

Hop Leaf

NEWS

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

NEWSPAPER FOR THE STAFF

Keen support needed

This, the first issue of the "Hop Leaf News," is purely experimental.

It has been felt in some quarters that the HOP LEAF GAZETTE does not devote enough space to items of news and articles of exclusive interest to employees of the Firm—not enough news about our sport, our colleagues, our outings, and so on.

The *Hop Leaf Gazette* is indeed meant to cater for a far wider readership—for our tenants, our customers throughout the world and our friends in the Trade.

We cannot, at this moment, be sure that a magazine for the staff will receive the general support which it must have if it is to continue. It needs the support of every Branch and every Department of the Firm, and unless such support is forthcoming, it cannot succeed.

Every day in every Department of the Firm matters of interest about our colleagues and our activities are discussed and passed from mouth to mouth. Any item of interest that is worth discussing is worthy of reporting in this magazine, but it requires a little effort on somebody's part to write a short note about it and send it to the Editor—*this is the kind of support it needs.*

The columns of this paper are open to every member of the staff for pictures,

articles, suggestions, correspondence—matters of every possible description.

We are a large and growing family and there is little doubt that there is a place in the organisation for a magazine for the staff itself. This can only be proven, however, by the response which the staff gives.

It is, therefore, a matter for you—and only you can help it to continue.

A Generous Gesture

Twenty-four boys and girls from the Church of England Children's Home at Wilton Road, Reading, are looking forward to a happy outing as guests of Simonds Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union on Saturday, January 22.

The children have been invited to visit Bertram Mills' Circus at Olympia, London, and will also be entertained to tea in the Canteen at Bridge Street.

A notice issued by the Branch states that the cost for each child will be 12s. 6d., and suggests that each Department might "adopt" one or more of the children on the occasion of the outing.

One hundred seats for the Circus have also been booked for members' children.

Stacking the Barley

An annual problem is the finding of storage accommodation for the stocks of barley—5,000 tons this year—delivered to the Maltings between September and December. Here Jim Jewell is carrying a sack of barley from the conveyor while Maurice Thumwood awaits his turn.



A big night for Reading staff

THE STAFF BALL

Six hours of non-stop jollity are planned for Friday, January 21, the date of the Annual Staff Ball at Reading.

The Ball will be held at Olympia, London Street, Reading, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Mr. "Wally" Bradford, Honorary Secretary of the Social Club, states that it is important that members of the staff who intend being present should hand in their names to the heads of their departments or to a member of the Committee as soon as possible.

Tickets are 10s. 0d. each, less a subsidy of 5s. 0d. to all employees, who can, therefore, obtain two tickets for 10s. 0d., enabling them to bring a friend. Light refreshments will be available.

"Tickets are not transferable, and it is essential that the lists are sent to me as early as possible," states Mr. Bradford.

A "NEST EGG" THE EASY WAY

by T. W. KENT (Accts. Dept.)

Hon. Sec. Simonds Reading National Savings Group

It is very nice to have a little "nest egg" which hatches out at Christmas time, holiday time, or even when the wife flatly refuses to wear that old hat any more—and there is an easy way of getting it.

National Savings Groups take away all the trouble, and even the most hopeless spendthrift can, by joining one, put a little away for a "rainy day," almost in spite of himself.

There has been such a group at the Reading Brewery since 1924. Mr. A. H. Hopkins, then Head of the Correspondence Office, commenced the Savings Group—with the approval of the Directors—which has continued to the present day without a break.

There are now 110 members of this group which is now actively endeavouring to recruit new members towards the two million new savers for which the National Savings Organisation is now campaigning. Originally there were only thirty members

and seven of these "founder" members are still saving.

Every Thursday a voluntary collection is made, and members pay what they can towards the purchase of certificates.

Tax Free Interest

The purchase price of each certificate is 15s. 0d., and they are purchased by the Group. After a member has paid for thirty weeks he receives the appropriate number of certificates, which have borne interest from the beginning of each cycle.

