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Rebecca's Big Day

Becki Newland (marketing assistant) was married to Lewis Keating on August 8 at All Saints church, Patcham. The wedding reception was held at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton. The happy couple left the next day to honeymoon in the Republic of Ireland.



Honour for Dennis

ROCC's former company secretary **Dennis Smith** informed me this month that he was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List and went to Buckingham Palace in May to collect his award from HRH Prince Charles.

The Kent and Sussex Courier made mention of the dedication shown by Dennis through his many years of work in the Tunbridge Wells community.

Hats off to MBE

By Mary Harris

A MAN'S devotion to the Tunbridge Wells community has been recognised in the bestowal of an MBE at Buckingham Palace.

The dedication shown by mayor Dennis Smith, through his work with various organisations in the town, was highlighted at the ceremony.

The "glittering occasion" held in the ballroom for the recipients of the Queen's New Year's Honours, was hosted by Prince Charles.

According to Mr Smith of Laverish Drive, the mayor of the town was delighted and he had a very special moment when he was presented with his award by Prince Charles who was seen to mark the occasion with a handshake and a pat on the back.

Mr Smith took on the mantle in 1985, when he was elected as mayor. In 1989-90, when he was elected a county councillor, he was elected as the assembly field in 1992 to carry on the tradition of the town.

Dennis Smith outside the palace. Mr Smith, a father of two, is chairman of governors at St Peter's Primary School in Woodmill Lane and is married to Mrs Smith.

25 YEARS

Spares controller **John Stanley** has told Newsline that the Ifield Barn celebrates its 25th year as a theatre in October.

The musical "The Night Maxie Tortellini hit Big Lola Latrobe's" is being staged on October 1-3 and 7-12 inclusive to celebrate the event and John is appearing as a gangster - which should be worth seeing!

A brief resumé of the story covers Chicago in the 1920s. Gangster, molls, chorus girls, musicians, booze,



pills, laughs and disasters are all there as the audience follows the goings-on during an evening at the seedy night-club of the irrepressible Miss Lola Latrobe as Maxi Tortellini tries his utmost to take over her domain.

Czech Date

Our Prague-based sales operation ROCC SRO will be exhibiting SEECHECK Storage & Retrieval at Invox '98 - Brno from October 5-9 1998.

Change Date

Please note that the venue for the Christmas lunch has been changed from the Grand Hotel to the **Thistle Hotel, Brighton**, as the former could not meet our luncheon requirements.

The date is still Friday December 18.

ROUNDERS

September 3 sees ROCC Brighton v ROCC Crawley (with two teams) playing a rounders match at Oakwood FC. Report in the next issue of Newsline.

From the Editor



This month, Newsline continues its series of department profiles by featuring an insight on transport, general services and stores operations, with Alan Gould at the helm.

Beryl Hutchin editor

Focus

Alan Gould performs his job with great efficiency and patience, although I am sure some employees must drive him to distraction from time to time - as do suppliers! Annoyed maybe, at the stupidity of some people, the editor was sitting in Alan's office when a call came through from Manchester-based commercial manager Joanne Hirst. "Auto Windcreens say that we haven't an account and they won't replace my windscreen" said Joanne.

Alan's astute negotiations with leasing companies has saved ROCC a great deal of money



After several phone calls and confirmation that ROCC does hold a national account, Alan rang back the Manchester windscreen centre. He is told "There's no account number on the system - must be because you are so far down there!" Whatever happened to network systems? We just burst out laughing and I must say that I have yet to see Alan lose his temper.

He joined the company in 1975, driving the lorries and delivering minicomputer systems to ROCC clients, and fully appreciates what drivers have to endure on the open road, especially at the wheel of a 17 tonner. Four years later he was appointed transport manager, adding to his list of responsibilities the management of ROCC's freehold properties in the late 80s, with Brighton coming under his control next month. With the company-owned buildings he is responsible for a full property maintenance service; with the leased branch offices, his duties cover fire regulations and general problems. He is also a member of the Health and Safety committee.

fleet facts...

