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# MESSIER-DOWTY **Link**



The House Magazine of Messier-Dowty Limited Issue 13, December 1995

# A340 LANDING GEAR TAKES CENTRE STAGE

In the last issue of **Link** we reported that we had donated an A330/340 landing gear to the Science Museum in London. It now stands in the front entrance foyer, and is the first exhibit that visitors see when entering the museum.

On 13th November, at a reception in the museum, the gear was officially "handed over" to Sir Neil Cossons, Director of the Science Museum.

The reception of over 150 people included senior colleagues from British Aerospace, MP's and the Press. Also present were representatives from this site, the Department of Trade and Industry, universities, local schools, our suppliers and the museum.

At the ceremony, Tony Edwards commented on the importance of the handover of the landing gear. "This evening's event is another chapter in the success story of Britain's involvement in Airbus. This landing gear is a shining example of British technology, a fact recognised by the Queen's Award for Technological achievement to the Gloucester team earlier this year. We hope that this exhibit will help to raise awareness of the aerospace industry and encourage the young visitors of today to become the engineers of tomorrow".

Sir Neil Cossons said in his response, "We are delighted to accept this Airbus landing gear from Messier-Dowty. It joins our collection of some of the finest exhibits of science, technology and engineering in the world and I'm sure it will prove of interest to the 1.4 million visitors who visit us from all nations each year."



*The new exhibit making an impression on visitors to the Museum*

# A340 Landing Gear Takes Centre Stage

continued from page 1...

Guest speaker Dick Evans, Chief Executive of British Aerospace, called on the Government to back Britain's aerospace industry and to recognise the level of support provided by other governments to their aerospace industries. He issued a plea for closer ties and a partnership between the Government and industry to ensure its continued success.

"Airbus has been incredibly important to the UK economy as a whole. It is the biggest single growth business that we are currently engaged in. To remain competitive, however, we must have a level playing field. We need the understanding and support of the Government to build on the success we have already achieved. Airbus is a great British and European success story. We need to work together to ensure that it continues well into the next century and that there is a vibrant industry for our youngsters to join."

Tony Edwards made reference to the increasingly competitive market place: "We are facing competitors who have support from their governments and it is increasingly difficult to compete against them when they have access to indirect or even covert public support. It is very important that we establish a partnership with the UK Government. We don't want the



Government to pick winners – we are winners – we just want them to back winners."

As a sign of the Museum's appreciation, the curators of the Aeronautical collection have offered employees from this site and their families the opportunity to visit the museum free of charge.

Details of how to go about this, including a requirement to give advance notice, will be displayed on notice boards.



Pictured (top) with the exhibit are: (L to R) Geoff Smith, Dick Evans, Chris Geoghegan and Tony Edwards

(Above) Sir Neil Cossons, Director of the Science Museum, addressing the audience

## Windsor Drive Sponsorship

**Earlier this year, Wayne Brown, Cell Leader in No 1 Shop approached the company to supply new kit for Windsor Drive AFC. Impressed by the record of the senior team the company agreed and they are now playing in Messier-Dowty colours.**

The senior team was only formed some 5 years ago. In that time they have moved from Division 4 in the Gloucester Sunday league to the Premier League. The senior team's success has been based upon nurturing the talent from youth teams which first started in 1977.

Alex Greig from No 1 Assembly was elected Chairman of the club this year and John Nicholas from DAAS is the senior team manager.



The picture shows the team wearing their new Messier-Dowty kit

The team have performed well in both league and cup competitions and

we wish them every success for the rest of the season.

