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Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11th

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace to celebrate the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and were received by the President (the Duke of Westminster) and the Chairman (Mr Trevor Hall).

The Earl of Courtown (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of Latvia and Mrs Ulmane and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 11th

The Prince of Wales this morning flew to Bukhara, was received on arrival by the Hokim of Bukhara Oblast (Mr Rakhmonov) and made a brief tour of the city.

This afternoon His Royal Highness was received in Tashkent by President Karimov and later attended a Reception given by the Prime Minister (Mr Utkur Sultanov).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11th

The Duke of York today visited County Durham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr David Grant).

His Royal Highness this morning visited HM Bark ENDEAVOUR, Castlegate Quay, Stockton-on-Tees.

The Duke of York, Patron, later visited the Aycliffe Young People's Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited St Theresa's Hospice Harewood House, Darlington.

The Duke of York afterwards visited Faverdale Technology Centre Limited, Darlington.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11th

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, this afternoon attended the Corporate Members Reception at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, later attended the Annual General Meeting and Guest Debate at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 11th

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning opened the Eric Tolhurst Centre for voluntary organisations in Blyth, Northumberland.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland (The Viscount Ridley, KG).

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 11th

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Royal Hussars, this afternoon received Major General John Friedberger, Colonel of the Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Bradshaw, Commanding Officer.

The Queen will attend the Royal Concert in aid of the Musicians Benevolent Fund at the Royal Albert Hall on Nov 20.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Preb Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, is 85; **Sir Ronald Millar,** playwright and screenwriter, 77; **Lord Goff of Chieveley,** a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 70; **Dr William Hayes,** President of St John's College, Oxford, 66; **Mr John Ingamells,** Director, Wallace Collection, 1978-92, 62; **Sir Peter Lloyd, MP,** 59; and **Miss Jennifer Page,** Chief Executive, The Millennium Commission, 52.

Today is the anniversary of the inauguration of the first automatic telephone service in London in 1927.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr S.A. Lovegrove and Miss K.C. Brooke

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs John Lovegrove, of Great Alne, Warwickshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr Timothy and the Hon Mrs Sergison-Brooke, of Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire.

Mr J.A.C. Maitland and Miss S.H. Barker

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr John and the Hon Mrs Maitland, of Stancombe, Gloucestershire, and Susanna, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs David Barker, of Up Nately, Hampshire.

Mr R.H. Harding and Miss V.S.C. Cutchey

The engagement is announced between Rufus, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Harding, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Victoria, only daughter of Major and Mrs Michael Cutchey, of Berwick St James, Wiltshire.

Mr E.J.T. Taylor and Miss E-J. Innes

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Tim Taylor, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Emily-Jane, daughter of Major and Mrs Colin Innes, of Dunbog, Fife.

Mr N.J. Ellwood and Miss F.G. Bleby

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Ellwood, of Cracoe, North Yorkshire, and Georgina, younger daughter of Dr John Bleby, of Esher, Surrey, and Mrs Peter Danny, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr J.A.W. Thomson and Miss O.D.M. Snagge

The engagement is announced between James Angus Wilfred, only son of Mr and Mrs James B. Thomson, of Mains of Cairnies, Glenalmond, Perth, and Oonah Davina Mordaunt, elder daughter of the late Mr Peter Snagge and of Mrs Snagge, of Roxby House, Thornton Dale, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.E. Burges Watson and Miss F.M. Clode

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Burges Watson, of London, SW15, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Mr Michael Clode and the late Mrs Michael Clode, of London, SW3.

Mr C.A.J. Barclay and Miss M.L. Dasher

The engagement is announced between Charles Anthony John, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barclay, of Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire, and Mary Lorena, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Howard Dasher, Jr, of Valdosta, Georgia, USA.

Mr J.A.A. Clarke and Miss C.M. Cheshire

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Miles Clarke, of Malpas, Cheshire, and Camilla, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cheshire, of Tarporley, Cheshire.

WEDDING

Mr S. Batterham and Miss K. Fialua

The marriage took place in September in Kiribati, central Pacific, of Mr Simon Batterham and Miss Kaitibo Fialua.

