

DWARF NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Dwarf Owners Society of Great Britain

No Dwarfs were harmed in the making of this publication

EDITORIAL

Welcome to December's edition of 'Dwarf News'. As this is the last issue before Christmas, the nominations are included for readers to vote for the male and female Dwarfs of the Year, and of course to choose who will be given the Society's prestigious 'Dwarf Keeper of the Year' award.

November has seen astonishing developments in the story of the old printing press, and after the completion of an investigation carried out by the Society, and the Dwarf Keeper Royal's evidence to the enquiry, we name the guilty party. There is the return of Sports Diary to look forward to, and a fascinating article in the Colour Supplement by my wife, about hand knitting socks.

Our lead story concentrates on a tragic accident in Oxfordshire, at the home of Eric and Jane Von Smith. The staff all wish to express their sympathies to Jane, for her sad loss.

AUTHOR BADLY HURT IN FATAL ACCIDENT

Eric Von Smith, controversial author of '*Chariots of the Dwarfs*', has been killed in an accident at his home, just three days after returning from France. The author had been staying at his villa on the Cote D'Azure, in order to finish the manuscript for his second book, '*Interstellar Voyages of the Dwarfs*'. His wife Jane is reported to be devastated by the loss of her third husband, less than two months after the wedding. She agreed to talk to 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie, three days after the tragedy.

"Eric was very happy with the new book", Jane sobbed. "He was looking forward to it being published next year". She then went on to give details of the accident.

"Eric and I had finished dinner, and I was taking him upstairs, to help him get ready for bed. While he was in France, the builders had finished the modifications to the house, to make it easier for Eric, with his disability. I fitted his wheelchair to the new stair lift, and pressed the button to send him up to the top landing. We had used it for the previous two nights, and everything was fine. This time, something went wrong".

Police who carried out an investigation have determined what happened next. A police spokesman told 'Dwarf News' that as the stair lift began to ascend the couple's butler and security expert, 'Masher' De Vere Hopkins, pointed out that it was starting to get dark. He asked Jane if he should turn on the electric fence, installed by the author after the attack, which put him in a wheelchair, nine months ago. Having been asked to carry on,



Mr Hopkins opened the door to the cupboard under the stairs, and threw the switch, which connects the generator to the fence. There was a flash, and twenty thousand volts of electricity shorted across to the motor on the author's stair lift. The wiring began to smoke, the fuse box melted and the electric motor exploded five seconds later, but by then it was too late. The stair lift accelerated up the stairs, going from two miles an hour to an estimated one hundred, in three seconds. Although it came to a halt at the top, unfortunately both Mr Von Smith and his wheelchair didn't. The author went through the upstairs hall ceiling, shot across the attic, and smashed his way through the underside of the roof. As he was now approximately forty feet above the ground and still traveling at a considerable speed, he eventually came to earth one hundred and fifty yards away, after passing through a large beech tree. Police had to call on the Fire Brigade, in order to recover the wheelchair from the remains of the tree for forensic examination.

Apart from Jane, who was standing at the bottom of the stairs, the only other person to witness the accident was former Floodlit Dwarf Racer William Bigger, who lives with the couple as a gardener. He was outside at the time, and saw the controversial author exiting the house through the roof. "He came out knees first, or at least he would have done, if he still had kneecaps", Mr Bigger told the police accident investigator. "He was still screaming, right up to the point when he landed in the compost heap". William, who gave up a promising career as an electrician in order to become Britain's premier Floodlit Dwarf Racer, told Sophie that Mrs Von Smith has been crying for the last three days. "Luckily, after the old 'Dwarf News' printing press was delivered to Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society last month, we kept the tarpaulin that was used to cover it up for the journey. Masher and I have fixed it over the hole in the roof, to keep out the rain. It works a treat", he added.

As Jane divorced her second husband, the former 'Dwarf News' office boy Harry Collins, in August, she has now been without a Dwarf for more than the three months allowed, and must resign from the Society, thereby losing her job as Assistant Editor. Under the circumstances, the Society has decided to grant her a three-month extension. "If I didn't have my work, and William to look after, I don't think I could keep going", she told Sophie. Staff at the paper held a collection for the widow, and raised seven pounds fifty-two pence, and two polo mints.

Editor's Note – For the headline on the above article, the Senior Print Technician has received a third, and final, written warning. This has gone into his file along with his first and second written warnings, given for hiding in the cubicles of the ladies lavatory, and lying on his application form.

