It was the 16th century. The king of England was James the First, son of Mary Queen of Scots. At that time, Catholics were burnt or tortured for their beliefs. If Catholics didn’t go and pray at their local Protestant church, then they were fined or even killed.

Catholic Guy Fawkes joined a group of plotters to help blow up the Houses of Parliament and the King. The plotters rented a cellar under the Houses of Parliament. In it they put 36 barrels of gunpowder and got ready for the big bang. Guy Fawkes had agreed to look after the gunpowder and blow it up on 3 November, but then one of the plotters secretly told the King not to go to Parliament that day. So Guy Fawkes agreed he would light the fuse on the fifth. But the cellar was searched on 4 November and Guy Fawkes was found and arrested. A few weeks later he was tortured and brutally executed (for details on the quaint old English practice of hanging, drawing, and quartering, consult the Internet).

Every 5 November, British children celebrate Bonfire Night. In the weeks beforehand, they make “guys” — models of people, destined to be burnt on the bonfire as a memorial to Guy Fawkes’ execution. Many kids parade their creations through the streets — calling out “Penny for the guy.” The idea is that with those “pennies” (more likely to be pounds these days) they will buy fireworks to set off around the bonfire.

UNFICYP celebrated Guy Fawkes night close to the old control tower on old Nicosia International Airport on Saturday 6 November. Although some two hundred people joined in the celebration, a lot had clearly decided to stay at home and watch the Australians beat the French in the rugby world cup (shame!).

British bonfire parties traditionally feature toffee apples, but here, in true multinational UNFICYP style, the apples were served in the form of Apfelstrudel. There were also hamburgers, Glühwein, beer and juice.

The festivities started with a fancy dress competition. Knight Martin Adams won the under eight category, while a mystery guest, dressed in what was called “a Major Gogin lookalike costume,” won the nine and older category.

And then, at around 18.15 hrs, fire officer Paul Nadeem assisted Colonel Jeremy Brooks in lighting the bonfire. The “guy” on top of the woodpile was quartered when Mark Kingston tossed the figure as high as he could.

Just as people began to warm up, Paul called out: “Watch out: what goes up, must come down,” sending a fabulous fireworks display sky high. Millions of stars, showers of colours, and some great loud bangs ensured a cracking evening for all.

Thanks to the Brits for sharing this tradition with the rest of us, to the Austrians for enhancing the food and drink element, and to the fire officer for taking time out from extinguishing fires to light one.
Anyone who’s spent any time around UNICYPF HQ today will have heard a lot about “the auditors.” People are busy answering questions, making sure that everything is up to date, and briefing the auditors on what they have been doing, what they are doing, and why.

So I thought it might be helpful to give a brief explanation as to why the auditors come, and why their visits are so important. Throughout the United Nations, staff try to make the best possible use of the organization’s funds. Not only to be able to implement new missions (Kosovo, East Timor), but also to make clear to all the 188 Members States that their financial contributions are well spent. Sending teams of auditors to mission areas is key to making this happen.

UNICYPF has recently seen the visit of an external audit team from one of the UN Member States, the Philippines. Teams like these are independent groups of highly experienced auditors who have the mandate to visit any place in the mission area, interview any staff member, and, if necessary, document them in carrying out their work. They work, along with recommendations on how to improve the Mission’s cost effectiveness, will be available to all UN members.

Recently, the audit mission team arrived from the Philippines, and is currently in the Buffer Zone, along with the recommendations of the audit team, which is available to all UN members.

The day external auditors team left Cyprus, an internal audit team arrived. Internal auditors are also independent, but they are UN personnel who report to the UN General Secretary. Another important distinction is that while the external group mainly concentrates on the financial side of the operation, the internal auditors also take the operational side in account. They carefully review whether the available resources were used, and what should be done better, in line with the UN rules and regulations. For example: are soldiers getting the rations they’re entitled to, is money being spent on maintaining patrol tracks and the work being done properly?