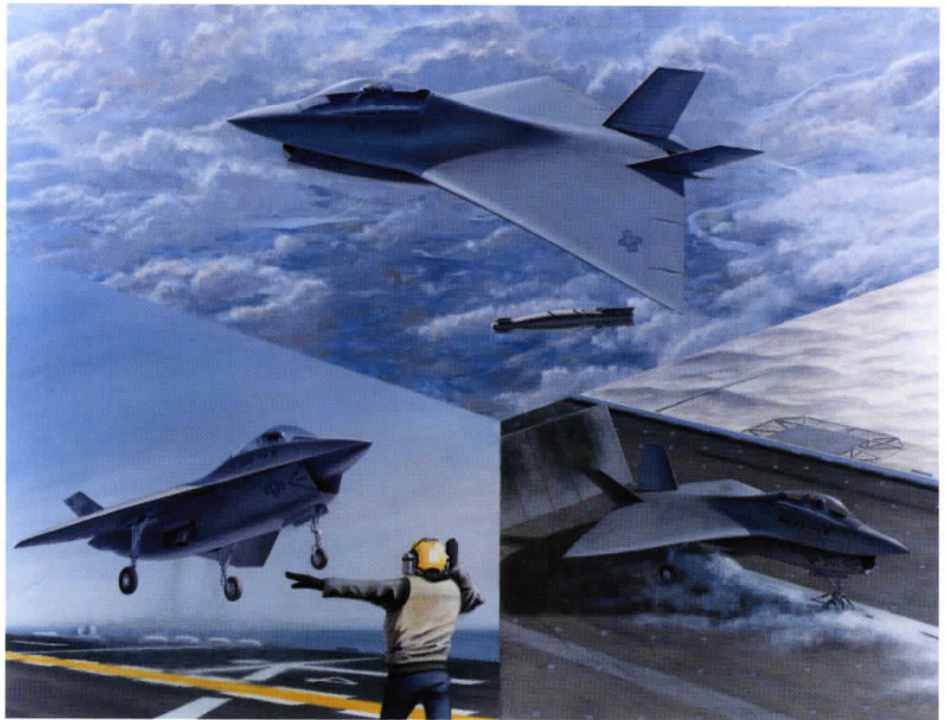
# Military Opportunities

The last issue of **Link** reported on the T-45A and F-15 proposal which was submitted at the end of November by Messier-Dowty Toronto and included a large input from Gloucester. One interesting development is an agreement with Heroux of Canada to act as a sub contractor to Toronto for F-15 work. The T-45 work is destined for Gloucester if we are selected by McDonnell Douglas.

Our next opportunity to become involved in military work involves the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft, formerly the JAST/ASTOVL (Joint Advanced Strike Technology/Advanced Short Take Off and Vertical Landing) programme.

The JSF is a joint UK, US project to develop a Future Offensive Aircraft for possible replacement of the Tornado, Jaguar, A-10, F-16, F-18, A-6 and Harrier. By 2008, the intention is to develop aircraft capable of catapult launch, short take off and vertical landing and conventional land based operations with 80% commonality.

In mid 1996, McDonnell Douglas/Northrop-Grumman, Boeing Space and Defence and Lockheed-Martin will bid to the US Department of Defence (DoD) to obtain funding to build two flying demonstrator aircraft for which existing landing gear may be required.



*Artist's impressions of the new JSF aircraft*

At the end of 1996, the US DoD will select two of the three teams for a "fly off" scheduled for 1999.

We may be asked to provide landing gear for the demonstrator aircraft which helps us to gain entry to the production programme and secure an opportunity to bid competitively in the future for the 300 landing gear sets predicted.

Messier-Dowty has had initial discussions with each team about their landing gear requirements for the demonstrator and production aircraft. Gloucester has received permission to share information on the Tornado and Eurofighter landing gears if they meet the requirements.

## Pipped At The Post

**On Friday 27th October, a team from Gloucester travelled north to Manchester to play in the Avro Woodford 7-a-side football tournament for the fourth successive year.**

Eleven teams entered the tournament and a 3 league format was played to qualify for the semi-finals. The winners of each league plus the best runners-up qualified for the knockout stage.

In our league were Avro Woolaston, Hyde (an Avro supplier) and Smiths Industries. It seems each year we travel 150 miles to play our neighbours!

Results were very pleasing, with a comfortable 3-0 win over Avro (with goals from Billy Knowles and Andy Monaghan), a harder fought 1-0 win over Hyde (goal scorer: Billy Knowles) and a satisfying 4-2 win over Smiths (goals: Billy Knowles, Phil Phelps and Andy Monaghan).

