

icontact

No. 84 August 2022

Strong Start to Q1



Statement by CEO Laxman Narasimhan: "We have made a strong start to the year across all our business units and geographies despite a challenging operating environment. Investments we have made in brand building, innovation, and execution have resulted in broad-based market share gains. These, coupled with pricing and revenue management actions, stand us in good stead to maintain this positive momentum.

As we look to the balance of the year, the operating environment remains highly unpredictable. We are well placed to address these market dynamics through the strength of our brands, our favourable product mix, our productivity programme and the responsible pricing initiatives already undertaken, with scope to take further actions.

Given our strong start, we expect to deliver like-for-like net revenue growth at the upper end of our guidance for the year. We expect adjusted operating margins to be in line with both the prior year and current market expectations, whilst continuing to invest in the long-term growth of our brands."

Skidby Mill



The new venue for the Hull get-togethers (Sails Cafe) sits within the courtyard of Skidby Mill. The mill is located on the outskirts of the village of Skidby, at the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, and, whilst there is a splendid view from the top of the mill, the vista, even from footpath level in the nearby fields, dramatically falls away and overlooks the city of Hull and surrounding villages. The Reckitts chimney at Morley Street can easily be seen as can the BP cooling towers and beyond to the

far east of Hull. Clearly a good site to catch the breeze!

Mills in Skidby have been recorded since 1316 and on the present site since 1764. In the 1820's the present tower mill was built by local millwrights. Cheap Canadian wheat made English wheat uneconomical as it was a much harder grain and couldn't be ground by stones, so in the 1870's the mill was converted to produce animal feed products. Around about this time new buildings were erected around the mill which necessitated the raising of the tower by 20 feet to allow the sails to clear.

The mill remained wind-powered until 1954 when it was converted to electricity. It was worked commercially until 1966 when it was sold to the local council for £1. East Riding of Yorkshire Council undertook a project of

RBPA Committee

The first meeting for 2022 took place on 31st March at the Sibson Arms, Peterborough.

The committee has two meetings per year and it was discussed and agreed that the March meeting would be held via Zoom (which worked well during lockdown) and the September meeting would be a face-to-face meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd September.

Hull Pensioner Visitor

Jayne Gadie has very kindly volunteered to be the pensioner visitor for pensioners in the Hull and surrounding area. Jayne used to work in the Trademarks department based in Hull and, along with her husband Brian, is a regular attendee at the Hull get-togethers.

Contact with our pensioner visitors can be arranged after completing the request form on page 4.

Retirements & Replacements

We are pleased to report that Paul Gilliam and new committee member Jon Sewell have agreed (respectively) to take on the committee roles being vacated by Kevin O'Berg (Chairman and Treasurer) and Trevor Clark (Secretary) following their decisions to retire from the committee and not stand for re-election at the end of the year. Martin Fox has volunteered to be a committee member and in the absence of further nominations will be appointed at the next meeting in September.

Re-election

Paul Gilliam, Gill Morrell and Alistair Stewart are due for re-election in November 2022 and all three have indicated their willingness to continue. Any member of the Association may stand for election to the committee. As provided for in the RBPA Constitution, witnessed nominations can be made on forms obtainable from, and returnable to, The Secretary, Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS to arrive before **Friday 16th September, 2022.**

renovation, converting the mill back to wind-power, and created the Museum of East Riding Rural Life. The mill even had its own "Windy Miller" and freshly ground flour could be bought. The mill is currently undergoing renovations and the return of the sails are eagerly awaited, enabling a return to a fully working wind powered mill.

Information from the Skidby Parish Council and East Riding Museums websites.



Above right with sails and above without.

Get-togethers



As well as photos and reports from the recent get-togethers, these pages give you the venue and contact details for the forthcoming events. If you do plan to attend, please let the organiser know and then they can keep you informed of any changes.

Once again, as a reminder (or a lure!), these get-togethers are funded by the RBPA, so there's no need to bring your purse or wallet!

High Wycombe Paul Gilliam

Your next High Wycombe get-together is at the Paper Mill (Brewers Fayre), Loudwater, High Wycombe on **Wednesday 12th October from 12 noon**. All are welcome. Please contact Paul Gilliam on 01494 562843.