In ten years from date of purchase each 15s. 0d. certificate becomes worth £1. 0 3d. Another important point is that the interest is tax-free. Nobody is expected to mention his or her holdings in their income tax return.

Each member is allowed to hold up to 700 units of the present issue, in addition to any holdings of any earlier issues without paying income tax on the interest.

Among the advantages of saving money in this way is the very obvious one that you can withdraw your money easily, that the money is "as safe as the Bank of England," and that you are promoting the country's financial security as well as your own.

Branch Groups

A Group was started at Bristol Branch in 1940 with 100 members. This number remained steady until 1950, when the Branch was reduced from a Brewery to a Bottling and Distributing Depot. Since 1940 over £12,000 has been invested.

The Oxford Branch Savings Group was commenced in 1939, and has been carried on ever since.

The London Branch Group was started in 1939 also. Here, at the end of each cycle, staff and employees are invited to participate, and their contributions are deducted from their salaries or wages through the books.

Anybody who is interested in joining a Group should contact their Branch Manager.

Feeding Time in the Maltings

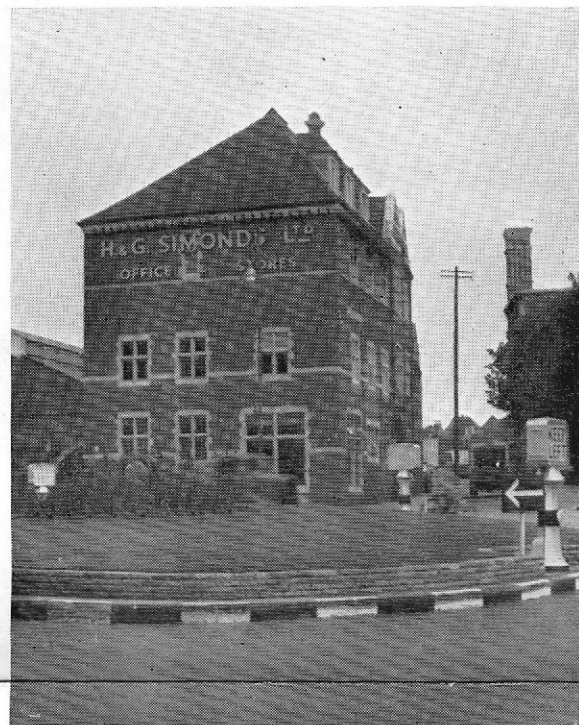
A daily scene when Jock Stronach arrives to feed the four resident cats.





IF YOU KNOW OF A "BETTER 'OLE"

Tell Fred Weston, who is pictured here digging a test hole for the location of a culvert prior to designing foundations for the erection of a new malt weighing plant at Reading Brewery.



This photograph was taken by Mr. F. W. Bellamy, of our Bristol Office.

The office block stands at the junction of Temple Way and Broad Plain, the former being a direct road to Temple Meads Goods Station and the Bath and Wells Roads.

