more about that in the next issue) and the year your not-so-illustrious editor joined NCR.

Below is a photo reproduced from the National Post published in February/March 1958. Does anyone (like me) think the lady on the right looks like Olivia Coleman as HM The Queen in the Netflix series 'The Crown'?



DECEASED FORMER NCR EMPLOYEES

We are sorry to have to tell you that the following employees are no longer with us. Our condolences to all the affected families:

Fellowship Members

D Bielby	24.07.19	Region 2W
BL Jolliffe	10.09.19	Region 4
JER Joyce	12.07.19	Region 4
WG Smith	04.06.19	Region 6
KC Umney	02.10.19	Region 4
F Ellison	14.10.19	Region 2e

Other Deceased Pensioners

A Warcup	26.04.19
TE Moore	18.05.19
BJ Clarke	17.05.19
DG Holt	24.04.19
Ms BHS Walker	10.06.19
G Arnold	05.06.19
BG Weaver	16.06.19
Ms JV Weller	14.06.19
Ms SJ Salisbury	24.05.19
Ms FA Keniry	27.06.19
CM Nunn	03.06.19
RA Taylor	25.06.19
GD Woodhouse	01.07.19
AA Soulsby	07.08.19
RV Swain	25.04.19
PT Sharples	14.08.19
TA Steenkamp	21.08.19
MJ Unitt	17.08.19
R Wright	24.08.19
H Child	09.09.19
M Elsdon	06.08.19
HWL Ottaway	18.09.19

Unfortunately, PIC do not give us any more detail than this so we appreciate that it can be difficult to identify individuals (especially non-Fellowship members) from the information given.

WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to report, that as another year comes to an end, that the Fellowship continues to flourish and we have had our usual round of successful lunches. We have also welcomed some 8 new members which is very encouraging.

We have also had two changes of leadership, in Scotland and the West country. I would like to thank both Jack Whyte, region 1, and Jessie Wallace, region 9, for all their help and support in organising these regions for several years, it was a pleasure having them as part of the team and I wish them well for the future.

Hamish MacKenzie has kindly offered to take on the role in region 1 and Adrian Gallagher in region 9 and we thank

them for this. We welcome them to the Committee and look forward to meeting them both to our annual meeting in March 2020.

My thanks, as always, to our committee members for all that they do in support of the Fellowship. None of us are getting any younger and they do an excellent job in arranging lunches for all to enjoy.

Finally my thanks to all our members without whom there would be no Fellowship. I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Lin

AROUND THE REGIONS

Region 1 – Hamish Mackenzie

Our Retirement Fellowship Autumn 2019 lunch took place at the Italian Kitchen Restaurant in Ingram St in Glasgow on Wednesday 30th October.

We have had lunch here several times in the last few years, and each time have found the staff patient and friendly and the food and service excellent.

Our numbers were down a little this year, 20 colleagues were due to attend - on a beautiful, dry autumn day in Glasgow – however, **Ian Fairbairn** & **Ian MacLachlan** withdrew due to family commitments and **Scott Caldwell** and **Bill Ferguson** sent their apologies on the day. **Brian Strathdee** & **George Benson** travelled through from Edinburgh and **Wallace Hay** escorted **George Brown** up to Glasgow from Ayrshire – or was it the other way around? **John MacNicol** showed up from Aberdeen, **Peter Kemp** from Dundee, **Frew Wieworka** from Forfar and **Hamish Mackenzie** from even further north – Strathpeffer. **Ron Gammie** & **Brian Behr** arrived very early – before the restaurant opened, I think – and were still enjoying the company and the refreshments with **Roger Green** and some others when most of us had run out of energy. It was great to see **Jim Marshall** and **Allan Caldwell** who have been regulars at these lunches for quite some time now !

The lunch itself was very enjoyable, many of the party repaired after lunch for some liquid refreshments at a busy local city centre pub - the Committee Room Number 9 in John Street – very close to the city council offices.

Again, there were a few who could not make it – **David Brown**, **John McElroy**, **Dod Craig** were away on holiday as were **John Mackay** & **Ginger Gray**. **Peter Hardern** was playing in a curling match and **Neil Bathie** sent his apologies as he's been a bit under the weather lately. **David McIntosh** and **John Falconer** have mobility issues and elected not to travel this time.

My thanks are due to **John Gray**, **Allan Caldwell** and **George Benson** for their help in organising the occasion; to George again for the photographs and to everybody who came along and made it a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



Fred Wieworka, Peter Kemp & Hamish Mackenzie



Wallace Hay, Roger Green & John MacNicol



Bob Stewart & Allan Caldwell



Jim Marshall & Wallace Hay

Region 1 continued



George Brown & Ron Gammie



Brian Strathdee & George Benson

Region 2E – Pat Keogh

Report October 2019 - Pat Keogh

Our second lunch of 2019 was held on **Tuesday the 15th October** at our usual venue, Otley Golf Club.