Paul tells us "The first get-together for 25 colleagues from the High Wycombe area was held on Wednesday 6th April. It was a very successful meeting with everyone so delighted to meet up with friends. There were also some newcomers and we were able to bring two former members of Winsor & Newton to the meeting including Margaret Wiggins who wished to be remembered to any former WN employees reading this magazine.

The theme for the meeting was Easter and contributions to raffle prizes from members present were snapped up before the 'official' raffle prizes! Flowers grown by Tony Collier were the first to go! We discussed changing the venue and moving to a pre-chosen meal but this was unanimously voted down.

We had some difficulty bringing the meeting to a close and in fact left a group of seven men led by John Rolls in the restaurant well past the official closing time!

I'm convinced there are many more of our pensioners who are eligible to attend, so please do email me for details of the next event. when we hope that even more will join us after what we hope will have been a glorious summer."



Stan Williams (left front) keeping his group in order



John Rolls (2nd from front on right)



John Walker (left front) keeping his group in order

Norwich Alistair Stewart

The dates for the next get-together is: **Tuesday 11th October at 10:30am**. The venue is The White Horse, Trowse, NR14 8ST. You can contact Alistair by phone on 01603 436391.

Chiswick Chris Mann

The next get-together is booked for **Thursday 20th October** and, if anyone new wishes to come along, please call Chris Mann on 07824 446392.

... in your region

Hull Phil Shearsmith

REMINDER - New venue and new start time.

Due to the permanent closure of the Cheval cafe, the Hull get-togethers have been moved to **SAILS CAFE** which can be found in the courtyard of Skidby Mill, Beverley Road, Skidby, HU16 5TF. The new start time is **10am** but the dates remain the same: **7th September, 19th October and 7th December.**

Phil sends out a reminder one week beforehand, so it's a good idea to let Phil know your email address to ensure that you are kept up to date. Phil's contact details are: Tel 07858 137 178, email phil.shearsmith@gmail.com

Since the last magazine the Hull group have met twice - both at the new venue (Sails Cafe). Estimating numbers for a booking can be a tricky thing and so it proved on 20th April when we made our first appearance at Sails Cafe. Having estimated numbers based on recent occasions, a booking for 12 was made - and it's fair to say we took them by storm when about 25 or so turned up! The cafe managed the situation very well and the attendees seemed to enjoy the new venue and the earlier start time didn't go down too badly either.

We were pleased to welcome two newcomers at the April meeting and hope to see them again at future get-togethers.

The June meeting was a glorious affair with the whole group sitting outside in the courtyard making the most of the sunshine and warm weather - a trip back to the car for a sun hat had to be made by one of our pensioners. There was plenty of laughter and plenty of chat with all sorts of topics coming up - walking the Wolds Way, the Rally club, the Badminton club and Trichology to name a few. *Note: We must remember to get a photo of Phil Shearsmith, our Hull organiser, for the next mag! Information about Skidby Mill can be found on the front page.*



Get-togethers

Sidmouth West Country drop-in

The date for the Sidmouth drop-in is **Tuesday 23rd August**, at The Victoria Hotel (right), The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8RY, starting at 2:30pm. All are welcome to drop in for afternoon tea, cakes and a chat. You can contact Martin Fox by email on martin_fox28@hotmail.com, by phone on 01458 850 468 / 07903 220386, or contact Tony Swell on 01189 691 390.



Bournemouth drop-in

The Bournemouth drop-in went ahead, as planned, on 12th April. It was hosted at the Royal Bath Hotel with five pensioners popping in for plenty of chat over tea and cakes - sadly a few dropped out at the last minute due to Covid complications. The chat at the meeting resulted in an article being put forward by Celia Williams, widow of Dennis, and you can see this on page 6. **A date for the next Bournemouth drop-in will be published in the December magazine.**

Leicester & Nottingham

A note from Lorraine ...

As we mentioned in the last magazine, **Lorraine Muglestone** has kindly agreed to host these two meetings. Lorraine has a small list of names from her predecessor, Brian, of some of the regular attendees. Lorraine will contact all of them and let them know

that the get-togethers will be in October (see details below). She will ring those on the list nearer the time to get firm numbers.

There may of course be others that wish to come along, and for whom Lorraine will not have any contact details, so if you'd like to join Lorraine, please could you contact her on 01159 733753.

