



RESPONSE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE STAFF NEWSLETTER.

30996

OUR TIM'S SILVER SWIM

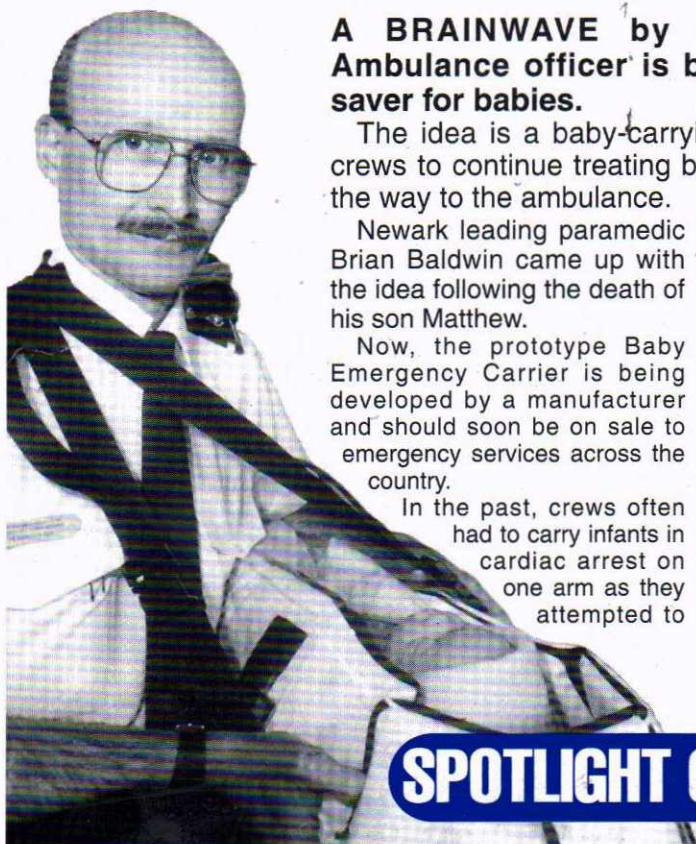
TIM Reddish, the blind swimmer sponsored by staff from Beechdale station, won a silver medal in the individual medley at the Atlanta Paralympics. Tim recorded a lifetime best of 2.33:20 minutes. And he then went on to win a bronze in the 100m freestyle. Staff gave Tim a hearty welcome back with a party in the Beechdale social club bar.



LEACH AWARD

MALCOLM Clifford has won the Leach Award for his part in saving a man's life. Ambulance technician Malcolm helped pull to safety, a man hanging by his fingers from the ledge of a building.

BRIAN'S BABY BREAKTHROUGH



A BRAINWAVE by a Nottinghamshire Ambulance officer is being hailed as a life-saver for babies.

The idea is a baby-carrying 'cocoon' which allows crews to continue treating babies with heart failure on the way to the ambulance.

Newark leading paramedic Brian Baldwin came up with the idea following the death of his son Matthew.

Now, the prototype Baby Emergency Carrier is being developed by a manufacturer and should soon be on sale to emergency services across the country.

In the past, crews often had to carry infants in cardiac arrest on one arm as they attempted to

Personal tragedy was the inspiration for life-saving invention

continue life-saving techniques. The new carrier – it has padded sides, a weather cover and shoulder straps – gives babies all the protection they need. And, vitally, paramedics have easy access to the chest.

Brian Baldwin added: "Although the original idea was prompted by a personal tragedy following the death of my son Matthew, I'm proud that a moment of inspiration led to the development of a

•**LEFT: Training officer Gary Spiers with the Baby Emergency Carrier, which he helped develop.**

wonderful piece of equipment. It's a revolution in ambulance service thinking on paediatric resuscitation techniques. But clearly, I hope it will be used as little as possible."

Training officer Gary Spiers who developed the baby carrier added: "Crews often have to move quickly over uneven ground and other hazardous conditions. The new kit means we're expanding our chances of saving critically ill babies."

