

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### TRIBUTE TO MR. ASKEW

ON June 30th, 1955, Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., reaches retiring age under our Superannuation Scheme and will be vacating his office as Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and Mr. A. D. Lloyds, A.C.A., has been appointed Secretary with effect from July 1st, 1955. The Secretary is the principal executive officer of St. Dunstan's Council, and the head of the staff. Mr. Lloyds, who is a Chartered Accountant, joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in 1938 and after serving with the Royal Artillery, fighting in Malaya, and spending some three and a half years as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese, returned to become in due course Secretary of our Finance Committee and then Deputy Secretary of St. Dunstan's.

It was in 1919 that Mr. Askew came to us from his employment at the War Office to become our Pensions Officer and one of the milestones in war pensions history can be attributed to him. It was he who advised Sir Arthur Pearson, then Chairman of St. Dunstan's, and Sir Arnold Lawson, then Ophthalmic Adviser to St. Dunstan's, that there were cases in which blindness had arisen out of war service, though not directly the result of a wound, and he prepared the case which was then submitted to the Pension Appeals Tribunal, with the result that the doctrine that a war pension could be paid for a disability that was "aggravated" by war service was applied in a large number of cases.

Everyone familiar with war pension law and custom will recognise that I have not exaggerated in calling this a milestone, for its consequence was the admission to pension rights in two World Wars of very many cases in a wide field.

As the years went on, Mr. Askew took up other appointments but he always remained our ultimate adviser on St. Dunstan's war pension problems, and the whole body of St. Dunstan's men owe him a deep debt for his part in the very many improvements that have taken place as the result of the various representations we have made in the last quarter of a century. Mr. Askew became Business Manager, then General Manager and then, when Mrs. Chadwick-Bates went to South Africa, Secretary. Now he retires after thirty-six years of loyal, devoted and efficient service. Practically all his life he has been lame in one leg but although he has suffered inconvenience and some pain from this disability, it has never affected his capacity for extremely hard work and an unbending devotion to duty. The main strain of the reorganisation of St. Dunstan's after the First War period, of the preparation for the Second War, and the vicissitudes and emergencies of that time, fell on his shoulders.

I do not think there is any organisation for the blind or for severely disabled ex-service-men and women so firmly established or with such a wealth of resources and experience as St. Dunstan's, or, indeed, with such widespread goodwill. A very large part of the credit for this is due to Mr. Askew. He is the personal friend of many among St. Dunstaners and staff and in the ex-service and blind worlds, and all will, I know, join to wish him, with Mrs. Askew, happiness in his retirement.

IAN FRASER.

### 1955 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, May 25th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. *No other person can enter.*

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 13th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 19th, and all those drawing horses will be notified. The May REVIEW will be held up so that the result of the draw can be included.

### London Hostel

As the accommodation at No. 152 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6, has now become too large for the requirements of physiotherapy students training in London, we shall from the end of the month be using this house—instead of No. 49 Abbey Road, N.W.8—for St. Dunstaners staying the night when they are on their way to Brighton or are visiting Headquarters for business or for medical or other reasons, and for the small number of physiotherapy students who will require accommodation.

Both Miss Watson and Mrs. Yeats have for some time expressed their desire to be relieved of their responsibilities, and we are very grateful to them for the services they have given. Miss P. MacRae, who was a V.A.D. at Ovingdean in 1951 and recently returned there, has been appointed Matron of the Hostel.

### Camp Important Notice

Please note that the dates of Camp have been changed. They are now: Tuesday, August 2nd, to Tuesday, August 9th, Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent.

Camp fee, 25s. Fares over £1 refunded. Closing date for entries, May 5th. I will let you know result of draw as soon as possible.—A. SPURWAY, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey.

### Dance

There will be another Dance at the Trevelyan Hall, St. Anne's Lane, Great Peter Street (off Great Smith Street), Westminster, on *Friday, May 6th.*

All St. Dunstaners and escorts welcome, also St. Dunstan's V.A.D's and helpers.

Tickets 3s. single, 5s. double, from Mr. Willis, St. Dunstan's London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, N.W.1. If writing for tickets, please enclose postal order and send to Miss Diana Hoare, Flat 4, 9 The Paragon, Blackheath, S.E. (Telephone: Reliance 1084).

A. SPURWAY.

### The Floods in Australia

Sir Ian Fraser has expressed, through Captain Gilbert Nobbs, O.B.E., St. Dunstan's anxiety and concern for the welfare of St. Dunstaner comrades in the flooded areas of New South Wales. Captain Nobbs has replied that at the time of writing, he was glad to say that there was no news of St. Dunstaners in the areas affected who might be in distress but that St. Dunstan's would be kept informed.

Sir Ian's message on behalf of St. Dunstaners in this country was being conveyed to Australian St. Dunstaners in the April issue of the New South Wales Blinded Soldiers' Association magazine, *Chins Up.*

### Married Fifty-six Years

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley, of London, N.3, who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on March 26th.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. Shotter, London, E.6, March 18th. Congratulations.

### R.A.O.B.

#### Roll of Honour, fourth degree

E. Stevenson, of Brighton, was installed on March 26th by St. Dunstan's Lodge Grand Council. Installing Officer, W. H. Mostyn, Grand President.

