

NEWSLETTER OF THE NCR FELLOWSHIP

No 67 Winter 2022



MEET THE ORGANISERS IAN ORMEROD



PS: Welcome to PostScript, and the second in a series of discussions with fellow coordinators.

You are well known within the Fellowship as the Curator of our website (https://www.ncr.org.uk), and the author of absorbing stories of NCR's History in our six-monthly Postscript magazines. In addition, you are regarded as the Corporation's official historian, and you have part of your home serving as a Museum. All of which took place after retirement following a highly successful career within FED.

So we have a lot of ground to cover! Can we start with your Historian role? At what point did you start 'collecting' and was it always for the long-term?

IO: I have always been interested in the history of the company since I joined in March 1965. It was said to be one of the top ten companies in the world then, and one of the top five computer companies known as the BUNCH in the late sixties.

Although I joined as an accounting machine technician at Manchester, I was accidentally sent on a basic cash register course covering the old brass cash registers and was transferred to my hometown of Burnley, while I was on that course.

PS: How were you 'accidentally' sent on the course?

IO: I was recruited to work on accounting machines, then switched short-term to work on cash registers, and found I had been incorrectly booked on cash registers when I arrived for the course. I later took the accounting machine course too, so all worked out for the best.

After training on the Class 500 computer in 1968 I was later sent to Dayton in 1973 and experienced the last few

years of the old NCR Dayton factory buildings.

I read as much as I could about the history of the company, but my collecting of machines began when as Manager of the Birmingham Field Engineering Centre I was at a meeting at the Watford office when I saw a class 422 on a pallet just about to go in the skip. I asked if I could have it and that was the start of my machine collection, which at one time numbered more than 60 registers accounting and adding machines. It took about 200 hours to restore but has appeared in many talks and displays since then.

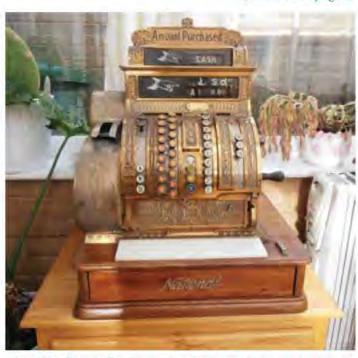
I collected everything I could about the company and when the education library in Sheldon closed and was being destroyed, I managed to save a lot of material then.

PS: Tell us about how Bill Anderson become aware of and interested in your work as Historian. Did he give you any projects? Has the company to your knowledge ever employed an internal, official historian?

IO: I believe that Bill Anderson found out about my interest in the history of the company through Head Office after George Haynes died and I was asked to collect his archive from his Maidenhead home for shipment to Dayton.

By coincidence I was in Hong Kong in 2004, where Bill Anderson made his name, when he contacted me, and we first began talking and corresponding and in the following years I was invited to his home twice and taken out to dinner.

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An 1892 Crank Register - the first machine lan restored

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Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of PostScript. In this edition, we give pride of place to Ian Ormerod, who in addition to curating the NCR museum, and being webmaster for our website alongside acting as the NCR historian, writes many interesting articles for this very magazine.

Sadly, we also pay tribute to two very popular Regional Organisers, past and present, who have passed away recently.

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Thanks to all who have contributed. We hope you enjoy the magazine.						

OBITUARIES

The following list shows Pensioners who have passed away in the six months November 2021 to April 2022

Fellowship Members:

W O Davies	Regio	n 4	15.08.22
J Foote	"	2W	09.04.22
K J Ford	"	3	05.08.22
M R Irving	"	6	23.08.22
B W Lewis	"	2E	17.08.22
S Moore	"	4	22.11.22
D Riley	"	9	07.05.22
C Southall	"	2W	09.11.22
R Whelan	66	4	21.11.22

C Southall	"	2W	09.11
R Whelan	"	4	21.11
Non Members:			
Ms M Anderson	23.04	.22	
J E Burdett	03.05	.22	
A Caldwell	03.10	.22	
G N Carden	24.08	.22	
Ms B I Cross	02.09	.22	
G Davies	29.06	.22	
J Duane	29.05	.22	
D R Fatharly	17.09	.22	
J E Fieldson	31.07	.22	
J LFoster	13.10	.22	
B Hamblett	05.08	.22	
J A Jones	28.09	.22	
M A King	22.03	.22	
D F Loughton	25.04	.22	
G Lucas	20.10	.22	
C M McCaffrey	05.06		
R McGovern	28.09	.22	
Ms M Masterton	05.07		
G M Paterson	08.04	.22	
J M Peters	11.06	.22	
P Rawcliffe	02.06	.22	
P A Reid	18.11	.22	
Ms J E Stockton	02.08		
P B Tate	09.05	.22	
G A Vine	24.04	.22	

WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As another year comes to an end, it is good to see that some element of normality has returned and that regional lunches have been held again.

In March we held our annual committee meeting via zoom and as usual, a main topic of discussion was the Fellowship finances, and I can confirm that we still have sufficient funds to maintain the annual fee at £10.

There have also been several changes in Committee members during the year. Alan Hutchins has resigned from the role of organiser for Region 6 after many years of loyal service. I would like to thank him for all his help and support, it was a pleasure to have him as part of the team for so long. If any member of region 6 would be willing to take on this role, so that regional lunches can be continued, please let me know.

Graham Brookman also decided to stand down from his magazine distribution role, but I am pleased to report that our printers have agreed to do the distribution for us.

Richard Craigie has also resigned from region 8 and we thank him for his time and effort. We are trying to identify a replacement for him, so if anyone would be willing to help, please let us know.

Many of the region 4 members are aware that we had to cancel the regional lunch due to be held in October because of Roger Whelan being unwell and the possible, frequent train strikes. We have just received the very sad news that Roger passed away on 21st November and there is a tribute to him elsewhere in this magazine. Roger did an excellent job of running region 4 and he will be sorely missed.

We plan to hold a London lunch in April please see the details in the region 4 lunch entry and put the date in your diaries.

The Committee held another zoom meeting in October and one of the points discussed was the content of PostScript. Ian Ormerod has masses of historical articles about NCR and would be able to find information about almost any event in the company's history. So if you have a particular interest in any topic and you would like it to focus in our magazine, please let Pat Stroudley know.

In conclusion we wish you and your families a happy and healthy 2023.

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ROGER WHELAN



It is with great sadness that we report that Roger Whelan passed away in the early hours of Monday 21st November, 2022

Roger was diagnosed with a brain tumour in June, and soon afterwards had an initially successful operation on the tumour. However, complications set in during November after commencing Immunotherapy which seemed to accelerate his condition very quickly and was discharged from hospital on his 79th birthday as he was now considered untreatable. He got home with just enough time to make all his affairs were in order and then within a few days he passed away surrounded by family and friends in a state of deep peace, tranquility and love.

Roger is well known to Fellowship members as a long time Regional Organiser for London Area 4, particularly for the Annual Dinner held at the Corus Hotel near Hyde Park. Roger handled that annual event with the efficiency, sangfroid, unflappability and humour that he showed throughout his distinguished NCR career.

Roger joined NCR in 1974, working in Payroll with John Atkins before moving over to Financial Accounts - a period which Roy Constantine covers in his tribute. Financial Accounts at that time had several people who went on to long lasting NCR careers, including Roy, Sid Peters, Alan Edwards, Jeff Russell and myself, and a short time later John Davies also joined, with Yogi Patel starting after that. As Roy notes, Roger was studying accountancy at the time and attending classes in London after finishing work for the day. That hard work paid off with Roger qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and moving on to other more senior roles, becoming Chief Accountant and then Finance Director for the Middle East and based in Bahrain. with a brief sojourn back in London for 18 months in between these two posts. From there he moved to Dayton Ohio as Finance Director Middle East Africa for 19 months, returning to England as International Treasurer and then moving out to Chertsey to join Teradata, where he had many fun times with salesmen who were a breed apart from accounting colleagues. He ended his career as Financial Controller and offering to take early retirement during a reshuffle. It was in the latter role that most of us in the Fellowship know Roger, circa 1988-1993.

Those days seem at this distance to be the best years of F&A in NCR. Roger set the right tone, demonstrating the same skills I referred to earlier, and was a pleasure to work with, and, as John Davies, described him to me recently, a true gentleman.

Roger dealt with all issues which arose, and all the people who raised them, in the same affable way, just dealt with, and invariably, solved, the problem, with minimal fuss.

To the aforementioned people in Financial Accounts when Roger joined, he was not at that time the most famous Whelan in Head Office. Roger's mother, Lilian, had been Head of Accounts Payable for a number of years at the time, and continued to be so, I think right up to the time Roger was Financial Controller. I remember Lilian mentioning Roger's starting with NCR with some pride, as she said Roger had been living an alternative lifestyle for some years. Roger's wife Clare tells me that included doing carpentry and decorating, working for International Times, hanging out at the Roundhouse and meeting amazing young people such as Marianne Faithfull, Pink Floyd, Julie Felix, John Hopwood etc and being very much on the In Scene in London. He went with friends to Nigeria intending to organise a cultural exchange hoping to bring African musicians to UK and have The Beatles and Rolling Stones visit Africa. This was during the Biafran war and when their African sponsor decided to discontinue his sponsorship of the scheme they were stranded without money and had talk their way onto a ship in the docks in Lagos offering to work their passage home but when the captain sobered up he dropped them off in the Canary Islands and they had to sell their possession to get back to England, What a different life he led before meeting and marrying his wife Clare. They both turned to follow a spiritual path of meditation which he followed to the day he died. Having children soon woke him up to the need for a steady income and hence he applied to NCR and began a very different life but he always appreciated his colleagues and held them in respect.

