



St Dunstans
REVIEW
MAY



A Bouquet from Europe—Lady Fraser receives a gift of roses from Willy Hohm on the occasion of the International Sports Meeting held at Ovingdean in 1968.

COVER PICTURE: A Jubilee portrait of our Chairman, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, C.H.

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It is known to St. Dunstaners that I have been Chairman of the organisation for 50 years and there seems to be a general feeling that this fact must be celebrated. Consequently, there are to be three grand reunions in the United Kingdom in place of our usual eleven local reunions. The first British reunion will have just taken place in London as this magazine is published, the second at Bristol is on 20th May and the third at Liverpool on 17th June. Lady Fraser and I look forward with the greatest pleasure to meeting as many St. Dunstaners as possible at these parties.

In point of time, it happens that we were in Cape Town in March and we had a marvellous party there, at which the majority of all St. Dunstaners in Southern Africa from far afield were present with their wives. This is referred to in some detail in Jimmy Wright's report to the Editor and I can only say what very real pleasure the occasion gave to my wife and me.

I wish also to refer to the great reunion which Canadian St. Dunstaners will be holding in Toronto in June. Naturally, we were invited to go to this, but unfortunately, Lady Fraser and I have had to refuse this tempting invitation, because we cannot do more than we can do in one year.

Meantime, the Editor has shown me tributes he has received from various quarters and, while I would much rather comment on the year's events after they are all over—say, in the *Review* which will appear on 1st August, I feel I must say something now.

In so far as these parties are St. Dunstan's family occasions, I welcome them for St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners. But they are also a tribute to Lady Fraser and me and I wish to say that both of us are deeply moved by the warm-hearted thoughts which have prompted the reunion arrangements and are expressed in the messages from Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and our friends abroad.

We have certainly been together for a long time and the lively spirit of St. Dunstan's flourishes and helps to sustain us all.

Lady Fraser and I express our thanks to all our friends.

Perhaps I can end this note by saying that, as with so many St. Dunstaners and their wives, Lady Fraser has been and is by far the better half.

The Power Cuts

During the coal strike which led to power cuts, St. Dunstaners put up with things and made the best of the situation and I praise them for it. I also learned that the Commandant, Mr. L. Fawcett, very quickly organised an electricity supply for our Brighton Homes by borrowing powerful generators from the Army and from Messrs. Mackley and Co. Ltd. Two comments on this I wish to make—namely, to congratulate the Commandant and to note how ready and willing authorities of all kinds are to go out of their way to help St. Dunstan's in an emergency. This reflects credit upon St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners and I am most grateful for it.

Fraser of Lonsdale

Our Man in South Africa

Jimmy Wright reports

I felt greatly honoured to be nominated to represent U.K. St. Dunstaners at the Golden Jubilee Banquet in honour of Lord Fraser of Lonsdale's fifty years as Chairman of St. Dunstan's, at Arthur's Seat Hotel, Cape Town on 17th March. It was an occasion which will always remain a golden memory for Janet and me. Neither of us had ever visited South Africa and it was a wonderful experience to spend a week in Cape Town and four days in Johannesburg as guests of St. Dunstan's, (South Africa) a country virtually at the other end of the world.

St. Dunstan's reunions in South Africa are normally arranged on a regional basis, as the distance to Cape Town for many St. Dunstaners, could often be well in excess of 1,000 miles. To attend this very special occasion honouring our Chairman, Mrs. Baxter, the President of the newly formed St. Dunstan's Rhodesia, together with Mr. Gordon Patterson, their Chairman and his wife Bobby, travelled more than 1,200 miles from their homes in Bulawayo.

There were approximately 160 present at the Dinner and this number included some 25 non-European St. Dunstaners and their wives. Since I had the honour to propose the toast of St. Dunstan's, my first after dinner speech, I have very little recollection of anything that preceded it, including the excellent dinner. However, since I was the first speaker, I was at least able to enjoy the other speakers, who were—Mrs. Natalie Opperman, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), Lord Fraser, Mr. Colin Eglin, Deputy Chairman, St. Dunstan's (South Africa), Lady Fraser, Mr. Gordon Patterson, who made a presentation to Lord and Lady Fraser on behalf of Rhodesian St. Dunstaners, Admiral Bierman, a Vice-Patron of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), who proposed the toast of the guests, and last but by no means least, Mr. Jimmy Ellis, Welfare and Public Relations Officer for St. Dunstan's (South Africa).

As with all reunions, one can never seem to make contact with everyone that one wishes to meet, however, there was a

chance for more of us to meet each other the following afternoon, Saturday 18th, when we were invited to Milnerton Races, preceded by a luncheon on the Course. We were the guests of the Cape Town Turf Club, and we were generously entertained by members of both the Cape Town Turf and Jockey Clubs. Several of the races were appropriately named in honour of Lord Fraser's Jubilee Year. Two of our hosts were Sir Mordaunt and Lady Milner, who had a horse in the first and last races, and their horse, Miss Terese, made a good start by winning the first race.