### London Club Notes

All members of the London Club heard with regret of the resignation of Miss Ibbetson at the end of March.

Miss Ibbetson has been responsible for the catering at the club since the club started in June, 1948.

On Tuesday evening, 29th March, Bob Giffard, on behalf of the members, wives and friends, presented Miss Ibbetson with a suitcase, and in a neat little speech wished her every success in her new post.

S. WEBSTER.

### Bridge

During the month we have played against Lyons, NALGO (Mr. Armstrong's team), and Post Office Savings Bank. We lost all three but had some wonderful games.

Our London Business Houses League team played their last match of the season against Iraq "B" on March 11th and won with 57 points against 18. This brought their score to played ten, won eight, lost two. They finished second in the League to Hicomind.

Hicomind, who lost one game and drew two, obtained the same number of League points, i.e., 16, but in the two matches played by us against Hicomind, we beat them on the first occasion with five match points while they beat us on the return match with fourteen match points. Although we tied for League points, it was on this result that Hicomind were placed first in the section. It was a grand effort—better luck next year.

We also have to congratulate George Jolly, who with Mrs. Jolly, won the aggregate (North South) Prize at the four-day congress of the English Bridge Union held at Blackpool in March.

### Indoor Section

*Walking.*—The Twelve Mile race, postponed on February 19th, was held at Regent's Park on Saturday, March 19th. Owing to illness only seven St. Dunstaners started, and of these, Tommy Gaygan had to retire with badly blistered feet, thus making it a six-a-side contest. Archie Brown set a fast pace almost from the start, and Billy Miller was quite content to hang on. Charles Williamson remained in close attendance with Les Dennis a very handy

fourth, with Charles Stafford and Stan Tutton close behind making up the field. Lack of training because of bad weather told its tale towards the end, and the policemen proved strength by good team work and finishing power. Billy Miller in his final effort took the lead, but could not shake off the three policemen on his heels, who finished with him, recording the same time. The Metropolitan Police beat St. Dunstan's by a narrow majority. The James Galloway Trophy for the first in the handicap was won by Charles Williamson. As this was the last time the walking section would be together at the Club before Miss Ibbetson leaves we asked her to present the prizes, and wished her luck and happiness in her new position.

The Fifteen Miles at South Croydon on Saturday, 26th March, was rather quiet, mainly I think because the Grand National, Boat Race, and Semi-Finals were being held the same day.

Only six St. Dunstaners turned out to take part in this, the longest and most gruelling of our club races. The result was as anticipated, with Billy Miller leading the field, followed by Archie Brown, Charles Williamson, Les Dennis, Charles Stafford, and Stan Tutton in that order. The first three received 1, 2, 3 scratch medals and Charles Williamson the Dr. Chittenden-Bridges Trophy, presented to the first T.B. man to finish. Billy and Archie were the only ones to beat the time standard of 2hrs. 35 mins., a little unfair perhaps, as the course was nearer 16 than 15 miles, but this fact came to light too late.

*Swimming.*—The swimming season will open on the first Monday in May and any St. Dunstaner and escort wishing to take the plunge can attend Marylebone Baths, Seymour Place, on Monday evenings between 7 and 8 p.m. free and gratis. Any St. Dunstaner wishing to attend who would like someone to meet him is advised to contact Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey (Tel. Dorking 73191), who will, if possible, make the necessary arrangements.

BILL MILLER.

It is proposed to run a trip to the Derby, as in previous years, on Wednesday, May 25th, starting from the club at 10 a.m. Will all members interested please let Mr. Willis know as soon as possible.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

### St. Dunstan's Twelve Mile Walk

for the James Galloway Memorial Trophy  
and Match with the Metropolitan Police  
Regent's Park, Saturday, 19th March, 1955

Order of Finish	Club	Time	H'cap All.	H'cap Scr.	H'cap Time Pos.
1.	W. Miller	S. D's	113-56	—	113-56 3
2.	T. Norman	M.P.	113-56	—	—
3.	M. Mason	M.P.	113-56	—	—
4.	E. O'Hara	M.P.	113-56	—	—
5.	A. Brown	St. D's	114-57	2-00	112-57 2
6.	R. Readman	M.P.	115-45	—	—
7.	C. Williamson	St. D's	116-21	5-45	110-36 1
8.	R. Youldon	M.P.	118-44	—	—
9.	P. Simmonds	M.P.	122-04	—	—
10.	A. Smith	M.P.	122-07	—	—
11.	L. Dennis	St. D's	124-01	6-45	117-16 5
12.	S. Tutton	St. D's	128-03	10-45	117-18 6
13.	C. Stafford	St. D's	128-24	13-10	115-14 4
14.	T. Gaygan	St. D's Retired	—	—	—

Handicap Winner: C. Williamson.  
Second: A. Brown.  
Third: W. Miller.

#### Match Result:

First: Met. Police—32 points  
Second: St. Dunstan's—46 points.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: Mr. W. J. Harris.