SPOTLIGHT ON HUCKNALL & EASTWOOD

IT AIN'T HALF HOT AT E

HUCKNALL station is the base for the Major Incident Support Unit formed four years ago.

It's not yet been used in a real-life emergency, but there are exercises every few months to test readiness. Problem solving scenarios have included a plane crash at RAF Newton and a chemical spillage at Boots.

Russ Smith said: "By definition, we can never know what sort of major incident we'll be faced with. We just have to be prepared for all and every eventuality within Nottinghamshire. We'd also support other counties who requested help."

Hucknall's 39 staff share a station built from an identical design to Stapleford. Staff comprise:

- 2 paramedics
- 2 leading ambulance paramedics
- 3 leading ambulancemen
- 5 ambulance technicians
- 9 care assistants
- 1 HTS senior driver
- 13 HTS drivers
- 1 vehicle cleaner
- 1 domestic cleaner
- 2 trainee technicians

The newest arrivals are the health transport drivers, and they're fitting in well. They carry equipment and supplies under contract to the health authority and hospital trusts.

What is it that draws a man to Hucknall – the pool table at the ambulance station of course! Retired paramedic Keith Branson is pictured with leading ambulance technician Dave Mancer.



TOP DOC AT HUCKNALL

KINGS Mill casualty doctor Paul Temple is just one of the professional guest speakers lined up by leading ambulance technician Dennis Purbrick for the latest series of training sessions at Hucknall.

The sessions, most Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm, cover the entire range of staff experience and, according to Dennis – "they're there for everyone who wants to maintain or extend their knowledge, or simply oil their brains a bit."

Most of the guest speakers are from Kings Mill and the

topics are always relevant to ambulance operations. Paul Temple, for example has spoken on trauma at previous sessions; charge nurse Gary Swan spoke on advanced trauma life support systems.

Mock-ups of car crashes have been simulated to lend realism. And at the other end of the scale, care assistants who want to progress are familiarised with basic equipment.

Anyone interested in attending should contact either Dennis or any of the care assistants at Hucknall station.



EASTWOOD station the county, and p 'aesthetically chal

But at least they have ne doors which are proving an

After all, good looks aren't really proud of is the camara you'd expect warmth. But ma experienced recently. This is h

Eastwood has the unique honour of being attached to the local fire station. And were they glad of it, when a faulty boiler set fire to the offices while they were all out on a call.

Good News

Enter the bold firefighters. The fire was snuffed out in no time and the boiler is to be replaced. This could be good news for paramedic Gary Whalley – he used to have to stoke the old one.

There's a good social relationship with the fire service too; they run a bar and danceroom upstairs which ambulance staff use.

There's also mutual help with fund-raising events – ambulance crews recently helped clean up after the fire station ran a charity car wash.

Russ Smith, 43 has replaced Tom Gooding as station officer. He moved from West Bridgford and Wilford stations, where he was station officer for two years.

He said: "I aim to build on the excellent quality already provided by the staff. And it's good to be in an area I know so well."

Star

Ambulance technician Steven Toon who moved to Eastwood from Hucknall in January, claims "there's slightly less bedlam at Eastwood." But he misses the "nice new station." Steven has passed his paramedic entrance exam – and is hoping to begin training soon.

And Eastwood has it's own tabloid star. Jayne Charles grabbed an amazing half-page in the Daily Mail recently – "So You Want To Be....A

SPOTLIGHT

EASTWOOD!

is one of the oldest in perhaps one of the most challenged!

new state-of-the-art automatic operational boon. Everything. What Eastwood's derie. And with only 17 staff maybe not quite the warmth they saw it happened.

