

The buxom gals of Penybont

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Look out, fellows! You can put your lives in their hands with confidence — these ladies of the Penybont team who won the rescue and resuscitation event at the Welsh Surf Life-saving Championships at Tenby. The event, reckoned the most impor-

tant of the whole championships, was judged on the Penybont ladies' accuracy in team drill and procedure with life-saving techniques.

SATURDAY, 7th JUNE, 1969

at 2.0 p.m.

Penybont Surf Lifesaving Club

The Beginning. 1967

The river mouth at Ogmore by Sea is a notoriously dangerous place for bathers, and has claimed many lives over the years.

A tragedy in 1967, though not the first, finally gave the spur to efforts to form a lifesaving club when a small fibre-glass dinghy carrying five people capsized, throwing the occupants into the river. A two year old boy, Peter Davies from Llantwit Major, was drowned, and an eight year old girl, Joyce Patricia Weller, also of Llantwit Major was swept away in the swollen river.

Bathers went to the rescue, and brought out the boy's mother along with three others, including the boy, who was unconscious. A woman doctor from Henley and a nurse from Gloucester, who were visiting, took turns in applying mouth to mouth resuscitation. The casualties were taken to Bridgend General Hospital, where the boy was pronounced dead.

At that time there was a small shop, café and Rivermouth Club in Ogmore at the top of the car park on the main road where houses now stand. I discussed the tragedy with the proprietor, Mr. Terry Thomas, and expressed my wish to help if there were the possibility of doing something to prevent any further such tragedies.

The following day, I had a visit from CDR Charles (Chick) Thompson, who had spoken to Mr. Thomas and learned of my interest. I was invited to attend a meeting at the Bridgend YMCA where CDR Thompson had gathered together a few like-minded people who were also interested.

At this meeting, attended by Mrs. Valerie Manning, Councillor Elliot from Penybont RDC, Mrs. Nancy Morgan, Mrs. Pells-Cox (who did not attend any

further meetings) and me, Chick outlined his plans, which he had been unsuccessfully pushing to Penybont RDC for some time. We agreed to form the nucleus of a committee, where Mrs. Manning was proposed as secretary to a new club, while I was made treasurer. There was, of course, no money available at that time!

Chick had already gathered together a small group of teenagers from the YMCA who were keen to become members of a lifeguard club, all of whom were good swimmers, but as yet, were not trained in lifesaving.

We arranged to meet at Ogmre beach the following Saturday, gathering at the St John's Ambulance hut which was at the far end of the car park. The St John's members agreed, albeit reluctantly, to allow us to share their hut for changing purposes, until such time as alternative provision could be made.

Thus it came about that Penybont Surf Lifesaving club was formed, and the first patrol was begun on August 1st 1967. If memory serves me correctly, about eight to ten youngsters turned up, and Chick gave them instructions on what was required.

Arrangements were made to start training at Atlantic College, where Admiral Hoare, the Headmaster, had given permission for us to use their swimming pool and equipment.

Transport was the stumbling block, but committee members and parents all combined and used their cars, at their own expense, to take the young team for training. In those days teenagers did not have their own cars!

However, this system was clumsy and unsustainable, so Chick obtained permission for us to use the small pool at the School for The Visually Handicapped in Bridgend. This was not exactly ideal for our purposes, but was infinitely easier for everyone as it avoided the long trip to Atlantic College.

Having watched how the training was done at the College, I now became the training instructor. The team accepted my tuition with good grace, and weekly sessions were held throughout the winter.

Finance was a real problem, and the committee devised several events over the year to raise money. Mrs. Valerie Manning had various contacts in Bridgend and the Ladies Circle raised £86 in a Coffee Morning held at the York Tavern, a millinery show was organized by Dilys Yates of Bridgend, Jumble sales were held at Hope Chapel, The Lesser Hall at the Town Hall, and the YMCA, a "Mile of Pennies", running from the car park entrance in to the village, coupled with a "Tower Of Pennies" on the car park raised £63, but what really set us on our feet was an Open Day at Atlantic College.

The Open days at Atlantic College were extremely popular, and we were very fortunate to be granted the privilege.

