

1970

JANUARY REVIEW



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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1/- MONTHLY

Free to St. Dunstaners

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Wreath

A party of St. Dunstaners accompanied by Mr. A. D. Lloyds visited the Hampstead Cemetery on the morning of Tuesday, 9th December, to lay a wreath on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave.

First World War St. Dunstaners were represented by Mr. P. Nuyens of London, N.W.8, and Mr. A. W. Pimm of Wickford, Essex, and Mr. W. G. Stanley of Ilford, Essex, represented the Second World War men.



Welcome to St. Dunstan's

On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Douglas Frederick Ffoulks Hartley of Bewdley, Worcestershire who joined us in December 1969. He is married and he served in the Royal Signals in the 2nd World War.

Charles Alfred Tonge of Manchester came to us in December 1969. He is married and served in the Royal Air Force in the 2nd World War.

Arthur John Payne of Northampton, joined us in December 1969. He is married and served in the 1st World War in the Royal Engineers.

John Wilkin of Cottenham, Cambridge, joined us in December 1969. He served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry during the 1st World War and the Machine Gun Corps. in the 2nd World War. He is married and the announcement of his Golden Wedding appears in the Family News Section.

B.B.C. Sports Service to Stay

Following Chairman's Notes in earlier issues and correspondence from St. Dunstaners about radio, Lord Fraser sent copies of the *Review* to Lord Hill, Chairman of the B.B.C. He has now received the following letter in reply.

Chairman. Broadcasting House,
The Rt. Hon. London, W.1.
Lord Hill of Luton. 19th November, 1969.

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 15th November with which you sent me copies of the *St. Dunstan's Review*. I am glad to be able to tell you that the anxiety which your members expressed about the future of the Sports Service on radio can be put at rest. Although it will be necessary under the new arrangements for the Saturday Sports Service on Radio 3 to be moved to another channel it will still be available. We have not yet decided to which channel it should move. I am glad to have this indication of the value of the service and an opportunity of reassuring you,

Yours, Charles.

Coming Events

Bridge Instruction Weekend

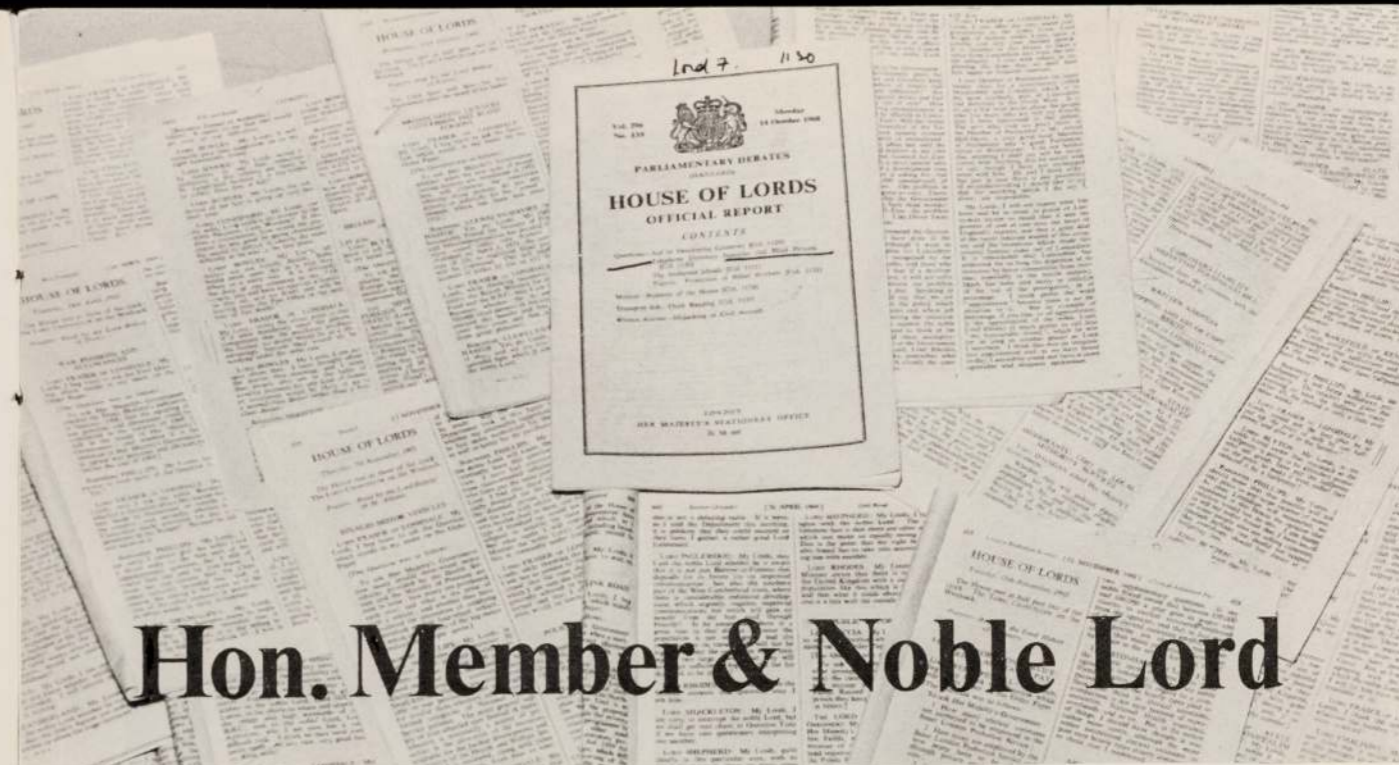
This event will be held at Ovingdean from Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th February inclusive and St. Dunstaners wishing to attend should apply to Mr. Wills at Headquarters to reserve their accommodation as soon as possible. St. Dunstaners' wives who actually take part in the instruction may claim reimbursement of the cost of their fares and accommodation during the week-end.

Chess

It is regretted that it will not be possible to arrange an instructional week-end for Chess players as unfortunately Mr. Bonham will not be free during the period available.

COVER PICTURE.

Disabled Sportsman of 1969, Bill Griffiths, with Ann Jones and Tony Jacklin.
Photo—Derek Rowe. (Sports Writers' Association.)



Hon. Member & Noble Lord

It is forty-five years since Lord Fraser, then Captain Ian Fraser entered the House of Commons as member for St. Pancras (North). Before he sailed for South Africa in December, *The Review* asked our Chairman for an interview on his work in Parliament:

Q Lord Fraser, as a member of the House of Lords you are still an active parliamentarian. In the last published *Index to Hansard Parliamentary Debates*, covering November 1968 to July 1969, there are no less than 25 entries under your name. Is this a typical parliamentary stint?

A Yes, I think it is. I am very glad still to be a parliamentarian and I take an interest in a great variety of things.

Q The subjects of your speeches and questions are extremely varied. Some of them, on war pensions and ex-service matters, we have already reported in *The Review* but in others your interest is not so obvious. Perhaps we could mention some of them and ask you two things: What moved you to intervene and how do you find out about these things? For instance your question on invalid motor vehicles?

A It has often occurred to me that the invalid motor vehicle has many disadvantages: It is small and frail. The disabled man can't take his wife or a friend with him and sometimes his limbs may be so disabled that he can't get in or out without a bit of help. Now that small four wheeled cars are made in very large quantities it seems to me possible that a modified four wheeled vehicle might even be less expensive to the tax payer than a specially made three wheeled vehicle. I did not get very satisfactory answers and I have pressed them to go on looking into it.

Q What made you decide to raise this subject?

A I expect I read something in the papers or I heard something on the radio—or it may be I heard the matter raised at the Ministry of Pensions Advisory Committee, as it was then called, of which I am a member.*

* Now Central Advisory Committee, Department of Health and Social Security.



Lord Fraser on the terrace of the Houses of Parliament.

Q Then on another occasion you made a long contribution to a debate on economic planning for the North West.

A Well, I was a Member of Parliament in the North West of England for twenty years or more (for Morecambe and Lonsdale, Ed.) and I know the problems there of the farmer and the industrialist. In particular, water supplies are a problem for the whole of the United Kingdom and in the North West we have the most wonderful Lake District. There is a tendency for water authorities, whenever they are short of water, to take it from one of the lakes. You could ruin the Lake District if you took too much water and a particular scheme attracted me: that a barrage, or a dam, should be put across the seaward end of Morecambe Bay, which is fed by three or four rivers. If you kept the

sea water out it would fill up with fresh water and you would have an inland lake of 400 square miles which would produce an enormous amount of water for the North West. That was one of the questions we discussed.

Q Could we discuss your contribution to the debate on broadcasting?

