



HOP LEAF NEWS



STAFF SUPPLEMENT TO THE "HOP LEAF GAZETTE" PUBLISHED BY H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD.

VOL. XXX

SPRING 1956

NUMBER 2

"RED LETTER" DAYS AT READING

A Ball, a Dance and Two Parties

Four important functions, three of them in the canteen at Reading, were each a "red-letter day" for the guests who attended.

The fourth, the Staff Ball, on January 27, was held at the Town Hall.

Many more guests from the Branches were this year among the 800 or more dancers who spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening with music provided by Eric Wakefield and his Band. The M.C. was Vic Douglas.

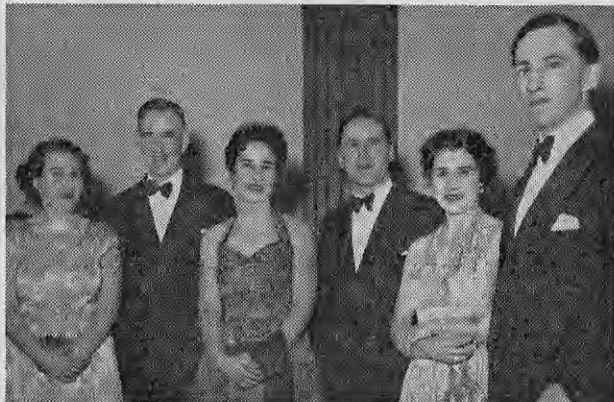
General Sir Miles Dempsey and Lady Dempsey, Mr. and Mrs. R. St. J. Quarry, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. V. Keighley, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Simonds and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Downes were among those present.

More than 80 children from "Homes" in the Reading area were appreciative guests at a special children's party arranged by the Social Section of H. & G. Simonds Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union in the Bridge Street Canteen on January 21.

The high light of this party was the delayed appearance of Father Christmas, who distributed gifts to each child.

Another highly successful party for the youngsters, on February 2, catered for children of the Staff. On the other occasion the guests, although considerably older, enjoyed themselves none the less at the Dinner for the Old Age Pensioners, where many old friendships were renewed and incidents of their working days were recalled.

Unrestrained happiness was the keynote for the guests at this party of boys and girls from several Children's Homes at Reading.



At the Staff Ball at Reading: Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Pitts from Bridgend, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Quelch from Bristol, Mrs. E. D. Penlerick, wife of Swindon Branch Manager, and Mr. David Simonds.



A cheerful trio from Staines Branch: Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Bradshaw and Miss Tilbury.



A happy group from the Production Department at Reading.



Their long journey from Devonport did not seem to impair the enjoyment of this party of visitors from our branch in Devon.



The Old Age Pensioners enjoying a first-class meal.

A huge meal which they had just done justice to did not impair the voices of these young songsters at the Staff's Children's Party.



MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

Appointments

READING :

Mr. W. G. R. McCune has been appointed Assistant Chemist.

Mr. John Chmurow has been appointed to Headquarters Staff as Hotels Catering Supervisor.

Mr. J. W. Vickery, of Swindon, has been appointed an Assistant Manager in the Estates Department.

Mr. K. G. S. Organ, Cashier, has been appointed a Stocktaker.

Mr. G. C. Kelly has been appointed Foreman Cooper at Reading. Mr. Kelly, who joined the Firm as an Apprentice Cooper on April 19, 1926, served in the R.A.F. at Manston, Kent, from August, 1940, until December, 1943, when he was invalided out and returned to the Cooperage Department. He was transferred to the B.B.L.S. as Checker from May, 1944, until October, 1945, when he again returned to the Cooperage, and was placed in charge of the Cooperage Workshop in July, 1954, on the retirement of Mr. E. Carpenter.

PORTSMOUTH :

Mr. H. A. Westmore has been appointed a Representative.

SWINDON :

Mr. B. E. Smith has been appointed a Representative.

Retirements

After fifteen years' service with the Company, Mr. F. W. Hunt, of the Hotels and Catering Department, retired on December 31.

To mark the occasion Mr. H. C. Davis, Manager of the Department, presented Mr. Hunt with a wristlet watch on behalf of his colleagues.

