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Profile MELANIE STEPHENSON

In 1978 it was more unusual than it is today to see girl apprentices doing shop floor training complete with boots and overalls. Perhaps with an apprentice instructor father who had spent 36 years with Brush, Melanie Stevenson's choice of career was slightly affected by outside influences. However, she stayed the course and enjoyed it, finishing up with an HNC from Loughborough Technical College.

After completing her apprenticeship, Melanie joined the Commercial Department as a Contracts Engineer and later as a Tendering Engineer. From here she had a spell as a Sales Engineer in the Brush American Office in Houston, Texas. At this point Melanie decided that Sales were for her and on her return to the U.K. she says she thinks she was sent to Manchester Office to keep her quiet. She has now been established in the north for several months and it is obvious from her comments that, although she is Loughborough born and bred, she has a certain liking for the blunt northern approach.

She has customers in her territory like Ingersoll Rand and Toyota Cars but says she has no trouble dealing with this once male dominated stronghold.



Perhaps the most depressing time for Melanie was 5-6 years ago when she was diagnosed as being a multiple sclerosis sufferer. To many, this would have been a constant worry but not with her personality. Since that time she has helped to raise many thousands of pounds for the M.S. Society including busking on guitar or violin on the streets of Leicester. She has also joined an organisation in Manchester called S.P.I.C.E. through which she has sampled abseiling, caving, water skiing, sailing, canoeing and go-karting.

Brian Hope