

## Scot in charge at skill Olympics

A GLASGOW college lecturer has landed a "trip of a lifetime" to represent Britain by leading a team of talented apprentices in a worldwide skill competition.

Archie Sharkie of Knightswood, an industrial liaison officer at Springburn College, is the leader of the 26-strong British team competing in the 29th Skill Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

He said: "I aim to make sure that as many Australians as possible learn about Strathclyde colleges and Springburn College as they celebrate their bicentennial year."

Archie is now regarded as Britain's national team manager - he has coached the British contingent at the Skill Olympics since 1965 when it was held in Glasgow.

In 1965 the British team collected 15 medals, but the best "away from home" tally of medals was achieved in Holland in 1968 when our team picked up nine medals.

Mr Sharkie said: "Our aim is to better our away total. Next year the competition will be held in Birmingham and we want to defend as many medals as possible on our home territory."

Of the 26-strong team of apprentices from Britain, only one is from Scotland - Musselburgh born painter and decorator Graham Russell.

In the past it has been the Japanese and Korean apprentices who have enjoyed the most success, but this year Mr Sharkie is confident Britain will bring a big haul of gold and silverware back from Australia.

# COMET CASH S

COUNCILLORS in Inverclyde District will be asked to make a sink-or-swim decision on funding a festival to celebrate the launching of the Comet steamship.

A move to give the organisers £2000 to help Port Glasgow stage the event annually was beaten when the item came before the local authority's leisure and recreation committee.

Now, Labour councillors who voted to make the cash donation have asked that the matter be referred to the full district council for a decision.

Local people got together to form the Comet Festival Commit-

tee last year in order to commemorate the launching of the famous vessel, Europe's first successfully-run steamship.

Its launch in 1812 had previously been marked every 25 years by Port Glasgow Town Council.

But following local government reorganisation, townsfolk themselves decided to re-launch the event which last year attracted thousands of visitors.

And, as a result of its success, the locals now hope to stage the festival each year.

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## Boom time for West Sound

RADIO station West Sound boosted profits by 66% in the last financial year.

The net figure for the year to September 30, 1987 was £152,000, the company's annual general meeting heard.

Chairman Bill Mowat told shareholders: "If our company continues to sustain its pattern of trading growth, it is very possible that shareholders will receive their first dividend in the near future."

"West Sound has become a part of the Ayrshire scene and a vital advertising medium for many commercial businesses."

He added that the purchase of private nursing homes in Glasgow and Ayr had proved to be a successful diversification.

"We anticipate that they will prove to be valuable assets to our company and to the community," he said.



BILL MOWAT

## PUPILS SET TO FACE THE MUSIC

PUPILS at a Glasgow school are breaking into the pop music world this weekend.

The youngsters at St Marnock's primary will be given star treatment when their classroom is turned into a recording studio on Saturday.

Theman\* behind the move is John Scott, lead singer with the Pleasant City group.

John lives at Blackstone Crescent in Pollok, and had the idea of using his

local school - where his nine-year-old son David is a pupil - as the setting for the band's latest single, "Little Stranger"

Head teacher Winifred MacPherson agreed, and arranged with parents to have David and his classmates ready to face the music when the pop group and video crew get the cameras rolling.

"You could say staff and parents enjoy a harmonious relationship at St Marnock's," she said.

## Help for victims

A NEW organisation has been formed in the north of Glasgow to help victims of crime get over their ordeal.

Balornock Victim Support Scheme will be in operation in March.

Founder Janet Conroy and her six counsellors, all local people, have already finished a course involving court visits, learning aspects of insurance, and having talks by police and the Procurator-fiscal's office.

The team have been told by local police to expect 240 referrals a year.