New Arrivals

We are happy to welcome the following new members of the staff who have recently joined :—

READING :

Mr. C. G. Pickin, Cask Dept.
Mrs. M. Wise, Hotels Dept.
Miss G. A. Parish, Laboratory.
Mr. M. Orsborn, Cask Dept.
Mr. J. Cusworth, Cask Office.
Miss E. Churchill, Laboratory.
Mr. H. Jones, Cask Dept.
Mr. J. de Tisi, Cask Dept.
Miss C. West, Hollerith Dept.
Mr. G. Sale, Accounts Dept.
Miss B. Booth, Correspondence Office.
Mr. J. C. Coleman, Accounts Dept.
Miss H. Winterbourne, Hollerith Dept.
Miss M. Lewis, Hotels Dept.
Mr. B. Glasscock, Cask Dept.
Mr. D. T. Cattin, Arthur Cooper.
Miss E. Wilson, Hotels Dept.

BRANCHES :

Oxford : Mr. E. F. North.
Bristol : Mrs. M. J. Roberts.
Bridgend : Mr. B. J. David.
Swindon : Mr. B. E. Smith.
Tamar : Mr. P. R. Hunter

NATIONAL SERVICE

Welcome back to Mr. E. F. Munt, of the Accounts Department, who returned on February 20, having completed his National Service.

People on the Move

The following staff changes have taken place :—

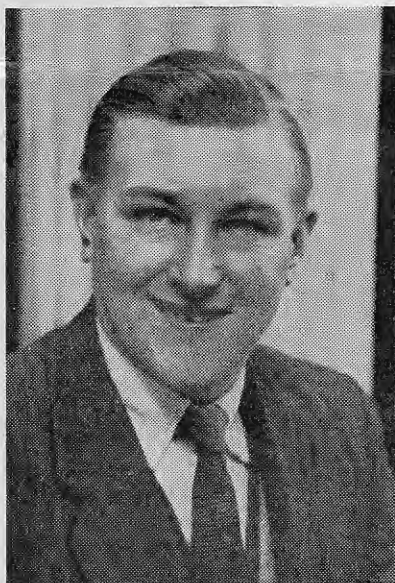
READING :

Miss J. Goldsworthy, Correspondence Office to Arthur Cooper, Market Place.
Mr. M. Pittock, Cask Office to Wine Office.
Mr. J. de Tisi, Cask Dept. to Wine and Spirits Dept.
Mr. S. L. Read, Area Surveyor, transferred to Staines.
Mr. R. W. S. Smith, Accounts Dept. to Cashier's Section.
Mr. W. Rosenthall, Cask Office to Branch Dept.
Mr. M. Orsborn, Cask Office to Delivery Dept.
Mr. H. Hawkins, Hotels Dept. to Surveyor's Dept.
Mr. A. Dyer, Surveyor's Dept. to Cask Dept.
Mr. C. G. Pickin, Cask Dept. to Engineer's Dept., Brewery.
Mr. H. Jones, Cask Dept. to Surveyor's Dept.
Mr. L. Suter, Cask Dept. to Accounts Dept.

BRANCHES :

Mr. G. Shiel, Tamar, transferred to Accounts Dept., Reading.

READING



Mr. H. Hawkins, who commenced as Junior Clerk in the Cask Department in July, 1941, and who was transferred to the Hotels Department in 1947, has now made another move, to the Surveyor's Department, as Accounts Clerk.

Weddings

Congratulations and best wishes to :

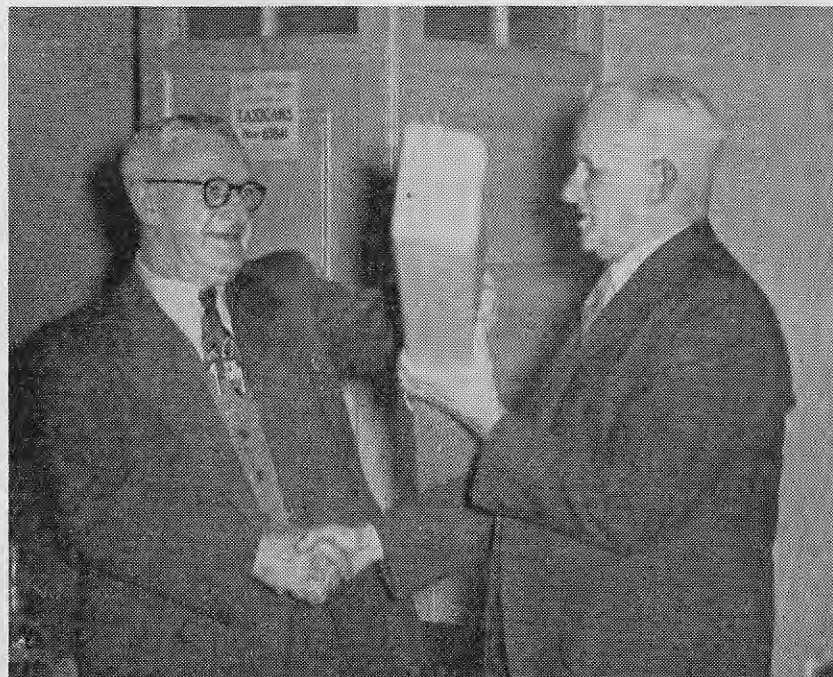
Miss D. Hodges, of the Estates Department, who was married on December 24, and is now Mrs. Grugeon.