Post-retirement, Clare added that Roger obtained a Fine Art Degree, was Deputy Governor of Ralph Allen School Academy



Roger at home

Trust, Governor of Multi Academy Trust, Treasurer for his Art Group, lecturer on Art at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, Treasurer of a large charity, for many years Treasurer of a Tai Chi group. He was a lover of history, art, all types of music, an avid reader, and more. She further describes Roger as an amazing man, wonderful father and grandfather, and as a faithful husband who worked meticulously till the last few days of his life.

Although I knew him for a long time, I don't recall Roger mentioning his 'previous' life much. I do recall a Sky TV Documentary, probably around 2007, about a 14 hour underground (that's the type of music, not a tube station!) rock concert held at Alexandra Palace in 1967 (called the 14 Hour Technicolour Dream). Roger was one of the interviewees, who were either artists or, in Roger's case, an organiser/fan. I asked Roger about the programme and he said he was still friends with his other fellow-organisers.

I noticed today looking at Roger's Linked-In page that he was



Roger, extreme left, at his son Conor's wedding. Reading left to right, Roger, Agnes Multier, Conor Whelan, Océane Pouélé, Omer Pouélé Clare Whelan.

Circulation Manager for the International Times for six months between 1966-1967 during that turbulent time when the police were cracking down on several alternative publications such as IT.

Roger leaves a wife, Clare, daughter Tara, and sons Matthew and Conor, to whom we extend our condolences at this sad time

John's description of Roger as 'a true gentleman' is perfect. We will all miss his sense of humour, affable demeanour, serenity, organisation skills, and willingness to work hard.

They were good times. We'll miss you, Roger.

Pat Stroudley, with considerable input from Clare Whelan.

ROGER WHELAN

I have known Roger to be a dedicated, hardworking and helpful person since the first day I started work with NCR in 1976.

He worked with me for 2 days showing me the ropes as he handed over his job to me while he moved on to better opportunities in another department. At the time he was studying for his accounting exams and would cycle from his home in North London into the City several times a week after work to attend evening classes. It paid off as he passed all his exams and became a fully qualified accountant. Not an easy feat when one has a full-time job. Since then, he was always on the 'up' career wise and held several key positions in the NCR accounting realm. He was my overall boss for several years. In the early 1990's he became Financial Controller and later moved to NCR Chertsey but throughout his inspiring career, he never lost his humility, good manner or sense of humour. He was not only a colleague but also a friend. His passing was a shock, and I am sure he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

R.I.P. Roger.

Roy Constantine

CHARLES SOUTHALL

Centre Manager – Chester and Liverpool 1931-1922



Charles was born in Chester, the eldest of six children. After leaving Chester City Grammar School, with the highest School Certificate mark they had ever seen, Charles did his National Service in the RAF, had a short period as a Typewriter Mechanic and then joined The National Cash Register Company in January 1954 based at the Liverpool office.

He was trained on Cash Registers and then joined Chester Office as an Accounting Machine Mechanic where he encouraged his bother Arthur to join him. In September 1954 he returned to London for training on the 3000 Accounting Machines which was followed by training on the Class 31 in March 1957. Charles became Manager of the Chester Centre and then in the late 1970s he moved to Liverpool as the Centre

Manager for Field Engineering there where he had first begun his career with NCR.

When the opportunity arose, he took a well-deserved 'retirement' from NCR in 1988 when the majority of Field Engineering Centres closed and were merged into Regional Offices. When, in the Autumn of 1995 Ernie Giles, who had been the regional Organiser for the North and then 2W Northwest regions of the Fellowship, retired as regional organiser Charles took over the position serving for 12 years until the summer of 2007.

Charles enjoyed ballroom dancing, caravanning and holidays abroad. He was a lifetime supporter of Liverpool Football Club.

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I first met Charles in the early 1970s when I was asked to go to the Chester office to look at a computer at Tunnel Cement. I met Charles at the office and he made me very welcome and giving me all the help and directions I needed to get to the customer. We met again at all the FED conventions, and he was always one of the first to come over for a chat which I vey much appreciated as I was always the youngest centre manager there.

Ian Ormerod

Continued from page 1

During our conversations he asked if I could find some information on Elsie Buckner, who was head of the Accounting Machine Demonstrators at Head Office. I was able to provide him with the information he requested from my records.

The Company in Dayton had a full-time archivist and an archive where one of every type of machine produced was retained. The last one was Bill West and I was grateful to have a chance to talk to him on two occasions. When the archive was transferred to Dayton Heritage the archivist who became responsible was Jeff Opt who again I met on a few occasions.

PS: Tell us about the museum. It's located at Ormerod Manor?

IO: I do not have a museum as such, it is just machines in the cottage and two other building as well as my office. Before our move to the Forest of Dean I did begin to index all the books and brochures I have accumulated and got almost 2500 done and I think about another 1000 still to do.

PS: 'Two other buildings'?

IO: Our garden room, built as an attachment to the existing house, is used to display some machines, and we have a separate building used to house others.

PS: In the Summer 2022 PS, you told the story of how you found a 1909 cash register still working in Norway in 2022. Was that just happenstance, or was there any form of planning involved in your coming across such a find on holiday?

IO: I always look out for old NCR products on my travels and give what help and information I can to the owners.

PS: Any expenditure incurred in running the museum is yours?

IO: I was provided free storage by John Cook at the Peterborough Systemedia office until they changed the factory and for many years had to pay for storage but sadly my Class 300, 299, 31, 32 and 33 accounting machines were damaged by rain in a storage facility in Birmingham.

Although, at the request of NCR's chairmen my machines have been on display at various locations, including Paris France. I have never received any financial assistance



lan with the 1879

from the company. My machines which were on display in the London Head Offices, have just been returned to me.

PS: You're often asked to provide machines for films or TV dramas, aren't you? Can you give some examples?

IO: The first machine I was asked by NCR to lend to the BBC was the dial register of 1879. They came to Sheldon to collect it and returned it two months later. When they returned it one of the keys was broken off and missing. I took the opportunity to ask what program the register was going to appear in and was surprised to hear that it had been used for a shop scene in a production of Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist. They were even more surprised when I told them cash registers hadn't been invented until 1879, nine years after Charles Dicken's death in 1870, I think they had to refilm the scenes in the shop!

Class 100 and 700 registers have been lent to theatres for 'Little shop of Horrors' productions and the BBC for 'Return to the Corner Shop'

I was involved in providing material about the history of NCR for the BBC 'Repair Shop' program and the NCR Retirement Fellowship received a mention in the credits for the program.

NCR asked me to loan a 700 to the British Museum for their new Money Gallery over 25 years ago and it is still there in the centre of the gallery. Three other machines, two Class 400s and a 700 are on loan to the Thomas Shop in Wales.

PS: How do people find you?

IO: Usually referrals from NCR in several countries, Australia is the latest, or just by word of mouth.

PS: Can we turn now to the website (https://www.ncr.org.uk)? When did you start the site, briefly what content is on there, and how do you plan to expand it in the future?

IO: I started it in the early 1990's as an information place for my group in Sheldon and began putting company history on there. I opened it up for outsiders at the request of NCR Dayton and made it dedicated to the fellowship many years ago. Most of the feedback I get is from NCR people around the world and others who are just interested in Cash Registers and the company history.

(Editor's note: Ian is continuously improving the website, which has gone through a complete facelift in the last few months. We plan on detailing all those changes and improvements in the next edition, Summer 2023.)



The credit (to the Fellowship) on BBC Repair Shop referred to above

PS: We should talk about your career in NCR. In the Summer 2021 PostScript edition you told us a couple of good stories about your early days in 1965 in the Manchester office. Tell us about how your career progressed from that time.

IO: As I mentioned earlier in this interview, I was transferred to Burnley after two weeks at Manchester and six weeks in London. 1968 took me to London for the 10-month Electronics, punch tape and Class 500 course.

I was fortunate in that being a small office several new technicians, as we were then called, were recruited for decimalisation. My then manager, Jim Eccles, moved on to become Manchester FEC manager and Frank Ellison took over at Burnley. When Frank went off sick for three months, I found myself the senior person and ended up running the centre for that time. A visit from Jock Stevenson, who was responsible for decimalisation apparently recommended me to Head Office as a potential manager.

After training in Germany, where I first met one of my future managers, Alan Chard, Dayton for three months on the 399 computer and 8200 computer in Dundee Scotland I was asked to apply for the position of Centre Manager Oxford.

At the interview I was told that they had already decided who was going to be appointed but wanted to meet me and asked me to apply for the next position that come up.

A few months later I received a call from Head office to ask why I had not applied for the position of the Channel Islands Centre Manager; I was asked to put in a formal application and attend a meeting at Head office where I was told I had already been appointed.

It transpired that there were lots of problems at the Office and that the company needed me to go there to resolve the issues. The company were losing money and head office wanted to know why.

