

THE MARCONI FOREMAN'S P.U. - DECEMBER 2013



L to R: Roger Ives, David Chinnery, Ron Bradbrook, David Wheeler, John Andrews, Lawrie Bond, Peter Brisley, Ewan Fenn, Peter Roscoe

Seated L to R: Graham Chorley, Martyn Clarke, John Hazell

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L to R: Dave Wheeler, John Hazel, John Bower, Martyn Clarke, Graham Chorley, John Andrews, Lawrie Bond, Ewan Fenn, David Roscoe, Chris Gardiner, David Webber

Commentary by Ewan Fenn - December 2014

“The Foreman’s P.U. (p**s up as it was affectionately known) was a pre Christmas celebration for the shop floor supervision, consisting of production managers, foreman and charge hands etc. The production director and Sir Robert Telford also attended on many occasions.

I and one or two others from the engineering fraternity were privileged to be invited also. In the good old days there were a hundred-plus attendees and it was held at The Marconi Bowls club in Waterhouse Lane where cheap beer and cheese and onion rolls were consumed in large quantities. The evening was focused around a knockout darts tournament for pairs, played on two boards and went on well past midnight to finish with a winning pair. Great delight was taken on beating the directors team. The prize was a bottle of whisky for each of the winning pair. While waiting to be called to the dart board we played cribbage for small change on individual tables.

A bus was also laid on to pick us up and then take home the inebriates; this started well beyond Colchester (25 miles away) and you can imagine the numerous stops on the way home to drop people off and water the surrounding hedges with used beer.

The bowls club has long since gone in Waterhouse Lane and we now meet at the Marconi Club in Beehive Lane and over the years the numbers have faded to the dozen seen in the photo above.

From memory the evening cost £10 a head and we put 20P in a beer mug to play darts.

Happy days