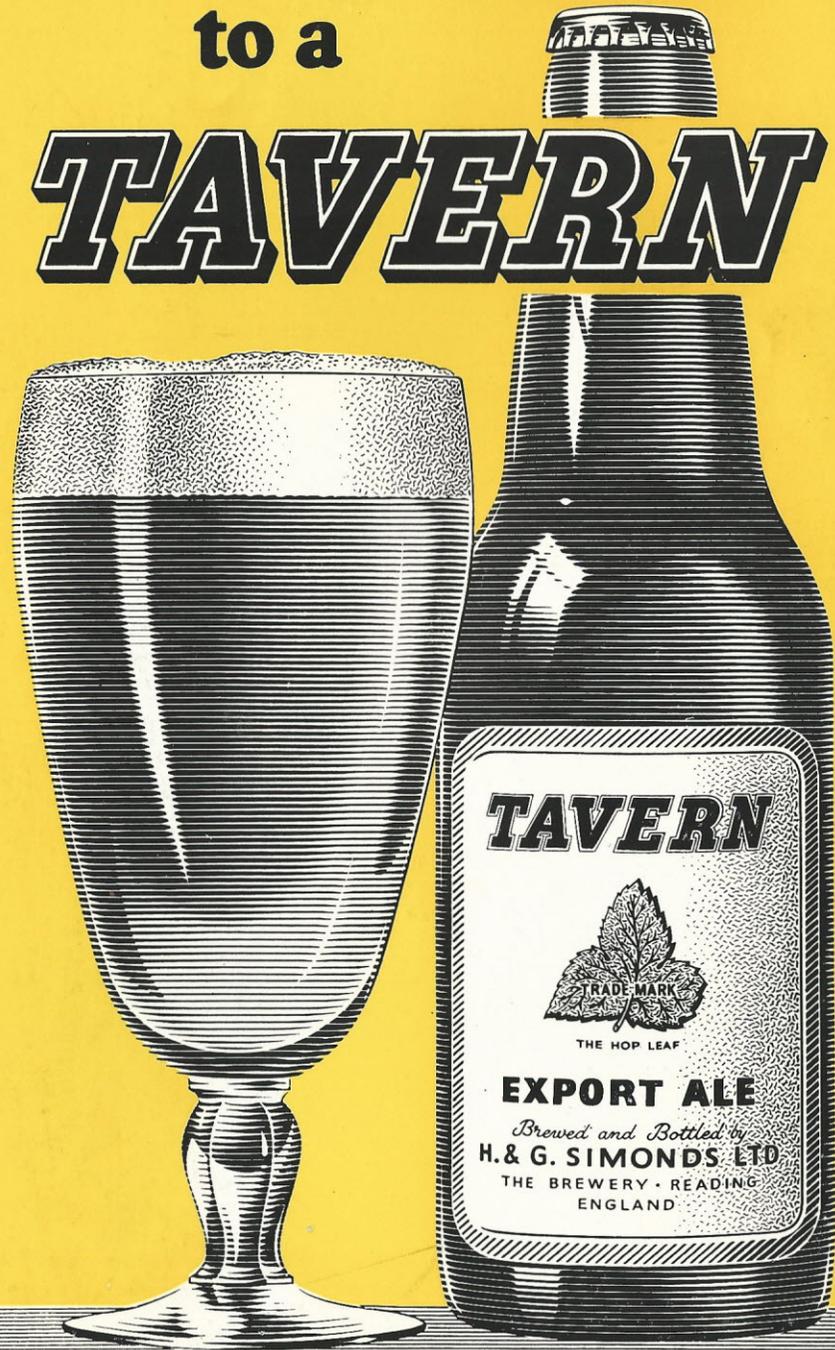


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Gazette

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THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF H. & G. SIMONDS LTD., READING (ISSUED QUARTERLY)



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G A Z E T T E

THE JOURNAL of H. & G. SIMONDS LIMITED

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

The "White Hart" at Chobham which was completely refurbished and redecorated a few months ago. Further details of this very famous house are given in our story on page 16.

Quarterly Comment

Opportunity

THE recently concluded wages agreements in so many different industries—most of which are now operating—will mean more money in the pockets of large numbers of our customers. Whatever channels they use to dispose of that extra cash, we can be certain that they will spend some of it in our own trade, particularly since the price of the more solid forms of nourishment has tended, if anything, to decline in recent months.

The landlord who is alive to the position will be able to ensure that he gets at least his own share of the additional business, and if he sees that his selling methods are better than his competitors then he stands a good chance of getting a good deal more than those who make no extra effort.

Ahead of us is the summer, and, we hope, some good weather. Let us all resolve therefore to make the most of the opportunity presented by this combination of a good selling season and extra money. By doing so we can help build up the reputation of Simonds houses everywhere—and that means increased takings and increased profits. Prosperity is the fruit of imagination and hard work. It is not a ripe plum which drops into the lap of the laggard.



By permission of the Berkshire Chronicle

From Reading, Berks to Reading, Massachusetts

A new link between Reading and the U.S.A. was forged in an unusual manner on the 23rd April by our Chairman, General Sir Miles Dempsey, when he lifted a stone from the yard of "Ye Old Boar's Head" in Friar Street. Sir Miles handed the stone to the Deputy Mayor of Reading, Councillor A. E. Smith, who, in turn, passed it on to Major Bagdasarian of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Greenham Common, who formally accepted it on behalf of the Reading, Massachusetts,

Fire Department 3,000 miles away.

The story behind the ceremony goes back to 1871, when Reading's first Fire Brigade was formed and kept its equipment in a building now belonging to an Arthur Cooper Wine Shop. The paving stone, across which passed many of the original twenty-five members of the Brigade will go to Massachusetts to be used as a corner stone of a new Fire Station being built there.



*Mr. Summers and Mrs. Summers (centre) enjoy a joke and a song with one of their very young friends !
Their toys were forgotten for a moment.*

Only Children Served Here!

Wraysbury Tenants' Mid-week venture brings in the customers

Midway between Slough and Staines lies the village of Wraysbury, unknown except as "a place you pass through" on your way to either of its large neighbours. But right in the middle of the village, shining like a beckoning beacon to the thirsty traveller, can be seen a Hop Leaf sign indicating the presence of "The Feathers," an attractive country house, set back off the main road.

One Wednesday evening, back in March, we went to Wraysbury to see how the landlord and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. E. W.

Summers organised a special "Children's Dress" night for the benefit of their customers. It was the third occasion during their sixteen months' tenancy that they had held a special night, the two previous ones being a Tramp's Night and an Old-Fashioned Night.

Inside the very attractively floodlit premises we found the saloon bar decorated to resemble a children's nursery and waiting behind the bar to greet their customers, a very young-looking Mr. and Mrs. Summers. Mr. Summers said that



Smoking a cigar at his age indeed. The younger generation are getting worse !

(Below) When we were this age we were never allowed to stop up late—let alone start rocking'n rolling.

his previous special nights had proved great successes and his house had been packed each time. He was hoping for equally good support on this occasion.