We moved the October Lunch to a Tuesday to vary the day from Wednesday which didn't always suit everyone. The May lunch will remain on a Wednesday. The menu choices were Soup or Pate, Roast Pork or Salmon, Apple Pie or Fruit Pavlova followed by Tea or Coffee. As you can see by the photo backgrounds we enjoyed another beautiful day with great views across the golf course.

Twenty attendees enjoyed the three course lunch and are named on the photos accompanying this report with the exception of myself and Walter Bullen's wife Jean who didn't make it onto any of the pictures. We'll have to sack Peter.

Although he was not part of our region, we marked the very premature passing of **Trevor Steenkamp** from Birmingham who was a fantastic guy and a member of the FED Golf Society which I organise. Trevor was from South Africa and his wife Jane wrote to me with an account of his life. **Peter Cundall** and I attended his funeral in Birmingham. I have done a separate report which makes interesting reading.

I also received responses from a lot of our regulars who couldn't make it this time. **Don and Judy Ward**, Judy is still recovering from her operation, **Philip Wilkinson**, **Roger Fernside**, **Steve Gates**, **Dave Dawson**, **Mervyn Clapham**, **Peter Carruthers**, **Jean Pugh**, **Margaret Ellis**, **Sandy McMillan** will attend the West Lunch in two days time, **John Evanson**, **Richard Slater**, **Bob Appleby**, **John Gilroy** will attend the Newcastle lunch, **Harrold Hunter**, **Walter Scarth**, **June Rudge-Priestly**, **Brian Penny** and **Peter Ramsden** couldn't attend for the usual reasons of holidays, illness, hospital appointments, etc. No such problems for **Frank Pusey** who has gone back to the States to sort out Mr Trump.

Ian Beveridge was having some surgery but says it's nothing he shouldn't recover from. On the surgery front, **Norman Roberts** was booked for a valve replacement and triple bypass. He'll be jogging to the next lunch.

Dave Collins, who has been living in Spain for some years, couldn't make it as they had just returned from a cruise. He says that he is not able to come to any more of the lunches as he has been diagnosed with the early stages of Parkinsons and Dementia and can no longer drive. He finished by saying "Hope you have a successful meal and please pass on our good wishes to everyone, Yours Dave". I will keep you up to date if I hear more. I'm sure he will enjoy a few more cruises.

In the mean time **Dick Sale** and his wife **Jacque** were still cruising around Europe, before it closes, in their motorhome. He emailed me that they were just completing the weekend at the motorcycle MotoGP at Aragon Spain, then Madrid, Cadiz and the Algarve returning in November.

The North East Sub-Group, the **Northeast NCR Wrinklies Coffee Club** have moved from the **One Twenty Cafe**, **Heaton Rd, Newcastle**, or did they get thrown out? (no it closed down actually) but still meet every second Tuesday in the month at 11:30 for lunch at **The Bear & Natural Kitchen**, **33 Heaton Road, Newcastle, NE6 2**, where everyone orders their own food. I will try to get some photos for the next edition.

Future Dates

All our May lunches will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month as usual.

Wednesday 20th May 2020

All our October lunches will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday 20th October 2020

Pat Keogh

Region 2E continued



Andrew Hill & Graham Halton



Keith Penny & Kathy Argile



Alan Dixon & Sandy



Elaine Summerfield & Susan Alger



Peter Cundall & Walter Bullock



Pete Scanlon with Susan & Gill



Geoff Smith, Mike Wood & Keith Stansfield



Mike Green & Baz Pickard

Region 2W

Report October 2019 - Pat Keogh

It has been hard work getting the lunches re-launched in the Northwest. The main issue has been compiling an up-to-date email list to get the word out there. With input from Graham Brookman, Ian Ormerod and Charles Southall, plus my own files I think we are getting there. As we add people to the list the lunches will become better attended and better enjoyed by all.

Apart from the fourteen people who attended on the 17th, I received apologies from a further twelve who hope to see us next time.

John Donald from Teradata also said that he will circulate future invitations to the other Teradata people.

We were blessed on the day with the attendance of Terry O'Garr, now 98, who tucked away a Full English with no problem. Thanks goes to his son David for bringing him to the lunch and we hope to see them again, particularly in two years time when we can have a right good celebration.

The other attendees are listed on the photos attached. I apologise for the poor quality of the photos but that is down to my very old mobile phone which I have since upgraded, with the much needed help of my daughter Patricia (mobile phone consultant). My official photographer, Peter Cundall, couldn't make the lunch, some feeble excuse of a hospital appointment.

Charles Southall sent me a photo of how the lunches were attended in the old days. I counted about 40 attendees which Charles has named in the accompanying key. I don't think we can get back to those kind of numbers but it was fun to see how many people I recognised.