A I've been interested in broadcasting since the very earliest days. So when the opportunity arose I raised a debate in Parliament and particular points that I addressed myself to were the advantages, as I see it, of using advertising on some of the B.B.C. programmes to pay for a better service. I have for very many years advocated the view that Britain could not have the best possible broadcasting service so long as it had to depend solely on licence duties, because you couldn't make the licence fees

heavy enough to get the money. This was resisted for, oh, twenty years until we got the I.T.V. There is no question in my mind that the I.T.V. gave Britain better broadcasting, partly because the B.B.C. was now in competition and partly because there was more money.

Now some people say they would hate to hear advertising on Radio 4, the old Home Service, or on Radio 2 or 3. Maybe so, but Radio 1 is almost entirely Pop. I would have thought a few minutes advertising in the hour on Radio 1 would not hurt anybody.

1925 Committee

Q In 1925 you were a member of the Crawford Parliamentary Committee on broadcasting which set up the British Broadcasting Corporation. Is your present view on advertising different from the views you held then?

A It is and it isn't. Even the Crawford Committee of 1925, which set up the B.B.C., did admit that sponsoring of programmes might be necessary. However, there was a tradition in those days that broadcasting should be carried on without advertising and while I was a Governor of the B.B.C. later, that was for about ten years from 1938, I took the view of the B.B.C.'s Board that advertisements should be excluded if possible. But when television came along I changed my mind and I said so, publicly. I think it is a mistake to think you must never change your mind. If circumstances alter it is a good thing that public men should change their minds.

Q These were just three questions. There were many more and their subjects as varied as those we have been discussing. All this seems to show that you tap a tremendous amount of information. You are a busy man. You are a blind man. How do you manage this?

A I listen to chosen parts of the B.B.C.'s sound programmes. I hardly ever miss a news programme in the morning, or, for example, the summaries of the week's newspapers on a Friday night or the summaries of the weekly periodicals on a Saturday morning. That's one way—another is that I am fortunate enough to have secretarial help and my secretary goes through the newspapers and picks out political points and matters of special interest to me and records them. I then have, say, thirty or forty minutes of tape available and I can listen to it at whatever time suits me during the day. As a rule I don't really get down to it until half past five or six when, perhaps, I am changing and having a bath. By the end of that I am very well informed about the day's affairs. In addition I go to the House of Lords every day it is sitting and, listening to questions and discussions, I hear what is going on that way.

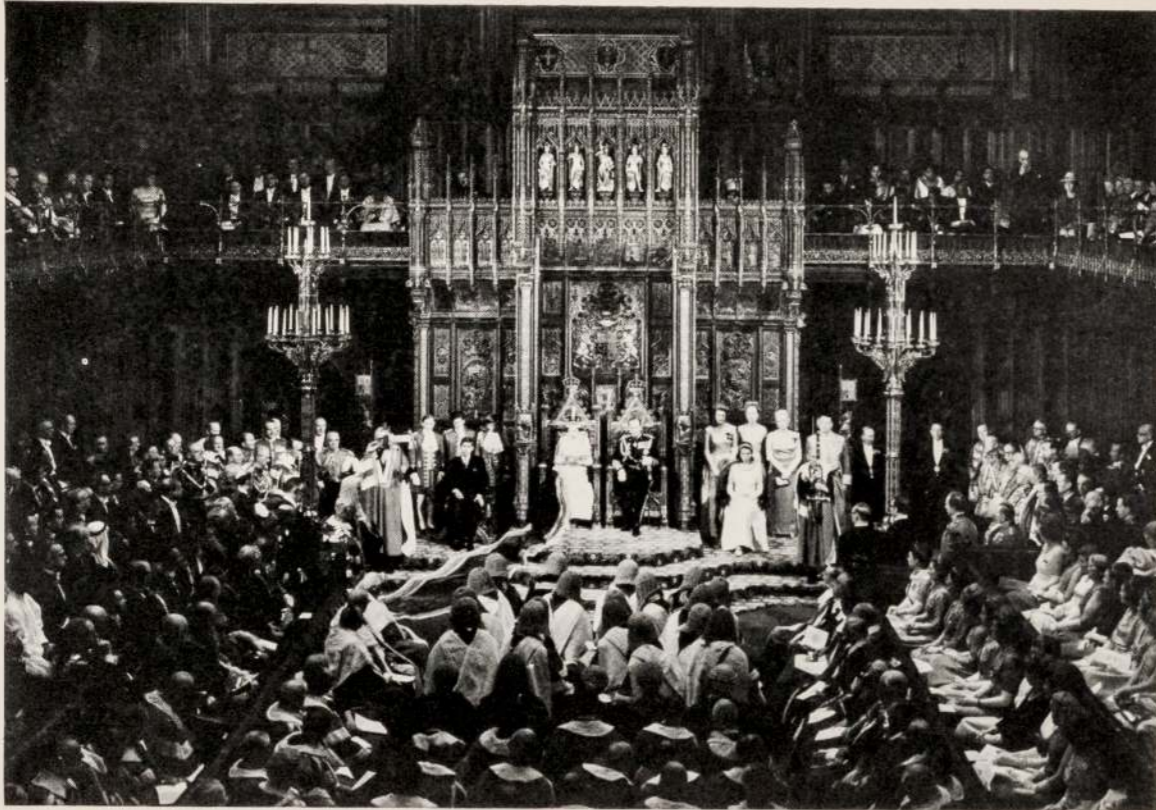
Mental System

Q Do you have a mental system by which you discard information that you don't think is going to be of much use?

A In public life there are so many subjects, it is quite impossible to study and be an expert in all of them. Therefore, there is a tendency for a person to exclude from consideration certain subjects. I find, personally, that having excluded a subject I try not to hear about it but to give preference to those things I am interested in. So, instead of taking a shallow interest in, say, fifty subjects, I take a deep interest in four or five. Perhaps that is the way most people work.

Q Do you prefer life in the House of Lords to that in the House of Commons?

A That is almost impossible to answer because there is a great difference between the two



The pomp of Parliament: H.M. the Queen in the Chamber of the House of Lords for the official opening of Parliament. Photo—Fox Photos.

A Houses. If I had been heir to one of the great families like Lord Salisbury's which has bred a male heir for, say ten or eleven generations, many of whom have taken part in public affairs, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Secretaries of State and the rest of it, I would be very proud to be an hereditary peer of that kind but that is not the kind of family I belong to. Therefore, I personally prefer to have got to the House of Lords the hard way, as I did, than by inheritance from one or two generations. I enjoyed enormously my thirty years or more in the House of Commons but was delighted when I was asked to go to the Upper House. My wife and I had fought seven elections and were glad to be able to take things a little more easily. In the House of Lords I am very much in touch

with politics. I have never sat in the seats of the mighty, in the sense of having been a Minister, but I have sat near them for a very long time and still sit near them. They are accessible to me and I can take part in a subject that has always interested me during a long life. So I enjoy the House of Lords but it is hard to say that I enjoy it more than the Commons.

There is quite a lot to be said for the House of Lords. Whatever people may think, it is a very good senate, intelligent and devoted. There are about 200 of us who go there regularly and I would have said it is as good a second chamber as any in the world.

Hereditary Peers

Q *Would you advocate having more life peers? Would you do away with the hereditary principle?*

A I think that hereditary peers should be entitled to be made life peers. Indeed, anybody should be if he is worth having in the senate, but I do think the hereditary right by itself should be abolished. There is no question that the hundred life peers, of which I am one, have made an enormous difference to the liveliness and knowledge of the House of Lords. It is a very much better senate than it was even a few years ago.

Q *Do you think the whips play too strong a part in the House of Commons so that the real decisions are being made off the floor of the House?*

A If you mean are the decisions made by the Cabinet and then forced upon Parliament, that is true to some extent, but it is not wholly true. That the House divides into two parts with the whips on either side does not mean that Parliamentary opinion has not had its effect before the point of dividing had arrived.

The System

You can't have 15 men playing rigger or 11 playing soccer each playing for himself. You couldn't run a parliamentary system unless you had a team which, by and large, would stand by its captain or its leaders and carry out a policy which, in general, it has already agreed in advance. Remember that a Member of Parliament has already chosen his line of thought before he joins his party and mostly the policies he is asked to support are in line.

If occasionally, something arises in which he is a dissenter then, up to a point, he is at liberty to say so and to abstain from voting or even vote against the whips.

Q *Have we reached the ultimate in an electoral system for returning members to Parliament?*

A Various systems are suggested, such as proportional representa-



"Peers Only" says the sign—Lord Fraser as a former M.P., is one of the select few who can venture here and into the precincts of the Commons, such as the Members' Dining Room.

tion and so on. I think, on the whole, our system works fairly and I wouldn't change it. Except that every 25 or 30 years the constituency boundaries should be altered. I think it does work tolerably well and I think it will continue to be based on two main parties, one in and one out, and a change from time to time.

