

OFFICIAL
REPORT OF



The Society for the
Promotion of Vocational
Training and Education

SKILL OLYMPICS
CORK · IRELAND
SEPTEMBER 1979

**International
Apprentice
Competition**

The Twentyfifth





International Skill Olympics

XXV SKILL OLYMPICS

CORK · IRELAND · SEPTEMBER 1979

OFFICIAL REPORT OF VOTE

**The Society for the Promotion of
Vocational Training and Education**

Registered as a Charity: ref T32270Z

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|-----------------|---|
| Mr G E Clayton | - VOTE UK Technical Representative
City of Bath Technical College |
| Mr A B Cox | - VOTE Treasurer
Principal, Coalville Technical College |
| Mr T G Davies | - VOTE Technical Committee Secretary -
Austin Morris |
| Mr P C Nunn | - Director of Training, Road Transport
Industry Training Board |
| Mr D P Phillips | - Director of Training Policy, National
Federation of Building Trade Employers |
| Mr C A Thompson | - ex-Principal, City of Bath Technical
College |
| Mr W W Norris | - VOTE Hon Secretary
Principal, South Bristol Technical
College |

It is with a deep sense of loss that we report the death on 25 September 1979 of Mr Charles Stewart who represented the Construction Industry Training Board on VOTE Council from 1976. His enthusiasm for the work of the International Skill Olympics was always apparent and forever reliable - he will be greatly missed.

C O N T E N T S

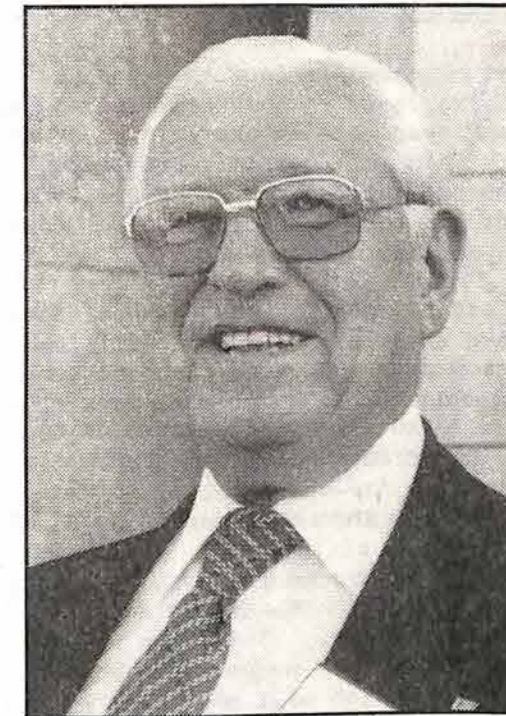
	Page
VOTE COUNCIL	ii
Foreword by Chairman	1
Introduction	3
Participating countries	3
Skills	3
No. of entries	3
Departure	3
Technical Matters	5
Official Opening Ceremony	6
The Competition	7
International Council	7
Competition Results	9
Group Skills - details of Competitors	12
The Closing Ceremony	19
Diplomas for Technical Experts	20
Finale and Conclusion	21
List of Skill Awards	22
UK Team of Competitors and Employers	23
Position of UK Competitors for Each Skill	24
Table of Competition Results	25
United Kingdom Technical Experts	26
List of Donors	27
The Joy of Success	28

FOREWORD

by FRED HILL, MBE

Chairman of the Society for the Promotion of Vocational Training and Education
UK Representative on the International Council

Vice-President of the International Administrative Committee of the Council



Mr Fred Hill

This year the International Skill Olympics celebrated its Silver Jubilee. During the twenty five years some twenty countries have competed in the 34 available tests. A further six countries are now showing interest and soon some South American countries are likely to be joining the organisation.

Over the years the competitions have provided us with the comparisons of methods of working and standards of skills across the nations. They have given our apprentices and trainees sound aims which have included the development of standards in their respective skills, and the opportunity to compare these standards, and the methods used, with those of the young people of other countries. Competing in this way has encouraged them to excel in their crafts and in a truly Olympic spirit.

We believe that the participation of the UK in these competitions is vital to the industrial, commercial and social well being of our country for a number of reasons.

Firstly, through the competitions we can show other countries the skills of our craftsmen whilst on the other hand we can show our future craftsmen the high standards which are being reached by some of the new industrial nations such as those from the Far East, and the strength of

competition we shall be increasingly facing from the other countries.

Secondly, because our economic standards will depend upon the sales of our products in foreign markets and because these in turn depend upon availability, reliability and excellence of our products we can show our young people the need for high degrees of skill.

Thirdly, through the social intercourse between the international competitors and the members of the juries we can fund new understanding between the peoples of the world.

In all this we must of course ensure that the best of our young people, in skill and personal terms, come to the forefront to represent our country. Ideally, this will be achieved when we are able to organise comprehensive national competitions. This will not only provide us with the best competitors but also the publicity which we desire, thereby stimulating greater general interest and more participation by Companies, by other Training Boards and by Technical Colleges.

Furthermore, well established national competitions will not only find us the best to go forward internationally but will lead to the raising of standards in the various skills. Our previous national competitions, held at a Government Training Centre, is under one roof, produced our best team yet which came back from Japan with 12 medals, 5 of them gold. Over the years I have seen other countries becoming advanced industrial nations with their competitors continually 'in-the-medals'. These countries have selected their team, the best, through comprehensive national competitions.

We will now be preparing for the 26th International Skill Olympics to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Twenty or more nations will be selecting and training their teams. This time we must select a team which will show the world that we have the young people with the skills to match the best and which will show that we are still amongst the top industrial nations.

HRH Prince Philip, in a message, wrote:

"This is an important International Competition.....
I am certain that British Industry will wish to support the Competition to its fullest possible extent."

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

REPORT ON THE UNITED KINGDOM PARTICIPATION IN THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL SKILL OLYMPICS HELD IN CORK, IRELAND 2 - 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

The 1979 Silver Jubilee International Skill Olympics was represented by 14 countries from the continents of Asia, America and Europe.

A total entry of 276 competitors and an additional five demonstrators took part, made up as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>No. of Competitors</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>No. of Competitors</u>
Germany	31	France	15
Austria	15	Holland	14
Belgium	11	Ireland	25
Korea	33	Japan	28
Taiwan	23	Liechtenstein	7
Spain	15	United Kingdom	19
USA	13	Switzerland	27

Demonstrators: Printing - Letter Assembly: 5 - Ireland.

This year 33 skills were featured representing a wide range of crafts as set out in the table below. The skills attracting the highest number of competitors were Turning and Joinery - 12 in each. The watch and clock repairing skill attracted only four competitors.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Entries</u>
1.	Fitting	10	18.	House Wiring	9
2.	Press Tool Mkg.	10	19.	Industrial Wiring	9
3.	Instrument Mkg.	6	20.	Bricklaying	9
4.	Watch and Clock Repg.	4	21.	Stonemasonry	9
5.	Engineering Drawing	8	22.	Painting	8
6.	Turning	12	23.	Plasterwork	7
7.	Milling	11	24.	Cabinet Making	10
8.	Constr. Steelwork	9	25.	Joinery	12
9.	Gas Welding	7	26.	Carpentry	11
10.	Electric Welding	10	27.	Jewellery	6
11.	Wood Patternmkg.	8	28.	Tailoring	4
13.	Panel Beating	9	29.	Ladies' Hairdressing	8
14.	Sheet Metal Work	8	30.	Gents' Hairdressing	8
15.	Plumbing	10	31.	Ladies' Dressmaking	7
16.	Industrial Electrnics.	8	32.	Upholstery	6
17.	TV/Radio Repairing	6	33.	Automobile Engineering	10
			34.	Cookery	7

DEPARTURE

On Sunday, 2 September, The UK Technical Representative, Mr George Clayton and a team of 16 Technical Experts flew to Cork to begin the work of final preparations for the Competition.