### Fifteen Miles Handicap Walk

and for the Dr. Chittenden-Bridges Cup  
Croydon, Saturday, 26th March, 1955

Order of Finish	Time	H'cap All.	H'cap Scr.	H'cap Time Pos'n
1.	W. Miller	2-29-43	Scr.	2-29-43 1
2.	A. Brown	2-33-55	1-15	2-32-40 4
3.	C. Williamson	2-35-07	3-00	2-32-07 3
4.	L. Dennis	2-41-37	8-30	2-33-07 5
5.	C. Stafford	2-49-38	18-00	2-31-38 2
6.	S. Tutton	2-51-53	17-30	2-34-23 6

Handicap: 1st, W. Miller.  
2nd, C. Stafford.

Standard Medals (2 hrs. 35 mins.):

W. Miller, A. Brown.

Winner of the Dr. Chittenden-Bridges Cup: C. Williamson.

### For Limbless Ex-Servicemen

A 28-page booklet has just been published for the guidance of limbless ex-Servicemen, setting out all the changes arising from the Merger of the former Ministry of Pensions, the recent improvements in the rates of war pensions and allowances and Social Service benefits, and many other matters affecting the lives of the war limbless. The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association will supply a copy FREE to all limbless war pensioners, on application to local branches or to: BLESMA, 37 Anson Road, Victoria Park, Manchester 14.

### Placements

P. Booth, of Brighton, with Messrs. Vickers Armstrong, Ltd., Weybridge; R. Belcher, of Audenshaw, Manchester, as an Inspector with the English Steel Corporation, Ltd.

### Your Medals are Waiting, Sir!

The following article appeared in the *British Legion Journal* for April:

"Medals, medals... their faint jingling accompanies every Legion parade. Our older members have worn theirs proudly for many years, but what about the younger men who have overlooked their application? It surprised some to learn that medals are still obtainable. This is the 'drill.'

"If *ex-Royal Navy or Merchant Navy*, apply to: The Secretary, Admiralty, Whitehall, London, S.W.1. *Ex-Army*: Army Medal Office, Worcester Road, Droitwich. *Ex-R.A.F.*: Air Ministry, P.1., Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

"Give full name, number, rank and address. If you do not know which medals you are entitled to wear, state the date of your enlistment and discharge.

"Wear them in this order:

Decorations for gallantry; First war and service medals; 1939-45 Star; Atlantic Star; Aircrew (Europe) Star; Africa Star; Pacific Star; Burma Star; Italy Star; France-Germany Star; Defence Medals; Canadian Voluntary Service Medal; War (Victory) Medal; Africa Service Medal of the Union of South Africa; Indian Service Medal; New Zealand War Service Medal; Southern Rhodesia Services Medal; Australian Medal; British Korea Medal; U.N. (Korea) Medal; African General Service Medal with the Kenya Bar.

"Most decorations come in front, but the Coronation Medal comes after service medals, but before long service medals and the Territorial Decoration.

"Where to get them mounted? Any medallist advertising in the *Journal* gives a prompt and efficient service."

(The Editor of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW will also supply names on request).

### The Guildford Reunion

The first Reunion of 1955 was held, most appropriately, on the 40th anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's—March 26th. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present and Sir Ian introduced Lady Onslow, a good friend of St. Dunstan's for many years.

Some eighty guests were present to give the year's series of Reunions a most successful send-off.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I was staggered to read in the February REVIEW that our Chairman had had to rely on a third party to act as "interpreter" in a conversation with Mr. G. Fallowfield. I respectfully submit that this admission from Sir Ian will raise many an eyebrow amongst the many St. Dunstan's and "outside" readers. We are all aware of Sir Ian's endless business and political commitments but surely the memorizing of twenty-six letters of the manual alphabet would be a simple task to so active a brain and would set an example to all St. Dunstaners. I am a mental midget compared with our Chairman yet my deaf-blind friend, Wally Thomas, was able to teach me the whole system in under twenty minutes. I was so impressed by the simplicity of the manual that I felt compelled to write a note to the REVIEW appealing to all St. Dunstaners to learn the twenty-six signs. I made this appeal in the happy belief that all officials, from Sir Ian down, had learned the Manual as a matter of course.

Yours, etc.,

GEORGE ELLIS.

Liverpool.

DEAR EDITOR,

You were good enough to show me Mr. Ellis's letter which I understand you are publishing in the April number.

I have known the deaf and dumb alphabet for more than thirty-five years—almost before Mr. Ellis was born. I have frequently used it to talk to my blind and deaf friends. However, I am nothing like so quick as the Commandant and certain other members of the staff and it seemed to me that it would be more agreeable to my friend, Mr. Fallowfield, to use the most effective means of communication then available.

I am so glad that Mr. Ellis has made himself familiar and fluent in the hand language and thank him and all others who have done likewise.

IAN FRASER.

DEAR EDITOR,

Recently in the braille journal, *Progress*, an account was given of Tape Recording as a hobby. Apparently recording tapes are used as a means of communication quite a lot in the U.S.A. and Canada. It is

easier to send than a braille letter, can be wiped off and used again. Have any of our readers had any experience with Tape Recording machines, what is the cost, etc.? An attempt is being made to form a club, I believe, in order to stimulate interest in overseas correspondence between both blind and sighted people.