Q *I believe you had your own seat in the Commons; do you have a special seat in the Lords?*

A Theoretically all men are equal and this applies to the House of Lords and Commons. Theoretically, anybody may sit anywhere. In practice, however, the Front Benches are occupied by the Leaders and Back Bench Members sit where they like. After a time a particular Member obtains a customary goodwill tenure of a seat and, in that sense, it might be called "his seat". I think my friends probably made a concession to my blindness at first by

letting me have a corner seat near the door, so that I can find my way in and out by myself the more easily.

Q *In debate do you find blindness any handicap?*

A If I am going to speak or ask a question I will have a little Braille note about as big as a playing card which reminds me of the points I wish to bring up.

Q *Do you manage to recognise the voices of other peers in debate?*

A I do get to know a great many voices but it is not only an absolute recognition of a voice. It is also to some extent a recognition of the place he is sitting in and the subject he is dealing with. Also I have informed myself beforehand who are going to be the speakers in a debate, before and after me. It is a process of deduction and knowledge as well as recognition.

Different Career?

Q *If you had not been blind, would you have been a politician?*

A No, that I very much doubt. I was a scientist and I would have been a chemical engineer or an industrial chemist. My subject at school, the thing I won prizes at, was chemistry and physics. I don't think I would have gone into politics. I don't even remember why I did. I suppose it was because I had begun to make speeches about St. Dunstan's and found that I could. I was intrigued and I thought the life would be amusing and so it has turned out.

Q *It has always struck me going to the Palace of Westminster that there is a very special atmosphere and feeling about the place. Do you get a feeling of really belonging there?*

A Yes, but then I have been there for 45 years on and off, mostly on. I have a tremendous feeling for it. It is an atmosphere and a place which you get to love and

revere and I have made many friends in all parties.

Q *Have you any ambitions you have yet to fulfil?*

A No—except perhaps to finish my stint at St. Dunstan's, so long as I am able. That is very near my heart.

SUSSEX GROCERS' ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party given by Sussex (late Brighton) Grocers' Association on behalf of the National Grocers' Federation was held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton on Wednesday, 3rd December.

Just over 300 sat down to an excellent dinner of Christmas fare, the tables being gaily decorated with crackers and flowers.

During the meal Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, chairman of the grocers' Entertainment Committee welcomed everyone and when proposing a toast to St. Dunstaners made particular reference to the prowess of Bill Griffiths, the Disabled Sportsman of the Year.

Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., a member of St. Dunstan's Council, in his reply, said that this was his first opportunity of meeting so many St. Dunstaners and in actual fact he and his wife were standing in for Lord and Lady Fraser who were now on their way to South Africa. Sir Douglas mentioned that Lord Fraser has asked him to stress that St. Dunstan's funds would only be used for those whose sight was affected by war or warlike conditions and that the party would be very much in Lord and Lady Fraser's thoughts that night and they would drink a very special toast to its success.

After the meal, dancing took place in the newly decorated Grand ballroom, there being spot prizes, a raffle and to the delight of all a 30 minute cabaret performed by the Maria Singers, some 20 girls whose ages ranged from 9 to 19.

At 11.30 p.m. the band played Auld Lang Syne, though it would appear that some St. Dunstaners would have danced till dawn.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON MEMORIAL SERVICE

The 48th Anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., Founder of St. Dunstan's, was commemorated in the Chapel at Ovingdean on Sunday, 7th December. The service was conducted by our Chaplain, the Rev. D. M. Harper, M.A., the lesson, taken from Isaiah, Chapters 54, 60 and 61, and the Book of Job, Chapter 8, was read by Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, and the address was given by the Rev. F. Spurway, M.A.

The Chapel was full, with St. Dunstaners, staff and friends; members of the Pearson family present included Mr. Nigel and Lady Frances Pearson, Mrs. Hardy, daughter of Sir Neville, and Mrs. Egerton Warburton, Sir Neville's granddaughter, with her husband. The floral decoration was magnificent in red and gold: arranged in two urns were chrysanthemum blooms and sprays and red gladioli, and the foliage consisted of green eucalyptus leaves. Our V.A.D., Miss Tyzack, arranged the flowers again this year.

Sightless Plus

Opening his address, Mr. Spurway quoted from the holy scriptures, "let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us". This, he said, exactly fitted the present occasion and the members of St. Dunstan's were to praise the man who begat their brotherhood. It was given to Sir Arthur Pearson to leave behind him a memorial in people, which was the most vivid and friendly thing anyone could do. He tore from the heart of his affliction a means of grace and the hope of glory. The first of all virtues was courage and Sir Arthur learnt first to live the full life sightless and then to pass that way of life on to others and to teach them to be sightless plus.



Mr. Spurway said that he never had the privilege of meeting Sir Arthur personally and it was impossible for him to do more than to salute him on behalf of St. Dunstaners. The most vocal of them would find it impossible to do more than put together their "Thank You" for all that they owed to him. Referring to himself as a camp follower, Mr. Spurway drew attention to the long service given by members of the staff and voluntary helpers. In his own case he became "hooked" in 1926 when, as Toc H Padre in Birmingham, he attended his first St. Dunstan's Camp. He met friends and made friends with St. Dunstaners and so shared in the *esprit de corps* which first of all came from the Chief, and so it was for us to thank St. Dunstan's and the man who began this Society. Giving it as his belief that the work started by Sir Arthur would continue to spread and would go on for ever, Mr. Spurway concluded by reading an extract from St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians.

St. Dunstan's and India

by A. D. Lloyds

Whilst attending the Fourth General Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind in New Delhi recently, I was privileged to spend a day in Dehra Dun. There, in the outer Himalayas, is a Centre for the Blind with the name "St. Dunstan's" prominently displayed both at the main entrance and inside the grounds.

During the course of the last War—in 1943 to be precise—St. Dunstan's appointed the late Sir Clutha Mackenzie to establish a centre in India for Indian Servicemen who were blinded whilst fighting alongside our own Forces. Sir Clutha, who lost his sight in 1915 at Gallipoli whilst serving as a Trooper with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, had many difficulties to overcome, but he was a man of energy and resource. He quickly started a St. Dunstan's Centre at Dehra Dun and eventually most of India's war-blinded came there for rehabilitation and to learn a trade before returning to their homes and villages; many were also able to master Braille and to typewrite.

So successful had the St. Dunstan's Centre become that when India became self-governing in 1950, the Government of India took it over and began developing a comprehensive National Centre for the blind there. This Centre now provides a wide range of services for some of India's blind, including training for open employment, the publication of Braille literature and the making and supply of appliances to nearly all the blind institutes of the country. There are training places for over 150 blind men and women at the Centre and more recently a model school for 100 blind children has been added.

Dehra Dun

When I visited Dehra Dun, I found the Centre to be extremely well run, both staff and trainees being full of enthusiasm in the work they were doing. There is modern engineering equipment and, in addition, Indian handicraft articles were being made by trainees who desired to work subsequently from their own homes.

There is still a small section at Dehra Dun specially concerned with the war-

blinded and I was particularly pleased to see the name "St. Dunstan's" still in use. Indeed St. Dunstan's and the late Sir Clutha Mackenzie are held in great esteem at Dehra Dun and a St. Dunstan's Committee in India looks after any special needs of their war-blinded. Of course, the war-blinded in India now include other than those who fought with us during the Second World War, but I met at the Centre three of the original St. Dunstaners who are employed there. I also talked with several members of the staff, both blind and sighted, who had been to England on instructional courses in the past. All at Dehra Dun gave me a warm welcome and I conveyed to them the good wishes of St. Dunstan's.

World Council

The World Council for the Welfare of the Blind is an International Organisation with 60 member countries, its main purposes being to work for the welfare of the blind and the prevention of blindness throughout the world, and to institute joint action for the improvement of standards for all blind persons.

The theme of the World Council meetings held in New Delhi last October was "The Blind in an Age of Science". Among the subjects discussed were, Communications, Employment, Recreation, Technological Research and Equipment. The Council expressed deep concern that some two-thirds of the world's blindness—it is estimated that there are between four and five million blind people in India alone—is due to preventable causes, much of it curable, and emphasised that all organisations concerned must achieve a greater priority and sense of purpose in this work.

In India great strides have been made in the last two decades, by introducing agricultural and rural training schemes, by placing blind workers in industry, by providing sheltered workshops and other measures, but their problem is a massive one, particularly as so many live in rural areas. Nevertheless progress is being made and it is hoped that the discussions at New Delhi, the first Assem-

bly of the World Council to be held in Asia, will impart a greater stimulus to all those working for the welfare of the blind, in whatever country they may be.

