

## "Recapturing the Waterguard"

Ron Sanders writes

That was the caption for an article in the last issue of 'The Bond' which featured a Heathrow Special Crew and waterguard training Centre Instructors reunion. Last year I attended an excellent reunion a Dover under the chairmanship of Hughie Gallagher, and in 1998 another in Gravesend under Ivor Davis. Regular reunions also take place in Southampton, Hull, London and Liverpool. Anecdotes, tall tales, and serious stories flow and capture the spirit of the waterguard. Suggestions have been made by some that a book should be written in an attempt to record that spirit. Others believe that actions for defamation of character might well be taken against the author! What do Waterguard retirees think? Would you contribute yarns to the book? What should be the format? Should there be serious stuff as well as humour? A team of editors would be a great help; *any volunteers?* We would have to publish the book ourselves as the market is specialised. We should sell at a cost plus a small addition for the renovation of Hallizons, for example. What price? How many copies? Please contact me or your local Waterguard Club. *Let us not waste time - we aren't getting any younger!* Write to me or phone at 70 Templegate Avenue Leeds LS15 0HH 0113 2605193

## C&E SPORTS CLUB ANGLING SECTION

The Angling section of the CESC saw the first light of day in 1994 and had its first National Coarse Fishing competition at Castle Ashby, Northampton. The event was exceedingly well supported with entrants coming from as far afield as the West Country, Southend and Scotland ( me ). 1994 also saw the first Sea Fishing competition, held on Dover Breakwater.

The following year, Kevin James A/C South Wales, donated a trophy for a Fly-Fishing event. The idea being that the winning team should host the following year's event. Thus started the annual Fly-Fishing competition, with the first venue being at Llandegfedd Reservoir, Pontypool. Each succeeding year has seen the three branches of the sport having successful and well supported National events held at a variety of venues throughout the U.K. :-

**Coarse:** Rugby, Aldershot, Vale of Evesham, Northwich, and Coventry  
**Sea:** Boat events off East-

bourne & Minehead  
**Shore events at Dover Fly:** Loch Fad Isle of Bute, Rutland Water, Bewl Water and Lough Melvin Northern Ireland. Forgive me if I expand upon the Fly-fishing, more than the other sections, but this is where I have been most involved over the years. Since that first event in South Wales we have managed to acquire an impressive list of trophies (a few arms were twisted in the various host collections) for competitors to try for, such as, Best :- Brown trout, Rainbow Trout, Bank Angler, Boat Angler, Boat Pair and, yes CERSA provided a handsome shield for the Best Retired Angler. Thanks go to Morton Morris in 1996 for that one.

The Fly event is increasing in popularity year by year, helped no doubt by the fact that you don't have to be an expert to participate. In fact we provide expert casting tuition for novices before the competition starts, given by one of our mem-

bers, Ken McHugh of Nottingham, who is a qualified Fly-Fishing Instructor. We feel that ours is the one section of the sports club that has its national competitions open and available to all - you don't have to be a super athlete or one of your collection's selected few to represent either yourself or your area (working or retired) in any of the various events. All members of the CESC, from complete novice through to accomplished angler, are welcome to participate. The Fly event is the only one to be followed by a formal meal before the trophy presentations. All of which conspires to make a convivial evening amongst friends, old and new. Each year sees an increase in the number of retired staff participating. In fact, last year's event in Ireland was won by a team of retired anglers. Modesty prevents me from expanding upon this feat but suffice to say that, in keeping with

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Southend CERSA

At our AGM in March **John Lavery** was elected Chairman to replace **Doug Coyne**, who has returned with his wife Helen to their home town, Doncaster. Doug put us on a very strong footing as our first Chairman, and he leaves with our whole-hearted thanks and appreciation.

*Daphne Amos-Pugh, Sec*

### History Network

The History Network (see article page 3), formed in 1996, with the support of **HMC&E National Museum**, provides an open, informal forum for all with an interest in the history of Customs & Excise.

Its aims to be a mechanism to preserve and exchange information about the history and work of the Department for researchers and those with a general interest in C&E, and to support the work of The Museum in collecting and preserving objects, photographs, ephemera and related information (recollections especially welcome!) for the benefit of people today and in the future.

*(See page 3 for membership application details)*

## National Indoor Bowls Championship

Alex Walker reports:

We failed to qualify for the final stages but only on the shot difference – by one shot. It was really quite good for two newcomers to the bowls, considering we were playing against some experienced players including the singles winner of two years ago. On the Wednesday, for the non-qualifiers, we were paired with two girls who had never bowled before, but we still won two of our three matches. We were only beaten by the overall Wednesday winners. All in all we were quite satisfied with our attempts, and we gave them something to think about for next year! The competitors were Alex Walker and Mike Patten of East Midlands CERSA. Also John Solley of Grimsby competed, but we don't know how he got on – he didn't win is all we know!