You get good value when you go racing in South Africa, nine races in all, although perhaps not so good from the punters' point of view, as this provides ample opportunity to lose more money, as we soon discovered. However, we had a most exciting and enjoyable day. An enthusiastic South African St. Dunstaner who seemed to be enjoying beginners' luck was Iris De Reuck!

The week-end festivities ended on the Sunday with a splendid service conducted by the Chaplain to St. Dunstan's (South Africa), the Reverend Michael Norman at his Church, St. Stephen's, Pinelands, a suburb of Cape Town. For me this was a special pleasure as I had not seen Michael since our training days at Church Stretton, and it was the first time I had heard him conduct a service. The Church was filled to capacity, and many local children took part in the earlier stages of the service. The South African Air Force Association arranged a Ball, on Monday, 20th, in conjunction with the R.A.F.A. and St. John's Ambulance Association, at the Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town. This historic hotel had housed many famous names such as Cecil Rhodes, Kitchener, Nelson, and is a place of great character and charm, with beautiful grounds. Lord and Lady Fraser, the Mayor and Mayoress of Cape Town and Janet and I, were the guests of honour. I spoke to several guests who had thought little of travelling a thousand miles or so to come and enjoy what I can only describe as a tremendously exciting evening.

A cocktail party was arranged by the R.A.F.A. at the Mariners Club the following evening, and I had an opportunity to meet many of the ex-R.A.F. chaps who had trained in South Africa during the war years and decided to return and make it their home. Vic Duggan, and Cape Town branch Chairman of the R.A.F.A. had arranged this gathering for us and we must thank him for all his efforts to make us feel so welcome.

Throughout the whole of our visit to Cape Town, Jimmy Ellis, never once allowed us to have an inkling of a dull moment and our special thanks go to him, and to his wife Laura, for everything they did to help to make our stay in the Republic such a happy one for us both.

Our time in Cape Town was at an end, much to our regret, but there was more in store for us in Johannesburg. We were met at the Jan Smuts Airport by Doug Morris, the vice-Chairman of the Johannesburg branch of the R.A.F.A., accompanied by a Reporter of the *Star* evening paper—and a torrential thunder storm!!!

Springbok Radio

The following morning I was whisked off by Doug to be interviewed by Joy Anderson of Springbok Radio for her Sunday night programme "To-Night". By this time I had been joined by my old Guinea Pig friend Godfrey Edmonds, a founder member of the Guinea Pig Club, who had driven nearly four hundred miles, with his wife Gladys, from their home in Pietermaritzburg, to be with me. He and I had been in hospital together at East Grinstead, and he was the only South African member of the Club who had kept in touch. We knew that several Guinea Pigs had been living in the Johannesburg area, and together, Godfrey and I tracked down two of these. We took them along to the S.A.A.F.A. A.G.M. luncheon at the Union Club, the following day, and believe it or not, yet a third stray Guinea Pig was one of the members attending! Quite a reunion for the South African members of the G.P.C.

By a piece of good fortune, the Blind Bowling Tournament finals were taking place at Berea Park, Pretoria, on Saturday, our final full day in South Africa. I thought this might be a good opportunity of meet-

ing a few more St. Dunstaners whom I had not had a chance to make contact with in Cape Town. Beryl, wife of Dick Beaumont, one of the St. Dunstan's bowlers who had been taking part throughout the week of this contest, very kindly took us to Pretoria. On our arrival, Dick was in the middle of the Singles final which, I am pleased to say, he won together with the Pairs in the afternoon and, just for good measure, the Cup for the bowler who had made the most progress during the year.

Danny and Hennie Pretorius joined us at the pavilion and after lunch at the Park, took us to the home of their daughter and her family. We were then shown the beauty spots of Pretoria and finished off a highly successful day by joining Danny's brother-in-law who was celebrating his birthday with a cocktail party in his garden.

Day of Departure

Sunday 26th March arrived, the day of our departure for home. So much had been crowded into the eleven days we had been in the sub-continent of Africa; we had met so many people, renewed old acquaintances and made many new friends. We sincerely hope that we conveyed the spirit of the family of St. Dunstan's on your behalf, to our friends and colleagues of St. Dunstan's (South Africa).

Lord Fraser, Sir Ian as he was in 1944, and Lady Fraser were my first actual introduction to St. Dunstan's when I arrived in hospital at East Grinstead and I doubt if anything could have pleased me more than to have been present to share with them in this very special and happy occasion.