Leicester Lorraine Muglestone

New host - same venue

The date for the next get-together is **Friday 14th October 2022 at 12 noon** and the venue is Fox Pond, Glen Rise, London Road, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 4RG

Nottingham Lorraine Muglestone

New host - same venue

The date for the next get-together is **Friday 28th October, 2022 at 12 noon**, and the venue is The Shepherds Stonehouse, Stragglethorpe Road, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2JZ

GDPR & Request for a Pensioner visit/contact

If you would like to be contacted by one of our Pensioner Volunteer Visitors (Covid-19 conditions providing), please complete this form and return it to us at the following address: RBPA c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.

NAME: _____ TEL No: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

...continued

Derby - Don't forget ...

New venue for 2022

Lorraine Mugleston has arranged a **2022** get-together for **Tuesday 13th September at 11:30 for 12 noon**. The venue will be the **Toby Carvery**, Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6LZ.

All pensioners - new and old - are welcome. You can contact Lorraine by phone on 01159 733 753.

NEW VENUE A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our get-together on the 12th April was a huge success. It was great to be able to sit together and chat in comfort whilst also having a lovely meal. The new venue is more spacious and enabled us to move about much more freely following the meal and have a good catch-up with each other.

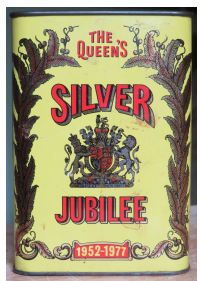
It was especially good to see Malcolm and Cheryl Chapman again along with Alan Ashby, Ian Fraser and Mont Orme. A special welcome goes to David Dolby from Accounts who joined us for the first time.

My thanks go to Joan McAdam for bringing me a beautifully put together photograph album full of memories of days gone by. I'll bring this to the next meeting for you all to see.

I'm looking forward to seeing you again in September - same time, same place - and, if you haven't been before and would like to come, please call me on 0115 9733753, you really would be most welcome.



And here they are - enjoying their time at the Derby get-together.



Her Majesty's Jubilee

Dr Chris Coulson sent in this photo (left) of a large tin of mustard powder - a special edition that celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee back in 1977. Chris tells us that the tin is still full of mustard. (Quite a traditional looking design for 1977.)

You may remember that Chris is also involved in the Friends of Hull General Cemetery and has a particular interest in the Quaker graves where a number of the Reckitt family are interred. Chris tells us that the Quaker burial site is continuing to undergo a programme of renovation.

Do you have any company-related memorabilia?



Dennis Williams July 1926 - December 2019



Dennis at 85 looking across
Llyn Mair in Wales

After chatting to the group at the Bournemouth drop-in (April) and encouraged by Tony Swell and Mike Urry, Celia Williams, Dennis' widow, has supplied us with an obituary for Dennis and some amusing clips from one of the old Reckitt & Colman 1973 house magazines.

Dennis Williams

Born and bred in Castleford, Dennis spent most of his spare time exploring his much beloved Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, on foot or by cycle and sometimes hitching a lift on the early morning milk lorries. At school he developed a lifelong love of music through access to the school's classical collection. After school he worked as an auditor whilst gaining his accountancy qualification through evening school. In 1964 he worked for Hygenol (polishes and cleaning materials) in Leeds.

Hygenol had a Royal Warrant for supplying boot polish used by the Metropolitan Police and Dennis had the experience of attending a dinner for Royal Warrant holders. In 1970 Hygenol was taken over by Reckitt & Colman and Dennis became its company secretary.

In 1972, after the sad loss of his first wife, Eunice, Dennis was moved to the Industrial Division in High Wycombe, where he met Celia at a badminton club and they remained married for 46 years. After recognising his earlier successes at introducing new systems, he was given the task of implementing a new Group Order Processing and Invoice System.

In 1976 Dennis was appointed Assistant Financial Accountant, responsible for the divisional control of Group Financial Services. Dennis joined the working party for the implementation of APCO, the fixed asset system, during which time he enjoyed flying on the company plane to the meetings held at various R&C sites. Dennis was made redundant after the acquisition of the

Industrial Division in 1982 by Cadbury Schweppes (to become part of Jeyes Ltd.) and, relieved that his pension remained with R&C, he took this opportunity to move to Poole for early retirement. Dennis introduced Celia to mountain walking and scrambling in Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland,



Captain Peter Martin (Humber Airways) with Pharma. MD Gordon Myers in the co-pilot seat on the 1973 inaugural flight from Paull Airfield

Mallorca and Norway. She introduced him to birdwatching. He had enjoyed dinghy racing and then progressed to larger cruising yachts, sailing along the French coast and to the Channel Islands. As Dennis suffered some health problems, his adventuring lifestyle became more curtailed but he remained a very down-to-earth and proud Yorkshire man with a fine sense of humour.