Charles thinks it was the mid nineties. It would be nice to know if anyone can pinpoint it?

Future Dates

I'm looking at the second Wednesday for our May lunches

Wednesday 13th May 2020

I'm looking at the third Wednesday for our October lunches

Wednesday 21st October 2020

The Golf Club have recommended that a Wednesday best suits our needs.

Pat Keogh



Peter Cole, David O'Garr & Terry O'Garr



Mike Heslop & Pat Keogh



Dave Cooper, Charles & Rhian Southall



Walter & Jean Bullen



Pauline & Sandy McMillan, & John and Linda Chedotal

Region 2W continued



All 40 ish attendees

Region 3 – Keith Templeman

A very good meal was had at our usual venue together with an excellent turn out of 33 members, partners and guests.

Present were **Ian Ormerod, Duncan McCondochie, Clarence Allbutt, Harry Ridge, Keith Templeman, Jim McHugh, Kevin Rixson, Joe Teeling, Peter Haywood, Jill MacPhail, Dave Beattie, Joy Wright, Les Clarke, Henry Hardacre, Richard Baker, Valerie Glynn, Margaret Ellis, and Graham Brookman.** For the first time **Barry Skelding, Pete Selwyn and Marilyn Almond** also joined the group.

Apologies were received from **Brian Briggs, Keith Hemming, Ken Ford, Phil Rock, Walter Bullen, Ian Davidson, John Latty, Joy Maskall, Yatish Ranch and David Cooksey** who couldn't make the date for various reasons.

Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and it was great to see some folk for the first time in many years. It is hoped that we can all make it a regular 6 monthly rendezvous.

Our spring lunch next year will be on Thursday 23rd April, 2020 and invitations will be sent out approximately 6 weeks before.

I would be grateful if regular attendees let me know



Duncan and Dorothy McCondochie



Clarence Allbutt



Joe Teeling and Dave Beattie



Nita and Harry Ridge



Jackie Beattie and Jenny Teeling

Region 3 continued



Region 3 continued



Region 4 – Roger Whelan

The London Region 4's annual lunch was held at the Corus Hotel in Lancaster Gate close to Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens on Wednesday 2nd October 2019.

As always, the lunch went off very well, with a slowly diminishing number of guests as time gradually takes its toll. What a melancholy thought but happily the atmosphere was convivial and jolly. What a pleasure it is to meet up with former colleagues and even get to know people one didn't get to talk to much during work days.

According to the feedback I received, there was general satisfaction with the food, the service and the arrangements. The hotel is keen to continue providing good service and so, if there are any suggestions for improvement, please let me know and we'll try to take them into account for next year.

We had 42 Fellowship Lunch guests this year, a few less than last year, as some expected guests were not able to make it at the last minute.

The re-usable name badges worked well and I hope everyone got the hot meal they ordered, that is, if they could remember what it was they did order! The PA system ensures that the speaker can be heard, so if anyone has any announcements to share at next year's lunch please let me know!

There is a list of attendees at the end of this report as a reminder for all those who were present. This could be used as a prompt to tempt others to come and join us next year and continue to make it an enjoyable annual reunion.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me their email address. Half of the invitations were sent by email to save postage but this was not a complete success as there were a few members who didn't receive their invitation. Please let me know if you have changed your email address in the meantime. I will persevere with this method of sending out the invitations and will of course post invitations to anyone who prefers that method or who do not have the facilities to receive or send emails,

As always I am extremely grateful to **Chrissie Young** and **John Atkins** who generously helped out with the registration. Starting the lunch a bit earlier worked well and gave us all a bit more time for conversation.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's London Lunch which will be on Wednesday 7th October 2020. Invitations will go out late June / early July.

The following guests attended this year's lunch:

Niall Anderson, John Atkins, Steve Bowden, Ernie Brewer, Graham Brookman, Alan Chard, Roy Cheal, Mary Cronin, John Davies, John Fenner, Trevor Friend, Chris Gillespie, Robert Gray, Patricia Hague, Bernard Harris, Ray Harris, Tracey Harrison, Nigel Hensman, Melville Hill, Keith Hollands, Ann Humphreys, Chris James, Geoff Jackson, Lalji Kerai, Roger Lintern, Paul Livesey, Hilda Lott, Rodger Main, Christopher Marles, Steve Matthews, Douglas Milsom, Eric Page, Andrew Robinson, Lin Sandell, John Smith, John Souster, Peter Staines, Stanley Statt, Mike Sumner, Stephen Swinbank, Roger Whelan, Chrissy Young.



Region 4 continued



Region 4 continued



Region 5 – Anthony Welch

We had our autumn lunch on 16th October at the Malta Allington, its handy as its just off of the M20, It was the usual people less one, the lady wife was nursing a broken kneecap. It is surprising how time flies when you are nattering, the lunch lasted a good three hours, as we caught up on families ,holidays etc. Ended wishing each other season's greetings in advance and see you next year!