In reply to a question about the wisdom of selecting a Wednesday night for such an event, Mr. Summers replied firmly, "It is the worst night of the week for business and I feel that I should make a special effort whenever I can to bring the people in."

Mr. Summers certainly achieved his object in this respect, for a well-packed bar kept the till ringing merrily for most of the evening. The number of people who wore Children's Dress was less than those who had worn fancy dress on previous special nights, but nevertheless all those extra people who came along to see the fun made Mr. Summers' effort worthwhile.



Reopening the FERRY INN, SHOREHAM



Mr. R. B. St. J. Quarry opened the "Ferry Inn" by the traditional method of drawing the first pint and drinking to the success of all who served or drank in the new house.

Tuesday, 16th April, was quite a day in the history of Shoreham's two-hundred-years-old "Ferry Inn," for this was re-opening day, and the famous old house, in pursuance of our general policy of modernisation, had been completely re-designed and refurbished within and without.

A large number of local dignitaries and

tradespeople attended the official opening which was performed by our Joint Managing Director, Mr. R. B. St. J. Quarry, who was accompanied by Mrs. Quarry. In doing so he paid tribute to the work of our architect, Mr. R. E. Southall, "Who," he said, "has been very clever in producing on a restricted site these well-planned bars with a modern flat above."

"Great credit also," went on Mr. Quarry, "goes to our Furnishing and Decorative Adviser, Mr. Howie, for the internal finishing and furniture."

"It is obvious that the builders, Messrs. Rice & Sons, have had a difficult and complicated task and they are to be congratulated, not only on the result but also on achieving it in time for me to welcome you all here tonight."

The "Ferry Inn" was built in 1731, when it was known as the "Ferry Arms" and included a bakehouse with ovens under the main road outside. It was used principally by people waiting to be ferried over the River Adur in the days when there was no bridge.

Its position, right on the main seafront of Shoreham, ensures it a busy holiday trade, as well as a steady local one.

Behind the photographer as he took this picture was the sea and Shoreham Harbour.



Mr. G. Ashdown, the Brighton Branch Manager, talks with Mrs. Ashdown and Mr. R. Howie.



Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Flack, Mine Hosts of the "Ferry Inn," moved in a few weeks ago.

Tipple Tattle

Today every landlord can rest assured that Science provides him with a commodity of the highest quality. What would his reactions be to a visit from the 14th-century ale-conner?

“He would enter an inn unexpectedly, draw a glass of ale, pour it on a wooden bench and then sit down in the little puddle he had made.”

No, that is not a description of some eccentric toper of a bygone age. It portrays a public servant in the solemn execution of his appointed duty!



The conner sat in a puddle of ale: if the ale was impure, his breeches stuck to the bench.

In the fourteenth century the probity of the brewers occasionally left much to be desired. In brief, they were addicted to watering their ales and beers and giving short measure, to the natural indignation of more honest burgesses.

The authorities of each city and borough therefore appointed an ale-conner to test the quality of the ale and beer offered for sale to the public. He was the unexpected and unwelcome visitor mentioned at the beginning of this story.

His badge of office was a stout pair of leather breeches—an early example of protective clothing, it would seem.

Having settled more or less comfortably in his puddle, he would chat with the patrons and drink with any who asked him. But he took great care not to change his position in any way. At the end of about half an hour he would make as if to rise.

This was the Moment of Truth.

If the ale was impure, if it had sugar in it, the tester's leather breeches would stick fast to the bench. If, on the other hand, the ale-conner rose with becoming ease and dignity, mine host breathed again.

In spite of the free drinks which he

probably obtained, these damp half-hours can hardly have been comfortable periods for the ale-conner. Nevertheless, the appointment was greatly esteemed and it is on record that such a prominent worthy as Shakespeare's father was made an ale-conner of Stratford-on-Avon.

One gathers that the ale-conners were men of plain speech. A medieval document records that a Cornish tester, reporting on assignment, said: “The ale is starke nought; lookyng whyte and thicke, as pygges had wrasted in it.” But on occasion the conners proved less truthful. A conner's “oath” was therefore established and severe penalties imposed for any lapse from strict impartiality.

Gradually, the breeches test became outmoded. Whether this was due to fair wear and tear and the cost to the public purse of replacements is not known. Testing then depended on the sensitivity of the conner's palate and, presumably, his ability to carry his liquor.

At Cambridge the latter must have been a prime qualification for the job. It was the custom, for the duration of the great annual fair, to appoint an official known as Lord of the Tap. His duties entailed visiting *all* the booths (there were over a hundred) at which beer was sold and to test the quality by the simple means of drinking it.

Oh, to be Lord of the Tap!



“He would sit down in the puddle he had made.” The ale-conner's unexpected company was not greatly enjoyed by medieval landlords!

Staines Tenants Annual Banquet

LEFT TO RIGHT :
Mr. and Mrs. J. Boswell, of the "Foresters Arms," Egham, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Ayres, of the "Prince of Wales," Englefield Green, at the second Annual Banquet of the Staines and District Tenants.



Mr. and Mrs. F. Mott, of the "Windsor Castle," and Mr. and Mrs. D. Griffiths, of the "Duke of Cambridge" of Windsor.



LEFT TO RIGHT :
Mr. and Mrs. S. Starsmore, of the "District Arms," Ashford, and Mr. and Mrs. N. Richards, of the "Railway Tavern," Fritham. Venue of the banquet was "The Pack Horse Hotel."



Departure of MAYFLOWER II

Guests from America who visited this country in connection with the sailing of the *Mayflower II* last April, expressed their appreciation of the service and attention they received whilst staying at the "Bolton Hotel," Brixham, and the "Royal Castle," Dartmouth.

The principal visitors, all from Plymouth, Massachusetts, at the former hotel, were James T. Frazier, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (i.e. Mayor), who also represented the State Governor, Walter B. Haskell, a member of the town's reception committee, and J. T. Dickson, the official photographer of the Plymouth Plantation. During their stay Mr. Frazier entertained the Mayor of Plymouth to lunch in the hotel.

Mrs. G. M. Powell, the Manageress of the "Royal Castle Hotel," received a letter of appreciation from Waldo M. Allen, the Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in the United States after he had returned to his home in Chicago. Because so many people complain about the service given in British hotels, especially to visitors from overseas, we are printing Mr. Allen's letter in full if only to show that those who visit us from abroad do not always see eye to eye with the detractors at home.

Dear Mrs. Powell,

It is very difficult to try to express to you our most sincere thanks for all of the wonderful things you did for us last week-end. Your hospitality was unbounded, and we deeply appreciate your gracious friendliness and that of your family and

staff. Each one of you immediately made us feel so much at home.

