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# MESSIER-DOWTY **Link**

The House Magazine of Messier-Dowty Limited Issue 11, August 1995

# TEAM EFFORT WINS QUEEN'S AWARD



**On Monday 17th July the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Henry Elwes, presented us with the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement.**

The award recognises the technical challenges we overcame in the design and manufacture of the

Airbus Industrie A330/340 main landing gear.

VIP visitors at the ceremony include Ray Wilson, Director - Product Operations at British Aerospace, Tony Edwards, Dominique Paris, Nigel Jones MP and the Mayor of Tewkesbury.

In his address, the Lord Lieutenant praised the number of awards generally in the Gloucestershire area and went on to stress that the award had been won by the whole team.

Geoff Smith commented on it

being an active year on the Airbus front with the 100th set of A330/340 delivered in January and then the Queen's Award presentation coinciding with the completion of the first production set of the 271 Tonne main gear for the A340.

Geoff re-emphasised the Lord

Lieutenant's point that the award was for the whole team and also paid tribute to the contribution of past employees involved in the early stages of the project.

Ray Wilson commended the ingenuity of the team involved. He also referred to the initiatives

recently put in place with teams from British Aerospace and ourselves working together to enhance our product and levels of customer service.



*Geoff Smith receiving the award, on behalf of the team, from the Lord Lieutenant*



## Half Year Results Beat Targets

Sales, profit and cash were all ahead of target at the half year stage of this financial year.

In the period January to June 1995 we achieved sales of £47.5 million, £2.4 million above target. This was caused by higher than expected spares sales and the beneficial phasing effect

of Airbus original equipment sales. Our latest forecast is that the Airbus benefit will reverse in the second half of the year and that sales in this period will be £2.5 million below target.

Profit achieved in the first half year was £1.6 million above target reflecting the higher level of sales. The second

half of the year will be more difficult because of the lower level of expected sales.

Good results in May and June pushed our cash performance well above target at the half year stage. Again much of this benefit will reverse in the second half of the year due to the below forecast level of sales.

## Visits to Bidos



*Photograph of Bidos site with Pyrenees in the background*

Recent months have seen several visits from members of our team to the Messier-Dowty SA manufacturing plant at Bidos. This is situated in the South-West of France near the Spanish border. The purpose of these visits is to exchange best practice between our two sites so that we can learn from each other.

In mid-July, Alan McKay and Albert Pettit made the journey to look at their plating facility and procedures. Both were impressed by what they saw. Alan told us, "I have visited more than 100 Plating Shops world-wide during my career and this was by far the best. The facility at Bidos has a good display of plating fixtures and tooling and we can learn a lot from their chrome plating jigs".

Alan also commented on the friendly and hospitable way he and Albert were received and he looks forward to hosting a visit from his French counterparts to Gloucester.

At the end of June, Julian Swatridge and Martin Hignett made the journey to Bidos. Shown below are some of their observations.

- Friendly environment with English spoken by large numbers of people across the site.
- Each machine had a display board showing its age, types of operation carried out and capabilities.
- Display cabinets in manufacturing areas showed the safety items e.g. gloves, which were available from the Stores.
- Work on Boeing 777 components

was being carried out.

- Bidos plans to move to cell manufacture.
- Sub-contract inspection is carried out at suppliers' premises.
- They keep a P.C. database of all items received from suppliers detailing rejects and checks to be carried out.
- Shop-floor documentation is computerised with bar codes and operation description on one set of paperwork, inside a plastic folder that also holds the drawing and stores delivery notes.



## Money Raised For Cystic Fibrosis Trust

In April Michael Staton and his wife, Marie, handed over a cheque for £287.50 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Michael, a Machinist in Medium Landing Gear, became involved in the trust when his youngest daughter, Becky, was diagnosed as having Cystic Fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is the U.K.'s most common inherited life threatening disease with some 6,000 affected children and adults. People who have CF produce a very sticky mucus which clogs their lungs and digestive systems making it difficult to breathe and absorb food properly.

When CF was first recognised as a disease in the 1930's most CF babies were only expected to live a few months. Today, thanks to improved diagnosis and treatment, 75% of babies survive to adolescence and an increasing number live into their 30's and 40's.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust founded in

1964, raises money to continue vital funding of hospital and medical research into improved treatment and

money for charity, but this year he has suffered some ill-health himself which temporarily stopped his running.



Becky (3) to the right of big sister, Emma (6).

He approached Dave Symes, a fellow Machinist in Medium Landing Gear who he knew was running in the London Marathon in April, to ask if Dave would run on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Dave, who was featured in **Link** last year when he ran in the marathon, agreed and Michael set about gathering sponsors.

Dave successfully completed the marathon course in 3 hours and 10 minutes - an

prevention of CF. It also provides a network of support and advice groups for people with CF and their families.

Michael regularly runs to raise

improvement of 6 minutes on his 1994 time. Many congratulations to both Dave and Michael on their efforts!

