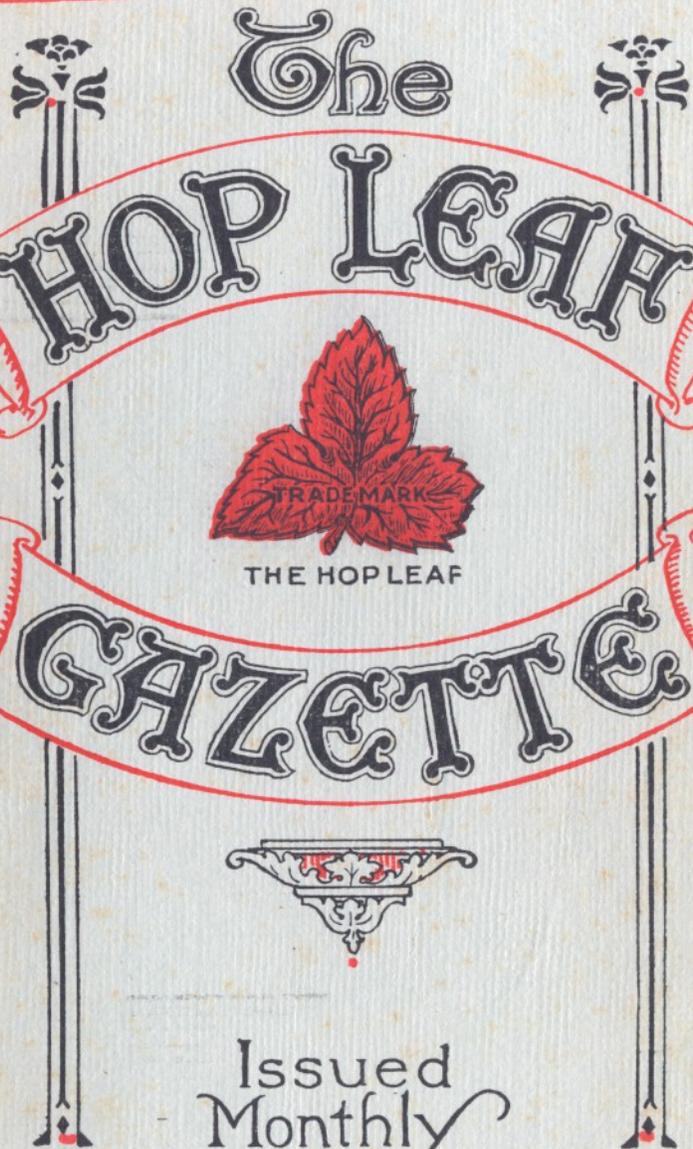


VOL. XII.

MAY, 1938.

Price 1d.



The

**HOP LEAF**



TRADEMARK

THE HOP LEAF

**GAZETTE**

Issued  
Monthly  
by

**H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.**

A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

*The Monthly Journal of H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.*

*Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.*

Vol. XII.

MAY, 1938

No. 8

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All communications should be addressed to—The Editor,  
THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.



MR. R. H. MATTHEWS.

## MR. R. H. MATTHEWS.

The business history of Mr. R. H. Matthews has many features of more than ordinary interest, not the least of which is the fact that his antecedents have been connected with the brewing trade for over 90 years, his grandfather and father in turn having held the office of Secretary to Messrs. Cripps & Co., and later to The Cirencester Brewery Limited.

Born in 1905 and educated at the Cirencester Grammar School, Mr. Matthews joined the staff of The Cirencester Brewery, Limited, as a junior clerk in July, 1923. Approximately three years later he undertook a section of the travelling and collection work, in the course of which he gained an insight into the retail side of the business.

Applying himself assiduously to his work and having equipped himself for promotion, Mr. Matthews was appointed Assistant Secretary under Mr. William Cripps in January, 1934, taking charge of the accounts and the duties of that office from this date. On the amalgamation of The Cirencester Brewery Limited with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Limited, Mr. Matthews retained his position and was responsible for effecting the necessary changes in accountancy.

Mr. Matthews is a keen shot with the rifle and at various times has been an enthusiastic cyclist and motor-cyclist. His chief spare time occupation at the present time is motoring. In the Cotswolds and the glorious country surrounding his native town, Mr. Matthews is able to indulge in this pastime to the full.



*Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities.—The Bible.*

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

## THE EMPIRE'S FOREIGN POLICY.

Mr. Chamberlain has given an exposition of Britain's foreign policy which has had the remarkable effect of pleasing all the countries concerned, with the exception of Germany—and the still more important result of securing the approval of all the Dominions, says *Our Empire*. One may assume, therefore, that he spoke for the Empire, and could rely upon the Empire's support in any action which the policy he outlined so clearly may involve. It is well that the causes for which the Empire would fight—and those for which it would not—should be thoroughly understood, and, on that account, we repeat them here.

## WHEN WE WOULD FIGHT.

According to Mr. Chamberlain, Britain would fight (1) in its own defence; in defence of the British Commonwealth of Nations; in defence of Imperial communications; (2) in defence of France and Belgium against an aggressor; (3) in fulfilment of treaty obligations to Portugal, Irak and Egypt. But Britain would not accept an automatic obligation to support Czechoslovakia were she invaded, because to do so would deprive the British Government of its discretion to decide whether or not the country should be involved in war. Further, he declared for the continuance of Britain's abstention from the Spanish struggle, and spoke hopefully of the attempt to settle our quarrel with Italy.

## A STRAIGHT HINT.

But the part of his speech which has created most interest was his declaration that, although we would undertake no automatic obligation to defend Czechoslovakia, we might be compelled to intervene if she were attacked. "The inexorable pressure of facts," he said, "might well prove more powerful than formal pronouncements." It is this straight hint which has brought criticism from

Germany, whose "absorption" of Austria now places German troops on two Czech frontiers.

It is futile for Germany to declare that what happens in Middle Europe is no concern of ours. When events in that part of the world threaten the integrity of France our interests are involved immediately. We cannot permit a potential aggressor to dominate the Channel, through which Britain receives the very means of life.

#### FIREMAN, NOT POLICEMAN.

This statement of policy has not pleased those who favour British intervention wherever liberty has been stamped out by the aggressor's jackboot; but it has earned the cordial approval of all who realise that the world's chief peril to-day is the very real danger of a general war. Mr. Chamberlain has said, in effect, that while Britain will fight when she must, she cannot become the policeman of the whole world.

Her action in Spain—although it has not saved the liberty of the unhappy country, or prevented the open intervention of Germany and Italy—has at least confined the conflict within the Spanish frontiers, and in all similar cases that must be her policy—so long as Britain's vital interests are not involved. She cannot prevent every local conflagration; but she does her best to stop such fires from setting the world alight. Meanwhile, her chief task must be so to strengthen her defences that the fate of these weaker people shall never be her own. Her first duty is to the Empire—and that is likely soon to demand her undivided attention.

#### IN SILENCE.

In silence all the loveliest words are said,  
In silence breaks a flower's exquisite head,  
Like a rare casket opened by the sun,  
In silence all the noblest deeds are done,  
In silence steal good thoughts to the still heart  
And draw it further from the world apart.

#### ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

The husband drew up his chair beside his wife's sewing machine. "Don't you think it's running too fast?" he said. "Look out! You'll sew the wrong seam! Mind that corner, now! Steady! Slow down; mind your finger!"

"What's the matter with you, John?" said his wife, alarmed. "I've been running this machine for years!"

"Well, dear, I was only trying to help you, just as you help me drive the car."

#### THE REASON WHY.

"If you didn't take so much interest in horses you would be better off," snapped the wife. "You've had horses on the brain all your life."

"I guess that's why I happened to marry a nag."

#### WHEN THE SERVANT CAME!

"Oh Mummy," said little Pamela, running in from school, "teacher told us such a lovely story about Mr. Adam and Miss Eve. They were having a lovely time under the apple tree when the servant came and disturbed them."

#### FINE DISPLAY OF TENNIS.

It was exceedingly kind of Commander Dawson to go to so much trouble to arrange for such noted exponents of the game to give us a display of tennis on the occasion of the opening of the two fine new hard courts situated on our spacious Sports Ground, which has been so generously provided for us by our Directors. The play was of a high order and very entertaining and instructive to watch. The ladies appeared to be particularly good and it was a thousand pities that the weather was so bitterly cold that many who intended being present thought it wiser not to do so. Those of us who did not mind the climatic conditions were well repaid by a first-class exhibition and I don't think there was a better player on the courts than Commander Dawson. He is undoubtedly good all round the wicket. He has a fast first service and his second has almost equal pace. He volleys and half-volleys beautifully and almost all his shots were exceedingly crisp and clean, well placed and with plenty of force behind them. He seemed as strong dealing with backhand shots as with those on his forehand and, in fact, nothing appeared to come amiss.

The courts, I understand, are impervious to frost which affects most hard courts so adversely. That is a great desideratum.

During the afternoon I noticed a number of herons winging their way, with measured beat and slow to and fro, to and fro, over the ground. There is a heronry at Coley Park and these herons now have families to feed.

#### P.O. TELEPHONE STAFF DANCE.

The Post Office Telephones Staff (South Midland District) held a Social and Dance at the Grosvenor House Hotel on the night of Friday, the 8th April. The party, which consisted of 94 visitors, contained several distinguished guests including Mr. G. H. Taylor (Controller of Sales—General Post Office), Mr. J. Jay (Surveyor,

South Midland Postal District), Mr. C. R. Fright (District Manager) and Mr. C. E. Moffatt (Sectional Engineer). The Social Committee Secretary informs me that each of those gentlemen, and indeed all the visitors, expressed satisfaction for a very enjoyable evening and asked for a "repeat" in the near future. The Secretary pointed out that such an evening would not have been possible had it not been for the valuable and kindly assistance afforded by Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. He said that his committee were particularly grateful for the "pub" sign (The "C.O.'s" Retreat) provided by the firm—the sign was used in connection with an entertainment item presented by the Telephone Staff. He also told me that all present very favourably commented on the catering and musical arrangements made by Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Norrish, both of whom very materially contributed towards the success of the Social. I understand that the Post Office (South Midland) Sports Organisation propose to hold a social evening at the Grosvenor on the night of the 27th April. Here's wishing them success.