We played home side Avro Support in the first semi-final. This was a very close game which we eventually won 2-0 in extra time (goals - Billy Knowles and Andy Monaghan).

However, the tight semi obviously took its toll as we were unfortunately beaten 2-0 in a tough final against BAE Chatterton.

Nevertheless, congratulations go to tournament top scorer, Billy Knowles.

***And Ken – please get yourself a new alarm clock!...***

## Best Wishes To Dennis

Dennis Neale retired early at the end of October following 38 years service with the company. Dennis spent most of his working life in the Progress department before taking over the running of the Archive Stores.

He served for many years as Chairman of A.P.E.X. and on the Sports and Social Management Committee as well as representing the site in the Dowty Retirement Club.

Colleagues presented Dennis with a CD Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder on his last day. At the presentation Doug Knott paid tribute to Dennis' contribution to the company and his willingness to resolve problems and help other people.

We wish Dennis and his wife Gwen all the best for the future.



# 1995 Family Christmas Quiz

## Sport

- What was the name of the New Zealand boat which won the America's Cup?  
a) Black Magic  b) Speedy  c) White Knight
- Whom did Monica Seles play in her exhibition match comeback?  
a) Graf  b) Sabatini  c) Navratilova
- The goalkeeper of which country performed a remarkable 'scorpion-kick' save against England at Wembley?  
a) Colombia  b) Uruguay  c) Ecuador
- Which golfer did not have a hole-in-one at the Ryder Cup?  
a) Ballesteros  b) Clark  c) Rocca
- Pre-season, how many shirts did Bayern Munich sell bearing the number of Jurgen Klinsmann?  
a) 12,000  b) 40,000  c) 50,000
- Which British athlete won two medals at the World Championships?  
a) Jonathan Edwards  b) Kelly Holmes  c) Jon Regis
- Who was the first English bowler in 38 years to take a Test match hat-trick?  
a) Angus Fraser  b) Dominic Cork  c) Devon Malcolm
- Who scored a maximum 147 at snooker's world championships?  
a) Stephen Hendry  b) Peter Ebdon  c) Jimmy White
- Which Formula One driver was called a 'prat' by his team boss?  
a) David Coulthard  b) Damon Hill  c) Johnny Herbert
- Who presented rugby's World Cup to South Africa?  
a) Nelson Mandela  b) Prince Edward  c) Denis Thatcher



## Television

- In 'Coronation Street' which character died?  
a) Bet  b) Ivy  c) Don
- Which programme was dropped in July after 104 episodes?  
a) The Word  b) Dr Who  c) Eurotrash
- Which BBC presenter was sacked for taking part in a washing powder commercial?  
a) Carol Vorderman  b) Paula Yates  c) Danny Baker
- Which actress starred in the 'Politician's Wife'?  
a) Juliet Stevenson  b) Helen Mirren  c) Lesley Ash
- Which comedienne had a 'Health Quest'?  
a) Dawn French  b) June Whitfield  c) Ruby Wax
- Where was the Griff Rhys Jones comedy 'Sardines' set?  
a) broken lift  b) fish factory  c) submarine
- Which soap broadcast its 2000th episode?  
a) Neighbours  b) Emmerdale  c) Brookside
- Who had a cookery series called 'Tricks of the Trade'?  
a) Keith Floyd  b) Delia Smith  c) Prue Leith
- 'Northern Exposure' is set in which US state?  
a) New England  b) Rhode Island  c) Alaska
- Who narrated BBC's retrospective 'Match of the Seventies' series?  
a) Jimmy Hill  b) Dennis Waterman  c) George Best



## Current Affairs

- What was the nerve gas released in Sarin?  
a) Sarin  b) Chorzanine
- Who became the new French President?  
a) Chirac  b) Le Pen  c) Ito
- Who was the judge in the OJ Simpson trial?  
a) Kato  b) Chen  c) Ito
- Which US city was devastated by a tornado?  
a) Kansas City  b) Oklahoma
- What was the name of the killer of the organs in Zaire?  
a) Lymphosa  b) Ebola
- Which dean was cleared of charges with a former verger?  
a) Durham  b) Bristol  c)
- What was left inside baby Benjamin?  
a) Hyperdermic needle  b)
- Which Japanese city was hit by a typhoon in 50 years?  
a) Tokyo  b) Osaka  c)
- Who trod on David Blunkett's guinea pig?  
a) Tony Blair  b) John Major
- Which party was described as 'the party of the people'?  
a) Tory  b) Labour  c) SNP