RECEPTION

Betjeman Society

The Betjeman Society held a reception yesterday evening at the Vitello D'Oro, Church House, Westminster, to celebrate the unveiling and dedication of a memorial to Sir John Betjeman in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey. Mrs Philippa Davies, Chairman, welcomed the guests and Lord Horder, President, gave the toast.

OTHER NOTICE

LORD COLNBROOK

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Colnbrook will be held at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London, SW1, on Tuesday, Jan 14, 1997, at 6 pm. Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets to: Miss J. Erith, Chairman's Office, NatWest Group, 41 Lothbury, EC2P 2BP. Please enclose a first class stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be sent out from Dec 9.

DINNERS

Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor, Ald Roger Cork, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, entertained the outgoing Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalstrey, and Lady Chalstrey at a banquet in Guildhall last night. The speakers were the Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalstrey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor. Among those present were:

Mrs George Carey, Mrs John Major, Lady Mackay of Clashfern, the Speaker, Mr M. Maclean, the Ambassador of Slovenia and Mrs Šinkovec, the Ambassador of Qatar, the Ambassador of Israel and Mrs Raviv, the Ambassador of France, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, Mrs M. Postlethwaite, the Ambassador of Oman and Mrs Makki, the Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan and Mrs Naim, the Bishop of London and Mrs Chartres, the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Mrs Gummer, the Government Chief Whip and Mrs Goodlad, the Hon Peter Brooke, MP, and Mrs Brooke, Sir John Wheeler, MP, and Lady Wheeler.

The Lord Chief Justice, Miss Kate Bingham, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown, Lord Justice and Lady Simon Brown, Lord Justice and Lady Evans, Mr Justice and Lady Ognall, Mr Justice and Lady Kennedy, Mr Justice and the Hon Lady Cazalet, Mr Justice and Lady Chadwick, the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service and Lady Butler, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Michael and Lady Wilkes; the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff and Lady Willis, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service and Lady Coles, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Westminster, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Lady Condon, Aldermen, Common Councilmen and officers of the Corporation of London and their guests.

The 1900 Club

Mr David Trimble, MP, Leader, Ulster Unionist Party, was guest of honour at a dinner of The 1900 Club held last night at the Carlton Club. Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, was in the chair.

Wolfe Society

Lt-Gen Sir John Foley was guest of honour at a dinner held by the Wolfe Society last night in Westerham to mark the 269th anniversary of the birth of Maj-Gen James Wolfe. Mr J.St A. Warde presided.

IN MEMORIAM

Brig John Woodroffe

A memorial service for Brig John Woodroffe was held yesterday at Grosvenor Chapel, W1. The Rev Simon Hobbs officiated. Mr Patrick Woodroffe (son) read *Courage* and Mr Peter Woodroffe (cousin) read the lesson. Capt Lord Weatherill gave an address. Sgt R. Jefferies, King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, sounded *Last Post* and *Reveille*. Among those present were:

Mrs Woodroffe (widow), Mr Simon Woodroffe (son), Mrs Patrick Woodroffe, Mrs Clare MacGillivray-Woodroffe, (daughters-in-law), Alice Woodroffe, Charlotte Woodroffe, Laura Woodroffe (granddaughters), Miss Nell Bellord, Miss Alice Bellord (step-daughters), Mrs Phillippa Woodroffe, Mrs Peter Woodroffe, Mrs Susan Lloyd.

Viscount Slim, Brig Lord Vivian, Lord Wigram, representing the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Grenadier Guards, Lord Newall, Lady Weatherill, Col Sir Geoffrey Errington, Adml Sir Nicholas Hunt, Sir Gilbert Longden.

Brig Arif Hasan, 19th Lancers; Col Patrick Massey, Honourable Artillery Company, and Mrs Massey, with Mr John Palmer and Mr and Mrs D.J. Stockford; Col Michael Robertson, Woodroffe's, Lt-Col Douglas Gray, Indian Cavalry Officers' Association; Capt D.W. Napper, RN, representing the Chairman, "Not Forgotten" Association, with Col T.J. Tedder, Director, and Lt-Col R.R. Giles and Mrs M.J. Giles, Assistant Director; Mr Charles Simeons, Honorary Secretary, Clover Club (8th Indian Division Officers' Association), Mr John Hewitt, Indian Army Association and BACSA, Mr Roy Fullick, Master of the Company of Stationers and Newspapermakers.