I should be glad of some information on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Haywards Heath.

LEONARD HOWELL.

DEAR EDITOR,

May a mere wife tell a story about braille?

When I became engaged to "Grandpa Beaufoy" I thought I would like to give him a Braille Bible for a wedding present. After a few enquiries I realised it would run into a few thousand volumes, cost the earth, and take an aircraft carrier to house it. I settled for a dressing gown.

Sincerely yours,

Dover.

KATHLEEN BEAUFOY.

### Thanks from Mrs. King

Owing to the shortage of time, I do sincerely regret not being able to visit all my friends in the Midlands to wish them goodbye in person, before I leave for the north. I would like to take this opportunity of sending my best wishes and thanks for so many happy visits, and to send to my friends of the Birmingham Club my very grateful thanks for the charming little alarm clock which I shall always treasure as a token of your good wishes. May every new day it rings in bring you all much happiness.

E. M. KING.

### Great Grandfather

A. G. Wise, of Great Ryburgh, King's Lynn.

### Grandfathers

W. Kirkman, of Thorpe Bay; D. Fearn, of East Kirkby (a tenth grandchild); Frank Cooley, of Langley (his twenty-fifth grandchild was born while he and Mrs. Cooley were at the Guildford Reunion); A. G. Briggs, of Thorpe, Norwich, who has been presented with two grand-children in three days.

### In Parliament

Disabled Persons (Tax Allowances)

Extract from *Hansard*, 24th March, 1955:

Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider implementing the recommendations contained in paragraph 203 of the Second Report of the Royal Commission on the Taxation of Profits and Income in favour of a claim for a tax allowance for grave incapacity.

Mr. H. BROOKE: "My right hon. Friend will be considering this and the other recommendations in the Royal Commission's Second Report when framing his Budget proposals."

Sir IAN FRASER: "While a very few people receive what is called an attendance allowance, which goes some way towards meeting this point, would my hon. Friend bear in mind that practically all disabled or hurt people suffer daily disadvantages from their disabilities and yet get no help in this respect. Would he take that into account?"

Mr. BROOKE: "I can but repeat what I said before, that my right hon. Friend will study very carefully the arguments used in the Report of the Royal Commission and all its other recommendations, but I can say nothing more than this."

★ ★ ★

On April 26th Sir Ian Fraser will introduce a Bill in Parliament to enable the Post Office to reduce the composite television licence fee of £3 to £2 where there is a blind member of the family who has an ordinary sound radio set. It is understood that the Bill has the support of all parties and it is hoped that it may go through as an agreed measure.

### Briefly

J. Nicol, of Hebburn-on-Tyne, our telephonist, is chairman of the municipal organisation of the Conservative Party at Hebburn and Vice-Chairman of the Men's branch there.

★ ★ ★

W. Tremble, of Knareborough, gave a talk to the local Women's Institute on "My badge and what it stands for."

★ ★ ★

Victor Frampton has recently moved from Highams Park to Welling and Toc H members gave him an electric clock as a farewell gift. Victor has been a member of the Highams Park branch for over twenty years.

### "The Cup that Cheers"

Who first discovered the refreshing and stimulating properties of tea? Although the Chinese and Hindus were drinking tea two thousand five hundred years before the Christian era, the origin of this comforting beverage appears to have been effaced by the march of time. But there are legends claiming to supply the answer to this question. There is one about the Chinese Emperor of old who inadvertently swallowed a portion of his early morning hot water, and finding himself wonderfully refreshed by it, caused enquiries to be made as to its preparation. It transpired that the servant responsible for boiling the water had allowed leaves from a chey tree—hence our word, "char"—to fall into it. On learning of this the Emperor gave orders that in future his days would commence with a brew made from leaves of the chey tree.

But the one I like best is the one recounted by the Hindus in disputing with the Chinese for the honour of the discovery. It runs.

"A Brahmin holy man wishing to devote the remainder of his life in pious meditation made a vow renouncing sleep. But he was severely punished for his presumption. He did fall asleep and in a dream, saw pass before his eyes the image of a girl he had loved in the days of his youth. Humiliated, he inveighed against himself in holy wrath and wishing to protect himself against any future weakness and make sure he was not again overwhelmed by sleep, he seized a pair of scissors and with two strokes cut off his eyelids, and threw them on the ground in disdain. Next morning, where the eyelids had fallen, two bushes had sprung up, the leaves of which were found to contain properties which maintained alert and vigilant the minds of mortals."

So tea was adorned with a divine origin, but no-one can say with certainty why or where tea was first used.

T. ROGERS,  
*Huddersfield.*

★ ★ ★

Phillip Wood, of Hyde, Cheshire, who is a qualified home teacher, won second prize in the recent Literary Competition organised by the Queensland (Australia) Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind. It was open to amateur blind writers all over the world.

