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IMPORTANT DATES

19th June 1981—AGM.

COMMENT

Did anyone see that marvellous marathon in London a few weeks ago? (or more likely, is there anyone who didn't see it?) All those wonderful people participating—"not to win but to finish". There were people who were helping other people who were in trouble. There was encouragement and excitement and the crowds . . . some said it was like the Blitz with everyone striving to succeed against a common enemy (the 26 mile 385 yard course) and enjoying it. Nobody pushed, shoved, tripped or otherwise incapacitated the other runner because no one was trying to beat the other runner. The objective was to do better than ever before and to finish.

If only some of that spirit could be transmitted into the industrial scene—the common goal, the need to improve on past performances and helping those participants who are "in trouble". Perhaps we might lose some of the "them and us" attitude, perhaps we might realise that each member of the team is entitled to the respect of his position (even the tea boy). Perhaps we might even start pulling the rope in the same direction instead of pulling with equal force in opposite directions (and standing still).

We have progressed technologically and socially but we don't seem to have progressed personally.

In the course of the next few months if we are to believe the politicians (?) we will start to pull out of the recession into which we tumbled some years ago. Is it a pious hope of middle age that something of the "spirit" of the London marathon will help us and that the "standards" we apply to our professional and commercial lives may benefit by a liberal injection of honesty.

Remember it's not only the participation and completion that are important, but *how* we participated and completed.