## Palace Honour For Graham



Graham Iles, Cell Leader in Large Landing Gear, attended a Royal Garden Party on 11th July. Graham was nominated in recognition of his 40 years committed service to the company.

The picture shows Graham with his wife, Margaret, outside the gates of Buckingham Palace.

## Farewell To June



Our best wishes go to June Keen, Secretary in the Assembly Department, who retired on 8th June after 15 years service.

Amongst the many gifts June received were a compact disc player, a

string of pearls, and a framed photograph of herself at the tender age of 21.

The picture shows June with friends and colleagues at her retirement presentation.



# Scoring For Scoo-B-Doo



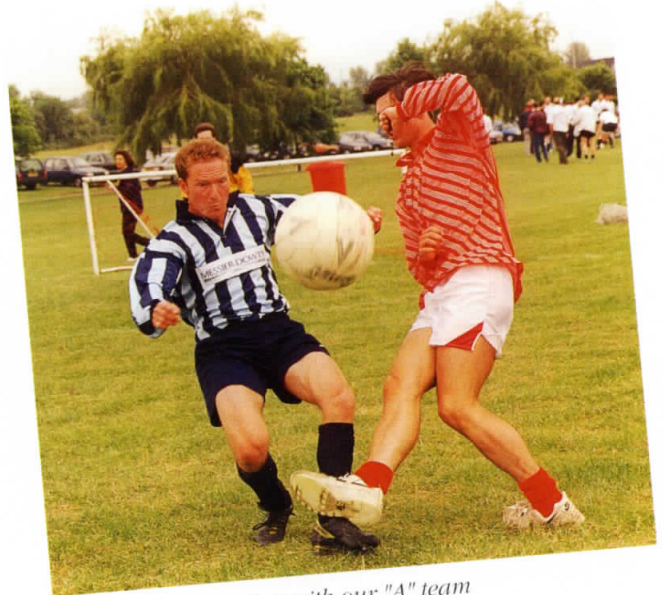
Tournament winners Metalite Engineering, celebrate victory

On the 24th June, 30 teams took part in a 5-a-side football tournament at our Staverton sportsground to raise funds for Gloucestershire Royal's Scoo-B-Doo special care baby unit.

Organised by Phil Phelps, Mike Mitchell and Andy Price, teams from our suppliers and customers were invited to take part. Also competing was a visiting team from France of Velizy and Bidos employees. With Christine Clarke and Audrey Webb on the public address system and Planning ready to record each game's result on lap-top, the



Mike Handley showing that veterans can still play



Cleve Wilson in action with our "A" team



Surprise entrants were a team of international celebrity stars seen showing their best aspect





tournament began.

The tournament was eventually won on a penalty shoot-out by Metalite Engineering Co. Ltd of Coventry. Our own A-team lost to tournament runner's up, Smiths Industries, in the quarter finals despite a star performance from goalkeeper Brian 'Geordie' Butler.

In spite of a broken nose and a few disputes with referees, the day was a great success. A cheque for £1338 was presented by Geoff Smith to Sue Jones for Scoo-B-Doo and another £150 is expected in pledged donations.



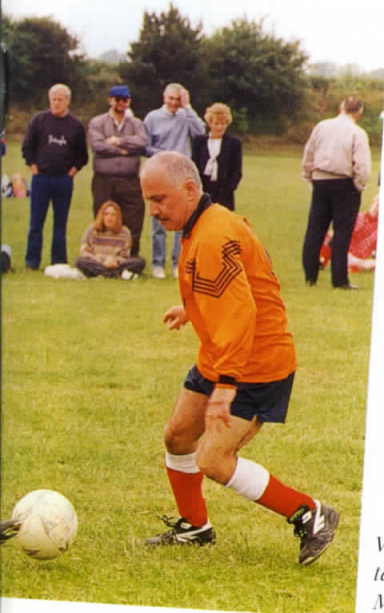
*Messier-Dowty "A" team*



*Geoff Smith presents cheque to Sue Jones*



*Peter Martin practising his Kung Fu*



*Val Calderone taking on Metalite*



*Team from Messier-Dowty S.A. with event organisers Phil Phelps, Mike Mitchell and Andy Price. The plate was a surprise gift from our French colleagues*



# Paris Airshow

This year's Paris Airshow in June saw the debut appearance of Messier-Dowty.

Signs of some recovery in the aerospace industry were reflected in the appearance of new aircraft and the announcement of new orders - a refreshing change from recent shows.

Messier-Dowty displayed a range of exhibits representing our key market segments including Airbus A321, Canadair RJ, F18, Falcon 2000 and Tiger helicopter landing gears. A feature of our stand was a counter registering the number of landings during the week of aircraft fitted with Messier-Dowty gears. Visitors were invited to guess this figure. The competition was won by a Parisian lady whose guess was only three lower than the actual number.



"Beluga" transport aircraft



ATR-42 coming in to land

First public appearances of a number of new aircraft took place including the Airbus/SATIC "Beluga" super transporter and the Boeing 777. The Northrop B2 stealth bomber also appeared at the start of the show but after landing for only a few hours it took off and disappeared!!