The station has a total of 17 staff:

- ★ 1 station officer
- ★ 5 leading ambulance paramedics
- ★ 1 paramedic
- ★ 2 ambulance technicians
- ★ 5 care assistants
- ★ 1 vehicle/domestic cleaner
- ★ 2 trainee technicians

•BELOW: Eastwood station staff from left, paramedic Gary Whalley, ambulance technician Teresa Fletcher, PTS Claudine Woolley, and ambulance technician Steven Toon.

•LEFT: Gary Whalley points out the boiler's faulty thermostat.



Paramedic."

Station and vehicle cleaner Carole Staley arrived 16 years ago. She's introduced, somewhat mysteriously, as

"known for her love of bleach."

Say no more, "Carole. It's probably the only way to persuade that lot to lead a clean life!

QUALITY QUOTES

You were both so very kind and considerate – even when you had to then hang around for two hours for the arrival of a doctor.

Crew: Gail Meers and John Stokes, West Bridgford

On behalf of the Corby Chernobyl Children's Appeal I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to your department and especially to the two paramedics who responded to our emergency call. We are left in no doubt that the speed and expertise with which you responded prevented a tragedy from occurring.

Crew: Bob Little and Chris Leivers, West Bridgford

We are not only extremely grateful, but also very highly impressed by the caring, kindness and efficiency with which these members of

your service performed their task.

Crew: Simon Clunie and John Beadling, Arnold

I made the telephone call and found the ambulance controller very helpful and, in what seemed a very short time, the ambulance arrived.

Control assistant: Diane Smith

I am writing to say a big thank you to the members of your staff who came to my home to fight for my daughter's life. They were wonderful. We lost a beautiful daughter but we know it was not for want of effort by your team. They fought and fought to try to save her. My wife and I are also grateful for the kind way they dealt with us.

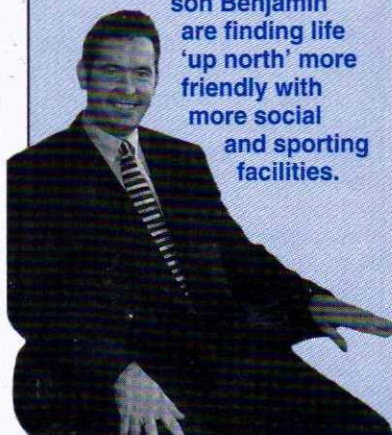
Crew: Peter Scrimshaw and Colin Waring, Kings Mill

NEW rota manager Paul Alfred learned his skills with the Royal Air Force.

Paul served for 18 years, first as a basic training instructor then into rota management at various RAF stations including Newton and Halton, Aylesbury.

Paul, who was made compulsorily redundant during a recent round of defence cuts said: "The move to the ambulance service is right for me. I'm really enjoying the work, and Nottingham has so much more to offer than Aylesbury."

Paul has family and friends in Nottingham and he, partner Maria, and baby son Benjamin are finding life 'up north' more friendly with more social and sporting facilities.



A GROUP of 17 GPs are enjoying fewer interruptions on Sundays - thanks to a specially tailored doctors' answering and transport package from the Service. The 'Saxondoc' Cooperative operates from surgeries in the areas of East Bridgford, Bingham, Cropwell Bishop, Cotgrave and Radcliffe on Trent. Between 12noon Sundays and 7am Mondays, out-of-hours calls for the cooperative will be answered by the Trust, who will also provide transport. If it's successful, the hours of cover may be extended. This scheme is a first for the Trust and marketing manager Pat Durston is keen to discuss its benefits with other GPs who are seeking similar solutions to increased out-of-hours demands.

PETER Fedarenko, Workshop care assistant, won the regional round of the Ambulance Service golf championship. He will compete in the national final at Witchurch, Shropshire in October, against thirty other regional winners. He began playing 10 years ago, and is quietly confident of doing well in the final. The moment of truth is the next issue of Response!

KINGS Mill ambulance station has had an 'injection' of five new ambulance technicians and four part-time PTS staff. The technicians are Christopher Sneath, Robert Swallow, Kevin Gent, Nigel Sharp and Paul Sherwood. And the PTS newcomers are Carolyn Wilkinson, Stephen Bye, Beverly Caldwell and Paul Gilbert.