Mrs. Margaret Whittle took over the very large task of organizing this event, and arranged for several demonstrations, including one by the Bridgend and District Scottish Dance Team, the Penyfai Welsh Folk Group and a display by

H.M. Coastguard from Llantwit Major. In addition the Bridgend Photographic Society put on an exhibition and display. Canoe demonstrations were put on in the swimming pool, there was a demonstration of Life Saving, Children's entertainment was provided, and there were several side shows.

This was a labour intensive affair, club members were allocated duties, Committee members all joined in. Mrs. Manning was, I remember, responsible for catering.

Support was given by many local businesses. It had been a very big organizational challenge for Margaret, but it proved to have been a great success. Over £400 was raised, a huge sum in our straightened circumstances.

Another very important event was the Pram Push, where twelve club members pushed three prams the 70 miles from Gloucester to Bridgend, spending one night in Newport on the way. I organized this event, and to get maximum publicity I was interviewed on the BBC concerning it. The deputy chairman of Penybont RDC, Councillor Tom Osborne, met the youngsters as they arrived in Bridgend town centre, evidence of how the Council was making every effort to support the Club. £200 was raised by this effort. (The driving force behind this venture will be dealt with a little later.)

I followed behind the "active" pram in my MGB as a safety feature. I wonder how many people have travelled from Gloucester to Newport in bottom gear?

I must mention at this point that as a result of pressure from Chick Thompson and pleas from me, Penybont Council agreed to give us a grant of £300 towards purchasing equipment. They also paid for track suits for the team.

The actual lifesaving training was carried out by various people, mainly Chick and members of Atlantic College, Mr. John David, notably, helping greatly. Dr Keith Thomas was enrolled as medical adviser, and was co-opted onto the committee. (There was no escape if you once showed interest! Not that anyone was trying to escape!). I was given a little blue book, the Examiners' Handbook, so that I, too, could learn the complicated Reel and Line Drill which was so important in those early days, though I must confess I thought it a very outdated method which was not really suited to our particularly difficult sea conditions. I, therefore, became an unqualified instructor for a short while, until the team members rapidly outstripped the need for my administrations. I also learned Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation, which we practiced on Anatomic Annie, so that I could assist with the teaching of this important part of the drill.

By 1968 more young people joined the team, which numbered, among others -and I apologise for any I have omitted, - Jayne Power, Maurice Bertorelli and her sister Lisa, Roger Power, Shelagh Watson, Rosalind and Bev Arthur, Chris and Beverley Jones, Anthony Garret, Lindy Deering, Wendy Howells, Matthew Evans, Steve Channel and Barrie Maydew, but the committee felt we really needed some more mature people to become members, it being so unfair to expect so much from such young and enthusiastic youngsters. Mrs. Manning was asked to approach Bridgend Rugby Club, to see if any members were

interested in joining. Those interested were invited to come along to the Blind School to attend a training session, to see if there was anything which appealed to them.

I was delighted, therefore, one evening to see several well built young men arrive at the pool. I invited them to join in the training, and rapidly realized this was just what the Club needed. They were all very competent swimmers, though I was a little apprehensive at the peculiar style of one young man, named Dallas Robinson, unaware at the time how important this pleasant young man was to become to Welsh Surf Lifesaving!

Among the number who arrived were Colin Morris, - another wonderful acquisition-, Ron Meadows, Dai Underhill, and Clive Hathaway.

A rather strange situation arose at about this time. A young ex-Atlantic College student, Jules Barge, formed a surf-lifesaving team in Aberdare, miles from the nearest beach! The young people were enthusiastic enough to actually travel to Ogmore and did, for a short while, augment our team. Such a difficult situation could, obviously, not last, and did eventually fade.

This influx from the rugby club changed the whole picture. We could now have strong teams to patrol the beach, but we really needed a place of our own.

Penybont Council again came to our aid. They provided us with a small, corrugated iron shed, about 10 feet long and 8 feet wide, divided down the middle to create two separate changing areas, lavishly furnished with a wooden bench running down each side. At least it was ours!