A 'send-off' luncheon for the UK Team of Competitors was held in the Whittington Suite, Cavendish Conference Centre, National Federation of



Mr Kenneth Cooper with Martin Burdfield who went on to win a 'Gold' medal



The Team arriving back from Cork

Building Trade Employers, London.

Certificates marking their success in gaining places in the UK Team were presented to the 19 competitors by Mr Kenneth Cooper, Director-General of the NFBTE. Mr Cooper said it was a very good thing that we were sending a UK Team to the Skill Olympics. The level of skill in British industry and the efficiency of much of our industrial training were important and marketable national assets to be prized, and developed - and to be measured and tested against those from countries which similarly seek to excel in key skills. Finally, he urged the competitors to do their very best for themselves, their company, their skill and their country.

Mr Eric Tindall, Director General of the Road Transport Industry Training Board, supported these comments and wished the Team well in the Competition ahead.

Other guests at the luncheon were Mr John Fuller and Mr Peter Haxby of the Manpower Services Commission, Training Services Division, Mr Norman Davies of the Engineering Industry Training Board, Mr E Smith and Mr D Griffiths of the Construction Industry Training Board, Mr Barrie Dugdale, Shell UK and Mr D M A Scott, Goldsmiths Company. We were pleased to welcome also a good representation of the employers of the competitors. Two visitors were given a special welcome; they were the 1978 Gold Medal winners, Mr David James and Mr David Walford who displayed their medals and received just admiration.

Photographs were taken of the Team who were all dressed in uniform - grey suits, light blue shirts and dark blue ties.

At 1330 hrs a coach arrived to transport the Team and their tools to the air port at Heathrow to board the 1515 flight to Cork. The boxes of tools caused some security problems and everybody's hand luggage was given a thorough examination. Because of the large amount of luggage on this flight (mainly tools) the departure was slightly delayed, but it was an uneventful journey and we landed in Cork where a contingent of Irish Officials was there to meet us.

The UK competitors were accommodated in the convent of La Retraite and were looked after by the nuns. In the opinion of Mr Archie Sharkie our Team Leader, it was the finest accommodation he had experienced in all his years as Team Leader. The competitors were most appreciative of their quarters and the kindness shown to them by the Sisters. This appreciation was demonstrated later on in the week by a presentation to the Sisters of flowers and chocolates by the UK competitors, Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader, Mr Steve Mawdsley.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

All the hard work put in by the Technical Experts was now reaching a climax. Meetings of the International Technical Committee were held during the week when the various and complicated arrangements for the Competition were discussed. The final Proposals for each skill were selected, modified and corrected, the lists of materials, sizes and other specifications were drawn up, also marking schemes to be used. All these efforts had to be submitted to the Secretariat Drawing Office and Translation Room for descriptions into the four languages required (English, French, German and Spanish).

The Competition was to be held at the Regional Technical College,

Cork, and on Saturday 8 September, last minute workshop arrangements were made by the Experts in the various skills in preparation for the first visit of the competitors to the competition site. This visit of the apprentices was to enable them to become familiar with the machinery and equipment facilities which were to be available to them, to draw lots for work-places and to set out their own equipment in readiness for a prompt start. This exercise proved invaluable as a number of competitors appeared to be more relaxed and confident by the end of the day.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY - SUNDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Cork City Hall at 1430 hrs. After a recital of folk music by the Band of Southern Command the teams entered the Hall, each team being led by an Irish school child carrying the name of the country on a banner. When the teams were seated in their allotted row on the stage, The Right Honourable Councillor J A Corr, Lord Mayor of Cork opened the proceedings with the greeting in the Irish language "cead mile failte" - one hundred thousand welcomes. He welcomed all who were there, church and state dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of many organisations, but his welcome was particularly directed to the teams of young apprentices who, together with their leaders, officials, experts and observers, had travelled great distances to take part in the Twenty Fifth International Apprentice Competition.

An address was then given by Mr John P Wilson TD, Minister for Education. He gave reasons why everyone was so gathered in Cork - because we believed that excellence in craft skills should be acclaimed and honoured: because we shared an overriding concern to equip our young people as best as we could for the challenges of the future and a conviction that apprenticeship is a potent and valuable method of fulfilling this task: because we hoped that by acquiring and maintaining mastery over the many skills and techniques required for survival and for progress in the modern world, and by generously sharing such mastery, we can make a contribution to a better life for all: because we were convinced that by developing the skills and talents of all our young people we can make common purpose, as allies and associates, in making war on poverty on disease, on want, on ignorance, hopelessness and despair. He said some competitors will deservedly take away acclaim and award. All will take away knowledge, understanding, and experience shared, a comradeship, which will have wide and lasting effects on many individuals in many parts of the world.

The President of the International Committee, Senor Valentin-Gamazo y de Cardenas, welcomed everyone to this extraordinary event of the twenty-fifth International Competition, special because it is our Silver Jubilee anniversary. He reminded all young participants that the Olympics should promote nobility, co-operation and friendship.

The final speech was from the Chairman of the Irish National Organising Committee, Mr A A Healey. He wished the apprentices luck and said "You have spent many months in preparation for this event and while each country is said to have a team, each member of that team is very much an individual carrying the responsibility for his particular trade. Let each one of you do his or her best and make an honest effort. No one can expect more than that."

The whole ceremony was an impressive occasion and the UK Team looked very smart and bore themselves well; we were justly proud of them.

THE COMPETITION

The Competition work commenced on Monday, 10 September. The competitors were given an hour's preparation period from 8.30 to 9.30 to enable them to ensure, having seen the examination exercises, that they fully understood what was required of them. At approximately 9.30 the Competition in all skills got under way with relatively few difficulties. Most Experts reported a smoother commencement than in previous years. It was a feature of the day that the apprentices became more settled in themselves once they had embarked upon the actual work. The four days of Competition were hard ones for the competitors and long ones. They commenced work at 8.30 and finished at 1800 hrs. Tension mounted as the Competition progressed. Fatigue showed on their faces as they strived to gain additional marks for their set pieces.

We were delighted to receive the following UK visitors to the Competition site: Mr Fred Lloyd, Chairman of the Road Transport Industry Training Board and Mrs Lloyd, Mr Eric Tindall, Director General of RTITB, Mr Kenneth Turner, past Chairman of RTITB, Mr Norman Davies, Engineering Industry Training Board, Mr Gordon Elliott, National Joint Council for the Building Industry, Mr Barrie Dugdale, Shell UK, Mr R W Adams, Training Officer for Wimpey Merseyside, Mr L Charnock, Senior Lecturer at Riversdale College of Technology, Liverpool, who was a carpentry competitor himself in 1958 when the Competition was held in Brussels, Mr Purbrick, Training Officer, Normalair-Garrett Ltd, Yeovil, Mr Davies, Managing Director of Shaw and Kilburn Ltd, Luton, and Mrs Davies, Mr T J Covington, Group Training Officer of Shaw and Kilburn and Mrs Covington, Mrs Parsons, Mother of our Gents' Hairdressing Competitor and also Mr Smith the Competitor's Husband, and Mr and Mrs Knibbs, parents of our Milling competitor. All these visitors showed a keen interest in the Competition and were impressed by the hard work of the competitors.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

There were two meetings of International Council and General Assembly on 8 and 15 September. Members were welcomed and the meetings chaired by the President of the International Council, Senor Manuel Gamazo. The General Assembly firstly dealt formally with expressions of thanks to the Irish Authorities for hosting the 25th International Skill Olympics and welcomed new country representatives. Further business included a brief report on up-dating of trade descriptions, the auditing of the 1978 accounts by Mr A B Cox and Mr C A Thompson, UK and proposals for the 1980 budget. Regarding future Competitions, Japan proposed that Competitions on alternate years should not be looked upon as normal procedure, and where possible additional competitions should be arranged for the intervening years.