#### MAINTAINING BEST TRADITIONS IN JOURNALISM.

Founded one hundred and sixty-eight years ago the *Berkshire Chronicle* has, throughout that long period maintained the highest traditions of British journalism and rendered a great public service to Reading and the surrounding districts. May it long continue that service and in its own clear and clean way give a sane lead in public affairs.

The following quotations are typical of the thoughtful writings that ever add zest and interest to the pages of this old-established and very ably edited journal:—

#### A POPULAR PRESIDENT.

Mr. F. A. Simonds must have been convinced by the warmth of the reception accorded him at the annual meeting of the Reading Conservative Association on Monday, April 11th, of the confidence and esteem in which he is held by the members. There are few men who can conduct a meeting with such *bonhomie*; the aptness and humour of his remarks help to give a special touch to any meeting over which he is presiding. Yet another member of the Simonds family, Mr. Kenneth Simonds, was present to add to the long roll of members of that family who have identified themselves with Conservatism in Reading, and it is also interesting to note that the new treasurer of the Association, in succession to Mr. Spencer Hawes, is Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, who is a descendant of Mr. Henry John Simonds, for many years a leading figure in the public and political life of Reading between fifty and sixty years ago. Mr. H. J. Simonds showed his democratic feelings by becoming, in his later years, a member of the Caversham Urban District Council.

#### WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE.

A well-deserved tribute was paid to Mr. Tom Vincent, the enthusiastic chairman of the Conservative Party, adds *The Chronicle*. He has proved an excellent choice for the position, for he does not spare himself, and he has that cheery and genial demeanour which is such a great asset to anyone occupying a post which brings him so closely into contact with the workers. Some criticism was made of the meagre financial support extended to the Association by the supporters of the Government in Reading. The Labour Party certainly give their opponents a lead in this respect. However, the success of the Special Fund, which has realised over £220, shows that there are many quite willing to give if some method of personal approach could be devised. It is the general experience in these days—you can get money if you have people keen enough to go all out for it. Dr. Howitt, in his speech, which was greatly appreciated, again emphasised his strong adherence to the Premier's policy of peace and conciliation with all countries. The Socialist alternative of dividing Europe into hostile camps must, as Dr. Howitt pointed out, inevitably lead to war.

#### THE GOOD OLD TIMES.

The following is a copy of a receipt found in a piece of old furniture from the house of Major Booth, of Basingstoke:—

Hinckley.

Mr. Booth  
Bot. of Wm. Beardsmore.

1849			
July 12	33 gallons of ale at 1/-	£1	13 0
	33 ditto of beer at 2d.		5 6
		£1	18 6

Paid August 27, 1849,  
W. Beardsmore.

#### THE PELICAN.

Here is an amusing limerick taken from *The Compleat Indian Angler* (by John Masters), just published:—

A marvellous bird is the pelican,  
His beak holds more than his belly can,  
They say, in his beak,  
He holds food for a week,  
But I'm damned if I see how the hell'e can.

## SPRING AND SUMMER.

The Editor's post-bag contains many interesting items each month—not all fit for publication. But here is one from Mr. J. G. Symes of the City and Varsity Club, Oxford, which I gladly publish. He writes :—

“ I always enjoy reading through THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE monthly and one item in the April issue appeals to me. On p. 35 I find your remark about ‘ one swallow,’ etc. Here is another which I hope you will appreciate :—

One straw hat does not make a summer  
But sitting down on a red hot plate  
Makes one ‘ spring ’—for one of  
Simonds Best.”

## THE FORTHCOMING FETE.

On another page is published a proposed programme for our great fete to be held on Saturday, August 27th, at Coley Park, Reading. It is a very interesting and comprehensive programme and offers many opportunities for all the employees of the Firm. There are also some open events. We, at Reading, are looking forward to receiving many entries from the Branches and Subsidiary Companies and know that the events will be entered into in the sporting spirit which predominates at the Firm. As to the Baby Show, Beautiful Children, Ladies' Beauty Competition and Ladies' Ankle Competition, we all know of the immense popularity of these events in the past and are confident of a good entry. The Open Darts Competition never fails to be popular and it will no doubt prove to be one of the largest of its kind ever held in Reading. The engagement of the Gordon Highlanders Band and Pipers will give Reading a unique opportunity of hearing and seeing their picturesque display.

## THE HOP LEAF SIGN.

Do not pass—buy!  
It's Simonds.

## CROWTHORNE AND CROWS.

Does Crowthorne derive its name from the presence of crows or from other, less obvious, sources? asks S.E.C. This query, when recently put to a local Review, received a most courteous reply which was still, however, uncertain; and none of my friends, to whom I have casually spoken, were able to throw any light on the subject. During the past twenty years I cannot remember observing a crow in any district save that I have mentioned—a district of golden gorse and of white-flowered thorn. But there (midst the windswept heaths, and fir-planted Government lands that spread, under cloud and sun, to Bracknell and Broadmoor and Swinley and Bagshot) I have surprised Master Crow on repeated occasions—solitary, gaunt and suspicious; reflecting, perhaps, on some fancied slight or harbouring some unprintable corvine joke. Can HOP LEAF readers offer any solution: not, of course, to the joke, but as to the origin of the name?

[Several pairs of crows are always to be seen between Caversham Bridge and Keel's Boathouse and three pairs have their nests there.—C.H.P.]

## GOLF—NOT BILLIARDS.

A well-known golfer was also a great billiards player, and the two games constituted his whole interest in life. On one occasion while going round the course with a parson, he had a real day off. At every fozzle he indulged in a burst of profanity.

The reverend gentleman was terribly shocked and admonished him as follows :—

“ Sir,” he said, “ though you have evidently little regard for me you might, at least, respect the cloth.”

“ Cloth be d——” roared the other. “ We're playing golf now—not billiards.”



## A GREAT THOUGHT.

*A few stars are known which are hardly bigger than the earth, but the majority are so large that hundreds of thousands of earths could be packed inside each and leave room to spare ; here and there we come upon a giant star large enough to contain millions of millions of earths. And the total number of stars in the universe is probably something like the total number of grains of sand on all the sea-shores of the world. Such is the littleness of our home in space when measured up against the total of the universe.*

*This vast multitude of stars are wandering about in space. A few form groups which journey in company, but the majority are solitary travellers. And they travel through a universe so spacious that it is an event of almost unimaginable rarity for a star to come anywhere near to another star. For the most part each voyages in splendid isolation, like a ship on an empty ocean. In a scale model in which the stars are ships, the average ship will be over a million miles from its nearest neighbour, whence it is easy to understand why a ship seldom finds another within hailing distance.*

*We believe, nevertheless, that some two thousand million years ago this rare event took place, and that a second star, wandering blindly through space, happened to come within hailing distance of the sun. Just as the sun and moon raise tides on the earth, so this second star must have raised tides on the surface of the sun. But they would be very different from the puny tides which the small mass of the moon raises in our oceans ; a huge tidal wave must have travelled over the surface of the sun, ultimately forming a mountain of prodigious height, which would rise ever higher and higher as the cause of the disturbance came nearer and nearer. And, before the second star began to recede, its tidal pull had become so powerful that this mountain was torn to pieces and threw off small fragments of itself, much as the crest of a wave throws off spray. These small fragments have been circulating around their parent sun ever since. They are the planets, great and small, of which our earth is one.—Sir James Jeans (from *The Mysterious Universe*.)*

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

The world would be better and brighter if our teachers would dwell on the duty of happiness as well as the happiness of duty.

If your name is to live at all, it is better to have it live in people's hearts, than in their brains.

Look up, not down ; look forward, not back ; look out, not in ; and lend a hand.

Goodness consists not only in the outward things we do, but in the inward things we are.

I would rather pin a rose in a man's coat than send a wreath to his funeral.

The deepest of all human longings is simply to be wanted.

Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds.

Many are ready to spread a banquet, and slow to give a cup of cold water.

You must lose a fly to catch a trout.

If pleasures are greatest in anticipation, just remember that this is also true of trouble.

Goodness is not tied to greatness, but greatness to goodness.

Success doesn't come to any man. You have to go out and fetch it.

The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.

A certain amount of distrust is wholesome, but not so much of others as of ourselves.

The master should not be respectable by reason of his house, but his house by reason of its master.

The richest soil, if uncultivated, produces the rankest weeds.

5TH (SERVICE) BATTALION  
 OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT  
 INFANTRY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—The Tenth Re-union of the 5th Battalion will take place at Oxford on Saturday, May 14th, under the presidency of Col. W. F. R. Webb, D.S.O., O.B.E.

A Service, to commence at 6.30 p.m., will be held in the Regimental Chapel and members are asked to assemble in the Quadrangle of Christ Church (St. Aldate's entrance) at 6.15 prompt. Relatives and friends are invited to the Service, but the seats in the Regimental Chapel will be reserved for members only. The very Rev. A. T. P. Williams, D.D., Dean of Christ Church, has kindly consented to conduct the Service.

The Dinner will be held at Stewart's Restaurant, Cornmarket Street, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

Through the kindness of the Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot, Cowley Barracks, accommodation (for other ranks) for Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning will be provided gratuitously for those who wish to remain in Oxford until Sunday. A bus will convey members who wish to avail themselves of this kind offer, to the Barracks free of charge after the dinner.

Members will have learnt with great pride that Major-General B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C. (the original Adjutant of the 5th Bn.) has recently been appointed Commandant of the Staff College. He has signified his intention of being present at the Re-union.

THE SIGN OF THE HOP LEAF.

TRADE MARK FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

(From the "Evening Gazette").

In the forefront of Reading's great industries is one which is almost as old as civilisation itself. It is an industry familiar to all Reading folk through the "Hop Leaf" sign—the sign of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., the brewers.

Behind that familiar, happy sign lies a romance of Reading trade. It was in the rude and hardy days of the latter part of the eighteenth century that the business was founded by Mr. William Blackall Simonds. The original brewery stood on the corner of what was then a very unpretentious Broad Street. Its early history was a story of severe trial. There were times when Mr. Simonds came near to despair—and to selling his brewery.