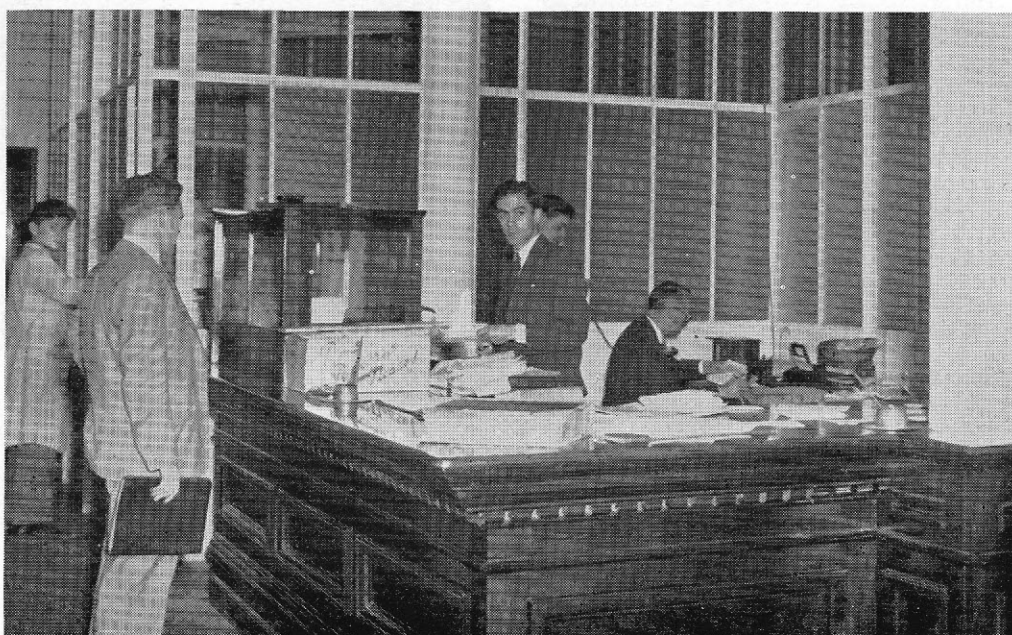


OLD FRIENDS MEET

Four pensioners, all old Coopers, gather in the bar at the Social Club. The pensioners are W. Sparks, A. Waite, J. Andrews and Cyril Weller.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE FRONT OFFICE AT READING

The front office at Reading has been re-planned. When this picture was taken the work was almost complete.



MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

New Arrivals

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

Reading :

MRS. P. ATKINS, Correspondence Dept.
MISS M. GORDON, Hotels Department.
MRS. M. LOVEJOY, Accounts Department.
MR. R. BERTIOLI, Cask Office.
MR. P. ANDREWS, Asst. to Mr. R. Howie,
Furnishing and Decorative Adviser.
MISS B. PRIOR, Hotels and Catering Dept.
MR. W. P. SHELLEY, Cask Department.
MISS V. RICKORD, Hotels Department.
MISS S. RICHENS, Hollerith Department.
MRS. J. WADE, Hollerith Department.

BRANCHES :

Brighton : MR. K. R. CHURCHER,
Representative.
Devonport : MISS M. E. MILLS.
MRS. J. SCHOFIELD.
MRS. O. CURTIS.
MR. D. S. COOMBE.
Swindon : MRS. H. DINGLEY.
Staines : MR. R. E. GOODALL.

People on the Move.

The following staff changes have taken place :—

Reading :

MR. D. POTTINGER, Cask Office to
Accounts Department.
MR. M. LAVELL, Accounts Department to
Wages Office.
MR. C. GWILLIAM, Cask Department to
Hotels Department.
MR. A. WALKER, Appointed Assistant
Transport Manager.
MR. F. PUSEY, Appointed Credit Control
Clerk, Hollerith Department.
MR. W. P. SHELLEY, Cask Office to
Branch Department.

Branches :

MR. S. C. GOSWELL, Appointed Repre-
sentative-in-Charge, Catterick Branch
from Ludgershall Branch.
MR. R. C. BARTON, Appointed Repre-
sentative, Ludgershall Branch, from
Farnborough.
MR. S. K. SCHOOLEY, Appointed Repre-
sentative, Farnborough Branch, from
Catterick Branch.

MR. N. J. DURSELEY, Rejoined Bristol
Office after temporary appointment
at Southsea.

National Service

The following employees have left for
National Service :—

MR. P. WELLS, Branch Office, Reading.
MR. D. P. CLEARY, Swindon Branch.

We welcome the return after National
Service of the following :—

MR. D. HOWARD, Devonport Branch.

Weddings

Congratulations and best wishes to :—

Miss Jacqueline (Jackie) Noad, of
Newport Branch, and Mr. Arthur Hooper,
who were married on September 4, at
St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport.