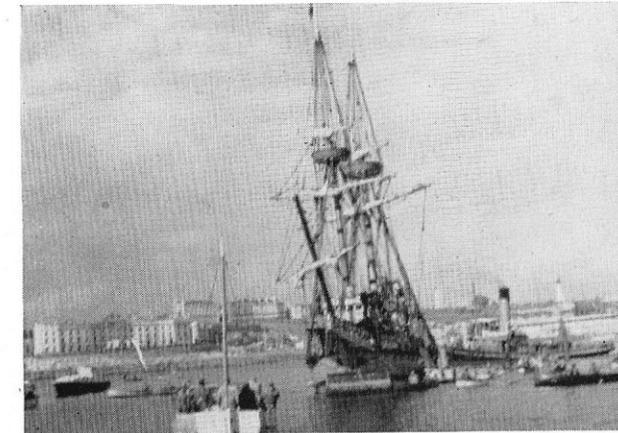
The very handsome *Mayflower* tile you gave us, and the ashtray and mug from Dartmouth Pottery Ltd. have places of honor in our library. The wooden ship model you had packed so carefully for us travelled in fine style and is now the centerpiece on our dining room table. We love having these beautiful souvenirs to remind us of our visit to Dartmouth.

It was most generous of you to invite us to be your guests during our stay for the Unveiling Ceremony. Your hotel is most comfortable and charming, and the view from the window in our room is one we will always remember. The meals were always a great pleasure, as your food is excellent and the service is extremely efficient and friendly.

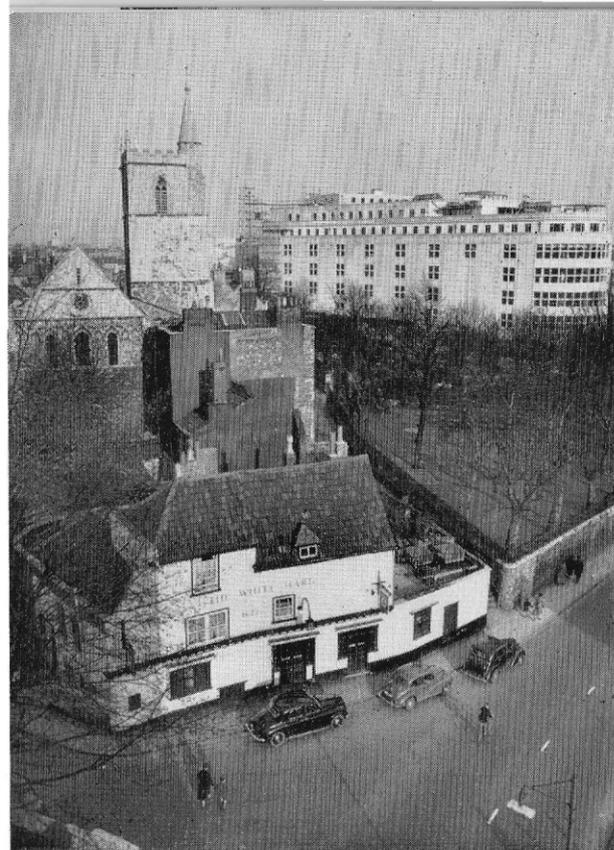
Mrs. Allen and I hope sincerely that we will be able to return to Dartmouth for a visit and stay again at the Royal Castle Hotel.

Mrs. Allen joins me in sending our warmest greetings to you.

Sincerely yours,
Waldo Morgan Allen.



A photograph of the *Mayflower* in Plymouth Sound taken by Mr. A. T. Sara, of the Statistics Department at our Tamar Brewery.



The picture which provoked the story. What is the connection between the Inn, the Church, and the Store?

In the spring sunshine a photographer climbed to the top of the Eye Hospital in Bristol and captured, in one click of the shutter, a Norman church, a 17th century inn and a 20th century store.

You could call it a "Find the Link" picture, for all three are connected by something else—something which might be in the picture, too, if it still existed.

But let us start at the beginning.

About 1129, some stones were sent to Bristol from Caen in Normandy for the repair of the castle by order of Robert of Gloucester, a son of Henry I.

He decreed that every tenth stone should be set aside for the building of a chapel for the Benedictine Priory on the

Find the Link

Story and photograph
by kind permission of the
Evening Post, Bristol

other side of the River Frome. This was done, and the chapel—though now somewhat altered—still stands as Bristol's oldest church, St. James.

We have here, a fine view of St. James's wonderful west front, with its rose window, and an arcade of intersecting arches which hint at the early development of the pointed arch.

Now for the link, the renowned St. James's Fair, established as a Pentecostal feast in the 13th century by the Bishop of Worcester—and abolished in 1837 after a pious citizen had left a legacy for a sermon to be preached in the church about its wickedness.

You can picture the gay scene there on the right, with swarms of people milling around the stalls and sideshows.

So up went the inn, where the crowds could satisfy their very considerable thirst. The "White Hart" was established in 1672, and thrived on the takings from a motley clientele—men who were reported by Bunyan as "fools, apes, knaves and rogues, and that of every kind."

A fa(i)r cry, surely, from the customers who enjoy today the modern comforts of this very attractive inn.

New Tenant at Newbury

Drop into "The Anchor" in Newbury's busy Northbrook Street and you will most probably be served by the landlord, Maurice R. 'Paddy' Glynn. Ask him how long he has been in the trade and he will tell you, "This is my first house, and I came here in March. Before that I was a diesel engineer."

He could—but he won't—go back further and tell you that he was also an ex-Commando—the Private Glynn of Gordon Landsborough's novel *Tobruk Commando*.

Neither will he very willingly (for like most of the real wartime heroes he is strongly silent about the dangers he

faced) tell you how his weight, always around sixteen stone, was reduced to a gaunt six stone in the German concentration camp at Nordhausen. Nor will he talk about his escapes from prisoner-of-war camps in Italy and Yugoslavia, nor how he joined the underground movement in Yugoslavia, only to be finally captured by the Gestapo.

Today, Mr. Glynn, with weight happily restored to normal, and his charming wife are more concerned with their life in their new surroundings and what the future holds for them. Asked how they liked the trade they were unanimous.

"We love it," they said.

Keeping on the move

We are constantly replacing our vehicles as they become obsolete with modern and up-to-date types.

This Karrier 'Bantam' 2/3 ton low loader vehicle has been allocated to our Torquay depot, and will this summer be a familiar sight to holiday-makers as it

delivers Company products in the Torquay area.

Powered by an engine developing 50 b.h.p., the design and manoeuvrability of this lorry makes it ideal for operation in busy and crowded thoroughfares and narrow streets.



Death of Mr. A. G. Gould

It was with the greatest sorrow that colleagues throughout the Firm, and particularly those at Devonport and Newport branches, learned of the untimely death on Saturday, 6th April, of Mr. A. G. Gould.

He commenced his career with the Company in the Offices at the Tamar Brewery, Devonport, and later became Representative covering the Company's interests in Cornwall.

In recognition of his outstanding work and ability he was selected for training for an executive position, and on completion was promoted to the post of Assistant Manager at Newport. His genial disposition, courteous manner and business efficiency gained the respect of staff, tenants and free trade customers in all areas in which he was employed, and the many expressions of sorrow which



have been received demonstrate the affection in which he was held by all.