His son, Mr. Blackall Simonds, however, threw himself energetically into the business so that it increased by leaps and bounds. His enterprise was displayed by his timely purchase of 50 houses suitable for conversion into beerhouses, at the time of the Duke of Wellington's Bill for the licensing of beerhouses.

UNIVERSAL.

To-day, Simonds control well over 1,000 licensed houses. Their beers are drunk in quiet little English inns—and in the hot and lonely outposts of the Empire! In Reading more than 500 men and youths play their part in this ever-growing industry.

"I'll have an 'S.B.' please" is a phrase familiar in a thousand licensed houses—but a considerable percentage of those who ask for it do not know what those heart-warming initials stand for. No, they don't mean "Simonds Beer" or "Simonds Best," but "Season Brewed."

HUGE STEP FORWARD.

Simonds set about the task of producing a beer of much lower specific gravity, using a large quantity of finest hops and adopting what was then the novel expedient of hopping down with dry hops introduced into the casks.

So great was its success that it necessitated the reconstruction and enlargement of the brewery!

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE, READING CORPS.

(READING TOWN DIVISION.)

In connection with the above the musical programme recently given by Messrs. H. & G. Simonds orchestra, under the direction of Mr. H. M. P. Ashby, was as follows:—

1.	MARCH	-	-	"The Liberators"	-	-	The Orchestra.
2.	WALTZ	-	-	"Hydro Paten"	-	-	The Orchestra.
3.	SONG	-	-	Selected	-	-	Miss Vera Cox.
4.	SELECTION	-	-	"The Gondoliers"	-	-	The Orchestra.
5.	SONG	-	-	Selected	-	-	Mr. S. Hinton.
6.	CHARACTERISTIC PIECE	-	-	{Grasshoppers' Dance}	-	-	The Orchestra.

INTERVAL.

7.	OVERTURE	-	-	"Morning, Noon and Night"	-	-	The Orchestra.
8.	SONG	-	-	Selected	-	-	Mr. S. Hinton.
9.	WALTZ	-	-	"Herbststimmung"	-	-	The Orchestra.
10.	SONG	-	-	Selected	-	-	Miss Vera Cox.
11.	MARCH	-	-	"Old Comrades"	-	-	The Orchestra.
12.	COMMUNITY SINGING,	-	-	accompanied by	-	-	The Orchestra.

## EXHIBITION TENNIS MATCHES.

FINE DISPLAY ON OUR NEW HARD COURTS.

On Saturday, April 9th, some exhibition matches were played on the new Hard Tennis Courts on the Recreation ground to inaugurate the opening of the season.

Unfortunately, the coldness of the day made it very unpleasant for the spectators, but between 40 and 50 members saw some excellent play.

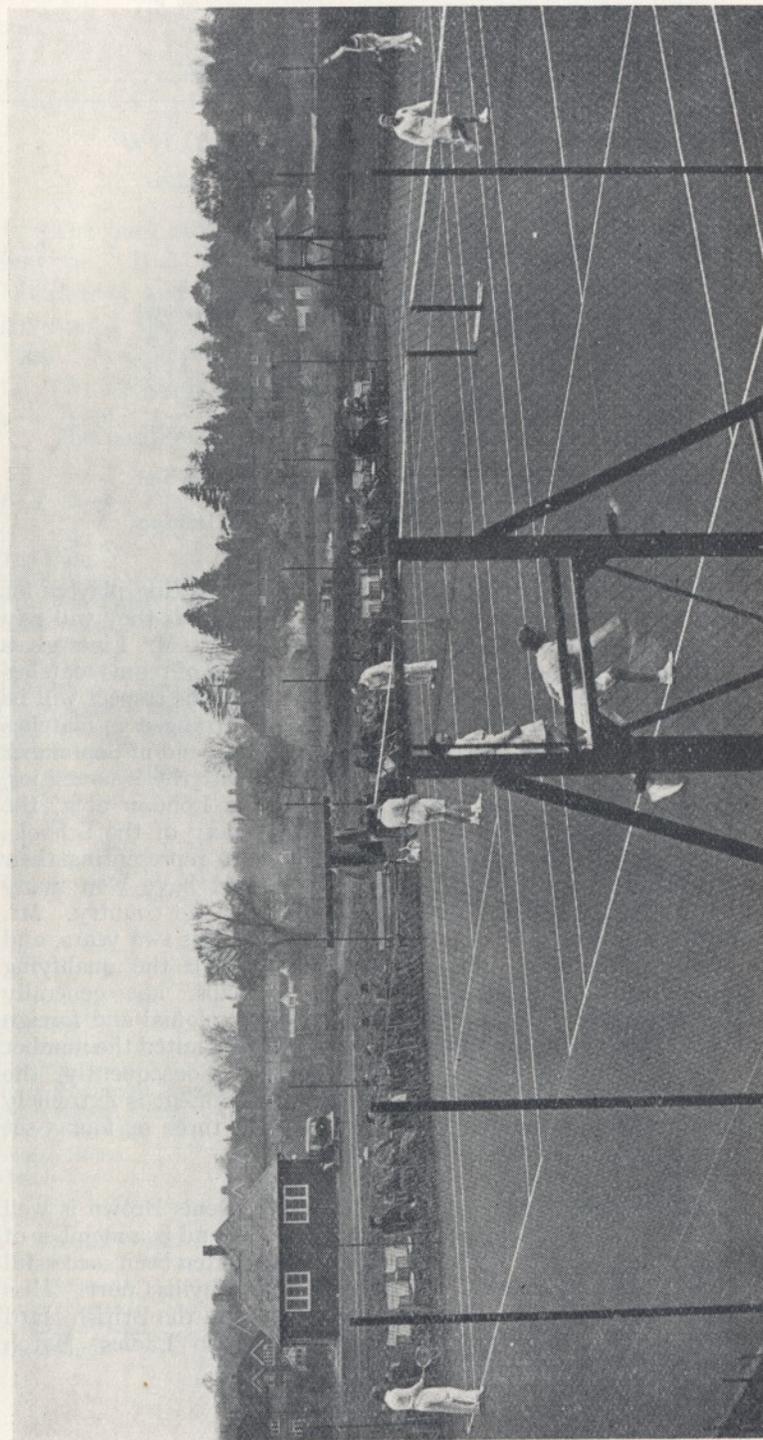
As originally arranged, it was intended that the games would take the form of a match between Commander Dawson's team of two ladies and two gentlemen against a similar team of County and Tournament players raised by Mr. G. R. Lines, the Hon. Secretary of the Public School Old Boys L.T.A., but as Miss Southwell, one of the visiting players, had had a very tiring week in the Roehampton tournament, she only played in one match, the Ladies' Doubles.

The two teams were constituted as follows :—

<i>Comdr. Dawson's IV</i>		<i>G. R. Lines' IV.</i>	
Mrs. J. C. Bouch (Gloucestershire)	Miss T. R. Jarvis (Sussex)	Miss G. M. Southwell (Surrey)	Mr. L. W. J. Newman (Middlesex)
Miss C. Douglas (Oxfordshire)	Mr. G. R. Lines.		
Mr. D. Brown (Berkshire)			
Comdr. P. F. M. Dawson (Royal Navy, Hampshire & North'tonshire)			



Eight Formidable Players.



General View of the Courts.

The results of the matches were as follows :—

*Singles.*

L. W. J. Newman <i>lost to</i> D. Brown ... ..	2—6	
L. W. J. Newman <i>beat</i> P. F. M. Dawson ... ..	6—2	6—4
Miss T. R. Jarvis <i>beat</i> Miss C. Douglas ... ..	6—3	6—4

*Men's Doubles.*

L. W. J. Newman and G. R. Lines <i>lost to</i> D. Brown and P. F. M. Dawson ... ..	2—6	6—8
--	-----	-----

*Ladies' Doubles.*

Miss T. R. Jarvis and Miss G. M. Southwell <i>beat</i> Mrs. J. C. Bouch and Miss C. Douglas ... ..	6—3	6—4
--	-----	-----

*Mixed Doubles.*

G. R. Lines and Miss T. R. Jarvis <i>drew with</i> D. Brown and Mrs. J. C. Bouch ... ..	6—2	3—6
L. W. J. Newman and Mrs. J. C. Bouch <i>beat</i> P. F. M. Dawson and Miss C. Douglas ... ..	7—5	

Our thanks are due to Mr. Lines and the visiting players for giving us such excellent tennis, and it is hoped that they will pay us another visit under better weather conditions. Mr. Lines gives up a great deal of his spare time in the organizing of tennis matches and some idea of the magnitude of his work in this respect will be realized when it is known that he has already arranged 59 matches for the P.S.O.B.L.T.A. between January and the end of September this year! These matches include games against the Universities, University Colleges, the leading clubs in the London area, the London Parks and Clubs L.T.A., and also many of the Schools. Miss Jarvis and Miss Southwell, in addition to representing their Counties, are regular Wimbledon players, and have won many Singles events in Open Tournaments all over the country. Mr. Newman has played at Wimbledon during the last two years, and on each occasion has gained his place through the qualifying competitions at Roehampton. It is, perhaps, not generally realized that the great increase in numbers of colonial and foreign players at Wimbledon in latter years has greatly limited the number of places open to players of this country. Consequently, the competition for places in the Qualifying Tournament is extremely keen, and the successful players have to win three or four 5-set matches before they attain their goal.

With regard to the "Home" team, Mr. Denis Brown is well known in Reading as one of the leading players and is a member of the East Berks Club. With Mrs. Bouch he has often been successful in local Open Tournaments at Wallingford and Phyllis Court. Miss Douglas, who, with Mrs. Bouch, is now playing in the British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth, is also Ladies' Match Secretary for Oxfordshire.

WYCOMBE BOROUGH DART LEAGUE.

"BULL INN" FINISH AT TOP OF THE TABLE.