This was the second group of auditors who have been sent to the Buffer Zone, to observe operations in the Buffer Zone area, and to determine whether the funds were being spent properly. The auditors also visited a troop location and UNICYPF stations in another sector to observe operations in the Buffer Zone.

Swami Vivekananda

The most courageous act is to think for yourself - aloud.

Chanel

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but it you want to test a man’s character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

Do not believe in a thing because you have read about it in a book. Do not believe in a thing because another man has said it was true. Do not believe in words because they are hollowed by tradition. Find out for yourself. Reason it out. That is what is realisation.

In The Blue Beret
10 years ago - November 1989

Three charity events took place:

* Fund for the Blind: The UN MP Coy organised a fundraiser for the blind children in Cyprus. Just over CYP900 was collected for the charities, both north and south.

* United for Children: soldiers from the British Contingent ran the complete length of the Buffer Zone, west to east, coast to coast to raise money for Save the Children.

* The 1989 Terry Fox Run: Runners, walkers, bikers, skateboarders and skaters took part in a 10 km run in aid of cancer research. Over CYP100 was collected, surpassing the 1988 total.

In The Blue Beret
20 years ago - November 1979

Swedish female soldiers arrived in Cyprus.

UNICYPF beat UNTSO at tennis: 13-5.

Representatives of the two communities in Cyprus got together to discuss the new "Master Plan for Nicosa".

Ch Inp Jack Thurgar, an Australian colonial police officer who risked his life by walking into a minefield to rescue a soldier. The driver of the mine-clearing tractor, who was not injured, was praised for his bravery.

Ch Inp Jack Thurgar, an Australian colonial police officer who risked his life by walking into a minefield to rescue a soldier. The driver of the mine-clearing tractor, who was not injured, was praised for his bravery.
SECTOR 1'S MEDAL PARADE

ARGCON's most recent medal parade was a happy occasion, held in bright sunlight under a blue sky.

As you know, in ARGCON we are accompanied by friends from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. To honour them on this special day, the Argentine military band played all their national anthems along with Argentina's.

The medals were presented by the Acting Chief of Mission, Force Commander, Chief of Staff, and Chief Administrative Officer. A military march past concluded the parade.

La más reciente celebración realizada por el ARGCON fue "Arraballo**, Major Pedro Amaruill and Pres Alejandra de Leon and Alejandra Lopez, whose performances left more than one spectator breathless. They were the highlights of the night, transporting all of us back to Argentina. The tango is at the core of Argentina’s customs, and we were proud to have the opportunity to share it with our audience, and show our colleagues and friends how we live and feel this special dance.

By Lt (Navy) Gastón Grasso

Let’s Tango

ARGCON medal parade guests were treated to a stunning exhibition of our famous dance - the tango. The stars of the show were the "Arraballo**", Major Pedro Amaruill and Pres Alejandra de Leon and Alejandra Lopez, whose performances left more than one spectator breathless. They were the highlights of the night, transporting all of us back to Argentina. The tango is at the core of Argentina’s customs, and we were proud to have the opportunity to share it with our audience, and show our colleagues and friends how we live and feel this special dance.

EXHIBICION DEL TANGO ARGENTINO

During the fiesta de la entrega de medallas del ARGCON, nuestros invitados tuvieron la posibilidad de ver una imponente exhibición de Tango. Las estrellas del show fueron el "Arrabalo** Major Pedro Amaruill, primer "maestro" de Tango en el Sector 1, y las Soldadoas Voluntarias Alejandra López y Alejandra de León, cuyas figuras y movimientos le quitaron la respiración a más de uno. Ellas fueron la sorpresa de la noche, y nos transportaron imaginariamente hacia nuestra querida Argentina. El tango está en el corazón de nuestras costumbres y nosotros estamos realmente orgullosos de haber tenido la oportunidad de compartirlo con nuestra audiencia y de mostrarnos de que manera sentimos y vivimos este baile tan especial.

A future master chef?

MASTER CHEF '99

Four budding chefs recently gathered at City Troop's Headquarters, Maple House, for this year's Sector 2 Chef Competition. The contest was part of the overall best troop competition and the competing soldiers were: L/Bdr Colin Groake (City Troop), L/Bdr Chris Edis (Ortona), Gnr Vicky Eastwood (Liri) and Gnr Adam Bailey (Ledra).