Region 6 – Alan Hutchins

Region 6 held their lunch on November 6 at the Crown Inn, Cootham, West Sussex. We came here last year. Although it has changed hands in the last few weeks it is still very good and very good value. I must thank **Barry** and **Pat Shorten** for finding the venue and arranging the lunch. There were 23 of us, which is about what we have had for some years now. So good to see past colleagues those present where:

Tony Goddard, Dave Gilby, Linda Harper, Dave & Joan Wheeler, Alan & Sheila Hutchins, Geoff & Susan Penton, John Stringer, Michael & Carol Brown, Jim & Sylvia Lawmon. Nick Carter, Dave Court, Michael & Jenny Ray, Colin & Peggy Norris and Barry & Pat Shorten. We were sorry to learn one of our members, **Jim Bates** had passed away a few weeks ago.



Region 7 – John Jones

There are two reports for Region 7; one from June 2019 and the other from November 2019. The photos were all taken at the June lunch (Ed.)

Report of Region Seven's 19th June 2019 Lunch.

At first this lunch looked as if it would be a disaster, I had booked a table for 20 people, got **Fred Macey** to pay the deposit because I couldn't get hold of **Dave Jones** and sent out the usual clutch of emails only to get "Sorry can't make it" replies. With a week to go there were four possibly five coming.

Wayne Edmond was going to a harbour festival if the weather was OK, which meant **Johnny Watts** had no transport. **Dave Jones** had had a stroke and was in hospital but we didn't know where. **Bill Hudson** was off on his travels, **Bev and Annie Cunningham** were on holiday as were **Keith and Margaret Ponting** and **Angela and Paul Bryant**.

Chris Stocker, Paul Davis, Keith Templeman, Leslie Clark, Peter Bodley, Bob Kirkham, Rob Fairbairn and Mary Leader all had previous engagements and as **Sue Hooper** couldn't make it I had no one to transport **Jean Cheek**.

Rita Keitch was on holiday in South Africa and **Geoff Jackson** in the Lakes and **Chris Mumford** at Grandchildren's sports day.

Then all of a sudden affirmative replies started arriving, **Maurice and Pat Keene, Michael Wells, Jessie Wallace and Martin, Ian Omerod, Dennis and Anita Williams, Roy Back, Barry and Barbara Avery and Graham and Carole Watt**,

New comers **Mike and Christine Sanford** graced our table for the first time and I hope they felt welcomed enough to want to come again.

Dave and Jan Robinson were due to come but had to cancel last minute.

For once **Keith Middleton** was in the country but was having to act as chauffeur to his wife.

Finally, some really good news **Maurice Keene** had located **Dave Jones** "smuggled" him out of the stroke rehabilitation unit and brought him along to bring our numbers up to 18.

Report of Region Seven's 13th November 2019 Lunch.

I wasn't able to attend this lunch not because I am ill but because I am unable to drive at the moment. So I sent out the usual clutch of emails, enlisted the help of **Fred Macey** to pay the deposit and asked **Maurice Keene** to do the honours of introducing everyone on the day.

In the end the following people made it to what I was told was a very enjoyable lunch and I wasn't missed at all, **Roy Back, Barry and Barbara Avery, Maurice and Pat Keene, Peter Bodley, Fred Macey, Michael Wells, Jessie Wallace and Martin, Graham Watt and Mike and Christine Sanford**.

Wayne Edmond was going to Cardiff Eye Hospital to act as an example of good eye surgery. He also appears on TV in Channel 4's "Accident" second episode as one of the three priests following the funeral procession. Don't blink or you'll miss him.

Dave Jones is back in the Stroke Rehab unit at Southmead Hospital where he is making good progress.

Bill Hudson was off on his travels this time to New Zealand, **Bev and Annie Cunningham, Keith and Margaret Ponting and Angela and Paul Bryant, Chris Stocker, Paul Davis, Keith Templeman, Leslie Clark, Bob Kirkham, Rob Fairbairn and Mary Leader, Geoff Jackson, Ian Omerod,**



Group photo



Carole & Graham Watt



Maurice Keene & Dave Jones

Region 7 continued



Dennis and Rita Williams



Mike and Christine Sanford



Mike Wells



Pat Keene



Roy Gack and Ian Ormerod

Region 8 – Richard Craigie

Region 8 Luncheon was on Thursday 17th October at the Lazy Otter. We were 19 in number, several of friends were unable to be with us this time, however **Debbie**, **Ted Millers** wife always passes on to me how our friends are, I'm grateful for that. **John Limn** now 98 still has his dry sense of humour and passed a joke on for me to tell. As usual being October we had a small Christmas raffle, 1st prize to **Chris Stocker**, 2nd to **Eileen Fish**.