Shortly after joining NCR I had been asked to join the Burnley Borough Police force as a special constable and the company felt that this, along with my NCR training made me good candidate.

I could spend another hour writing about the issues and the changes I put into the Channel Islands however I resolved all the problems and made new opportunities which helped NCR later after I moved to the mainland.

My achievements, in the Channel Islands, which stand out are that I became the first person to be trained on Personal Computers in August 1983 when a bank requested NCR to sell and maintain a Triumph Adler PC working on CPM and DOS as it happened NCR did not take up the contract as a few weeks later NCR introduced the Decision Mate PC in October that year. I introduced 'pagers' for the engineers and the following year, two way radios in engineers cars.

I introduced the concept of FED selling NCR and Third-Party products. We needed to do this in order for the Channel Islands Field Engineering Centre to survive as we needed maintenance revenue to keep the centre open and provide work for engineers. There were no salesmen operating in the Channel Islands at that time.. When I moved there in 1977 there were two, one for accounting

machines and one for cash registers. Both had left by the time that NCR Sales divisions were moving to Independent Dealers.

My biggest sale was for over £100,000 for cash registers for the Islands biggest store, Le Riches. The drawback was I had to program the registers and train the staff in all the stores.

In 1985 I moved back to the UK as Birmingham manager and was contacted by Mike Clancy, Regional Manager for Scotland who asked for details of what we had been selling as they needed to set up a similar operation to avoid losing staff. As a result, Scotland began selling Modems, Multiplexors and Fibre Optic cabling, items which the main NCR divisions did not sell.

I made many friends in Watford and was able to arrange for scrap equipment to be sent to Birmingham where we recycled a large amount of material including many DMV and PC 4s and 6s as they became obsolete and off the price list. Many of these found homes with the engineers for home use and learning purposes.

In Birmingham, the IPC computer department on the top floor proved useful in providing me on a Monday morning with a Mag tape of all the CSAS data from the previous week which would otherwise just have been in print format. I was able to extract the print format and provided senior management at head office with data in whatever format they required until Terry Exton set up the Data Mining department at Head Office.

DMV PC were ordered for the Regional Managers and at my suggestion these were sent to Sheldon for all the relevant software to be installed. We continued providing this service until Watford took over that function as there were to many orders for the FEC to deal with.

Probably the biggest improvement to CSS services came about from an enquiry from a salesman who asked if we could maintain IBM PCs for a company called OCLC who had library systems in the US Airforce bases as he could obtain an order for NCR PC 6 computers but only if we would take on the maintenance of the IBM machine. The answer I got from Head office was that we only put NCR machines under maintenance. I contacted an acquaintance in Dayton to ask if they could supply spares for IBM and I was pleased to receive their 'little black book' of third-party spares. The salesman was even more pleased when he received an order, a few weeks later another order and request to maintain the company IBMs throughout Europe arrived and CSS engaged a Third-Party maintenance manager and the rest is history.

My interest in the history of NCR machines came in handy when I was working for Alan Chard and was seconded part time to NCR Dayton to help with a court case which was taking place in Brazil. This involved the estate of an ex-employee who under the law in Brazil was entitled to a percentage of all sales of machines which had a modification he had submitted and been accepted by NCR. The registers involved were the Class 3 which had a problem with keyboards. I worked on this case for 3 months and eventually was able to prove that the solution had already been identified and the modifications made in registers in the 1903 era. I received a very nice letter

from the New York Lawyers stating that my work had contributed to the company saving \$2.2 billion. In 1994 I was asked by John Burchfield, who was by then the Divisional Accountant, to promote the sales to all the centres and 'Lead Line' came into being. My initial target was to generate £200,000 but by the summer of 1995, the late Trevor Smith and I, were on the way to £2 million and at its peak a year or two later the engineers and two CSS sales in the 4 Regions were achieving £6 million.

I was asked to transfer to the newly formed Nat West Group as an opportunity had arisen to bid for a maintenance contract for all their third-party equipment in branches as well as the existing NCR equipment contracts.

My primary role was to work with IPC to load all the trial equipment details to NCRs call handling system. This involved having NCR serial numbers added to all NWB machines and proving that they could load faults directly from the NWB computers. We were responsible for the trial outside the M25 but the other company who were tendering and had been given London, inside the M25, couldn't do the work and NCR were given the whole country.

I had been involved with the Quality Council in Sheldon regional office and worked with Alan Chard and Terry Exton taking over the responsibilities of the Quality Manager to implement a Quality Management system and attain the ISO9001 Quality Management Certification prior to moving to the Nat West Bank group and when the then UK Quality Manager, Colin Isenman, moved the NCR Dayton I was asked to take over as UK Quality Manager and then as Quality Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Before I took early retirement my team, which included Graham Brookman, had completed a management system which covered all of Europe and we obtained one certification from Bureau Veritas instead of the seven that existed previously from several different certification bodies. Our system was taken over by the USA and used throughout the world.

PS: Would you say that NCR was a good company to work for? What aspect of working for NCR did you most enjoy?

IO: The NCR that most of us will remember was an excellent company to work for with everyone working together to help each other and provide the best possible service to the customers.

The training that engineers received must stand out as the most memorable times that NCR Field Engineering staff had in their careers and the courses that I attended are the times that I remember most.

The friendships made on these courses have survived over the years and continue through the Fellowship.

I made many friends in senior management through my work and on several occasions was asked to meet with top managers to discuss operational issues in confidence. On occasions this led to me working for two or more managers at the same time and on two occasions the managers did not know that I was reporting to someone more senior as well.

I worked for many managers during my career some of whom were excellent while others who came and went should not have been recruited in the first place. The majority of these were brought in from outside the company supposedly to improve the level of managerial skills but some did not have the qualities or qualification to replace the managers they were replacing.

The managers I really enjoyed working for and who were some of the best managers at both looking after the interests of the company and the staff who worked for them were my most memorable. Amongst them were Sid Anderson, Bob Gregory, John Burchfield, Alan Chard and Tom Cheyney.

I hope that I did a good job for them, and the staff who worked for me.

PS: How is your health? Did you manage to go through Covid this far without being infected?

IO: During Covid I managed to contract Legionnaires disease and spent some time in hospital but managed to avoid covid there. I had pneumonia, sepsis, kidney failure and a heart attack but thanks to the NHS I have recovered and just left with the occasional breathing problem.

This year I caught covid while on a visit to the Artic and although I tested positive for fourteen days the only symptom I had was a runny nose so my family and I have been very lucky.

PS: What do you most enjoy about retirement?

IO: Retirement? In 2005, once I recovered from the breakdown which caused me to leave NCR, my colleague Graham Brookman came to see me and asked me to look after an engineering company in Birmingham as their Quality Manager. This was intended to be one day a month for six months while their Quality Manager was on maternity leave. I have still been helping them this year.

An International Standards Certification company asked me to work for them and I completed ten years with that organization, visiting many businesses throughout the Midlands and South as well as spending few weeks working in the USA every few months.

After moving home to the Forest of Dean in 2014, I was asked to work for a Birmingham University company for three days a week which lasted for four years.

When I left NCR I was asked by Brian Sanderson to continue acting as the company historian and this has been my greatest pleasure in retirement from NCR

Invitations to visit NCR in Duluth USA and Paris, France in the last few years have been interesting but I am glad that I left NCR when I did.

I am 76 now and have just closed down my company although I still have three clients who are still not quite completed.

I am looking forward to retiring this year!

PS: lan, thank you for your time for this interview, and for all you are doing for the company in your historian/museum curator roles. And last but by no means least, for contributing so much to PostScript. Your articles always make fascinating reading.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regions 2E & 2W – Pat Keogh

Hi All. Pat Keogh here.

I don't have a normal report this time. I had to postpone both my 2E and 2W lunches due to the fact that I had quite a serious accident at home. While near the top of the stairs, my knee gave way, as it does sometimes, and I tumbled backwards to the bottom and ended up in hospital.

After various x-rays and a full body scan the good news was that there were no breaks or cracks but a lot of muscle damage and joint swelling. I am now getting around with the aid of crutches and a stick and very gradually getting stronger. I wouldn't mind, but I was sober at the time. When discharging me the Consultant commented that I bounced very well. I can quite easily see how people can get addicted to the heavy pain killers. They certainly do their job. I'd still prefer a large Irish Whiskey.

I will be holding these lunches in July and will report in the December magazine.

The Otley Golf Club Venue

As you may recall from my December 2021 report, the attendees tasked me with negotiating an acceptable contract with the club. This decision was unanimous due to the high quality of the meals and the location and beauty of the venue.

When the club reopened for functions after the pandemic they reviewed their charges and our meal cost would have moved from £15 to £22/23. The booking cost alone moved from £25 to £75. Talks didn't go well. The manager, a close friend and supporter of our lunches, had his hands tied by the committee's strict instructions. It reminded me of the old joke where a secretary ran into her manager's office to inform him about someone rowing across the Atlantic single handed. Unimpressed the manager replied "come back and tell me when a committee does it".

I eventually played my final card by informing the club that we had decided to move to another venue. This brought about two changes. The club agreed to change the description of our event to bring it into the £50 charge bracket (we now have a funeral twice a year, just joking) and I agreed a new two course Carvery menu with the chef which brought the new cost to £16 in total. The club's charge is permanent and the chef's is a two year deal.

