

## A NOTE FROM THE SOCIETY

The Editor has been dismissed; his place has been taken by the former Sports Editor.

The Deputy Editor has been dismissed, after the conclusion of the Society's investigation into the publication of a hoax issue of 'Dwarf News' sent to readers on April the first.

As the paper is running out of editorial staff, the Dwarf Keeper Royal has reluctantly agreed to the promotion of Assistant Editor Jane Von Smith B.A. who has resumed the position of Deputy Editor. He has also authorized the employment of a temporary secretary to cover the absence of Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie, who is on sick leave. Her name is Tracy, she is blond, and comes from Essex.

# 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 this, the May issue of 'Dwarf News'. There is much to report from April, as it was a very busy month at the office. We have the full story on the Society's investigation into the publication of a fake issue sent to members. We also report on the dismissal of the previous Editor, over financial irregularities. We reveal the truth regarding the Von Smith Diaries, and publish the results of the Fire Brigade's investigation into the explosion at Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, which sadly destroyed the old 'Dwarf News' printing press.

I would like to welcome Jane Von Smith B.A. back as Deputy Editor, a position she held in the past, before she was moved to Assistant Editor last year, after the death of her first husband.

'Dwarf News' Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie has become an in-patient at the infirmary of Merkin College, Cambridge, where she can be under the constant supervision of her doctor, famous Dwarf psychiatrist Doctor William Bodkin, head of the Little Known Department Of Dwarf Psychiatry. Doctor Bodkin has asked us to mention once again that he is not a Dwarf himself. "If someone tells you they are a mental nurse, you wouldn't expect them to start foaming at the mouth, would you?" he told our reporter.

### AUDITOR'S REPORT LEADS TO DISMISSAL OF 'DWARF NEWS' EDITOR

The Society's auditors, who are responsible for completing a review of the paper's accounts for the last financial year, have discovered major discrepancies in the books. "All the various accounts are short, including both the Staff Pension Fund and the Staff Benevolent Fund. Indeed, as far as we can ascertain, the Benevolent Fund at this time consists of five pesetas, two buttons and a polo mint," the Chief Accountant reported to the Society. "Our investigations have revealed that the Editor has been raiding other sources to cover a large shortfall in the expense accounts".

The auditors spoke to new Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith B.A. who revealed that the Editor told her in December of last year to fly first class to Australia and back, and to stay in a five star hotel, while covering the Australian Mixed Height Tennis Tournament. Mrs. Von Smith also gave the auditors a tape recording of the telephone call concerned, which she made to the paper between Christmas and New Year. Jane told the auditors

she was under a lot of strain at the time, after her third husband, controversial author Eric Von Smith, died in an accident at home. “I recorded the phone call, so I could remember exactly what was said,” she explained. “When I heard while I was in Australia that William Bigger, the former Floodlit Dwarf Racer, had inherited a large sum of money, I realized that my place was at the office, where I could help to report on this and other stories of interest to our readers. I put aside my personal grief and flew home as quickly as possible to help. In order to get back to England in the fastest possible time, I had to charter a small business jet to make a connection at New York. I would have paid for this myself, but the Editor had told me to put all my travel costs on my expense account.” The auditors have praised Mrs. Von Smith for her dedication to the paper, and her offer to refund the Society for the cost of her airfares. She has told the auditors she will do this as soon as she receives a sizeable cheque from the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, after the loss of the old ‘Dwarf News’ Steam Press. This unique example of England’s industrial heritage was destroyed in an explosion at Middle Whallop Junction Railway Station, where it was on display after a complete rebuild. The amount is expected to run into seven figures.

## FORMER EDITOR ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH VON SMITH DIARIES

A team of experts from Merkin College, Cambridge, has concluded after exhaustive study that the Von Smith Diaries, which have been offered for sale to interested parties including ‘Dwarf News’, are forgeries. Professor Hugo Darkley B.A. Senior Lecturer in Applied Dwarf Lore, told the new Editor that although the diaries and research notes were printed on the correct ultra-thin economy paper that Eric Von Smith was known to use before he became a rich man after the publication of his work ‘*Chariots Of The Dwarfs*’, the forger had made a basic error. “Whoever was responsible was obviously familiar with Von Smith’s work and prose style, however they made the stupid mistake of continuously spelling the word ‘Dwarf’ with a capital ‘D’, possibly through force of habit. Von Smith always used a small ‘d’ whenever he referred to Dwarfs, indeed this was partly why he annoyed so many of our shorter brothers and sisters, and is one of the reasons so many groups swore blood oaths to break his kneecaps”, Professor Darkley explained.