The funeral took place on Thursday, 11th April, at Charing Crematorium, Kent, and was attended by Mr. A. E. Wake, representing the Directors, and Executives at Head Office, and Messrs. W. G. Sweet and C. Ferguson, representing the Manager, Staff and Tenants of Newport Branch.

To Mrs. Gould and her two children, we send our deepest sympathy in their irreparable loss.

Presentation time all round

Mr. F. W. Freeman was invited by the President, Colonel Maitland, to attend the West Byfleet Social Club in order to present the prizes and trophies to the winners of the various Club Competitions. After he had made the presentations, Mr. J. O'Hanlon, Secretary, made a special presentation to Mr. Freeman of a photograph which was taken on 6th April last when he handed over the "Simonds Trophy" to Mr. Kelly, Captain of the Addlestone ex-Service Men's Club, who were the winners of the West Byfleet Darts League.



Enterprise of Wycombe Licensee

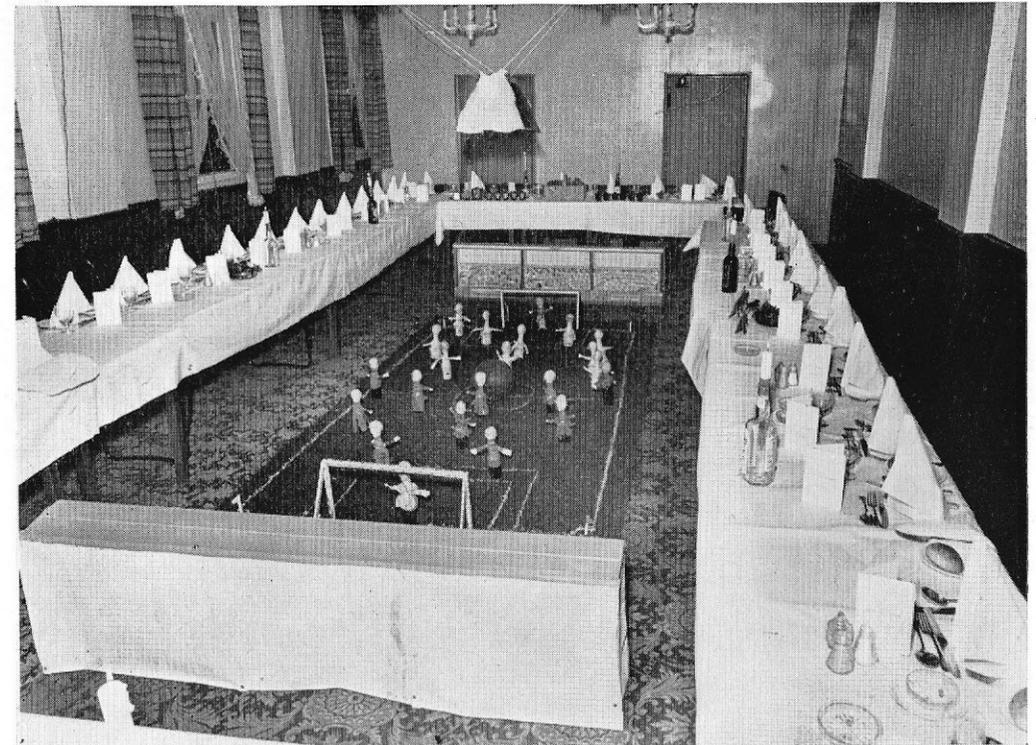
Gains valuable publicity for house

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Spence, of the "Swan Hotel," High Wycombe, were hosts at the annual dinner of the Wycombe Marsh Gordons Football Club at the end of May—but behind that statement lies quite a story.

An ex-professional footballer himself, Mr. Spence's interest in reviving the Marsh Gordons Club—defunct for four years—was aroused by two customers of the hotel. Not only did he help revive the Club, but Mr. Spence turned out at centre-forward and was one of the team

who came back into prominence last season with goal-scoring feats in the Wycombe Combination Fourth Division.

At the annual dinner, which was attended by 50 guests, Mr. and Mrs. Spence prepared an eight-foot football pitch with miniature goals, stands and players, the latter being made from Tavern and S.B. bottles with raffia heads. Their enterprise in helping the football club and preparing such a novel layout for the dinner attracted the attention of the local press.



The table arrangement which greeted visitors to the Marsh Gordons Football Club Dinner at the "Swan Hotel," High Wycombe.

The Areas We Serve

NORTH OF THE SOUTH DOWNS

Visit any area of Great Britain, large or small, country or industrial, lowland or highland, call at all the inns, hotels and pubs and talk to the licensees, and very soon you will know much of the history of the district and a great deal about the people who live there. North Surrey—in early summer a countryside radiant with rhododendron blooms—was no exception and provided considerable evidence that a well-run public house will always be a focal point of local community life.