## Player's, Please! From C&E History Newsletter, April 2000

Today, with the aim of improving their quality of life, the Government gives £100 a year heating allowance to those of state pension age, (limited to one per household). From October 1947 to January 1958, with the aim of improving their quality of life, the Government gave a substantial sum of money, in the form of tobacco duty relief tokens, to smokers of state pension age. Knowing what we do today about smoking and ill-health it is more than likely that this scheme helped to send a significant number of pensioners to an early grave. Customs & Excise played a part in the scheme's administration. The Board's Annual Report for 1947/8 reads as follows: 'During the progress of the Finance Bill it was decided to grant a concession to old age pensioners in respect of the increase in the tobacco duty. A scheme was introduced on 13th October 1947, allowing old age pensioners who were habitual smokers to buy a certain quantity of tobacco at the pre-Budget prices. Out of the total field of 3.75 million pensioners, some 40 per cent (estimated to be 80 per cent of the men and 18 per cent of the women) have been granted this relief. In all cases entitlement was established at the Post Offices: the issue of books of dated tokens, one for each week, was made to initial applicants by the Post Office at which they draw their

pension, while later applicants received their tokens from the Token Issue Office of the Assistance Board. Each token was for 2s 0d (2/-) and could be used by the pensioner, while it remained valid, in payment for any purchase of tobacco, cigarettes or snuff. There are no restrictions as to the shop at which the tokens may be used. The tobacco retailers as a rule recover the value of the tokens by affixing them to cards which are paid in through a bank. Alternatively the retailers may claim payment direct from the local Collector of Customs and Excise. The amount paid out in respect of these tokens during 1947-48 was approximately £3 million. The scheme lasted until January 1958 when the weekly allowance had risen to 2s 4d. In its ten years the Department paid out £133 million against redeemed tokens received from pensioners 'enjoying the relief'.

James I of England and VI of Scotland seems to have got one thing right when he said that smoking tobacco was 'a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the stygian smoke of the bottomless pit'. He added 'herein is not only a great vanity, but a great contempt of God's good gifts, that the sweetness of man's breath, being a good gift of God, should be wilfully corrupted by this stinking smoke'.  
("A Counterblast To Tobacco") Gilbert Denton

## LONDON CERSA

### 2000 : ACCESS TO CUSTOM HOUSE

Not normally accessible to the public due to the sensitive nature of its present occupants, the investigation service, Custom House on Lower Thames Street, London, with its unique view of the Pool of London, is to have a number of Open Days in association with the London String of Pearls Millennium Festival 2000. Special access to the Georgian building, its neo-classical Longroom, robing room, quay, a display

of artefacts, an exhibition depicting 'The History of Cargo' and an insight into the workings of one of the oldest governmental departments can be seen on the following dates:  
30th April, 1st May, 15th & 16th July, 23rd & 24th September, all dates from 10am to 4pm. Entrance is free, and no pre-booking is required.

Enquiries tel: 020 7665 7472

Within days of its opening to the public, over twenty members and spouses took advantage of the publicity about low attendance figures to go and see for themselves what all the fuss was about. True, it was not the best thing since sliced bread, but each of us found enough to justify the time and the cost (much cheaper in a group). For some, the aerial ballet was a high spot; most felt the Body Zone was over-rated. In between there was something to entertain and enlighten everyone.

## SNAPS & CLIPS

### Ramanlal Morarjee writes:

My interest in photography goes back to my early teens when I was studying in Mumbai. I took immense interest in 'photos and films and decided to study the techniques of photography and cinematography. In 1955, when I arrived in the UK as a student, I began to learn about the hobby by reading and taking courses in the making of films. I attended a course in the art of film-making and appreciation of the British Film Institute; and also completed a course on the subject at Goldsmith College, London. After a successful showing of my amateur film "26 Days in Gujarat" in the annual 10 best films show at the Royal Photographic Society, I embarked on making documentary and wedding films. At a college where I did my "O" and "A" levels, I made a documentary film called "Westminster in Kent", a film dealing with the subject of land use in Kent after the Second World War. It was well appreciated by the college management and the students. My second successful attempt dealt with making a documentary on the history of the then rough of Twickenham. I was mainly responsible for the cinematography and part-editing of this amateur film by Whiton Cine Club. It was sponsored by the Borough. My most ambitious film was made under the title of "The Story of London on Thames during my final years of study at the College. This 16mm colour film was written and produced specifically for use in schools and colleges for

work in geography. It was very successful. I was responsible for production, filming and editing it, and it proved to be of great interest to various schools and colleges and also to post graduate students.

Parts of this film were featured by Carlton TV on "London News", 18.4.96.