A canteen of cutlery was presented on
behalf of her colleagues.



MR. AND MRS. A. HOOPER.

* * *

Mr. T. Jones, Transport Clerk, Bridgend
Branch, who was married on November 6
to Miss Lorna Evans, of Bridgend. The
honeymoon was spent at our hotel, "The
Waterside," at Paignton.



MR. AND MRS. T. JONES.

* * *

Mr. V. Barton, of the Order Office,
Ludgershall Branch, who married Miss P.
Shears, of Enham-Alamein, at St. Mary's
Church, Andover, on August 14. Mr.
Barton is the son of Mr. R. C. Barton, who
recently rejoined Ludgershall Branch from
Farnborough Branch as Services Repre-
sentative in the Salisbury Plain Area.

* * *

Miss Pauline Marsh, of the Transport
Department, Bristol Branch, who was
married on October 2 to Mr. A. Turner,
at Christ Church, Downend, near Bristol.

Miss Marsh received a chiming 8-day
clock as a wedding gift from the staff.

* * *

Births

The birth of a son, Martin Charles, to
Mr. and Mrs. Henson on October 14 is
announced. Mrs. Henson was formerly
Miss Excell, of the Advertising Depart-
ment. Mr. Henson is a member of the
staff of the Wine and Spirit Department,
Reading.

* * *

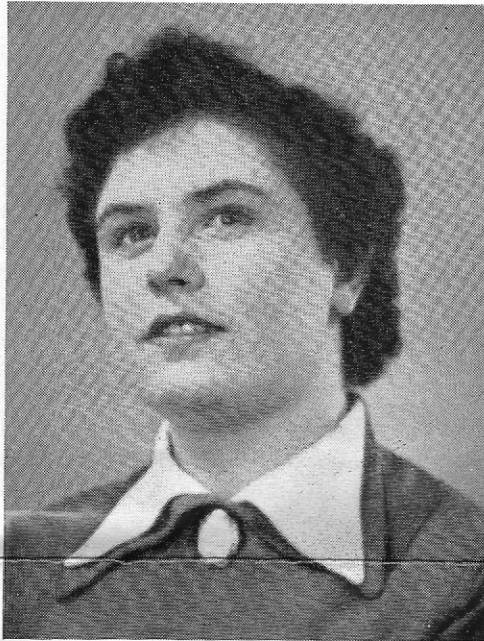
A daughter was born on October 16 to
Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Eyles. Mr. Eyles is
Chief Operator in the Hollerith Depart-
ment, Reading.

Reading

A familiar face is to be seen again in the Hollerith Department after a short absence.

Mrs. J. Wade, formerly Miss Johnson, has recently returned to her former employment there.

Following her marriage in August last, she intended to live away from the district, but has subsequently made her home again in Reading, and has been welcomed back by her former colleagues.



MRS. J. WADE.

* * *

An ultimate ambition of the newly formed staff Angling Club at Reading is to secure, if possible, their own private waters for their exclusive use.

Miss Connie Reid, daughter of Mr. D. Reid, of the Cask Office, and a pupil of Miss Jacqueline Knowles, had the honour of having been chosen to take part in Mr. Humphrey Lestocq's Christmas Party, televised by the B.B.C. on December 4, and other dates.

Newport

An association totalling more than 52 years was severed on October 15 by the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. "Billy" Harris, of the Isca Hotel, Newport, Mon., where Mr. Harris had been licensee for more than 35 years.

Previously, before taking over the tenancy of the Isca Hotel, Mr. Harris was a member of the office staff at Phillips & Sons Ltd., Newport, since 1902.

* * *

NEW ARTHUR COOPER APPOINTMENTS

Mr. C. G. Francis has been appointed Manager of the new Arthur Cooper Branch in Oxford, at 67, "The High." Mr. Francis has been in charge of the Headington (Oxford) Branch of Arthur Cooper from the time that company took over the branch, and now has the pleasure of seeing his deputy, Mr. R. A. Blackwell, whom he has trained since a boy, appointed Manager to take over from him at Headington.