Rear-Adml A. Wheatley, Air Vice-Marshal A. Maisner, Brig and Mrs W. Magan, Brig R.J. Baddeley, Col Gavin Douglas, Cdr Jeremy van den Arend, Lt-Col Denis Daly, Major and Mrs R. Wigram, Major A.E.G. Gauntlett, Major Miles Reinhold, Major Philip Brooks, Major Philip Grant, Major T. Dodwell, Major Jollyon Coombs, Capt Douglas Mitchell, Sqn Ldr M.J. Limb.

Mr A.B. Champriss, Mrs Barbara Huelin, Mrs Clifton Rayment, Mrs Ann Procopé, Mr Robert Eden, Mr Tony Hartridge, Mrs Nan Edmeades, Mr and Mrs C.W. Parker, Mr Patrick Emerson, Mrs Fiona Aldridge, Mr Brunel Cohen, Mr Richard Henderson, Miss Yvonne Allen, Mr Alastair Morrison, Miss Mandy Montague, Mr Matthew Gibb, Mr Bobby Hamscomb, Miss B.J. Seely, Mrs Marika Bellord, Mrs Clare Fisher, Mr David Enthoben, Mrs Clare Hope, Mr Lionel Savery, Mr Harry Liddell, Mrs Sylvia Sanders, Mr Ian Stern, Mr Jeremy Archer, Mr Peter Johnson, Mr Richard Taee, Mr Ian Homersham, Mr Peter Tuke, Mr William Bell, Mr G.S. Fullerton, Mr Richard Smith, Mr Simon Hales, Mr Nicholas Walford, Mr David McWilliam, Mr J. Jacobsen, Mr Jeremy Jones and Mr David Vickerstaff.

OBITUARIES

Captain Harry Hodgson

Oldest officer of the Royal Navy, who was taught the Charleston by the Queen Mother

Hodgson with Rosemary (in Chinese silk), 1928

CAPTAIN HARRY HODGSON, who has died aged 103, was the oldest surviving Royal Navy officer.

To the end of his life, he retained an astonishing vitality, in both body and mind. In his 100th year he was still sawing logs in the garden.

Harry Hugh James Hodgson was born on July 17 1893. He went to Osborne as a cadet in 1906, and then to Dartmouth and the training cruiser *Cumberland*. His first ship as a midshipman was the battleship *Temeraire*, which he joined in 1910. In the First World War, he was assistant torpedo officer in the cruiser *Cochrane*, patrolling in the Atlantic and in the North Sea.

In April 1916 he was appointed gunnery officer of the light cruiser *Forward*. "Our task was to attack Zeppelins," he said. "We would get a signal, dash off to Heligoland Bight and try to shoot them down as they came home. But our guns were totally ineffective."

His last ship during the war was the battlecruiser *Indomitable*. He left her to undergo the long torpedo course at HMS *Vernon*. When he was dined out, on Nov 10 1918, "my captain said: 'You will do six months in *Vernon* and then return for the final victory at sea.' The war was over next day."

Qualified in torpedoes, Hodgson went out to the submarine depot ship *Titania* in the Far East. "Somehow I knew that one day I would become engaged," he said, "so I bought yards and yards of silk. When I left China, I had over 700 yards of it."

He came home to be appointed torpedo officer of the battlecruiser *Renown* which took the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) on the royal tour to Australia in 1927.

As torpedo officer, Hodgson was in charge of the ship's electrics and was thus responsible for illuminating the ship with hundreds of light bulbs at every port of call. Dances were held on the quarterdeck to music provided by a gramophone Hodgson had had installed during the ship's refit. "I often danced with the Duchess," he said. "Between dances she would come to my cabin, which opened off the quarterdeck, and we would chat together; she in fact taught me to Charleston."