It is interesting to note that when the World Council was constituted in 1951, a St. Dunstaner, the late Colonel E. A. Baker, co-founder of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, was elected its first President; he held this office

until 1964 when he was succeeded by another St. Dunstaner, Mr. Eric T. Boulter, a Londoner who was blinded whilst serving with the British Army during the Second World War who now lives in the U.S.A. and is Associate Director of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. He is succeeded by Mr. Charles Hedkvist, who is President of the Swedish Organisation of the Blind.

FRANK REVIEWS

"The Gods Are Not Mocked" By Anna Taylor, Read by Michael de Morgan. Often after reading a book I have to spend considerable time thinking through the story and plot in order to ascertain what the author is trying to tell us. In this case I can only assume that Miss Taylor seeks to prove that, whatever God you worship, you must live by your society's code. A most interesting story, basically dealing with the consequences which arose from Julius Caesar's first invasion of Britain, which include the capture of a Kentish War Chief, a king's daughter, and her friend and protector a Druid Priestess, who are taken as hostages by the Romans. The story then turns to Rome itself; the life of the City's aristocracy, its political intrigues and utter corruption.

Probably the basics I have set down here have made the meaning clear to you before reading this book. I hope not; for it is a well written piece of work, skilfully constructed and well worth thinking over after you have read it.

A word of warning though. There are parts in it which may offend the squeamish.

"Some Must Watch" by Belton Cobb, read by Elizabeth Proude. Sometimes, as now, I find myself in a dilemma when writing this column, for there seems to be no suitable heading under which to classify this book.

As a detective thriller it fails to thrill; it is hardly a romance as the situations are wrong. Light reading? Well, not for me, as it waffles on in places so much that I could hardly keep my eyes open. The only possible heading seems to be mystery, by which I mean—Why on earth did the author bother to write it?

"Death At The Dolphin" by Nigel Marks, read by Arthur Bush. When Peregrine Kay views an old derelict Theatre he does not expect to be half drowned in a stagnant pool of water, rescued by an eccentric millionaire, shown a priceless relic of the Shakespeare family, and have his wildest dreams come true. Of course he happily accepts the situation, then out of the blue comes murder and mystery, making a thoroughly readable book, and one which will keep your interest from the first track to the last.

My only criticism is "a little too good to be true at times". But then, perhaps a touch of the old fairy god-father routine is good for the soul.

"A House For Sister Mary" by Lucilla Andrews, read by Denise Atterson. I think this book should be entitled "Change Partners" but I won't quibble with the authoress over the matter. Certainly a nice pleasant love story, ideal for the ladies and men who like nurses. Need I say more.

A New Year Wish

Remembrance, good cheer
And keeping in touch,
After Christmas is past
With jollity and such;
Here's a good reason
That's made to last,
The joys of the Season
Health, happiness remain,
'Till the next New Year
Comes round here again.

F.S.

There are St. Dunstan's athletes whose times over 75 yards, or whose scores in ten-pin bowling, or whose throws in the discus are better than Bill Griffiths. Yet none of our sportsmen will begrudge him his award as Disabled Sportsman of the Year for 1969. For Bill has made himself an all-round sportsman in the face of total blindness and the loss of his hands.

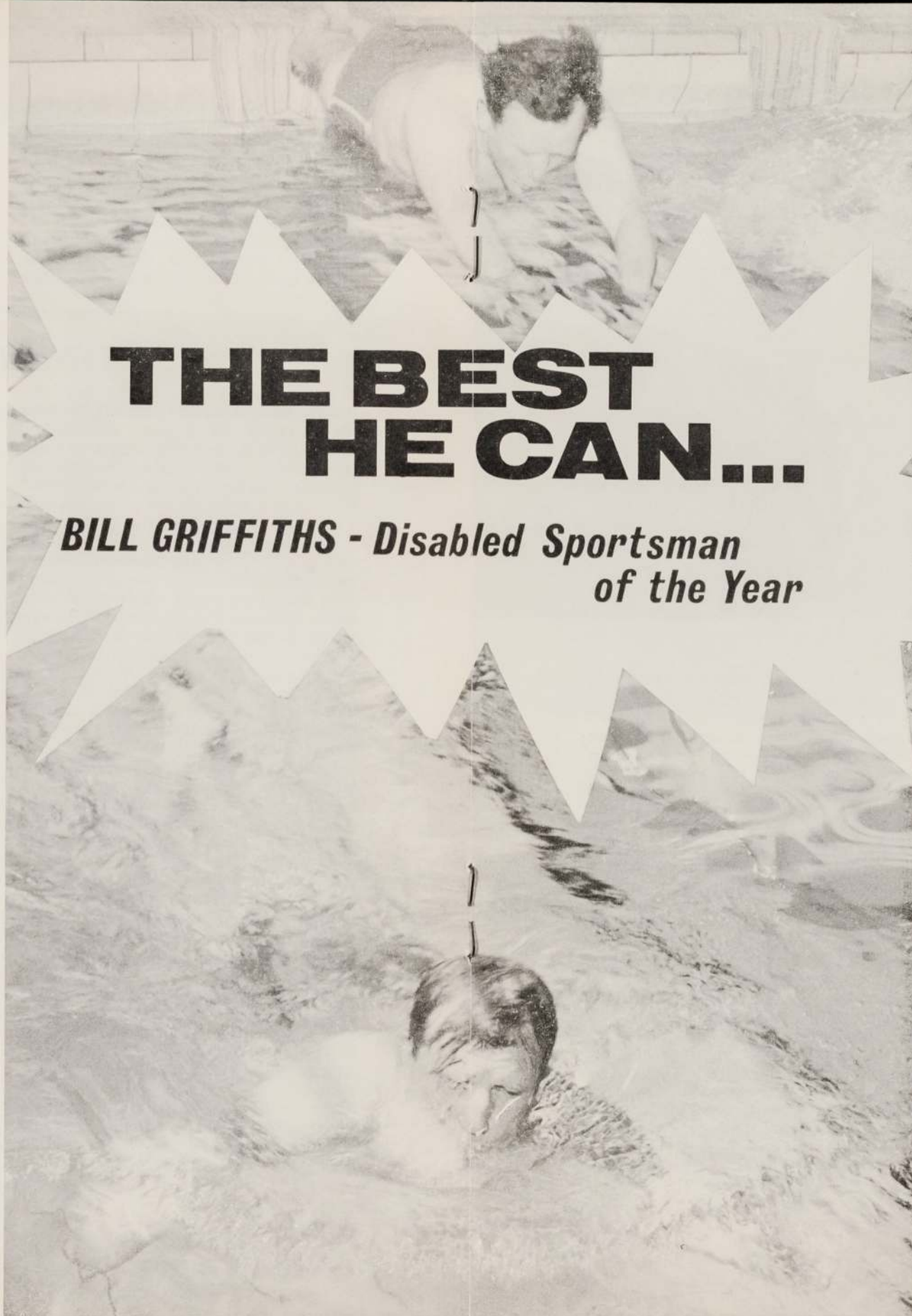
On December 8th he received his trophy, a gold cup surmounted with a male athlete holding a laurel wreath, from Mr. Denis Howell, M.P., Minister with special responsibility for sport, at a Dinner and Dance held at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel in London. The award is one of several made by the Sportswriters' Association and Bill was in fine company when he stepped up for his trophy with seven top sportsmen and six sports women headed by Tony Jacklin and Ann Haydon Jones.

He was recommended for the award by Sir Ludwig Guttman, of Stoke Mandeville fame, who had been impressed by Bill's performances with the St. Dunstan's teams at the Stoke Mandeville Games in recent years and his efforts with our successful team at Kerpape, France, in the International Games for the Disabled.

Wanted to Die

Bill has certainly come a long way since the days in a Japanese prisoner of war camp hospital when, having been so gravely wounded, he wanted to die as quickly as possible. Perhaps, had he known about the incident then, he would not have been grateful to Sir Edward Dunlop, as he now is, the Australian commandant of the hospital, who stood between him and a Japanese guard who intended a rough and ready form of euthanasia with his bayonet. Now, through his wife Alice and their singing career together; through his work for St. Dunstan's as a speaker and through his sport, Bill remembers how much he owes Sir Edward.

After training at St. Dunstan's Bill Griffiths began a road haulage business in Blackburn. His family has an old and well-respected name in the town but even so the effects of the nationalisation of road transport brought Bill's business down. It was a bad time for Bill but in 1961 he was enjoying "gadding about" as he put it attending a Far East Reunion and St. Dunstan's Handless Reunion. He had taken



THE BEST HE CAN...