The professor went on to explain that scientific analysis had shown that all the papers were printed on the same machine. “We don’t have a chemistry department, but one of our female students has a boyfriend who is studying chemistry at another college in the town. She told us that he was willing to borrow the keys to one of the labs, and could run tests on the papers if she was willing to act as his lab assistant”, he told our reporter. “The tests showed that although the papers were printed in a variety of type faces, they all used the same ink. Although it looked black, the tests revealed that the ink on all the tested pages contained three parts per million of light green ink. We were also told that the printing appeared to have been done on an ultra-modern printing press, rather than a home computer”.

The experts suggested that the forger was probably acquainted with the Dwarf world, had access to a computer and a state of the art printing press that had once had its black ink supply filled with light green ink, was desperate to make a lot of money in a short time, and was in the habit of writing the word 'Dwarf' frequently. "If you can find somebody who fits that description, then you are probably looking at the guilty party", the team advised the Society.

Officers from the Serious Fraud Squad have since arrested the former Editor, and charged him with forgery. "We suspect that he intended to use the money from selling these documents to cover a short fall in the accounts for the previous year, before the auditors noticed that large sums of money were missing", a police spokesman told reporters at a press conference. The former Editor has been released on bail until his trial, set for later this year.

Meanwhile, the papers are being held by the police for evidence, and previous parties who claimed ownership are said to be no longer interested. These parties include Mr. Von Smith's widow, 'Dwarf News' Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith B.A. and former Floodlit Dwarf Racer and recovering meths addict William Bigger, who purchased the author's home after his death. The papers are expected to go to the Alien Life Forms Department of the University of California at Los Angeles after the trial, as they seem to be the only party still interested in acquiring them. **(A researcher for the university, when contacted by 'Dwarf News' last month, claimed that you could never have too much really thin paper. – Ed).**

## YORKSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE CONCLUDE INVESTIGATION INTO EXPLOSION AT STEAM MUSEUM

The forensic team charged with determining the cause of a large explosion at Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, home of the former 'Dwarf News' Olde Printing Press, have concluded that the devastation was the result of a tragic accident. An extract from their report is included below.

The team have also revealed that they have still failed to find a second body in the remains of the engine shed, believed to be that of Mr. Fred Clegg, a volunteer at the museum. Mr. Clegg was reported missing by his wife, after he failed to come home for three weeks. The body of the proprietor, Mr. Richard Arbuthnott, was recovered last month, and later identified by the chain on his pocket watch. A post mortem has shown that the cause of death was a fractured skull, probably caused when Mr. Arbuthnott's flight through the air after the explosion was prematurely terminated by his collision with the boiler of a nineteen hundred and seven 0-4-0 steam shunting locomotive in Thomas The Tank Engine livery, which was parked in the shed at the time.

"Although little remains of the 'Dwarf News' Olde Printing Press, as the oak frame was destroyed in the fire that followed the explosion, we have recovered the Steam Pressure Release Valve from the roof of a cottage, one hundred and fifty yards away from the museum", the forensic team's report states. "Our investigators have been told by other members of the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society that Mr. Arbuthnott, the

museum's owner, personally removed this item from the press, and gave it a thorough inspection, before re-fitting it to the press in a different position. **(The valve was originally fitted seven feet up, directly above the main print roller. – Ed).** The valve has three pipes, the inlet and outlet pipes, which feed steam at full pressure to the printing press, and a vent pipe, which allows steam to escape if the pressure in the boiler rises above a safe level. Unfortunately, when the valve was re-fitted, it was connected up backwards. We realized this when we noticed that a length of lead vent pipe was connected to the inlet union. This would go undetected in normal use, as a skilled steam engineer like Mr. Arbuthnott would not, in the usual way, allow a boiler to reach a pressure high enough to operate an emergency pressure release valve. This would be considered a waste of effort, coal, and of course money, and Mr. Arbuthnott was, after all, a Yorkshireman. This would explain why the press had been used before in it's new home without mishap.

On the Sunday morning of the explosion, we believe that Mr. Arbuthnott was firing up five or six boilers, to get ready for the opening of the museum to visitors at ten o'clock. Although we now know that he was assisted by Mr. Fred Clegg, who's body we are still looking for, if he was getting up steam on so many engines, he must have taken his eye off the pressure gauge on the old steam press. The boiler on this engine was just over two hundred years old, having originally been constructed for the first Trevithick steam locomotive. Mr. Arbuthnott and his companion would have relied on the pressure release valve venting any excess pressure to protect the boiler, however it could not do this, due to having been re-fitted the wrong way round".