At the Market Place, Reading, we welcome a new member of the shop staff—Mr. D. M. Palmer.

Bristol



The late Mr. A. J. Sutton, whose sad death at the early age of 50 years was deeply regretted.

Known as "Young Jim" to distinguish him from his respected father and predecessor as Cellar Foreman, he had been at Jacob Street Brewery, Bristol, for 34 years, and was appointed Foreman upon his father's retirement three years ago.

To his widow and father we extend our deepest sympathy.

The Invalids

Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery from their illnesses to :

Alfred Brown, a pensioner, former plumber and beer engine fitter, who recently underwent a second serious operation in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, from which he has since been discharged.

Mr. Brown retired eighteen months ago after 46 years' service.

* * *

Jack Hopkins, painter in the Building Department, who had been absent for several months through illness prior to his retirement on reaching the age of 65.

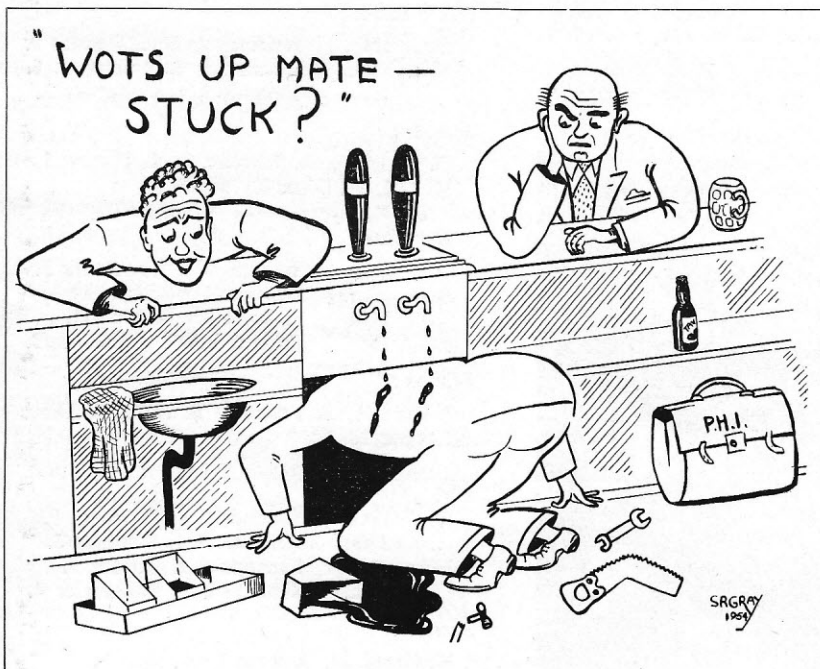
Mr. Hopkins had completed approximately 40 years' service.

* * *

We are glad to see the return of Mr. Jack Jones, former transport driver, and recently Surveyor's garage attendant, who recently underwent a serious operation in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

* * *

L. Dicketts (Copper Stage), who has recently been seriously ill.



Memorandum to
all Public House
Inspectors . . .
Please do a
survey of all
engines in your
houses . . .



Hockey

Reading

Results :

Sept. 11th.	Huntley and Palmers.
	Away : LOST 3—2
„ 18th.	R.A.E., Farnborough, 2nd XI.
	Home : WON 1—0
„ 25th.	Camberley.
	Home : DREW 4—4
Oct. 2nd.	St. Mark's.
	Home : LOST 3—1
„ 9th.	St. Michael's Twenties.
	Home : WON 2—1
„ 16th.	Army Apprentices' School Staff.
	Home : DREW 2—2
„ 23rd.	Old Ranelagh "A."
	Home : LOST 2—0
„ 30th.	Maidenhead 4th XI.
	Away : WON 1—0
Nov. 6th.	N.I.R.D.
	Home : WON 3—2
„ 13th.	Ministry of Works.
	Home : LOST 3—1

Scorers :

Dyke 4, Wallace 4, Beckett 4, Prior 3, Noon 1, Price 1.

