

# McLoughlins' Meanderings

Christmas 1998



## Mike's Moments

*Whilst this section is at the front it was actually the last written. I'll not repeat what the others have said and I'll leave the family side to them.*

*1997 went out with a bang with the Bank entering into a merger with SBC to form the new UBS AG. Quite a bit of trauma locally as both entities had a large presence on the Island thus the inevitable redundancies occurred. Nevertheless that fate was mine to dispense rather than receive and after some weeks I was tasked with bringing the 2 operations onto a new IT platform. Some months of hard work by all involved resulted in a successful integration at the end of August - just in time for us to prepare for the Euro!*

*Unfortunately the London operations fared less well and they missed their end of September deadline. This resulted in me being requested to look into the position and advise on remedial action. Working around the African trip (see below) a report was prepared with the result that I was asked to implement a new strategy. Consequently weekdays are now being spent in London!*



*This project should ease off over the next couple of months, though the conclusion will only be achieved in May. I am already in discussion re new positions thereafter - a return to Jersey seems less than likely with Zurich or Basle coming to the fore. Japan was offered though after a 36 hour visit I declined - Tokyo looked interesting and not quite as expensive as I had anticipated but the job was less than thrilling.*

*So 1999 is coming along and the removal industry will seemingly benefit from the McLoughlins once again. When we know we'll let you know! In the meantime I wish you all Seasonal Greetings and may your wishes for 1999 come true.*

## Hazel's Happenings

*The year has gone by so fast and so much seems to have happened. One of the early highlights was John's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, followed by his success at A-level and Ruth's in her GCSEs.*

*Mike and I celebrated our Silver Wedding in July. We had a lovely celebration dinner with most of the family, in Leeds - a little ahead of the actual event, as we combined it with a trip to the UK for John's Leavers' Ball earlier in*

the month. I began to realise where 25 years had gone when I took stock of the fact that he was no longer a schoolboy, nor even a boy any longer, come to that! I can honestly say they've been 25 good years. We've been very lucky.

Ruth's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of August brought something she had been keenly anticipating: her provisional driving licence! She will no doubt have something to say about her mother's abilities (or otherwise) as a driving instructor. Suffice it to say we were very proud of her when she passed her test at half term in October, after just failing at her first attempt on the last day of the summer holidays.

The beginning of October took me back to the UK to see John settled at Leeds University – well somebody had to drive the car back after we'd off-loaded all his gear at his student flat! He'll have plenty to say about his new life, I'm sure. He certainly seems to be having a wonderful time!

With John and Ruth taken care of, Mike and I were free to enjoy a belated Silver Wedding trip to Africa – an amazing experience. Our week on safari in Kenya was out of this world. Everything we saw and did was spectacular – from the herd of elephants that spent the night at the water-hole at Treetops to the hippos and pelicans on Lake Naivasha and the balloon safari over the Masai Mara, which culminated in a champagne breakfast in the bush! Our Kenyan safari

was followed by a week relaxing at a superb beach resort on Zanzibar, a fascinating island with a very colourful history and lots of tempting antique shops!

And so the year draws to an end again with the prospect of a major change next year, if Mike's transfer to Zurich is confirmed. I'm hoping it will be. Much as I've enjoyed our time in Jersey, I'm finally starting to tire of island life! There may be only a strip of water between us and the mainland, but if it's too windy the ferries don't sail and if it's foggy the planes don't fly and when they do operate their fares are exorbitant!

We'll be sure to let you know where we fetch up in the end. Meantime we wish you happiness and peace for Christmas and the coming year.

## John's Jaunts

This has been a successful year for me, and one to remember. I worked extremely hard and obtained A-Level results which I knew I could get, 2 A's and 2 B's, although I was surprised to get an A in general studies. With these grades I successfully secured a place in Leeds University to undertake a Management Studies degree. I am thoroughly enjoying life at University, as well as getting down to the work.

My leavers' Ball was a night to remember and one that I won't forget. After 6 years at Sedbergh the evening was a memorable one, one to say goodbye, and as mum

put it, I went out with a bang! I'm sure you all know about my trip to the hospital in the early hours of the morning, after climbing Winder hill and falling, cracking my head on a wall!

This year I also succeeded in being picked for a Jersey Football Team, where I established a first team place before leaving for University. I hope to regain this place when I return home for the Christmas Holiday.

There were a few disappointments throughout the year. Injury and illness cut my running season down to a bare minimum, and I was unfit to defend my title in the Wilson Run. I was however picked to run for Cumbria again.

Well that's enough about me, I hope everyone is well and I wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### Ruth's Reminiscences

The year began quite uneventfully for me. March was a bit more eventful: John turned 18. We celebrated with some friends and Mum actually allowed me to go out clubbing. Amazing!! I think she has finally realised I'm no longer her little girl and she can't put ribbons in my hair!

My next memory is of May and June. My GCSEs were finally upon me. To be honest I didn't find them at all too bad. I think our teachers had made mocks super hard and when we sat the real things we just sailed through them. Exams soon led in to the end of the school year. Quite a sad one this time with half my friends

leaving to carry on further education somewhere else.

Mum and Dad's silver wedding anniversary was the next major event of the year., then at the beginning of August I turned 17. I was lucky to have a friend over to celebrate with me this time. We didn't do much but Dad and Mum took us out for dinner and I had a little party with some other friends from Jersey. 17 at last, I can drive! I started taking lessons as soon as I could and even attempted my test before I went back to school but unfortunately I failed.

Time for the results - something both John and I had to go through. John was first but he's told you his. A week later it was time for me. I rang up school to get mine, and got the Principle. I'd written out all my subjects ready to take down the marks, but all I was told was that I had straight Bs. I was really happy and they are the easiest to remember, so I didn't have to write them down!

Not much happened then until I came back to school. School is school and I won't bore you with such details. Half term however was a bit exciting. After a few more lessons I had another go at my driving test and this time I passed. I am now able to go where I what as I want and don't have to rely on Mum, Dad or John.

Well that brings me to the present and the year to a close. All I have to do is get through another Christmas without braking the bank. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas wherever you are in the world.