In conclusion, I am signed up to a number of painful physio programmes to improve my mobility and hope to hobble into the July lunches.

Region 2E/2W October 2022 Lunch Report.

We have managed to get back to some kind of normal on my two regions at this time. My mobility is still poor after my fall but I managed to organise and attend two lunches on the region at Otley Golf Club for the 2E Northeast Region on Wednesday 26th October and at Birchwood Golf Club for the 2W Northwest Region the following day. The details of the new contracts with the clubs were in my Summer Report which failed to reach the magazine due to an editorial mix



up with the report files. See these details in the Summer report printed above.

The lunch was marred with the sad news that we lost **Bernard Hamlet** and **Brian Jackson**. A number of the members attended the funerals and gave us some feedback.

I managed 20 attendees at Otley with quite a number of others contacting me saying that they couldn't attend for various reasons including family occasions, previous arrangements and the old favourite, Hospital Appointments. Too many of those these days I'm afraid.

But those who made it, most of whom appear in the adjacent photos, had a great time and included Alan and Sandra Dixon, Dave Torrance, John Evanson, Ian Beveridge, Dave Dawson, Ian Ormerod, Keith Stansfield, Geoff and Jill Smith, Pete Scanlon and Sue, Dick and Jacqui Sale, Andrew Hill, Keith Penny, Peter Ramson, Steve Gates, Graham Hatton and of course myself.

Among those who couldn't make it were Richard Willett, Mike Wood, Terry Bearpark, John Evanson, June Rudge Priestley, Walter Scarth (not travelling these days) and Walter Bullen (looking after Jean).

Denise Roberts has updated me on Norman's health, if you can call it that. He hasn't really been right since his major heart surgery in 2019. He followed that with a stroke which left him with memory and balance problems. He has now fallen and broken his hip. He obviously doesn't bounce





as well as me. Denise says he is on the mend now but it will be a long haul.

Sandy McMillan is at another lunch but reports that he and Pauline are very well, a rare thing these days.

Margaret Ellis is spending the week with her niece helping with the children. I think a week is probably long enough. She asked to be remembered to everyone.

The lunch consisted of Soup or Pate to start and a Turkey and Ham Carvery to follow plus Tea/Coffee for £16. It was once again a very pleasant day with plenty of banter.

The Northwest lunch was equally enjoyable although with a different format. The attendees pay a £1 Daily Membership Fee for the Golf Club and then order and pay for their own food from the club's kitchen. This is an excellent format as I have very little organisation to do and the attendees can have anything from coffee and toast to a full three course lunch although some just elected for a liquid lunch. The All Day Breakfast is very popular. All I have to do is book the venue and collect the £1s on the day.

We don't get as many attendees at the Northwest Lunch but on this occasion a lengthy discussion took place between the twelve on the future of the meeting and a need to expand the contact list. I promised to shortly contact the members on the current list asking them who they would like to contact. I will then circulate the contact request list to see if anyone has any contact details. I will then attempt to reach out. Some of these people may live 200 Miles away or

even abroad but they may make a lunch or even contact us with details of how they are doing. Don't let their location put you off. Thank you to **Peter Cole** for passing on the address for **Malcolm Borrows**.

I don't have an attendee list for this lunch as not everyone who attended responded to my email, and apologise to anyone I've left out but from my poor memory some of the attendees were John Orrell, Derek Williams, Cheryl Gradwell, John and Linda Chedotal, Jeff Evans, Dennis Malcolm, Ken Haughton and of course myself.

Tom Wallbank has now contacted me with his new email address and Mobile number. Also getting in touch but couldn't attend were Mike Heaslip, David and Dianne Cooper. Authur Southall contacted me and updated me on Charles's poor health. Sadly Charles passed away shortly after this. I phoned Rhian and passed on our condolences and circulated the funeral arrangements. I also heard from Syd Barnish, Derek Taubman (I.O.M.), Walter Bullen and lan Ormerod.

I was quite encouraged with the discussion on expanding the group and look forward to the results.

We will be having two lunches again next year in both East and West in May and October.

Region 3 - Keith Templeman

22 fellowship members and wives gathered today at our usual hotel restaurant, The George in Lichfield. Members were lan Ormerod, lan Davidson, Keith Templeman, Jim McHugh, Peter Heywood, Jill MacPhail, Dave Beattie, Yatish Ranch, Phil Rock, Pete Selwyn, Joan Johnson, Barry Skelding and Margaret Ellis.

As guests we also welcomed **Joan Johnson** for the first time today, brought along by **Pete Selwyn**. Joan worked alongside Pete in the Birmingham Broad Street and Sheldon Data Centre. Also, **David Cooksey**, ex Field Engineering, Sheldon. **Chris and Bridget Allen**, ex Professional Services in Sheldon enjoyed a long overdue reunion with **Margaret Ellis**, along with being re-acquainted with others in the group. We hope they decide to join the fellowship and become frequent visitors.





Apologies were received from:

Gert Bakker, who had intended to come, but a last minute plea from his church group prevented it. "Please come and fix the heating in our church" was their plea. He sent his best wishes to everyone here and will do his best to attend next spring, when the heating should not be required.

Brian Briggs and Keith Hemming sent their best wishes, as did Richard Baker. Richard had double-booked the day with a school re-union at his old grammar school. How many years ago did you leave Richard? He intended to bring along Rachael Snashall for a reunion with Margaret Ellis also, again maybe one for next spring. Seems like you're a popular girl Margaret!

Kevin and Marion Rixson sent regards to all but couldn't make it today. Joe and Jenny Teeling were attending a wedding so couldn't make it either. Les Clarke, Simon Holmes, John Latty, John Williams, Marilyn Almond and lain Simpson all had other places to be too. Unfortunately lain may find difficulty coming to future lunches due to not wishing to travel far.

On that note apologies finally from our Stoke-on-Trent contingent who may not make it in the future either. **Duncan McCondochie**, **Harry Ridge and Clarence Allbutt** have ongoing medical issues. I'm sure we all wish them good fortune for the future.

With travel in mind, I said I would take a look at the spread of locations we all travel from and relocate the venue if necessary, but I think Lichfield still represents a fairly central location for us all and several voiced a wish not to change.





The meal last time did leave room for improvement, but after a discussion with the events management at the hotel, today's meal was much improved and still represented good value for money. The only negative aspect to the day was a difficulty in parking. All function rooms were in use making for a full hotel car park and the large adjacent public car park had few available spaces. After dropping Dave Cooksey and his wheelchair at the door and looking for a parking place I managed to find one of the two few spaces left adjacent to a wall surrounding the public carpark and thought, well done, until returning to find the rear end of the car covered in bird droppings. What, no tree in sight; then I spotted a tall lamp post to the rear with each bird offloading as it landed on top, taking target practice below. Cost of parking, £3 and a car wash! I wonder why that space wasn't already taken.

A diary date for our next lunch: Thursday April 20th next year.



















Region 4 - Vacant

The REGION 4 LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON April 26th 2023 so please put the date in your diary. Confirmation of the venue and the menu options will be sent out in late January/early February and we look forward to seeing many of you again.

Region 9 – Adrian Gallagher

On Monday 24th October 2022, we held our annual pre Christmas get-together at the Swans Nest, Exminster, Devon.

It was well attended by 11 people, Geoff Jackson, Derek & Pam Knibb, Cris & Wendy Mackie, Geoff & Ang Cooper, Graham Storer & Julie Mair and lastly my wife Louise



Photo 1 (clockwise from front left): Louise Gallagher, Julie Mair, Pam Knibb, Geoff Jackson, Derek Knibb, right side of table, Geoff Cooper, Ang Cooper, Wendy Mackie, Graham Storer, Cris Mackie.



Photo 2 left to right anticlockwise - Derek Knibb (behind the servers arm), Geoff Jackson, Pam Knibb, Julie Mair, Louise Gallagher, (far side of table) Wendy Mackie, Angela Cooper, Geoff Cooper.

Gallagher plus myself. We had apologies from Jessie Wallace and Martin, John & Margaret Stevenson who were unable to make it this year. A very relaxed meal was had by us all and it was great to meet up and catch up once again. Its was also lovely to see everyone looking so fit and healthy.

The date and venue of the next get-together will be communicated next year. Any suggestions, please let me know.

If anyone has anything they would like included in Post Script, please let **Pat Stroudley** know.

Take care and stay safe. Merry Christmas 'and happy new year' to everyone and a big thank you for all your support, especially from everyone on the Fellowship Committee.



Photo 3 from left to right anticlockwise closest to the camera-Graham Storer, Wendy Mackie, Angela Copper, Geoff Cooper, Derek Knibb (cheers), Geoff Jackson, Pam Knibb, Julie Mair, Louise Gallagher (just out of sight).

THE TALKING BIRD

I wasted some of my time during Covid penning some of my experiences with NCR

This one is the Talking Bird – all true

Around 1963, when I was 18 years old, I was servicing a

couple of tills in a pub in the Kings Cross area (in those days a very, very dodgy area of north London).

This was in the dinosaur days when Pubs closed for the afternoon. The landlord closed up the bars, and went to take his afternoon nap, leaving me alone in the bar, or so I thought.