The chefs arrived with no idea what to expect, not even knowing what ingredients they were getting. Each was presented with a box with meat and two veg and given two hours to get on with producing their culinary masterpieces.

The unlucky tasters doing their best impressions of food guru Lloyd Grossman were Mrs Shellard (wife of the Regimental Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Shellard) and WO2 Fox, the Sector 2 master chef.

These hapless souls "tasted, digested and deliberated" the meals, which were roast lamb from City Troop, stir-fry from Ortona Troop, steak from Liri Troop and Ledra Troop's stuffed chicken. After the tasting, the chefs set about cleaning the kitchen down whilst the judges re-tasted the food and came to their decision.

Final results were Ortona and Liri joint third, with Ledra and City Troops sharing the first prize. It was a very close-run event, and special mention must go to City Troop for the use of their WO2 Fox for organising the whole event.

By Gnr Adam Bailey

A future master chef?
REAL LIFE

HANDICAPPED AND CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVE CHEQUES

UNIFCYP handed over two CP200 cheques to children's charities in early November - proceeds from the summer go-kart event organised by S/Sgt Ron Patterson and his wife Lynne. The first cheque went to the El Pida foundation in Nicosia, an organisation concentrating on cancer research and treating children who have cancer. The foundation said it would spend the money on blood testing equipment. The second cheque was handed over to the Education and Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children. The centre provides education and care for 29 children aged between 6 and 18 years.

Children playing in the yard of the education and rehabilitation centre

SICON’S FIRST MONTH IN CYPRUS

At the end of September, Sector 4 rotated and the Slovenian Contingent (SICON) got an infusion of new peacekeepers. Most of us are members of 3rd Platoon in 2nd Company, located in OP 139 at Camp Triglav (the old Salamis carton factory), and in OP 135. The Area of Responsibility (AOR) of 3rd Platoon is the corridor road between two British Sovereign Base Area territories. The main task is patrolling along the link road, manning OPs and OPTs. In addition, this is the permanent force reserve platoon in Sector 4.

The first three weeks after we arrived were very tough because we had to do normal duties and learn all about our AOR. We also had a lot to do with OPFOR activities. There wasn’t much time for sleeping in those weeks - on top of everything else, we were all studying for the Line Matura exam.

We did the Line Matura in the middle of October and it lasted for some days. Not everybody was successful first time around, so a few soldiers had to repeat some briefings. In the end they all passed and proved to be ready to work as UNIFCYP peacekeepers. Even more significantly - they had earned the right to have days off.

Cpl Janez Vidic described his first impressions of UNIFCYP: “I felt the difference in climate when I arrived - in Slovenia it was already the beginning of autumn, while here it was still summer.

“Line Matura wasn’t as hard as I’d expected but I still had to learn the briefings. I am working in Liaison Post Strovila, which is a village surrounded by SBA territory and manned by one UN and one TCSP soldier. We have good relations with the soldiers and with the inhabitants of the village. The villagers are very hospitable.

“In Slovenia we’d gone through a training process which prepared us for the operations we are doing here. So it was not a surprise for me to act like a peacekeeper. But because I’m a professional soldier, I’m used to doing more dynamic tasks than we do here in Cyprus. Still, I will make sure I do the job here properly. Time passes very fast when you’re busy and suddenly, I find I’ve already got one month of duty behind me.”

Sgt Petek told me: “I had a rather unrealistic idea about the mission when we were training in Slovenia. The sessions were intensive because of time constraints, but here the system is stable and everybody knows what their jobs are so it feels more relaxed.

“I’ve met a lot of new people, especially among the UN soldiers in 2nd Coy. At the moment I spend most of my free time in Ayia Napa, but later I’ll try to explore whole island. I hope that my time in Cyprus will pass quickly, and that I’ll go home with happy memories.”