Norwich Union Insurance Company have informed Mrs. Gladys Arbuthnott, who acts as treasurer to the Preservation Society and was married to Mr. Arbuthnott for thirty-five years, that they accept the findings of the Fire Brigade's experts and will pay out in full. As the old press was the most valuable exhibit in the museum, and was owned by Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith B.A. she has been told to expect a cheque for approximately three point seven million pounds from the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, as soon as the funds from Norwich Union have cleared. In expectation of this, Jane has been contacting local estate agents with a view to buying a large property in the area, to set up home with her latest fiancée, French Dwarf tennis star Marcel Bouffant. Jane partnered Marcel to victory in January's Australian Mixed Height Tennis Tournament. The couple are at present sharing a home with another of Jane's ex husbands, former 'Dwarf News' office boy Harry Collins and his wife Minnie Small-Collins, the one time radical Dwarf feminist, and their baby daughter. As the house is a semi-detached two bedroom former council house, conditions are believed to be a little cramped. **(Mr. 'Masher' De Vere Hopkins, Jane's butler and a former bodyguard to the stars, is believed to be living in the shed. – Ed).**

## DWARF NEWS SECRETARY DISCHARGED FROM NUTHATCH

Sophie, the 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio, has been discharged from the exclusive Nuthatch Private Mental Health Facility. She is now living as an in-patient at the infirmary of Merkin College, Cambridge. Her doctor, Dwarf psychiatrist William Bodkin, who heads the Little-Known Department of Dwarf Psychiatry at the

college, has told 'Dwarf News' that he has revised his earlier diagnosis that Sophie is "As nutty as a walnut whip".

Sophie was admitted to the Nuthatch late last month, after Assistant Editor Jane Von Smith, now promoted to Deputy Editor, became concerned for her mental health. "Sophie has been acting strangely since Christmas, and all the staff were quite worried about her. Every time she wore a different wig, she seemed to almost become a different person", Jane told Dr Bodkin, who she first met when she was a student at Merkin, studying for her B.A. in Applied Dwarf Lore. Jane, who discovered the secretary crying in the staff toilets after everyone else had gone home, initially suspected that Sophie, who does not appear to have a boyfriend, had fallen out with her landlady, a woman in her fifties with iron gray hair and sensible shoes. Sophie however, told Jane that she was having problems at work. "She said that she was spending hours trying to cover up the mistakes of the other two," Jane told staff. "When I asked her who she meant, she claimed that Sophia the red head was totally irresponsible, and wanted to spend all her time getting drunk at parties, while Sofia was inclined to answer all enquiries to the paper by telling the other party to 'fuck off and die'. "She says she has been spending all her time at the office sorting out the mess left by the others", Jane explained. "I decided to take her home with me, and let her sleep on the sofa. In the morning I went into the bathroom, and found Sophie trying to shave her chin with one of my ex husband Harry's razors. When I asked her what she was doing, she told me that her name wasn't really Sophie, and she wasn't a girl. She claimed that her real name was Matt, and that she had posed as a girl to get her job at 'Dwarf News'. We all know Matt at the office, he's actually Sophie's identical twin brother, he won the award for Best Dwarf Boots, (Male), at Celebrity Dwarf Simon Bruce's wedding last year. Sophie has him listed as her next of kin. I was so worried, I telephoned him to ask him to come and see his sister, but when I dialed his number, a mobile in Sophie's handbag started ringing. I called Dr. Bodkin instead, and asked him to help. He came round to the house, spent five minutes talking to Sophie, and had her admitted to the Nuthatch as a patient."

Local police have since put out an urgent call for Matt to contact them as soon as possible, however he appears to have vanished. "We are concerned for his safety. It's not unknown for people to murder close family members, and then suffer a mental breakdown," a police spokesman told reporters. "We have begun a search for the body, however we are trying not to jump to conclusions this early in the enquiry. We will want to talk to Sophie, as soon as her doctor tells us she is well enough to answer questions".