In attendance were :- **Jack & Cliff Ree**, **Dennis Pearce**, **Derek Prescott**, **John O'Connor**, **Chris Stocker**, **Richard & Linde Chamberlen**, **Jimmy Wickham & Eileen Fish**, **Dave Debnam**, **Tom Atkins**, **Colin Franklin**, **Frank & Gladys Bellamy**, **Tom & Avril Herbert** and finally **Gloria & I**.

Date and venue of the Spring Reunion Luncheon.

Thursday 30th April 2020 at The Chequers, Eriswell"



Jack & Cliff Ree



John O'Connor

Dennis Pearce



Colin Franklin

Tom Atkins

Dave Debnam

Region 8 continued



Region 10 – Ken Carson

Our main annual Fellowship Lunch on Friday 25th October was by popular demand held once more in the round, at the Ginger Bistro Belfast. We all had our usual good time in decade defying conversation and recollection, but on this occasion tempered by the absence of our highly esteemed colleague and friend **Colum Hughes**, who, to our collective sadness left our company on 30th June. Colum was one of our most stalwart fellowship members, who obviously enjoyed being with us as much as we all enjoyed being companion to his incisive wit, perceptive turn of phrase and not least, his endearing charm, which will not easily be forgotten.

Once more through Postscript, we would like to send our sincerest condolences to Mona and the entire family circle.



OBITUARIES

William Gordon Smith**(1-11-1931 to 04-02-2019)**

Gordon was born in Gateshead on 1st November 1931. He was the second son of Elizabeth and William Smith. His brother, Norman, was four years older than him and his sister, Dorothy, seven years younger.

War came and he and Norman were evacuated to Bishops Auckland. Dorothy was only one year old and remained in Gateshead with her parents.

Gordon passed his 11 plus exam, returned to Gateshead to take his place at the Boys Grammar School where Norman was already a pupil. Gordon passed his school certificate in 1948 and joined the tax office in London, working there for two years before being called up to do his National Service for 18 months. He joined the R.A.F as a radar engineer in Cornwall and Scotland. He learned to dance and met Ann at the Empress Ballroom, Whitley Bay in 1952 after he was demobbed the same year. They were married in 1956, and Michael was born in 1959 - a very happy day.

Gordon joined NCR Newcastle in 1954 and went to London on a six-month course, the first of many over the years. In 1966 he went to Dayton, Ohio for six months and again in 1958 for three months, a time which saw the beginnings of large, mainframe computers. Returning to Newcastle his work involved troubleshooting covering North-East England and Scotland.

He re-located to Lagos, Nigeria in 1975; a totally different environment and worked there until 1978. Returning to the UK he settled in NCR's Southampton branch form where he retired in 1987.

Gordon made many friends at NCR, keeping in touch with many of them. He enjoyed his grandchildren, travelling and dancing until he was 80. He broke his leg, the result of osteoporosis which was diagnosed in 1996; no more dancing.

Michael and Maxine married in 1986 and have three children; Anna-Marie, Christopher and Lizzie. Gordon would have been overwhelmed by the poem they wrote, and each read at his funeral (reprinted opposite).

Poem about Gordon Smith written by his grandchildren, Anna-Marie, Christopher and Lizzi and read by them at his funeral

When you were 55,
I came along
With the love of a musical
Of a dance and a song.
Frank Sinatra films .
And Morecambe and Wise.
You sang "Bring me sunshine"
Which always made me smile.
All the lovely times shared,
That holiday in France.
When I stood on your feet
And you taught me to dance.

When you were 60,
A smile I did bring.
On your lap I would sit
As we swung on the swing.
Whole floor covered train sets
On the bridge the trains teetered.
You built Tracy Island
Just like on Blue Peter.
The games that we played
Like Chess, Crib, Dominoes.
Are the memories I'll treasure
As time continues to flow.

When you were 70, .
I arrived on the scene.
Like a whirlwind of laughter,
A quiet life had never been.
Your wine making antics,
And me washing wine jars.
And taking me on journeys,
In your shiny, clean cars.
Playing cards such as Go Fish,
And watching Countdown.
Are my memories of a Grandpa,
Without any frown.

Over the past 30 years
You've watched us all grow.
But now comes the time
When we must let you go.
But the memories we treasure
Will help you survive.
In our hearts you will stay
For the rest of our lives.
All the words left unspoken,
All the wounds left unmissed.
Here is to a Grandpa
Who will surely be missed.

FED Golf Society

Remembering Trevor Steenkamp



Pat Keogh

Trevor attended most of our golf events, when the job allowed. He always asked me for the dates well in advance so that he could organise the day off, not always an easy task. Then he told us he was to retire and would be able to attend all our events. Sadly the onset of lung cancer robbed him of that and robbed us of his company which will be greatly missed.