The final table of the High Wycombe Borough Dart League sees the "Bull" as champions of Division I, Ship Inn top of Division II and the Carrington Arms heading Division III. In Division I the "Swan," West Wycombe and "The Friend-at-Hand," were level with 102 points. The tie was played off and the "Swan" took second place in the table.

The positions in the three divisions are :

DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	PTS.
The Bull ... ..	30	27	3	114
Swan (West Wycombe) ... ..	31	25	6	105
Friend-at-Hand ... ..	31	22	9	102
Desborough Arms ... ..	30	20	10	99
Belle Vue ... ..	30	16	14	85
Nag's Head ... ..	30	17	13	79
Half Moon ... ..	30	16	14	79
Chairmakers' Arms ... ..	30	17	13	72
Swan (Paul's Row) ... ..	30	13	17	69
Royal Oak ... ..	30	11	19	64
Red Lion (Marsh) ... ..	30	12	18	62
Ye Exchange ... ..	30	10	20	62
The Gate ... ..	30	12	18	61
Bird-in-Hand ... ..	30	9	21	56
Morning Star ... ..	30	8	22	52
The Antelope ... ..	30	6	24	44

DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	PTS.
Ship Inn ... ..	30	23	7	101
Croxonians ... ..	30	20	10	91
Gordon Arms ... ..	30	20	10	88
Rose (Denmark Street) ... ..	30	21	9	87
Beaconsfield Arms ... ..	30	17	13	83
Territorial Club ... ..	30	17	13	82
White Horse ... ..	30	16	14	76
Beech Tree... ..	30	15	15	75
Golden Fleece ... ..	30	13	17	75
Van Inn ... ..	30	14	16	74
Papermakers' Arms ... ..	30	14	16	72
Castle Inn ... ..	30	15	15	65
The Pheasant ... ..	30	11	19	63
Swan (Marsh) ... ..	30	9	21	62
Saracen's Head ... ..	30	8	22	53
The Plough ... ..	30	7	23	53

## DIVISION III.

	P.	W.	L.	PTS.
Carrington Arms ... ..	30	24	6	108
Iron Duke ... ..	30	24	6	97
Rifle Butts ... ..	30	19	11	88
The Roundabout ... ..	30	17	13	86
Hour Glass ... ..	30	16	14	85
Falcon Hotel ... ..	30	18	12	79
Turner's S.C. ... ..	30	17	13	79
Gomme's S.C. ... ..	30	15	15	79
The Bell ... ..	30	17	13	76
The Angel ... ..	30	14	16	73
New Inn ... ..	30	18	12	72
Rose and Crown ... ..	30	14	16	72
Harrison's S.S. ... ..	30	10	20	62
White Hart Hotel ... ..	30	8	22	53
Electric Light S.C. ... ..	30	5	25	49
Thames Valley S.C. ... ..	30	4	26	42

## TO ARCHIBALD THORBURN.

You did not paint a pretty face  
Nor smiles of condescending grace ;  
But ptarmigan upon the snow,  
And pheasants in a sunset glow.

You pictured scarce a rustic maid  
Nor sketched one solitary glade ;  
But wary blackcock on the moors,  
And oyster-catchers by the shores.

Your art for satire was not used  
By comedy you ne'er amused ;  
But rendered fox and doe and deer,  
And mallard rising from the mere.

You turned from portraiture away  
But drew an eagle with his prey ;  
And boldly-speckled missel-thrush,  
Or bittern hiding 'mid the rush.

And could I copy prowling beast  
Or cruel falcon, at her feast,  
With such surpassing faithfulness,  
I'd give each penny I possess.

S. E. COLLINS.

## SIMONDS GREAT FÊTE

COLEY PARK, READING.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 1938.

## PROPOSED PROGRAMME.

## SPORTS.

80 yards Boys' Handicap (under 14 years).  
80 yards Girls' Handicap (under 14 years).  
100 yards Youths' Handicap (14 to 18 years).  
80 yards Veterans' Handicap.  
220 yards Men's Handicap.  
100 yards Men's Scratch Race.  
100 yards Scratch Race—Ladies over 14 years.  
440 yards Scratch Race—Men.  
880 yards Handicap Walk—Men.  
Mile Handicap.  
Inter-Departmental Relay (teams of four).  
Ladies' Relay.  
Ladies' Land Boat Race.  
Ladies' Leap Frog Race.  
Boys' Obstacle Race.  
One Lap Men's Obstacle Race.  
Three-legged Race.  
Barrel Rolling Race.  
Balloon Bursting on Cycles.

## TUG-OF-WAR.

MEN (departmental)—Team of 8 ... Weight under 100 stone.

WOMEN—Team of 8 ... Catchweights.

*(Best two pulls out of three).*

## PUSH BALL.

MEN (departmental).

## FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

*(Schedules on application).*

## BABY SHOW.

BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN COMPETITION.

LADIES' BEAUTY COMPETITION.

*(In conjunction with the "Berkshire Chronicle").***(Open).**

Judging by well-known Film Stars.

LADIES' ANKLE COMPETITION

**(Open).**

GREAT DARTS TOURNAMENT.

*(Teams of seven)***Open to all Reading and District.**TWO HOURS' EVENING (FLOODLIT) OPEN-AIR HEALTH AND  
FITNESS DISPLAY

By many Local Organisations.

BAND AND PIPERS OF THE  
GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

SIDE SHOWS AND ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR.

**Admission on the day, 6d.**Tickets purchased before the day, **4d.**,  
bearing many Lucky Prizes.

FIREWORKS.

**S**ATISFIES THE **B**ODY

AND

**S**TIMULATES THE **B**RAIN.

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

The staff of the General Office were very busy on the quarterly balancing during the early days of April, but were very happy when the "All clear" was sounded and they had found that which wasn't lost. Now more time can be devoted to that summer "pastime" of so many married men, viz. :—gardening, that is when it starts to rain again.

During the early days of the month a large gathering of the staff took place in the Waiting Room to witness the presentation of a most handsome canteen of cutlery to Mr. C. Langton on the occasion of his wedding.

Mr. E. S. Phipps, in making the presentation, said he had great pleasure in handing to Mr. Langton the gift that had been subscribed for by his colleagues. It was a gift that could be used for every meal. He wished Mr. Langton and the future Mrs. Langton every success and good luck in their married life.

Mr. Langton, in reply, thanked them all for their most wonderful present which he would always treasure and for all the good wishes.

The usual individual hearty handshake and personal good wishes concluded the proceedings.

Mr. F. Braisher, after a few days in Hospital, has returned to duty, although it is most likely he will have to go in a few weeks time for further treatment. I am sure everyone who knows him will wish him the best of good luck for he has been very brave in all he has been through. His pluck has indeed been really wonderful.

Easter came and, although no complaints could be levelled against the holiday in regard to the dryness of the weather, it would have been more pleasing if it had been somewhat warmer. However, all reports are that trade was very good and that people *did* get out and, as the Americans say, "Go places."

Language of flowers! You've heard that before; nevertheless, if you have too many in your own garden and you know someone who would like some, pick a bunch for them. You will be surprised the thanks you receive—real genuine thanks at that too.

Football is now rapidly drawing to a close and Reading, although probably finishing somewhere near the top of the table, will have to be content with another season in the Third Division. I am afraid it has been a somewhat disappointing time for the ardent

"fan," for a little more consistency at vital periods would no doubt have seen Reading winning promotion, for there has been no particularly outstanding team throughout and, even at the moment, it is not an easy task to pick the winner.

Surely Bristol City have a most excellent chance, that is if they win all their remaining matches; nevertheless, the strain on the players is pretty considerable at such a time and they may just miss their objective. If they win the league, as they are one of the very few teams who have taken four points from Reading it may be truly said that we have helped them.

Plymouth Argyle seem assured for another season in the Second Division, although it has been rather a struggle during the last few months for them.

Portsmouth are not out of the wood, at the moment of writing, but it does seem that they have a good chance of "keeping up"; however, it has been rather an anxious time.

Brighton have been in the running for quite a while now and, possibly, if they had been a little better in the earlier days of the season they would have won promotion. They must be a very useful side.

We are pleased to welcome back to duty Mr. S. Josey after his severe spell of illness and Mr. A. H. Hopkins after his recent bereavement.

A nature note! The first buttonhole of sweet peas has been seen in the offices of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., so you gardeners, "hold that one." Now for the first rose.

From information received, I understand we have a nice lot of "bright young things" who are going to show their real cricket prowess this season and will be putting the cricket club of the Firm well in the limelight. So here's hoping and wishing both teams real good innings during the summer.

How would you like to spend the Bank Holiday rowing? Well, that's how one of the members of our staff spent one day, in a Racing Eight of the Reading Rowing Club and did 25 miles on the river. Name: Mr. N. H. Lipscombe. One way of keeping fit, but I understand there were quite a number of stops for sustenance, both solid and liquid.

Mr. E. E. White, electrician, has returned to duty after a severe operation in a London Hospital and says he is now feeling very much better.

Where could you find, shall I say, a more cosmopolitan crowd than in a Pub? The other evening whilst sitting in the billiards room of one of our well-known Houses, just for curiosity sake I ran my eye over all those present—I knew them all and they myself—and they were all friends knowing each other by surname, christian name or nickname. The four playing billiards (it is always four playing in this particular House) consisted of a manager of a butcher's shop, a professional photographer, a printer and a railway clerk. There were also, present an income tax collector, a postman, a foreman carpenter, a decorator, a newsagent, a commercial traveller, a storekeeper, an employee of a seed firm, a milkman, a motor lorry driver, a professional comedian and several others—all a jolly crowd and quite happy.

This is not supposed to be exactly a true story. "He had been working overtime for many weeks and was on his way home in a 'bus. Much to his surprise the lady sitting next to him said, 'Your face seems familiar.' He replied, 'Well, it should do, seeing that I am your husband,' but then he remembered she had not been seeing much of him lately."

The following changes and transfers have taken place during the month of April and to all we take the opportunity to wish every success:—

The Perseverance, Wraysbury (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. F. I. Berry.

The North Star, Hounslow (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. E. J. Markham.

The Falcon, Theale (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. E. E. Attwood.