## Films

- Which Scottish hero did Mel Gibson play in 'Braveheart'?  
a) Rob Roy  b) Robert the Bruce  c) William Wallace
- Who played Jo in the new version of 'Little Women'?  
a) Winona Ryder  b) Demi Moore  c) Sandra Bullock
- Monica Keene described her re-interpretation of which famous character as "she's less intimidated - more feminist"?  
a) Snow White  b) Jane Eyre  c) William Flintstone
- Which Apollo space mission does Tom Hanks help re-create?  
a) Apollo 11  b) Apollo 12  c) Apollo 13
- Who directed the Oscar-laden film 'Forrest Gump'?  
a) Ron Howard  b) Robert Zemeckis  c) Mike Leigh
- What is Clint Eastwood's occupation in 'The Bridges of Madison County'?  
a) Photographer  b) Policeman  c) Rancher
- In 'Pulp Fiction' what dance do John Travolta and Uma Thurman do?  
a) Shake  b) Rumba  c) Twist
- What is the latest Bond film called?  
a) Golden Touch  b) Goldeneye  c) Eye Level
- Which film actress testified against four girls who held her up at knife-point?  
a) Sharon Stone  b) Elizabeth Hurley  c) Angelica Huston
- The follow-up to which film is to be called 'Fierce Creatures'?  
a) Jurassic Park  b) A Fish Called Wanda  c) Reservoir Dogs

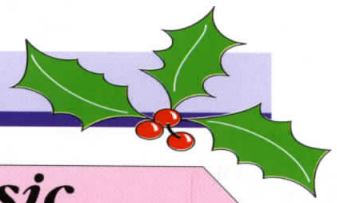
## Rich & Famous

- Who became 65 in August?  
a) Shirley MacLaine  b) Clint Eastwood  c) Sean Connery
- Pamela Anderson married the drummer from which pop group?  
a) REM  b) Motley Crue  c) Aerosmith
- Stephen Fry disappeared in March while starring in which play?  
a) Hamlet  b) Cell Mates  c) Noises Off
- What was the name of the political magazine launched by ex-President Kennedy's son, John?  
a) Politics Now  b) Liberty  c) George
- Whose favourite colour is not 'divine brown'?  
a) Hugh Grant  b) Eric Cantona  c) Boy George
- How old was Imran Khan's wife Jemima Goldsmith when they married?  
a) 17  b) 19  c) 21
- It was revealed that Grand Prix boss, Bernie Ecclestone, earned how much in 1994?  
a) £30,750,109  b) £35,896,178  c) £43,508,196
- In which month did the OJ Simpson trial start?  
a) February  b) January  c) April
- Princess Diana hit the headlines with which rugby player?  
a) Gavin Hastings  b) Jeremy Guscott  c) Will Carling
- Which US President watched the British Open golf tournament at St Andrews?  
a) Bush  b) Clinton  c) Ford

## Money Matters

- How much did the Kevin Costner film 'The Untouchables' cost?  
a) \$175 million  b) \$250 million
- Trading for which bank did Nick Leeson lose \$1 billion?  
a) Goldman Sachs  b) Baring
- Which city was decreed the world's most expensive?  
a) Zurich  b) Osaka  c) Tokyo
- How much was Eurotunnel paying for the Channel Tunnel?  
a) £2 million  b) £1 million
- Which sport star's father was arrested?  
a) Steffi Graf  b) Ronnie O'Sullivan
- How much did a Swiss businessman pay for a garage in Knightsbridge?  
a) £1,000  b) £10,000  c) £100,000
- In July, £55 million of National Lottery was lost.  
a) Churchill papers  b) Royal C
- Which newspaper was given away for the launch of 'Windows 95'?  
a) Independent  b) The Sun
- How much did Penguin charge for the rights to 'The Godfather'?  
a) 60p  b) 80p  c) £1
- American company NBC paid how much for the 1996 Olympic Games?  
a) £400 million  b) £80 million