### Australian News

In a letter recently received from A. Foster McConnell, M.B.E., the Hon. Secretary Treasurer of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, he tells Sir Ian that he and his wife, Joe and Mrs. Lynch, and Les. Hoult all went to a Bowls Tournament in Adelaide and were looked after by Arnold Whittle, who is the leading spirit of the Blinded Soldiers' Association of South Australia. Also enclosed in the letter was an extract from an Australian newspaper in which Ian Johnson, the Australian cricketer, describes his meeting with our St. Dunstaners in the train coming home from the Test Match at Adelaide. Here it is:

"Bill Johnston, Colin MacDonald, Len Maddocks, and I had a drink with a few fellows in a compartment in the train coming back from Adelaide yesterday.

"There was nothing particularly unusual about that, but there was about three of the men. They were blind ex-servicemen who were returning from South Australia after having introduced the game of bowls to their fellow members in Adelaide.

"There was Joe Lynch, the Association's president for 23 years. He had lost a thumb as well as his eyes and they called him 'Chuckles,' because he was so bright and happy.

"Foster McConnell, secretary for 20 years, they called 'Noisy.' The shrapnel that blinded him also penetrated his larynx and he spoke in whispers.

"Les. Hoult—he was known as 'Wingie.' He had lost half an arm as well as his sight.

"They all laughed and joked, and talked of their sport with pride as well as pleasure.

"After we had left them the result of the Test match somehow didn't seem quite so important."

★ ★ ★

Bringing best wishes to all St. Dunstaners comes a letter from J. Lloyd, of West Australia. He had to give up poultry keeping in 1932 after ten years and now lives quietly in a pleasant suburb of Perth. He speaks of the unusually heavy rain for the time of the year—five wet days in a row when normally they rarely have a spot.

★ ★ ★

A long, newsy letter has also reached H.Q. from Percy ("Norrie") Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia. Jack Radford,

from Mukinbuddin has now returned from this country and Norrie says, "He enjoyed his trip very much and described to listeners over radio stations 6KY and 6NA what a wonderful job of work you folks are doing at St. Dunstan's." (Norrie, by the way, is himself a prominent and regular broadcaster, particularly for good cause appeals). He, too, speaks of the weather, but this is what he writes (in January): "For the past 18 days our temperature has not been below 90 degrees and at night the minimum has not been below 70. These hot days and nights with mosquitoes and flies tossed in make it a little trying, believe me!" Then he goes on to the Test matches. "I listened in to every ball." And lastly . . . "Mr. Bill James was re-elected President of the Braille Society of West Australia; he has done grand work for the blind in W.A."

### E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition

The 26th E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library for the Blind, Westminster, on Saturday, May 21st.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will only be awarded if merited).

The classes of interest to St. Dunstaners are:  
*Class A.* Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

*Class B.* Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

*Class C.* Readers who have learnt to read braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes.

This Class will be divided into:  
1. Readers who lost their sight before 1938.  
2. Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

*Open Competition.* A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B, and C for the reading of a poem by Wordsworth.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, 10th May, 1955, stating in which class they wish to enter.

### Calling All Chums

The Starters on parade on April 1st for the V.O.B. Cup, Cabinet and Purse, numbered forty-six. All appeared fit and in excellent condition, and, according to reports during the winter, there have been few cases of coughing in the stable. So, as the bookies say when the Flag falls, "They're off!" and I know all the readers will wish them a good race. The "top weight" is 84, then there is a drop to 75, and the others range down to 57, so all will agree this is something in the way of a real Handicap. I have not the least doubt about the top weights making a jolly good race of it. However, in about 30 years, we shall find the field has thinned out, and then perhaps an enterprising bookie will get cracking.

Regarding Passports for those who are going to France in August. I am negotiating with H.M. Passport Office, Petty France, London, to try and simplify matters by having a Party Passport, so please do not worry if you do not hear anything just yet.

There will be nine wives in the party, and I am sure this is going to add to the pleasure of the trip.

*Currency note.*—At the moment the French franc is 1040 to the pound, Belgian franc 140; but I would suggest that all the Chums hold tight until the July issue of the REVIEW, when suggestions will appear on currency matters.

Hoping you have all had a grand Easter and are feeling fit, fine and dandy.

ALAN NICHOLS,  
Chum Chair.

### National Laying Test, 1954-55

Report for the fifth period of four weeks, February 1st, 20th, 28th, 1955.

	Score	Value to date
1. W. Webb	...	521
2. C. Cooke	...	436
3. P. Holmes	...	412
4. P. Bagwell	...	330
5. J. A. Dix	...	185
6. W. A. Smith	...	173

Average number of eggs per bird per month, 15.69.

Average number of eggs per bird to date, 60.83.

### Ovingdean Notes

During the Spring Term, which ended on 4th April, we have welcomed our President, Sir Neville Pearson, and two members of St. Dunstan's Council to Ovingdean and the other Brighton Homes and we also had a visit from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser very soon after their return from South Africa. Mr. Donald Hopewell, who came down to the Centre in February, was not by any means a newcomer here but General Sir Brian Horrocks, who has been a member of the Council since July, 1953, made his first visit to the St. Dunstan's Homes when he came with Lady Horrocks on 21st March. Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, making one of their regular visits came just before the trainees were due to go home for the Easter holiday.