The Old Manor House, Walton (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. J. Pelling.

The Jack of Both Sides, Reading—Mr. F. S. Griffin.

Apropos the above change the following extract is taken from the *Berkshire Chronicle*:—

MR. H. L. TALBOT RETIRES.

Mr. H. L. ("Todger") Talbot, who has been the genial licensee of The Jack of Both Sides for nearly 30 years, has retired, and his place has been taken by Mr. F. S. Griffin, of Northampton. The Jack of Both Sides has been in the Talbot family for over half a century. Mr. George Talbot was a fine worker for the Reading Athletic Club.

Mr. Talbot is well known in sporting circles, although he now devotes most of his time to bowls, being a member of the Reading Club. He formerly played for Palmer Park, of which he was captain and president. He played for the county for over 10 years, having captained the county side.

In earlier days he played for the Reading Wesley F.C., and later captained Reading Amateurs Wednesday for five years. He captained Reading Reserves when they played in the Western Suburban League.

On retiring from active participation in football, he took up refereeing. He is a vice-president of the Reading Tradesmen's Rowing Club.

Mr. Talbot was elected to the Reading Board of Guardians in 1921, when unemployment in Reading was at its height. In 1927 he contested Victoria Ward for the Reading Town Council, but was defeated by Dr. W. Hartnett.

We much regret to record the following deaths and we extend our sincere sympathy to all relatives :—

Mr. J. Proberts, The Pin and Bowl, Wokingham, who died on the 8th April. Mr. Proberts was for many years manager of the Boar's Head, Ardington. Later he was tenant of the Queen's Arms, Wokingham, until it was closed as a licensed house and from 6th April, 1937, had been tenant of the Pin and Bowl, Wokingham.

Mr. W. T. Brind, 90 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, who died on the 17th April had been tenant of the late South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd. for many years of the garage and blacksmith's shop at rear of the Nag's Head, Newbury.

Mr. W. P. Guppy, The Black Horse, New Haw, Addlestone, who died on the 21st April had been tenant of this House since 1904.

#### CRICKET.

##### MR. LOUIS SIMONDS OFFERS CUP FOR BEST BATTING AVERAGE.

The annual general meeting of the Cricket Club was held at the Social Club on the 28th April, when a number of important items were on the agenda. Mr. L. A. Simonds kindly attended the meeting and the Chairman, Mr. A. G. Rider, extended to him a hearty welcome and expressed the appreciation of the members for his presence.

The voting for the respective officers was very keen and on practically every occasion ballots had to be taken. The following were chosen as captains and vice-captains of the teams :—

"A" team. Mr. C. R. Josey (*captain*) and Mr. W. Neville (*vice-captain*).

"B" team. Mr. E. C. Greenaway (*captain*) and Mr. S. Collins (*vice-captain*).

A full list of officials will appear on the membership cards, which it is hoped will shortly be in circulation.

It being realised that we have a very good team in the making, it was decided to engage a coach for a few evenings and it is hoped that good results will follow from his tuition. Practice will be held on the new Sports Ground and for the time being will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in each week and notice will be published as to the nights the coach will attend.

Similar departmental teams as last year will contest in the Inter-Departmental League and due notice will be given as to the dates of the matches.

There was a very important amendment made to the rules. It was thought that with the additional facilities for members the fee should be increased and it was finally decided that the membership fees should be :—

2/6 per head for playing members over 20 on the 1st May.  
1/- per head for playing members under 20 on the 1st May,  
also non-playing members.

At the termination of the general business, the Chairman asked Mr. Louis Simonds to kindly present the Inter-Departmental Cup to the 1937 winners, viz., Delivery Department.

Mr. Louis spoke of the very efficient manner in which the Chairman had conducted the meeting and after a short, witty speech handed over the cup to Mr. S. Treacher, who acted as captain of the Delivery Department last season, with his congratulations and best wishes for his team.

Mr. Louis then very kindly offered to present a cup for the best batting average made by a member of the club during the season, the winner to hold same for a year. This generous offer was received with acclamation from the company present.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Louis for his kind gift and advised the younger members to take full advantage of the services of the coach to improve their batting.

## A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

WHEN THE SWALLOWS ARRIVED.

A CUNNING FOX.

The first migrant bird that I heard and saw this year was the cheery little chiff-chaff. Quite a number of them were to be heard on March 19th. And considering the wonderfully mild March weather we experienced I thought that perhaps it would bring the swallows earlier. But no! they arrived true to time, about the middle of April. I saw one on April 12th, a few stragglers on succeeding days, but only a few, and then, on Sunday, April 24th, there were hosts of swallows, sand martins, and house martins. I thought their presence, in such large numbers, indicated a spell of warmer weather, but right away until the end of the month there were frosts by night and bitterly cold winds by day.

How welcome is the pretty warble, the *pink, pink wet-wet*, of this richly coloured bird, the swallow. Its dress is of steely-blue, chestnut, black and white, and its long forked tail is conspicuous. The birds seem to me more dear and delightful as the years go by and it is with an added eagerness that I await the arrival of the swallow and other charming migrants at each spring-tide.

A NEST OF RARE BEAUTY.

Many of our resident birds took advantage of the real spring-like weather in March and nested. I found the nests of the blackbird, thrush, hedge sparrow, robin and wren, and most of these nests have since contained young. With the subsequent cold weather the parent birds had an exceedingly hard job to find sufficient food to satisfy the hunger of their young families.

It was on Good Friday, April 15th, that I found a long-tailed tits' nest. Hearing the bird's familiar note, *zit-zit*, I soon observed a pair and not many minutes had elapsed before I found their beautiful nest placed in a bush which overhangs a meandering trout stream. And, strange to say, it was in this very same bush that a pair of these tits built their nest last year. Alas! the exquisite structure was, on that occasion, wantonly destroyed and I do hope the poor little birds will have better luck this year. Oval-shaped, the long-tailed tits' nest is composed of wool, moss, spiders' webs, cunningly felted together, and covered with silver lichens. Nothing could be more cosy than the interior which is composed of the feathers of various birds. As many as 2,000 have been found in one nest.

To destroy such a thing of beauty is indeed a shame!

ON A COLD MAY MORNING.

Early on Sunday morning, May 1st, I went, as usual on a Sunday, for a stroll up the Thames-side and here is a list of some of the birds I saw: common sandpiper, or summer snipe; wryneck; kingfisher; moorhen; little grebe; coot; reed bunting; redpoll; meadow pipit; tree-creeper; chiffchaff; willow warbler; white-throat; yellow hammer; pied, grey and yellow wagtails; goldfinch; coal, marsh and blue tits; lesser and greater spotted and green woodpeckers; sedge warbler; stonechat; plover; redshank; and wild duck with a little feathery flotilla of young who scampered along the water's surface at a great pace by the aid of their little feet and wings. I also found a partridge's nest.

LIKE A NECK ON BALL BEARINGS.

I would like to deal in detail with the winning ways of most of the birds above-mentioned but space forbids reference to more than one or two. There is the wryneck, for instance. He is well named, for he can stand with his back to you and yet look you straight in the face as though his neck worked on ball bearings. The stonechat is so-called because the sound of his voice is very similar to that made when you rub together two stones. And as to the spotted woodpeckers, they work wonders with their powerful beaks and drill perfectly rounded holes in the trees for nesting purposes. If you see them ripping off the bark of a tree you may depend upon it there are grubs there. I examined the spot where one had been at work and under the bark were many white maggots or grubs, apparently those of the hornet moth.

Mr. Eric tells me he found a dead spotted woodpecker in one of the rides at Audley's Wood, his charming home near Basingstoke. I wonder how the little fellow had come by his death.

I expect that here in the fir trees the gold-crests are now busy building their wonderful globe-like nests with a small opening at the top. The gold-crest is our smallest British bird and about five-and-a-half of them go to the ounce!

WELL DONE LITTLE VIXEN.

The cunning of the fox is well known. I met a keeper recently who told me of an interesting instance bearing out the artfulness of Reynard. The vixen had some cubs near a game preserve and as they were, between them, doing a good deal of damage, he decided to trap one or more of them. He set one trap inside the earth and two near the mouth of it. As a precaution, he wore gloves when he placed the traps in position and also used a spade when covering

them with soil so that the vixen should not scent the human touch. However, she proved one too many for the keeper for, on the following day, when he went to examine the traps, he found that each one had been struck. The vixen's fur and other evidence proved beyond a doubt that she had rolled on the traps and thus robbed them of their danger. She then conducted her cubs to safer quarters and they were seen no more.

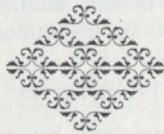
Bravo! you little vixen.

ONCE UPON A TIME.

The following little story should really come under "The Children's Corner." However, here it is. Once upon a time a very handsome gentleman fell in love with a charming lady. They decided to get married. Day in and day out they worked untiringly, building a delightful home. It was furnished beautifully and they decided to have a family of five if everything went well.

But some cruel person came along, tore the beautiful home to pieces, and when the lady and gentleman, who with such pains and rare artistry had erected the building, saw what had happened they were heartbroken, uttered piteous cries and seemed altogether disconsolate. I am sure we all hope they will have better luck next time.

They were Mr. and Mrs. Chaffinch!



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A Scotsman who was very merry and bright after a jolly evening woke up the next morning with a very nasty taste in his mouth. He saw his Doctor who said, "What's the matter with you? Put out your tongue." The Scotsman's tongue was *black as ink*. The Doctor said, "What have you been doing to get your tongue in this state?" The Scot replied, "It was like this. As I was going home last night I dropped a bottle of whisky—and they had just re-tarred the road."

\* \* \* \*

An Aberdonian entered a post office in Glasgow and asked for a sixpenny postal order.

"Trying the coupons?" asked the clerk.

"You mind your own business," was the reply. "It's too bad if I can't send money to my wife without you interfering."

\* \* \* \*

Ikey, tossing in bed, kept repeating the words, "It's on me mind, it's on me mind."

Rebecca, his wife, stood it for a time, and then said, "For goodness sake, vot's on yer mind, Ikey?"