Brief details of the 1981 International Skill Olympics to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, were given. The dates will be 17 - 30 June, 1981.

The next meeting of the Member Assembly will take place towards the end of January 1980.

HOSPITALITY

Various receptions, excursions and entertainments were arranged by the Irish Committee, which included a tour of the Waterford Glass Factory,

visits to Blarney Castle, The Ring of Kerry, Killarney and Tralee. On 9 September, competitors and all personnel involved in the Competition were entertained at the Cork Opera House to an Irish Folk Music and Dance evening, followed by a reception in the City Hall given by the Minister of Education, Mr John P Wilson TD. The Mayor of Cork held a reception on 10 September and at this function gifts from participating countries were presented to him. The United Kingdom gift was a green Wedgwood plate which was very much appreciated. This gift was presented to the Mayor by competitor Martin Burdfield.

The Competition Results

GROUP SKILLS
and COMPETITORS

COMPETITION RESULTS

All results are listed on Page 25, Korea once again taking first place in the number of medals gained; they won 17 gold medals.

The United Kingdom gained seven medals - one gold, three silver and three bronze, as follows:

Gold	Martin E BURDFIELD	-	Joinery
Silver	Richard FLEGG	-	Bricklaying
	Keith E WOODWARD	-	Painting
	Anthony CROWNSHAW	-	Auto.Engineering
Bronze	Nicholas BLYTHE	-	Plumbing
	Georgio ROMEO	-	Ladies' Hairdressing
	Jane PARSONS	-	Gents' Hairdressing



The Medal Winners with Chairman Mr Fred Hill
Left to right: Keith Woodward (s), Richard Flegg (s), Jane Parsons (b), Fred Hill, Anthony Crownshaw (s), Georgio Romeo (b), Nicholas Blythe (b) and Martin Burdfield (g).

We were very impressed with the United Kingdom Team as a whole and we were proud of the way they conducted themselves during the stay in Cork. They got on well together and Mr Archie Sharkie, our Team Leader from Glasgow, said they were most co-operative and appreciative.



IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES
Keith Woodward (S) Richard Flegg (S)
Martin Burdfield (G) Nicholas Blythe (B)

THE MEDAL WINNERS



IN HAIRDRESSING
Jane Parsons (B) Georgio Romeo (B)

IN MOTOR VEHICLE WORK
Anthony Crownshaw with George Gee, Skills Assessment Officer RTTB and Bill Norris, RTTB Board Member, Secretary of VOTE

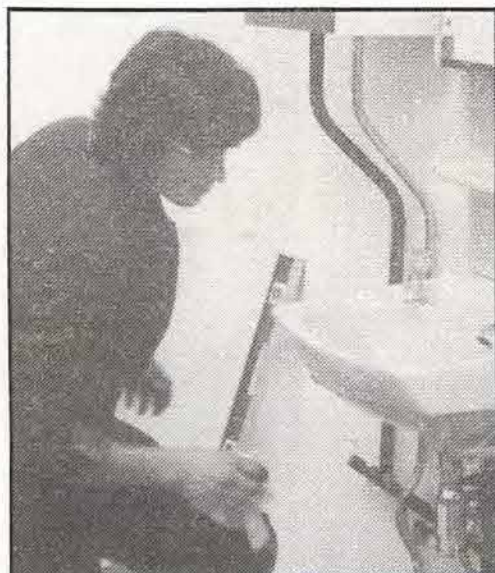


GROUP SKILLS

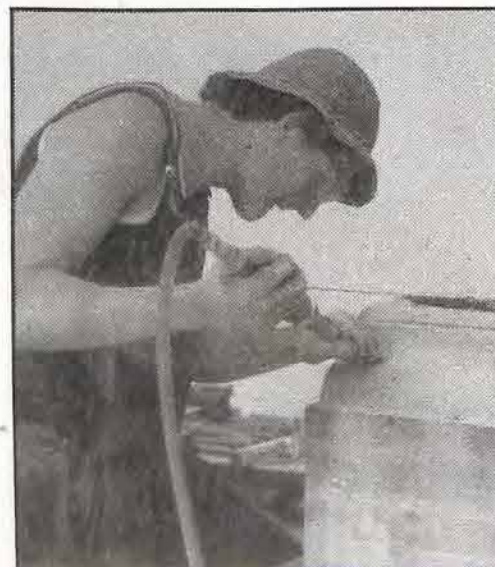
CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Bricklaying - Richard Flegg

Technical Colleges were contacted for suitable participants and selection tests were held at two centres and the final was held in London. Richard had the highest marks and it is interesting to note that he was a runner-up in 1978. Additional training was given at Medway and Maidstone College of Technology. He was a good competitor and well deserved his Silver Medal.



Plumbing - Nicholas Blythe All Technical Colleges who participated in 1979 Interbuild Competition were invited to enter a student for the Skill Olympics. A selection test was held at Vauxhall College of Building, London. Nicholas won this competition and was selected for Cork. Additional training included a week of instruction at Vauxhall College of Building and he was also given a prepared programme of work. Nicholas gained good marks at Cork and was awarded the Bronze Medal. He attends Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education.



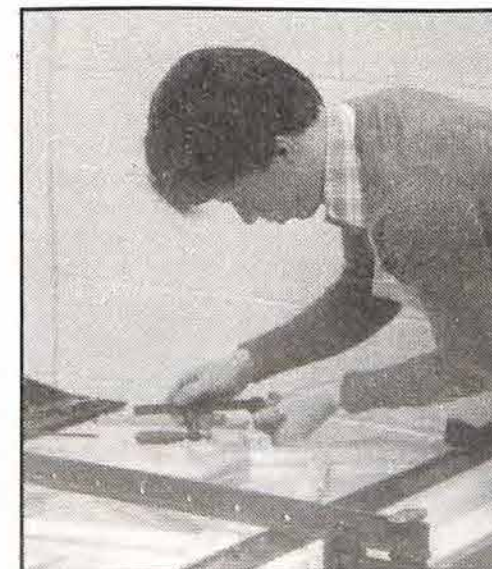
Stonemasonry - Peter Sears A selection test was held at Bath Technical College of candidates nominated by member firms of Stone Federation or by Technical Colleges. Peter gained the highest marks in this test and was given extra training by his Company after a visit by the Technical Expert. Peter attended South Dorset Technical College.



Painting - Keith Woodward Selection tests were held in Coventry and Glasgow after the Painting Craft Teachers Association contacted all Colleges in England and Wales; colleges in Scotland were contacted by Mr C Payne, Technical Expert. Fourteen apprentices competed and Keith was selected. He is First Prize Silver Medal winner plus Freedom of Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers. A training programme was arranged with Keith's Training Manager and his College, The Central Liverpool College of Further Education. Extra time was allocated by Company to attend College. Keith was a Silver Medal Winner at Cork.