Although not listed specifically, Celia believes that back in 1973 Dennis may have been on the first return flight from Hull to White Waltham. On one occasion the flight had to use a local air base and, as the pilot and passengers were waiting to board their small plane, a large American jet took off from a nearby runway whereupon Dennis asked the pilot "How much of a start do you usually give him?"

In the article from the magazine it notes that "Many people find flying an exhilarating experience and this is enhanced in a light aircraft. Also the seat next to the pilot can provide a fascinating journey, although passengers seated here are not encouraged to help." *Our readers have previously described their "enhanced" experiences and also at least one story about helping out in the co-pilot seat!!*

Petrol Crisis?

Our current petrol price crisis hasn't quite got to the stage of grounding planes, but this article - a caption contest from 1973 - is nevertheless very topical.



An Ode to Gaviscon

In 1964 Swedish radiologist Dr. Stig Standmark discovered the benefit of viscosity as a reflux suppressant. Soon after, Gaviscon was available on prescription in Sweden. The two main active ingredients (Sodium Bicarbonate and Sodium Alginate) neutralise excess acid and form the viscous raft that sits on top of the stomach contents. It's the combination of these two ingredients that gives the longer lasting relief that makes this product the number 1 best seller. Sodium Alginate is a sustainably harvested brown seaweed.

*Oesophagitis coming on?
Take a dose of Gaviscon.
Heartburn driving you insane?
Gaviscon relieves the pain.
Are you flatulent at night?
Gaviscon will put you right.*

*Trouble, palpably internal,
With pain and burning, retrosternal?
You could have hiatus hernia,
Don't let gastric reflux bernia;
If it makes your life a bore,
Try Gaviscon, and sigh no more.*

*Gaviscon is safe and quick;
Just one dose will do the trick.
If chocolate's a taste you favour,
You'll enjoy the granules' flavour;
If it isn't, take a hint—
The tablets taste of peppermint.*

*Gaviscon is quite surprising,
Stops your stomach-contents rising;
Early sceptics jeered and laughed
At Gaviscon's "alginic raft",
But, now they know the truth about it,
They wouldn't want to be without it.*

A R Tettenborn

Your Contact

To Serve, To Strive and Not To Yield

Kathleen Cusworth (née Cooper) sent in a letter accompanying a fascinating record, that she put together in 1954, of her time spent on an Outward Bound course for girls at Bisham Abbey, sponsored by Reckitt & Colman.

Her letter tells us how, at the age of 15, she came to work at R&C and was employed as a messenger under the charge of Mr Newton. The messenger team consisted of 3 boys and 4 girls. They sorted the external and internal post into pigeon holes (*remember them?*); the girls delivered the post to the factory and offices whilst the boys, with carrier bikes, delivered parcels and made deliveries to Morley Street and the Canister Works. Kathleen recalls going through the packing room, where lorries were unloaded and loaded, and seeing the Harrison brothers who would tap dance on the metal box in order to keep warm in winter! Kathleen says, "I could go on about the wonderful memories that I have of working at Reckitts, the youth club, the day school, dancing and swimming, but my main reason for writing is because in 1954 Betty Smelt and I were told we had been chosen to go on the Outward Bound course of which the late Duke of Edinburgh was a Trustee, Chairman and then Patron from 1953. The course lasted 4 weeks and was held across September and October. Reckitts paid for our travelling expenses and the contribution we would have made to our parents." Mr Clappison, head of the day school (at Reckitts), had asked Kathleen to

record an account of her experiences. Kathleen says "it's not a masterpiece by any means, but the memories and the girls I met came flooding back and I couldn't

bear to throw it away. My years at Reckitts are where I grew up and made wonderful friends and memories ... what a great firm Reckitts was to work for, and the values learnt."

We think Kathleen is very modest about her little booklet - it is truly a most fascinating piece of social history, offering a glimpse into that period of time. Below are some extracts that give a flavour of the information contained within ...

At the start of the course, "Miss Keeble welcomed us and directed us to our bedrooms, ours being 'Boars Hill'. We climbed the spiral staircase (which we didn't discover until after that it was also the one the ghost uses on her 2am jaunts) and settled in."