On leaving the Navy, Hodgson was for some years naval experimental officer engaged in biological warfare at Porton Down. He took part in the experiments during the Second World War with anthrax bombs on Gruinard in the Western Isles. These resulted in the island being sealed off from all human access for many years.

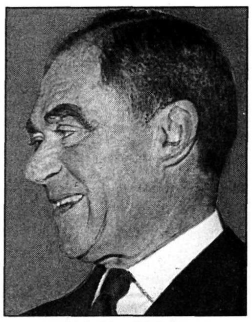
Hodgson always thought that the high point of his naval career was the royal tour in *Renown*. A mutual friend wrote to the Queen Mother on her 90th birthday, to say that Hodgson really wanted to shake hands again and show her his photograph album, and perhaps an audience could be arranged.

The reply was that there would be no audience. Instead, there would be a lunch, which proved to be a highly convivial occasion, lasting until well after 5 pm.

Hodgson married Rosemary Lefroy in 1928, when the China silk was put to good use. She predeceased him. They had a daughter and two sons.

Hugh Bullock

Anglophile banker whose friendships included presidents and royalty



Bullock: No 1 Wall Street

HUGH BULLOCK, who has died aged 98, was an enthusiastic Anglophile and president of the Pilgrims of the United States.

From 1955 until his death, Bullock ran the American branch of the Pilgrims, a dining club whose members include many senior public figures on both sides of the Atlantic.

An investment banker, he held no public office but was widely influential in transatlantic affairs. He knew every American president from Calvin Coolidge to George Bush, and was also on terms with the Royal Family.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, in which he had served as a liaison officer with British forces, he exercised his influence in favour of the creation of Nato and the Marshall Plan.

Having received an honorary OBE in 1946 and a knighthood in 1957, Bullock became in 1976 the first American to be appointed honorary GBE, in recognition of a lifetime's service to Anglo-American relations.

Tall, deep-voiced and ruggedly handsome, Bullock was a natural diplomat whose greatest pleasure was in bringing prominent people together. Although abstemious himself and not easily moved to laughter, he was hospitable on all sides. He was the epitome of an East Coast Republican grandee, but his circle of acquaintance extended to Democrats such as Adlai Stevenson, and union leaders such as George Meaney of the American Federation of Labor.

In his offices at No 1 Wall Street, perhaps the most exclusive of all financial addresses, he hosted the Calvin Bullock Forum, an informal gathering of bankers and civic leaders to which visiting foreign dignitaries would prize an invitation.

Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, another Anglophile and a regular participant in the Forum, described Bullock as "one of the most admirable people I ever encountered".

Hugh Bullock was born on June 2 1898, the son of Calvin Bullock, a financier who founded an investment company which pioneered mutual funds, the American equivalent of unit trusts. Young Hugh was educated at Hotchkiss School and Williams College, one of the Ivy League universities.

He served as a second lieutenant in the US infantry in Europe during the First World War, as a lieutenant-colonel during the Second, and as a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army from 1952 to 1953.

Bullock entered banking in 1921, and in 1927 opened the New York office of his father's firm. When President Coolidge left office in 1929 and retired in somewhat reduced circumstances, Hugh was dispatched by his father to Coolidge's home in Vermont to offer him a seat on the board; Coolidge declined.

Hugh Bullock was president of Calvin Bullock from 1944 to 1966. He sold the business in 1984, but retained a private investment company and his Wall Street office.

He gave much time to philanthropy, and was president of the National Institute of Social Sciences.

In London, Bullock was a long-standing member of White's. He was a Benjamin Franklin Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a fund-raiser for Westminster Abbey.

At the beginning of Eisenhower's second term in 1957, Bullock's name was touted as Ambassador to Britain, but the appointment went elsewhere.

His network of contacts extended across Europe. Among his friends were the Habsburgs: in the 1920s his parents had entertained the Empress Zita, widow of the deposed Emperor Charles I, at their home in Massachusetts.

In his office, Bullock kept a collection of Napoleonic relics, including the trunk which accompanied Bonaparte to the gates of Moscow.