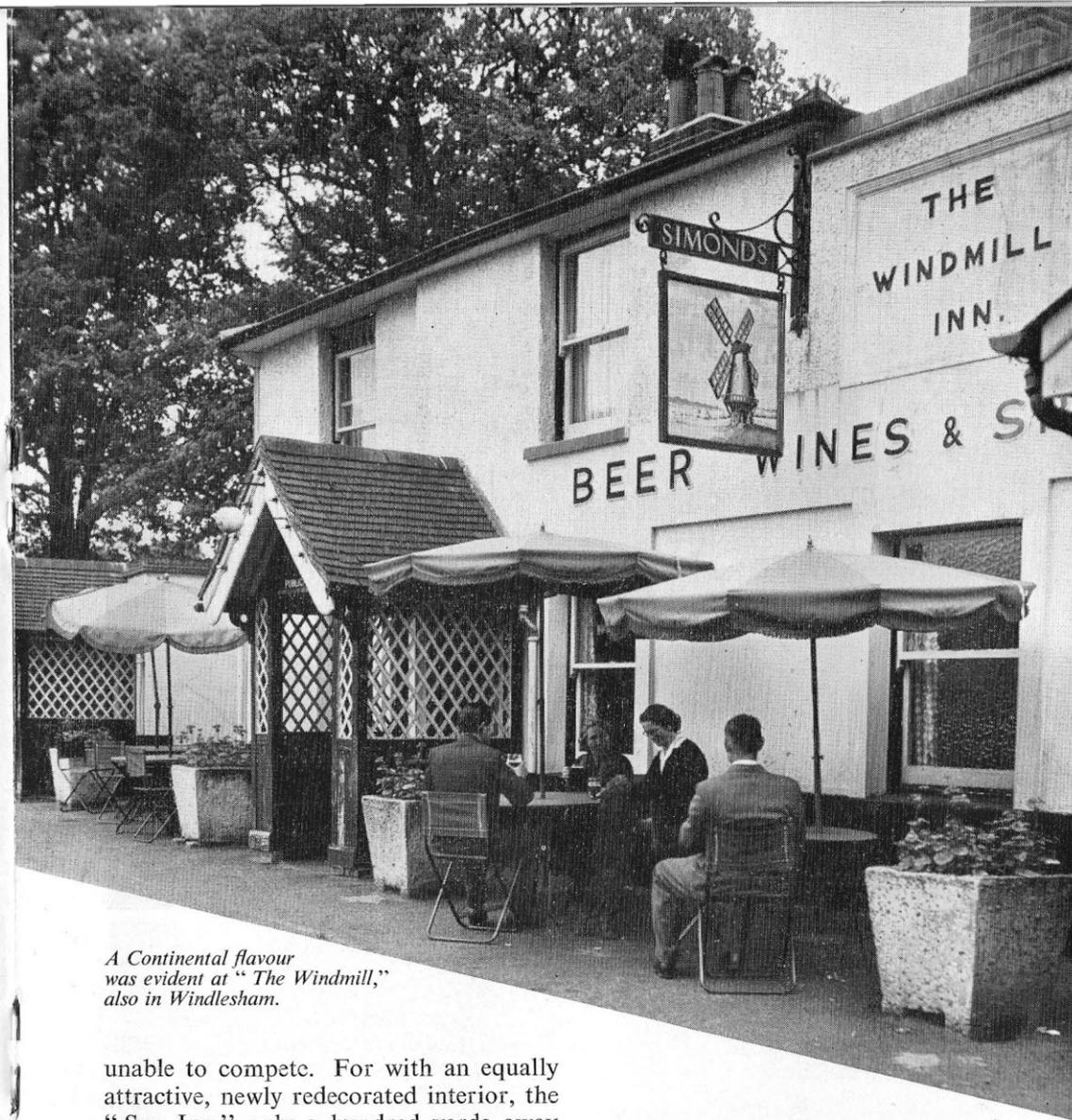
The “White Hart” at Chobham, for example, where Mr. R. A. Mumford is the landlord, is not only the headquarters of the district’s Agricultural Society, the Chobham Cricket Club and the local Rifle Club, but is used for gatherings of

the Church Council and is a meeting point of the All-England Cycling Club. And to add to its considerable communal importance it is one of only five houses in Surrey to have been scheduled as an ancient and historical monument.

By way of additional interest, the “White Hart” is one of the few public houses in England to own its own cricket ground. According to the Chobham Cricket Club’s records cricket has been played on the “White Hart’s” ground since 1844, but as that is as far back as the records go the time might well be much longer.

Do not get the impression, however, that such a house dominates the district to the point where other houses are

The licence of the “Brickmakers’ Arms” at Windlesham has been in the family of Mrs. R. L. Viner for fifty years.



A Continental flavour was evident at “The Windmill,” also in Windlesham.

unable to compete. For with an equally attractive, newly redecorated interior, the “Sun Inn” only a hundred yards away manages quite nicely under the control of Mr. K. A. Jensen.

But there is other history to be found in North Surrey. There is sporting history in “The Ship,” for example, which, although in the postal area of Farnborough, Hampshire, is just inside the Surrey boundary. At least that is what the records kept by the landlord, Mr. E. C. Ford, state—and they are hanging in the bar for all to see. Mr. Ford’s records include details of one of the most famous

prize fights in British boxing history—that between the British and American champions, Tom Sayers and John Heenan. The fight lasted forty-two rounds, ended in a draw, and took place by a brook just behind “The Ship” on 17th April, 1860. Incidentally, “The Ship” dates back to 1580, being situated on the old London to Portsmouth road.

Sporting history of a more recent kind will be recalled by the visitor to “The

The exterior of the "White Hart" at Chobham. Note the spire of the church immediately behind.



Bee" at Windlesham. One of the proudest possessions of the landlord, Mr. R. C. Robinson, is a photograph of that famous ex-captain of English cricket, Mr. A. P. F. Chapman.

Many people will recall Mr. Chapman's

association with our Company when we owned Mackeson's of Hythe in the days when our famous Milk Stout was brewed there. Nowadays, although Simonds Milk Stout is exported to many parts of the world it cannot be called by that name when sold upon the home market.

Under the name of "Velvet," however, this famous product is enjoying ever-increasing popularity in our houses and in the free trade.

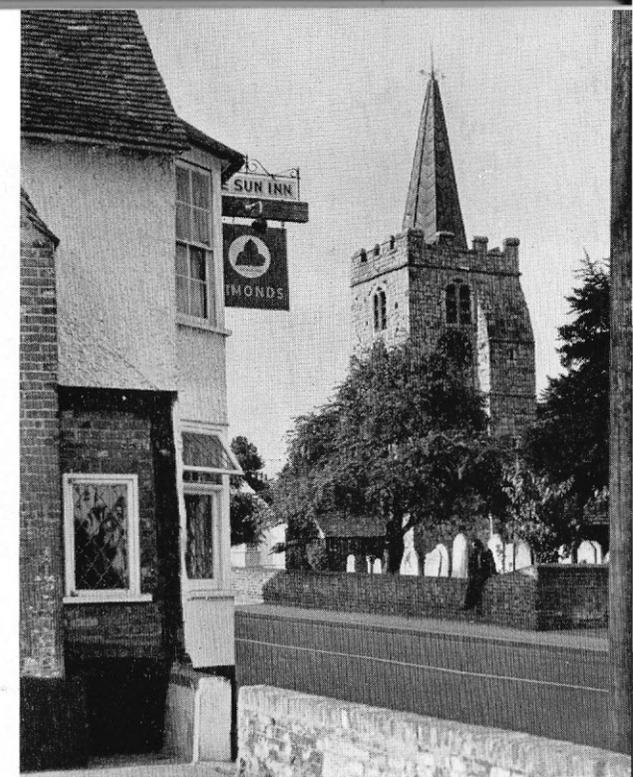
But mention of the war will recall to many ex-Army readers memories which are perhaps a little less pleasant. For

Inside the "White Hart" Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Mumford arrange the lounge furniture.

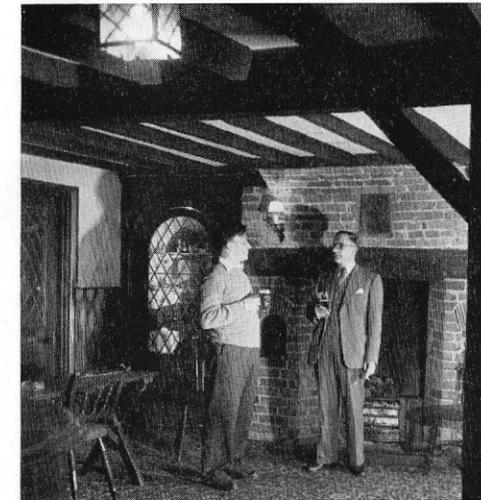


North Surrey is training territory. Thousands of men have marched over it, crawled over it, and cursed over it as they took part in various "schemes" during their Service days. Today all that remains is the tank testing ground at Chobham where mechanical monsters are driven at terrifying angles up one-in-three gradients, through water splashes and across specially prepared tracks that would deter all but the bravest of drivers. And then, of course, there is Bisley—but who has not heard of Bisley, with its famous ranges and its annual championship for the Blue Riband of the world of rifle-shooting?