DWARFS AND DWARF KEEPER OF THE YEAR

As the end of another year approaches, it is time once again to choose the Dwarfs and Dwarf Keeper of the year. The nominations are as follows:

Male Dwarf of the Year. The nominations are:

Charles Longfellow, (Deceased). Charles lost his life trying to adjust the steam pressure release valve on the old 'Dwarf News' steam press. If he had not managed to complete the adjustment before he fell, the rise in pressure could have caused the boiler to explode

and destroy the entire building, although this would have saved the Society a great deal of money, as it had to be demolished anyway.

William ‘Super Dwarf’ Bigger. William is nominated for the courage he has shown in overcoming his addiction to methylated spirits. He has started a new life, after the death of his owner, Lady Felicia Crumble.

Harry Collins. Mr Collins has become a very famous Dwarf, thanks to his career in advertising as a product endorser for B&Q’s extensive range of own label buckets.

Female Dwarf of the Year. The nominations are:

Maxine Small, (Deceased). The first female Dwarf to commit Upsy Daisy, and a martyr to the cause of radical Dwarf feminism.

Minnie Small. The former radical Dwarf feminist is nominated for a stunt she pulled in the prison library, while on remand. It involved a male prison officer, an offer to provide a service, which, at three feet nine inches, she was the ideal height for, and an electric pencil sharpener.

Auntie Rachel. Little is known about this mysterious figure, apart from the fact that she is the head of Pink October, an organization dedicated to raising money, some of which goes to charity.

Dwarf Keeper of the Year. This year, all the nominations are for female Dwarf Keepers. They are:

Jane Longfellow/Collins/Von Smith B.A. For her determination to remain a member of the Society, and her dedication to the Dwarf world. (Jane has also been nominated by the readers of ‘Play Dwarf’, as Play Mate of the Year).

Lady Felicia Crumble, (Deceased). For her sterling efforts to clean up the sport of Floodlit Dwarf Racing, and her achievement in getting the event included in the Dwarf Owner’s Olympics.

Minnie Small. The only person to be nominated in more than one category, since joining the Society under an exception to rule four. Once again nominated for the reason given above.

Jackie Bruce. For her services to women of all heights. She finally married her Dwarf, Simon, thereby taking him off the Society’s list of eligible Dwarf bachelors, although he was quite close to the bottom. (Quite close? If he were a football club, he’d be relegated to the Vauxhall Conference League. – Ed).

Editor’s Note - Readers who wish to vote for any of the above are requested to contact the office no later than 28th December.

FORMER 'DWARF NEWS' PRESS MAY BE OLDEST SURVIVING EXAMPLE IN WORLD

Mr Richard Arbuthnott, the owner of Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, expressed his gratitude to 'Dwarf News' after Sophie arranged for the original engineer's installation drawings of the old steam press to be sent to her at the Bodger's Arms, Middle Whallop, where she had been staying for the last week. These drawings were made when the press was fitted into the old 'Dwarf News' office building in nineteen hundred and three, after it had been moved from its earlier location at the paper's former home, the old debtor's prison and lunatic asylum at New Stratton. "Doesn't anyone know how old this thing is?" asked Mr Arbuthnott, on being told that the Society's records only go back to eighteen twenty-three. "It must have been built as a hand operated press, and converted to steam by the Victorians. The main frame is actually built of seasoned oak, and held together with wooden pegs. One of our volunteers is a retired marine historian, and he reckons the joints and tool marks on it are contemporary with the 'Mary Rose'. Where it has got nuts and bolts, they look as if the threads were cut by hand". Sophie asked him what sort of tools would have been used to cut the threads. "If it were any older, I'd have to say a flint hand axe", he replied. Mr Arbuthnott was particularly impressed by the brass nameplate affixed to the main steam supply pipe. "We cleaned it up last night, and it says 'Ye Olde Printing Press', see? They knew it were fookin' old when they built it", he told Sophie. (In fact, the plate was made and fitted in nineteen eighty-seven by Charles Longfellow, as a test piece for his apprenticeship. It is good to know that he left his mark on the old press in more ways than one. – Ed)

He was also taken with the firebox's genuine seventeenth century Adams fireplace, though records show that this was purchased from the man who fitted the press into the office building just after the turn of the last century. Apparently, it classes as an earlier addition. The engineer's drawings were originally sketched on the back of an old envelope by the man who fitted both press and boiler, a Mr Jeremiah Nupple Senior, believed to have been a dealer in scrap metal. "He sure as fook wasn't a steam fitter", Arbuthnott told Sophie, after studying the drawings. "Look, the idiot's fitted it with the steam pressure release valve seven feet up, right over the top of the main print roller. I'm surprised some poor bastard didn't end up half an inch thick trying to adjust it. So, how exactly did it kill someone, then?"