## Current Affairs

- in the Tokyo underground?
- a) Kato  b) ... c) ...
- ident?
- stin
- son trial?
- a massive bomb blast in April?
- City  c) Salt Lake City
- disease which liquefied internal
- Nervosa
- es of improper sexual relations
- Lincoln
- in Jones by hospital staff?
- reps  c) Felt-tip pen
- the country's biggest earthquake in
- de-dog during Prime Minister's
- c) John Prescott
- rabble without a clause?

## Quotations

- Who said:
- "I would like to challenge Mike Tyson"
    - a) Ruby Wax  b) Nelson Mandela  c) Prince William
  - "It's time to put up or shut up"
    - a) John Major  b) Madonna  c) Boris Yeltsin
  - "I can't get my brain around the fact that I have grown up"
    - a) Gary Glitter  b) Nick Leeson  c) Anthea Turner
  - "I'm only remembered for being attacked by an emu"
    - a) David Bellamy  b) Michael Parkinson  c) Monica Seles
  - "I will not steal the limelight"
    - a) Hugh Grant  b) Elizabeth Taylor  c) Michael Heseltine
  - "I look as if a squirrel has slept in my hair"
    - a) Tom Hanks  b) Madonna  c) Vic Reeves
  - What did Mike Foale, the first Briton to walk in space, say?
    - a) "My hands are freezing."  b) "Golly, it's high, isn't it!"  c) "Don't let go of the rope."
  - The Queen's former private secretary described whom as "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar and that is that."?
    - a) Duchess of York  b) Princess Diana  c) Prince Harry
  - To whom did John Humphrys say prior to a television interview, "You don't look too bad at all."?
    - a) Robin Cook  b) Margaret Thatcher  c) David Mellor
  - Of whose death was it said, "It is better to have lived one day as a tiger than a thousand years as a sheep."?
    - a) Richard Nixon  b) Peter Cook  c) Alison Hargreaves

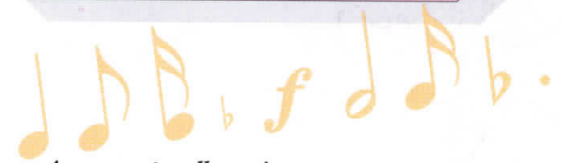
## Music

- Whose new album was HISTORY?
  - a) Michael Jackson  b) Michael Bolton  c) Celine Dion
- Who was hailed as 'the saviour of Radio 1'?
  - a) Steve Wright  b) Danny Baker  c) Chris Evans
- Whose New Year's Day concert in Brazil drew an estimated crowd of 3,500,000?
  - a) Julio Iglesias  b) Barry Manilow  c) Rod Stewart
- Which tennis star played on stage with REM in Melbourne?
  - a) Jim Courier  b) Pat Cash  c) Andre Agassi
- The film of which composer's life is called 'Immortal Beloved'?
  - a) Bach  b) Beethoven  c) Bartok
- Which pop group appears on the cover of the 'Official Manchester City Merchandise' catalogue?
  - a) Blur  b) Oasis  c) Rolling Stones
- Which award did Cliff Richard receive this year?
  - a) OBE  b) MBE  c) Knighthood
- What did rock star John Mellencamp christen his son?
  - a) John John  b) Speck Wildhorse  c) Lazy River
- Which rock star was seen in public in the full fancy dress costume of Tonto?
  - a) Elton John  b) Boy George  c) Eric Clapton
- Who released a new album called 'Stanley Road'?
  - a) Paul Weller  b) Van Morrison  c) Des O'Connor