AustroIrish evening

Irish and Austrian members of UNIFCYP proved the real value of integration at the end of October when they staged the second Austrian/ Irish evening of 1999. Venue: Camp Duke Leopold V. Menu: Irish stew made in the Austrian kitchen.

Entertainment highlights included Tony, a singer and musician who normally plays at O’Rourke’s in Ayia Napa, but who kindly moved over to Famagusta for the evening. Also on the programme: Maria Conway, a former member of IRCIVPOL, who, supported by our Austrian MSgt Holzknecht on his banjo, performed some well-known songs. A couple of local students demonstrated their prowess on the guitar, and Supt Murphy played the guitar and sang.

The dinner and the music weren’t the only features of the evening. There was also a raffle in which Cpl Anfang, one of the camp cooks, won the main prize - a weekend at the Capo Bay Hotel in Protaras.
I n early 1963, Pte Richard Streeter arrived in Cyprus with the British Parachute Regiment. Richard was a young man from Bristol, just married and not long joined the regiment. His first impressions of Cyprus contrasted starkly with Bristol at the beginning of the swinging '60s and his home with the paratroopers at Aldershot.

Here in Cyprus, bombings and shootouts were not uncommon. Tensions were increasing and worldwide interest in the island was intensifying. The British Army patrolled, was ambushed and carried out cordon search operations. The situation deteriorated, and in March 1964, the United Nations launched a peacekeeping operation.

Richard was proud to be a paratrooper and he treasured his maroon beret as dearly as any other para. He could hardly believe his ears when the regiment was told that it would become part of a United Nations effort to resolve the problems of the island. It was unthinkable to trade his maroon beret for a blue one. Even more confusingly, he now confessed, when he heard that Cyprus was to become a United Nations mission, his first comment was “United Nations who?”

The first few months were an interesting time. Soon after joining UNFICYP, whilst out on patrol in his blue beret, he noticed an astonishing thing. The local villagers, who had shown a less than socialist attitude when he turned up in his maroon headgear, started to smile and greet these young men from the UN. So that was the United Nations for you. Not enough, Pte Streeter became proud to wear his blue beret.

Five years later, he left the British Army and emigrated to Australia with his wife and two children. He is now a senior lecturer at a University in the United Arab Emirates. He has collected several degrees and is now completing his PhD.

35 years later...

If you remember, Pte Richard Streeter had two children. One of these was a son - Adrian Streeter. Does that name sound familiar to anyone?

It should do: Adrian is currently working with UNFICYP, A Federal Agent with the Australian Federal Police, Sgt Adrian Streeter is currently attached to UNFICYP at Pyla, and is continuing his family’s proud tradition of service with the United Nations.

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

In Sector 1 we speak Spanish amongst ourselves, but to communicate with the outside world we need to be able to speak English. For this reason, we have one person who acts as the English translator in the Joint Operation Centre (JOC). His name is WOII Mario Araoz.

Mario told us: “I was born in a small, sunny city in the north of the country called Jujuy on 2 August 1960. I have been in the Army Aviation for 20 years. I started by working as an aircraft mechanic with helicopters. I worked with the Bell UH-11-1, so I know it very well.”

Have you worked anywhere else outside your home country?

“Yes, in 1992, the Army Aviation sent me to Virginia State, to the United States Army, where I attended a course on Aircraft Structural Repair. I was there for five months.”

What is your job in UNFICYP and where did you learn English?

“I am an operator and English translator in Sector 1’s JOC. I learnt English at school and in institutes, but I have also studied the language on my own.”

Has anything special or strange happened during your tour?

“Yes, I’ve been here a year now and one of the most interesting things about my tour is that I reckon I’ve spoken English with almost all the people who work in UNFICYP civilians, police, and military.”

And Mario’s final words: “I’d like to be part of a new mission in Cyprus, and bring my wife, Liliana Beatriz, and my children to this beautiful island.”

“Meanwhile, I am leaving in a few days, and I just want to say that I’ll miss the warm and kind friendship of those people that I met here. I wish you all the best and hope to see you again.”