★ Births ★

On Saturday, February 18, a daughter, Elizabeth, was born to Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Clements. Mr. Clements is Manager of the Stocktaking Department.

* * *

The birth of a baby daughter to Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Blackwell, of Arthur Cooper, 67 High Street, Oxford is announced.



NEWPORT

A suitcase was presented, as a token of regard, to Mr. C. W. Snell on January 28, when the staff of the Branch gathered to wish him a long and happy retirement. In thanking the staff for their gift and numerous good wishes Mr. Snell recalled many episodes during his long experience in the Transport Department, and paid tribute to the help he had received from his associates.

RETIREMENT GIFTS TO MRS. BRADFORD

Following the retirement, on October 21 last, of Mrs. A. M. Bradford, which was reported in the last issue of the "Hop Leaf News," retirement gifts from the Company and from her former colleagues and friends at Reading were presented to her a few days before Christmas.

The Chairman of the Company, General Sir Miles Dempsey, presented a gold wristlet watch at a meeting of the Directors in the Board Room, and at the same time paid tribute to Mrs. Bradford's long and loyal service.

On behalf of the Staff, Mr. A. G. Richardson made a presentation which included an early morning tea-set, an afternoon tea-service, an oak chest and a string of pearls.

Farewell to Mr. J. Vickery

During an informal farewell ceremony on January 13, Mr. E. D. Penlerick presented our Free Trade Representative, Mr. J. Vickery, with a "Parker 51" pencil on behalf of the Swindon staff.

Mr. Vickery left to take up a position in the Estates department at Reading, and in a short speech Mr. Penlerick wished him every success for the future. In his reply of thanks Mr. Vickery spoke of the number of friends he had made in the Swindon area and expressed his warm appreciation of the help he had received from them.

At the same time a word of welcome was extended to Mr. B. E. Smith, who has now returned to Swindon Branch as Free Trade Representative.

SWINDON

STAFF OUTING

The Swindon Branch Staff Outing took place on January 14, when a party travelled by train to Wembley to see "Babes in the Wood" on Ice at the Empire Pool.

On the homeward trip after this excellent pantomime, the party spirit was much in evidence and reached its climax when the happy crowd finally broke up at Swindon station at the end of a most enjoyable evening.

STAINES

A RECORD RECALLED

A record set up in 1899 and which, it is believed, still stands is recalled by the retirement of Mr. Frank Stevens from the Bottling Department at Staines Brewery.

He was only 13 years old when he first started work at the brewery in 1899. At that time his father and six brothers were also employed there.

Mr. Stevens' service in the brewery extended from 1899 to 1926, including five years' war service in World War I, in which he served in the Middlesex Regiment. In 1935 he returned to the brewery to complete 21 more years before retiring on December 31.

Mr. E. Gosney, Branch Manager, referred to these 47 years of distinguished and conscientious service and also to Mr. Stevens' "copper plate" handwriting for which he was renowned, when making a presentation to Mr. Stevens at an informal gathering of his colleagues.

The presentation gift took the form of a pocket watch subscribed for by his fellow employees.

Is this a record?

This question was recently asked on behalf of a member of our Devonport Branch staff who has a driving licence dated 19 January, 1914, and has also an unblemished record for the whole of this period of nearly 42 years.

Now Mr. F. W. Hunt, of the Hotels and Catering Dept. at Reading, has come forward protesting at the suggestion that anyone who obtained their first licence in 1914 should be considered as a record holder.

Mr. Hunt has held his driving licence since 21 April, 1913.

Can anyone beat that?

Transport Department Dinner

This year's event, held at the Talbot Hotel, Newport, on December 2, was marked by the pending retirement of the guest of the evening, Mr. C. W. Snell, who had been in charge of transport both under Phillips & Sons, Limited and recently under H. & G. Simonds, Limited, for the greater part of his fifty years' service.

