

H.R. Richmond Limited Staff Newsletter

HRR NEWS

ISSUE NO. 12

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

*Best Wishes
for Christmas
and the coming year.*





Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Charts office, I should like to say thank you to the Management for letting us have the afternoon off in order to see the Queen arrive in Epsom, for the opening of the Ashley Centre.

Although it regined ouns! rained, and we got fairly wet, we had a very good view and Her Majesty looked quite lovely.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Bilham

(Editorial note - what are you after Lynn??)

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The following has been extracted from an article published in the 'Travel News', a retail agent's point-of-view:

A compliment to Riviera Express and European Roadways for their coach trips to the south of France this season past. Four sets of clients spoke highly of the hotels, drivers and comfort. An "A" for effort.



Calling all Men!!!

The Charts Office invite you to step under their Mistletoe!

MD's LETTER

Christmas greetings to all staff and their families.

With a few exceptions the weather has been kind to us and I hope it will remain so over Christmas so that everyone may benefit away from the everyday routine. Hard luck to the few who have to work - unfortunately, the nature of our business nowadays does not allow a complete shutdown.

With the drink-drive situation, there is no doubt that more use is being made of public transport this pre-Christmas period. I am looking forward to a successful year - a news sheet is being circulated to all households in the area during January letting people know what services we have to offer at Epsom Travel and Epsom Coaches.

A Happy New Year to all!



DIARY OF A COACH DRIVER AGED 21 $\frac{3}{4}$

Warning:-

Definitely not to be read by the serious or faint-hearted.

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER

I had my first experience of the firm's annual Dinner-Dance last night and boy, does my head hurt! Trouble is, I don't remember much about the evening, bit of a haze quite honestly. If it wasn't for my Mum getting me out of bed this morning, I'd never be here now. First thing I did when I got into work this morning was head for the Mess Room to fix myself a black coffee, quickly followed by another and then another. Well that took me to 11 o'clock and here I am parked outside the Tower Hotel for yet another encounter with the Japs. Although I feel a lot better now, I haven't been my usual self this morning. Can't say I noticed the December calendar girl up on the Mess wall like I normally do nor have I made it to page 3 yet. Will obviously have to study form in the 'Sun' twice as much tomorrow to make up for lost appetite.

I'm just trying to think what I do remember about last night. It isn't easy, the Arc de Triomphe wine certainly flowed. What might of made Paris famous, almost made a loser out of me! When the meal was over, Mr Richmond - that's the Guv'nor to you and me - got up and made a presentation to those folk amongst us who retired this year. Then Pete (the one with the dicky bow who got me through the training) and Marty (the black and white effort with the fuzzy hair) combined forces as a double-act, something akin to Cannon and Ball if you know what I mean, and made a presentation to Robby and John on behalf of the staff at HRR. They said they were giving Robby a scroll of honour for "EBH" and to John for "BHW". To be quite honest, being a 'fresher', I thought they were talking about " 'eivous bodily harm" and "bloody hard work" but I was wrong. It was Eastbourne, Bechill and Hastings and Brighton, Hove and Worthing they were on about. Maybe if I stick to Heathrow transfers, they'll award me with an LAP (Lon) degree in years to come.

/continued.....

After this and the raffle, the band struck up (the lead singer seemed like a nice boy and they sounded good and knew how to keep people on their toes). Then the fun started. There was this man with a beard prancing about in a skirt (I could swear I saw him disappearing into the Ladies at one stage during the evening) and then there was that chap who cleans the coach seats and always reminds me of Frank Spencer up on stage giving us his rendition of "Travelling Light" (what had we done to deserve this?, I kept asking myself). Just as well it wasn't me birthday neither, or they'd have been giving ME the bumps and that wouldn't have done my back any good after Tuesday night and that job I did for the Swedish Girl Pipers. I'd have ended up on the floor and might never have been able to get up again. One thing though, I would have got a good view of that fella with the skirt!