"Vell, I'll tell you," he said. "You know Abraham across the street?"

"Yes?"

"Vell, I borrowed von hundred pounds from him, and it comes due to-morrow, and I can't pay. It's on me mind."

Rebecca jumped out of bed, opened the window, and called across the street: "Abraham! Abraham!"

Abraham opened his window and said, "Vot is it, Rebecca?"

"Ikey borrowed one hundred pounds from you and it comes due to-morrow," she said.

"Yes, Rebecca."

"Vell, he can't pay."

Banging down the window, she turned to her husband. "Now go to sleep, Ikey. It's on *his* mind!"

Jones had heard what he thought was a good conundrum. When he reached home he tried it on his wife.

"Do you know why I am like a mule?" he asked.

"No," said his wife, "but I've often been going to ask you."

\* \* \* \*

An Irishman, confessing his sins, admitted that he had avoided paying his rent, that he had been poaching birds on Monday, salmon on Tuesday, had snared a fine hare on Wednesday, and on Friday had shot the rent collector.

"Ah, now," said the priest, "don't be after tellin' me your amusements. It's your sins Oi'm wantin' to hear."

\* \* \* \*

It was a local football Derby and the "Blues" were being thoroughly trounced by the "Reds." The "Reds" centre-forward was mainly responsible for the *debacle*, and all the seven goals were scored with his head.

That night he happened to meet the unfortunate goalkeeper, who, when the centre-forward gave him a friendly nod, promptly dived sideways into the gutter!

\* \* \* \*

Two street sweepers were discussing the merits of a new man who had been hired to help them in their work.

Said one: "An' what do ye think uv the new man, Pat?"

"Divvil a bit," replied Pat. "He might be all right on th' up and down sweeping, but let him try a bit of fancy work around a lamp-post, then we'll be after seeing his abilities."

\* \* \* \*

An Aberdonian in Glasgow, running after a tramcar, panted to the conductor: "How much to Buchanan Street Station from here?"

"Two pence," replied the conductor.

The man continued to run, and, having covered another stretch, inquired breathlessly of the conductor: "How much now?"

"Threepence," retorted the conductor. "Ye're runnin' the wrong way."

The wife wakened her husband. "Can't you quiet down a bit?" she squawked. "You're snoring away at a mile-a-minute."

The husband pulled the blanket over his ears. "Can't help it," he yawned. "I'm getting up very early in the morning and I've got to sleep fast!"

\* \* \* \*

The African explorer had seen many gnus during the day. In the evening his native cook served him a delicious steak.

"This is one of the finest steaks I've ever eaten," he said to his guide. "Is it gnu?"

"No," said the guide, "but it is just as good as gnu."

\* \* \* \*

When working on the roof of a building a Scotch student fell off the scaffold a distance of 30 feet. The instructor ran along to the end of the roof and was relieved to see the student scrambling up off a heap of sand. The instructor shouted out: "Have you hurt yourself, Jock?"

The student, who was mumbling to himself, and feeling round his waist, shouted back: "No, I haven't, but I've broken my blasted braces."

\* \* \* \*

"Now, suppose," said the teacher, "a man working on the river bank suddenly fell in the water. He could not swim and would be in danger of drowning. Picture the scene. The man's sudden fall, the cry for help. His wife knows his peril and, hearing his screams, rushes immediately to the bank. Why does she rush to the bank?"

"To draw his insurance money," exclaimed the bright boy of the class.

\* \* \* \*

An engine-driver was off duty owing to illness, and when pay-day came round he asked his wife to call at the depot to collect his last week's wages.

She was surprised when she saw the amount, and on reaching home mentioned that he had never told her what a good wage he got.

He was ready for that.

"Ah!" he said, collaring the packet, "but what'll be left when I've paid the fireman and the guard?"

MAID : " I am afraid I must leave you, ma'am."

MISTRESS : " But you only came yesterday."

MAID : " But I can see you don't trust me."

MISTRESS : " But I gave you the key of the cellar, of my jewel case, of master's desk."

MAID : " Yes, ma'am, but none of them fit."

\* \* \* \*

The house agent was showing the prospective buyer through the rooms.

" This is the maid's bedroom, and this is the linen cupboard."

" The linen cupboard is the one with the shelves? "

\* \* \* \*

SHE : " I'm awfully glad you've got a part in the Dramatic Society's next show. Have you much to say? "

HE : " Practically nothing. I'm playing the part of a husband."

\* \* \* \*

Two girls were discussing a member of the stronger sex.

" How do you find his conversation? " asked one.

" Like the waves of the sea," came the reply.

" Ah! You mean you find it rolling, irresistible, vital——? "

" No, it makes me sick."

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Murphy was cleaning up the house when a lady called and asked if she could give anything towards an Inebriates' Home for which she was collecting.

" Come round to-night," was the reply, " and I'll give you Murphy."

\* \* \* \*

" Yes, we're very healthy here. My father died at 150."

" One hundred and fifty! "

" Yes, High Street."

\* \* \* \*

" So you like my daughter, eh? " asked the girl's father.

" Like her! " echoed the lovesick swain. " I would jump off Nelson's Column for her, die for her, slave to please her, go through fire to save her pain—— "

Her father put up his hand for him to stop.

" Very good," he said, " but I can't consent to the marriage. I'm a pretty good liar, and one in the family is enough."

\* \* \* \*

" You ought to lend your scooter to your little brother sometimes," said aunty severely.

" I do, aunty," declared Freddie. " He has it up the hills and I have it down."

\* \* \* \*

" You were talking in your sleep, John."

" Well, I've got to talk some time, haven't I? "

\* \* \* \*

His wife eyed him suspiciously. " Henry," she said, " I trust you are coming home at nine promptly to-night? "

" Well, my dear," he said hesitatingly, " I had thought about ten—— "

" Henry," she put in sharply, " what did you say? "

" About ten minutes to nine," he quickly replied.

\* \* \* \*

YOUNG BRIDE : " To commemorate an awful quarrel we had last week, Jim and I planted a tree in the garden."

FRIEND : " Well, now, that is a nice idea! If Fred and I had done that we should have a wonderful avenue by now."

\* \* \* \*

Little Sam, taking tea with a neighbour was given a piece of bread and butter. He said, " Thank you," very politely.

" That's right, Sammy," said the hostess. " I love to hear little boys say ' Thank you '."

" Well," said Sammy, " if you want to hear me say it again you might put some jam on it."

\* \* \* \*

"Well, Meg, so ye're engaged to young Alexander. I congratulate ye. That young man has always seemed to me a fellow of rare gifts."

"He is that. He's only gi'ed me one present in six months."

\* \* \* \*

CULPRIT: "But Judge, I wasn't drunk."

JUDGE: "The officer says you were trying to climb a lamp-post."

CULPRIT: "I was, Judge. A couple of crocodiles kept following me round, and I don't mind telling you they were getting on my nerves."

\* \* \* \*

A young woman was being seen off at the railway station.

"Now, don't bother to come any farther—you'd have to get a platform ticket," she said to her escort.

"Oh, that's all right," he protested. It's worth more than a penny to see you off."

\* \* \* \*

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE: "I ask you to deal leniently with the accused for his own sake. He has already been sentenced twelve times and the thirteenth might be unlucky for him."

\* \* \* \*

A bumptious fellow was giving evidence in a police-court.

"You say you stood up?" asked the magistrate.

"I said," retorted the conceited one, "that I stood. If one stands one must stand up. There's no other way of standing."

"Oh, isn't there?" replied the magistrate.

"Pay two pounds for contempt of court, and—stand down!"

\* \* \* \*

"Your fiancee has money but if you marry her you will have to give up smoking and drinking."

"Yes, but if I do not marry her, I shall have to give up eating."

\* \* \* \*

TEACHER: "Who can tell me what the former ruler of Russia was called?"

CLASS (*in unison*): "Tsar."

"Correct; and what was his wife called?"

"Tsarina."

"What were the Tsar's children called?"

There was a pause, then a timid voice in the rear piped up, "Tsardines."

\* \* \* \*

WIFE: "Of course women are as capable as men. Why, I know a girl of twenty-two who gets the salary of a sales manager in a big business house."

HUSBAND: "I don't doubt it, my dear. When did she marry him?"

\* \* \* \*

"Yer couldn't see a man starve, could yer, lidy?"

"Not very well. I've come out without my glasses."



## BRANCHES.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The picture which we have pleasure in producing in this month's GAZETTE is one of interest to clubmen, for the brilliant array of silver trophies awarded annually to the winning clubs of various indoor games tournaments, which are promoted and arranged by the Hampshire Branch of the Club and Institute Union.



These cups represent value from at least three important points of view: first of all for their costliness—for the total worth of the trophies shown is approximately £450; secondly, they are the means of bringing together associate members of the Club and Institute Union for happy games, evenings and sociability, which is of course one of the most important objects of club life and the creation of friendly atmosphere between clubs, tending to strengthen co-operation and common understanding, which, not only in clubs, is so necessary and desirable in the course of daily events; thirdly and probably the most important, the promotion of the games tournaments previously mentioned is a source of income to those worthy Institutions, the Club and Institute Union Convalescent Homes. Clubmen know the values of their Convalescent Homes and especially those who have had occasion to partake in the many advantages they offer; while by games entrance fees, collections at social events, cup presentations and so on throughout the country,

the Homes are solely maintained. A cup also included in the picture is given by the Manor House Hospital for the club gaining the aggregate points.

This photograph was taken at the Fair Oak British Legion Club, prior to a presentation event, and shows, left to right, Mr. H. Mintram (Secretary of the Hampshire Branch, Club and Institute Union), Mr. C. Frost (then President of the Branch and Chairman of the Games Committee), Mr. L. J. Robinson (Games Organiser and Secretary) and Mr. F. G. Sewell (Secretary of the Fair Oak British Legion Club).