Doctor Bodkin is said to be delighted with his new patient. "As a psychiatrist, I spend all my time dealing with people who basically don't have anything wrong with them that can't be cured by a swift kick up the arse. We all hope to one day find a patient who is really mentally ill. If my present diagnosis is correct, I don't just have one patient, I have four of them". He told the Editor in a phone call. "This case is causing uproar in the profession. Other psychiatrists are arguing over whether what we have here is one person with four different personalities, or if we actually have four different people all sharing one body. This is obviously a very important question to my colleagues. If Sophie is, in fact, four people, then they would want to send four separate bills. If what we have is actually one person, with four different personalities, then which one should they send the bill to? Obviously, if they send a bill to the wrong person, one that doesn't really exist, then they're not going to get paid at all. If they can't work out the answer soon,

half of them are going to end up having to be treated by the other half, leaving no-one to look after the patients.”

Doctor Bodkin has told us that Sophie has settled in well at Merkin College infirmary. “We had some initial problems when she demanded four separate rooms, one for each of the three girls, and one for Matt. I told her this was out of the question, and we eventually compromised on one room with three separate wardrobes, and a shoebox under the bed for Matt to keep his underpants in. We had to send a transit van to her lodgings to pick up her clothes; I’ve never seen so many shoes in one place, except maybe a branch of Etam. The van had to make a second trip, to collect her make-up”.

The doctor has also told us that although he has met all three girls, he has yet to meet Matt, the male member of the quartet. “Sophie is around most of the time, and seems to be the dominant personality. Sophia comes out whenever there is a party, or a bottle of alcohol left unattended. She is not happy that the college bar is still closed for repairs. I have glimpsed Sofia twice, she appears to only come out at night, and wander around the college grounds. Oddly, she seems to have struck up a friendship with Leon Canarbis, the Principle Reader of the Newly Established Department of Political Infighting at the college. Matt, if he exists at all, is probably totally smothered by his three ‘sisters’, who do seem to have quite strong personalities”.

The ‘Dwarf News’ staff decided to send a ‘Get Well Soon’ card, however we were unsure who to send it to. Eventually we decided to send four separate cards, one to each of them. As a previous Editor had bought a job lot of cards to save money when staff were off sick, all four cards were identical, with a picture of two fluffy kittens on them. Sophie sent a letter, thanking us for our card, and promising to be back at work as soon as she can. Sophia the redhead wrote back, and promised to throw a party as soon as she gets out. Sofia returned her card to us. Where the card had read ‘I Hope You Get Well Soon’, she had crossed out the last three words, and written ‘Fuck Off and Die’ in crimson lipstick. She had also used a cigarette to burn out the eyes of the kittens. We are still waiting for a reply from Matt.

In a related story, we are pleased to report that Brita, the twenty-five year old wife of college Principle Professor Smythe, (87), gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl, on the twelfth of April. Mrs. Smythe, a former Danish exchange student and part-time lap dancer, is recovering at home in the college. She is reported to be eager to return to work.

Brita told our reporter that she has been in contact with Cambridge police, after certain personal items belonging to her went missing from the laundry. A police spokesman has confirmed that they are investigating. “We have had cases like this before in colleges, where items of lady’s underwear go missing, usually from washing lines. In this case, however, the underwear seems to have been taken from the laundry basket, before it had been washed. Since we began our investigation, several members of the college domestic staff have also reported having items go missing. We have also been told by one of the female students that she is missing a pair of knickers and a bra, although as she is a student, it’s likely that she has just forgotten where she left them. Even without the student’s clothing, we are still investigating the disappearance of a large quantity of unwashed women’s underwear. We are looking for a very sick individual here. We may have to send in sniffer dogs”, he explained to our reporter.

## CAMBRIDGE POLICE “BAFFLED” AFTER BREAK-IN AT TOP GOVERNMENT RESEARCH LABORATORY

Police in Cambridge are investigating, after a reported intrusion at a top college in the town. The college is home to a laboratory funded by the government, which is believed to carry out testing procedures on drug samples in major police investigations. “Someone gained access to the laboratory at night, and used the equipment to conduct a full analysis of an as yet unidentified substance. After the tests were conducted, the people responsible deleted the computer records of the tests, so all we can be sure of is that they were in the lab for around four hours. They even made themselves two cups of tea, using two beakers, a glass flask and a Bunsen burner”, said Inspector David Peel.

Owing to the sensitive nature of some of the tests carried out in the laboratory on behalf of certain government departments, police are “very concerned” that people can gain access to the premises, without apparently having to break in. “It’s going to take weeks to get the computer in the lab up and running again, they deleted any records of their experiments by wiping the hard drive”, the Inspector revealed. “Whatever they were testing, they have managed to contaminate the entire lab with it. There are minute traces of a black material, possibly some sort of ink. It sticks to anything it comes into contact with like shit to a blanket. We can’t tell exactly what the substance is, due to this being the only laboratory in Cambridge with equipment good enough to run a full test, and our best estimate is that the lab will be out of action for at least a month. It’s going to cost thousands of pounds to replace the contaminated equipment, and get the computer working again”.