## Strange But True

- What was banned in Egyptian theatres?
  - a) belly-dancing  b) alcohol  c) mobile phones
- Who was asked while making an official trip to Bangladesh, "Do you have cows in your home?"?
  - a) George Harrison  b) John Major  c) Hilary Clinton
- British team leader, Dick Clegg, told his team to practise what before the world angling championships?
  - a) Discus-throwing  b) Juggling  c) Celibacy
- Chester residents complained that Dave McGuire violated local noise limits. What is his profession?
  - a) Bird impersonator  b) Town Crier  c) Freddie Mercury soundalike
- The former president of which country went on hunger strike to protest about adverse government criticism?
  - a) Mexico  b) Ghana  c) Bolivia
- Who was voted Britain's 'least desirable travelling companion'?
  - a) Judith Chalmers  b) Naomi Campbell  c) David Mellor
- Jean Knowlson, 68, was jailed for 28 days for which offence?
  - a) Feeding pigeons  b) Beating up a bag snatcher  c) Streaking
- How tall was Elizabeth Raymond's son Joshua when he was born?
  - a) 24 inches  b) 26 inches  c) 28 inches
- Why was Tim Henman disqualified at Wimbledon?
  - a) Drunk on court  b) Foul language  c) Hit a ball girl
- Englishman Bobby Gould became manager of which country's football team?
  - a) Vatican City  b) Iceland  c) Wales



Answers to all sections appear on Page 8.

## Money Matters

- film 'Waterworld' cost to make?
- a) ... c) \$85 million
- reason lose a billion dollars?
- a) ... c) Lloyds
- 's most expensive to live in?
- yo
- per day in interest charges?
- c) £365,000
- sted for tax evasion?
- livan  c) Maradona
- an pay for a 28-year lease on a
- 100,000
- ery money was assigned for what?
- era House  c) Sports centres
- free for one day to promote the
- c) The Times
- their very successful mini-books?
- much for the rights to 2000
- llion  c) £800 million

## Lucky Dip

- How many Americans start smoking for the first time every day?
  - a) 1,000  b) 3,000  c) 10,000
- Whose new novel was 'The Moor's Last Sigh'?
  - a) Pat Barker  b) Martin Amis  c) Salman Rushdie
- Which industrialised country has the highest penetration of personal computers in the home?
  - a) USA  b) Japan  c) Germany
- Which country has a national wife-carrying championship involving a 780 foot obstacle course?
  - a) USA  b) Sweden  c) Scotland
- Which novel celebrated the 50th year since its publication on August 14th, 1995?
  - a) Animal Farm  b) Catcher in the Rye  c) Lady Chatterley's Lover
- Prince Charles played which Shakespearean character in an audio book performance?
  - a) Macbeth  b) Prince Hal  c) Puck
- How many hours of community service did Eric Cantona actually perform?
  - a) 120 hours  b) 12 hours  c) 2 hours
- Who died on January 1st, 1995?
  - a) Frederick West  b) Larry Grayson  c) Ginger Rogers
- What was the date of the VE Day celebrations?
  - a) May 8  b) May 9  c) May 10
- What was the name of the Downing Street cat, which was missing, presumed dead?
  - a) Maggie  b) Norman  c) Humphrey

# Home Win For Bidos In Rugby Thriller

On Friday 24th November a party of 20 rugby players from Gloucester set off to travel to Bidos for a veteran's match against our French colleagues in Messier-Dowty.

Our team received a magnificent welcome from the town of Oloron St Marie of which Bidos is a district. They were treated to an exhibition of local dance and pelote (an ancient basque game similar to squash) as well as a tour of the Bidos plant. A visit was also made to "Le Chateau", the Sports and Social Club for Messier-Dowty S.A. at Bidos.

The match itself was played at the Oloron rugby ground in front of an enthusiastic crowd of several thousand who appreciated good flowing rugby from both sides. The pre-match meeting of players led some people to comment on the bulky physique of our opponents, obviously caused by exposure to fresh spring water flowing down from the neighbouring Pyrenees.

Our team made a good start in the match but were shaken by two early tries from Bidos. After a hard fought but sporting contest the final score was Bidos 37 Gloucester 17. Although we lost, our team put up a very creditable performance and contributed to an entertaining spectacle. Our two tries were scored by Nick Brown and Ray Knight who also succeeded with a penalty kick. Both tries were converted by team Captain, Mark Tunstall. One highlight of the match was an excellent line-out catch from ace veteran and team coach Peter Barton who came on 5 minutes from the end to show what the over 50's can do.



