

# COMPUTER STAFF FEAR FOR JOBS

**Littlewoods chiefs stay silent on talks**

UNION leaders and Littlewoods bosses were tight lipped today following talks yesterday over fears of 59 compulsory redundancies among computer staff at the group's Liverpool headquarters.

Littlewoods Group PR director Harry Thomas, who chaired the meeting in the 100 Old Hall Street complex, said today: "Negotiations are ongoing and ourselves and the union representatives have agreed not to talk with the media."

Yesterday's talks involved representatives of the shop workers' union Usdaw and the Supervisory

By Neil Hodgson  
business reporter

Administrative and Technical Association.

It followed an announcement last week that the stores and pools giant is looking at "out sourcing" the operations of the central computer operations covering the chain store and Index divisions.

About 93 jobs will be affected.

Workers claim that Redditch-based information technology services company AT&T Istel is poised to take over the computer operations.

AT&T corporate marketing director Phil Coathup declined to comment on negotiations with Littlewoods.

The international company, which plans to set up a new operations base in Barnsley next year, already manages computer networks for clients like IBM and ICL.

An internal Littlewoods union memo released after last week's announcement claims that full time officials Frank Murphy, for SATA, and Usdaw's Tony Bennett were "outraged that the company saw fit to ride a coach and horses through the union and company agreements and totally ignore their legal obligations to consult fully."

## Bail for P O sorter on murder charge

A POST OFFICE sorter from Liverpool facing a murder charge was granted bail by Wirral magistrates with conditions which included providing sureties totalling £40,000.

The court also ordered that Stephen Paul Wilson, 20, of Holt Road, Kensington, keep out of Wirral, stay away from all witnesses and report twice weekly to the police. A night curfew was imposed between 11pm and 6am.

### Stringent

Wilson is due to return to court on September 3, the date set for committal proceedings.

It is alleged he murdered 23-year-old bus washer James Alan Crowther from Rock Ferry on a Birkenhead car park on June 28.

Martin Decker, prosecuting, did not object to bail with stringent conditions. Wilson was represented by John O'Leary. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.



Hearts of gold... Newlands Nursing Home staff, who raised almost £5,000 for Claire House (from left): Peter Horton, Kathy Parker, Maureen Kavanagh, Donna McKay and Paula Horton with guide dog Maggie.

**BIG-hearted Donna McKay pulled out all the stops to help a charity for sick youngsters.**

She raised more than £4,000 with support from her colleagues at The Newlands Nursing Home in Oxton.

Now she has given the cash to the Claire House Appeal which needs to raise £2m to set up a children's hospice in Wirral.

Donna, 19, an auxiliary nurse of Harding Avenue, Birkenhead, got the idea after her boss's niece died of cancer last year.

She organised a charity evening with a disco and raffle with help from the nursing home's owner, Peter Horton, and the 27 staff.

Mr Horton provided many of the draw prizes, while signed footballs and complimentary match tickets were

## Nurse Donna brings tonic for children

given by local football clubs.

Mr Horton said: "It was all Donna's idea, and she's done a terrific job."

Donna, who is now planning her next charity venture, said: "Everyone helped — and it was good fun. The best part was getting all the money in and handing it to the charity."

Donna and her colleagues will do a sponsored walk around Lake Coniston next month in aid of the Clatterbridge Superscanner appeal.

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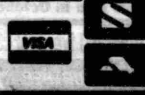
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