Experts have since identified the boiler as coming from an early railway locomotive, built by Richard Trevithick in eighteen hundred and four. It was previously thought to have been destroyed many years ago. "I can't believe someone didn't realize what they'd got here", Mr Arbuthnott told Sophie. "When the news got out on the grapevine, the phone went mad. People are saying it's worth a fortune, one museum were talking about making an offer that ran into seven figures. Whoever sold the whole lot for a fiver was either an idiot, or somebody's trying to pull a fast one".

As the Dwarf Owners Society of Great Britain owned both the old office building and contents, it appears that they have lost an asset worth a fortune, and the Dwarf Keeper Royal has promised a full investigation. It is confidently forecast that heads will roll.

ENQUIRY INTO DISPOSAL OF OLD PRINTING PRESS CONCLUDES.

The Dwarf Owners Society of Great Britain has published the result of an investigation into how the old 'Dwarf News' printing press, parts of which may date back to the sixteenth century, was sold to a scrap dealer for a fiver. The press is now the property of Assistant Editor Jane Von Smith, who purchased it for twenty pounds. It is being refurbished, and will become a working exhibit at the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society. Jane has told the enquiry that she intends for it to be a monument to her first husband, Senior Print Engineer Charles Longfellow, who died after falling into the main print roller earlier this year.

The press, now at Middle Whallop, has been the subject of several enquiries from museums, who have offered to pay seven figure amounts in order to secure it for their own collections, however Jane has stated that it is not for sale. As both the press, and the old 'Dwarf News' office building where it had been installed since nineteen hundred and three, belonged to the Society, they have lost a valuable asset.

"The building has been demolished, and the site sold to a property developer. The money raised from the sale of the site has helped to finance the paper's move to the new premises, but the Society are still out of pocket", the Chair of the Finance Committee told the enquiry. "If we had been able to sell the press, we would now have a very healthy bank balance. Instead, we are looking at having to raise member's subscriptions for the fourteenth year running".

The investigation has suggested that the scrap dealer who removed the press from the building, Mr Sidney Nupple, was aware of its value. "We have found that it was originally installed by his Great Grandfather, Jeremiah Nupple Senior, when it was moved from the old debtor's prison at New Stratton just after the turn of the last century", the Chair of the enquiry reported. "We also point to the efforts Sidney Nupple made to get it back, after he discovered that his son, Julian, had sold it for twenty pounds while he was having a dinner-time drink at a nearby public house. If further proof were needed, members should refer to the Court Diary in last month's 'Dwarf News'. No sane man would insert a one and three-eighths Whitworth spanner into his son's rectum, unless he was extremely annoyed about something".

The enquiry spoke to Jane, who told them that after receiving a threatening telephone call from Mr Nupple, her late husband's butler and personal assistant, 'Masher' De Vere Hopkins, had been to the scrap yard to talk to the owner. "Mr Nupple claimed that he'd already sold it to someone else, and that Julian didn't know this, but when Masher spoke to him, he hadn't got any paperwork to prove it", Jane told the enquiry. "I remember that his son, Julian, showed me a receipt from the Society, saying they accepted five pounds for the press, with all its fixtures and fittings. It was signed by Sidney Nupple, and the chair of one of the committees, but the signature was blurred, and I couldn't make out the name". The enquiry later contacted Mr Nupple, demanding that he produce a copy of the receipt in question. He claimed to have "lost it".

Jane told the enquiry that she had no intention of returning the press to the Society. "You sold it as scrap, after it killed my first husband. The owner of Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society said it was a deathtrap. He was amazed that it had only killed one

person. He told me that the idiot who installed it wasn't a proper steam fitter. If the Society hadn't been trying to get things done on the cheap back in nineteen oh three, my first husband would still be alive", she told the enquiry. "I'll ask the Steam Society to put a collecting box on it, to raise money for the Society, when it's all finished. Maybe you'll get a few pesetas and the odd shirt button, and a couple of polo mints". It was obvious that Jane had still not forgotten the collection among 'Dwarf News' staff, after her first husband's funeral.