Plastering - Philip Ali Eight candidates recommended by their respective College lecturers took part in a selection test at Shirecliffe College, Sheffield. The selection panel consisted of three lecturers, one employer and one Union representative, all experienced craftsmen. Philip, who was a winner at the 1977 Interbuild Competition, came first in the selection test. He had two weeks' intensive preparation at Shirecliffe College and Mr Scott, the Technical Expert, was in regular contact with him during the time before the Cork Competition.

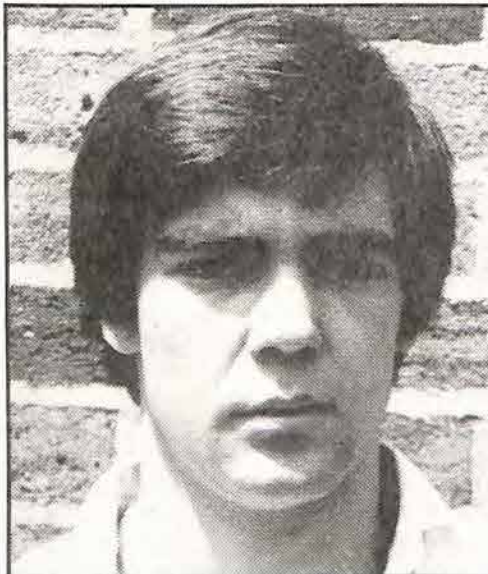


Joinery - Martin Burdfield The Wood Trades competitors were selected using the same process. An initial approach was made to Technical Colleges asking for suitable candidates with a known degree of excellence in past examinations, together with suitable candidates (award winners) from the Institute of Carpenters. Successful candidates were then chosen from two regional final selection tests with personal interviews held at Bath and Darlington. For Martin Burdfield contact was made by Mr Frank Wilson, Technical Expert to employer. Extra training was given by Company and the Building Crafts Training School, London W1, from a programme submitted by Technical Expert and past competition pieces were worked. Martin won our only Gold Medal at Cork.



Carpentry - Paul Singleton

Mr J Natress, the Technical Expert, made two visits to Paul's College, Riversdale Technical College, to work out a training programme with college lecturers and the Company Training Officer. Paul was a good competitor and worked well, but there is a great difficulty in the carpentry trade to get a competitor with enough geometrical skill to stand up to international competition.

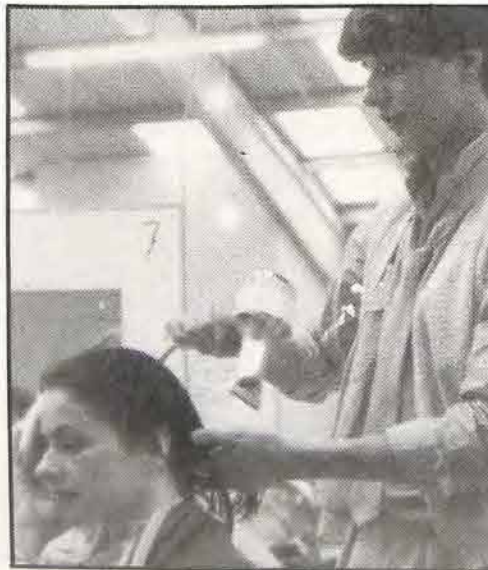


JEWELLERY - Paul Robinson Selected by National Competition organised by the Arts Council of London in association with The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Mr G Whiles, the Technical Expert visited Paul's Company on two occasions to arrange extra training on aspects expected to occur in the Competition. Only during Competition was it found that training had not included the reading of technical drawings. Paul attended Sir John Cass School of Art, London E1.

HAIRDRESSING

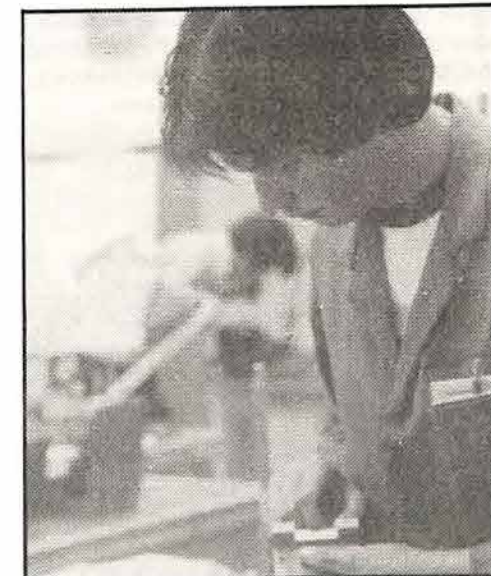
Ladies' Hairdressing - Georgio Romeo Georgio won the National Junior Competition in 1979 out of 92 competitors. He was then tested by Mrs K Hughes and Mr Trevor Leddington, hairdressing experts and by Mr Kevin Murphy a 1978 competitor. He also won the Liverpool Young Stylist Competition.

The Experts met Georgio on several occasions and reports were sent to him regarding training. He is of British nationality but of Italian parents. He is expected to return to Italy where he hopes to eventually own his own salon. He attends Colquit Street College of Hairdressing, Liverpool. Georgio won the Bronze Medal.



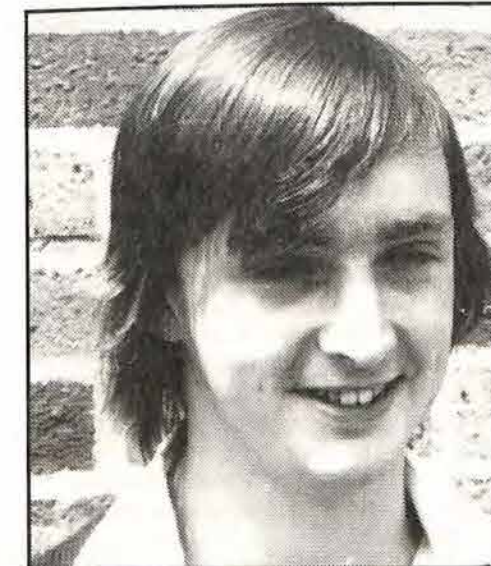
Gents' Hairdressing - Jane Parsons

A selection test was held by members of the trade, but the candidate selected was not able to compete. Jane took her place and was trained in competition finish. Extra training was given by this year's British Team Member for Men's Hairdressing in Athens and by Mr Leddington. Jane attended Dudley Technical College. She was the only female competitor in the UK Team and looked very smart in her grey trouser suit. She won a Bronze Medal.

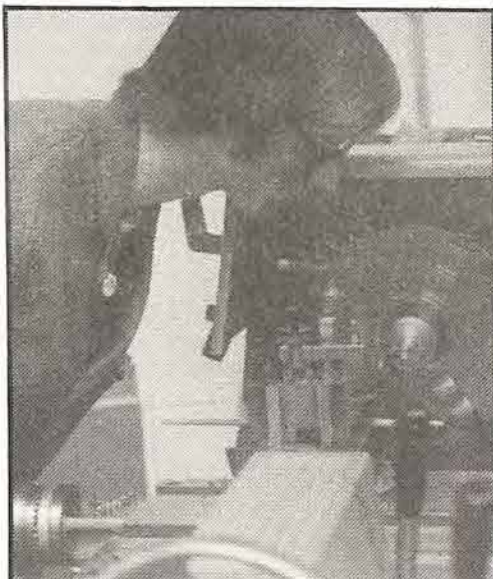


ENGINEERING

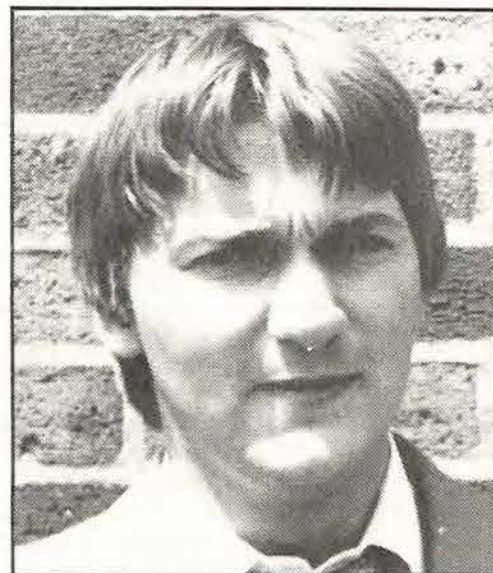
Fitting - John Waine A selection test was held at South Bristol Technical College in January 1979, all participants being area winners of the Engineering Industry Training Board Craftex Competition. After a five hour test and interview, John Waine was selected being the NW Area Craftex winner 1978. His company was visited by Mr Woodland, Fitting Expert, who took past test pieces and drawings, etc. for practice work. Special training was agreed but this was not fully carried out, probably because of local difficulties. John attended Nelson and Colne College of Further Education.