The Class 126 Register (from lan Ormerod's collection)

I finished servicing the cash

register on the right hand side of the stairs leading to the landlord's accommodation, and moved to the till on the left side passing the foot of the stairs to the living area. Sitting on the stairs were two of the largest dogs I have ever seen. The landlord had forgotten about his two very large guard dogs. The dogs were ok until they noticed me, then they got a bit nasty and I had to jump up on the bar to escape. You have to imagine me on the top of the bar tap dancing between the dogs teeth. The landlord heard the row and came to my rescue.

This where the talking bird comes in.

A couple of weeks later I was doing the same thing in a pub in Stoke Newington. Same circumstances, alone in the bar, when I heard a bark from what sounded like a BIG dog. Well, I think you can image my fear. I carefully took a look



around this very small bar but could not see a living thing, I thought (hoped) maybe the bark came from outside. I carried on with servicing the till. There was another bark and the dog was most certainly in the room with me but I still could not see it.

I swallowed hard and went in to the customer area of the bar to see if I could see the dog. Nothing. Then I heard a noise by the window. I moved the curtain and there was the scruffiest MYNAH BIRD I had ever seen, barking like the biggest German Shepherd you could imagine. If the landlord had not come in at that moment I think I would have rung the BI**dy thing's neck.

Ah well. All character building and part of life's rich pattern

Stay Safe

John Smith

THE EXPRESS BOYD US SAGA

or how to recover £12m

The American-Austin Times of 4 October 1995 had a story with the mundane heading of 'Bar owner charged in embezzlement' which conjures up little more excitement than a bartender being caught with his hand in the till. But no. This is a thrill-a-minute tale of how two employees of an NCR UK subsidiary company defrauded £12m from the subsidiary and spent it on opening bars and restaurants, creating dancing acts, producing gay porn films, and buying property in America, mostly in Austin, Texas.

Meanwhile back in the UK, a sadder story, as the NCR UK sub never recovered.

EXPANSION

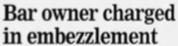
The story starts towards the end of 1994 at Express Boyd, a subsidiary company of NCR Ltd, used for business travel, and also for transport of computers and accounting machines. This is the AT&T era. NCR UK is pushing Express Boyd to expand its business internationally. Express Boyd's company secretary, Dave Flemming, 29 at the time, and his live-in partner, Michael Faulkner, also an employee of Express Boyd, are given responsibility for the project to expand Express in the US. Faulkner moves to the US to head up the fledgling project.



Express Boyd's office location in Bonhill Street during the 1990s, as it was in 2015

GENESIS

In early 1995, it seems that Flemming realised that there were weaknesses in how NCR UK were tracking the regular cash transfers between NCR UK and Express Boyd following staff changes at NCR. (NCR UK effectively acted as Express Boyd's banker, the idea being to keep all the cash in the parent, and avoid outside borrowing costs. EB's balance was kept close to zero, and cash passed between the two organisations in either direction every few working days). As a consequence, Flemming started increasing the amounts he was requesting and found the funds coming through uncontested. Within Express Boyd, he duped a young, newly appointed warehouse manager into signing blank International Bank Transfer forms. The new manager had no experience of being a bank signatory and believed what Flemming told him, that signing the blank forms was normal practice and avoided unnecessary inter-office travel. That simple expediency significantly delayed the other Express Boyd departmental managers, who were also signatories at the bank, from finding out what was going on.





ociate, David Fleesming of Lonton, in accused of using a series of readulatest loans, unsuthorized backs and corporate credit card operates to solid as much as \$15 and the series of the Thiese of the series of the An arrest warrant affiliar it pretaining part of the money to or or set up Austin basinoses is halting lot's, a law on the filter monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of the series of the series of the monthly of the series of th

The low key announcement on 4 October 1995 in the American-Austin Times of Michael Faulkner's arrest

The amount of the transfers totalled £16m in a period of just over a year. It is likely that the amounts started comparatively low. 200 transfers took place in all.

ACTIVITY

It appears to have been fairly early in the process, so early 1995, when whatever "legitimate" businesses were being purchased by Express Boyd (i.e. travel and transport), Michael Faulkner, who was by now resident in the US was also buying or setting up businesses which were outside those activities. Those businesses included

Record shops

Gay dance troupes

Producing gay porn films

Restaurants

Jewellery

31 cars including 4 Rolls Royces

After-hours bars.

The businesses mentioned were mostly centered around the Austin, Texas area, where Faulkner became recognised as a flamboyant big spender in the local business community. He lived a lavish lifestyle. His partner, Dave Flemming, was sending more and more money, but was otherwise living as quietly as he had previously and was holding down his senior post at Express Boyd in London. An exception was made for Dave's 30th birthday in 1995, when he flew out to Las Vegas. There the Faulkner-end of the team had arranged for him to be paged the first morning he was in his Vegas hotel. Dave arrived in the foyer, and was directed to a waiting limo just outside the hotel. Dave was ushered into the vehicle, and was greeted by a limo full of gay porn stars preparing to give him a happy birthday!

ASSETS



A photo from the American-Austin Times on 4 October 1995 of one of the restaurants

The US businesses exuded success. At their peak, over 200 people were employed by the group, though in court later they were described as "young men being paid salaries and expenses in excessive amounts". Michael Faulkner was pursuing legitimate businesses too, and a potential partner phoned Express Boyd London for references and was satisfied with the assurances received. But the sums of money sent to Express Boyd in the States were now becoming astronomic, compared to the business done in, say, 1993, before there was any 'investment'.



The outdoor bar scene today in Austin where some of the bars/restaurants purchased by Faulkner were located

ERRORS

Two game changers are looming. The restaurant businesses are doing well. The Austin man running that part of the conglomerate had always wanted to run a restaurant chain and now had showed he could do so successfully. He draws up lavish expansion plans which he submits to Faulkner and his team. He is rebuffed – "We're here to spend money, not to make it".

At about this time, end September/early October 1995, Dave Flemming slips up. In the previous 12 months, he seems to have been able to provide inter-company accounts into the NCR Corporate accounting system which agree with the (correct) inter-company loan numbers reported by NCR UK. But in the third quarter of 1995, he fails to do so, showing nil, instead of the actual millions. When the quarterly results arrive in Dayton, a hiatus kicks off between Corporate and NCR UK, and urgent internal investigations are set in motion.

Meanwhile, the Austin/US Express Boyd restaurateur decides to spill the metaphoric beans, and calls AT&T to report what is happening.

ARREST

The two tides converge, and on 4 October 1995, Michael Faulkner is arrested on fraud charges of accepting almost \$5m from David Flemming in 83 payments.

In the US the legal action is swift. Barely two months later, on 8 December 1995, NCR (in its then guise as AT&T GIS) and its sub Express Boyd, is awarded what has now been identified as \$16m against Michael Faulkner in a civil case. Faulkner cooperates in identifying and returning assets. However, he is gravely ill with AIDS. In a first for the city, the Austin authorities decide that it is not worthwhile to prosecute

Faulkner, and he is allowed to return to his Mother's home in Tower Hamlets, London.

FND

Dave Flemming is arrested in London and pleads not guilty, apparently falling back on the purpose of the mission from NCR that Express Boyd were to receive funds for investment. He was found guilty at Wood Green Magistrates and sentenced to five years.

As regards Express Boyd more broadly, the situation is stark. The company does not seem to have recovered from the embezzlement activity. It became Omega World Travel in 1997 but seems to have ceased trading shortly thereafter. A sad end to what was a small but unique part of the NCR UK Group of companies.

People in NCR UK remember the US side of the story being reported in the UK tabloids between the initial arrests (October 1995) and Dave Flemming's case coming to court, (approx. May 1997). To date, experienced scourers of newspaper archives on-line have failed to find the stories.

It is worth noting that Dave Flemming did not directly receive any money from any of his illegitimate transfers – all the funds were sent to the US Express Boyd companies.

AFTERMATH

Dave Flemming's solicitor expressed admiration to me in 1996 about how NCR's legal team had managed to avoid the extra publicity which Dave's trial might well have been garnered had the case made the Old Bailey (which it seems worthy of). Dave's solicitor felt that some creative efforts had been put into effect by the NCR legal management team to deploy the relative backwater of Wood Green for the case. The case took place during the 1997 election, which also helped keep it out of the papers.

Staff working in NCR UK F&A at the time of the initial exposure of the fraud (October 1995) talk of access to the F&A offices being denied as the investigation teams swooped in. In what must have been a strange environment, very little news was released within NCR London as to what had happened (beyond that in the American-Austin Times, and also in the Financial Times in London). Reaction in 2022 varies, some still feel this is not a subject to be spoken of, or written about.

No one in NCR UK in 1993-4 played any known part in the criminal activity, and no one in NCR UK benefitted financially. All I know is that I spent most of my career in NCR F&A (between 1968-1993, and 1996-2009) and if the standard of work and integrity which prevailed in those times had been exercised during the 94-95 period under review, there would have been no opportunity for any mis-use of funds.

It happened though. And for me it is a unique story. There have been films or TV dramas about The Great Train Robbery, Brinks Mat, Covent Garden, and others. None of them have the tone, characteristics or energy of this story.