The last person to give evidence was the Dwarf Keeper Royal. He pointed out that he had no idea the press might be worth a fortune. "It had just been condemned by Health and Safety", he explained. "A few days later, the Environmental Health Inspector told me the whole building had to be demolished because it was a health hazard to the area, due to the rats. The demolition firm said they wanted the press shifted, before the building could come down. I was very busy at the time, getting everything ready for DwarfFest '04, so I contacted the Chair of the Awards Committee, and asked her if she could deal with it. I know she rides an old motorbike, I've seen it parked outside her house. It was obvious from looking at it that she must have got it from scrap yard somewhere, so I thought she must have the number of a scrap metal dealer". The Dwarf Keeper Royal then produced an e-mail, re-produced below, and sent on the twenty-sixth of April this year. "When I sent it, I accidentally selected the 'Dwarf News' distribution list, instead of the personal address of the Chair of the Awards Committee, so a lot of the paper's readers will have seen it", he told the enquiry's Chair.

Subject: Printing Press

Dear Chair, Awards Committee. Well done in this difficult post, which has so often been tainted by scandal in the past. Did you know that, in the Society's history, no less than eight former Awards Committee Chairs have gone on to become Dwarf Keeper Royal? We have to remove the old press from the building before it can be demolished, and as you ride a classic motorcycle I thought you would probably know a reputable breakers, who might also be a scrap metal dealer. If you could phone him and make arrangements, both I and the Society would be most indebted.

Regards

Tony, Dwarf Keeper Royal.

The Dwarf Keeper Royal went on to inform the enquiry that he had received no reply, but that in late July, the police had told him that the dead engineer's hammer had been found under the boiler, when it was being removed prior to the demolition. "I hadn't given the matter any further thought, so when I heard that the boiler had already been lifted, I naturally assumed that the Chair of the Awards Committee had made the necessary arrangements. She must have contacted Mr Nupple, to have the press moved. I have always thought she could be trusted to arrange this sort of thing, on behalf of the Society. With hindsight, that may not have been wise. I am appalled that we have lost a valuable asset, which, if sold for it's true value, would have secured the Society's financial future for many years to come. I still feel, against all the evidence, that the Chair of the Awards Committee was not intending to split the enormous profit from the sale with Mr Nupple. Rather than believing that she has been dishonest, I would prefer to believe that she has

merely been incompetent. If this is the case, I am sure that she will do what is expected, and resign from the Chair of the Awards Committee. I am reluctant to suspend her membership for three months, but under the circumstances, I feel that I have no choice”

The Chair of the enquiry is now waiting to hear from the Chair of the Awards Committee, for a possible explanation.

‘Dwarf News’ decided to contact Doctor Leon Cannarbis, Principle Reader of the Newly Established Department of Political Infighting at Merkin College, Cambridge, and ask for his comments. Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie volunteered to ride her moped to Cambridge, after she was cautioned about the Doctor’s reputation for providing extra tuition to female students. “My mother warned me about men like him”, she told the Editor. She brought back a letter from the Doctor, which is published below.

Dear ‘Dwarf News’;

I am not surprised to hear that, when the shit hit the fan, the Chair of the Awards Committee was standing at the front. I would suggest your readers refer to the article I wrote, on the ‘Fall Guy’ system of politics, in your August issue. In it, I chose three Chairmen to watch over the coming year. One of them was the Chair of the Awards Committee. As I recall, she got the appointment after winging about a decision by the previous holder of the position. My guess is that she has been set up, and then done over like a kipper. I still have a few places left on my next course, starting in the New Year. If she contacts me, I can put her name down. She would be in the same class as Piers Morgan, who used to be the Daily Mirror Editor, and Ian Duncan Smith. He used to lead the Conservative Party; although most people have now forgotten he even exists.

Yours truly,

Leon Cannarbis.

The Editor asked Sophie how she got on with the Doctor. “He was very nice, after he gave me the letter, he invited me up to his rooms, and made me a nice hot cup of tea”, she reported. “Unfortunately, when he sat next to me on the settee, the cup slipped off the saucer, and landed in his lap. I think he was quite badly scalded”.

DWARF KEEPER ROYAL ‘CONCERNED’ REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH OF AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Dwarf Keeper Royal has admitted he is worried about the Awards Committee Chair’s state of mind, after ‘Dwarf News’ was given access to a private letter, sent to her

by Doctor William Bodkin. Doctor Bodkin is in charge of the Little-Known Department of Dwarf Psychiatry at Merkin College, Cambridge.

“I received an e-mail from her, in which she stated that ‘life was shit’. Zena has always struck me as sailing a little close to the wind, mentally speaking. It may be that the strain of the enquiry into the disposal of the Society’s old printing press has finally caused her to capsize,” he told the Editor. “Of course, it could also be the result of a guilty conscience”.

The letter is reproduced below.