Fortunately my years of evening classes with the Margot Fonteyn School of Dancing really paid dividends - in the end, I had all the girls from the office queuing up to dance with me - they don't call me "Carshalton Casanova" for nothing, you know. My pasa doble was so good, I won a spot prize - a box of Noddy soaps (I'd already won the jasmine-scented soaps and flannel set in the Raffle and began to wonder if someone was trying to tell me something). Unperturbed, I continued to dance the night away until it was time for the farewell Hokey-Pokey. There's nothing like a good old Hokey-Pokey with friends at that time of night. All too soon, it was time to go (must remember to ask that girl with the red dress for a date, they say coach drivers aren't ones to waste time). I can recall being helped into my jacket (rather a tight fit - either it was the chestnut stuffing or I'd come away with someone else's jacket!) and then Steve took me by the arm and led me back on to the coach. Everyone seemed so much more chatty on the way home than going, also I thought I saw proper reading lamps on the coach but it couldn't have been. It must have been the pernod and blackcurrant playing tricks on me again. It was about 3 o'clock when I eventually rolled in. That reminds me, I must tell Mum to trim the rosebushes. Oh well, here's looking forward to next year.

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Well, as I say, we coach drivers aren't ones to waste time. I asked that girl in the red dress out and naturally she accepted (well, perhaps with a little arm-twisting from the other two in her office). As promised, I gave her a night out in London to remember. The Scrubs Lane Tandoori House actually. I'm not sure if it was the Beef Madras or the King Prawn Balls in Sweet and Sour Sauce but I've really been regretting it today. Just for a change, I was detailed to meet a group of Nips at Heathrow Airport (they were flying in from Hamburg having spent a night at the Hotel Reeper as part of their 'See Europe in 6 days' tour). The guide wasn't with me, I was to meet Miss Kishimoto at Terminal 2. Trouble is, I got caught short and found it necessary to pull up on the double yellow lines whilst I dashed inside. The most expensive comfort stop I've ever made, cost me £6.00 for the pleasure, cheques to be made payable to the Metropolitan Police. They say we live and learn and I certainly won't be eating out at the Scrubs Lane Tandoori again.

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Sunday, day of rest, but not for me. Being a new boy, I've been detailed to work today. I have to meet a group of Koreans (makes a change from Japs) from - yes, you've guessed it - Heathrow Airport, then take them on a morning Windsor followed by an afternoon City sightseeing and back to Heathrow for their plane to Paris where they will be met by my French equivalent for an illuminations drive followed by a night-out at the Moulin Rouge. They'll probably get to bed at about 2 in the morning to get some rest before setting off for Madrid next day. A relaxing itinerary by any standards! One thing about Koreans, every other one in Mister Kim so it doesn't take long to get to know them.

MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Today I was up at the crack of dawn to meet a flight from Tokyo. I greeted the tour leader with the words "Pleased to meet you" and realised I was saying this in broken English. As we speeded (sorry, shouldn't use that word) along the M4, I realised I was humming "Yellow Submarine" and had to stop myself from entering Hyde Park and making for the Serpentine. In any case, I had forgotten to draw a Park Permit from the office beforehand and I had visions of some copper stopping me and the leader holding back from giving me a tip for having broken the law. After all, I was in the company of "honourable gentleman". The guide told me there was a "velly good" gift shop in Regent Street worth £3 to me so off we went. "Burbelly's also velly good".

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

The Foremen obviously considered a change as good as a rest today. I was detailed to pick up some foreign students from the Euro Academy (no orientals whatsoever!). I wondered if it was a "grats" job or an "elbow" one (to the uninitiated, this is drivers' language evaluating a job financially). To my pleasant surprise, I found the group waiting for me by a church and most of them were Swedish girls in their 'teens'. I began to think the job was not too bad after all, even if they didn't belong to the Common Market as equal partners! When I arrived in Brighton, they asked me where the nearest McDonalds was and I did think of racing back from the Coach Park but Mum had packed me some sandwiches and I thought it best to cool off by taking a swim in the King Alfred and forget girls as Peter had told me to let THEM do the chasing. Not a bad day, this job is growing on me more and more.

WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER

I can't imagine what's got into the Foremen, must be the Christmas spirit or something. No Japanese for a second day running - variety is truly the spice of life. I was down to meet the Esher Evergreens for an afternoon mystery tour.