I knew that Trevor wasn't well so I phoned him just before our August Captain's Day for an update. He was in hospital for a session of Kemo and was quite upbeat as he told me that the previous session had showed some improvement. Sadly this proved to be Trevor's normal optimism as he passed away just a few days later.

I attended Trevor's funeral with Peter Cundall, and his wife Jane promised to send me a few notes on his life that many people wouldn't know. Her letter was longer than I expected but made very interesting reading, so much so that I have included it below in full.

Jane Steenkamp

"Trevor started his career with NCR in 1978. He joined NCR (Central Africa) after a chance meeting with a NCR engineer (Roy Sinclair) during one of his 6 week army stints that every young man was compelled to do in what was then Rhodesia. He was in the signals corp. Roy suggested that Trevor apply for a job with NCR, which he did and got the job.

Trevor embraced the job at NCR, after his dead-end job in the offices of the Rhodesia Railways. He started off on the 32 accounting machines, National Model 9H adding machines and facet machines. It wasn't long before he was programming the 32 accounting machines, he'd make up the little stops and bring them home for me to type the little labels that were stuck on the top of each one. He was so keen to learn and move on he was soon working on the only 2 large tower computers in the town, one at the Railway computer bureau and the other at a large departmental store. He enjoyed the challenge of isolating problems and then fixing them. Repairs were taken down to component level as spares were hard to come by.

When he first started with NCR (CA) he walked from customer to customer, there was only one pool company car, which would be allocated to him if he needed to visit a customer out of the town centre. However he did eventually get a company car of his own.

But life as we knew it was changing and Trevor realised that Zimbabwe was slipping backwards in the world of technology and it was time to move on. We'd set our sights on Australia but never got there. That was due to another chance meeting with a NCR manager.

We'd come over to the UK to visit family and while being taken into Birmingham along the A45 Trevor spotted the NCR offices. "Stop" he shouted, "I'm going to go and introduce myself and ask to have a look around. Which he did.

I don't remember who the manager was at the time but he casually said to Trevor we've got vacancies if you'd like to apply. That was in the June of 1989. By September 1989 we'd moved to the UK and Trevor started working for NCR (Midlands)

Graham Cox was his first manager, who was so supportive. Trevor absolutely loved his job he thrived on the new challenges of learning about all the equipment NCR had in this country. He was delighted to go on all the training courses up in Scotland, he was like a sponge absorbing it all, and won best engineer certificates several times. He worked evenings repairing and loading the cash cassettes for the cash point machines. The other big challenge was learning to find his way around, no satnav in those days just maps! He enjoyed the camaraderie of meeting all the engineers in the workshop in the basement of the offices in Sheldon, comparing notes and knowledge. He missed it when NCR closed the office and had to work from home, and I think that is when he started feeling things were changing and not for the better! In his mind.

It was at this time he broke his service with NCR and joined Computer Centre for 6 months, but soon realised he was happier at NCR and was very lucky his manager Nigel was happy to have him back.

Trevor joined the NCR engineer's golf society, he was a keen cricketer and always enjoyed a game of golf while living in Africa so was only too happy to join in with fellow engineers. Again it was the good company and the camaraderie he enjoyed.

The last two years of Trevor's NCR career was the most difficult. The company had gone through enormous changes and he didn't adapt to them. He hated the shift working, he didn't feel that running the engineers from abroad was efficient at all as the planners had no idea of the geography of the country or the equipment. He no longer felt any sense of job satisfaction. Sadly after many happy years at NCR he left in November 2018 feeling quite despondent. He was ready to retire and it was sad he never had the chance to enjoy any quality retirement time.

Trevor passed away 12th August 2019."

In her covering email to me Jane summed him up as:-

"Trevor was a quiet man yet good company, he's left a huge void."

Pat Keogh

Norman Bowen



When Norman was 9 years old he was looked after in a residential all boys home where the conditions were quite harsh. He stayed there until he was old enough to be conscripted into the armed forces. He joined the Royal Army Pay Corps on 15th February 1945. At the time of joining he was described as a Market Gardener and as you would expect he left with an Exemplary Conduct rating. His last posting being Basra, Iraq.

When he left the army in 1948 he went to live with friends, and that is where he continued to live until the very end, by which time he had become part of the family.

Norman was very interested in sailing and he bought his own sailing boat, an Enterprise Sailing Dinghy named "Gannet" which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also loved classic cars. He had a lovely old Riley car which he treated as his baby. It was loved and cared for and he always looked forward to taking it out for a run as often as he could. He also offered his services as a chauffeur to family and friends, often taking brides to the church for weddings. He always looked the part and the brides-to-be were always proud to be escorted to the church in such a lovely car.

In later years he sold his Riley and bought a classic Jaguar car, a 1966 S Type which again was loved and cared for.