Press Toolmaking - Ashley Cross Six candidates, all EITB Craftex winners attended a selection test at Harlow Technical College in April. Mr Gwyn Davies, Milling Expert, visited this competitor and his Company with test pieces, etc. but it was felt that insufficient training was given on international test pieces under correct conditions and time limits. Ashley attended Redditch College of Further Education.

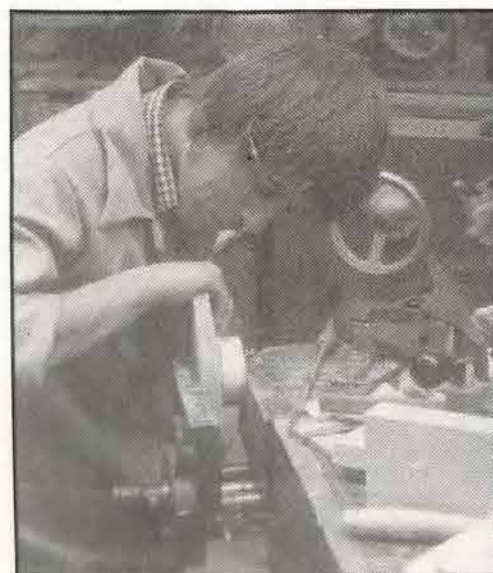


Turning - Thomas Forster Five EITB Craftex winners attended a selection test at South Bristol Technical College. Mr Woodland visited Rolls Royce, Barnoldswick, the same Company as the Fitting competitor, so once again training was not adequately carried out probably because of local difficulties. Nelson and Colne College of Further Education was the College attended by Thomas.

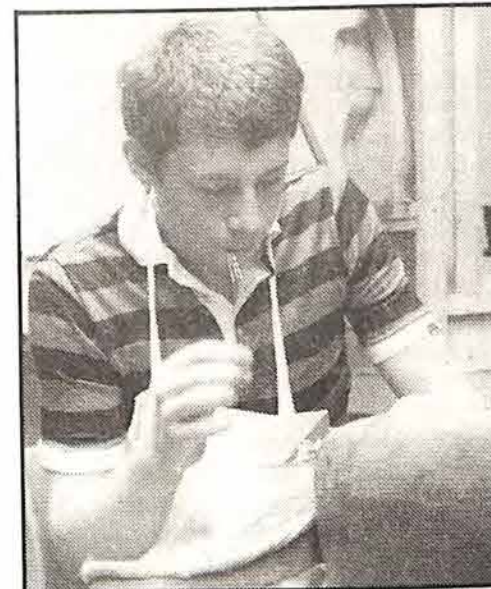


Milling - Christopher Knibbe As with the other Engineering competitors, Christopher was an EITB Craftex winner and he was selected for Cork from other area finalists at a test and interview. Christopher was working in Munich, Germany, for his Company and was given specialist training liaised through Mr P Woodland. He attended Yeovil Technical College.

Once again the Engineering results are most disappointing, accuracy and finish of exercise being at fault. This is attributed in the main to lack of pre-competition training; this may be explained by the fact that all the competitors are working as skilled men and their companies wish to avoid a loss of their production potential.



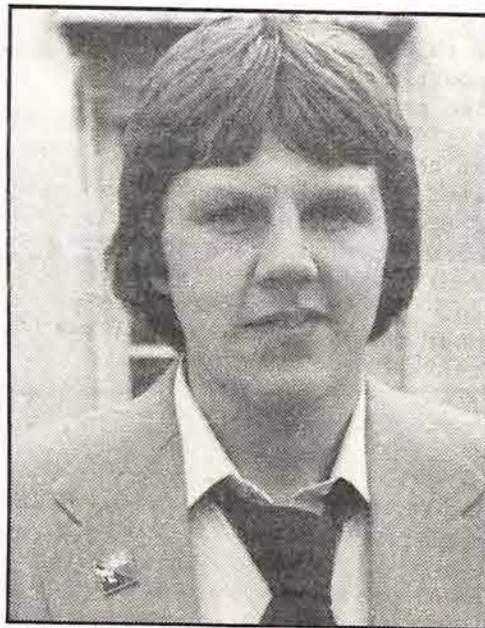
WOOD PATTERNMAKING - William Vandenbrink This competitor was selected by National Competition. Trainees who attend a 72 week full time Pattern-making course at a FITC recognised training centre produce a final phase test piece. The best test piece from each centre is then checked by FITC officials and the best eight go through to the national competition. William was the 1978 winner. His work in his Company is mainly with metal and plastics; a short period of training at Letchworth College was given on wood patternmaking. William was a good competitor and had he been given more training on wood pattern-making, it is thought he would have gained a medal.



UPHOLSTERY - Garry Wright The 39 colleges in UK offering City and Guilds courses in Upholstery were circulated asking for nominees to take part in a selection test. Garry was chosen and his Company co-operated in carrying out a training programme and gave him every encouragement. He attends the Shirecliffe College of Further Education. Garry was a very lively team member and was a morale booster to the rest of the team.



AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING - Anthony Crownshaw This competitor was short listed from 1977/78 End of Stage 3 Skills Test (Road Transport Industry Training Board) computer based analysis. Final selection was by practical test and panel interview during 1978 International Motor Show (NEC Birmingham). Extra training was given at RTITB Motec, High Ercall. Special welding course/practice by Luton Technical College. Excellent co-operation afforded by in-Company training through Company. Anthony won a Silver Medal.



WELDING

Gas Welding - Steven Foyle A selection test was held at the Babcock Power Ltd Welding School, but only Steven attended. He is an EITB Craftex Competition area winner. Steven attended the Babcock Training School for two weeks for special training. He attended Reading Technical College



Electric Welding - Martin Jenkins A selection test was held at the Babcock Power Ltd Welding School and 12 apprentices took part. Martin was selected and was given a few weeks' extra training by his Company. He was an EITB Craftex Competition area winner and attends Cross Keys Technical College.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY

This colourful event took place in Cork City Hall, where, in addition to the Lord Mayor and local Council Irish officials, etc. the Minister of Education, Mr Gene Fitzgerald TD, were present. Mr Fitzgerald presented the medals, which, in honour of this being the 25th Competition, were all in solid silver. Skill by skill the award winners mounted the platform and they were greeted with thunderous applause and much flashing of photographic lights. It was an emotional ceremony a fitting climax to the hard work of the Competition. In addition to the awards to competitors, special medals for long service to the Skill Olympics were presented. Senor Albert, General Secretary of the Competition, Senor Martinez of Spain, Herr Seger of Liechtenstein and Mr Fred Hill our UK Chairman.