Has anyone seen a "Sally Line" mug about the garage - if found, please return to Sally.....Bert wins 'Lucky Fiver' in social club draw.....Joyce Cross (Charlie's wife) has moved from the King William IV at Mickleham - the pub was being sold as a free house having been run by the same family since 1915....a new look for Waterloo Road and the nearby market hall is planned with a new, much larger library and a plaza with outside seating.. Janice Hawksley is expecting her second, Amanda is growing up fast....the HRR Film Premiere is not far away, probably in two sittings.....a one-day drivers' training session is planned for the winter with one or two guest speakers.....'Commercial Motor' catches John Goodwin (as Santa) and Steve Whiteway on the agents round - hopefully a photograph will follow.....Alan Graham off to Hawaii for cocktails and surfing.....we welcome June Fry to Epsom Travel and say goodbye to Eddy who has been helping out over the past few months....

+++++ NOT THE HRR NEWS +++++

(Uncensored!)

Rumour has it that a certain person spent all the holiday funds in one 'phone call to America while in Canada...that someone enquired about the 'GO-GO' train!! instead of the 'GO' Train (short for Government of Ontario)....that another person tried to get out of the restaurant via the kitchens and who also holds the key to future holidays in that hotel.....

(Thank you Lynn!)

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Get Well Soon!

Tom Pratt is presently in hospital recovering from a gall bladder operation and has had to go without food for 20 days and drinks for 6. It is hoped, however, that Tom will be out of hospital in time for Christmas. John Dietl has also been unwell and is in St Thomas's Hospital (Doulton Ward). Our best wishes to them both.

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A flashback to the days when getting a coachload of holidaymakers to the Continent out of Dover Harbour was far more difficult than it is today. In fact, a new £8 million coach and passenger terminal is helping to speed tourists through the port. The photo shows a 1950 Foden two-stroke Harrington body being lifted onto an Ostend ferry at Dover's Western Dock just over 30 years ago. (Courtesy of Excelsior Coaches, Bournemouth).

QUIZ - PRIZES!!!!

When all the turkey has gone and there's no more Christmas Pud left, here's a quiz to get you thinking. All answers can be found in our January to April programme.

- 1) She sails to Dunkirk and works in Charts _____.
- 2) Do you have to have an Escort to go here on 16 April? _____
- 3) Do they make their own wine at this house near _____
Basingstoke? _____
- 4) Celebrating its 500th Anniversary in 1985 _____
- 5) Besides being transported to Shangri-la, you will witness
a salute to New York at this _____
- 6) Traditional Christmas offering based on the magical story of
the Drosselmeyer Christmas party _____
- 7) She had her home in Chawton _____
- 8) You may need your magnifying glass and deerstalker as well as
a great thirst for this tour _____
- 9) An apt city to be in on St David's Day _____
- 10) A lovely place to hunt Easter Eggs _____
- 11) On Easter Sunday you may go in with a splash here _____
- 12) They protected Winston Churchill and his staff during World
War II air attacks _____
- 13) Isambard Kingdom Brunel's iron seaship on show at Bristol _____
- 14) Well, it's not a weekday and it's not tulips you'll be
seeing _____
- 15) On 20 February you are invited for a free talk and
demonstration here _____
- 16) You can go for a ride on an old-style carousel roundabout
and listen to a Wurlitzer organ here _____
- 17) Here you see a Rainbow behind the "Village" _____
- 18) At least the menu is not a mystery. What is for dessert? _____
- 19) This tour takes you from Please Please Me to Let it Be _____
- 20) Eat other cord (anagram) - new excursion for 1985 _____

Completed entries to Rosemary by 1st February. 1st Prize: £7
2nd Prize: £4 3rd Prize: £2 4th Prize: £1

Name _____

(Open to all staff and retired staff)



That after-Christmas feeling!

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RED AND CREAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Two outings, the "Cinderella" Pantomime at Wimbledon Theatre on 12 January and 42nd Street at the Drury Lane Theatre on 26 January are being arranged. If you are interested in joining either of these excursions, please contact Peter Walsh or any of the Committee or the Charts office.



Peter Walsh - for those of you who don't know him
(Photo - courtesy of Heather Mount)