MICHAEL FAULKNER

On 4 October 1995, the FBI arrested Micheal Faulkner, then 29, accusing him of receiving almost \$5m stolen by Dave Fleming, in the form of 83 payments. Of course, there was much more involved than that. At the time, the London

police were said to be investigating 200 payments from EB's account.

A civil case brought by AT&T GIS (NCR UK) and Express Boyd in Travis County, Texas, for \$16m against Faulkner was successful on 8 December 1995. Faulkner had cooperated in identifying and returning assets.

Four days later, on 12 December 1995, just two months after his arrest, Michael Faulkner was diagnosed as dying from AIDS, and the US government did not pursue his prosecution allowing him to return to live with his Mother in Tower Hamlets. London where he died on 5 November 1996.

Express Boyd ceased trading in 2012, and was dissolved on 20 January 2015.

Global Information Systems Ltd is now of course NCR Ltd, our company.

There is a happy ending. NCR recovered the money lost mostly by disposing of the assets Faulkner had acquired, and also from fidelity-bond insurance.

Pat Stroudley, with considerable research from lan Ormerod.

ODE TO A RETIRING ENGINEER

Drive here, drive there, "have you got the parts?"
"Our machine's gone wrong again, when can you start?"
Traffic jams and road rage, but somehow you survive,
Once more up to Heathrow on the damned M25!

"Can you do a p.m.? We know you love those"
"Only done two jobs today? We'll keep you on your toes"
"Off you go to an ATM on which some drunk has spewed"
Then it's time for lunch but you've no mind for food.

Customers you love 'em when they're feeling happy, But tell them of a part delayed, that's when they get snappy. Still, it's all behind you, no more work and no more car. Retirement, you deserve it. Goodbye NCR

Extract from Dave Midgley's Retirement Card, 2000. Written by Sally Maxted

Dave retired from NCR in 2000. Dave and Sally sold up, bought a Motorhome and went travelling for 18 years. They have now bought a home in West Hythe and took their items out of storage. Included was a photo of the attendees of the last 500 course. Do any readers recognise anyone?



THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CLOCK

We had two responses to the current whereabouts of readers' 100 Year Anniversary Clock.

IAN AND MARY LEADER



lan and Mary Leader's 100 Year Anniversary Clock still proudly in place in front of the TV. Mary writes:

I receive Post Script as I'm the widow of ex NCR employee, lan Leader (Bristol FED Region 7). I read with interest the article in the Summer 2022 issue No 66 about the NCR 100 year celebratory clock.

In response to Keith Templeman's question "So where is yours?": Ian received one, as did all the other employees at the time, and ours has stood beside our TV ever since 1984. I didn't realize how often I looked at it until last year when I noticed that it was starting to lose a few minutes a week. I have taken it to a local clock repairer but unfortunately, although he was very interested in it and tried hard, he was unable to acquire a replacement movement for it (apparently it's a good quality Japanese one which is not now available nor can it be worked on).

It has become such a familiar part our home's surroundings that I continue to use it daily and am resigned to adjusting the time as necessary. Our children have known it all their lives and it is a lovely reminder of a wonderful husband who was an NCR employee for over 25 years until he was made redundant in the late 1980s.

Thanks to Keith Templeman for an interesting article and for finding space to share it.

ANDREW HILL

Andrew Hill's photo of his 100 Year Anniversary Clock, still on prominent display in his lounge, and always a talking point when he and his wife have visitors.



HARROW ROAD

I was lucky enough to go on a school trip to the 1960 Rome Olympics and on my return I started with National Cash Registers at their warehouse in the Harrow Road Paddington. There were 4 other youngsters there of which I was the junior and two seniors the foreman Tommy Dean and Vic Davison who did the estimating.

It was not an office, it was a warehouse with an area sectioned off for an estimating department and here cash registers that could not be repaired in the field were brought in to have estimates for repair and quotes prepared. The units for refurbishment were mainly from country wide chain stores. NCR salesmen would sell the refurbishment service to customers such as Marks & Spencer F. W. Woolworths, Sainsburys would have their 100 class registers cash drawers renovated.

In those days Sainsburys had hundreds of small shops with three or four little departments within each shop where they sold loose butter, cheese, bacon and general groceries and provisions, you had to queue up in each department to purchase your items from that department. In those days the cash drawers were made of wood and suffered badly from heavy use. There was a program to have the cash drawers replaced with refurbished drawers and the used drawers sent to Harrow Road to be refurbished.

On my first day of what would turn out to be my career I was shown how to strip the cash drawers of all its fittings and scrape the accumulated butter, bacon, lard and any other muck out of the draws with a knife and prepare then to be sent to our carpenters to fit Formica type linings in the coin compartments (yes National had their own carpenters shop in the Brent factory), the cash drawers were then returned to Harrow Road to have the fittings refitted and the drawers tested to ensure they operated as they should.

When it was deemed that I was trained the foreman pointed to a pile of very large boxes that went from floor to ceiling and the length of a very long wall, these boxes contained the cash draws that required my attention, so I started on the first box. Now this was in September 1960 and this was my job. On the Thursday before Easter 1961 I had finished my task and there were no more boxes, I was looking forward to being trained for the next step of my career however when we returned after the Easter break I was waiting for instructions on what to do next and a very large van turned up at the loading bay and a whole load of large boxes were unloaded and guess what these boxes contained – yes Sainsbury cash drawers for refurbishment, my 15 year old little heart dropped to the floor.

Luncheon Vouchers

There were a number of burly men who worked in the warehouse loading and unloading cash registers and accounting machines, mainly 3000 class, they also had

the responsibility to scrap machine that were deemed to be beyond repair. I think this was an excuse to get rid of these very, very reliable machines in order for the salesmen to sell the new generation of machines.

It would be 11 years before decimalization finally would take care of these old machines

As we had no canteen every week we were all issued with Luncheon vouchers. Each voucher had a face value of half a crown or 2 shillings and 6 pence (12.5 pence in new money). As the warehouse junior and general dogsbody it was one of my tasks to take orders for sandwiches to take to the local cafes of which there were quite a number in the area. The rules for exchanging luncheon vouchers were that no change would be given. I soon found an Italian café that would give me any outstanding change in cash, when you are earning £3:00 a week every little helps.

When the cats away

Every day Tom Dean, the foreman, would go to Head Office to get the estimates typed up to send to the customers, he would be gone for anything up to 5 hours. It was not unknown for the odd motor bike, lawn mower etc. to be wheeled in and set up a bench to be repaired or serviced, this went on until Tom returned unexpectedly one day and we were caught red handed. Tom very nearly blow a gasket, we were severely reprimanded, as we deserved, but I think we went up in Tom's view as we at the very least showed some degree of entrepreneurship.

The Police

The Harrow road Warehouse was next door to the Police Station and on a number of occasions the station sergeant would turn up looking for young men to make up the numbers in an identity parade. The police were always looking for men over 5ft 9 inches in height so that ruled me out. I felt a bit peeved that all the others would get a bit of time away from the workshop but never me, when one day a policeman turned up looking for young men to attend an identification parade. He must have noticed my disappointment when I was not chosen and then asked me to join the rest. We went next door to the cop shop and were given instructions on were and how to stand. I was put towards the middle of a group of 10, not one of whom was less 5ft 10 inches tall, I stood out like a dwarf amongst giants. I was not asked again.

In late 1961 the warehouse at Harrow Road closed but estimating shop remained. What a result. There we were in the massive empty building which was idle for lunchtime. 5-a-side matches against all comers. This lasted for about 3 months and the estimating shop moved to Brent but that is a story another day.

John Smith

A STORE DEMOLITION JOB

"I only came to return your till"

When it was available, I worked overtime on a Saturday. This is around 1968-70. As I lived very close to the Marylebone Road office I would pop in to collect my jobs from the call controller who was based on the 4th floor. On this particular Saturday, the acting call controller was Larry Cooper. Larry was a lovely guy and real gentleman. On this particular Saturday morning

a super market store manager was on the telephone giving Larry a very hard time.

The Store manager was insisting that a Class 3 cash register that had been removed from his store for workshop repair be returned immediately as Saturdays were his busiest day and he could not manage without it.

NCR Class 3 from lan Ormerod's collection



Larry dispatched me to the workshop in the basement to see if the Cash Register was there and working.

I located the Cash Register but could not confirm if it had been repaired, all I could confirm was that it had been bought in because it did not calculate accurately.

In the absence of any alternative it was decided to take a chance and return the cash register to the super market.

At that time I did not drive so another engineer, Tony Whitaker, was asked to deliver me and the till to the Store in Seven Sisters Road. We loaded the till up on to Tony's van and off we went to north London.

Arsenal were playing at home that Saturday and we could not park anywhere near the store so we parked where we could and borrowed a sack barrow from the store and this is where it all started to go very wrong. We wheeled the till on the sack barrow down the street, through the store loading bay at the rear of the store and to the checkouts at the front.

The manger did not want the till put in the empty checkout, he wanted it swapped for the till in another checkout, a requested that Tony and I complied with. This sounded easy but the tills in those days were used to anchor large displays of things like razor blades, sweets, nuts and sundry small items and often there would be a large advertising display pyramid on the store end of the checkout with a basket beneath for customers to help themselves, in this case it was a display of canned peanuts that went nearly to the ceiling

Tony careful moved the till from one checkout to the other and I lifted the returned till to the other check out and this is where things started to go downhill fast. While I was lifting the till from the sack barrow I noticed a line of blue going all the way back to the loading bay, the till still had a ink reservoir in it which had dripped on to the sack barrow wheels and left a bright blue ink line right through the store, needless to say the store manager was not best pleased. I then purchased bleach and anything else I could think of and attempted to clean up the mess and all I achieved was to make the mess a little lighter and a whole lot bigger.