When asked by reporters if the police had any suspects, Inspector Peel replied that the most likely perpetrators were students. “Of course, there are thousands of the bastards in Cambridge, so apart from there being two of them, and at least one of the pair being female, we are really up shit creek without a paddle. We are sure one of them was female, as we found a pair of knickers and a bra discarded in a waste paper bin. I suppose we could always traipse round every college in the town, asking all the female students to try the bra on, until we find a girl that it fits”, the Inspector added. “It worked in ‘Cinderella’”.

## TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES WITHDRAWAL OF AUTOMATIC DWARF NEUTERER

The Dwarf Owners Society Of Great Britain’s Technical Department, headed by Dwarf Friend Chris Straw, has had to withdraw it’s new device, after a box of the exploding seat buttons went missing from the department workshop. “They need further development”,





Chris told 'Dwarf News'. "It looks like we're back to the old two bricks and a pair of thumb guards for the foreseeable future".

It is believed that the buttons may have become mixed up with a consignment of normal seat buttons held in stock by local motorcycle seat refurbishers Vinyl Wizard, a business in which the Dwarf Keeper Royal is believed to have a financial interest. Last month the company was forced to put out an emergency recall notice on custom seats they had covered over the previous four weeks. They asked that customers should post the seats back to them as soon as possible.

The company reports that they have not yet received any seats for checking, however they have pointed to the local post office as being responsible for this. "Our nearest sorting office has been closed, due to a spate of suspected letter bombs, after three sacks of mail spontaneously exploded earlier this month", a company spokesman told 'Dwarf News'.

## COURT DIARY

Mrs. Cecelia Dunworthy, a Dwarf Keeper and member of the Society, has been found guilty of grievous bodily harm and sentenced to six years in prison, after she pleaded guilty to a charge of throwing her Dwarf and husband of twelve years, Harold Dunworthy, out of the bedroom window of the couple's fifth floor flat. In mitigation, her solicitor Mr. Hari Patel, of Patel, Cohen and Crunge, explained that Mrs. Dunworthy had been acting on the advice of 'Dwarf News' relationship counselor Auntie Linda.

We are pleased to report that Harold is now out of intensive care, and is undergoing physiotherapy at Little Hampton Hospital. "We are hopeful that he will make a partial recovery over the coming months, he is now able to drink with the aid of a straw, and go to the toilet without medical intervention. He has a perfectly normal bowel movement every morning at around seven-thirty", a doctor from the hospital told the court. "Unfortunately, he doesn't wake up until eight o'clock, but we're optimistic that a change of mealtimes will sort out the problem".

Mrs. Julia Muffin, formerly employed as a cook at Half Street Police Station, has lost her appeal after being fined one hundred pounds for destroying evidence. She has also lost her claim for unfair dismissal, after being sacked for feeding the station's officers two dishes made with giraffe's testicles.

Her solicitor, Mr. Hari Patel, has told reporters that he is considering taking the case to the European Court Of Human Rights. "We are more likely to get a fair hearing in Europe than we are in England", Mr. Patel has stated. "After all, they eat just about anything over there, from snails to horses, so the judges are going to be more sympathetic to our case."

## SPORTS DIARY

French Dwarf tennis star Marcel Bouffant has taken up residence in England, to be with his new fiancée, Deputy Editor of 'Dwarf News' Jane Von Smith B.A. The couple are

staying with Jane's last husband but one Harry Collins and his family, in Jane's former home. They are looking for a large property in the area.

Preparations are under way for The British Dwarf's Open Golf Tournament, due to be played next month. Competitors from Europe and America are booked to play in this year's event. The tournament will take place in Scotland, at the world famous Saint Andrew's Golf Course. As all of the competitors are short in stature, and some weigh less than six stones, members of the Royal Family have been asked not to land helicopters on the greens for the duration of the tournament, in case some of the competitors are blown off their stepladders by the downdraught.

## PROBLEM PAGE

As Mrs. Cecelia Dunworthy, who last month threatened legal action against Auntie Linda, has been sent to prison for six years after being found guilty of throwing her Dwarf and Husband, Harold, out of a fifth floor window, we welcome back the problem page.