TRADUCTOR DE INGLES

En el Sector 1 todos nosotros hablamos español, nuestra lengua natural. Pero para poder comunicarnos con el resto de los componentes que conforman a UNFICYP necesitamos hablar inglés. Por esta razón, tenemos una persona que es capaz de hacerlo y de realizar las traducciones necesarias para que el imprescindible Centro de Operaciones Conjuntas (JOC) funcione adecuadamente. Esta persona es el WO III Mario Araoz.

Mario nos contó: “Nací en una pequeña pero soleada ciudad en el Norte de mi país llamada Jujuy, el 2 de Agosto de 1960. He trabajado en el servicio de Aviación del Ejército durante 20 años. Comencé como un mecánico de aviones, especialmente en helicópteros. Trabajé mucho tiempo con el famoso BELL UH-1H, por lo tanto lo conozco muy bien.”

Ha trabajado en algún otro lugar fuera de su país de origen?

“Sí, en 1992, el Ejército me envió a el Estado de Virginia, en los Estados Unidos. Allí aprendí mucho con el Ejército americano donde hice un curso de "Reparación Estructural de Aviones. Estuve allí durante cinco meses."

¿Qué es su oficio en UNFICYP y donde logró aprender inglés?

"Soy operador y traductor de Inglés en el JOC del Sector 1. Aprendí inglés en la escuela e institutos de inglés, pero también por mi propia cuenta.

Le ha sucedido algo especial o gracieoso durante su estadía en Chipre?"

“Sí, hace un año que estoy aquí, y lo gracieoso es que creo realmente, haber hablado con todos los miembros que componen el HQ UNFICYP y el resto de los Sectores, cifras, civiles, policías o militares.”

Concluyó: “Me gustaría ser parte de una nueva misión en Chipre, y traer a esta hermosa isla a mi señora, Liliana Beatriz, y a mis hijos. En muy poco tiempo estoy regresando a mi hogar y quiero expresar que voy a extrañar esta casa y amable amistad de las personas que he conocido aquí. Les deseo todo lo mejor y espero que algún día nos volvamos a encontrar."
NEWS

BENGAL - A PIECE OF CAKE

By I-section, Bengal Troop

That's what they told us before we came out here: "Bengal troop is the most uneventful AOR in the whole line. It's a very boring and very big AOR, and nothing ever happens." Well, the IJABT finds the very opposite is true. We have a 15km ceasefire line to patrol which makes it very easy for civilians to enter the BZ.

Nevertheless, we know that it's fine for civilians to come into the BZ, as long as they have a valid pass to do so. It's part of our job to ensure that conditions are as close to "normal" as they can be. But it alsoParallel staff members and the military status quo. And that means no unauthorised entry into the BZ.

Almost every day we have to deal with people walking across the line. People who throw stones in the BZ. People who dump their rubbish in the BZ. Couples who come in search of a bit of privacy. And in the past two months, we've had a lot of unexpected things. It's got to the stage that when we call UNCIVPOL they reply: "Ah, Bengal. Intrusion or fire?"

On top of all this, of course, we deal with incidents relating to the two opposing forces. Our troophouse has kept us busy too. Since we've been here, we've been trying to improve the infrastructure. We had to give the kitchen a thorough clean - the last cooks seemed better at putting greese on the walls than in the frying pan. The water system was decidedly antiquated so that meant there's the constant battle to keep the helicopter landing pad neat and trim.

When we arrived, the Ops room boasted two tables and one garden chair. Conscious that section commanders have to work 12-hour shifts in here, we made them a nice desk. At the moment we are rebuilding our bar. It's tough work as all we have is a hammer, a few nails and a saw designed for felling trees, not cutting timber. But we're getting there.

That doesn't leave a lot of time free, but when we do find spare hours, we can watch Dutch TV beamed in by satellite. So as you can see, the life at Bengal troop is anything but boring.

TRAVEL ADVISORY: MILLENNIUM BUG

The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator issued the following travel advisory for staff members of the United Nations.