(When Colin Morris joined the club, team members enjoyed eating fish and chips in his van, which became an extension to the shed, the food being provided by the Bertorrelli shop in Bridgend!)

This, in fairness, was only a temporary expedient, and plans were drawn up to provide us with a purpose-built headquarters. Again, Chick was a prime mover in this project which was to cost £7500, a large sum in those days. Building work began in April, 1968, so the new building would not be ready for use that year. It was, however, completed in June, 1969, and a ceremony was held at the river mouth on Saturday, 7th of June 1969, Lord Dulverton performing the opening ceremony. The building was dual purpose, being a combined Headquarters for Penybont Surf Lifesaving Club and the Bridgend Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Demonstrations of lifesaving were put on by the team, and there was a helicopter demonstration of a combined rescue operation with inshore rescue boats from Atlantic College.

The Official party was entertained to tea at the Craig -yr-Eos Hotel at the end of the ceremony and demonstrations.

From the beginning transport had been a problem, the team members were meeting travelling costs out of their own pockets to come to Ogmore and this was obviously unfair. I wrote to Penybont RDC telling them of our difficulty,

and expressing the worrying concern that unless we had some help, there was a real danger that the Club may disintegrate. I drew their attention to the fact that Bridgend Civil Defence were selling a 12-seater mini-bus for £140 and suggested that perhaps the council could assist in solving the problem by purchasing the vehicle for us. The club could not purchase the vehicle as it was for sale only to local authorities, and in any case we did not have sufficient finance! I pointed out that at present committee members were overcrowding their cars and bearing the costs to enable the club members to attend vital training sessions.

Alderman Phil Squires said that everyone recognized the good work done by the club, but special plenary powers could be used after a meeting with club's officers and members of the Finance Committee. Councillor Harry Davis said that while this had been sprung upon them and no provision had been made, if the council decides to acquire the vehicle it would be done expeditiously. As we now know, the council was as good as its word, and the vehicle was provided for our use. At a stroke, this solved what had become a worrying problem.

Equipment for training and lifesaving was expensive. We were fortunate to have the help of Atlantic college, who loaned us a reel and line, but we needed different, more sophisticated gear.

Wet suits were really needed, but were very expensive, and needed to be essentially personal possessions. I learned that Atlantic College students made their own, so I asked Chick if we could borrow the patterns and purchase material from the college, so that we, too, could make our own.

Chick arranged this, and so it came about that a group of ten or so members came to my school workshop in Cowbridge one week-end and we set about making wet suits. I had obtained permission to use a further room in the school where the suits could be fitted, so my workshop, store room, and an adjoining classroom were transformed into manufacturing areas for wet suits. Club members proved very adept at marking out patterns and wielding large scissors which I had borrowed from other departments. The venture turned out to be a great success, each member then paying for the cost of their individual material so that they were their own personal possessions.

Mrs. Nancy Morgan, a true stalwart of the club, always willing to help in any way possible, presented the club with our first canoe. This was not only a first class aid for patrolling our beach area from the seaward side, it also had a recreational function. Members were allowed to use it when it was not in use for patrolling, provided they were adequately trained in the safe use of canoes, such training being provided by Atlantic College or at the National Coastal Rescue Training Centre run by Chick Thompson at Aberafan.

We also needed surf skis. Too expensive to buy, so I designed and made one at my school workshop in Cowbridge Grammar School. This proved to be a success, so I made another one. These were used at Ogmere, and also in various competitions and Championships.

I was firmly of the belief that what we really needed for our particularly difficult sea conditions was an inshore rescue boat, -safe and speedy. Chick supported me in this belief, so I suggested to the committee that we should

see if we could purchase or acquire one. This was the spur to the pram pushing venture that I mentioned earlier.

Not enough money was raised to meet the £750 needed to buy a boat, so I volunteered to build one. I had considerable experience in boating, having been a naval officer, and having already built three boats, - a speed boat, 2 rowing dinghies and a 16 foot cabin cruiser. Provided the committee approved, and I could get permission from Mr. Idwal Rees, the Headmaster at Cowbridge, then I was prepared to build one. I visited Atlantic College to see one of their boats under construction, and was given outline plans of a smaller version of the Atlantic 21 that the college used.