"From a fleet of some 350 cars, two lorries and several vans," said Alan "I now look after a fleet of 105 cars and three vans. The vehicles are supplied by three leasing companies: Lease Plan, CW Lease and Pride Vehicle Contracts and it is my job to obtain the best leasing deal for the company from these organisations. The main

elements of negotiation cover the length of contract for each vehicle and its anticipated mileage. High mileage cars are run by customer engineers, the sales forces of IT Maintenance Services (ITMS) and the Systems Division and one would expect to change these, say, every two to three years."

When an employee's vehicle is due to be replaced, Alan notifies the person about four months in advance of which group they can select from. There exists an amount of flexibility on what they can choose.

"It's a difficult task keeping the odd 10% of employees happy when they feel that they should have a different car specification to what they are entitled," said Alan. "but rules are rules and I think that they are soon pacified when they realise I can do nothing to improve their choice."

Alan's astute negotiations with the leasing companies over the years has saved ROCC a great deal of money. Perhaps many of us don't realise this fact. Our new cars arrive on time, unless there is a problem at the manufacturer's end, and perhaps we are not always aware of how difficult it is to obtain a car at short notice, especially if someone wants the new Vauxhall Astra!

Amongst his other duties he is responsible for ensuring that company car drivers receive their road tax discs and insurance cover notes on time.

Accident management is another role and all car accidents have to be reported to Alan. It never ceases to amaze him about some of the accident reports he receives.

"I received one phone call from a salesman who was competing in a point-to-point event," said Alan. 'A horse has just landed on my car,' he said 'but never fear, the organisers are insured.' Insured my foot! The car was badly damaged and the company footed a bill of over £2000. A large amount when the cars we had at the time could be bought for £8000. Another employee once rang up to say his car was up a telegraph pole. He's pulling my leg, I thought. But sure



Martin Gallie ensures that stores requests are responded to quickly

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Appointments Page

Contract Electronics Manufacturing

Crawley

Three new assembly operators have joined the company.

Valerie Drakeley was formerly with Crawley Hospital as a switchboard operator from February 1996 to July 1998.

She is married to David and they have a son Alan aged 20 years.

During her leisure time, Valerie enjoys swimming, walking and gardening.

Sue Fielding joins ROCC from Portslade-based from Hosiden Besson where she worked for 10 months in a similar position.

Prior to this appointment Sue was with American Express for 10 years as a customer service representative.

Sue is married to Nicholas and away from work she enjoys listening to all kinds of music (except modern jazz), gardening, cooking, going for long walks in the country and camping holidays.

Steven Underwood has come on board from Kwik-Save where he was a shop assistant from April 1997 to joining ROCC.

Steven previously worked for Rediffusion Radio Systems and Philips Medical as an inspector.

He is married to Christine and they have three boys, Andrew aged 16 years, Michael is 11 and Chris is 10 years old.

Recreation time is spent on gardening and DIY and Steven is interested in watching documentaries on TV.



Systems Division

Brighton

Laura Ball has joined as sales administrator for our UNICLASS business.

She comes to ROCC from six years as an administrator at Cable and Wireless.

Academic qualifications: Pitmans New Era shorthand 110wpm and RSA Stage II typewriting.

Laura runs the Brighton and Hove Running Sisters club. She is taking a correspondence course in astrology and is also interested in reading non-fiction books.



Laura Fisher joins us as a marketing assistant from

Southampton University where she obtained a BA in marketing.

Her interests lie in playing tennis, keeping fit and socialising.

Ali Choubandi has come on board for one year as an industrial placement student.

He is reading for a BSc in computing and management at Loughborough University.

Ali has just signed up to play for Three Bridges FC, a local Crawley club. He also plays tennis and badminton, works out at a local gym and also enjoys swimming and cycling.