As a consequence of the so-called Y2K Millennium Bug, on or about 1 January 2000, some automated systems throughout the world may be unable to process information correctly causing unpredictable system malfunctions. While many governments and businesses have taken steps to address potential problems associated with the Y2K phenomenon, no one can accurately predict what systems could be affected or when.

All United Nations staff who are planning to travel during the roll-over period should be aware of the potential for problems and should stay informed about Y2K preparedness in the location(s) to which they will be travelling.

Should Y2K-related problems occur at a particular duty station, the United Nations security management system will be hard-pressed to provide assistance. It is incumbent upon each traveller to take personal responsibility for being informed and prepared for possible disruption.

In order to make an informed decision as to whether to travel to a particular duty station or not, staff members may obtain further information by consulting the following web sites:

Canadian Dept of Foreign Affairs: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/travelsafety/y2k
UK Foreign Office: http://www.fco.gov.uk
ICTA: http://www.ita.org/y2k
ICAO: http://www.icao.int/y2k
Cyprus: http://www.y2kcommittee.cytanet.com.cy

Additional information may also be obtained from the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator or from the CAO's office at UNICYP.

MFR MEDAL PARADE

Normally the MFR soldiers receive their peacekeeping medals during their respective contingents' medal parades. On Tuesday 2 November, however, 42 MFR staff of different nationalities received their well-deserved medal on the first ever special MFR medal parade.
**uchos SERVICES**

**SERVICES AT ST. COLEMAN'S CHURCH, UNPAS: ANGELICA**

- Roman Catholic Mass,
  - Saturdays: 18:00 hrs.
  - Sunday worship: 09:00 hrs.

All welcome.

- Sector 2 Padre's Office (LPH) tel: 864760/1, Ext 301.
- Britcon Chaplain: Padre Philip McCarthy.
- RC Chaplain: Rev Fr Basil Pearson, tel: (04) 724106.
  - Chapel Father Dan Kaye.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**BRTCONNECTYOUTHCLUB**

If you are aged between 8-16 and want to meet other young people from within the UNIFCYP and community, BRTOCN is the place to go. We are open on Friday nights from 7:00 to 10:00-term at St Michael's school in the UNPAS. Our club is run by young people and everyone is welcome to participate from any age group. We have activities such as sports, music, and activities that can be enjoyed by all. We also have a computer lab and internet access. Please feel free to come and visit us at any time.

**DVD FILMS**

The children's film is moving from Friday evening at the Academy and into the school and library.

**SHOWING SOON:**
- 19 Nov: Babe, Pig in the City
- 26 Nov: The El-Chante Forest

**SERVICES**

Decorative Art Lessons. Qualified teacher gives daily lessons to children aged 5-12 in creative art, drawing and handicraft using clay, paper, wood, etc. Contact Andy on (04) 424598 or (06) 46830.

**BEAUTY TREATMENTS BY NIKL**

16 December will be Nikl Beauty day before the Christmas Holidays. So ladies, why not come along and treat yourself to a pedicure or one of Nikl's special occasion treatments. Prices start at £9 for a small manicure.

Gents, why not give yourself a beauty treatment which can be paid for at the end of the month.

Call the HIVE for more information on (02) 359316.

**SMPLAIR FASHIONS**

Sandra's Hair Fashions is located at 21 Sycamore Road on the Married Quarters Patch. Open Mon-Fri between 09:00-18.00 hrs. Tel: (02) 776454.

**ENGLISH LESSONS**

Qualified and experienced teacher available to teach English to small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Tel: (02) 772991.

**EVENING DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT AT PARTIES**

Lady available for evening baby-sitting or assistance at dinner parties. Tel: (02) 330296 after 16.00 hrs.

**SPECIAL RELIABLE**

Mature lady available for baby-sitting. Tel: (02) 623850 after 16.00 hrs.

**UK-TRAINED SEAMSTRESS**

Available for alterations, zip replacement, dress making and tailoring. Also specialists in beautiful creative home fabric designs. Tel: (02) 491840.

For wants: Woman is looking for houses, offices and studios in Nicosia + area to clean. Good transport available. 12 years experience. Call (02) 489961.