As will be seen by the above results, the Men's Hockey Team began their season in quite a satisfactory manner. The record at the time of going to press reads : WON 4, DREW 2 and LOST 4.

The season started off on an ironical note as our defeat at the hands of Huntley and Palmers was in no small measure due to the fine play of Brewery centre-half Wallace, who turned out for the Factory as they were a player short, and to make matters worse for us, scored their winning goal !

Of the game versus Old Ranelagh "A" on October 23, it is only fair to say that the O.R's played throughout with only ten men, and even so, succeeded in defeating us by two goals to nil.

The hazards of travelling to away games by 'bus were apparent on October 30, when nine members of the team were unceremoniously deposited at a deserted cricket ground several miles from the

SPORTS

Maidenhead ground at Bray by a conductor whose ears must surely have burned for several hours afterwards ! The story has a happy end though, for, with the assistance of the telephone, the Bray village post office, and members of the Maidenhead team in an assortment of vehicles, we arrived at Bray nearly an hour late, but in time to defeat Maidenhead 4th XI by one goal to nil on a pitch which in parts was almost ankle deep in mud.

Another game deserving mention is that versus N.I.R.D. on November 6. On an atrocious afternoon the Brewery team depleted by two players (who shall be nameless !) beat ten men from the Institute of Dairying by three goals to two. Our three goals were all scored in the last ten minutes.

Injuries have luckily been few and far between and, apart from several minor knocks which are only to be expected, the only injury necessitating a player leaving the field, occurred on November 13, when left inner Beckett received a nasty knock just after half-time which rendered the Brewery one short for the rest of the game. We were holding a strong Ministry of Works team to a goalless draw until this unfortunate incident, and the loss of our player undoubtedly swayed the game, as the Ministry ran out winners by three goals to one.

The team after the Huntley and Palmers match on September 11.

Left to right (back row) : D. Knight, P. Hill, E. Wright, W. H. Philpott, S. R. Gray, S. Price, R. Wallace (on loan to Huntley and Palmers).

Left to right (front row) : E. Spary, S. Price, G. Beckett, E. Dyke, C. Wiltshire.



Table Tennis

At the General Meeting, under the Chairman, Mr. H. Dines, it was decided to enter three men's and one ladies' team in the Reading and District Leagues.

This is the first season that a ladies' team has been formed, and although they have yet to record their first win, the players are very keen and, as the results show, their matches have been closely contested. They are being coached by Bob Forrest, a Berkshire player, and a member of the "A" Team.

All three men's teams are going very strongly, and there is every possibility that our "A" team will be Champions of Division I—an honour they have narrowly missed in the past two seasons. Mr. R. Wheeler, of the Accountant's Department, is captain of this team, and very confident. The "B" team under the captaincy of Johnny Rose, of the Export Department, is also in Division I, and doing very well. The same can be said for the "C" team, playing in Division V (Captain, K. Organ), although it must be admitted that they have enjoyed the services of Johnny Rose, until he had played the number of games in Division I, which, under the rules of the Association, tied him to that Division. Johnny is a former Reading Junior Champion.

Already this season two of the Club's players have been chosen to play for Reading in the Wilmot Cup, namely, Bob Forrest and Derek Barley—and the town is still in this competition.

Anyone interested in playing or supporting is asked to contact the Secretary, K. Organ, of the Cashier's Department.

Results to date :

"A" TEAM.

Oct. 19th.	Wokingham 0 v. Simonds 9.
Nov. 1st.	Woodlands 3 v. Simonds 6.
„ 15th.	Simonds 7 v. University 2.

Scorers :

D. Barley 6, R. Wheeler 6, R. Forrest 5, R. Wells 3, A. Dines 2.

"B" TEAM.