In his closing address Mr Fitzgerald said that every one of the young people taking part in the competitions had been ambassadors not only of their country, but of their crafts. By the demonstration of competence and knowledge seen in this competition we were able to face the future, unpredictable though it may be, with the assurance that our young people could adapt and take advantage of improved technology to better our standards of living and improve our way of life. He said we were conscious of how much all the participant nations gained from these competitions. Man's most potent weapon is knowledge. The sharing of knowledge and skill arising from this competition is a true act of international friendship.

President Gamazo in his closing speech spoke of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Olympics constituting an optimistic and hope-inspiring event. Today we can offer many countries the experience gleaned from the results of a multiplicity of instruction systems in the technical and handicraft trades which have proved their efficiency. He expressed the gratitude of the Organisation to the State and Government of Ireland for all their hard work and hospitality especially the Irish National Committee "who transformed these September days into an unforgettable experience for all of us."

DIPLOMAS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS

After the Closing Ceremony in the early evening, all UK Technical Experts were invited to attend a small reception given by Council members at which they were congratulated on their good work and untiring efforts and presented with diplomas marking the twenty-fifth International Apprenticeship Competition.



Mr G Clayton is presented with his Diploma by Mr Fred Hill, Chairman

At this function a telegram of congratulations to the Team was read received from Mr Derrick Phillips, VOTE Council member, National Federation of Building Trade Employers, and Mr Gordon Elliott, National Joint Council for the Building Industry, both of whom had been present in Cork for a few days at the commencement of the Competition.

FINALE

A farewell party for everybody was held in the City Hall, Cork. In keeping with tradition, each team entertained us in the tradition of their country. The Korean Team started a "Conga" dance with a song from their country and soon most people joined in - their happy faces and infectious laughter soon had everybody's feet stamping. The UK Team performed a song from Monty Python. Alas the words could not be heard as the antics of competitor Garry Wright caused such loud laughter it was impossible to hear the rest of the Team. One cannot help feeling that his loss to the entertainment industry must be the gain of the upholstery trade! It was a happy evening and to see all the nations mingling together so readily made one feel that so much good is done by these international events.

CONCLUSION

When the UK Team arrived back at Heathrow they were met by photographers which made them feel like VIPs as indeed they were. It was also good to see Mr Derrick Phillips at the airport to meet us.

So ended the twenty-fifth International Skill Olympics. VOTE Council would like to express their thanks to everyone who has helped in the organisation of this event. First of all, our thanks are due to the UK Team who did so well in Cork. We would like to congratulate them how they conducted themselves in Ireland - they were a credit to their country and we were justly proud of them. Mr Archie Sharkie our Team Leader was again one of our great assets; he has the respect and confidence of all competitors and in his quiet way is able to smooth any difficulty which may arise.

Our thanks are due to Mr Alan Hughes, NFBTE for his untiring efforts to gain publicity for the Team. Through his efforts good coverage of the Competition was given in various trade journals. It is regretted that the national press shows little interest in the Skill Olympics and that TV coverage is limited to a few local interviews.

All competitors felt they had benefited a great deal in taking part in this Competition. They were interested in the different methods of approach to jobs by other countries and the remarkable achievements of the Korean Team whose standards of work are so high.

The following is a quote from a letter from one of our competitors received since arriving home:

"I feel a lot more confident now in my work.....I'm sure the experience will help me in my remaining 18 months of apprenticeship."

LIST OF SKILL AWARDS

G = Gold
S = Silver
B = Bronze

HM = Honourable Mention
D = Diploma of Merit

SKILL AND NUMBER		COUNTRY												
		Germany	Austria	Belgium	Korea	Taiwan	Spain	United States of America	France	Holland	Ireland	Japan	Liechtenstein	United Kingdom
1	Fitting	D			G	B						S		
2	Press Toolmkg	B			G						HM	S	B	
3	Instrument mkg				G					B				S
4	Watchmaking				S							G		B
5	Engineering.Drwg	S			G	B								
6	Turning				G		B				HM	S		
7	Milling		D		G					D		G		B
8	Constr.Steelwk				G	B						S		
9	Gas Welding				G	S	B							
10	Elect.Welding					G					B	S		
11	Wood Patnmkg	B	B		S							G		D
13	Panel Beating				G				B			S		
14	Sheet Metal Wk.				G	B						G		
15	Plumbing				G									B G
16	Indust.Electre	D			G							S		B
17	Radio & T V Rep	B			S							G		
18	House Wiring				S						G	D	D	S
19	Indust.Wiring	B			G	D					B		S	
20	Bricklaying	G									B			S
21	Stonemasonry	B	HM		G									G
22	Painting	G								B				S
23	Plasterwork	G							S		B	B		
24	Cabinet Making	S			D	B			D					G
25	Joinery		D		D	G			B	D	D	D	D	G D
26	Carpentry				S						B	G		
27	Jewellery	D	G		B									S
28	Tailoring	S	B		G	B								
29	L/Hairdreng.	S			G									B B
30	G/Hairdreng.	G		B			S							B
31	L/Dressmkg.				G	D						S	B	B
32	Upholstery								S	B				G
33	Auto.Engineing.	HM			D						B	G		S
34	Cooking	S	D								B			G

UNITED KINGDOM TEAM OF COMPETITORS 1979			
Name	Skill and No.	Employer	Home Town
John M WAINE	1. Fitting	Rolls Royce Ltd, Barnoldswick, Nr Colne, Lancs	Roughlea, Nr. Nelson, Lancs
Ashley M CROSS	2. Press Tool- making	Quinton Hazell Automotive Ltd, Redditch, Worcs.	Wythall, Nr Birmingham
Thomas J FORSTER	6. Turning	Rolls Royce Ltd, Barnoldswick, Nr Colne, Lancs	Earby, Lancs
Christopher R KNIBBS	7. Milling	Normalair-Carrett Ltd, Yeovil, Somerset	Weymouth, Dorset
Steven FOYLE	9. Gas Welding	British Rail Engineering Ltd, Swindon, Wilts	Stratton-St- Margarets, Wilts.
Martin A JENKINS	10. Electric Welding	Hymac, Rhymney, Gwent.	Fochriw, Nr. Bargoed, M.Glam.
William VANDENBRINK	11. Wood Pattern- making	George Fischer Castings Ltd, Britannia Works, Bedford	Sandy, Beds.
Nicholas BLYTHE	15. Plumbing	Blythe and Son, Leamington Spa	Leamington Spa
Richard FLEGG	20. Bricklaying	H G Flegg and Son, Gillingham Kent	Gillingham, Kent
Peter G SEAR	21. Stonemasonry	The Stone Firms Ltd, Easton, Portland, Dorset	Wyke Regis, Weymouth
Keith E WOODWARD	22. Painting	The Merseyside Docks and Harbour Co, Pierhead, Liverpool	Roby, Merseyside
Philip ALI	23. Plastering	Hodkin and Jones (Sheffield) Ltd, Sheffield 2	Sheffield
Martin E BUROFIELD	25. Joinery	Pollards of London Ltd Highbury Grove, London, N5	London, N5
Paul SINGLETON	26. Carpentry	George Wimpey and Co, Bootle Merseyside	Liverpool
Paul ROBINSON	27. Jewellery	H Byworth and Co, 19/20 Haddon Street, London W1	Upminster, Essex
Georgio A ROMEO	29. Ladies' Hairdressing	Denis Hair Artists, 204 Childwall Rd, Liverpool	Liverpool
Jane B PARSONS	30. Gents' Hairdressing	TRB Leddington, Brierly Hill, West Midlands	Stourbridge, W Midlands
Gerry A WRIGHT	32. Upholstery	Kersley and Sons Ltd, Sheffield, S4 7 LD	Sheffield
Anthony CROWNSHAW	33. Automobile Mechanics	Shaw and Kilburn Ltd Luton, Beds	Luton, Beds