**ARKONDIESE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Wed 24 Nov 1999
4:00-6:00 pm at the Asty Hotel.
12 Pringkipiss Aniss, Ayios Dhromitos, Nicosia.
Entrance fee of £1 includes coffee and sweet - in aid of the Cyprus families in need.

**SERVICES**

Read the notices in the International Cafeteria for more details.

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BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

HEROES OR MAJOR CHIWISTS?

By Maj Zános Hats

Training and concentration - that's what it's all about, according to three Hungarian soldiers who willingly cut their hair open and procured the necessary funds to a severe beating in the martial arts demonstration on UN Day. Each of them has more than half of his head cut off - a demonstration of the fine art of self-defence.

"I showed my soldiers you can break roof-tiles with your bare hands," he says. "They were just thinking it was impossible," says MajStg Robert Weissfahr. "This teaches them a human being can do a lot more than first expected. This could prove to be valuable to them as soldiers."

"But you got hurt in your demonstration, doesn't that show it is risky?" - it was Robert who cut his head open.

"Well, there's always some risk involved in giving a demonstration such as ours to the masses. In this case, I think it was because my concentration slip for a second. On the other hand, I think he could have fought on, you should never give up."

You clearly need to be a real man to do this thing, Cpl Robert Szekeres. He didn't even realise he'd caught fire while he was breaking burning roof-tiles with his bare fist. "I was concentrating so hard on breaking the tiles that nothing else mattered. That's why I only noticed after a while that my jacket was on fire."

Standing 1.93m and weighing in at 103.5kg, nobody in his right mind would mess with MajStg Lajos Szeké. On UN Day however, friends and colleagues had a go at him, beating him with battens so hard that the sticks broke.

"This was to show I can endure pain. The good thing is that the blows are expected," ensures Lajos. "I tighten my muscles just before the baton hits me. Even if I do feel pain, there is so much adrenaline going through my body I don't actually notice it till after the demonstration, while I'm having a shower."

All three sportmen are convinced: "Whether it is the fear of fire, the fear of hurting yourself or the fear of failing to do your demonstration well, by training hard and by concentrating on your task, you can achieve your aims."

By Sgt Cameron Scott

SHELLARD TROPHY '99

"What time does the bus leave?" asked Sgt Peter Houston on his way to get changed at 08.55 on Friday 29 October.

"Nine o'clock sir," answered the driver, starting the engine.

The 22 RA regimental golf competition was being held at the Secret Valley Golf Club just outside Paphos that day. The contest has been aptly named The Lost Balls and Hackers Competition by Capt Brian Ransom who had, incidentally, returned to the UK leaving Sgt "Rocket" Ron Fenton and myself the unenviable task of piecing the whole thing together.

The competition was attended by the Regimental Hon Col, Rtd Maj Gen Shellard who had been entered as an 18 handicap. Later on, he would present the Shellard Trophy for the first time to the overall regimental champion.

Having sailed past Richard Noble and Thrust 2 on the way to Paphos, we organised set up the array of novelty-spattered prizes in the clubhouse and awaited the 27 golfers who would be teeing off in some sort of order shortly after arriving.

The Hon Col (happy with the CO's clubs) put the first round down the range at 12.17 hrs and they were off! Six different flights later the course was a hive of activity with divots being replaced every few yards and cigars being lit at every other bunker.

Unfortunately, the last few flights took longer than expected and they had to finish after 16 hours as darkness fell. Everyone came in safely with no complaints from the general public, leaving Capt Brian Ransom and his helpers to sort out the scorecards, and work out who genuinely couldn't count and who was guilty of poetic licence. The end result was a load of seemingly worthy champions.

The winner of the Shellard Trophy was Bdr Kerry Roberts whose handicap is still under investigation. Div 1 (18) winner was the Padre, Capt Phillip McCormack, who, with some divine intervention (we think), had a fantastic round. Div 2 (19-27) was won by Sgt Eijkelkemorgen from Falcon Troop and Div 3 (28+) was awarded to Lt David Blackburn who said before declaring his handicap that he had only taken the sport up at Christmas. What he failed to mention was this was his first time playing.