Overseas visitors during term time have been numerous. As in previous years the British Council have sponsored many visits. The first of these took place on 14th January when Mr. Gultekin Yazgan, a blind founder member of the Six Dot Society for the Education and Welfare of the Blind in Ankara, came down from London to spend the day with us at Ovingdean. Mr. Yazgan, who obtained his degree in law from Ankara University, is also a member of the directing Committee of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Society in Turkey and had been awarded the United Nations Social Welfare Fellowship for four months' study in Great Britain in the field of rehabilitation and vocational guidance for the blind. He was greatly interested in all he found here and spent some time chatting to trainees and members of the staff. His visit was followed soon afterwards by that of Mr. Tuk Heung Lee, the Principal of the National Blind, Deaf and Dumb School at Seoul, South Korea, who is in this country for similar studies. Then, during March, a party of some twenty Empire and Foreign students were received here on a day's visit. They came from countries as far apart as Zanzibar, Finland, France and Uruguay and were studying at various Colleges, Universities, Hospitals, etc., in London. They all expressed their delight at having the opportunity of seeing for themselves something of the work of St. Dunstan's.

From time to time, it will be remembered, Sir Ian has invited a party of trainees to visit the House of Commons. One such

### Radio Discussion

When I have the REVIEW read to me, I often wonder why some of the letter-writers don't take an active part in Radio discussion programmes. It is great fun and I have found it even more so during my last few months of unexpected illness.

I have a simple method. I always was interested in current affairs and I am sure if one could find a strong enough soap box to hold me—that would be my permanent perch. I used to enjoy more than anything else the discussion groups at Stretton and Ovingdean, including the one when we all inadvertently arrived at a Communist meeting at Hove, and ended up, eight men, the V.A.D. and myself, sitting on high stools in a café in Brighton, eventually having everyone in our discussion.

But when one is at home memories of the Quiz Team, the Brains Trust, and whether I was with the P.O.W. team or "The Rest," fade away, for discussion groups—whilst they may thrive—don't exactly seem to grow in Ben Nevis Road. So I have found a wonderful alternative. I like the *Any Questions*, the *Any Answers*, and the *Dear Sir* programmes in particular. I don't have newspapers read to me often, so I rely on the B.B.C. news. I pick out the bits I think are the main topics, and ponder about them. Then comes Friday night and the *Any Questions* programme. I smile when I know Bill Leather and Jean Mann are in the team. I groan when I hear a certain Left wing man is to be on, as I know from past experience that he will wander miles away from the subject. I like the two farmer members; I am a bit doubtful about whether I like Mary Stocks or not, and I like Lady Bonham Carter, but feel if she does not know from personal experience such things as hire purchase methods, then she should not condemn them.

I sit; I listen; I ponder. Um, what a stupid response. Never mind, he means well, I suppose. Ah! that's up my street. And when the programme is over my ideas are cut and dried. Out comes "George" and into his rollers go the paper and tap-tap the keys. Address an envelope, stamp it and make sure it, at least, gets posted.

Thursday arrives, and a registered envelope maybe, or maybe not. "Your letter or part of it may be read this evening. Please confirm you wrote this letter," etc.

visit took place last term when, as on previous occasions, after the visit to the House the St. Dunstaners were the guests of Sir Ian at luncheon. They all thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

Entertainments at Ovingdean have continued to take place on Sunday evenings and several very good concerts have taken place. During the week there have been darts, dominoes, whist, etc. During March we ran a darts competition on a League system which consisted of both Totally Blind and Semi-Sighted men all playing each other. Where a totally blind man was playing against a semi-sighted one the T.B. man had to score 201 as against 301 by the semi-sighted. Two prizes were awarded—one for the totally blind man with the most wins to his credit and the other for the semi-sighted man with the highest number of wins. The winners were J. Walch (T.B.) with six wins out of ten games and semi-sighted R. Fry with eight wins out of ten games. Congratulations to them both!

The weather being exceptionally generous to us at Easter every opportunity was taken to be out of doors as much as possible. There were the usual racegoers anxious to get to Plumpton and for those who required something a little more restful (and perhaps less expensive!) there were three drives during Easter week when Rustington, Ringmer and Alfriston were visited. On Easter Sunday evening an extremely good concert was provided by the Hastleton Amateurs from Hastings and on Good Friday evening we were entertained by a play-reading by some of the staff of Armitage Owen's comedy, "Pools Paradise." The Bank Holiday Week-end ended with a dance on Monday night.

### Test Results

5th April, 1955.

*Typing:* G. Piper, J. Dickey, K. Chubb, P. Duffee, M. Linacre, C. C. Andrew, J. Brown.

*Preliminary:* F. Jeanmonod, M. Aldridge, M. Tetley (Officer), J. Whitcombe, A. White (Officer), J. Barlow.

*Advanced:* J. C. Walters.

*Writing:* E. Maisey, J. C. Walters.

And I, with a lost voice to crown everything thinks "Oh well, he can jolly well take it for granted." Thank goodness the producer does, for he knows every Monday morning he will find one letter from one Maureen Lees, with her points of view on some of the more debatable questions.