VIP visitors to our stand included Dr. Habibie, Minister for Trade and Industry in Indonesia, and Roger Freeman, UK Minister of State for Defence Procurement. French President, Jacques Chirac, visited the British Aerospace stand to meet a number of senior UK executives including Tony Edwards.

A party of apprentices from Gloucester attended the show and met their colleagues from Bidos at a breakfast reception in the Messier-Dowty chalet.



Tony Edwards and Dominique Paris viewing the landings counter at our stand



Our apprentices with their French colleagues at the Messier-Dowty stand



## Par For The Course



*The picture shows the winning Horton Cup team displaying their trophy*

Our golfers have been having a swinging time in recent months, participating in four local competitions.

Firstly, congratulations go to the team who won the Dowty Inter-Company Horton Cup. This competition was held at the end of April over the 'Old Course' at Michinhampton with local Dowty companies competing against each other. Our team's score of 273 stableford points proved to be too good for the opposing teams from DAP, DAAS, Seals and DAHC.

Individual scores were Haydon Edwards 39, Paul Bedney 36, Graham Badley 36, Steve Warrender 35, Denis Barnard 34, Cleve Wilson (captain) 33, Dave Tallon, 31 and Steve Prosser 29.

As winners, we have to organise next year's event. Negotiations are already taking place with our neighbour, the Brickhampton Golf Club.

In mid-June, a combined Messier-Dowty and DAP team took part in a charity corporate golf challenge in aid of the NSPCC and Young Gloucestershire. Each team donated £200 to play

in the challenge which took place at the Cotswold Hills Golf Club, Ullenwood.

Steve Prosser and Dave Tallon played from our site and each won a magnum of champagne for winning the morning round.

At the beginning of June, Haydon Edwards, Cleve Wilson, Steve Warrender and Peter Underwood represented us in the Tewkesbury Borough Council Inter-Business Annual Golf Tournament at Cleeve Hill. Unfortunately, their total points score of 123 wasn't quite good enough to win a prize, although a good day out was had by all.

Most recently our Technical Publications Department (with assistance from Product Support) were successful in winning the Tech. Pubs. Challenge Trophy, defeating BAe Tech. Pubs. at Streamleaze Golf Club, Wootton-Under-Edge 3 1/2 to 1/2.

Originating in 1993, this has become an annual event, in which the social side of the occasion is deemed to be at

least as important as the golf! This year's winning team included Terry Wedgbury (captain), John Edwards, Adam Williams, Derek Pittaway, Mike Whitehead, Ian Mowat and Greg Smith.



## On Yer Bike!

In recent months a number of employees have been using pedal power to raise money for charity.

Malcolm Morgan from Engineering regularly raises money for the charity 'Crohns in Childhood' as his son is a sufferer. This year he took part in the 'Hell of the North Cotswolds', a combination of on/off road racing inspired by the Paris-Roubaix race.

The course is approximately 60 miles long, starting and finishing at Winchcombe and passing through Guiting Power, Condicote, Temple Guiting and Brockhampton.

Fortunately the weather was kind this year, making the off-road section easy to ride - a big contrast to last year when Malcolm found himself up to his axles in mud!

Including a donation of £100 from the company, Malcolm raised a total of £600.

£100 was also donated by the company to a cycle ride from Gloucester to Portland Bill. Martin Heath from Medium Landing Gear decided to arrange the event to thank Scoo-B-Doo



*Cotswold Bike Riders (from left to right) Rob and Diane Cocksbull, Tracy Hobbs, Vaughan Matthews, Jason Hobbs, Paul Empson and Malcolm Morgan*

(the Gloucestershire Royal special care unit for babies) after his daughter spent her first days there following problems with her birth.

It took the team of 6 riders 7 1/2 hours to complete the 120 mile course. In total, they raised nearly £1500 for Scoo-B-Doo. They would like to thank Watts Truck Centre for their support in providing a van for the weekend.

A team from Engineering also joined together to cycle the 40 mile Cotswold Bike Ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Including a company donation, a total of £387 was raised by the team.



*At Portland Bill (from left to right), Mark Rossiter, Luke Hayburst, Gary James, Bob Daly, Shaun Vizor and Martin Heath*

## Work Transfer Underway

The transfer of work between sites within Messier-Dowty is now well underway. We have started to manufacture pistons and cylinders for the Global Express shock strut which is being transferred here from Toronto.

The Global Express is a corporate business jet that will carry 8 passengers and 4 crew. It is scheduled to enter service in 1998. The jet is made by Bombardier Aerospace who, in March 1994, selected Toronto for the landing gear contract. The contract was a new development for Messier-Dowty being for the supply of the complete integrated landing gear system including wheels and brakes.

Manufacture of parts for the A330/340 sidestay has also started on this site, again transferring here from Toronto. We are still on target for the

first main assembly of sidestays by Gloucester during October 1995.

Plans are now in place for the

transfer of parts from Molsheim to this site although this process will take until the early part of 1997 to complete.



*Artists impression of Global Express jet*