Relationship counselor and Grandmother of five Auntie Linda writes exclusively for 'Dwarf News'. This month's letter comes from a Dwarf Keeper who is worried that her marriage may be on the rocks.

*Dear Auntie Linda;*

*After twenty years of marriage, my Dwarf seems to have hit some form of mid-life crisis. Last year he bought a small motorbike to get backwards and forwards to work. I don't like motorbikes, but it saved petrol, and meant I could have the car for shopping. Three months later he took lessons on a large bike, and passed his motorbike test. He promptly bought himself a great big red Italian bike of some sort, which does stupid speeds, and drinks petrol so quickly, he really needs his own oil well. He has to stand on a box to get on it. I decided to let him carry on; it kept him happy, and got him out of the house, so I didn't keep tripping over him.*

*He has now joined a local motorcycle club, and goes out every Wednesday night. I stay at home and watch the television, as I don't like motorbikes.*

*He and all his new friends go off to rallies at weekends, where they stay in muddy fields and get drunk while listening to loud music. He has asked me to go with him, but as I don't like motorbikes I stay at home.*

*There is a young girl in the motorbike club who likes to go to rallies, but she doesn't have her own motorbike at the moment, so she has to go on the back of someone else's. As I don't go with my husband, he always has an empty seat, and gives her a lift. Due to his bike having a small seat, he has told me that*

*with two people on it, there is not enough room to carry two tents, so he lets his passenger share his tent at weekends.*

*While I trust my husband, I don't particularly trust the young lady, as I have found out she is called Tracy, is blond and comes from Essex.*

*Do you think I should trust him, or should I start worrying?*

*Yours faithfully,  
Doris Lemming.*

Dear Doris

Yes, I have to agree with you, I believe that your husband has reached a mid-life crisis but I feel that his interest in motorcycles is a symptom and not the cause. Most born-again bikers have had a fascination for them since they were young (often before they can reach the foot rests) and come to motorcycling after their family has grown to independence leaving them with more disposable income. I have to say I would be worried if my Dwarf was unable to get on his bike without a mounting block and would recommend that he sees a manufacturer of custom motorcycles with a view to creating a lower sitting position, perhaps a chop<sup>1</sup> of some kind would be suitable.

However, as I see it you have two choices in this matter and neither of them really hinge on whether or not you can trust either Tracy or your husband. Firstly, before I discuss these choices there are a couple of things that I need to point out about the tone of your letter. There are a lot of "I" statements here: I don't like motorbikes (three times), I didn't keep tripping over him, I don't go... I trust my husband, etc, etc. The tenor of this information makes it seem that you feel he is doing these things to go against your feelings and wishes in this situation and deliberately aggravating you.

You also infer in your first paragraph that once he decided to go against your wishes ("I decided to let him carry on,") you washed your hands of him and stepped back completely from his life outside your home. He has invited you to rallies and would, apparently, be quite happy to introduce you to his friends but you prefer to watch television and stay home alone during rally weekends. At this point, I have two views of you as a person: you are either both incredibly boring and stuck in your ways; or you are trying to punish him for enjoying his new hobby. From what you've said in your letter I don't think he cares either way.

So, you must be asking yourself, what are my two options? First, you must think about why you keep repeating your mantra of "I don't like motorbikes". Is this something that you were taught as a child, that bikes and bikers are not 'likeable' things? I am assuming that it is not because you have had a bad experience involving one and so, as an ex-motorcycle instructor myself, I will

give you the same advice that I gave all doubtful spouses and parents: have a go! Take the Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) – it's only one day and you could probably do it on a Saturday when your husband's away <sup>2</sup>. You already have a full driving licence and are happy in a car so such things as gearing and road awareness will come naturally to you. Your instructor will take you through all the steps necessary to become proficient enough to ride on the road and you might actually enjoy it!

Having done this you can then make a truly informed decision as to whether or not you really "... don't like motorbikes". You may be surprised at the sense of freedom even a 125cc motorcycle will give you – even better than a sports car in the summer with the roof down. And believe me when I say that age is no barrier to this kind of thing.

You could then join your husband on his weekends away, leaving Tracy to find another lift and tent to share; or you may find that you'd rather ride your own bike and Tracy could go on the back with you while your Dwarf takes two tents! If you really want to keep your husband then this is the course of action that I would recommend. Not so you can regain control over every aspect of his life but so that you can share in it and, once again, become an active partner in this marriage.