He loved being independent and it was a great comfort to all of us, his adoptive family, that right until the very end Norman continued to be able to drive.

Tribute from John Smith-

I am honoured to have been asked to pen a few words about my old friend and manager Norman Bowen.

Where do I start?

The best place would be by saying all the things that are traditionally said about any departed relative, friend and colleague, Kind, Honest, Loyal, Principled and a gentle Gentleman but in Norman's case it would be completely true.

It was so long ago that I met Norman that I can't remember where and when, but I think it was in the 1960's playing football at the National Cash Registers (now NCR) sports ground at the Welsh Harp, Hendon

I am not absolutely sure, but I think Norman was an engineer working out of Brent Depot where Les Ball was depot Manager. Norman later took over this position.

I worked as an engineer out of Head Office, so our paths did not cross often until my territory transferred to Brent Depot

around 1973 and I was lucky enough to have Norman as my manager.

I recall that around 1970 Norman organised a works Christmas Dinner Dance at the Sparrow Hawk Edgware. I was honoured to be invited. The event was such a raging success that I booked the venue for my wedding reception the following year. It was typical of Norman to organise events for the people who worked with and for him. Dances, Football and Cricket matches' visits to London Zoo and on one occasion a visit to Kent to play darts at a pub run by one of Norman's ex-engineers. Norman always saw the very best in the people who worked with and for him and would defend, protect and promote them should the occasion arise.

Norman was very interested in sailing and most weekends could be found in his caravan at West Mersea, Essex which he used as a base for his beloved sailing.

He would sometimes travel to his caravan in his vintage Riley Car. On occasion Norman would travel to work in his Riley, which he maintained in prestige condition. One of Norman's many attributes was that he was a perfectionist, if he did something he did it well, with maybe the exception of golf which he tried very hard to master. Norman introduced me to indoor golf, and although it sounds strange we had golf lessons in a School Gym. This was set up by the local evening class institute for the winter and was run by a PGA professional. We used air balls which are a lot less lethal than the real thing. When spring came and we got back out on the golf course we realised that the lessons had been well worthwhile.

A number of his ex staff kept in close touch with Norman during the 30 years after he retired and often visited him and took him out for outings which in itself speaks volumes of how much people who knew him thought of him.

John (Smudger) Smith

Jim Joyce



In August last year we were informed of the sad passing of Jim Joyce, on 6th July 2019, aged 87. His daughter, Jacqui Fitzgerald, wrote to us and provided the following:

"Dad worked at NCR Estates Department in Marylebone Road, London between 1973 to 1994, after which he retired to Selsey, West Sussex to continue his hobbies of fishing, golf and bowls.

Dad often spoke fondly of the NCR pensioner lunches and kept in contact with several of his previous work colleagues."

The Growth of NCR as a Major Computer Manufacturer – Part 1

NCR's progress towards being a computer company began in the 1938 when electronic research began in the newly formed NCR Electrical Department was set up. By 1942 the research team had produced the first counting device using vacuum tubes (valves that they produced themselves). This department then produced the famous NCR Bombe for the Enigma project.

In the late 1940s NCR engineers created magnetic memory drums attached to accounting machines, various electronic digital displays and indicators and signature verification systems using video signals.

A significant step forward was made in 1952 when NCR acquired Computer Research Corporation of Hawthorne, California. CRC produced a line of digital computers with applications in aviation. By 1955 30 CRC "102" electronic Data Processing systems had been sold for scientific applications, but NCR wanted a business computer and the CRC102 was developed, eventually to become the NCR 304.

The 102-A, a computer manufactured by the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, Ohio was originally referred to as the NCR CRC 102-A as it had been designed by the Computer Research Corporation. Sixteen 102-A's were produced altogether, and two were installed in Canada. The first was at A. V. Roe (Canada) Limited, an aircraft company in Malton, Ontario adjacent to what is now Pearson Airport. The company will be remembered for designing, building and flying a supersonic jet fighter, the Avro Arrow, which was scrapped before it went into production. The second 102-A, shown in the photograph, was at RCAF Station Cold Lake, (now called Canadian Forces Base, Cold Lake) Alberta where it was used for some of the calculations involved in the design and testing of the Velvet Glove air-to-air guided missile which like the Arrow was another ill-fated Canadian endeavour. The NCR 102-D, a later decimal version of the NCR 102-A, was installed in the Computing Devices offices in Ottawa in late 1955 or early 1956. The number of 102-D's produced is not known.



In 1953 the Electronics Division was established at NCR Dayton, to continue to pursue applications of electronics in business machines.

The First Sales of the NCR304 was not until 1958 and NCR management were so pessimistic about its success that only

28 were commissioned from General Electric who had been selected to manufacture this model.