"Next came the lesson everyone had been looking forward to eagerly - riding. Mr Pincher and his assistant, Kathleen, took us out into a field with the horses and we were shown how to mount, dismount and trot."

Later, after choosing to specialise in canoeing, Kathleen records "My second choice was riding, it would have been my first, unfortunately I came off and from then I had an entirely different feeling towards horses."

Having chosen canoeing, it seems that the girls were involved in actually building canoes (though they didn't use them). They were also shown how to do the 'Eskimo roll', rolling right over in a canoe and pushing yourself upright again by pressing the blade of the paddle in the water. They practiced capsizing the boats and climbing back in, but, as Kathleen says "October is no month for swimming in the Thames".

They did get to launch one of the canoes they had made and they had a private launching.

"The boat was called 'Plums and Carrots' - this unusual name came about because we had plums and carrots for one meal practically every day".

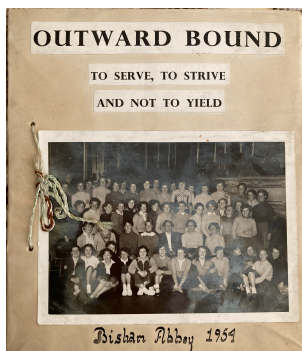


Top: Jean Roberts, Kathleen, Margaret Siddle, Wendy Pickering,
Bottom: Cynthia Shelley, Margaret Batmead, April Hall and
Cynthia Barton

One night they took on the challenge of "defending the abbey" from blackened-faced teachers who were trying by stealth to gain access and ring a bell. The girls triumphed as not one staff member broke through.

Other activities including walking, map reading, camping and making meals outdoors. Of one meal Kathleen says "The next morning it was warm but it was raining - our fried bread and tomatoes tasted quite nice with rain". They had film shows at the Abbey and walked to the cinema in Marlow. Puppet making, puppeteering and drama were also a popular activity. Kathleen tells us "Mr Morley had made us a puppet theatre and we got together in groups to do little scenes. One girl had made a skeleton puppet and I and three other girls sang 'Dry bones' whilst it danced up and down the stage". On the last night a performance was put on by the girls and included displaying the puppets, singing songs and performing charades. Two parents and 56 others, mostly from the village, were invited and enjoyed the show.

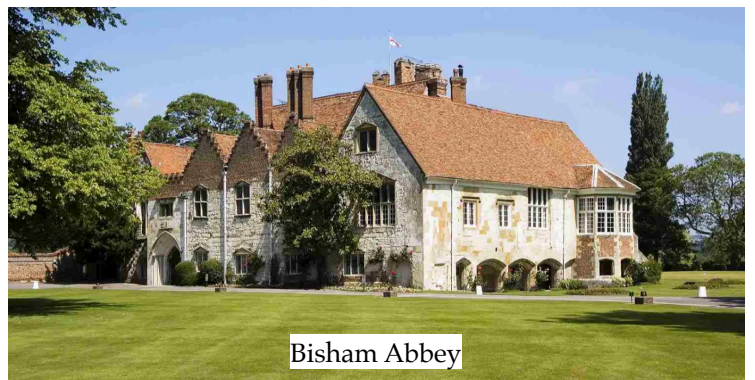
Kathleen closes with this reflection, "At 8:30am the next morning Betty and I said goodbye to Bisham Abbey, our home for the last month. What had Miss Keeble said? 'Don't get too upset about leaving, girls, after all it's only been 26 days out of your life.' Had it though? I wonder - would we ever make 50 more friends in 26 days and would we ever sing another hymn without remembering the mornings where we stood together by the Thames with those friends - I wonder."



Colours - Bletchley

Bob Suttley wrote in to tell us about his time at Reckitts Colours division at Bletchley. He says that he has worked in innumerable jobs but the twelve and a half years spent at Reckitts was the best experience he could have wished for. Bob thinks the company deserves respect and is so glad it's doing well.

His letter goes on to tell us about a large concrete tank that was being built in order to turn slurry into clean water to be dispensed into the river. Two men drilled down a number of 10 metre holes. Bob asked if they'd brought up any fossils and apparently after 6½ metres it was full of them. It showed water from the sea had covered it and was a blue grey silt. It was believed that the flood water went back some 4000 years. Bob tells us he could be a day or two out!