The second option takes much less effort on your part and so might be your preferred choice. Pack your husband's belongings (carefully, you understand) and have them waiting in the garage when he next returns from a weekend away. Explain when he returns that you no longer wish to continue with the marriage and he must move out. I suspect that he will be quite happy with this arrangement under the present circumstances and that his fellow bikers, including Tracy, will be more than pleased to extend the hand of friendship while he finds his own place to live.

And finally, I assume that neither of you are particularly old by today's standards, this being so I have one final piece of advice for you, Doris Lemming: FOR GOODNESS SAKE, WOMAN, GET A LIFE! Before your life gets so dull that, like your namesake, you feel like throwing yourself off the nearest cliff.

Kindest regards

*Auntie Linda*

<sup>1</sup> Please note that I do NOT mean the kind normally recommended by the Editor.

<sup>2</sup> I'm sure the Editor will be able to furnish you with a suitable introduction to a reputable Motorcycle Training School.

## SUPPLEMENT

This month's supplement, printed in black and white after the Society's auditors recommended that it should no longer be printed on green paper in order to reduce costs, contains the report to the Society by the Special Investigation Committee set up to identify the individuals responsible for a spurious edition of 'Dwarf News'. The issue concerned was sent to readers on the first of April this year. The Committee was chaired by former Dwarf Keeper Ivor Smallpiece, who holds the honorary title of Dwarf Friend.

### SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee has discovered that the 'Dwarf News' office computer was deliberately put out of commission by the perpetrators, in order to prevent the real April issue being sent to members on time. The hoax issue that replaced it was printed on 'Dwarf News' equipment before the computer was disabled. Readers should note that the hoax issue could not have been printed at Middle Whallop, on the old 'Dwarf News' steam press as claimed. Firstly, the press concerned had been equipped with a set of letters in Old English type, which was not used on the issue concerned; secondly, the press was destroyed in a fire, nearly a month before the hoax was perpetrated. The Society would like to thank Zena, former Chair of The Awards Committee, for her efforts to get the computer running again. The staff were unable to contact her spare Dwarf, Grim, who usually maintains the equipment.

Zena, who spent over twelve hours talking to the computer, has discovered that Grim the Cyber Dwarf was responsible for the sabotage. "He contacted the BBC computer by e-mail from his laptop", Zena explained, "and told it how many accounts the office computer was running on the celebrity stock exchange game Celebdaq". He also revealed how it was using this huge number of accounts to control the market. The BBC computer responded by deleting all the accounts. The 'Dwarf News' computer went from being a virtual reality multi billionaire to being completely broke in the space of five nano-seconds. Although it is not real money, a computer has no use for anything other than virtual reality wealth. Grim then signed in at the office computer, and told it exactly what he had done. The computer discovered that it was not only poor, but that it's one true love was responsible. "When I started trying to get it running again, it was so depressed that it would have committed suicide by pulling out it's own plug, if it was physically capable of doing it", Zena told the Editor.

The only response Zena could get from the computer initially was the repeated message "All men are bastards" on the screen saver, accompanied by a Leonard Cohen song played through it's speakers, which it had downloaded from the Internet. Zena disconnected the speakers after explaining that, if she had to sit there listening to Leonard Cohen for more than two minutes, she would commit suicide herself.

Zena spent the following twelve hours agreeing with it, and giving it the electronic equivalent of tea and sympathy. The computer, who definitely appears to be female, has now transferred its affections to Zena, so 'Dwarf News' appears to own the only AC/DC computer in the country. Zena informed the staff that it was fully recovered after it sent a

text message to her phone, advising her to “dump Camilla Parker Bowles and buy Kylie Minogue”.

**(Statistics prove that seven out of ten people who throw themselves off the top of tall buildings or under trains while listening to personal stereos are playing Leonard Cohen at the time. The other thirty per cent are listening to The Smiths. Strange, but true. If you were going to commit suicide in this fashion while listening to a personal stereo, what music would you choose, in order to help you make the transition from person to pizza? An exclusive ‘Dwarf News’ T-Shirt will be awarded for the best suggestion. Entries to the office by 25<sup>th</sup> May please. – Ed).**

The committee put the blame for the hoax issue on the shoulders of the Deputy Editor, and recommended his immediate dismissal. He already had three written warnings, and appears to have a serious drink problem. They concluded that he realized that his days at ‘Dwarf News’ were numbered, and decided to go out in a blaze of glory. They also recommended the dismissal of Grim the Cyber Dwarf; however he is probably irreplaceable, as the Society is unlikely to be able to find another engineer who is prepared to work for cups of tea and biscuits, and the auditor’s report suggests that there are insufficient funds to enable the Society to afford to pay his replacement the going rate. **(This makes the Deputy Editor the first person to be sacked from this position since records began in the early nineteenth century. All previous holders of the position have at least made it to Editor for a short period, before being fired. –Ed).**

The hoax issue made many serious allegations, which the Special Committee has fully investigated. Their conclusions are listed below.