When the Mayor of Coventry (Alderman Miss Alice Arnold) visited H.M.S. *Coventry* at Portsmouth early in April, she presented the cruiser with a silk ensign, also a radiogram with six loud-speakers, subscribed for by the citizens of Coventry. The ensign took the place of the one presented by the city to the ship shortly after her launch in 1918. The old ensign was handed to the Mayor by the Commanding Officer (Capt. D. N. C. Tufnell, D.S.O.) for preservation in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry. In welcoming the Mayor and the other visitors, the Captain described how the gifts were the outcome of a visit paid to the ship some months ago by Mr. C. W. Kingdon, of the Midland Daily Telegraph Company. The interest had been obtained of the Mayor of Coventry, who was the first lady Mayor of that city in 490 years. After the Mayor had broken the ensign at the staff-head, the Ship's Company gave three cheers, and she was presented with a bouquet by a Royal Marine drummer boy. Before leaving for the return journey, the Mayor and the Town Clerk of Coventry, who had accompanied her, paid a visit to the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Councillor F. J. Spickernell) at the Guildhall.

There was a thrilling wind-up to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines annual inter-port boxing championship meeting this year at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth. A few fights from the end, Chatham (the holders of the inter-port cup) and Devonport were running neck and neck, but C.P.O. Pattern won the last fight of the evening and gave Devonport victory. C.P.O. Pattern is 39 years of age and was, therefore, easily the oldest man in the ring. He won his first navy title as a fly-weight in 1919 and was several times I.S.B.A. champion. He can still make the weight, but boxed as a bantam to help his team. In the presence of a huge crowd the Commander-in-Chief (Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl of Cork and Orrery) presented the cup to Lieut.-Commander W. L. Murman (the Devonport P. & R.T. Officer). Lieut.-Commander G. V.

Knight was the organiser and shared the duties of referee with Major Sergeant, R.M., Lieut.-Commander H. W. Wood and Lieut.-Commander R. F. A. Redman. Various P. & R.T. officers acted as judges. P.O. Price was M.C., and Leading Seaman Barrington, timekeeper.

H.M.S. *Victory* have this year had a very successful season, with the Navy Cup and the U.S. Charity Cup already in their possession on April 6th. They also captured the U.S. Challenge Cup, in the final of which they had to play the *Excellent* for four hours, eventually winning by an odd goal. The first meeting of the teams at Fratton Park resulted in a draw 2—2. At Eastney the league took the lead after half an hour, but as a result of a penalty in the last minute of the first half, lost it. They scored the winning goal in the first period of extra time. The cup was presented to the winning team by the Commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks (Commodore W. E. C. Tait, M.V.O.).

#### LONDON.

The Southfields Club and Institute and Sub-Clubs held their annual dinner at the club on Saturday, March 19th.

The Chair was taken by the President (C. M. Croft, Esq.) who, as usual, gave a sparkle to the proceedings and put the company at their ease. After a very good dinner which was well served, the toast of "His Majesty" was given by the Chairman and received with musical honours. He then proposed "The Club and Sub-Clubs," which was replied to by Mr. A. Munn who said, among many other nice things, how fortunate the club was in having Mr. Croft for its President, and knew he was only echoing the members minds when he said he hoped Mr. Croft would see his way for many years to remain as such. "The Guests" were proposed by Mr. R. May, and Mr. Nye responded and thanked the club for giving them such an enjoyable evening.

The Chairman then distributed the prizes for bowls, billiards, snooker, cricket and fishing to Messrs. H. Holliman, M. Gander, A. Batchlor, W. Moore, C. J. Ashford, J. Dormer, T. Latter, J. Stuart, C. C. Ashford, L. Abbott, W. J. Evans, C. J. Balcombe, F. Maple, W. Richards, C. Barnett and H. B. Bacon.

The evening concluded with an excellent concert much enjoyed by all.

#### WOKING.

##### WOKING AND DISTRICT CLUB STEWARDS' ASSOCIATION.

The 11th Annual Dinner of the Woking and District Club Stewards' Association was held in the Constitutional Hall, Chertsey, on Thursday, 24th March. It was a very convivial gathering, nearly 90 members and guests attending, and it was the third year that the popular function was held at Chertsey.

Regret was expressed that Mr. A. Bennett (President) was unable to be present, having to restrict his evening activities on medical orders. He wrote expressing the hope that the company would spend a very happy evening.

Mr. William Hodges (Chairman of the Chertsey Constitutional Club) kindly presided, and was supported by Mr. S. Austin (Chairman of the Association) and Mr. T. Loughnane (Hon. Secretary). Mr. J. Scopes (Steward of the Chertsey Constitutional Club) rendered valuable aid in regard to the arrangements.

Following the loyal toast the Chairman submitted the toast of the "Woking and District Club Stewards' Association." He said the task of a Steward was not without its difficulties as they had many to please. In the course of his remarks he paid a high tribute to the Stewards of the district.

Responding, Mr. C. Austin (Woking Liberal Club) said they were not actually an Association in the general sense of the word, as their activities began and ended with the annual dinner. They held the dinner in an endeavour to bring the Stewards together once a year, and he felt their motives had succeeded as they had a bigger attendance each year. He was grateful to Mr. Hodges for presiding that evening, and expressed a special word of thanks to Mr. Holloway and Mr. Wareham for their valuable work in connection with the function.

"The Visitors" were welcomed by Mr. R. Binsley (St. John's Working Men's Club) who said he liked to see strange faces and to make new friends. He was particularly pleased to see such a large number present.

Mr. G. W. Ross (Secretary, Walton Working Men's Club) replying, said he could speak of the hard work of the Stewards. Nobody outside the office of a Secretary could know their contribution to club life. It had been said that Stewards were the backbone of club life, but he preferred to look upon them as the spinal column. He was very pleased to see an increase in the number of visitors.

The health of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. T. Loughnane (Old Woking Recreation Club). He paid tribute to Mr. Hodges' work and also Mr. Scopes (Chertsey Constitutional Club) for his arrangements of the hall. He mentioned that the standard of club life was very much higher than it was a few years ago.

Messrs. W. Wade & Son, of Chertsey, were responsible for serving an excellent meal, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to an entertainment given by Claud Sutton's Concert Party.

### BRISTOL.

The phenomenal spell of almost summer weather in March and April undoubtedly gladdened the hearts and cured the ills of many thousands of folks, but it also caused to quite as many a great deal of serious anxiety, especially where water supplies are limited, as they are in so many country areas—in view of what hardships the future months may hold for them.

Speaking for ourselves, we not only had the bad luck to have our first Cheltenham Race Meeting cancelled owing to the hard "going," but also one of the real social "plums" of Gloucestershire, the Berkeley Hunt Point-to-Point Meeting. In fact, even hunting was abandoned for several weeks by this pack owing to the concrete-like surface of the hills and plains which the Berkeley boundaries enclose.

We hope that by the time these notes appear our gardening and farming friends, country folk and all others affected will have received a sufficiency (for the time being) of those precious "pennies from Heaven" which are as necessary and as naturally a part of our existence as the air we breathe, even though we oft-times grumble at their abundant generosity, when we need them not. And in this hope we sympathetically include our cheery-voiced "Knights of the pencil" who, in many other areas as well as our own, must have lost a great many real pence over the numerous cancellations. For even they must live. Still, "it's an ill wind," etc., etc.

Congratulations to the dart experts of our Alma Inn, Blaenavon, on winning the Dart League championship after a thrilling struggle with the fourteen other licensed houses and clubs of the district, by one point.

The game is fast becoming the most popular feature of social life in the South Wales area, and leagues are being formed everywhere. The Blaenavon league's first season has just ended, and we wish both the league and its first champions further successes.

Mrs. E. J. Morris, our tenant at the Alma, is the oldest licensee in the district, and has a wonderful record in the Trade. Her enthusiasm is only matched by that of her family, and we have no doubt that her "boys" who have achieved such an early success will be only too ready to pay tribute to their hostess for the way she has "mothered" them for so many years.

Well done the Alma!!

### BRISTOL WOMEN'S LICENSED TRADE DEFENCE ASSOCIATION BANQUET.

The above function, which was held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, this year was, by universal consent, voted the most enjoyable of all such 1938 Trade gatherings. Long perorations were conspicuous by their absence; only necessary and essential Trade topics being commented on. The menu was everything to be desired, the numbers just comfortable; while at 9.15 p.m. the banquet hall was being prepared for the delightful, informal dance which followed. What could even the most blasé of us therefore find to grumble at? And with our own Mr. H. W. Griffin in the President's chair on such a delightful evening we were glad to feel that all present had appreciated with us the quiet harmony and informal atmosphere of the proceedings. Not that the speeches were ever dull! Quite the reverse. In fact, the President (who in the course of his speech proposing the toast of "The Association" mentioned its inauguration seventeen years ago and the invaluable services it was rendering to the Trade) soon made a special point of emphasising the wonderful figures which Bristol itself had shown in the 1937 report of the Chief Constable regarding drunkenness in the city—only 3.5 per 10,000 of population. In 1914 the whole of England and Wales figure was 49.7 per 10,000. "These figures need no further words of mine," said Mr. Griffin, "except to bring to notice the fact that Bristol is to-day getting so good, that I suggest the licensing justices may very soon put us on probation and say that we can be safely entrusted with the extra half hour during summer-time."

He also stressed the importance of a woman's work in licensed houses, and how essential it was, in the interests of all in the Trade, for such associations to be strong in numbers and morale. Mrs. F. K. Petch (the Association's President) responded, and particularly thanked the wholesale trade for their ever-ready sympathy and



Reproduced by the kind permission of  
 Bristol Women's Licensed Trade Defence Banquet.  
 [Mr. H. Roberto Lewis, 6 Bristol Bridge, Bristol, 1.]

generous support at all times. The encouragement given in this way enabled the Association to go forward with confidence.

Mr. E. T. Norman briefly gave the members a few helpful words of advice when proposing "Our Guests"; to which toast Mr. Leslie Park responded in his usual way by giving the company one or two of his own 1938 vintage after-dinner stories which amused us all.

Mrs. Rosa Saunders proposed the health of the President who, she said, was held in high esteem throughout the Trade and the Associations of the city, and on behalf of the Bristol Women's Association presented Mr. Griffin with a gift from them as a token of their regard and appreciation of his kindness in presiding at their 1938 banquet.