Steve Trigg in action

The match was followed by a reception and presentations with Peter Phelps (Pigeon) winning the man of the match award for the Gloucester side. Geoff Capps delighted the 500 or so people attending the reception by giving his vote of thanks speech in French. He commented that although we had not won the Rugby match we had made a lot of new friends as a result of this visit.

Congratulations go to all our team for an excellent performance and to our French colleagues on their victory. We look forward to hosting a return match in Gloucester next year.

Below are comments from some of our team about the visit.

**Ray Knight, No 15: Scored 8 points**

"I have been on many Rugby tours but nothing can compare to this. The hospitality and generosity given to us was incredible. I think that the



Visit to the Bidos Plant

facilities at Oloron were second to none, it is certainly the best pitch that I have ever played on. It was a truly unforgettable experience".



Gloucester team photographed before the match...



...and our opponents from Bidos



Start of the after-match celebrations

**Peter "Pigeon" Phelps**, No 2: *Pack Leader/M-DG Man of Match*

"I cannot find words to express how much I enjoyed the whole weekend. I thought that when the teams met for the first time at Oloron there might be a few problems, as the atmosphere was very tense. Fortunately, these fears were totally dismissed when, after a thoroughly enjoyable game, both teams had a great time together. I do not think I will ever match the experiences of this weekend, absolutely fantastic".

**Mark Tunstall**, No 13: *Captain and scorer of 4 points*

"I would firstly like to congratulate the Bidos team on their win and the spirit in which the game was played. We were especially impressed by the high standard of running rugby, especially the skill and strength of the back row. The whole weekend was a huge success which can only have improved the growing relationship between the two sites. We look forward to meeting our new friends



Pigeon embracing the local traditions



Pelote without a bat

next year in Gloucester, when we will endeavour to equal the warm greeting and hospitality shown to us".

## Management Team Changes



(Top Left)

Steve Baldwin – appointed Production Manager, Medium Landing Gear.

(Bottom Left)

Matthew Sexton – appointed Test Manager.

(Bottom Right)

Mark Evans – appointed Account Manager, Regional Aircraft.



## Financial Update

The following shows our sales achievement for January to November:

### Sales – January to November 1995

Target	Achieved	Difference
<b>Original Equipment</b>		
£55,499,000	£52,594,000	-£2,905,000
<b>Spares</b>		
£25,265,000	£28,942,000	+£3,677,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		
£80,764,000	£81,536,000	+£772,000

The shortfall in original equipment sales was compensated for by spares sales being £3.7 million above target.

This higher than expected level of spares sales has contributed to profit being above target, with one month to go. Barring unforeseen problems in December, our 1995 profit performance should produce the maximum payment from our profit-sharing scheme.

# Chopsticks, Bicycles and Landing Gear

Back in October, John Herring visited China and Korea to promote our future business opportunities in that area. We asked him to tell us about his trip.

"How would you like to go to China John?". Those few words from Peter Booth were the start of my three week 'mission' to help man the Messier-Dowty stand at the Beijing Aviation Expo '95 and visit three landing gear manufacturers in China and Korea.