Approval was obtained, and I began construction in the school workshop. I used the job as an educational project, involving some of my sixth form students, and on weekends I was joined by Anthony Garret, a competent woodworker himself.

When it came to the final task of fitting the inflatable tubes, specialist knowhow was needed, so three second year students from the college gave up two weekends to assist with this part of the job.

We generated considerable interest in the local press, which was good for the club. We were the only lifesaving club in Britain to have built our own boat!

When we carried out our first sea trials at Ogmore, Mr. Arthur Rees of Porthcawl stood by in his boat "Kalmeira" to keep a watchful eye on us. In the event, Anthony and I were delighted with the boat's performance.

Admiral Hoare invited us to bring the boat to Atlantic College for him to try it out, as it was the first boat of that size to be built to his plans. I made the trip, accompanied by Wendy Howells.

Admiral Hoare was very impressed, and when I told him I had taken photographs of various stages of construction, he asked if I would be prepared to give copies to any other club or organization interested in building one. I readily agreed, and subsequently sent off copies to someone in China, I forget who it was now!

The longest trip we made in the boat was to Aberafan, on the occasion of the Welsh Championships, where we acted as a safety boat.

I remember very clearly one rescue that we carried out. Margaret and I were having lunch, and from our dining room we have a very good view of the sea. I suddenly noticed a very small boat being carried out to sea by the outgoing tide and an off-shore wind. The two occupants were struggling wildly to try to paddle back, but the total inadequacy of their tiny paddles was obvious. I rang Anthony Garret, told him of the situation, and arranged to meet him at the headquarters. We launched the inshore boat and sped out to the swiftly disappearing dinghy, en route to America! We caught up with the boat, crewed by two frightened men, and offered to tow them back. They shamefacedly agreed, and so we towed them slowly back, unable to go quickly because of the nature of their little plastic tub! They were Mr. Allan Davies of Caerphilly and Mr. Robert Davies of Taffs Well.

When we reached the beach at Ogmore, the two were very relieved, but surprisingly stated that they were not really in any danger! I therefore offered to take them back out again, but to my surprise, they refused!

Another boat rescue that comes to mind was the safe retrieval of a youngster , Kelvin Hazelby of Lisvane, cut off by the tide at Witches Point, Southerndown. He and two friends had been looking for fossilized sea slugs on the beach, unaware of how fast the tide comes in at our beaches. Two succeeded in climbing to safety, and they raised the alarm about their companion.

We were called out, and Dallas, Anthony and I raced around in the inshore boat. There was a nasty surf running which added to the difficulty- this was our first rescue in total darkness!

As we had nowhere to hold meetings, our house became our temporary headquarters. All meetings of the committee and occasionally of club members were held at our home. In fact, the house became an extension of the club. If tools needed to be borrowed, if anything, in fact, was required, it was a case of ask Reg if he has it! On one occasion there was something relevant on the television, and our tv room was bursting to overflowing as everyone came up from the beach to see the programme!

On the question of meetings, I must mention the fact that as we were members of the British main body, the S.L.S.A.of GB we felt it was important that we should have our voice heard at National level. Consequently we undertook the long journeys down to the Annual General Meetings. This involved trips to Exeter and Torquay among others. On these trips I was accompanied by Arthur Elliot, to Exeter on one occasion, Dr. Keith Thomas and George Garret on another, and by Margaret when we went to Torquay. All this, by the way, at our own expense.

One further point about club meetings, held monthly. I took very detailed minutes of the meetings, and then duplicated them on the school Gestetner, (No computers or luxury of printers in those days!). Margaret , who had typed out the minutes, and I, then went around to the homes of every club and committee member and delivered them their own copy of the minutes, so everyone knew of all that was decided and discussed. We were the best informed club in Britain. We saved a copy of every minute, and when we resigned we handed over a complete history and record of all club activity up to that point. I wonder if they still exist?