A creature of habit, Bullock divided his domestic life on a fixed annual timetable between New York and Martha's Vineyard, where he owned a fine 18th-century house and was commodore of the Edgartown Yacht Club. He was never less than impeccably dressed, in the English style: on Wall Street he was unmistakably a City gent; at Martha's Vineyard he might have been at Cowes.

In almost all weathers and until he was quite old, he liked to sleep outdoors at night, even on the balcony of his Fifth Avenue apartment above the roar of New York traffic.

Hugh Bullock married, in 1933, Marie Leontine Graves, a noted beauty who became president of the Academy of American Poets; she died in 1986. They had two daughters.

Wang Li

Instigator and victim of the violent chaos of the Cultural Revolution

Wang Li (far right) with (from left) Zhou Enlai and Jiang Qing (1967)

WANG LI, who has died aged 77, gave enthusiastic support to the Cultural Revolution with fire-breathing speeches, only to fall victim to it himself.

Under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung, and with the ideological direction of commissars like Wang, the Chinese people were encouraged to wage war on their own government.

Wang was a member of the Cultural Revolution Group of the Communist Party's Central Committee, charged with day-to-day leadership of the movement. Its deputy leader, and the architect of Wang's downfall, was Jiang Qing, Mao's wife, one of the later disgraced Gang of Four.

Wang Li was born at Jiangsu in 1918 into a prosperous family. He joined the Communist Party in 1939 and rose to become head of the party's propaganda department and editor of the theoretical journal *Red Flag*.

In February 1966, Mao convened a meeting of what was to become the Cultural Revolution Group. Within months, the group was orchestrating a popular movement against any individuals or institutions that seemed to be standing in the way of the Party's complete domination of Chinese cultural and political life.

"It would be a mistake", wrote Jack Chen in his memoir of the Cultural Revolution, "to imagine that Wang Li and others were real revolutionaries, motivated by real revolutionary idealism. These men were careerists who used the Party as their vehicle to power."

Wang was a central figure in the Wuhan incident, which determined the outcome of the Cultural Revolution. In February 1967, youthful Red Guards went on the rampage in Wuhan, an industrial city on the Yangtse river, demanding that the city become "hugely chaotic, especially chaotic, deeply chaotic, and thoroughly chaotic".

Seeing the situation spin out of control around the country, and the Chinese economy spiralling downward, Mao sought to rein in the Red Guards' fervour, and order was restored temporarily in Wuhan.

In April, however, after Wang oversaw the publication in the *People's Daily* of an editorial supporting the Red Guards in Wuhan, and Madame Mao proclaimed that Wuhan was due for a "storming", the city again erupted, this time into armed conflict between factions led by Red Guards and others backed by a local warlord.

In July, Wang and public security minister Xie Fuzhi, were sent to Wuhan to mediate, though their sympathies plainly lay with the Red Guards. As soon as they arrived, the two disobeyed the Prime Minister Zhou Enlai's order not to appear in public. Wang gave a rousing speech to the insurrectionists.

Wang and Xie spent the next few days meeting both sides. Predictably, they ended by expressing support for the "pro-Maoist" Red Guards. This provoked an uprising by the local army division, which kidnapped Wang and took him to military headquarters outside the city where he was beaten. For three days, people paraded in the streets chanting "Down with Wang Li."

Wang was smuggled out of Wuhan, and flown to Beijing, where, with his leg in plaster, he was given a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of people, and a crowd of Red Guards headed by Jiang Qing.

As a consequence of the Wuhan incident, a campaign was launched against "capitalist roaders" in the army. Wang helped draft virulent editorials against them in *Red Flag*.

By the summer of 1967, Wang was riding high, whipping up revolutionary chaos in his speeches. He was one of three backers of a month-long demonstration in the Forbidden City, during which thousands demanded the appearance of the former head of state Liu Shaoqi to perform the ritual of public self-criticism. That same summer, Wang exhorted Red Guards to storm the Foreign Ministry. Later, in a demonstration against the treatment of workers in Hong Kong, the British mission was set on fire.