BILL GRIFFITHS - Disabled Sportsman of the Year

up singing lessons and he sang duets with a Mrs. Alice Moran entertaining in old peoples' and social clubs in the locality. Bill and Alice had known each other since childhood and in June 1962 they were married. Bill describes his wedding as the turning point of his life.

Only a few months later he won his first singing competition—the Clifton Trophy for baritone solo at the Southport Festival. Bill and Alice continued their study of music together and first sang professionally at The Dome, Brighton in November 1964.

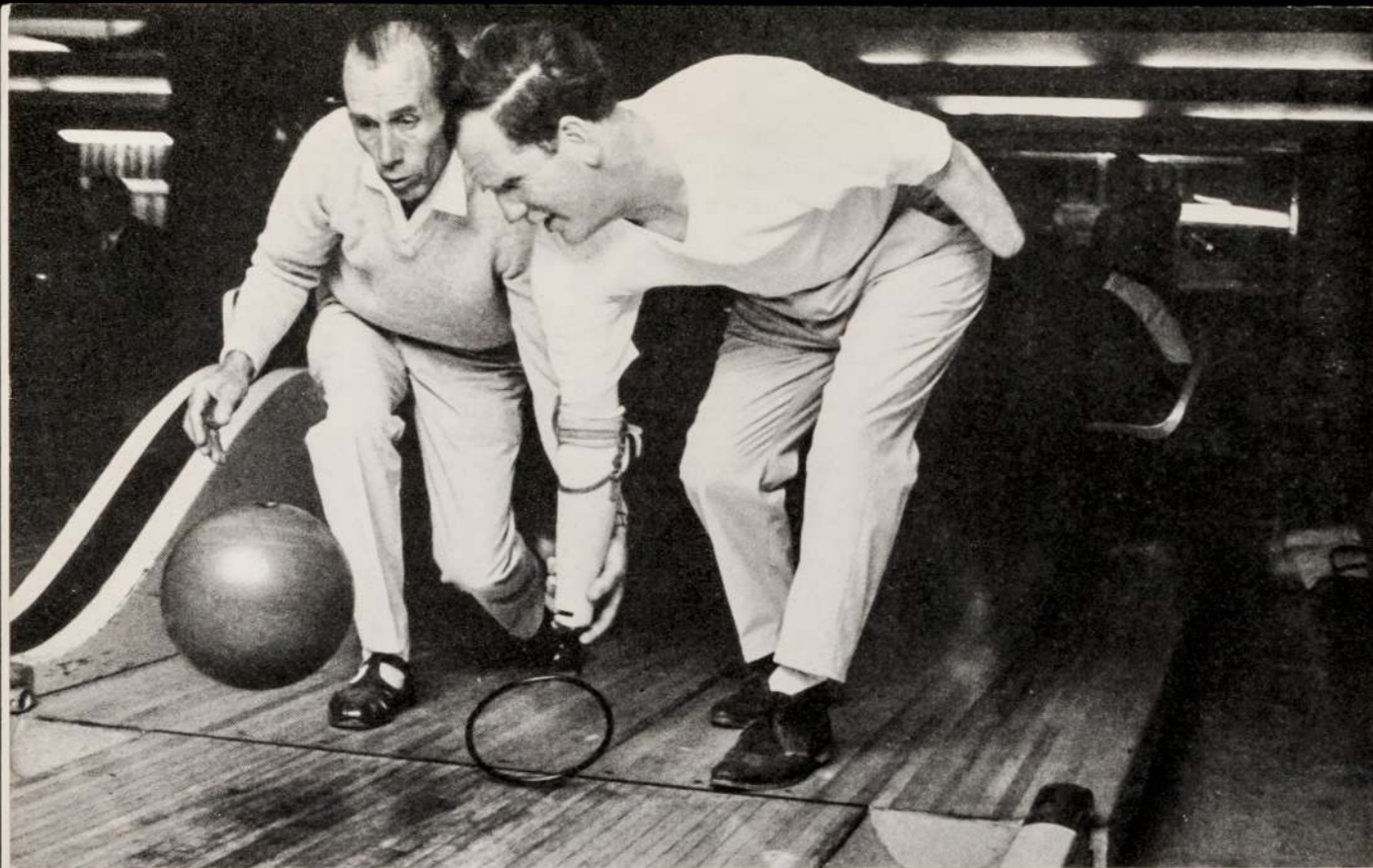
His re-awakened interest in sport began on the electronic rifle range at Ovingdean, competing in the tournaments at the reunions of handless St. Dunstaners. He won the trophy in 1963. The first Sports Week-end in the new series at Ovingdean in 1964 was the next spur. Bill Griffiths' name appears in the records as third in rifle shooting; he won the doubly handicapped swimming race; clocked 13.2 seconds in the 70 yards sprint and jumped 5 feet 9 inches in the standing long jump. There was another result to show the Griffiths partnership was still going strong: 1st in the Ladies' Shoe Race: Mrs. W Griffiths.

Steady Improvement

In the 1969 Sports at Ovingdean Bill came second in the doubly handicapped rifle shooting; clocked 12.7 seconds in the 75 yards sprint (note the increased distance); and jumped six feet eight inches in the standing long jump. Although Wally Lethbridge had the beating of him in the swimming pool, the records show Bill's steady improvement.

What do other people think of Bill Griffiths, Disabled Sportsman of the Year? The local press already speaks of him as a legend; Sir Ludwig Guttman said: "I have no hesitation in recommending this brave man who, in spite of his tremendous disabilities, has taken up active sport in which he has attained a remarkable standard".

Bill Miller, St. Dunstan's team captain at Kerpape: "I was absolutely delighted to hear that Bill had been nominated. If anybody does deserve it Billy does and I, for one, was certainly disappointed when he came away from Kerpape without any award at all. When you swim, in particular, the arms are all important, specially when you can't see where you are going.



Jock Carnochan coaching Bill in the use of a ten-pin-bowling device.

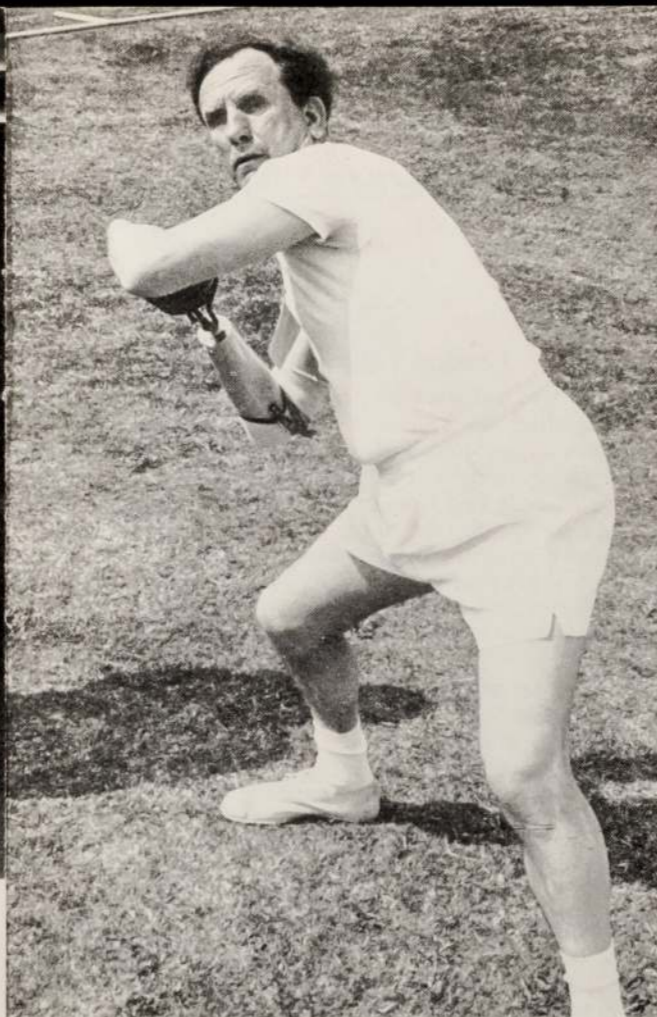


Bill and Alice at the Dome, Brighton for their first professional singing engagement.

Billy hasn't any hands to guide him either yet he dives in off the starting box. He tries to be as normal as anybody possibly can".

Jock Carnochan, St. Dunstan's Sports Officer: "He has increased the area of his sporting activity—he has gone from two or three events to the full programme. The man who nominated him, Sir Ludwig Guttman, has more knowledge of doubly disabled people in sport than anybody I can think of and a nomination coming from someone like him is really something. Bill is finding there are lots of things he can do that he never thought possible. He has the determination to do it. He has the interest to do it. I agree 100 per cent that he is a worthy choice for the award".