MERKIN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
THE LITTLE KNOWN DEPARTMENT OF DWARF PSYCHIATRY.

10th November 2004.

Dear Zena:

The Dwarf Keeper Royal has asked me to write to you, as he is concerned for your mental health.

Firstly, you seem to have misunderstood the words ‘Dwarf Psychiatrist’. In my case, this does not mean that I am a Dwarf myself, rather that I specialize in the treatment of Dwarfs. I merely decided to concentrate my efforts in this field after qualifying. The only famous Dwarf psychiatrist to my knowledge was Zygmund Fraud, (4ft 3in). There are very few Dwarfs who are practicing psychiatrists, as they cannot see their patients on the couch, unless they have something to stand on.

As a psychiatrist, I am concerned by your statement that ‘Life is Shit’. As I understand it, you are a reasonably mature woman in her mid thirties. Most normal people have already arrived at the conclusion that life is shit by the time they are four, though at that age, most of them do not have the vocabulary to express this sentiment, unless they are fortunate enough to live on a council estate.

My diagnosis is that you are a classic case of arrested development. If it has taken you this long to reach a conclusion that most people have already come to terms with by the time they start primary school, then you are either not paying attention, or you have led a very sheltered life.

If this is the case, then let me be the first to welcome you to the real world, and suggest that you try to get out more. The best advice I can give you is to sort your fucking life out. I would also recommend that you read my book, *Four Questions of Life, With Answers Included*, published by Merkin College Press, and available from the college by mail order.

Yours sincerely,

Dr William Bodkin, Head of Department.

Willm. Bodkin, GF, SRCCP.

(Graduate Fellow, South Rock College of Clinical Psychiatry, New Mexico).

COURT DIARY

Police have arrested a group of young female Dwarfs in London, and charged them with 'Bricking'. As the owners of male Dwarfs who live in the capital are well aware, this involves the young female Dwarfs painting a Dwarf flap on the door of an empty house, and then chasing a male Dwarf up the street concerned, by banging two bricks together. The unfortunate male sees the Dwarf flap, and attempts to run through it to find safety. He promptly knocks himself out, and wakes up to find his wallet is missing.

This relatively harmless pastime has now taken a sinister turn, and some owners claim they have lost many hundreds of pounds in stud fees. Police are to be congratulated for their initiative in apprehending the culprits after the latest attack. A spokesman told 'Dwarf News' that they had contacted the nearest hospital, and were told that during the evening a short female had attended the Casualty department, with two broken thumbs.

The suspects have been released on bail, and are due in court next month. Rest assured that 'Dwarf News' will be there, to bring you the full story.

Editor's Note - Some readers may be surprised that even a show winning male Dwarf is only worth hundreds, rather than thousands, of pounds at stud. It must be appreciated that Dwarf breeding is not an exact science, as due to continual interbreeding with taller people, there are no pure bred Dwarfs left. Even breeding two Dwarfs who both have Dwarf parents does not guarantee Dwarf offspring, and it is not unknown for two tall people to suddenly throw a Dwarf.

SPORTS NEWS

The Dwarf Indoor Leapfrog season has got off to a good start, with last year's champions winning at home to Hertfordshire Hoppers. The match went to the Lancashire Leapers by thirteen ends to eight, and the Leapers are looking to be in good form.

In the other match of the weekend, Peterborough Pogogs were drawn against the British Naturist Dwarfs Over Sixty Unisex Leapfrog Display Team. The Dwarfs from Peterborough won convincingly, after the naturists failed to finish in several heats. The team captain apologized to the fans. "We really need a lot of vitamins at our age", he explained. "The problem is that we haven't got any pockets to carry them in".

Preparations are under way for the Australian Mixed Height Tennis Tournament, due to start in January. The British team will fly out after Christmas, to give themselves time to get used to the hot weather. The event is a team competition, and Britain is hoping to do well. The event starts with the taller persons singles, followed by the Dwarf singles. The most eagerly anticipated matches are always the mixed height doubles, played in the second week.

The International Federation of Dwarf Owners has warned the American team that if any of their players test positive for highballs, the entire team will be disqualified. This is believed to be a reaction to the large number of competitors who tested positive at the recent Dwarf Owner's Olympics. As a result, the Americans are expected to select their shortest players, so the other nations involved are all feeling confident. French Dwarf

Armand Cognac has confirmed that he will miss the event. He is still suffering from a groin strain, after winning the Paris Dwarfs Open at the end of October. "I should never have tried to jump over the net afterwards", he told 'Dwarf News'.