The thirsty visitor to Bisley should not miss calling in the "Hen and Chickens," not only to quench his thirst, but to meet Mr. W. H. Jaques, mine host for fifteen years. One of the best known and best loved characters in the neighbourhood, Mr. Jaques might well have been a stage comedian had he not entered the trade.



On the other side of that spire in Chobham is the "Sun Inn."



Mr. K. A. Jensen, licensee of the "Sun Inn," Chobham, chats with a customer.



In the 18th Century "Vine" Mr. and Mrs. G. Fletcher are mine hosts.



Busy scene in the attractive lounge bar of the "Staff Hotel" at Camberley, with Mr. P. Dale officiating.

He has a local reputation as a practical joker, and the story is told of how one night a bewildered customer returned from market to find a horse in one bar and a prize bull in the other! Anything can happen when Mr. Jaques is around apparently.

From history, boxing, practical jokers and cricket one can step right into the modern world of Americana by travelling into Camberley and dropping into "The Crown," which is kept by Mr. E. Copps. "Little America" they call the house locally and, judging by the numbers of U.S. servicemen to be found there most evenings the name is understandable. Over and behind each of his two bars the

landlord has erected platforms to carry a twenty-one inch television set, so that, whilst watching the programmes of their choice, the customers have to look above the bar with its alternative attractions. Good psychology that!



Lending a hand at the "Queen's Head," Knaphill, is Miss Bennett, daughter of the licensee and his wife.



The landlord of "The Bee" at Windlesham, Mr. R. C. Robinson, chats with a customer about the photograph (centre) of Mr. A. P. F. Chapman.

Three years ago "The Crown" was virtually redundant, but thanks to the combined efforts of our Area Surveyor, Mr. F. K. Hilton—who completely re-designed the interior—and to the energy of Mr. and Mrs. Copps the house is now doing good business. Much of it comes from the U.S. servicemen stationed at Blackbushe Airport although "The Crown" is also the meeting point of many local committees proving that it is not impossible to combine the two so-very-different types of business.

"The Crown" is situated on the A.30 road, one of London's week-end escape

The sign at "The Chequers," Sunningdale, is discussed by Mr. G. W. Halfpenny, whose family have held the licence since 1871, and a customer.





One of the strategically placed T.V. sets in "The Crown" at Camberley being switched on by the tenant, Mr. E. Cops.



Watering newly planted geraniums is Mr. W. H. Jaques, landlord of Bisley's "Hen and Chicken."



In the "William the Fourth," presided over by Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Gauld, the most regular customer is Mr. E. R. Drake (left), who has been using the house for over fifty years.

routes, and within a short distance of each other, and all on the same road, are "The Queen" at Blackwater and, also in Camberley, "The King's Arms" and the "Staff Hotel," where the decorators were very busy during our visit in May. It was in the latter house that we learned of the interest of the landlord, Mr. P. Dale, in St. Dunstons. During the five-and-a-half years he has been in the house Mr. Dale has worked indefatigably to raise money for that very good cause, and last month he presented a cheque for £250 to the hospital. This made a total of £1,000 which has been collected from the people of Camberley.

Just off the main trunk road is the "William the Fourth, where Mr. D. B. Gauld is in his fourth year as landlord, and where Mr. E. R. Drake, whom we were fortunate to meet, is enjoying his



Mr. E. C. Ford, landlord of "The Ship" at Farnborough, has developed a keen local interest in his wines.

A popular pull-up for coaches heading for the South Coast is "The Fox" at Bisley, where Mr. H. R. Hansen is the landlord.



fiftieth year as a customer. This was another house in the district where the changing times are emphasised by the engagement of a skiffle group to play during the week-ends. Announcements concerning these groups are to be seen in a surprisingly large number of houses.

Among the interesting people who have long family associations with particular houses—and this is another peculiarity of the trade everywhere in the country—were Mrs. Chisholm, wife of Mr. Ferguson Chisholm, the landlord of “The Three Mariners,” of Bagshot, Mr. D. J. Searle, licensee of the “Royal Oak” at Knaphill, Mr. G. W. Halfpenny, who keeps the “Chequers” at Sunningdale, and Mrs.

R. L. Viner at the “Brickmaker’s Arms” at Windlesham. Mrs. Chisholm is the daughter of that well-known and beloved character “Ma” Stevens, while in each of the other cases the licences had been in the respective families for fifty years or more, Mr. Halfpenny’s family having taken over “The Chequers” as far back as 1871.

Those then were some of the people and some of the houses we were able to visit during a late spring tour of a very delightful part of Southern England. To those who made us welcome, but whom we have not been able to include in this issue we say “There will be other days and other issues.”



Mr. W. S. Downs—in the catering trade for forty years before taking over “The Sun” at Windlesham—serves three of his older customers, ‘Steve’ (aged 84), ‘Curly’ (78) and ‘Judy’ (78).

HOP LEAVES

Television viewers in Plymouth who like to watch the Amateur Boxing Association Tournaments televised by the B.B.C. may be seeing a local boy make good in a year or two. They certainly will if sixteen-year-old Colin Beale continues his winning ways in the Boys’ Service of the R.A.F. Colin, who is the son of Mr. W. Beale, the popular barman at the “King’s Head,” Plymouth (proprietress, Mrs. M. Wolland), has already won two titles this year and has won 59 fights out of the 65 he has had since he started boxing at the age of eleven.

If anyone has a submarine for hire, Mr. F. C. Dowles, licensee of “The Feathers” at Basingstoke would be interested. For that would enable him to satisfy one of his customers—eighty-two-years-old Mr Jim Thornton—who, until recently, had done most things a man does in a lifetime, but had never flown, or gone down in a submarine. Mr. Thornton flew for the first time when he was one of a party from “The Feathers” Darts Club which flew from Blackbushe to Le Touquet recently on a day’s outing.

“The Taverners’,” Newport’s skittle alley team, again wound up the season with an outing, the venue this year being the seaside resort of Porthcawl.

The route taken was the coast road via Penarth to Bridgend, where dinner was enjoyed at the “York Hotel.” The “Taverners’” guest, Mr. S. C. Saunders,

expressed his pleasure at being present, and wished them continued success.

A presentation of a cigarette lighter was then made by the “Taverners’” captain, Mr. E. Witton, to Mr. Bernard Warren, Manager of the “Queen’s Hotel,” Newport and a member of the team, who was about to leave Newport to take up the tenancy of the “Queen’s Head Inn” Reading. Mr. Warren expressed his delight at the gift, and his regret at leaving his Newport friends. Many were the good wishes which he will take with him on his new venture.