With his wife's encouragement, Mao now withdrew his support for this "ultra-Leftist" approach. Jiang Qing denounced Wang and others as a clique of conspirators.

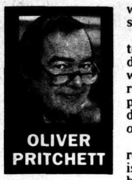
As a result, Mao ordered Wang's arrest. Wang was described in propaganda as a "chameleon" and a "crawling insect". He spent the next 15 years in prison.

He was released in 1982, and wrote abject letters from his flat in Shanghai, appealing for official rehabilitation. He never received it.

He and his wife Wang Pingshu had a daughter.

ANOTHER VIEW

Hey, babes: never mind the policies, feel those pecs



OLIVER PRITCHETT

WHAT makes a man attractive to women? This vitally important question has been asked many times in the past few days after it was reported (and denied) that Tony Blair had his hairstyle amended in order to increase his appeal to women voters. This happened just as people were saying that President Clinton owed his recent electoral success to his appeal to the women of America.

It is a great relief to see that the subject of male sex appeal has finally found its rightful place at the very top of the political agenda. This is something I have been advocating for a long time. At last the parties have got round to appointing people who are experts in arousing the lust and yearning of the woman voter. These people are known as "swoon doctors" and they are emerging as the most influential figures in politics.

I understand that the Labour Party has already done some extensive research in this field and has been asking female focus groups: "How important to you is a man's bottom?"

The women have to tick one of a number of boxes ranging from "Absolutely essential" to "I can take it or leave it". The findings of this research will have a profound bearing on the formulation of Labour's policy on trousers.

Labour's next party political broadcast will have no words in it. John Prescott will just sit in front of the camera and smoulder. He may brood as well. Sighing has not been ruled out. He will also be wearing, for the first time, the New Labour aftershave called "Midnight in Islington".

This new fragrance combines the mysterious allure of musk with a fresh dynamic tangy zing, suggesting water skiing in a pine forest, plus just a *soupçon* of Dettol to evoke the image of a properly funded National Health Service. It has been manufactured in partnership with private industry and will be issued to all male Labour candidates. It is also available as a shower gel or talc.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine has written a secret memorandum proposing that the Government should track down a number of men with muscular bodies, square jaws, quizzical eyebrows, bedroom eyes and deep voices to undo their top shirt buttons and say (huskily) how much they approve of Conservative policies.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has said that civil servants might jeopardise their neutrality if they were asked to measure pectorals.

Tory swoon doctors say they have discovered that women find the rosettes worn by parliamentary candidates a real turn-off.

"A bloke with a rosette on his lapel is just not fanciable," a Conservative Research Department report says. So, when the election campaign begins, candidates will be encouraged to go out canvassing with tousled wet hair and dressed only in a knee-length bathrobe.

Some experts are advocating the "vulnerable nerd" image in politics. They say that if party spokesmen wear odd socks, become tongue-tied and agonised and confess that they can't remember what their policies are, they will appeal to the maternal instincts of women voters. There is nothing that appeals more to women than the "little minister lost" approach, they say.

A recent survey of women's most secret fantasies revealed that most of them dreamt of Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, riding up to them on a white stallion, sweeping them up in his arms, and galloping off with them to some unknown destination. The plan is that on polling day Mr Mawhinney will appear on horseback in a number of key marginal constituencies, sweep up a few of the female floating voters and carry them off to the polling station.

The only danger is that Mr Mawhinney may collide with the Labour Party's secret weapon, the sex symbol and Home Affairs spokesman Jack Straw, dressed in white tie and tails and waltzing wavering women to put their cross against the name of the Labour candidate.

You will have no difficulty in recognising your Liberal Democrat candidate. He will appear on your doorstep, too tormented to ring the bell, and will stand there palely, with his hands thrust deep into his pockets, his shoulders hunched, and staring moodily at the ground.