Norman French, St. Dunstan's Research Engineer, who has designed the equipment which helps Bill and his other handless friends to take part in sport: "Bill has always been among the foremost in using adaptations for the handless men, he has always had a go. Whether it has been a failure or not he is always willing to try.



I remember the day he first went into the St. Dunstan's sports: he turned round to us and said, 'My, they're all professionals here, if I'd known I'd have brought my pumps with me'. That was his first reaction; little did he realise that in three or four years he would be up in that class".

One of Many Letters

Another view of Bill Griffiths comes from the Chairman of an organisation visited by Bill and Alice recently—one of many such tributes received at St. Dunstan's.

"All the members said what a wonderful meeting it was, and how marvellously cheerful Mr. Griffiths was. They all enjoyed his talk immensely and were very much impressed by his magnificent spirit in the face of his cruel disabilities. I think they were also very appreciative of Mrs. Griffiths' courage and devotion in helping him to surmount his troubles so splendidly. I think most people who were there will think twice about letting their own so much smaller troubles get them down in future. It was a truly inspiring meeting.

... and Bill, himself, "I'm not anything brilliant or wonderful. I just take part for the fun and do the best I can".

Bill Griffiths putting the shot.

Fishing—My Disease

by Robert Cameron, a severe case!

There is at least one further confirmed case of "Pointon's disease". Although the symptoms have only recently manifested themselves, diagnosis was instantaneous, but the patient is delighted to learn that there is no known cure.

Prior to reading about the fishing activities in the *Review*, it had never occurred to me that this might be a sport in which I might participate with any degree of success. Following further enquiries, I attended several fishing weekends and was surprised to note the way in which other St. Dunstaners coped with conditions to be found on a deep sea fishing boat.

Despite my short acquaintance with the sport, I am already the proud possessor of my own fishing gear, which I am still in the process of learning to master, (fellow anglers please note). I have adopted the habit of visiting my local park, where I diligently practise casting. My catch to date being:— one uprooted rose bush, two frightened dogs and one irate park keeper. I hope, however, to achieve a more orthodox catch on my next legitimate fishing expedition.

Each individual derives his own particular brand of pleasure from any one sport. For myself, the quiet companionship of one's friends, the pleasant isolation from the

hustle and bustle of everyday life, all add up to a very rewarding and none-too-strenuous day. Finally, to return to harbour with a small sense of achievement, feeling pleasantly weary—albeit a trifle smelly, with the prospect of a hot bath, a good meal and later, perhaps a glass of one's favourite brew, constitutes the perfect end to an even more perfect day.

ST. DUNSTAN'S FISHING CLUB

An informal meeting of St. Dunstan's fishing enthusiasts took place in the Braille Library at Ovingdean on 22nd November. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the launching of St. Dunstan's Fishing Club, due to the increased interest and participation in fishing during the past three years. The forming of such a club may well prove of social and recreational value to St. Dunstaners already taking part and those thinking about it.

In order to get the keel laid a Steering Committee was appointed as follows:—

President. **Lord Fraser of Lonsdale.**
 Chairman. **A. C. Pointon.**
 Hon. Sec. **J. Carnochan** (Sports Officer).
 Hon. Treas. **S. Spence.**
 Committee. **R. Young, L. Brown, D. Bingham.**
 Weight Master. **R. Moore.**
 PRO and
 Fishing Adviser **D. O'Kennedy**
 (N.F.S.A.)

This committee was asked to draft the Constitution and Rules and present them at the Inaugural Meeting which we hope to hold early in 1970.

Would any St. Dunstaner interested in becoming members of St. Dunstan's Fishing Club please contact the Hon. Sec. **J. Carnochan, Sports Office, Ovingdean, Brighton, Sussex.**

J. CARNOCHAN,
Sports Officer

University Honour

Congratulations to Professor K. H. C. MCINTYRE, Head of the Department of History and Political Science at the University of Natal, who was formerly an Associate Professor but has recently been promoted to a full Professorship.

Club News

London Club Notes

It was satisfactory to see the number attending our Thursday evenings were not quite so depleted in the last two months as formerly, and it is pleasant to know that old friends find time to visit the Club. We are always pleased to see them, but we do hope they will manage to keep it up!

Joe Huk with his team Huddersfield, Paul Nuyens with Manchester City and Mrs. Murray with Leeds, all shared the first prize in the November Football Pontoon, which ran for five weeks. Mrs. Ron Stanners won the "booby" with Carlisle as her team.

Domino Games were won by the following members during November.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| November 6th | 1. G. Stanley 2. W. Harding |
| November 13th | 1. C. Hancock 2. W. Muir |
| November 20th | 1. G. Stanley 2. W. Muir |
| November 27th | 1. C. Hancock 2. W. Harding 3. W. Miller |

May I take this opportunity of wishing our members and indeed St. Dunstaners everywhere, a happy and prosperous New Year.

W. MILLER.

New Sutton Club

The new Club for St. Dunstan's men and their families living in the Surrey Area will meet at Sutton Adult School, Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, on the following dates—January 3rd, February, 14th, and March 14th. All meetings on Saturdays at 3 p.m. The first will have an entertainer to celebrate the New Year. Any St. Dunstaner in the area will be very welcome. Please telephone our secretary, Miss D. Hoare at 01-858 3003 or myself at 01-894 9741 and we will give you directions for getting to the School.

JOHN TAYLOR,
Chairman.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK

It Strikes Me

Gift Wrapped

Our Sales Department sent a bedside cabinet to Bermuda recently and our Homecrafts Manager, **George Zipfel** tells me he has had a letter reporting its safe arrival and praising the packing in more ways than one. The letter read:

"I've just received the bedside cabinet. It arrived perfectly—your packing department did a beautiful job. We also appreciated the newspapers they used for packing—the 'News of the World' was an excellent choice because that sort of news is just as good even when it's over a month old (the 'Sunday Times' dates too quickly) and English papers are an expensive luxury in Bermuda. You gave us a lovely evening's entertainment."

Walk Tall

The Havanna, one of the oldest shops in Hastings, closed down on November 29th. Its proprietor, our St. Dunstaner **Les Dennis** has been forced to give up his business through ill-health. He took over the Havanna on November 11th, 1964 and before that he was in business in Croydon for some twelve years.

His retirement from shopkeeping may mean a resumption of one of the most successful athletic careers in St. Dunstan's; for Les plans to walk his way back to health, "strolling a bit on the road and, as there is no athletic club or track here, using my roller training machine." Les holds a unique distinction—he is the only blind man to have twice walked 100 miles in less than 24 hours. His first effort in the London to Brighton and back race, 106 miles which he completed in 23 hours, made him Centurion number 295, a member of one of the most exclusive clubs in athletics. His second 100 was at Chigwell in 1961, ten laps of a hilly ten mile circuit, when he finished fifth in an international field of sighted walkers. His escort for the last twenty miles was Paul Nihill, gold medallist in the European Games. In addition Les has successfully completed eighteen London to Brighton walks and nine Hastings to Brighton races.

Now he wants to get back to race-walking, "Every time I see the results in the *Review* I get nostalgic—I'd like to get fit again and meet up with the lads at Ewell and have a beer with them in the 'Drift Bridge'. It was always my ambition to do another Brighton when I am sixty. That's in about fourteen months time—if I can come off the ropes, as it were." With a record like that who is to say that he cannot? Good luck and walk tall, Les!

MAGOG



ON THE ROLLER TRAINER

Bridge Notes

Bridge Congress

The Bridge Congress got well under way when forty-eight members of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club gathered at Ovingdean on Saturday morning, 16th November, to take part in the Fours Competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup.

As is customary, a buffet party was held in the Canteen on the Saturday evening, when our helpers joined the members in a really jolly social occasion.

On the Monday afternoon we were most pleasantly surprised by the visit of our former matron, Miss F. Ramshaw, who at the conclusion of the Congress that evening presented the winners of the various competitions with their trophies and prizes. Afterwards Miss Thelma Meredith, on behalf of all our members, presented bouquets of Autumn flowers to Matron Blackford, Miss Ramshaw and Miss M. Dagnall.

Our Captain then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Alf Fields, and to our new Tournament Director, Mr. G. Connell for their splendid organisation which so greatly contributed to the success of the Congress. In addition to expressing his thanks to Mr. Connell (one of the leading tournament directors in the country), our Captain was happy to announce that we would be fortunate in seeing him again at our next instructional week-end in February 1970 and at the Congress later that year.