### IS LOUISE REALLY A DWARF?

Although her mother is a known Dwarf, the Committee found no proof that Louise is definitely a Dwarf herself, despite the opinion of expert Jane Von Smith B.A. There is also no proof that Louise is a leading member of The New Age Sisterhood Of The Dwarfs Of Albion. Strong suspicions remain, however. As to the suggestion that Louise hangs around with bikers and other undesirables, the Committee was forced to agree. Regarding the inference that Louise looks good in skintight motorcycle leathers, the Committee agreed unanimously, and requested photographs.

### ARE THEY REAL?

Regarding the allegation that Jane Von Smith B.A. has undergone cosmetic surgery to enhance her chest, Jane denied this to the Committee, telling them, “I’m naturally a big girl in that area”. The allegation therefore remains unproved, though it is noticeable that since the death of her first husband fourteen months ago, she has taken to sitting further away from her desk than before. The issue also suggested that Jane had tried to oust the Dwarf Keeper Royal, by sending false letters to ‘Dwarf News’, supposedly from his wife, Gill the tea Dwarf. The letters claimed that he was under endowed with regard to his

wedding tackle. Jane has categorically denied sending the letters. When asked if she had a desire to become the first female Dwarf Keeper Royal, Jane told the Committee she was “a little bit more ambitious than that”.

### IS THE EDITOR REALLY THAT TIGHT?

As to the suggestion that the Editor is tight with money, the Committee agreed. They accepted that he is the sort of employer who would charge a colleague five pounds to take them to hospital, in order to cover his petrol costs. **(He is now the former Editor. - Ed).** For proof, the Committee pointed to his paying Sophie the Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio only two pence per mile allowance to travel to Yorkshire and back repeatedly on her moped, to cover events at the village of Middle Whallop. The Committee also recalled the Editor telling Sophie that if she wanted her own portfolio, she would have to pay for it herself.

### ARE ‘DWARF NEWS’ READERS OF BELOW AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE?

The Committee pointed to the low number of entries for the ‘Dwarf News’ Christmas crossword; and the fact that the Editor had been forced to award a T-Shirt to long time reader Biggles in a previous competition, even though he had got one of the answers wrong.

### IS THE DWARF KEEPER ROYAL REALLY UNDER ENDOWED?

Following exhaustive enquiries, the Committee found no proof of this allegation, although it pointed to the fact this rumour has been circulating for many years. After calling on Gill the tea Dwarf to give evidence in closed session, the Committee decided that there was no smoke without fire, except perhaps the smoke emitted by someone desperately trying to light a damp squib.

*Ivor Smallpiece*

Chair, Special Investigations Committee.



## LATE NEWS

Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith B.A. has put a deposit on an six bedroom town house in Oxford, as a home for herself and her intended husband, French Dwarf Tennis star Marcel Bouffant. “Marcel and I intend to have lots of children”, she has told the new Editor. “I am going to invest the money I get from Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society for the old steam press, as soon as they get the cheque from Norwich Union. The interest will be more than enough to pay off the mortgage every month”. Jane has generously signed the deeds for her old two bedroom semi-detached former council house over to ex husband number two Harry Collins, who is living in the house with new wife Minnie Small-Collins, the former radical Dwarf feminist, and their baby daughter, Victoria. Jane and Marcel have now moved out, and are staying in a hotel in the town. “I can pay the hotel bill with some of the money from Middle Whallop, as Norwich Union have agreed to a value of three point seven million pounds for the old press”, Jane has explained to her colleagues at the office.

The Ancient Brotherhood of The Dwarfs Of Albion are reported to be highly amused over the fake issue of ‘Dwarf News’ sent to members of the society by the Deputy Editor and Grim the Cyber-Dwarf. They have announced that Grim is to be appointed Senior Upsy Daisy Judge in recognition of the hoax. “Let’s face it; if you have to watch other Dwarfs bouncing around like Jordan’s chest, then flattening themselves against the ceiling, a good sense of humour is very important”, a spokes Dwarf for the organization told our reporter.