POSITION OF UK COMPETITORS FOR EACH SKILL

Skill	Name	Marks Attained (Max.100)	Total Entries	Position	Remarks
1. Fitting	J M Waine	28.7	10	10	
2. Press Tool- making	A M Cross	14.73	10	10	
6. Turning	T J Forster	49.40	12	10	
7. Milling	C R Knibbe	38.7	11	11	
9. Gas Welding	S Foyle	52.81	7	6	
10. Electric Welding	M A Jenkins	52.13	10	9	
11. Wood Patt. making	W Vandenbrink	57.90	8	6	
15. Plumbing	N Blythe	77.74	10	3	Bronze Medal
20. Bricklaying	R Flegg	68.15	9	2	Silver Medal
21. Stone- masonry	P G Sear	40.81	9	8	
22. Painting	K E Woodward	52.5	8	2	Silver Medal
23. Plastering	P Ali	48.50	7	6	
25. Joinery	M E Burdfield	75.88	12	1	Gold Medal
26. Carpentry	P Singleton	58.00	11	8	
27. Jewellery	P Robineon	47.00	6	5	
29. Ladies' Hairstyling.	G A Romeo	66.91	8	3	Bronze Medal
30. Gents' Hairstyling.	J B Parsons	74.35	8	3	Bronze Medal
32. Upholstery	G A Wright	70.00	6	5	
33. Auto. Engineering	A Crowshaw	90.3	10	2	Silver Medal

TABLE OF COMPETITION RESULTS

Positions based on points attained (Gold = 3: Silver = 2: Bronze = 1)
compared with maximum possible from original number of entries

Position	Medals				Results				Country
	Gold 3	Silver 2	Bronze 1	Total	Total Entries	Max. Poss. Points	Points Attain- ed	%	
1	17	5	1	23	33	99	62	63	Korea
2	7	8	1	16	28	84	38	45	Japan
3	5	3	5	13	27	81	26	32	Switzerland
4	4	5	5	14	31	93	27	29	Germany
5	1	3	3	7	19	57	12	21	United Kingdom
6	2	1	6	9	23	69	14	20	Taiwan
7	-	1	2	3	7	21	4	19	Liechtenstein
8	-	2	2	4	15	45	6	13	France
8	1	-	7	8	25	75	10	13	Ireland
10	1	-	2	3	15	45	5	11	Austria
11	-	1	2	3	15	45	4	9	Spain
12	-	-	3	3	14	42	3	7	Netherlands
13	-	-	1	1	11	33	1	3	Belgium
14	-	-	-	-	13	39	-	-	U S A

1979 UNITED KINGDOM TECHNICAL EXPERTS

Mr P W Blyth	- Upholstery	- Glasgow College of Building and Printing
Mr T G Davies	- Milling	- Austin Morris
Mr G W Gee	- Auto Engineering	- Skills Assessment Manager, Road Transport Industry Training Board
Mr G Gilbert	- Stonemasonry	- Managing Director, Gilbert and Turnbull Ltd, London
Mr G A Hedges	- Bricklaying	- Vauxhall College of Building and Further Education, London
Mrs K Hughes	- Ladies' Hairdressing	- Hairdressing Consultant
Mr D Lakin	- Wood Patternmaking	- Craft Assessment Officer, Foundry Industry Training Committee
Mr T R B Liddington	- Gents' Hairdressing	- Proprietor, Hairdressing and Beauty Clinic, Halesowen
Mr A Masterman	- Plumbing	- Vauxhall College of Building and Further Education, London
Mr J Mattress	- Carpentry	- Senior Lecturer, Darlington College of Technology
Mr C Payne	- Painting	- Head of Department of Design and Decoration, Glasgow College of Building and Printing
Mr J Scott	- Plasterwork	- Shirecliffe Technical College, Sheffield
Mr P W Want	- Welding	- Welding Services Manager, Babcock Power Ltd
Mr G Whiles	- Jewellery	- Head of School of Jewellery, Birmingham
Mr F Wilson	- Joinery	- Consultant Wood Trades
Mr P K Woodland	- Fitting	- Head of Engineering Department, South Bristol Technical College

TEAM LEADER

Mr A Sharkie	-	- Stow College of Engineering, Glasgow
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ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER

Mr S M Maudsley	-	- BAC, Preston
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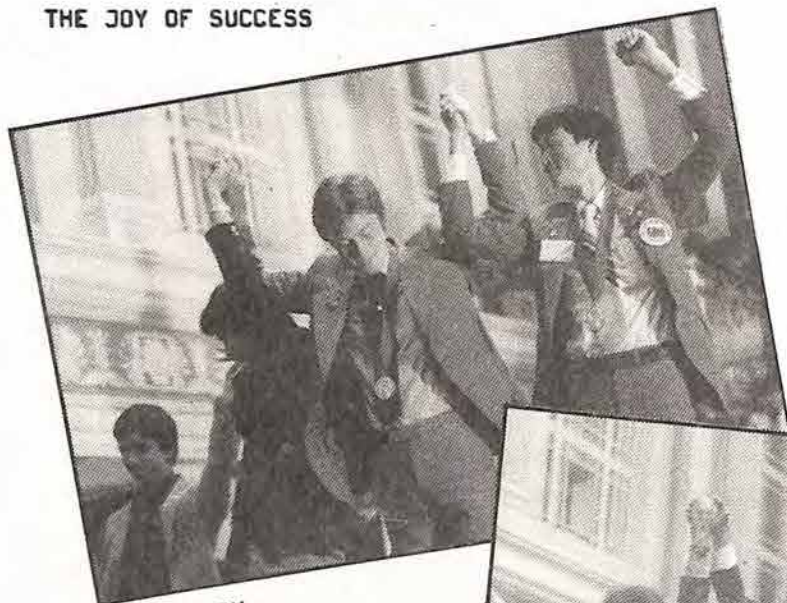
We were glad to welcome Mr Steve Maudsley as Assistant Team Leader. Steve was the Milling Competitor in the 1977 UK Team at the International Skill Olympics held in Utrecht. He was a great help to all the Team especially during the Competition days.

LIST OF DONORS TO 1979 SKILL OLYMPICS

In addition to the donors listed below, we would wish to thank all Technical Colleges involved with the competitors and technical experts for the co-operation we receive from them.