Then the *Dear Sir* programme which, alas, has ended for the time being. What fun on Sunday afternoons to switch on and listen to the very friendly chairman reading our points of view, and how varied we are. But it has all been fun; it has cost me 5d., typing paper and two envelopes.

I feel and know that I am not in a backwater, knowing nothing of present-day matters, being oblivious of the other fellow's point of view. I know if I say anything in my letter a bit off the record, the producer will omit it. I know that it is folk like myself who help to keep these interesting programmes going. So I recommend it to my friends in St. Dunstan's; those who yearn to have a helluva yap with someone about the state of the world or the unrest; who suddenly recall something which might be of interest—and it does get rid of a lot of frustrated feelings of being rather dead and out of the swim. So there is my recipe for using your typewriters, spending 5d. on stamps, and then waiting to hear, not your letter but someone who has entirely opposite views from your own.

Of course, it is a secret ambition of mine that one day we might even have our own team on the air a couple of times, but maybe that is just airy-fairy wishful thinking on my part. I would like to have a chance of a darned good argument with the men with whom I once found myself listening to the outpourings of a Communist meeting. Not that I minded: it was not a new point of view to me, as I had been interested in politics since I was a youngster. But it would be fun just the same. One hears of bridge, darts, and everything else, but of a current affairs team—dear me, no!!!

MAUREEN LEES.

★ ★ ★

We learn with regret that Mrs. Margaret Stanway is leaving the boarding house business and "retiring" owing to health reasons. Margaret, who spent most of last summer in hospital, says that she will write in due course to those St. Dunstaners who have already booked holidays with her.

### Rest of the News

R. Edwards, of Denbigh, is rightly proud of his grandson, Roy Allen, who at sixteen is already much sought after as a promising footballer. He plays left half-back or inside left. Among the clubs interested is Blackburn Rovers.

★ ★ ★

The *Slough Observer* recently had a two-column article about Frank Cooley, of Langley, who is shortly taking his bronze medal dancing test.

★ ★ ★

W. Bowring, of Weymouth, with one other man and five women, qualified for the finals at an eliminating whist drive held by Preston and Sutton Poyntz Conservative Association of the South Dorset Conservative Association's Whist Drive to be held on April 27th at Sidney Hall, Weymouth, a feat which brought him a column in the *Dorset Daily Echo*.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Marsden, of Blackburn, recently celebrated her eightieth birthday; she shared the birthday cake at her party with the Welfare Department.

★ ★ ★

### Smart Boy!

When my son, George, was a small boy I asked him to fetch me a packet of cigarettes saying, "I'll give you a penny for going!" Off he went but when I returned I found 2d. missing from the change, and asked his mother to question him. She said, "He says you told him he could have a penny for going; he wants a penny for coming back!"

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

[What did your boy (or girl) say or do which amused you (or otherwise)? 10s. 6d. for each one used. True stories only, please! And keep them short.]

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Helen J. Hutcheon, of St. Dunstan's, Bielside, Aberdeen, who is the widow of a St. Dunstaner, writes:

"A friend in Oregon, U.S.A., has written to ask if I could find a "pen" friend for a lady (33 years old) who has been blind since she was eleven years old, as the result of an accident. I wondered if any of the St. Dunstan's girls would care to correspond with her.

"I shall be happy to put anyone so desiring in touch with her."

### Talking of Braille

When I left St. Dunstan's in 1916 I went to live in a village in the heart of Cardiganshire, a place where Braille had not been heard of. I was a keen braille reader and borrowed books regularly from the N.L.B. When I had finished reading a book I would put it into its case and take it over to the local pub and hand it to the postman, who spent the interval between his round and his return journey by the pub fireside. He was of a literary turn of mind and a wag as well. One day when I had taken my book to the pub, an old horse-dealer who was a local character was writing a postcard to a prospective customer. "Dear Mr. Harries, I have got a horse that will suit you, etc., etc." and as he wrote he read the words aloud. The postman nudged me and we listened to the rest of the card. We then resumed our discussion of the book in my case and the horse dealer broke in in his gruff voice, "Isn't this the fellow who is blind?" The postman said that I was that same fellow. The horse dealer said who was I to talk about books. The postman, with a straight face, told him I had learned to read with my fingers and asked for the postcard for me to read. I ran my fingers across the card, repeating what I had heard him say aloud to himself. He threw up his hands exclaiming, "Marvel of marvels, I'll believe anything after this." He paid for a pint which I said I would drink that evening. I was a T.T. at the time but the postman's eyes twinkled as he sipped the pint the following day.

J. E. DAVIES, *Prengwyn, Llandyssul*.

★ ★ ★

There have been a number of appreciative letters regarding the suggestion of an Australian Flood Relief Fund put forward last month by our St. Dunstaners, H. Crabtree and A. Gordon Fisher, and also of Alan Nichol's article on our 40th anniversary. Nick spent Sunday, March 27th, at Ilford, where he had the good fortune to pay tribute to the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson at Vine Memorial Church. The Town Clerk presided. From the Church he went on to the Convent of St. Joseph's, Edmonton, where he met Miss M. H. Reynolds and presented her with a bouquet of carnations and daffodils on behalf of all Old Timers. Miss Reynolds sent her love to all old St. Dunstaners and her good wishes to the new ones.