The rest of the evening was spent at Porthcawl, where excellent weather helped the enjoyment of the sea air and a little light refreshment at our local houses.

(Photo by Western Morning News, Plymouth.)



Mr. D. J. Simonds presenting a trophy to one of the winners in the Plymouth and District Darts League.



On Tuesday, the 7th May, the Tenants' Section of the Newport Licensed Victuallers' Association met the Managers' Section at the "Lliswerry Hotel" to play a match on the well-appointed skittle alley, which is a popular feature of this house.

Musical items followed and an excellent buffet helped to make the evening a success which is hoped will be repeated on future occasions.



When electricians were re-wiring the "Perseverance" at Wraysbury they found a copy of a *Morning Post* dated the 31st March, 1903, and an advertising bill of the Star Supply Stores, then at 46 High Street, Staines. The bill referred to the opening of a new branch on Friday, 15th September 1899, and included among its special lines tea at 1s. 0d. per pound, best cooked ham (sliced) at 1s. 0d. per pound, and good red salmon at 4½d. per pound tin!

A picture from Malta taken during Sergeant Major Divine's Dance for H.Q. Garrison Troops, which shows our Malta representative, Mr. J. A. Ferguson, in the centre, just below the lady.



The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt starting from the "Shoe Inn," near Wraxall. In the foreground can be seen Mr. D. Miller, the tenant, talking to the Duke.

Those who use the Royal Fleet Club's bar in Devonport will soon lose one of the main attractions of the famous view from their bar window. At the moment they can see over the River Tamar, including the whole of the main Dockyard and the various warships anchored there and in the river. The recently announced Navy cuts in ships will obviously mean less to see from the Club. Nevertheless we are certain that the Club, under the management of Mr. T. E. McEvoy, will continue its great popularity.

Mr. and Mrs. Moffett, who manage the "King's Arms" at Sandford-on-Thames in Oxfordshire, had an unfortunate experience three days after they had moved into the house. For on the 18th June a fire destroyed the paper mill next to the "King's Arms" from which everything was evacuated because of the danger. Seven fire brigades fought what was one of Oxford's biggest fires after the alarm had been given by one of the customers.

Sea Scouts from the nearby village of Kennington helped Mr. and Mrs. Moffett and local firemen remove furniture from the "King's Arms" which fortunately escaped serious damage.

An unusual view of the saloon bar of the "Jolly Porter" opposite Reading Station. In the mirrors can be seen the Manager, Mr. W. Outwaite, chatting to a customer.



NATURE NOTES by C.H.P.

The Treasures of a Trout Stream

Once again Spring has come and by the time these lines appear it will almost have gone. But with the early Summer what a fascinating time it is, especially to those who, like myself, never tire of studying wild nature's ways. I spend many happy hours each year by the side of a little trout stream where there is much more to watch than the rising trout, keen fly-fisherman though I am! The treasures of a trout stream are indeed many and varied. There are dozens of little animals to be seen, and numerous birds.

All the summer migrants have now arrived and I know them, and their songs—every one. The matchless music of the bird-choir is indeed one of the many treasures of a trout stream.

The Story of the Stickleback

I am also keenly interested in the habits of the little stickleback. What a kingfisher is among birds, the stickleback is among fishes, with his gorgeous colouring of green and scarlet and silver. He has been busy preparing his home and once he has chosen the site, woe betide any intruder! Many terrible battles have taken place among rival sticklebacks and it is not unusual for the weaker to be "speared" to death with those formidable curved spines on this

little fish's back. No quarter is asked, and none is given. The victor sets to work building a nest of water-weeds, rootlets, etc.

The nest is roofed in and the front "door" is left open. His gay colours become still gayer, and thus smartly dressed he goes in search of a bride. When he has found the lady of his choice he escorts her to his home, in which she lays a few yellow eggs and then works her way out at the other end of the nest. A similar performance is repeated the next day, but I have very grave doubts as to whether it is always the same lady that Mr. Stickleback escorts to the premises. Once the full clutch of eggs—sixty to eighty—are laid, the master of the house dismisses his harem and closes both the front and back doors of the house. He then keeps guard outside and allows no one on the premises, not even his wives. Now and again he enters the house himself, just to see that all is in order. When the baby sticklebacks are hatched, father takes sole charge of them, finding their food which he masticates before feeding them with it.

When about a fortnight old the little sticklebacks develop spines and fins and shortly afterwards may be seen setting forth to take their part in the great battle of life.

Licensed Victuallers Appointments

The following appointments have been made in the Licensed Victuallers' Association at Newbury and Reading :—

Mr. E. D. Simonds : President, Newbury L.V.A.
Mr. J. Coleman, "Rokeby Arms," Newbury :
Chairman, Newbury L.V.A.
Mrs. J. Poole, "King Charles Tavern,"
Newbury : Chairman, Newbury Ladies'
Auxiliary.

Mr. D. A. D. Oxlade, "World Turned Upside
Down," Reading : Chairman, Reading
L.V.A.
Mrs. S. E. Cowles, "Swan," Newbury :
Chairman, Reading Ladies' Auxiliary.

The ladies' darts team from "The Bell and Shoulder," Swindon, with the Wiltshire County Challenge Cup.



Winners of the Darts Leagues

Although the Darts Season for 1956/57 is now well behind us it is only now possible to publish the final results of the various leagues. Not everyone has given us all the information we would like, but sufficient details have been received to show just how popular the Hop Leaf Darts League has become.

NEWBURY

Prizes were presented by Mr. E. Duncan Simonds at the Drill Hall, Newbury, on the 17th April to the representatives of the undermentioned winning houses:—

Challenge Cup: "Adam and Eve," Newbury.

Runner-up: "King's Head," Thatcham.

Teams of Six: "King's Head," Thatcham.

Runners-up: "Gun," Wash Common.

Pairs: "Travellers' Friend," Crookham.

Runners-up: "Travellers' Friend," Crookham.

Individual Champion: "Gun," Wash Common.

Runner-up: "King's Head," Thatcham.

Ladies: "Adam and Eve," Newbury.

Runner-up: "Falkland," Newbury.

BASINGSTOKE

Mr. E. Duncan Simonds was again present to give awards to the winners and runners-up when the finals were held on the 8th March at the Penrith Road Drill Hall, Basingstoke.

"The Castle Inn" became champions

when they beat "The Cricketers" by 7 games to 2 in the 12-a-side play-off between the winners of the East Division and the winners of the West Division.

The Spreadbury brothers, Peter and Eric, of "The Queen's," Bunnian Place, won the Pairs Championship by beating the "Four Horseshoes," Sherfield, pair (Bill Boring and Fred Harris) in two straight games.

The match of the evening was the semi-final, in which "The Queen's" beat the "Purefoy Arms," Preston Candover, by 2 games to 1. In the other semi-final the "Four Horseshoes" beat the "Wellington," Hannington.

READING

The finals of the Reading Hop Leaf Darts League were played at Olympia on 30th May before over 400 interested and enthusiastic spectators.