Oct. 21st.	Simonds 4 v. Woodlands 5.
Nov. 4th.	Simonds 6 v. University 3.
„ 11th.	Simonds 8 v. Robsons 1.
„ 15th.	Pressed Steel 6 v. Simonds 3.

Scorers :

J. Rose 11, A. Foster 8, B. Taylor 2, Dines 1, Cooper 1.

"C" TEAM.

Oct. 18th.	Simonds 7 v. Tidmarsh 2.
„ 27th.	N.I.R.D. 6 v. Simonds 3.
Nov. 1st.	Simonds 6 v. Suttons 3.
„ 8th.	Simonds 5 v. Pulsometer 4.

Scorers :

K. Organ 10, J. Rose 8, A. Dyer 3.

LADIES' TEAM.

Oct. 21st.	Woodlands "B" 5 v. Simonds 4.
„ 28th	Simonds 3 v. McIlroys 6.
Nov. 5th.	Reading Deaf 5 v. Simonds 4.
„ 15th.	M.P.N.I. 7 v. Simonds 2.

Scorers :

Miss M. Foot 12, Miss S. Creal 4.

Simonds Tennis Club

The season started well with two American Tournaments which proved very popular. It was the intention to hold these tournaments at intervals during the season, but owing to the very inclement weather which followed a number of matches had to be cancelled. Of the matches that were played, we lost one and won eleven.

In spite of the weather, however, we managed to finish the Ladies' and Gents' Single Tournaments for the "E. D. Simonds" and "R. B. St. J. Quarry" Challenge Cups.

Congratulations to our new Lady Champion, Miss Sylvia Creal (Laboratory) who won the title in her first year at the Brewery, beating Mrs. Greenaway, who has held the title for a number of years 6-3, 6-2.

The Gents' Singles Final between Mr. J. McNaughton and Mr. H. Kelsey proved to be a match of thrust and parry, lasting 2½ hours, from which Mr. McNaughton emerged victorious, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. Congratulations to both players for putting up such a fine performance. In passing, we should like to say that the standard of tennis has shown a marked improvement, and we hope next year, with the co-operation of all members, that the standard will be even higher.

At the Annual General Meeting, Miss E. M. Hobbs was again elected Secretary, and the following Committee was appointed : Messrs. L. Twiney, J. McNaughton, R. Wheeler, D. Sellers and L. Knight. It was decided at this meeting to enter a team in the Second Division of the Reading L.T.A. League, and also to increase the number of match fixtures to accommodate the increased number of players.



(Picture by courtesy of the Berkshire Chronicle.)

SIMONDS ATHLETIC CLUB FOOTBALL TEAM (READING AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION II.)

BACK ROW (left to right) : Reg. Smith (Trainer), Fred McCarthy, Ken Goswell, Gordon Ayers, Gil Crutchfield, Frank Barlow, Ray Lovejoy.

FOREGROUND : Geoff Minter, John Rose, Fred West, Brian Digweed, Nev. Bedding.

Simonds Athletic Football Club

The football season is well under way. Perhaps Simonds Athletic aren't having the best of luck. Much of their early disappointments were due to the failure to find a centre forward, writes R. W. Sawdon Smith, the Club Secretary.

In the first six games, five different players were tried. Then against Albion Athletic, the chosen centre-forward was unfit to play ; Fred West stepped in, and scored a hat trick ? Who won ? Albion Athletic 5-4, the winning goal being scored in the last minute. This was one of many closely contested games.

We lost to St. Sebastian's 1-0 and to Brightwell 2-1 ; beat Southern Swifts 3-2 and Hagbourne 4-3. Injury has taken its toll. Amongst the many setbacks, the most serious were when three weeks running Den Seller, then Ken Morrell and Bill Maslen were injured. At the time of writing none of them has been fit enough to play again.

Top goal scorer is our clever inside-right, John Rose.