The Committee had now grown, as various people were co-opted; these included the local policeman, PC Derek Jones, and Mr. Griff Williams, Senior Coastguard at Llantwit Major. As a result, to ensure even closer liaison with the Coastguard Service, members were invited to join as Auxiliary Coastguards. I had been an Auxiliary for some time, and later became the Coastguard-in Charge at Llantwit while Griff recovered from a heart attack suffered by him while on patrol at Llantwit Major.(I was unfortunate enough to have been on watch at the coastguard lookout near Boverton when Griff had the attack, and I remember all hell breaking loose on the airwaves as the news spread along the English and Welsh coasts as various stations heard of the unfortunate affair, they all having heard the radio transmissions concerning the incident! I have never been so busy in all my life!)

One member who volunteered his services as an Auxiliary Coastguard at this time was the dynamic Mr. Peter (Pop) Lake, who has stuck to the club right up to the present time! (More of him later!)

The first Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in 1968, when a few changes were made. Mrs. Val Manning was made a vice president, in recognition of her valuable services during the first formative year. It was felt that it would be preferable to have someone who lived more or less on the spot as Secretary, and who was more au fait with dealing with teenagers and young adults. Consequently, I, as a Grammar School teacher, was elected as secretary, and Mrs. Margaret Whittle took over as treasurer.

I cannot remember exactly when a further change took place, as Arthur Elliot had to reluctantly leave as chairman, but we were lucky to enroll George Garret, a member of the local Parish Council, as our new Chairman. George was a very dedicated chairman and worked extremely hard to further the cause of Penybont SLSC in particular and Lifesaving in general. He served the club for many years, until ill health forced him to quit.

Up until now there had been no need to consider the question of Club Captains, our numbers were too small, but with the influx of new members it was decided that the time had come. Consequently, Colin Morris was elected Club Captain, and Jayne Power became Ladies Captain.

Chick was anxious to pursue his dream of more lifeguard clubs in Wales, and with this in mind he called together a group of people he felt could assist in this dream. He asked me if I would be secretary and treasurer of this new body to which I agreed. John David was to be the new Chairman, Dr. Keith Thomas was also co-opted, along with Alf Thomas from The Llantwit Major Club. I apologise for not remembering all who were concerned, but it was about 40 years ago, and there are no written records remaining, although at the time that I retired from the job I had kept meticulous records of all the meetings and correspondence up till that point. They were somewhere "lost in transit" as it were! I merely remember handing over everything to Chick, a very busy man himself.

There now followed an extremely busy period for me, but as it concerns the Welsh Region, and not the concern of this particular report, I will not pursue the matter. Suffice it to say that I found it impossible to be secretary to both organizations, so the secretaryship of Penybont was passed over to my long-suffering wife, Margaret.

What I have left till last is probably the most important part of this exercise,- lifesaving activity itself!

Right from the first month of its existence, the club proved its worth. We started on August 1st, and that very month Jayne Power and Maurice Bertorelli carried out our first rescue. They saved the life of a young man, Michael King, a resident of Ogmere-by-sea, for which they were awarded the Certificate of the

Royal Humane Society and were presented with their certificates in a ceremony at the Penybont RDC Offices by the Chairman of Penybont RDC.

Club members were asked to assist with a search at Llandow for a little girl, Deirdre Patton, aged 4½ who had gone missing, believed fallen into a swollen brook at the front of her house. Atlantic College students, sixth formers from Cowbridge Grammar School, police cadets as well as our team members took part in the unsuccessful search. The little girl's body was discovered the following day, 1½ miles downstream, trapped in undergrowth.

Another unhappy search was carried out on Southerndown beach, where a six-year-old boy had gone missing. He had wandered off alone on the beach. The search was broken off after dark, but was resumed at first light by club members, when the little body was found in the mouth of a cave in the cliffs. He had, apparently fallen from rocks in his sad attempt to escape the incoming tide. One of my saddest memories is that of carrying the little body to the helicopter which had been helping with the search and had landed nearby.

Barrie Maydew also carried out a rescue, that of an eight-year-old boy, Ian Davies of Cardiff, who had been swept off his feet in the river mouth and was immediately in serious difficulty, being out of his depth and unable to swim. Barrie plunged in and swiftly brought the lad ashore.