PROBLEM PAGE

Once again, Grandmother of five Auntie Linda gives personal advice to a reader with a relationship problem. This month, a letter from a lady looking to upgrade her Dwarf.

Dear Auntie Linda,

I have disguised who I am, due to the sensitive nature of my problem. You see I would like to know how to trade in my old Dwarf.

I've had him now for a number of years, and have found rather than growing upwards, he has only grown outwards, and this is causing me all sorts of problems.

I have since found a slighter model, and am really happy with all aspects of the relationship (his previous wife had already purchased one of the Dwarf neutering kits, thank god).

Are there any re-homing opportunities within the Society? Or what should I do?

Yours
'Confused Dwarf Keeper'

Dear 'Confused Dwarf Keeper';

Of course there are ways to solve your problem. Although the Society does not, at present, have an official re-homing department I am sure that you will find that Sophie, Secretary/Junior Report Without Portfolio, will be more than happy to coordinate any offers you may receive from interested ex-keepers – a small charge will be made for this which will go towards funding a rescue centre for unfortunate Dwarfs like the bereaved William Bigger.

However, let's get back to your immediate problems. I have to assume that your Dwarf was somewhat more sylph-like when you first became involved with him; after all, you would not now be worried about his girth if it had not expanded considerably over the years. I know we can all suffer from middle-aged spread (at any age) but that this can be alleviated by careful diet and exercise; and, of course, we all know that our Dwarfs have a rotund physique by their very nature.

If you thought that this outward growth would come between you why have you not cared for him better? Less quaffing and a healthier nutritional regime could easily have

halted his expanding waistline. A little more attention to detail where his dietary needs were concerned could have saved all this anguish; and what's the point in getting a 'slighter model' when you will probably neglect him in the same way. Will you continue to fatten up and then part-exchange your Dwarfs each time their physical excesses make them less appealing to you thereby setting up an obvious self-fulfilling? Of course, you could always try a well-made corset, which many Dwarf owners and their charges find not only solves the growth problem but also adds a certain frisson to their personal lives. A leaflet is available giving details of gentleman Dwarf specialist tailors offering a made-to-measure service.

Let's assume that you have taken all this into consideration and still cannot see a way to resume a happy owner/Dwarf relationship. It would be best to sit him down and calmly tell him that, taking all aspects into consideration; he is about to become a single Dwarf again. Be gentle for despite their outward appearance Dwarfs have a very sensitive nature, as illustrated by Mr Bigger's rapid decline into drunken guttersnipe after the death of his keeper. Do not lay the blame on his expanding waistline because it is obvious there are many more problems here that you have not discussed in your letter; and tell him you will be helping to ease his transition with the help of both the Society and, in particular, Sophie. Then pack your suitcase and flee into the arms of your new Dwarf while you can still get your arms around him!

We all wish you luck but, in case this isn't enough, you can contact me through the office of 'Dwarf News', and I will send you a sheet detailing the special dietary requirements of a Dwarf to keep them happy, healthy and active in the most delicate area of your relationship.

Auntie Linda

COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

Last month's competition to win an exclusive 'Dwarf News' T-Shirt attracted a large number of entries. Most entrants went for the most obvious answer to the question, 'What is the last thing that goes through a fly's mind when it hits a train?' however Dwarf Keeper Alex decided to baffle the Editor with science, and sent the following:

Very sorry, but you are all wrong. All of the above theories wrongly assume that the extraneous structure of the fly remains intact, and accelerates equally during the duration of its collision with the train. In fact, in the initial collision with the windscreen, the front of the fly immediately assumes a liquefied state that accelerates to the speed of the train, but also expands in all directions along the plane of the windscreen out from the point of impact in a splatter effect, with the greater portion traveling in the direction of the airflow.

The Editor was duly baffled, and has chosen the above as the winning entry.

A close second was the entry from Grim the Cyber Dwarf, which is also reproduced for the amusement of readers.

Usually I'd say it was its bum, however in light of recent events it could be a naked gay pub chef with suicidal tendencies sat in his car on a level crossing with the engine turned off.

SUPPLEMENT

This month's Colour Supplement, finally printed on the correct shade of green paper, features an article on the art of hand knitting socks, by the Editor's wife.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR, FROM THE SENIOR PRINT TECHNICIAN

Dear Editor:

By the time you read this issue, it will be too late to do anything, as it will have already gone out to our readers. If you think I'm going to waste coloured paper on some rubbish about socks, which you're only including to keep your wife happy, then you are sadly mistaken. I read it, and it was the most boring article I have ever seen.