Many tributes were paid to Mr. Snell by the various speakers, for his outstanding service to transport during this period, and the appreciation of the Transport staff was implemented when, on their behalf, a shooting stick was presented to him by Mr. C. Dobbs.

Mr. Snell responded with thanks for the co-operation he had received in the past and for the many good wishes for the future. The evening's entertainment was again voted a great success, thanks to the excellent arrangements by the organiser, Mr. T. Walby.

JOHN CHMUROW APPOINTED HOTELS CATERING SUPERVISOR

After more than 13 years' connection with the management of our Hotels at Dartmouth, Basingstoke and elsewhere, Mr. John Chmurow took up a new appointment as Hotels Catering Supervisor on the Headquarters Staff at Reading on January 20.

Mr. Chmurow had previously been at the Royal Castle Hotel, Dartmouth, the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke, the Ship Hotel,

Reading, and the Queen's Hotel, Farnborough.

Previously Mr. Chmurow spent several years gaining practical experience at the Savoy Hotel, Piccadilly Hotel and the Hyde Park Hotel, all in London, and was *maitre d'hotel* at the Grand Hotel, Harrogate. Before joining Simonds in 1942, he was with Schmidt's, of Charlotte Street, London, for eight years.

TENNIS CLUB

More American
Tournaments this

Season

Once again the tennis season is almost upon us, and it is hoped that many more will patronise the amenities provided at Berkeley Avenue during 1956.

It is intended to hold more American Tournaments this season, at least one per month, and these will be advertised prominently on all Brewery notice boards—so please keep an eye open for them and come along and join us.

We welcome Mr. B. W. Glasscock of the Cask Office to our playing strength. Here we have an "up and coming" Junior, and already he has made his mark in the Berkshire Championships, successfully winning last season the Berkshire Junior Men's and Mixed Doubles. We wish him further success during 1956.

Our league team, having gained promotion last season, venture in the Second Division of the Berkshire League, and it is hoped that they will meet with equal success in this Division.

Our fixture list for the 1956 Season is given below, and from this it will be noticed that a very full programme is to be completed. In addition to the under-mentioned a home and away fixture is being arranged with Reading University.

	Home	Away
April.		
Sat. 14	Morland's (Mixed)	—
Sun. 15	—	—
Sat. 21	Kelvins (Men's)	—
Sun. 22	—	—
Sat. 28	Ray Mill (Men's)	—
Sun. 29	—	—
May.		
Sat. 5	—	Windsor (League)
Sun. 6	—	Reading Aero (Men's)
Sat. 12	Culham (Men's)	Morland's (Mixed)
Sun. 13	—	—
Sat. 19	Woodlands (Mixed)	—
(Whit-Sat.)	—	—
Sun. 20	—	—
(Whit-Sun.)	—	—
Mon. 21	—	—
(Whit-Mon.)	—	—
Sat. 26	Maidenhead II (League)	—
Sun. 27	Reading Aero (Men's)	—
June.		
Sat. 2	—	Culham (Men's)
Sun. 3	—	—
Sat. 9	Island A. (League)	Courage's (Men's)
Sun. 10	—	—
Sat. 16	—	Sutton's (Men's)
Sun. 17	—	—
Sat. 23	B. County Sports (Men's)	York Road II (League)
Sun. 24	—	—
Sat. 30	—	Friary Brewery (Men's)
July.		
Sun. 1	—	—
Sat. 7	W. Manufacturing (Mixed)	—
Sun. 8	—	—
Sat. 14	Courage's (Men's)	—
Sun. 15	—	—
Sat. 21	Friary Brewery (Men's)	B. County Sports (Men's)
Sun. 22	—	—
Sat. 28	—	Kelvins (Men's)
Sun. 29	—	—
Aug.		
Sat. 4	—	—
(Aug. Sat.)	—	—
Sun. 5	—	—
(Aug. Sun.)	—	—
Mon. 6	—	—
(Aug. Mon.)	—	—
Sat. 11	—	Woodlands (Mixed)
Sun. 12	—	—
Sat. 18	Sutton's (Men's)	—
Sun. 19	—	—
Sat. 25	—	Ray Mill (Mixed)
Sun. 26	—	—
Sept.		
Sat. 1	—	—
Sun. 2	—	W. Manufacturing (Mixed)

Reading Social Club

New Chairman
J. D. RICHARDSON

The Annual Meeting of the Social Club was held on February 10, when Officials and Committee were elected. Mr. H. Dines resigned as Chairman after five years' "active service"; always very keen and a driving force which kept the Committee on their toes. We are however very fortunate in securing Mr. J. D. Richardson to fill his place.