### Young St. Dunstaners

The son of H. Acton, of Bournemouth, has been given his first appointment as Purser-in-Charge. He is the youngest purser in the Cunard Company.

★ ★ ★

John Perrett, Devizes, who entered the Royal Navy as a boy at the age of 15 is now a Commissioned Gunner.

★ ★ ★

John Gardner, Heswall, has passed out of the Nautical Training School and has gone on his first voyage in the Harrison Line to the West Indies and South America.

★ ★ ★

Brenda Hodgman, Sutton, has passed the first and second parts of the State Registered Nursing Examination.

★ ★ ★

The baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, of Sheffield, had an accident which might have proved much more serious recently when she caught her hand in an electric washing machine. Child—and washing machine—were rushed to hospital where the little girl was treated for injured fingers.

★ ★ ★

Olive Coates, New Longton, has qualified for promotion to Leading Wren and has been posted to Northern Ireland.

★ ★ ★

Mary Pownall, Caterham, who is 14, has passed the Grade I Preliminary Examination of the Royal School of Music.

### Marriages

Cedric Bell, Birkenhead, to Miss Jean Quayle, on March 5th.

Joan Beryl Wood (step-daughter of G. Moore, of Blackpool,) to Robert Reay, on March 19th.

### Birth

MANNERS.—To the wife of Melville Manners, of Bridgend, a daughter—Dawn Elaine.

### Marriage

KILLINGBECK—AUBREY.—On April 5th, G. Killingbeck, of Ovingdean, to Joan Aubrey, daughter of F. Aubrey, of Bristol.

## " In Memory "

### Private Cyril Walter Phillips *Royal Army Service Corps (74th Motor Ambulance Coy)*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of a St. Dunstaner of the 1939-45 war, C. W. Phillips, of Kentish Town, London. He was thirty-one.

He left the service in November, 1945, but did not come to us until March, 1955; he was then completely bedridden and was not able to undertake any training whatsoever.

He died on March 28th and our deep sympathy goes out to his father and mother.

### Sapper Hugh Griffiths, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we have to record the death of H. Griffiths, of Northampton.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1929 having been gassed in World War I. He trained as a basket-maker and he carried on with this craft for a while but for a considerable period he had been a very sick man and he died at his home on March 22nd.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

### Sergeant-Major Thomas Marrison *6th West Yorkshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of T. ("Jock") Marrison, of Tyersal, Bradford, who will be known not only to many St. Dunstaners but also to many of the civilian blind world, for he was a lecturer on the propaganda staff of the Royal National Institute of the Blind from May 1919 until he retired in 1931.

He had been ill for many years, being nursed at home by his wife, but his death took place in hospital on March 21st.

The flowers at the funeral included a wreath from the local Voluntary Blind Society of Pudsey.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Marrison and her family.

### Private John Henry New, *South Staffordshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. H. New, of Wolverhampton.

Enlisting on December 8th, 1915, he served until he was wounded in France two years later and he came to us in March, 1918. His injuries had affected his sight, face, leg and arm.

Trained in boot repairing and mat-making, he was an enthusiastic craftsman but for some time he had not been a fit man and had done only light work for the Netting Room.

Although he had been ill for some time, his death on March 28th was unexpected.

At the funeral a Union Jack covered the coffin.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

### Sapper George Emmanuel Crook, *3/1st London Divisional Signal Coy., R.E.(T.)*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. E. Crook, of Herne Bay. He was in his 77th year.

He enlisted in 1915 and was wounded at Ypres. After long hospital treatment he was drafted to East Africa. Eventually he returned to civilian office life, but his sight began rapidly to fail and he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1925. He trained as a joiner, and he continued with this work, but to a gradually decreasing amount, until two years ago, when ill health forced him to give up. He had been ill for some months and he died at his home on April 6th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Crook in her loss.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

CLEWLOW.—To Mrs. Peggy Clewlow, of Winchester, whose brother died suddenly in his sleep on March 8th.

DAVIES.—To L. Davies, of Purley, whose father died on March 26th after a long illness.

FURNISS.—To G. Furniss, of Telscombe Cliffs, whose only brother died suddenly on March 21st. Our St. Dunstaner is the only one of his family left now.

GARD.—To J. W. Gard, of Plymouth, and Mrs. Gard, whose son-in-law, who lived with them, has died.

HALL.—To E. W. Hall, of Chilton, Berkshire, and Mrs. Hall, whose little grandchild has died.

HEWITT.—To G. Hewitt, of Woodingdean, whose brother has died in Liverpool after a long illness.

HILL.—To J. Hill, of Crawley, who has recently lost his sister and her husband.

MACKINNON.—To D. Mackinnon, of Charlton, whose mother died suddenly on March 23rd, after a heart attack. She had only moved to London the previous week.

MATTHEWS.—To C. Matthews, of Maidenhead, and Mrs. Matthews, who have suffered the loss of their son.

SAMWORTH.—To W. Samworth, of Edgware, and Mrs. Samworth, who have suffered a double bereavement. Their four-years-old grandson died during March and their eldest son's wife (not the little boy's mother) died a week later.