Barrie was involved in another incident when he and Anthony Garret rescued two children, Sian Lynel aged 10, from Cambridge and Layton Page aged 8, from Newbury. They were about 60 yards out and were being carried out by the strong current. They were treated for shock at the headquarters.

A notable rescue was carried out by Grant Thomas, a club member living in Park Court Road, Bridgend. He went to the rescue of Paul Farrell from Castleridge in Staffordshire, who was on holiday with his parents in Ogmores-by-Sea. Grant, who was only 4ft 8ins tall, saw the child crying and up to his neck in the water. He was being thrown against the sharp rocks by the heavy swell. At considerable risk to himself, Grant brought the child to safety. The patient had chest abrasions and bruises, but was able to be returned to his parents.

A very daring rescue was carried out by Dallas, for which he received a Testimonial on Vellum presented to him by the Chairman of Penybont RDC in a Presentation Ceremony at the Council Offices.

Dallas was patrolling the beach at Southerndown, not officially on duty at the time. Two women Mrs. Ingrid Hardman of Pontypridd and Miss Erica Steiner of Gelligaer, were in a small dinghy which was drifting out to sea and was some distance from the shore. They waved their paddles as a sign of distress, so Dallas swam out to them, towing a line manned by a ladies Reel and Line team from Penybont lifeguards who had just finished giving a demonstration to visitors. When he reached the dinghy, he climbed aboard, and the ladies team started to haul them in. All went well for about 250 yards but unfortunately, well-intentioned onlookers joined in, and their interference capsized the boat. Dallas had to discard the belt he was wearing to enable him to secure the two ladies. They then all clung to the dinghy while the ladies team reeled them in.

Dallas had put his own life at risk in this daring rescue and was shattered when he finally came ashore.

David Staples rescued a young lad, one of two who were staying in a caravan in Porthcawl, when they got into difficulties while trying to cross the river. The boys were allowed to go home after they were treated at the headquarters

There were many instances of missing children being reported to the lifeguards. One I particularly remember involved a little six year old girl, Heather Rees from Rhose, who had been missing for several hours before we were asked to help. All available lifeguards, coastguards, police, and an RAF helicopter took part in the search. When I was asked by the police where the parents were, I was able to point them out- they were in a queue for ice-cream! Needless to say, the police soon rectified that situation. The girl was eventually found, -at Bridgend Police Station, where she had been taken by a visitor to the beach. Unbelievable what people do!

It was felt to be important that it should not be all work. A social side to the club was deemed to be important. To that end, various events were organized. Our first Annual Dinner Dance was held at The Dunraven Arms Hotel, Bridgend, on Thursday 10th October 1968, and was a great success. The principal speaker on that occasion was Councillor Osborne, who was able to report that there had been seven rescues that year, all but one from the river mouth. Other events followed, and served to give some reward to our dedicated club members. One such memorable event was a dinner and social evening at the Craig yr Eos hotel, in Ogmere. (Now converted, unfortunately, to flats). This was organized in the main by Pop Lake, as he and his friends had arranged a musical event. What is memorable to Margaret and me is that he had composed a song about us! I cannot remember details, but I do know it provided everyone with a good laugh!

The need for equipment for lifesaving and training was with us from the very beginning, of course. We were fortunate to have assistance from Atlantic College, as they loaned us a reel and line.

Lifeguards were required to wear distinctive headgear, in the form of caps in the colours of their club. (The committee had chosen the pale blue and orange colours from the outset). Caps were expensive, so materials were bought and Margaret made a large number of caps. If we were to take part in Championships and inter-club competitions we also needed a pennant, so I designed a pennant, cut out letters to be sewn on to the flag, and Margaret made the pennant! We were a real DIY club!

Mrs. Nancy Morgan, in addition to her unflinching efforts in jumble sales and other ventures, always ready to help, presented the club with its first canoe, a very valuable aid to lifesaving as well as a pleasant recreation for club members, all of whom had to meet the necessary safety standards, being trained at Atlantic College, and also at the National Coastal Rescue Training Centre run by Cdr. Thompson at Aberavon, before being allowed out at sea.