Manpower Services Commission - Training Services Division
 Construction Industry Training Board
 Road Transport Industry Training Board
 Engineering Industry Training Board
 National Federation of Building Trade Employers
 Shell UK Limited
 The Goldsmiths' Company, Goldsmiths' Hall
 Radcliffe Trust
 The Engineering Employers Association of South Wales
 National Society of Master Patternmakers
 The Association of Patternmakers and Allied Craftsmen
 British Gypsum
 The Institute of Carpenters
 The Guild of Hairdressers
 The Worshipful Company of Plumbers
 Painting Craft Teachers Association
 Glasgow Master Painters Association
 Scottish Decorators Federation
 Church Service, 'Canberra'
 Mrs I G Berk, Wells
 Gilbert and Turnbull
 Rolls Royce Ltd, Barnoldswick
 Quinton Hazell Automotive Ltd, Redditch
 Normalair-Garrett Ltd, Yeovil
 British Rail Engineering Ltd, Swindon
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 George Fischer Castings Ltd, Bedford
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 H G Flegg and Son, Gillingham, Kent
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 The Merseyside Docks and Harbour Co, Pierhead, Liverpool.
 Hodkin and Jones (Sheffield) Ltd, Sheffield.
 Pollards of London Ltd, London N5
 George Wimpey and Co, Merseyside
 H Byworth and Co, London W1
 Denis Hair Artists, Liverpool
 TRB Liddington, Brierly Hill
 Kersley and Sons Ltd, Sheffield
 Shaw and Kilburn Ltd, Luton

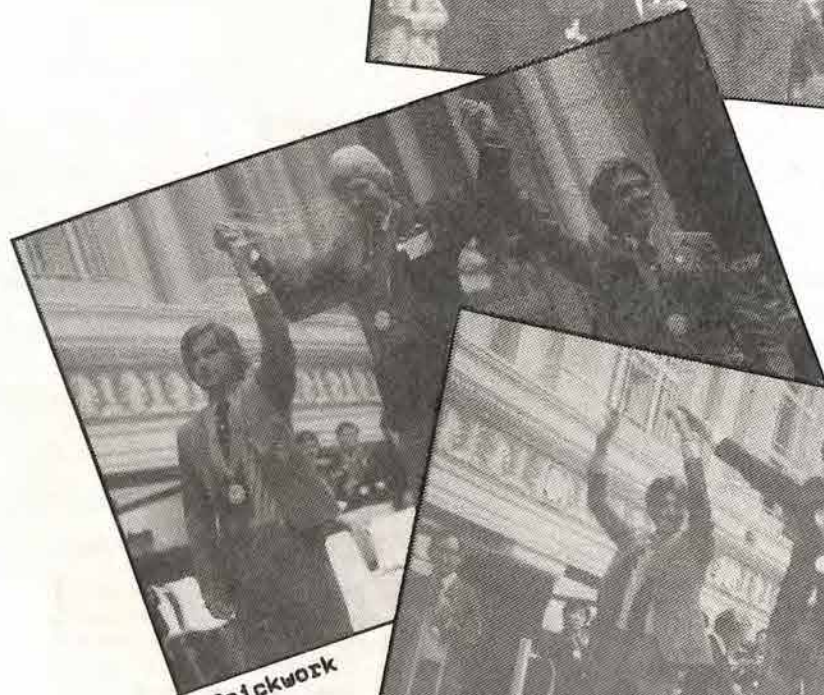
Ties Donated by Tootal Menswear
 Uniform suits supplied by Burtons at special contract prices



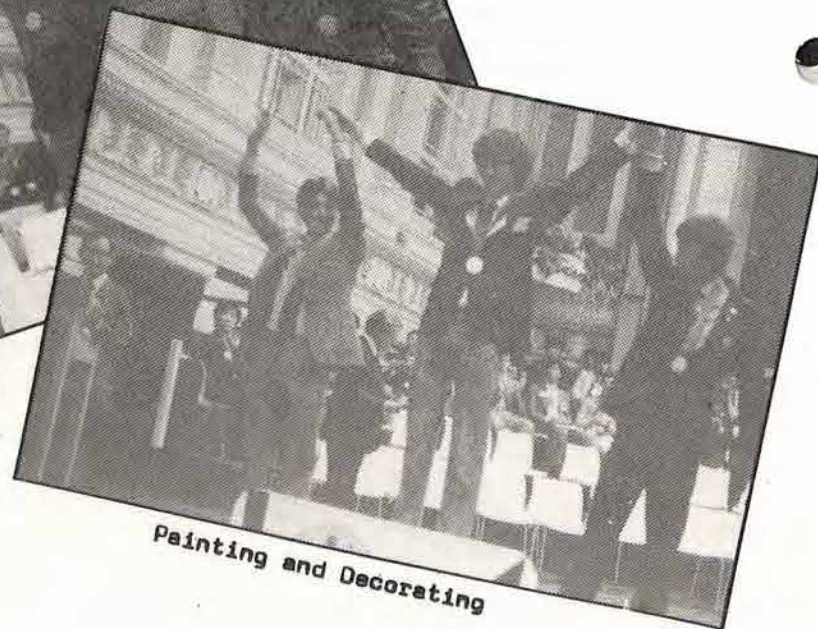
Joinery



Automobile Work



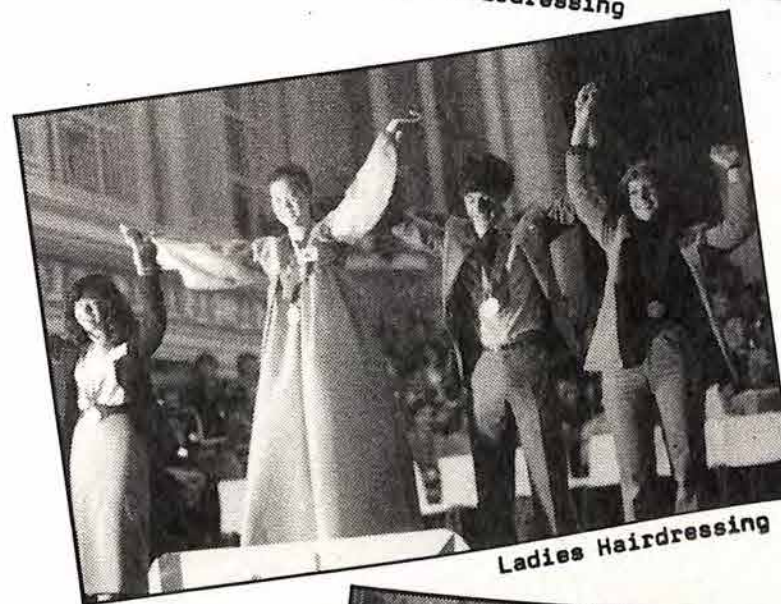
Brickwork



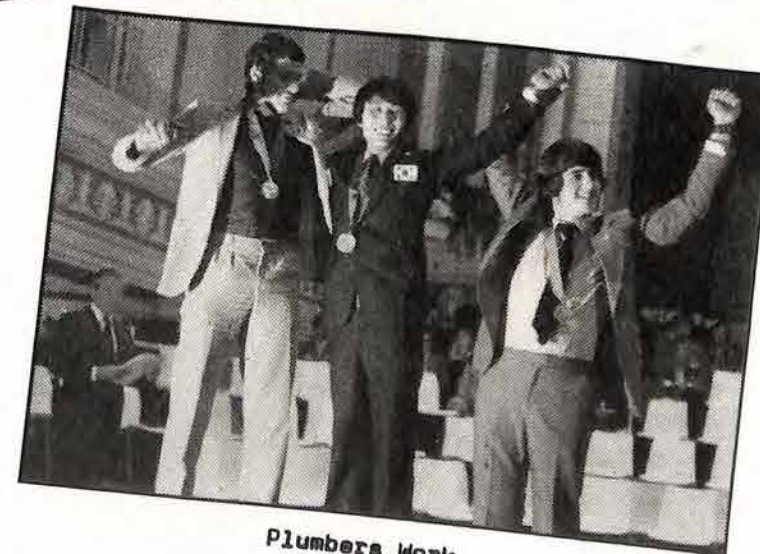
Painting and Decorating



Gentlemen's Hairdressing



Ladies Hairdressing



Plumbers Work



XXVI International Skill Olympics · 1981

To be held in ATLANTA, GEORGIA,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
17 to 30 JUNE 1981

The number of United Kingdom entries will
depend upon the financial support received.

W.W.Norris
Hon. Secretary
South Bristol Technical College
Bristol BS3 5JL