I hereby resign. You can take your three written warnings, wrap them round your job, and stuff them where the sun doesn't shine. I have got a new job, as Assistant Senior Print Technician, with a reputable daily paper. The pay is three times the pittance I get from 'Dwarf News'; there are paid holidays, and better hours. I will be doing a job I can be proud of, helping to bring people the news that really matters, instead of the trivia, smut and innuendo that you call a newsletter. Please send my P 45 to me, along with last month's wages, care of The Daily Star, Fleet Street.

Please note that the headline, "Author Badly Hurt In Fatal Accident", is factually correct. You can't be more badly hurt than Eric Von Smith. He was very badly injured in the accident, before he died. According to the witness, William Bigger, he was still screaming right up until he hit the compost heap. You can't smash your way through a ceiling, a roof, and a beech tree, without getting badly hurt. The original title for the report, as received in the print room, was "Author Killed In Bad Accident", for goodness sake! I much preferred my version. I would like to point out that he wasn't killed in the accident; he died afterwards. According to the pathologist, his fall was actually broken by landing in the compost heap. The death certificate said he suffocated, due to being buried up to the waist, head down, in horseshit. I'm not surprised that no one was in a hurry to get him out, considering the smell. He must have broken the crust on the way in.

The last time Jane dropped into the office, she said to me that Eric told her he had always wanted to live in Warwickshire, and they were thinking of selling up and moving. It's sad that he never made it, but the stairs in their house did point north, so at least he died heading in the right direction.

Yours truly,
Wilf Smith

'Dwarf News' (ex) Senior Print Technician.

LATE NEWS

Former radical Dwarf feminist Minnie Small has married her Dwarf, Harry Collins, in a private ceremony at Little Hampton Registry Office. The couple, who are living in the old home of 'Dwarf News' Assistant Editor Jane Von Smith, asked Floodlit Dwarf Racer 'Lightening' Larry Rogers to be the best man. He was pushed to the wedding in a wheelchair, by one of the nurses. Minnie asked 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie to be the bridesmaid. After the ceremony, 'Lightening' Larry was heard to ask Harry Collins about Sophie. "Are you sure she works for 'Dwarf News'? I thought she was a doctor", he is reported to have said.

In a further late breaking story, the French team for the Australian Mixed Height Tennis Tournament, due to start in January, have announced the name of the Dwarf chosen to replace their star player Armand Cognac. He is Marcel Bouffant, (4ft 2in). The British coach has announced that our own team have been given the use of the Dwarf Owners Olympics Team's high-tech titanium stepladders, which helped to secure victory in the Lady Dwarf's Basketball contest earlier this year.

COMPETITIONS PAGES

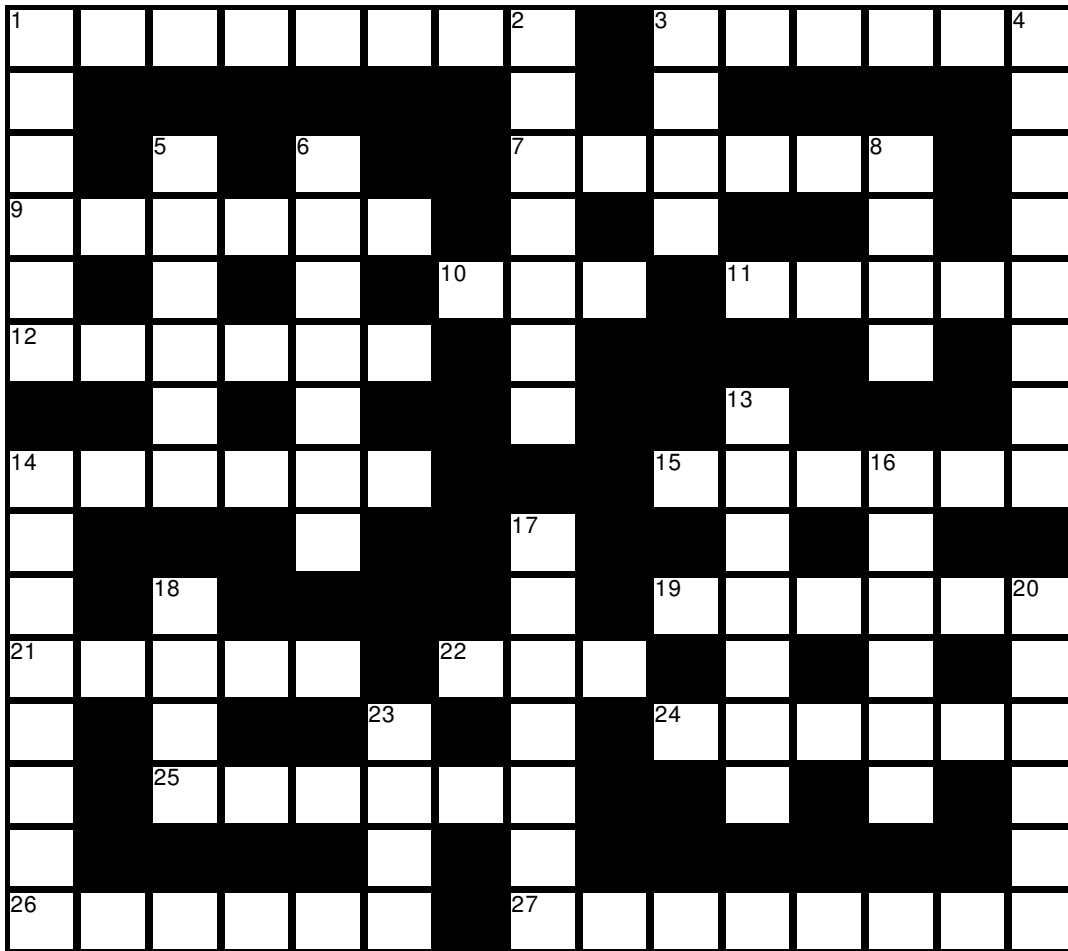
What better way to relax after your Christmas dinner, than to sit in front of the fire with your Dwarf at your feet, and have a go at the 'Dwarf News' competitions? The names of the winners will be published in February's issue. A T-Shirt goes to both winners.