The League final was won by the "Fox and Hounds," Tilehurst, 'A', who beat "The Shades," the unsuccessful semi-finalists being the "Shepherd's House" and the "Wellington Arms" (W/s) 'B'.

In the Ladies' League final the "Elephant" beat the "Horse and Jockey."

The winners of the Singles and Pairs Championships, which had been decided previously, were:—

Men's Singles: D. Palmer ("Angler's Arms").
Men's Pairs: R. White and C. Webb ("Crown Hotel," Caversham).
Ladies' Singles: Mrs. Hames ("Greyhound").
Ladies' Pairs: Mrs. Lambden and Mrs. Briggs ("Bell").
Landlords' Competition: C. Rice ("Fox and Hounds," Tilehurst).
Landladies' Competition: Mrs. H. Lever ("Horse and Jockey").

The prizes were presented by the President, Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, who also made a presentation to Mr. L. T. Rush, who had resigned as Secretary of the League at the end of the previous season after ten years in that position.

SWALLOWFIELD AND SHINFIELD

MEN'S LEAGUE

League Winners: "The Six Bells," Shinfield.
Runners-up: "The Hatch Gate," Bramshill.
Singles Winner: E. Harris ("The Hatch Gate," Bramshill).
Runner-up: A. Lewington ("The Waggon and Horses," Hartley Wintney).
Doubles Winners: J. Williams and C. Vincent ("The Bull," Riseley).
Runners-up: "The George and Dragon," Three Mile Cross.
Fours Winners: A. Lewington, E. E. Harris,

J. Wheeler and O. Gallien ("The Waggon and Horses," Hartley Wintney).
Runners-up: "The Six Bells," Shinfield.
Fives Winners: J. K. Judd, J. Reed, J. K. Reed, F. Davis and W. Shaw ("The Farriers' Arms," Spencers Wood).
Runners-up: "The Six Bells," Shinfield.
Highest Score in the Season: 180—J. Jarrett ("The New Inn," Eversley).

WOMEN'S SECTION

League Winners: Mrs. E. Fruen, Mrs. I. Davis, Mrs. Q. Hopkins and Mrs. J. K. Reed ("The Farrers' Arms," Spencers Wood).
Runners-up: "The Swan," Three Mile Cross.
Singles Winner: Mrs. J. K. Reed ("The Farriers' Arms," Hartley Wintney).
Runner-up: Mrs. Paul ("The New Inn," Eversley).
Doubles Winners: Mrs. G. Pearcey and Mrs. E. Harwood ("The Waggon and Horses," Hartley Wintney).
Runners-up: "The New Inn," Eversley.
Fours Winners: Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Young and Miss Grover ().
Runners-up: "The Wheatshaf," Grazeley.

SWINDON

Mr. W. F. Saunders, the Secretary of the "Bell and Shoulder" Ladies' Darts Club, reports a wonderful season the team has enjoyed. They were winners of the Wiltshire County Challenge Cup, winners of the Six-a-side Tournament and were runners-up in the Swindon Ladies League. The photograph on page 29 shows them with the challenge cup.

PLYMOUTH

The Plymouth and District Hop Leaf Darts League Finals and End of Season Ball were held at the Exmouth Hall, Devonport, on Monday, 20th May, 1957. Approximately 900 people attended to witness the Finals and take part in the dancing and other festivities which followed.

The winner of the Individual Championship for the Season was Mr. R. Pyne, "Wellington Hotel," who defeated Mr. C.

Winners, Runners-up and Trophies from the Reading League, at Olympia.

Northey, "Wolsdon Arms." Other results were as follows:—

SECTION "A":
League Winners: "Standard Knights."
Runners-up: "No Place Inn."
SECTION "B":
League Winners: "Minerva Inn."
Runners-up: "Abbey Hotel."
SECTION "C":
League Winners: "Bristol Castle."
Runners-up: "Railway Inn."

The highlight of the evening was the exciting game for the "Hop Leaf" Cup. This was won by the "Eagle Tavern," the runners-up being the "No Place Inn."

180 "SCORERS":
 C. Northey: "Wolsdon Arms."
 J. Robins: "Grenville Hotel."
 R. Pudner: "Longroom Inn."
 A. Gicquel: "Minerva Inn."
 G. Hill: "Regent Inn."
 J. Kearney: "Sir Francis Drake."

The trophies were presented again this year by Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, who congratulated the players on their exceedingly high standard of play. Mr. Simonds also congratulated Mr. A. J. Sorrell, the Chairman of the League, and members of the Committee, for having put on such a wonderful show.

STAINES

The Grand Finals of the Staines and

District Hop Leaf Darts League were held at the Lino Social Club, Staines, when a total of 74 prizes were presented by Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, who was introduced by the League Chairman, Mr. E. Gosney.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP:
Winners: "Three Tuns," Staines.
Runners-up: "Prince Arthur," Ealing;
 "Foresters Arms," Egham.
KNOCK-OUT FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP:
Winners: "Three Tuns," Staines.
Runners-up: "Three Horseshoes," Feltham.
PLAYERS' INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP:
Winner: R. Weller, "Three Tuns," Staines.
Runner-up: R. Bedford, "Rising Sun," Stanwell.
LICENSEES' INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP:
Winner: V. Roberts, "Jolly Butcher," Staines.
Runner-up: G. Stobbart, "Three Tuns," Staines.

TAILPIECE

The picture below shows Cassandra of the *Daily Mirror* (right) with his team and opponents at the "Blue Flag," Cadmore End, Bucks. Left to right are R. Plumrage, W. Hayes, G. Robinson (Mine Host), L. Ayre and L. Wise. The match was reported in Cassandra's column, and he described how he, with two other "fat men" challenged three "thin men" to play at darts. The thin men won!



Photograph by Berkshire Chronicle



Obituary

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following:

Mrs. G. Rose, wife of Mr. G. Rose, tenant of the "Oxford Arms," Reading.

Mr. H. Carr, who was a pensioner of the firm from September, 1952, on 13th May, 1957.

Mr. George Stanbury, on the 26th May, 1957, our tenant at the "Britannia Inn," Milehouse, Plymouth, at the age of 51. Mr. Stanbury was President of the South-Western Division of the National Defence League of England and Wales and, until recently, was Chairman of the Plymouth and District Licensed Victuallers' Society and Chairman of the South-Western District. He was a former Plymouth Argyle goalkeeper. He left Plymouth Argyle to play for Crystal Palace and later played for Gillingham. From 1939 to 1946 Mr. Stanbury was a member of the crew of the Plymouth lifeboat.

Mr. John Wetherill, on 25th May, 1957. For a great number of years until his retirement in 1946 he was our Free Trade Representative for the County of Cornwall. Mr. Wetherill was 75 years of age but had not enjoyed good health for the past few months; his death nevertheless came as a great shock to his numerous friends in the Trade. To Mrs. Wetherill we offer our deepest sympathy.

Courtesy of the
Simonds family archives



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