I have made many wedding moves. This is my favourite subject as it requires instant and accurate application of the theoretical knowledge of film-making - a challenge I love!

*Ramanlal Morarjee commenced his career with the department when transferred from ECG on promotion in 1975. He was appointed to Heathrow cargo area, then moved to central airport area from which he retired in 1974. Working in many posts in the preventive field, then the Enforcement Division Team. He was the first officer at Heathrow to be appointed as Officer-Interpreter in Gujarati.*

**If you share his interest in photography or producing movies, Ramanlal would like to hear from you. Please write to him at 26 Glenavon Gardens, Slough, SL3 7HN to exchange ideas and information or tel: 01753 675639**

## OBSOLETE GRADES

### RIDING OFFICER

A force of armed and mounted Customs Officers established in coast between ports to prevent the OUTWARD smuggling of wool (then subject to export duty) and the inward smuggling of goods which had escaped detection by the Revenue Cruisers afloat.

Abolished in 1822

Source:

*McCoys Dictionary of Customs & Excise (1938 edition)*

### JERQUER

A clerk in The Custom House who checked the reports of ships arriving from foreign with cargo against the relative account taken by the Officer at the ship's side of the cargo as landed, superseded in 1862 by a Check Officer.

Source:

*The Ancient and Rightful Customs Edward Carson 1972.*

### Post scriptum -

*At the C&E training centre (Custom House, Lower Thames Street) c 1950, the instructors Messrs Ted Moore and Bill Chubb promulgated the idea that the word "jerque" came from the French verb "Chercher" to search. Not unreasonable, but a last minute check in the Unabridged Oxford Dictionary reveals "jerque" as 'origin obscure, possibly from the Italian "cercare" - to search, which suits the form and sense, but historical sense is wanting'.*

Contributed by John Pink



**Ramanlal Morarjee** and, below, a still used as a background for an animated scene in the film "The Story of London on Thames" which was shown on Carlton TV



**O**nce again, many thanks to contributors, and also to (MOST OF!) those who have made suggestions for improvement to the Newsletter.

**S**till no volunteers to compile a crossword: there surely MUST be someone out there with the skill (and time!).

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**You may wish to contact members with a similar interest to your own. We would be very happy to carry a short "advertisement" for you. ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR BY 5TH JULY**

## STOP PRESS!

### AGM 2000, Bournemouth: Election Results Federation Officers & Committee

#### Officers:

**Chairman** Tony Rudkin (Liverpool)  
**Secretary** Ron Sanders (Leeds)  
**Treasurer** Paul Houghton (East Midlands)

#### Retired Members Committee:

- \* Les Carney
- \* Tony Rudkin
- \* Bill Coghill
- \* Stewart Stredwick
- \* Gordon Hodson
- \* Peter Bown
- \* Alan Hollingsworth
- \* Peter Carswell
- \* Dapne Amos-Pugh
- \* Ron Sanders



- and the best of luck to them all!

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tradition, this year's event is being held at Loch Leven, Scotland on 8th June. There's still time to pack your rod and come along - it's only a phone call away. At the time of

writing (28th April) we have about 6



places left before we have to consider fishing 3 to a boat. There is no bank fishing allowed at Leven.

This year we have at least four teams of retired members, all from Scotland!! Where are the rest of you? We also have 4 teams coming from N. Ireland to try and regain the title of Top Collection team.

Looks like there will be some good " craic " before, after & during the event.

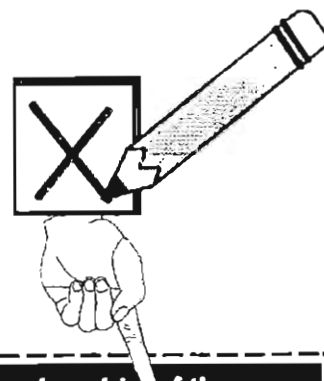
Let us not forget the Ladies. They have partici-

pated regularly in both the Coarse & Fly events and winning trophies. This year it looks likely that we shall have a full ladies team in the fly event, so the blokes will have to try extra hard as we know what those female pheromones can do.

I was co-opted onto the national committee in 1996 as the rep for Scotland/ Fly fishing and formally elected at a subsequent A.G.M, which is usually held immediately after the presentation of trophies at the Coarse Event, and I've been there ever since. The only difference now is that since I retired I'm also your rep on the committee. If you fancy having a go at one of our events, or would like more information then please get in touch with me, or whoever is listed in Portcullis as the contact.

**John Lewis**  
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### Application for Membership of the History Network

Name

Address

Post Code

Subjects of interest to me

Place my name YES  on the list of contacts for circulation: NO

Post to:- Karen Bradbury, Curator,  
HMC&E National Museum, Albert Dock,  
Liverpool, LS3 4AQ.