I then attempted use what little customer care skill I had and was try to calm down a very irate manager and I was doing OK until the cashier using the till we had bought back complained it still was not working correctly. I explained to the manager that as it had been in the workshop and still was not working there would be little we could do to fix it on site, with steam coming out of his ears he agreed we should take it back to the work shop, so we started the delicate process of returning the store to as close as we could to how we found it.

You may have guessed what happened next. In returning the till to its original position I managed to slightly knock the pyramid of nuts and the whole lot come crashing down. The scene is difficult to describe with customers and staff dodging the flying cans which seemed to take forever to stop falling and rolling.

I again engaged my customer skills and was talking the manager down from the ceiling and under the circumstances I was doing OK I told him that while I could do nothing about the flying peanuts I would do my best to get NCR to have the floor cleaned . Then the managers whole attitude changed, he was being distracted by something he could see over my shoulder, I took a position on the steps next to the manager and could see Tony who was trying to hide but could be seen in one of the security mirrors and Tony was doubled up in uncontrollable laughter. Understandably the manger was furious and in no uncertain terms asked me to leave the store and take laughing boy with me.

On return to the office I explained to Larry Copper what had happened and Larry put in motion what was required to have the floor in the store cleaned and any traces of ink expunged.

That is not the end for this poor manager. The very next week the class 21 which was used in the fresh vegetable department needed attention and a very good friend of mine, Ken Umney, attended. Ken was working on the cash register and, as he used a tool, he put it in the cash drawer shell (the money having already been removed). Over time the tools outweighed the forces keeping the till on the counter and there was a resounding crash as the till it the floor. These old mechanical machines did not bounce well and it was now necessary to remove this cash register to NCR workshop and a loaner machine be delivered and installed.

The bye line to this story is that sometime later I was given a call to attend this same store. I did warn the call controller that I may not be the best engineer to send, but I was told that the call was urgent and there was no one else available.

On my arrival at the store I was having difficulty on what my approach to the manager should be. Well, I went up to the manager's office and waved a white hanky as a sign of truce. It seemed to work and, while not exactly delighted to see me, he was at least civil. After that I became one of the engineers who looked after this store, and after a little while I built a relationship with the manager, and we ended up getting on very well

On my future visits to the store and with the passing of time he would often recall the events of our first meeting with a little smile.

John Smith

Customer Pays Cash In 1,000 New Bermuda Crowns

Mr.Eddy De Mello (left), Manager of The Music Box in Hamilton, Bermuda, is paying cash for an NCR Class 3 to W. R. Pirman, Supply Manager, NCR Bermuda who closed the order.

The cash payment was made in 1,000 new Bermuda Crowns, a new five shilling coin which has become a collectors item throughout the world. It is the only coin in circulation which is specifically minted for Bermuda. All other coins used in Bermuda are standard English coins, but there are no English crowns in circulation there.

For this picture we are indebted to M. K. Cusack, Manager, NCR Bermuda.



John Smith referred to the C3 in his story elsewhere – here's another reference to the C3, this time to a sale in Bermuda in 1966 paid for cash, in rare coinage

THE NOW EXTINCT PASSENGER PIGEON AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY

The passenger pigeon or American wild pigeon is an extinct species of pigeon that was only found in the Northeast of North America. Its common name is said to be derived from the French word passager, meaning "passing by", due to their migratory habits.

The pigeon migrated in enormous flocks, constantly searching for food, shelter, and breeding grounds,

The birds were hunted by the Native Americans, but hunting was intensified after the arrival of the European migrants who valued the bird as food and this, along with other factors, resulted in the last wild bird of the species being shot in 1901.

What has this to do with NCR you may well ask?

When I joined NCR in 1965, we were shown introductory slides and films telling of the history of NCR and the involvement of James Ritty and his invention of the cash register after seeing the equipment to measure the ship's speed in the engine room of a ship on the way to Liverpool, England in 1878.

I became interested in the story of Ritty

History Books tell of him being depressed as his business was losing money and took a vacation to Europe to recover.

What puzzled me was:-

Why did he choose Liverpool for a vacation?; Did he travel around England?; Did he have family here?

I have always been interested in family history since I was a teenager so thought this skill may have helped with tracing relatives in England. I remember, many years ago speaking at a meeting of managers and saying that I was interested in Genealogy and one manager asking, "what is genealogy" to which Alan Chard, with his quick wit and skill in one-liners promptly saying, "he's trying to find out who his father is".

Well at this time I wasn't but greatly appreciated Alan's humour which generated lots of laughter at my expense.

Needless to say, as I could find no trace of Ritty's family members in England. As I knew his immediate ancestors and siblings moved from Germany to the USA I had to let the question about the reason for the trip to England remain unanswered.

While doing further research in America I discovered that Ritty was a sportsman who enjoyed horse racing and horse and trap driving as well as a breeder of horses and sporting dogs.

Has was also very interested in hunting and took part in shooting competitions where competitors had to bring down as many pigeons as possible in a given time frame. Heavy betting took place on the outcome

Having left my research many years ago of Ritty's reason for his voyage to Liverpool, in the last few weeks I have found the answer on page 36 of the November 1924 edition NCR Post.

Without the pigeons and the shooting competitions there would have been no cash registers invented at that time, no National Cash Register Company and Patterson would probably have bought into a different venture.

Ian Ormerod

Pigeons and Cash Registers

We know that James Ritty, the inventor of the cash register, conceived his idea while watching the indicator on the propeller shaft in a ship's engine room. But very few know the cause of Mr. Ritty taking the epochal trip which gave him the idea.

Back in the years of 1870-1880 Captain James Bogordus was the king of pigeon shooters in this country. About 1878 a challenge was received from England stipulating that Bogordus cross the

Atlantic and meet the English champion. In those days, it was not such an easy matter to decide on taking an ocean trip as it is today. Conferring with many of his friends and admirers, Mr. Bogordus decided to accept the challenge and go to England to shoot for the World's Championship.



The \$100,000 Pigeon

Among those who admired the skill of the American was James Ritty of Dayton, Ohio, one of the best known sportsmen in the Middle West. And owner of the leading cafe in this city at the time. Being an enthusiastic follower of pigeon shooting, Mr. Ritty decided to accompany Mr. Bogordus to England. He was one of the many who went, confident that the American was the best man, and willing to back their favorite.

The day of the match arrived and the opposing shooters were scoring about equal. The match narrowed down to the last twenty-five birds. The English champion brought down 24 straight and missed his last one. This left Bogordus the task of bringing down 25 birds in a row, if he was to win. The American started shooting and one after another, the pigeons dropped. He had brought down 24 straight and the last bird, meant victory. Taking careful aim, he fired and the

pigeon fluttered to the ground. Captain Bogordus had won and on his victory over \$100,000 changed hands.

One of his admirers, evidently a big winner, picked up the pigeon and brought it back to America where he had it mounted. The reproduction on this page, owned by Charles W. Sander, of this city, is made from a picture of the original bird.

This match was practically the end of pigeon shooting and the beginning of

clay pigeons. Protests were heard on all sides, condemning the killing of pigeons and to satisfy public opinion, the use of clay pigeons and traps was established.

On the trip to England Mr. Ritty reflected on his business. Thoughts as to how it was being con-

ducted gave him considerable unrest. It was a common sight to see him pacing back and forth on the deck, in deep thought.

While in one of these moods, he went down to the engine room. A dial that recorded the revolutions of the propeller interested him greatly. If a machine device could be made to record the revolutions of a ship's propeller, why not a machine to record the sales in his business?

Arriving in England, he attended the shoot and then took a trip to Paris. Visiting the race track there, he was impressed with a machine which recorded the amount bet on a horse. This machine and the dial in the ship's engine room convinced him that a machine to record purchases in a store, was a possibility.

Arriving home, he immediately started to work out his idea and built his first crude machine. Crude it is true, but it was the machine that was to revolutionize retail business.



THE TEST OF THE CENTURY

GHOSTS of past Test Cricket will stir at Lords when the greatest names in England v Australia Test Matches in the past 50 years join battle once again . . . with the help of an NCR Century 200 computer.

The Test teams are being chosen by no lesser authorities than G.O. "Gubby: Allen, ex-Chairman of the English Selection Committee and captain of the MCC team which toured Australia, 1936-37, and Sir Donald Bradman, legendary Australian cricketer and until recently, Chairman of the Australian Board of Selectors.

The match is said to take place at Lords and the only condition in the selection of the sides is that the players should have played in at least one Test Match between England and Australia at Lords.

The NCR Century 200 computer will give ball-by-ball results during an exhibition of our latest equipment to be held at Lords in September. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that a full test match has been played on a computer.

The Company has the full co-operation of the MCC and Ron Wiltshire and Ron Lerther, Sales Promotion and Advertising, have been studying the records at Lords, The Oval, Old Trafford, Headingley and Trent Bridge for the statistical information on batting and bowling performances etc., during the England v Australia games since 1921. Mr Bill Frindall, official statistician for both Wisden* – the cricketers bible – and the BBC, will supply other statistical information.