WE'RE BACKING BRIAN

THE Lumbar Motion Monitor project, run by former station officer Brian Collins, is a potential money spinner.

Brian is operating as the Trust's clinical advisor on manual handling, using a device strapped to the spine. This combines with a computer analysis which is used to assess and then help minimise risks, through training.

Expertise

Now, the Trust are actively considering marketing Brian's highly unusual expertise to the local business community.

The LMM - Notts is the only UK Service to have one - is used by Brian to try to screen out potential risks under government Health and Safety regulations which came into force in 1992. He then makes Service-wide recommendations on improving lifting and carrying techniques.

The project began in 1993 when Brian spent six months learning how to make the best use of the American-made equipment.

Brian said: "I have always been interested in bio-mechanics and ergonomics - designing the workplace according to the needs and capabilities of the individual. This project combined the two."

He added: "I'm really pleased with the progress we've made. It's a project which can produce the most satisfying long term results."

TRADING PLACES

HILARY Pillin will soon become the new support services manager. Hilary, 31, is currently away on honeymoon, and will take up the position in early October.

There are also two new control superintendents.

Robert Douglas, 40, joins from Northumbria Ambulance Service, where he has worked since 1980, moving through the ranks of paramedic, station officer, control duty officer to acting business manager.

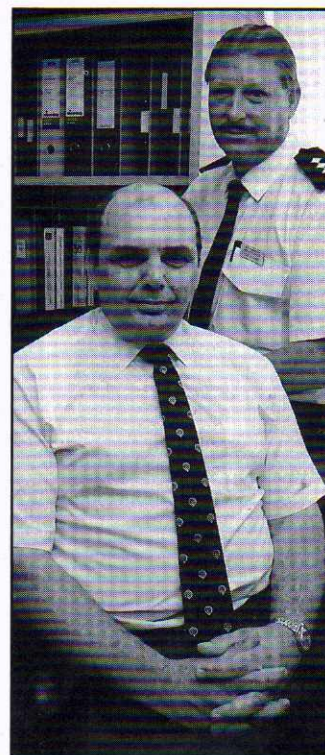
He was born in Newcastle, and moves to Nottingham with wife Diane and three year old son Andrew.

Tom Gooding, has been promoted to control superintendent from station officer at Eastwood and Hucknall. Tom said: "I



Chris Leivers

welcome the new challenges - especially the major changes in the radio system." Tom has been replaced as station officer by Chris Leivers, promoted from



ABOVE: Robert Douglas (left) and Tom Gooding.

leading ambulance paramedic.

Chris, 36 joined the service in 1981, and qualified as one of Nottinghamshire's first paramedics in 1987.

STAFF NEWS...STAFF NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

Robert Douglas
Control Superintendent - Control
Stephen Bye
Ambulance Care Assistant - Kings Mill
Beverly Caldwell
Ambulance Care Assistant - Kings Mill
Carolyn Wilkinson
Ambulance Care Assistant - Kings Mill
Paul Gilbert
Ambulance Care Assistant - Kings Mill
Paul Alfred
Rota Manager - Headquarters
James Firth
PRISM Assistant - Headquarters

TERMINATIONS (Retiring or Leaving)

Raymond Handley
Ambulance Technician - Beechdale

Suzanne Slaney
Ambulance Care Assistant - Kings Mill
John Priestley
Ambulance Technician - Newark
Peter Branthwaite
Control Superintendent - Control
Jatin Mehta
Student Secondment - Finance
Bridget Conneally
Support Services Manager - Headquarters

TO LEADING AMBULANCE PARAMEDIC STATUS

Stephen Maloney - Retford

TO AMBULANCE PARAMEDIC STATUS

David Darker - Worksop



Congratulations to Amanda Playle (Personnel) on the birth of her son Michael Joseph.