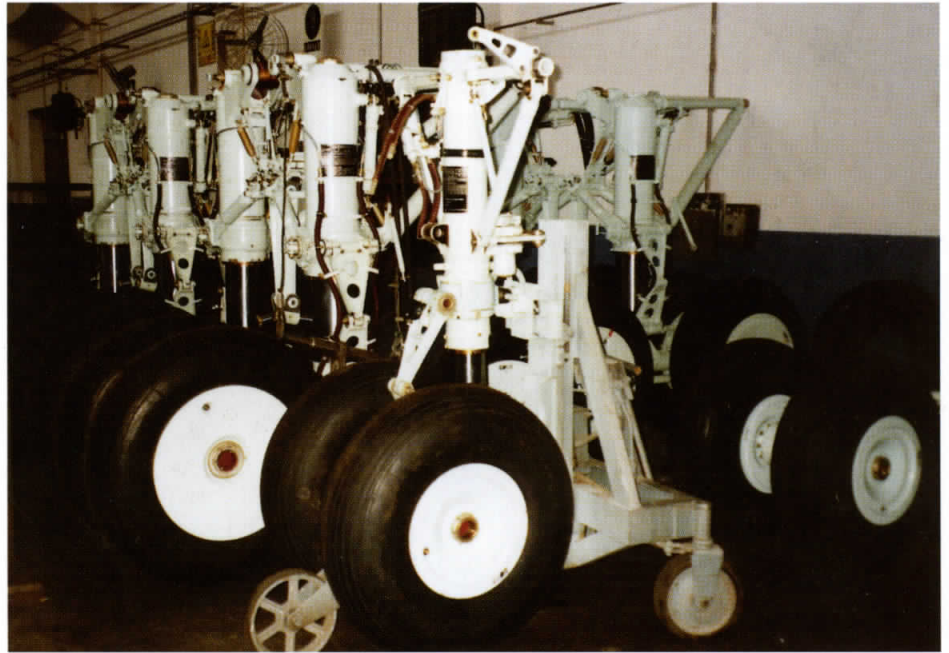
The Beijing Expo was on a much smaller scale than Farnborough or Paris, with no flying or static aircraft displays. It did, however, give me the opportunity to meet the companies I was to visit and to acclimatise to the Chinese culture and way of life.

My second week involved visits to two Chinese aerospace companies. The first was to XAC in Xian, a major constructor employing 20,000 people and calling themselves the "Chinese Seattle". This nickname is doubly appropriate as, apart from their similarity in size, they also do a lot of 'spars and skins' work for Boeing as well as Aerospatiale, McDonnell-Douglas, Alenia and Canadair. It is of interest to us that they produce landing gear for the aircraft they build.

The other Chinese company, LAMC, located near Hanzhong in Shaanxi province, is more of a dedicated landing gear producer and of much smaller scale (2,800 employees).

Both these companies are more conventional in their manufacturing than we are and mostly produce gears of derivative Russian design, involving welding of heavy section structural parts. Their production capability shouldn't be underestimated and, between them, they have put a significant number of gears into service.

The last few days of the trip were spent visiting KMT in Korea, who



Completed landing gears in the Assembly Shop at LAMC

make gears under licence for a number of western companies as well as for Korean aircraft. Their technology was much newer and their overall appearance much more western than the Chinese, but they are smaller with less experience in the business.

As well as a lot of hard work, I did find time to relax at the weekends and visit some of the tourist traps (Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square) and also take in some Chinese and Korean culture.

My main memories of China are thousands of bicycles, chopsticks,

peasants tilling the fields by hand, silk markets and ancient architecture. It is definitely on the up, but with a long way still to go. Korea, on the other hand, is much more western in appearance, with a lot of neon and technology, but still has its bustling outdoor markets and that feel of the Far East.

Generally, the best test of a country is whether or not you'd mind going back. On that basis, both China and Korea pass.

*So, if Peter Booth rings again...*



John Herring meeting the local wildlife

## Christmas Quiz Answers

Sport	1a 2c 3a 4a 5c 6b 7a 8a 9b 10a
Television	1b 2a 3a 4a 5c 6c 7b 8c 9c 10b
Current Affairs	1a 2a 3c 4b 5b 6c 7a 8c 9a 10b
Quotations	1b 2a 3c 4b 5c 6a 7b 8a 9b 10c
Music	1a 2c 3c 4a 5b 6b 7c 8b 9c 10a
Films	1c 2a 3a 4c 5b 6a 7c 8b 9b 10b
Rich & Famous	1c 2b 3b 4c 5a 6c 7a 8b 9c 10a
Money Matters	1a 2b 3c 4a 5a 6c 7b 8c 9a 10c
Strange but True	1a 2c 3c 4b 5a 6c 7a 8a 9c 10c
Lucky Dip	1b 2c 3a 4b 5a 6b 7a 8a 9a 10c