Our minor team have fared somewhat better, having lost only one match at the time of writing. The team has been unaffected by injury. Bill Heybourne, the skipper, brought another honour to the Club when he was chosen to play for the Reading Minor League against Newbury, receiving favourable mention in the local papers.

Angling Club being formed

A new addition to the sporting facilities at Reading is promised by the formation of a proposed Simonds Angling Club.

About thirty prospective members have been "rounded up" from among the staff by a small band of enthusiastic anglers who have been responsible for the preliminary efforts.

A committee has been formed, the Chairman of which is Mr. Charles Grover (Bottled Beer Stores). The members are Frederick W. Chapman (Beer Cellars), Leonard Harroway (Transport), Reg. Dickinson (Brewery Engineers), Stanley Sarney (Electricians) and Dennis Biddle (Beer Cellars).

The Secretary is Mr. Dennis Fry (Engineers) and the Match Secretary Mr. Fred Weston (Building Department).

Application has been made to the Reading and District Angling Association for affiliation and to our Social Club for their support.

"We do not expect to be able to do very much this season, which ends in March," said Secretary Dennis Fry, "but we hope to start off in June when the new season opens."

Proposed membership fee for the Club is 3d. a week.

SPORTS—continued.

We've three Referees in the Brewery now

The number of active referees in the Brewery has now dwindled to three. Of these, two have received F.A. appointments this season.

Alan Hitchman (Delivery Office) was linesman at two F.A. Amateur Cup Ties—Huntley and Palmers v. Wolverton & B.R., and Maidenhead v. Newbury.

Incidentally, Alan's brother was the other linesman at one of these games, believed to be the only time brothers have officiated at the same match in the competition.

Richard Sawdon Smith (Accounts Office), who is also Secretary of the Brewery Football Team, was linesman at the F.A. Cup First Qualifying Round Tie—Maidenhead v. Bicester.

Eric Scott (Wine Stores), the most senior of the three has not yet this season received an F.A. appointment, but he is doing very well in the senior leagues on which he officiates, which is mainly the Metropolitan.

More than 130 members of the staff at Reading and local Hockey Clubs attended the Men's Hockey Club Dance at Simonds Social Club on October 16.

This was the first time since the war that a Dance had been organised at the Brewery by a section of the Sports Club.

Holiday Snapshot Competition

THE WINNERS

First Prize

(£2 2s. 0d.)

"Dressed for the Beach—1954 Style," submitted by Mr. G. Whitbread, Advertising Department.



Second Prize (£1 1s. 0d.)

"The Lake at Cockington, near Torquay," submitted by Mr. E. Barrett, Bottled Beers Depart.



Third Prize

(10s. 6d.)

"By Old Harry." Taken at Old Harry Rocks, Swanage, Dorset. Submitted by Miss Eileen Tilley, Hotels and Catering Department.



Members of the Brewery Cricket Club celebrated the conclusion of a successful season with a Dinner and Dance held at the Grosvenor House, Caversham, on Friday, September 24.

Following the Dinner there was a programme of dancing and games, and it was generally agreed that the evening was most successful.

The presentation of the "Louis Simonds" Cup was made by Mr. J. D. Richardson to Mr. John Hawkins, Captain of the "A" Team, who headed the batting averages for the season.

LATE NEWS

London Branch

With regret the death is reported from this branch of Lorry Driver W. S. Smith.

Mr. Smith, who had ten years' service with us, died in hospital on November 25.

Devonport Staff Combat Floods

The staff of Devonport Branch Surveyor's Department had a busy week-end fighting the floods in Devon and Cornwall, in the big gale on November 27 and 28.

At Gunnislake, Cornwall ("Bonds Hotel"), the village resembled a miniature Lynmouth.

Shiphay, near Torquay ("Devon Dumpling"); Tamerton ("The King's Arms") and Ashburton ("The London Hotel") were among the S.O.S. calls which the Department responded to.