BRIDGE HAND

Dummy's minor suits button it up

By Tony Forrester

Dealer SOUTH N/S VUL

North: ♠63 ♥82 ♦Q76 ♣KQ10765

West: ♠742 ♥- ♦AJ9842 ♣AJ98

East: ♠98 ♥Q96543 ♦K3 ♣432

South: ♠AKQJ105 ♥AKJ107 ♦105 ♣-

West	North	East	South
			2♣(1)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(1) Forcing to game

Contract 4♠

Declarer South

Opening Lead ♠2

SUDDENLY the British Open team seemed to catch fire as a series of impressive victories made an improbable qualification for the Knock-out stages in Rhodes more likely.

Our deal comes from the match against Latvia. South's hand is impressive, but as is so often the case, the 13 cards facing it proved to be a disappointment.

Never mind, surely 4♠ was bullet-proof, as South could just about take 10 tricks. But he was unaware of the vile heart distribution. Had West started with a couple of rounds of diamonds, the obvious switch would have produced a rapid defeat.

Strangely, the Latvian West led a trump. Declarer won the first trick and drew trumps. He laid down ♥A and came to a halt when West discarded a *diamond*. With two inescapable heart losers, something clever was required.

South could do little other than lead a diamond towards the Queen and see what materialised. West mistakenly won ♦A and continued with the Jack, ducked to East. Unable to lead hearts without giving up a trick, East now played a club, but South simply discarded ♥7 and let West take her Ace.

Dummy's minor suit honours had their day after all.

● The Seniors Congress at Coventry drew 500 players, **writes Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent.** Results were:

Scores: Pairs: 1, J Alper and Dr U Jacobson (Middlesex and Herts) 58·8 per cent; 2, G Faulkner and K Stanley (Essex and Worcs) 58·4; 3, G Stamford and P Chavannaz (Sussex) 56·4. **Teams:** 1, I Monachan 115; 2, J Wilding (Herts) 100; 3, J Harrison (Norfolk) 96. **Consolation Swiss Pairs:** D Griffiths and A Odams (Norfolk and Leics).

CHESS

Alexander the great gambler

By Malcolm Pein

FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov sponsored the 1996 edition of the Russian championship, putting up $100,000 prize money and a car as well as hosting the 52 participants in Elista, Kalmykia.

Alexander Khalifman was the victor and he drove home to St Petersburg with US $12,000. Khalifman's winning score was 8/11. When half a point clear, Khalifman agreed a quick draw in the last round giving Alexey Dreev a chance to overtake him on tie break, but he, too, drew and shared second place with a former winner, Semyon Dvoirys.

The field lacked Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, Vladimir Kramnik and the winner of the 1994 and 95 events, Peter Svidler, but the average rating was still 2530.

Khalifman was overlooked in the selection of the Russian team for the recent Chess Olympiad and his win gives credence to Karpov's claim that he could have selected six different players who would have won the tournament just as easily. Russia's depth of talent was evident with two unknowns — Lastin and Shariadzhanov finishing in the top 10.

Final scores: Khalifman 8/11; Dreev, Dvoirys 7·5; Bareev, Rublevsky, Zviaginsev, Sorokin, Fominyh, Lastin 7; Rublevsky, Shariadzhanov, Emelin 6·5.

Khalifman said his key win was over Evgeny Sveshnikov. White goes for glory and gets it as his double pawn sacrifice catches the king in the centre and his bishops rip into the black position:

A Khalifman — E Sveshnikov

Russian Ch (9) Elista

1 d4	d5	2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	c6	4 g3	Nf6
5 Bg2	dxc4	6 0-0	b5
7 a4	Bb7	8 Ne5	Qb6
9 b3!	cxb3	10 Qxb3	Nbd7
11 Be3!	c5	12 Nxd7	Nxd7
13 d5!	bxa4	14 Qxa4	exd5
15 Nc3	d4	16 Nd5	Bxd5
17 Bxd5	Rd8	18 Bf4	Qf6
19 Qb5	Bd6?	20 Ra6	Rb8
21 Bb7!	Bxf4	22 Rxf6	gxf6
23 gxf4	f5	24 Qc6	Kd8
25 Qd5	Kc7	26 Bc6	1-0

"Wang Li." Daily Telegraph, 12 Nov. 1996, p. 23. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701534661/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.