The following were also elected: Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. Hawkins; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Broad; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Bradford. Committee: Messrs. H. Copsey, J. Daniels, A. Hitchman, A. Morland, K. G. S. Organ, W. Parrish, C. T. Turner, L. Twiney, M. Wheeler, A. Whale, and Mrs. Turner. Messrs. C. Hawkins, A. Whale and C. T. Turner were responsible for the entertainments during last year and are to be congratulated on the excellent dances and socials arranged.

Plans for Archery and Rifle Clubs for the coming Year.

For the coming year we are hoping to form an Archery Club, also a Rifle Club; we also hope to resuscitate the Darts and Bar Billiards Teams. During the past winter the Table Tennis Club proved very successful and we look forward to equally good results next season. The Fishing Club has completed its first season and proved a very good addition to the Club's activities.

Any member interested in Archery, Rifle Shooting, Darts, Bar Billiards, Table Tennis or Fishing are asked to notify any member of the Committee.

READING SPORTS CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Central Sports Committee was held on Monday, February 27, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. D. Richardson. A general survey of the Clubs was discussed, also arrangements for the forthcoming season. We cannot have too many members, and all employees will receive a warm welcome to either Section.

The Tennis Club Secretary (Mr. R. Wheeler, Hotels and Catering Department) will be pleased to receive applications from new members, also Mr. K. Organ (Stock-taking Department) will welcome new members to the Cricket Club.

As mentioned elsewhere, we are considering forming an Archery Club. We feel that this will provide an interesting entertainment for those who do not play tennis or cricket. There is an eighteen-hole putting green for people preferring a leisurely game. We have, without doubt, the finest Sports Ground in the district, also one of the best pavilions where teas can be obtained on Saturdays, and the licensed bar is open every evening.

SIMONDS ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

"This is the story of twelve minutes in the life of our football team," writes R. Sawdon-Smith. "Simonds Athletic had not been in cup luck for a number of seasons, but it looked as if this would be their year. They had played their way into the quarter-finals of the Reading Junior Cup, and though their opponents were favourites they felt sure they could win."

At half-time, watched by a good crowd at the Sports Ground, it seemed they were right, for they had outplayed their opponents and had a 2-1 advantage. In the second half Roy Russell was brought down in the area, and John Rose scored from the spot. This made it 3-1. The game seemed comfortably in the bag—and then St. Luke's Reserves scored their second goal. Referee Don Chapman looked at his watch—twelve minutes to go. Twelve incredible, disastrous minutes. St. Luke's Reserves scored three more without reply, and when the final whistle was blown the Simonds team slumped from the field, stunned and bewildered losers by 5 goals to 3."

The first team are still well placed in the league and a little more consistency will bring its reward, so that first division football should be seen at the Sports Ground again next season.

The second team are not so happily placed, but luck has been against them as, three weeks running, they were handicapped by injuries to players. The first week Gordon Ayers' nose was broken when he dived at the feet of an oncoming forward. The next week Terry Hawkins received concussion in the first few minutes of the game, in which he took no further part; and then Martin Gilfeather, breaking in a new pair of boots, crippled himself and finished on the wing. He found later that he had a poisoned toe. The results of these games were 2-0, 2-0 and 2-1, so it can be seen that points might have been saved if these unfortunate incidents had not occurred.

Like most clubs, we have been hit by the departure of young players for National Service and it was also unfortunate that Don Seller, Club Captain, had to retire because of a knee injury. In him we have lost both a good skipper and a good player.

LATE NEWS

A Chiming Clock was presented by her colleagues in the Hollerith Department to Miss S. May, prior to her marriage to Mr. A. J. Wicks at Christchurch, Reading, on March 3

IN THE NEWS—JACK SHEPHERD

Jack Shepherd, of the Hollerith Department, at Reading, and formerly in the Advertising Department there, was the subject chosen for the "Names with a Kick" feature in the "Berkshire Chronicle" on February 24.

"What is it that makes Rabson Rovers such a useful local side? I would venture to suggest that team spirit goes a long way towards it—with the inspiration coming from their skipper and pivot, Jackie Shepherd," states the writer.

"Jackie is a good enough amateur soccer player to have moved into a slightly higher grade long before now. But he has remained true to the side with which he has grown up—and he has no desire at all to leave the Rovers now. In fact, his one ambition is to see them do better."