We needed a surf ski, so I designed and made one at my school workshop in Cowbridge. It was great success, so I made another one! These were well used

and were very popular with club members. We even used them in inter-club competitions in the single-ski events.

Championship competitions were an important aspect of lifesaving. Not only did they stimulate development of skills, they were also an important social event as it allowed lifeguards to meet members of other teams from England and Wales. Our first "National" was at St. Ives in Cornwall, where a very green and inexperienced team was thrown in at the deep end. Nonetheless, they acquitted themselves very well, and were awarded The Maiden Plate, the club being given civic recognition of its achievement at a reception by Penybont Rural District Council.

It would be wrong not to single out the wonderful work done by Dallas Robinson. Not only was he vice-captain of Penybont, he was the only person in Britain to have achieved the Gold award of the SLSAGB.

He was singled out at the age of 21 to be sent to America for experience with Lifeguards in California and to study their techniques, and was Welsh Lifeguard of the Year, being awarded a gold statuette and 10,000 Green Shield Trading Stamps. The presentation was done at the National Coastal Rescue training Centre at Afan Lido at a reception for nearly a 100 lifeguards and guests.

How lucky Penybont have been to have such grand people in their teams, it was a privilege and joy to work with them. The Club went from strength to strength in competitions over the following years, and I do not wish to elaborate on their many successes, as I feel sure there must be a record within the club somewhere of its achievements. Suffice it to say that from a very green rookie club, Penybont became one of the strongest clubs in the country, and were the team to be reckoned with in National competitions, an achievement of which Margaret and I are extremely proud when the early formative years of struggle to keep the club going are considered.

PENYBONT RURAL DISTRICT COUN



**Programme of
Opening Ceremony**

by LORD DULVERTON
of Combined Headquarters for
the Penybont Life Saving Club
and Bridgend Division of
St. John's Ambulance Brigade

at

THE RIVERMOUTH, OGMORE-BY-S

on

SATURDAY, 7th JUNE, 1969
at 2.0 p.m.

PROGRAMME OF OPENING CEREMONY

Penybont Surf Life Saving Club/St. John's Ambulance Brigade

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14.00 | All members of the S.L.S.C. and St. John's to report. | 15.00 | Teams will have marched to the beach and out demonstrations of beach rescue. Life demonstration by senior squad. Torpedo buoy both men and women members of the Club. rescue. Demonstrations of the Whittle Ski. operation with lifeguards and St. John's incident. Demonstration of canoe and sk members of the Atlantic College. |
| 14.15 | Chairman of the Penybont Council to meet Lord Dulverton, Lord Lieutenant, Chairman of the Glamorgan County Council and Chairman of Sports Council of Wales and introduce to them the officials of the S.L.S.C. and St. John's. Inspection of the teams and introduction of each member of the team to Lord Dulverton by the Captain of the Club. | 15.50 | Demonstration ends and beach area cleared tators for helicopter landing. |
| 14.25 | Formal welcome by the Chairman of the Penybont R.D.C. Opening Address by Lord Dulverton and declaring the H.Q. open. Response and vote of thanks to Lord Dulverton by Chairman of the Penybont S.L.S.C. and officer in charge of St. John's Cadets. Presentation to Lord Dulverton of a club tie or S.L.S.C. tie as appropriate. Presentation to be made by Jane Power and Maurice Bertorelli with reference being made to their awards of the Royal Humane Society for the first recorded rescue in the Club's history. | 16.00 | Helicopter lands, takes off and carries out operation with Atlantic College rescue boat (permitting); victim landed on the beach. the club taken aboard helicopter together graphers if necessary and second operative swimmer will be complete. Helicopter will land and photographers and will leave. |
| 14.45 | Inspection of club headquarters by Lord Dulverton and all official guests. Lord Dulverton, Lord Lieutenant, Chairman of the County Council and Chairman of Sports Council to be invited to sign the visitors' book. | 16.15 | Teams will form up on the beach and march Club H.Q. |
| | | 16.30 | Official party will leave for tea at the Craig-y Ogmored-by-Sea. |
| | | 17.30 | Guests depart after a vote of thanks by Ch |