

First President From the 'Home of Radio'

A national honour was conferred on a MRC man in January when Willie McClintock became the 1986 President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, whose Patron is Prince Philip.

It is a recognition of his work on behalf of the 37,000 strong Society, which he joined nearly 25 years ago. He has been a member of the RSGB Council for five years and last year was Executive Vice President with considerable administrative responsibilities.

Willie, who is Chief Engineer of the Avionics Research Lab., was installed as

from its President Roy Martyr, who works in Marconi Communications



Willie McClintock receives the chain of office from predecessor Joan Heathershaw who was the Society's first woman President.

the 52nd President at the Furze Hill Banqueting Suite near Chelmsford. Nearly 170 people were present including John Williams, Managing Director of GEC Research, and Mrs. Williams; Dennis Byatt, Manager of Avionics Research Lab., and representatives of the BBC, IBA and the Department of Trade and Industry.

As well as receiving his chain of office, Willie was presented with a scroll of honour conferring life membership of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Systems Ltd. And since his home town is Ballymena, he was presented with some Ulster cut glass crystal-ware by the Northern Ireland representative together with a Shillelagh (to keep order during his year of office)!

The Presidency involves a fair amount of travelling in Great Britain, also in Europe and possibly further afield. Already Willie has visits planned to HMS Belfast in London at the invitation of the Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society, and to the German Amateur Radio

Convention at Friedrichshafen in July.

One pleasant task here will be to present the Marconi Medal to two Swiss radio amateurs (they don't like being called 'Hams' these days by the way). The medal is awarded for outstanding achievements in amateur radio in the microwave field and Willie will be acting on behalf of the Marconi Company in this instance.

Willie said that he was very pleased to accept the Presidency as he felt it was an honour not only to him but also to GEC Research - he joined the Marconi Research Centre, in 1966. He recalled that his interest in radio went back to his early childhood when he watched his grandfather building his own receivers and winding the coils for them. He also pointed out that he was the first Chelmsford man to be President, as far as he knew, and it appropriate for someone from the 'home of radio' to hold the post.

When Willie's name goes on the chain of office it will complete an interesting link. For the first President in 1913 was a Mr. A. A. Campbell Swinton, who helped and encouraged the young Marconi when he first came to England just ninety years ago.

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