Bisham Abbey

Your Contact

Cricket Club Halcyon days

1969-1973

Peter Bacon wrote in to tell us

about the cricket club: "March 1966 - sitting at my desk in the old Shipping Department, I was invited by the then Chairman of the Cricket Club to take up the Captaincy of the 1st eleven from the late, great Albert Bowers, who had been a prolific sportsman, particularly Rugby League, and in fact had played for Hull FC and represented England at international level. A hard act to follow indeed!

I accepted the challenge and said I would be captain for a few games to see how it went. I ended up as captain for the next 17 seasons (except for one season, when illness prevented me from playing)! Over the next three seasons the team was strengthened with some very talented players to the extent that from 1969 to 1973 the 1st team were the East Riding Division 1

champions for those 5 consecutive seasons - a feat never to be beaten by any other Club.

The most successful season was 1973, when, as well as the league championship, several cup competitions were won, amongst which were the Sir Henry Seymour King Cup, the James Down Bowl and the Leven Invitation Cup (see photo).

Yes, indeed, those were halcyon days for the 1st Eleven, a period during which I was proud and privileged to be skipper. However, it does sadden me, when going past the site of the old 'REC' these days, to see it is now a mishmash of houses planted right on the old hallowed turf I used to run on to bowl!

Yes, I will always remember those successful, happy days but cannot believe that it was over 50 years ago! Where do the years go?" (Indeed!!)



East Riding Amateur League Div. 1 Champions 1969



Back row: R. Gibson, P. Gibson, D. Mackay, A. Moulds, A. Towle, C. Tyson, E. Atkinson
Front: J. Saville, L. Turner, P. Bacon (Capt), C. Hockney, B. Rudd

The editorial team sends a big **THANK YOU** to all of those who took the trouble to write in and share their interesting stories.

OBITUARIES

Once again we are sad to record the deaths of our pensioners and former colleagues, who are listed in these columns.

NORTHERN

Hull: (age) service years

- Dennis Arksey (94) 45
- Pamela Irene Emily Arnott (69) 3
- Gordon H Bray (94) 46
- Michael Leonard Cross (78) 32
- Leslie Elsworthy (88) 19
- Gordon Ernest Foster (86) 25
- John Charles Green (67) 13
- Kathleen Greenley (76) 29
- Sonia Jenkinson (85) 9
- Stella Kitching (83) 16
- Barbara Lamb (90) 41
- Marlene G Mulholland (83) 20
- David Ian Robinson (69) 14
- Anthony Michael Shelley (78) 16
- Joseph William Toft (82) 25
- Brian Lindsey Wilson (83) 11
- Joan Winship (91) 22

EASTERN

Norwich (Staff):

- Gordon William Baxter (93) 41
- Eric Trevor Hart (85) 28

- John Milton Lipitch (92) 22
- Geoffrey Moore (91) 17
- Maurice Oxley (91) 19
- Margaret G West (78) 29

Norwich (Works):

- John Alan Baker (81) 29
- Roy Melvyn Chapman (76) 22
- Leonard Charles Dowe (92) 48
- Lester Jack Elvin (88) 28
- Russell W Manning (79) 22
- Maurice Ephraim Moore (96) 6
- Ronald Kenneth Smith (93) 11
- Arthur Robert Tollett (86) 11
- Brenda Pauline Whiting (86) 26
- Richard Victor Williams (79) 10
- Robert Charles Williams (74) 14

SOUTHERN

Chiswick/Windsor/Slough:

- Wilfred Richard Cass (97) 29
- George Roger Chadwick (89) 27
- David Brian Lutkin (74) 5
- Michael John Otter (86) 30
- Margaret Plumridge (90) 30

- Janice Ryan (75) 21
- John R Watson (93) 9

OTHER

Stevens/Lowestoft

- Michael Roy Wickert (89) 43

Colours Bletchley

- Josephine Ann Gammon (77) 3

Expatriate

- Andrew C Scott (78) 26

Stockport/Kay Bros/Platt

- Derek Brokenshire Smith (98) 36

Page/Tottenham:

- Anonius J A Van Welie (79) 14

Reeves/Leicester:

- Raymond Leslie Wells (93) 44

Wealdstone:

- Mary Augusta Cabey (87) 9
- Lionel Shapiro (78) 4

This magazine is produced by the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association, Dansom Lane South, Hull, HU8 7DS.