In thanking the Association Mr. Griffin remarked on the ever-growing unity between the wholesale and retail sides of the Trade which he concluded "is a sign of real good health."

#### THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The annual meeting of the Tamar Brewery Social Club was held at the club premises on 9th April and the following officers were elected:—F. A. Simonds, Esq. (*President*); Mr. C. R. Holman (*Chairman*); Mr. H. E. Bevan (*Hon. Secretary*); Mr. W. Luscombe (*Hon. Treasurer*).

The club had a rather lean time last summer as everyone was too busy to pay a visit and most of the spare time (after 5 p.m.) of the clerical staff was spent in the offices!

The darts team has done fairly well in the "Hopleaf" Darts League and the billiards team, although promoted to a higher division last year, finished third from the top.

At the time of writing these notes it would appear that Plymouth Argyle will remain in the Second Division for next season. The team has done much better since the New Year, although at one time they seemed certain to be relegated. The supporters have, however, stuck to them and gates have averaged over 20,000—which shows that Plymouth people will watch football when their local team are not quite in the limelight.

At the Tamar Hotel, Crownhill, there was the usual Good Friday football match in the meadow. Mr. James Ponsford, the popular landlord of the "Tamar," presented the cup to the winners much to the enjoyment of the large crowd. This match is a well-known attraction and is talked about over half the county of Devon. A reproduction of the advertising poster is shown on this page. Knackersknowle, by the way, is the ancient name of Crownhill; it was altered some thirty years ago when the military barracks were built.

**Great Annual Easter Attraction**  
**Good Friday, April 15th**

**Odds and Sods**  
**Football Challenge Cup**

**KNACKERSKNOWLE KNOBBLERS**  
(Holders)

*versus*

**THE DOODAHS**

At THE TAMAR HOTEL STADIUM  
KNACKERSKNOWLE, CROWNHILL  
KICK-OFF 11 A.M.

**Roll up and Enjoy your Hot Cross Bun**

Referee: Linesmen:

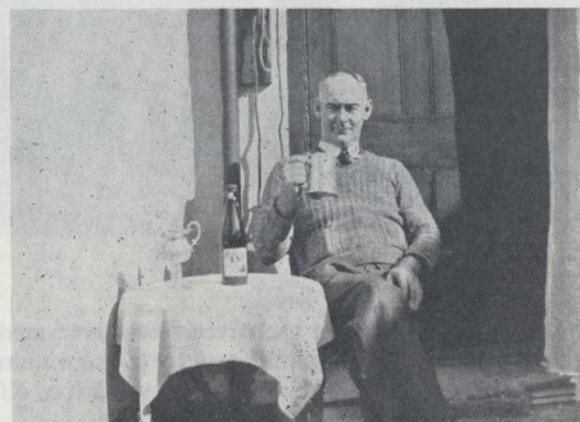
S. Norman Mrs. Dorothy Tuck, Plymouth.  
Miss Betty Nicholls, Penzance.

**SILVER CUP presented by J. PONSFORD, Esq.**

Collection in Aid of Prince of Wales's Hospital, Greenbank  
Official Collectors: Edith Cooper and Ivy Beatty

In the first season of the Kingsand and Cawsand Darts League the "Hopleaf" distinguished itself by winning three out of the four awards.

Mr. S. O. Jenkins, the landlord of the Rising Sun, won the two individual trophies—a cup presented by Mrs. A. Brittan for the player winning the greatest number of games during the season (Mr. Jenkins won thirteen out of the sixteen games, losing two and missing one through illness) and also a tankard, presented by Mr. Hill, for the player making the highest score in a league match, with a score of 140.



Mr. S. O. Jenkins of the Rising Sun Inn, Kingsand.

The cup for the winners of the league, presented by Mr. A. Brittan, to be held for one year, was won by the Devonport Inn, who were four points ahead of their nearest rivals, the Halfway House.

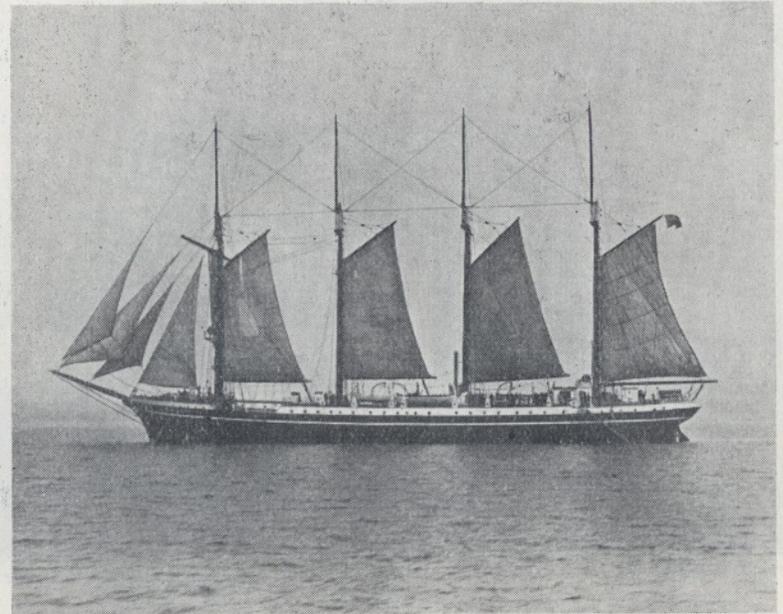
Out of the sixteen matches played, the Devonport Inn won 11, lost 2 and drew 3, scoring 82 points against 46. They also created a record, being the only team to win a match by 8 games to nil. The landlady of the Devonport Inn, Mrs. R. Ley-Greaves, played in eight games and won six of them, which was not a bad record for the only woman in the league.



Devonport Inn, Kingsand.

The members of the team each receive a silver medal, also given by Mr. Brittan, who is seen in the centre of the winning team, in the photograph taken in front of the Devonport Inn, Kingsand.

The season wound up with a smoking concert and distribution of the prizes; this was held at the Ship Inn, Cawsand (the owner of which is Mr. F. Eteson who, in addition to being a good customer of ours is also a personal friend of Miss Gracie Fields, C.B.E., who spent the Easter holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Eteson). The fifty players and their guests enjoyed the "S.B." which proved so popular that one member of the winning team was with great difficulty persuaded to refrain from ringing Whitehall 1212 to complain about the lack of police cars in Cawsand. However, a very enjoyable evening was had by all and we look forward to another season after the summer rush, when we hope that the "Hopleaf" will be equally successful.

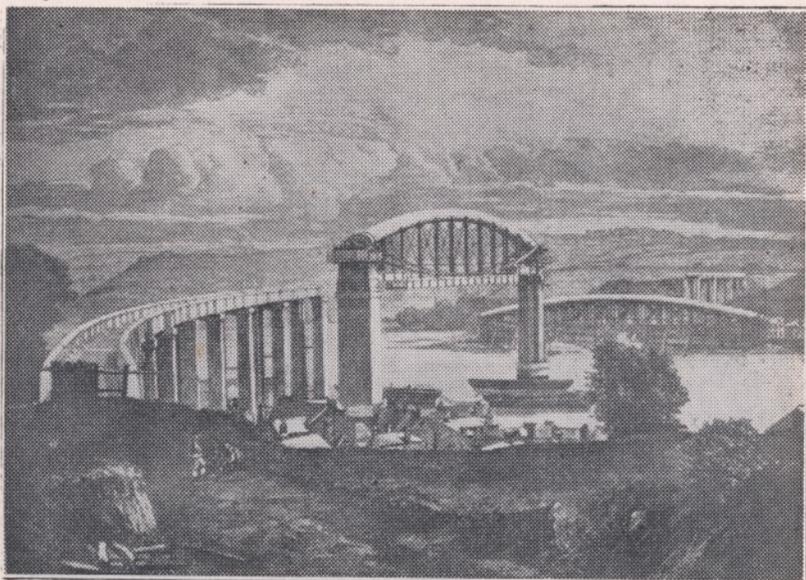


By courtesy of the

[Western Morning News Co., Ltd.]

We reproduce above a photograph of the schooner *Westward*, one time cargo-carrying windjammer, which recently called at Plymouth on her luxury cruise to the Azores. She had 80 passengers aboard and is the only sailing ship in Britain to hold a passenger licence. The *Westward* is luxuriously fitted and furnished and left Plymouth proceeding to Teneriffe, then to Las Palmas, continuing the voyage across the Atlantic to Barbados, then on to Kingston, Jamaica. From Kingston on to the famous Miami, Florida, and so home via the Azores, reaching Plymouth again in early July. The journey is approximately 12,000 miles and during this delightful cruise the passengers will be able to enjoy Simonds popular "S.B.", a goodly consignment of which was taken on board.

Congratulations to Mr. G. Egg, of our Transport Department, who was married recently. The staff contributed to a very nice clock, which was presented to Mr. Egg with the best wishes of the employees at the Tamar Brewery.



*The above illustration is reproduced]*

*[by kind permission of S. Gordon Monk, Esq.*

#### THE ROYAL ALBERT BRIDGE, SALTASH.

This bridge carries the main G.W.R. line to Cornwall and was built in 1857 by Isambard Brunel. The bridge was considered a great engineering feat at that time. Mrs. Emily Stevens of Saltash, who is 94 years of age, remembers the building of the bridge.

Mrs. Stevens's housekeeper is a descendant of the landlady who held the Wheatsheaf Inn, Saltash, at the time of the building of the bridge. She has heard her grandmother speak of the way the beer was poured into wash trays, and how the men, coming in from work, would dip their beer mugs into the trays as there was no time for them to be served in the usual way.

The directors and engineers of the bridge used to go into the dining room of the "Wheatsheaf" and the plans were laid out on the table.

The keeper of the "Wheatsheaf" who was, incidentally, a descendant of Anne Glanville, the famous oarswoman, once walked through the tubing of the bridge.

I. K. Brunel himself was not present at the floating of the archway as he was ill and was staying in Lausanne at the time. A telegram was sent to him telling him that they had got the tube into position successfully. Later, he was wheeled across the bridge on a couch.

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