CONGRESS COMPETITION RESULTS

Saturday Morning

FOURS COMPETITION— SIR ARTHUR PEARSON CUP

1. *R. Armstrong and Miss Blodwyn Simon. J. Huk and W. Allen.*
2. *F. Rhodes and E. Carpenter. P. Pescott-Jones and J. Simmons.*
3. *H. Ward and R. Evans. M. Tybinski and F. Pusey.*

Saturday afternoon

PAIRS CUP—ELIMINATING

- First N.S. *F. Rhodes and E. Carpenter.*
First E.W. *R. Bickley and R. Fullard.*

Sunday Morning

FINAL PAIRS— SIR ARTHUR PEARSON CUP

1. *Mike and Vi Delaney.*
2. *E. Carpenter and F. Rhodes.*
3. *J. Whitcombe and J. Chell.*
4. *R. Bickley and R. Fullard.*
5. *B. Ingrey and D. Giffard.*
6. *P. Nuyens and A. Caldwell.*

FIRST BRIDGE DRIVE FOR REMAINDER

1. *R. Stammers and Partner.*
2. *W. Allen and J. Huk.*

GOVER CUP

- London, *P. Nuyens.*
Brighton, *B. Ingrey.*

Sunday Afternoon

DRUMMER DOWNS CUP

1. *J. Lynch and J. Chell.*
2. *F. Mathewman and T. Woods.*
3. *A. Caldwell and Miss Thelma Meredith.*
4. *H. King and R. Evans.*

Monday Morning

INDIVIDUAL CUP—LORD FRASER

1. *R. Armstrong.*
2. *H. King.*
3. *F. Rhodes.*
4. *F. Pusey.*
5. *P. Nuyens.*

SECOND BRIDGE DRIVE FOR REMAINDER

1. *R. Freer and Mrs M. Stanway.*
2. *S. Webster and F. Mathewman.*
3. *W. Lethbridge and F. Dickerson.*
4. *Mike and Vi Delaney.*

PRIZES FOR PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT

1. *F. Rhodes.*
2. *E. Carpenter.*
3. *M. Delaney.*

Monday Afternoon

BRIDGE DRIVE (WITH SIGHTED HELPERS)

1. *Miss V. Kemmish and D. Waldech.*
2. *B. Ingrey and J. Huk.*
3. *Mrs. M. Stanway and P. Nuyens.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Congress opened with the thirty-first Annual General Meeting on Friday evening, 15th November.

Commandant L. Fawcett took the chair. After last year's minutes had been passed, he read the Captain's Report, which was followed by that of the Treasurer. Both having been unanimously adopted the meeting proceeded with the election of the Committee.

As a result the following members were elected:—

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Captain-Secretary | R. Armstrong |
| Vice-Captain | R. Fullard |
| Treasurer | S. Webster |

Other Committee members:—

Miss Vera Kemmish, P. Nuyens, J. Lynch and J. Whitcomb, co-opted member.

It was decided to send a donation of two guineas to the Blind Deaf Fund.

Vote of Thanks

After a vote of thanks to the Commandant, Matron Blackford, to all helpers, members of the Staff at Ovingdean, and Headquarters had been proposed and unanimously adopted, the Chairman thereupon closed the meeting.

Important Notice

The Instructional Week-End will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th February, 1970. I would be pleased if those wishing to attend and also members' wives who are interested in Bridge, will notify me as soon as possible at **St. Dunstons, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.**

ROY ARMSTRONG
Captain.

Competitive Bidding

by
Alf Field

Board 79. Dealer West. Love All.

The Bidding so far:— West "One No Trump", North "Double", East "Two Hearts". You are South and hold:—

S. A, Q, 9, 8, 7, 6
H. 3
D. J, 8, 4
C. 9, 4, 2

Before you make your Bid as South may we pause and interpret the bidding so far for the newcomers to Bridge, please.

West has 13-15 Points and a balanced Hand.

North has 15 Points or more, remember he plays after West which makes North's Hand more powerful. In these circumstances North doubles for "Penalties" (unlike a double of a suit bid which is "Take out", compelling Partner to bid his longest suit).

Now round to East who considers the situation thus:—

West has minimum 13. North has min. 15=28 from 40 leaves 12 Points "floating" between East and South. There are three

Bridge Notes

Groups of bid he can make: (A) With 10 to 12 Points he "Redoubles" meaning—"We have a Game Bid on a luscious penalty". (B) With zero to 9 Points, East says "No Bid" unless he has (C) a five card suit or more in which case he may make a "Run-away" bid from the "One No Trump doubled."

Here are two examples of (C)

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| | C.1 | | C.2 |
| S. XXX | | S. XX | |
| H. A, J, XXX | | H. J, XXXXX | |
| D. X | | D. X | |
| C. Q, XXX | | C. XXXX | |
| (Two Hearts) | | (Two Hearts) | |

N.B. They are in effect "Bust" XX Responses to a non. vul. one N.T. but (C.1.) comes very near to a "canny" No Bid. With more than half of the "Floating 12" East wants West to play in One N.T. doubled but is deterred by the singleton Diamond and wisely (or cowardly?) bids "Two Hearts".

Now to THE problem. Do you now as South bid Two, Three or Four Spades? I suggest "Three" for these reasons:—"Two" would describe a Hand of (C2) pattern with about 5 points, it is a voluntary bid, a calculated competitive bid which maybe will go one or even two "Light." Three spades would describe a similar Hand but richer in points (more than half the "Floating 12") and a good five card suit or more. The jump bid encourages North to bid game in 3 N.T. or, 4 spades if he holds an Honour in that suit. South must not bid "Four Spades" even "Two Hearts" unless his suit is solid, say A, K, J, 9, 8 at least. Now if you wish to browse over a problem in play, here is the full deal.

| | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | S. 4, 3 | | |
| | | H. A, K, 9, 2 | | |
| | | D. K, Q, 9, 6 | | |
| | | C. A, Q, 10 | | |
| S. K, J, 10, 2 | N | S. 5 | | |
| H. Q, 10 | W | | E | H. J, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 |
| D. A, 10, 7 | | | | D. 5, 3, 2 |
| C. K, J, 5, 3 | S | C. 8, 7, 6 | | |
| | | S. A, Q, 9, 8, 7, 6 | | |
| | | H. 3 | | |
| | | D. J, 8, 4 | | |
| | | C. 9, 4, 2 | | |

Contract A.
"Three No Trumps" by North and East leads Spades 5.
Contract B.
"Four Spades" by South and West leads Heart Queen.
Can either contract be defeated? Best play from both sides remember.

OVINGDEAN HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

Owing to the closing of Pearson House for rebuilding the number of beds available at Ovingdean for Annual Holidays will be somewhat restricted in 1970.

Priority will therefore be given to St. Dunstaners obliged to take their holidays during periods fixed by their employers provided their applications are received by 31/1/70. Thereafter all requests for holidays will be dealt with in date order.

Bookings for second holidays during the Summer months will be listed and allocated in date order after 30/4/70 by which date, it will be presumed that all first holiday bookings will have been made.

C. D. WILLS

... and a Happy New Year

Each Christmas the offices at Headquarters, at Ovingdean, and Pearson House are enlivened by displays of Christmas cards addressed to staff and V.A.D.'s. Although the recipients are deeply touched, the cards are too numerous to be answered personally and this message in the *Review* is one of greeting, thanks and good wishes to all St. Dunstaners and their families for 1970.

Matron Blackford, Ovingdean.
Commandant Fawcett, Ovingdean.
Matron Hallet, Pearson House.
Mr. Matthews, Estate Department.
Miss Midgley, Northern Area, Welfare.
Dr. O'Hara.
Mr. D. F. Robinson, Country Life.
Miss Rogers, Southern Area, Welfare.
Mr. Wills, Welfare Superintendent.

GETTING BETTER

MR. PETER MATTHEWS would like to express his thanks for the numerous messages of sympathy and encouragement which he has received during the period of his illness and convalescence. At the time of going to press we are pleased to report that he is well on the road to recovery and he hopes to be back at his desk fairly soon.

"Come Dancing" on T.V.

Julie, younger daughter of Raymond Vowles of Portsmouth, Hants, has appeared with three dancing friends in November in the Television Programme "Come Dancing" in the 'off beat' section of the programme. The number was called "Walk on the Wild Side."

Beside this, Julie, has also been working hard to pass various dancing examinations and has gained a distinction pass in the senior advanced grade for drama in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. She also gained a cup for song and dance with 90% in the Gosport Festival and the aggregate cup for highest marks for song and dance, tap and modern musical. She has passed Grades I, II, III, and IV, bronze, silver, gold and gold star in both the Stage Branch junior and senior section and numerous other prizes for junior and senior acting. Julie's ambition is to be a teacher of dancing.



Kitchen sink?

Living in dockland one experiences life at all levels from the highly respected citizen to the people who sink to an unbelievable low.