Probability Tables

This information will be given to Bruce Nunn, UK Support Centre, and his team of system and programming specialists for them to translate into "probability" tables concerning individual performances.

A random number for every ball bowled will be used against probabilities based upon the statistical information stored in the computer on both the batsman and bowler, plus the state of the wicket and other conditions. The computer will then decide whether runs have been scored and if so how

many, or if the batsman has been bowled, caught etc.

The strategies and/or tactics of the game will be determined by the Captains in advance.

Bowling changes will be related to the number of overs, the number of runs and the number of wickets taken, Changes for the new ball etc. will also be taken into consideration. The state of the wicket will be predetermined to be good. There will be no rain during the match and the wicket will take again on the fourth and fifth days. It was felt advisable to decree that the sun shines for, if accurate information had been fed into the computer the match would in all probability have been rained off.

Technical details

The match will be run off one of the two NCR Century 200 systems located at Head Office. The computer has a memory of 128,000 characters to do the intricate calculations needed to run the "Test". The memory has the very fast cycle time of 650 nanoseconds. (There are more nanoseconds in $2^{1/2}$ seconds than seconds in a man's 70 year life span). All the past performance statistics being used will be stored on magnetic disc packs, each of which can hold up to 42 million characters of information.

Sun Competition

*As many of you will have seen the "Sun" newspaper, in conjunction with NCR, is running a competition whereby the reader can choose two teams – one for England and one for Australia – from a selected list of 30 players. In addition the reader must explain in not more than 12 words the reason for his choice. The winner who will have picked the team considered most likely to have won, will win a century – one hundred pounds (NCR employees and their families are barred from this competition.





How the game was played:

To provide the necessary statistical data for the computer, NCR's research team made a detailed analysis of every run scored and ball bowled in every Test Match between England and Australia in the UK since 1921. They had the full co-operation of the MCC and the officials at The Oval, Trent Bridge, Old Trafford and Headingley and Bill Frindall, official statistician for both Wisden and the BBC supplied a great deal of additional statistics.

All this information was fed into the NCR Century 200 computer which converted it into probability tables for individual performances of both batsmen and bowlers.

A random number for every ball bowled was tested against these probabilities. The computer then decided whether a run had been scored, and if so how many, or if the batsman had been caught, bowled etc. The tactics for the games were determined in advance by the captains and held in the computer.

The intricate calculations needed to run the Test were made possible by using the NCR Century 200 computer system. The Century 200 has a memory of 128,000 characters and the very fast cycle time of 650 nanoseconds. There are more nanoseconds in 21/2 seconds than seconds in a man's 70 year life span). All the past performance statistics being used will be stored on magnetic disc packs, each of which can hold up to 42 million characters of information.

The computing techniques used in 'The Test of the Century' are similar to those used in business applications on the NCR Century computer, not only for simulation business problems, a technique increasingly being used by companies to enable their management to investigate and measure the effects of introducing alternative plans and improving decision making, but also the more general application such as payroll, sales ledger, stick control etc.

Ball-by-ball details of the match were printed out on an NCR Thermal Printer—the non-impact, electronic communications terminal which prints extremely quietly, at 30 characters per second and has 96 alpha numeric characters.

The Test could also be followed on an NCR computer visual display unit by means of an easy to follow moving dot format, showing ball, bowler, batsmen and fielders.



Will Frintall, official statistician for both Niedes and the TEX, has emplied a great deal of additional statistics.

All this information has been fed into the computer which converts the data into probability tables concerning individual performances.

A random number for every ball breled in tested against those probabilities based upon the statistical data stored in the computer on both hateman and bowler. The computer than decides whether zone have been severed, and if so how many, at if the hateman has been bowled, engit, etc.

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The state of the wicket has atready been determined to be good - there will be mainated by the vaptains in advance.

The state of the wicket has atready been determined in the factor the match in a fifth days.

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THEROICAL DETAILS: The match will be run on one of the two NR Contary 200 computer systems, worth over £500,000, leasated at NR's Marylabasis headquarters. The system is be used has a menuy of 125 (000 characters to do the intricate calculations needed to run the "Fest". The sensy has the very fast eyele time of fold maincanded. (There are note anisonated in 25 seconds thus seconds in a man's 20 year lifespant. All the past performence attalties being man of 100 annocenture of information.

The computing techniques used in "The Feat of the Century' are similar to these used



Tossing for the start of play in the NCR 'Test of the Century' is (top centre) England captain Peter May watched by (from May's left) Godfrey Evans, B. Barnes, who represents the Australian Cricket Board of Control in Britain. Dennis Compton, Alec Bedser and Jim Laker.

"The Test of the Century" between England and Australia at Lord's at the end of September captured the imagination of cricket fans all over the world. It was covered by television, radio, newspapers and magazines, not only in England and Australia, but also in India, Pakistan, Africa and the West Indies.

But this five day test match was a game of cricket with a big difference, it was played by some of the greatest names in English and Australian cricket over the past 50 years on an NCR Century 200 computer.

How the game went

With the weather determined to be good and the wicket taking spin on the last two days. Sir Donald Bradman's winning of the toss and electing to bat gave Australia an immediate advantage.

England did well to hold Australia down to 321 for the first innings, with Verity taking 4 wickets for 31 and dismissing Bradman for 22. Ponsford, 81 and Miller 75, topped the Australian scoring.

England's first innings started badly, with Hobbs going for 8, Hammond for 10 and Compton for 5. Hutton made a valuable 86 and Leyland 80 to prop the England score with captain Peter May making 38 not out. England's total of 266 left them trailing by 46 runs. Miller was the main executioner taking 5 wickets for 46.

Australia settled in for their second innings to slaughter the English bowling – reaching a staggering total of 437. Bradman made 222 and shared with Morris a stand of 364. Although the Australian 'tail; collapsed, England was left needing 493 runs to win. Verity again shone with 3 wickets for 74 and Laker took 4 for 105.

England started the final innings with a promising 60 from Hobbs and 58 from Hammond, though Hutton went out for only 21, Leyland made 60 and May 54, making England 299 for 6 wickets and the batting strength almost gone.

Though Evans knocked a useful 30, it was too late. The rest of England's team were dismissed for only 11 runs between them. Verity being not out without making a score. The total was 327; Australia had won 'The Test of the Century' by 165 runs.

Keith Miller was chosen Man of the Match by the compute, having taken 8 England wickets for 111 runs and scoring 75 for Australia.



The NCR Century 200 computer room at NCR headquarters, Marylebone Road, London. Part of the equipment was used to play 'The Test of the Century'. Play was relayed by line to an NCR Thermal Printer and NCR 785 VDU for the visitrs to the Lord's Exhibition.



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TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBY



Whatever it is. If your favourite pastime interests you, we'll probably want to hear about it too.



Just write about it and send to patrick.stroudley@btinternet.com

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If you have anything you think may be of interest in a historical context (old machines, parts, manuals, newsletters, newspaper articles), please contact Ian Ormerod on

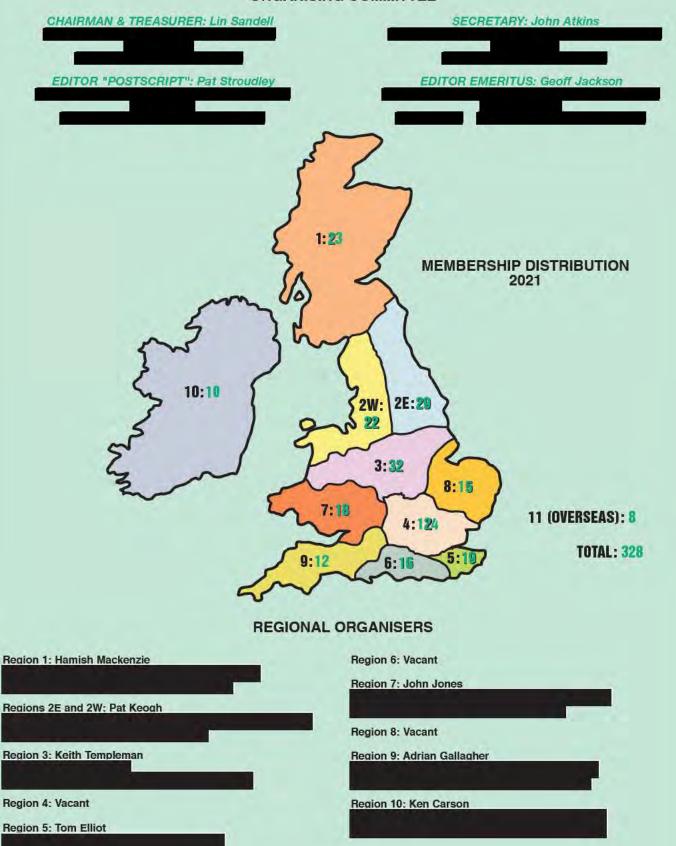
ian.ormerod@ncr.org.uk or by post at Jasmine Cottage, Hillersland Lane, Shortstanding, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7NU. Phone: 01594 780219

lan curates the NCR Retrospective website, which is full of UK and US company history - visit ncr.org.uk

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