Serious prizes over, the not-so-serious golfers lined up to accept the not-so-serious prizes. Sgt Mick Wakeling won one of his own expertly crafted prizes with an outstanding 80 (yes, 80!) over (yes, over!) par 154 winning the Buzz Lightyear To Infinity and Beyond trophy. LCpl Billy Butlin proudly accepted a whip and cowboy hat for the most lost balls (six) and the Indiana Jones trophy. Master Chef W01 Nigel Fox spent most of the day in the sand winning the Hamlet World Captain. Sgt Houston won the Best Putter Award.

The last prize of the day was awarded to the oldest golfer on the course, Capt Brian Ransom who was upset at not having won anything, could only watch himself come a close second to the Hon Col and present him the golden Zimmer award.

THE FAMAGUSTA OPEN

By Maj Zános Hats

As was unfortunate that only 22 teams were able to provide contestants for the first ever UNFICYP Famagusta Open men's singles tennis tournament on 31 October. But the 14 participants who turned up to play at the sports centre of the Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta proved some tough, exciting matches and some great entertainment - livered up by some strong winds.

At the end of the day, there was a barbecue at Camp Duke Leopold V at which the CO of Sector 4 congratulated participants and presented cups and prizes to the winners and runners up.

Later, contestants washed the tennis dust out of their throats with beer. Sector 4 hopes the tournament will become an annual event, and is doing its best to infect Sectors 1 and 2, UN Flight and UNFICYP HQ with tennis fever to increase the number of entrants.

Results:

Winner: Maj Zános Hats
Runner up: WO Werner Ezel
Third place: Maj Peter Obermoser
Fourth place: WO Sigfried Stuermer

Participants of the competition at the prize-giving ceremony

20 November 1999 Sector 4 is organising a tram run around the old walls of Famagusta. There will be four categories: men under 40, men over 40, guests (i.e. those without an UN card), and women (of all ages).

Participation is open to all UNFICYP personnel, members of the British Forces in Cyprus, military personnel of the TH and TCSF in the Famagusta area, dependants of all the above, and civilians of the Famagusta community.

An entry fee will be collected to cover costs of the organisation, food, etc. Registration forms are to be returned not later than 12 November to WO2 Zach at Sector 4 (038/21463 ext. 228). Registration and collection of fees will take place between 08.00 and 09.30 on 20 November.

28 November 1999, Cyprus Aphrodite Half Marathon, Cyprus Marriott Sports Centre, Pafos. The start will be at 10.00 hrs while the 5 km Fun Run will start at 10.30. Cash prizes. Entry fee: CYP 7.00. Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Health Runners Club, PO Box 28167, Strovolos 1021, Nicosia, Cyprus. Tel: (02) 420559, Fax: (02) 420559. E-mail: runclub@spidernet.com or www.runclub@spidernet.com

Application forms must be received by 13 November.

3 December 1999, Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon 1999. Start and finish on 2 December, will be at the Rodon Mount Hotel at Agios. The start on 3 December will be at the square of Ledra Village. The finish will be at Vavatsina Village.

Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon, PO Box 10263, 2340 Lakatonia, Nicosia. Tel: (02) 370706, Fax: (02) 370843, e-mail: sk@challengehalfmarathon.com.

5 December 1999, Kolossi Marathon, Half Marathon and 10km race. More information can be obtained from Kolossi Marathon, PO Box 12063, 2340 Lakatonia, Nicosia. Tel: (02) 370966, Fax: (02) 370843, e-mail: sk@challengehalfmarathon.com.

12 December, 6th International Kalenderia Half-Marathon and 4km Race, Three Seas hotel near the Lighthouse at Pervolia, Larnaca. The start will be at 10.00 a.m. for both races. Entry fee for the half marathon is CYP 20.00, with no entry fee for the 4km race. Registration up to 09.30am on 12 December.

Further information available at Cyprus Runners' Club, tel (02) 411141, (02) 333462, (02) 701264. Fax: (02) 420809.