Liz and Ivy were neighbours in a block of flats. A knock on the door brought Ivy face-to-face with a distressed Liz. Her tale of woe went that her sick son, aged 14, was very poorly and she had called the doctor.

"He got to go to hospital," she blubbed, "and I aint got any pijamer. Can you lend me a pair?"

Ivy lent a pair willingly and off she went.

A few moments later Liz was back at Ivy's door.

"Got any Ajax scouring powder?" she said.

"Scouring powder," fumed Ivy. "Never mind cleaning your house. Leave it and get that boy ready for hospital."

"I don't want the scouring powder to do house cleaning," said Liz. "I want it to clean his ankles!"

British Talking Book Services for the Blind

- 581 LUTHULI, ALBERT
LET MY PEOPLE GO (1962)
Read by Stephen Jack. Luthuli, grandson of a Zulu chief, and a leader of African opinion, took up a stand for a multi-racial society and non-violence.
P.T. 10¼ hours.
- 603 LODWICK, JOHN
BID THE SOLDIERS SHOOT (1958)
Read by Eric Gillett. Living in France in 1939, the author joined the French Foreign Legion, was captured by the Germans, escaped, and was re-imprisoned before eventual repatriation.

Family News

Mrs. Lilian Lang

Readers of the Midland Club will be grieved to learn of the death on 18th November, 1969, of Mrs. Lilian Lang of Bowden, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Mrs. Lang will be remembered for her unflinching service to the Manchester Club between the wars. During the first war she worked on tea cars for the Y.M.C.A. visiting gun sites and observation sites.

From Overseas

From Lady Mackenzie, Manurewa, Auckland, New Zealand.

I enjoy reading the *Review* very much. Our Auckland Branch of St. Dunstan's is having a Christmas party which I hope to go to.

Births

On 22nd November, 1969, to LESLIE AND MARGARET SMITH of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, a son, Richard Leslie.

Marriage

BRITTON-SYLVESTER. On 28th November, 1969, Joe Britton, late of Pontefract, who has been living at Ovingdean, married Mrs. E. Sylvester.

MARSDEN-MARSTON. On 15th November, 1969, Edwin Marsden of Manchester, married Mrs. J. W. Marston.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. BILL PHILLIPS of Plaistow, E.13, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 25th November, 1969.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. W. D. FAULKNER of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th December, 1969. A family party was held on Tuesday 25th November, to celebrate the occasion.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:—

PERCY BARGER of Aston Clinton, Bucks, on the arrival of a fourth granddaughter, Helen Louise, who was born of 1st November, 1969, to his son and daughter-in-law, Gordon and Shirley, who live in Uppingham, Rutland.

ALBERT BOSELEY of Wallasey, Cheshire, on the birth of his second grand-child Segna, on 19th November, 1969, to his elder daughter, Nicola. Segna is a sister for Robert.

SAMUEL JACOBS of Wallasey, on the arrival of his daughter's second baby—Michaela.

JOHN AND MARY LAWSON of Warrington, Lancs, both St. Dunstaners, have become grand parents for the 8th time when their daughter Sylvia gave birth to her 7th child, on 11th June, to a son—Stephen.

FREDERICK MORGAN of Bristol became a grandfather for the 7th time when his daughter Sylvia presented him a boy born on 24th November, 1969.

CHARLES TONGE of Salford, became a grandfather the same week he became a St. Dunstaner—no connection! Andrea Jane was born to his daughter on 20th November, 1969.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:—

RONALD STANNERS of High Wycombe, Bucks, who has a second great grandchild, Julie Ann Nixie born on 22nd September, 1969.

Nest, only daughter of JOHN STEPHENS, of Ferryside, Carmarthen, married Naylor Swift on the 28th November, 1969.

Lesley Dawn, elder daughter of RAYMOND VOWLES of Portsmouth, Hants, married Robert Nuthall on 25th October, 1969.

Philip, son of ARTHUR CARTER of Bolton, Lancs, has been awarded the Senior Grade Certificate in Spoken English by the English Speaking Board.

Peter, son of SAMUEL JACOBS of Wallasey, is now a Flight Sergeant and had been awarded the trophy as best cadet of the year.

Kathleen, daughter of our St. Dunstaner THOMAS O'REILLY of Blackburn, Lancs, has passed the Local Government Training Board Clerical Examination in Outlines of Central and Local Government and in the use of English.

Sheila, daughter of JOHN READ of Weybridge, has passed both Hospital and State examinations for Nursing and is now a State Registered Nurse. She is still working at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey.

Mrs. V. Dennis of Portsmouth, widow of our St. Dunstaner the late GEORGE DENNIS, tells us that her grandson, Nigel Lavinton, aged 11 years, was chosen from the Naval Cadet Corps to play the Last Post and the Reveille on his bugle for their local Remembrance Sunday Church Parade. Mrs. Dennis feels that her husband would have been very proud of her grandson taking part in this Remembrance Day Service.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:—

MISS ELSIE ALDRED of Warrington, Lancs who mourns the death of her father on 15th November, 1969.

W. E. M. BLANDY of Reading, whose wife died very suddenly on the 14th November.

FREDERICK DICKERSON of Bristol whose mother died in September 1969. Mrs. Dickerson lived in Cambridge and our St. Dunstaner was her eldest son.

CHARLES HALE of Bristol on the death of his mother at Clevedon, his home, on 28th November. She was aged 92.

WILLIAM HARE of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who mourns the death of his wife on 9th December, 1969.

RICHARD HORNER of Holmfirth, Yorkshire, who mourns the death of his wife May, on 11th November, 1969. She died in hospital.

In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the death of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.


William Ronald (Ron) Birkin. *Lincolnshire Regiment.*

William Ronald (Ron) Birkin of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, died in hospital on 7th December, 1969. He was aged 57 years.

He served with the Lincolnshire Regiment from 1942 to 1945 and was wounded at Arakan, Burma, in 1944. He had been ill for some time, spending considerable periods in hospital. He was a widower. He leaves his parents and family.

George William Faiers. *East Kent Regiment.*

George William Faiers, late of Newmarket, Suffolk, died at Pearson House, Brighton, where he had been living for some time. He was 81 years of age.

He enlisted with the East Kent Regiment and served with them from 1916 to 1918 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1965. He had a serious operation at the end of that year and made a good recovery. He, unfortunately, fell ill again about a couple of months ago and his death, therefore, was not unexpected. He was a widower and leaves two sons, one who is in the U.S.A. 

Guy Foster. *102nd Canadians.*

Guy Foster, of Earl Grey, Saskatchewan, Canada, died on 17th July, 1969 at age of 82.

He served in the First World War with the 102nd Canadians and was wounded at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. He joined St. Dunstan's in July of that year. English born, Guy Foster had emigrated to Canada in 1904 and set up a farm in the Earl Grey District. After training at St. Dunstan's in Braille, joinery and netting, he returned to his home to resume farming in June, 1920. All through his life he maintained a great interest in managing his farm. He died in a Regina hospital after a year spent in nursing homes in Saskatchewan. He is survived by three sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Frederick Herbert Rowe. *Royal Flying Corps and Air Transport Auxiliary.*

Frederick Rowe, of Brighton, died at Pearson House on the 12th November, 1969, at the age of 79 years.

He served in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War and with the Air Transport Auxiliary in the Second War. As a result of accidents, his sight subsequently failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1954 when, in view of his age, he went to Ovingdean but did not take up any serious training. He lived in Brighton and had a number of interests, including music, woodwork and bowls. Recently, he stopped living alone in lodgings and stayed at Ovingdean and Pearson House, where he became seriously ill early in November. He was previously married and leaves one son.

William Patrick Scott, T.D. *London Scottish.*

Major W. P. Scott of Wembley, Middlesex, died on the 14th September, 1969, at the age of 76 years.

He served in the First World War and again in the Second War, when he joined up from the Territorial Army Reserve. His sight subsequently deteriorated and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1949 but, in view of his age, did not take up any training. His wife has been seriously ill for a number of years and they lived very quietly in Wembley. His death was very sudden and unexpected as he had been visiting relatives and collapsed in his son-in-law's car; he was taken to hospital but died immediately.

He leaves a widow and one married daughter.

Henry Ellis Williams. *Lancashire Fusiliers.*

Henry Ellis Williams of East Ham, London, E.6, died on 26th November, 1969 at the age of 88 years.

He enlisted with the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1964 when his sight failed as a result of his injuries in the 1st World War. He had already retired from business and enjoyed many years of happy retirement with his wife and family.

He visited Ovingdean soon after he became a St. Dunstaner but in recent years his health has slowly deteriorated and he and his wife have been taking life quietly in company with their family. He leaves a widow and married sons.