

# Hursley Museum Services – March & May 2019

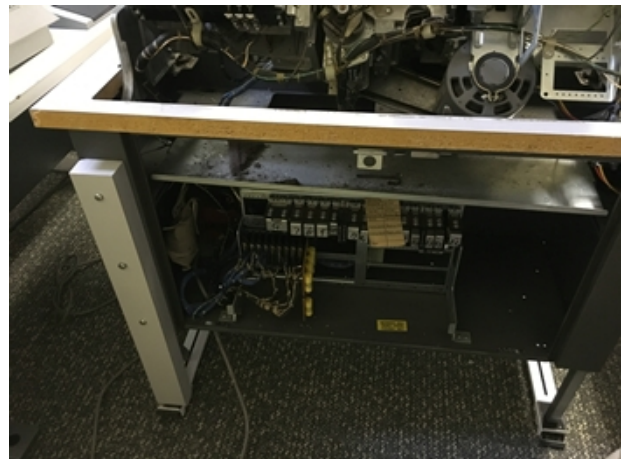
## Current Activities

Our [029 card punch](#) has been fitted with a wooden leg. One of the back legs was damaged in transit from Oslo, and the initial fix proved to be too unstable. We are now looking for a parrot to sit on top...

The four punch & verifier machines on display now sit on appliance moving rollers that were surplus to requirements after my own home garage reorganisation. This means they can be easily pulled forward away from walls for access to the rear.

The first practical use has been the 029, now that it is stable. It has received a full preventive maintenance; mechanically it appears to be sound apart from one of the two drive belts that has stretched. Unfortunately we don't have a spare but we might be OK for a while. We've had no success with other IBM preservation groups, however we think that a 2L23 belt is a direct equivalent. So far no replies from any belt manufacturers.

There were still faults in the relay circuitry somewhere; fortunately we found wiring diagrams on line and tracing continued. We discovered that none of these diagrams directly matched our machine, so finding a short circuit became tricky. Even though we'd already cleaned the relays and timing circuit breakers, my colleague Nick gave the CBs yet another thorough clean, and the short circuit disappeared.



At this point the punch clutch seized. This is a spring clutch, and the pulley had not been fully on so a coil of the spring dropped into the gap. Punch clutch springs are not the most common item to be held onto by an ex-CE, but another colleague Peter (the other Peter) just happened to have a bag of springs, including one punch clutch spring! Phew, saved again.

Whilst it now punched cards, the keyboard was extremely sluggish. A set of 44 tiny steel disks in a brass channel prevent more than one key being depressed at a time, and they become magnetised and oily over time. They were removed, cleaned, degaussed, spilled on the carpet and 41 subsequently found. Fortunately my box of washers contained a few of these from way back when I left the field in 1975. The keyboard feels great now.

Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

IBM Contact: [Hursley Communications](#)

Curator Contact: [Peter Short](#)

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Sitting next to the 029 is the 5496 from Oslo, a buffered punch & verifier for 96 column cards. We have ascertained that it does still work OK, except the motor does not stop running after a few seconds. This is probably the micro switch on the top cover, and we'll try and sort that soon. We also need to do some revision how to create programmes – it's been a long time!



029



5496

An artefact that has lain in a box in the back office for many years has finally been identified. It is a roll of clear printed litho film, with a gear wheel on one end and a small coiled spring in the other. Thanks to a couple of more detailed photos from Namur, we are now sure this is from the [operator console of a S/370 Model 138](#), developed in Hursley.