"Listen to him talk on next season's prospects: 'Next season is going to be our year,' he assures us—as though suggesting that this season, with championship honours a possibility in the league, and cup honours in the County Junior competition distinctly promising, has been a tough time with success far from Rovers' doorstep. He tells, too, of the hopes that Barry Humphries will return to the Rovers from Newbury Town and that Eric Hall will be back in the fold, with Reg Peart playing again instead of watching from the touch-line when not playing for the University. Jackie doesn't want to leave the Rovers; he wants only to lead them on to even greater things."

"He started in the Rabson mould when he joined the South Reading Community Centre, and

played for the Youth team which in 1948-49 won the Capelli Cup, and took second place in the league. Transferring to the minors, Jackie—in those days a full-back, and only in more recent years transformed into a centre-half—again won a football trophy, with the South Reading boys taking runners-up place in their league. The following season he became skipper of that Minor side, and success followed, with the Minor Cup and League finding a resting place in the Community Centre. Jackie's ability earned him places in the Reading Minor League side, which that season won the Berks and Bucks Inter-County Cup, and in the N.A.B.C. side.

"When he joined the Royal Air Force at 18 he naturally enough moved up the one further step into the Rabson's senior side. He became skipper of the R.A.F. (Shinfield) team (Maurice Evans, of the Reading club, now holds that job) in the R.A.F. London League. His abilities as skipper earned for him the job with Rabson's that season, and he has held it ever since."

"Athletics are quite a part of Jackie's younger life: he was a high jump and long jump and a javeline champion when at school and with the Boys' Clubs. And he was a sprint champion in the R.A.F. Now 23, Jackie works at Simonds."

Angling Club News

"Club matches for the 1955-56 Season are now over, and we are looking back, and say with confidence that for our first season we have done quite well," writes D. A. F.

The membership is now almost 30, and next season it is hoped to arrange one or two coach trips to waters outside the Reading District Angling Association.

Match Results.

November 20, 1955. River Thames (Sonning).

1st, J. Clayton; 2nd, F. Weston; 3rd, F. Chapman.

December 4, 1955. River Thames (New Promenade).

1st, F. Weston; 2nd, W. Bunce. (No Weigh-in for 3rd.)

January 8, 1956. 1st, F. Weston; 2nd, C. Grover. (No Weigh-in for 3rd.)

The return match with the T.U.C. was fished on the River Thames (New Promenade) in pouring rain, but resulted in revenge for Simonds Angling Club by 11b. 8½ozs.

READING

FOOTBALL

Terry Verner, of the Building Department, was chosen, whilst playing for the Firm's reserve side, for representative honours. He scored one of the seven goals by which the Reading Institute League team routed the Ascot League.

NEWPORT

TENNIS

Barely sixteen years old, Graham Jones is to be congratulated on being selected to represent South Wales in the Winter Inter-County Hard Court Championships v. Herefordshire. This is a Singles Competition, each member of the team playing two singles matches, and Graham Jones, after a somewhat nervous start against an experienced opponent, was just beaten in his first match, but won his second convincingly.

In April, he is using up one week of his holiday at Lilleshall where the Central Council of Physical Recreation holds a week's coaching, he being one of twenty-four junior players recommended by the Welsh L.T.A.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

In the Reading and District Cup Competition, Simonds "A" team are among the last eight teams.

Results:

Simonds "A" Team.

1956.
Jan. 18. Y.M.C.A. "A" 6 v. Simonds 3.
Feb. 1. Reading University 1 v. Simonds 8.
Feb. 9. Simonds 9 v. Royal Berks Hospital 0.
Feb. 13. Woodlands "A" 4 v. Simonds 5.

"Simonds "B" Team.

1956.
Feb. 3. Simonds 2 v. P.O. Telephones 7.
Feb. 7. Ranihket Camp "B" 6 v. Simonds 3.
Feb. 21. Royal Berks Hospital v. Simonds 4.
Feb. 27. "B" 5 v. Woodley Boys' Club 5.

SMALL ADS.

If you have a suitable advertisement for insertion in the next issue; for example, holiday accommodation, write out the advertisement and send it at once to:—

THE EDITOR, "HOP LEAF NEWS,"
THE BREWERY, READING.

Box numbers can be arranged if required. All advertisements must bear the name and department or branch of the sender.

This feature has been introduced for your convenience.

TO LET: Modern 4-berth caravan, fully equipped (except linen). Moderate Terms. A.A. & R.A.C. recommended site at Weymouth. Apply: H. G. Sexton, Surveyor's Dept., The Brewery, Reading.