Simply take the first letter of each answer, and re-arrange to come up with a person associated with the Dwarf world.

- 1/ Type of sisterhood, definitely not old! (3,3)
- 2/ She raises money, some of which goes to charity. (6,6)
- 3/ It marks the spot! (1)
- 4/ Surname of 'The Inflammable Dwarf'. (6)
- 5/ On the Dwarf's home world, it grew on trees. (7)
- 6/ Ancient ritual suicide method of the Brotherhood. (4,5)
- 7/ Middle name of controversial author. (3)
- 8/ Owner of a wool shop, now demolished. (5)
- 9/ Home of the leprechaun. (7)
- 10/ Male Dwarfs hate them! (6)
- 11/ First name of 'Super Dwarf' Bigger. (7)
- 12/ Kind of male Dwarf involved. (5)
- 13/ Transatlantic dwarf Owner's group. (1,1,1)
- 14/ First man to launch a Dwarf into space? (8,2,5)
- 15/ A pair of little women? (3,5,7)
- 16/ Another type of sisterhood. (7)
- 17/ Go to Little Hampton, if your small one hurts. (9)
- 18/ Name of final event at Floodlit Dwarf Racing. (4,5,8)
- 19/ First name of much married Assistant Editor. (4)
- 20/ First name of number seven. (4)
- 21/ Black and white again? It's all his fault. (6)

The Editor will send a 'Dwarf News' T-Shirt to the first winner drawn from the hat in both competitions. Answers to the usual address by 31st December 2004.

The Editor's decision is final.



ACROSS

1. Oliver's mate mixed up with rear appendage, then sunk. (8)
3. Small step for a Dwarf? (6)
7. Classification of Jane's 'Play Dwarf' centerfold. (1,5)
9. Do this with Dwarf's life before Upsy Daisy? (6)
10. Film title is perfect score. (10)
11. Young male one involved? (5)
12. Perform operation but mind your thumbs! (6)
14. Small Spanish coin. (6)
15. Dwarf's favorite tool. (6)
19. Little angel! (6)
21. Swear them regarding blood. (5)
22. Very tall person without soldier makes small insect. (3)
24. Do the honorable thing. (6)
25. Floodlit Dwarf activity. (6)

26. You could win one! (1,5)
27. Envy, no why? Run away with young lady to send home. (8)

DOWN

1. Mixed up lion with blood (6)
2. Highest ever score? (7)
3. Jump. (4)
4. There is an exception to it. (4,4)
5. Editions. (6)
6. Takes into custody. (7)
8. Like Lady Felicia? (4)
13. Gives you money from bank? (7)
14. A hole in the collection? (4,4)
16. Dwarf slang for toupee. (6)
17. Famous Aussie Dwarf. (7)
18. Dwarf's enemy mixed up in dark sky. (4)
20. Hooked elastic. (6)
23. Before Upsy Daisy, go on a special one for three weeks. (4)