In the UK the company were moving forward rapidly and after presenting a paper at the National Conference of the Office Management Association held at Brighton on the 19-22 May 1955 NCR's Bill Woods met up with Elliott's to see if a deal with them could be done.

In June 1956 Elliotts made a press announcement that their digital computers, starting with the 405 would be marketed by NCR for all business applications. This arrangement was extended to cover further models, The Elliott 503 from 1963 onwards, the Elliott 4120 from 1965 and the 4130 from 1966.

The Dayton designed NCR315 was marketed from 1960 with the sole UK manufacturing facility being Elliotts at Borehamwood. By March 1967 123 Borehamwood built NCR315s had been delivered.

By 1968 NCR was concentrating on selling the NCR 315 and in April 1968 all agreements between the two companies effectively came to an end. By that time Elliott-Automation had merged with English Electric which was then taken over by GEC

Developed concurrently with the NCR304 the NCR 390, released in 1960, was the first low-cost, mass marketed computer. It used punched tape recorders for original data entry. The system was fully transistorized with magnetic core memory and was the first electronic computer to be able to read and process a conventional business document

Large numbers of 390s were installed by the US Air Force and US Navy for payroll Processing worldwide

A NCR 310 was produced in 1961. The Model .310 Electronic Data Processing Computer was a small, highly flexible, multipurpose, stored program device with data processing capabilities equal to that of many large-scale computers. The large (4,096 12-bit words) magnetic core memory with its high operating speed (60,000 instructions per second) makes the Model .310 a powerful data processing tool. The .310 has a full complement of logical and decision-making instructions and uses single-address logic for most cases. Multiply and divide instructions are not included as such but these operations may be obtained by proper programming.

1960 the NCR 315 computer was introduced and commercial 'Data Centres were set up in cities around the world, including London.

The 315 was a highly advanced modular computer suitable for a broad range of customers, including banks, retail stores, manufacturing firms, educational institutions, military and other government institutions.

For a bank the 315 could post 1,500 checking accounts in a minute and automatically sort and prepare customer statements.

The 315 offered both conventional magnetic tape and the new NCR CRAM file system with decks of 256 magnetic cards which could store data and subsequently selected and read in a sixth of a second. By 1964 1,000 NCR 315 computers had been installed.

These first models were manufactured by outside suppliers but in the early 1960 NCR began manufacturing its own computers such as the Class 500 and Century series in Dundee.

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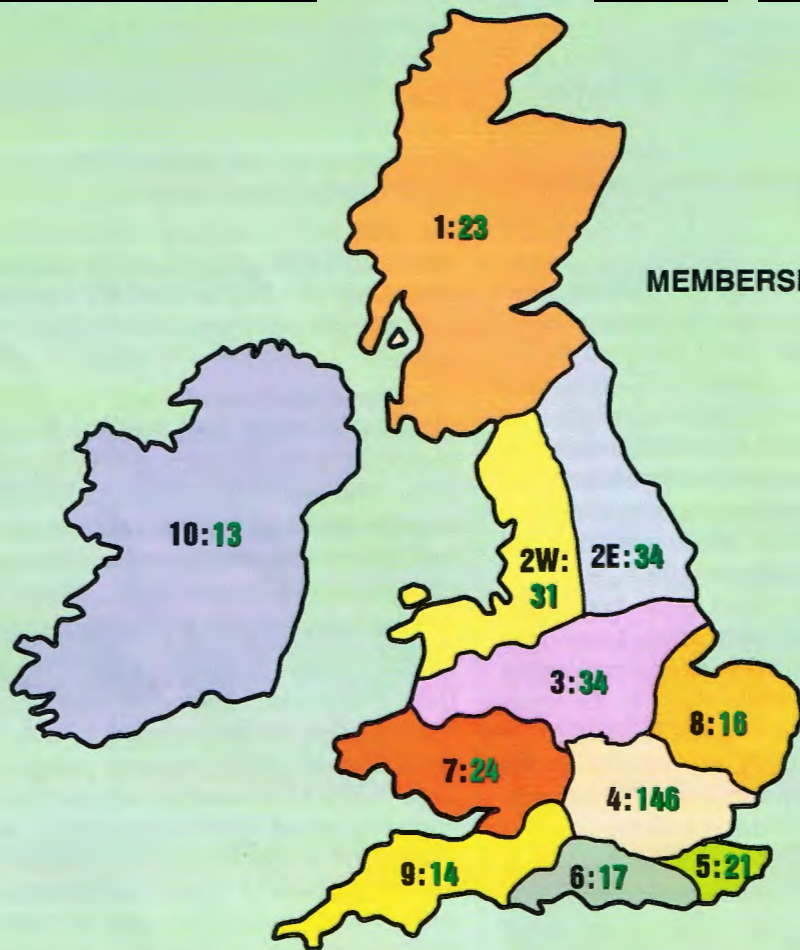
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