TWO LIFE SAVING AWARDS

BILL GRIFFITHS of Blackburn, Lancs., has just passed two Life Saving Awards—the Preliminary Safety Award and the Advanced Safety Award. The Blackburn Public Baths Superintendent was Bill's official examiner and handed him the appropriate badges. It was on the Superintendent's advice and encouragement that Bill "had a bash" at these awards.

GORDON WATTS of Norwich, Norfolk, has been voted on to the Committee of the local Social Centre for the Blind in Norwich and we wish him every success in this new venture.

Silly Mid-off and the Common Market

by Phillip Wood

General de Gaulle once said that we, the British, were not ready for his Common Market. We were not "European" enough.

Now it looks as if we are joining. Does this mean that at last we have become "European"?

Of course it doesn't! We are British to the core, insular, prejudiced, suspicious, every man jack a xenophobe to his fingertips.

Why, we don't even like ourselves very much! The Welsh are not too keen on the English, the English don't really care for the Scots—and the Irish don't like anybody. Come to think of it, we're not over fond of the chap in the next street.

To most Britons, Europe is represented by four or five tolerable holiday resorts, whose reputations stand or fall on the quality of their fish-and-chips. Europe is a Dark Continent full of incomprehensible foreigners driving on the wrong side of the road.

True, things are improving at last. More and more of these strange people are now learning a civilised tongue. Which is just as it should be. After all, we built up the greatest Empire the world has ever known on the simple precept that English shouted loud enough should be understood by everybody.

Perhaps as full members of the E.E.C. we may find that we will become more European, perhaps some of this "Europeanism" might just rub off. It might, for example, change our eating habits. Can we look forward to the time when stolid Yorkshiremen will sit sipping their *vin ordinaire* beneath the striped awning of a street pavement cafe in Huddersfield? Will 57 varieties of German sausage vie with pie and chips on our transport cafe menus? And will globe artichokes and *pasta* find favour with the workers in the ICI canteen? Can we really imagine little Johnny being admonished to "eat your saurkraut, it's good for you"?

Of course it ought to be a two-way traffic. What have we, the British, to offer them? Sport, of course.

Like cricket?

Naturally there'd be problems. We would start by pointing out that cricket is not the usual ninety minutes of violence, threats of mayhem and passionate embraces. We'd explain that it isn't really a game at all, but a pure tribal ritual occupying the better part of a week. In any case it can only be performed at all when there is sufficient light and it doesn't rain.

The game (we would say) is presided over, not by one, but by two officials. They are always elderly, always dressed as dentists and are bound by the very strictest vows of silence.

How could we explain to a volatile Belgian that should one of these god-like creatures deign to raise a forefinger the offending player takes no further part in the game. Nor does he fling himself on the ground in a paroxysm of demented rage or punch or kick anybody. He simply walks off with head erect, a perfect gentleman to the last.

How would we make a Frenchman understand the allegory of a six-foot Peter Lever bowling with two short legs. He would probably strike his forehead violently, make some sarcastic crack about Toulouse Lautrec and stalk off to drown his sorrows in absinthe or keg beer.

A Glance to . . .

It would be difficult indeed to explain to a young Italian male that "a glance to leg" or "a tickle round the corner" does not apply to *his* favourite sport but merely refers to the manner in which a ball is struck with a lump of wood.

And what about the niceties of bowling? Illustrating the googly or the Chinaman or "one out of the back of the hand" would provide quite an exercise in communication between a Berliner and a Mancunian.

One could so easily run into trouble with the field-placings. For we have a square leg who has two quite ordinary ones, grown men standing around in slips and a player fielding in the gully—except there is no gully, the ground is perfectly flat. To round off, what about explaining away the silly mid-off who is an eminently sensible fellow

really and the backward short leg with an Oxford degree and two legs of equal length.

The jargon of cricket could be a trifle confusing to the unwary beginner. To "Bowl a maiden over" has nothing whatever to do with a flannelled Don Juan. And when a player fails to score he is said to have made a duck. But, if he should repeat the performance in the second innings he has not "made two ducks" or even "a pair of ducks". No, he has made "a pair of spectacles" (many spectators subscribe to the theory that he probably needs them, anyway).

Not made like us

It would appear that teaching the foreigners to play the noble game of cricket could be fraught with the most painful difficulties. After all, the Continentals are not *made* like us. Insensitive Europeans are quite capable of committing the most heinous offences,—like not playing along the line, or worse, or merely thumping the ball right out of the ground without making absolutely certain that the feet were in the right position first. They may even turn up in short-sleeved shirts and sunglasses!

Come to think of it, cricket is definitely not for export—except to the Commonwealth of course.

But it is not for the Europeans.

After all, they're a funny lot, these foreigners.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From W. T. Scott of Rottingdean, Sussex.

"Thank you Harry Northgreaves for your fine example. A fine sportsman with a ready wit and sense of humour".

The first day I met Harry he was sitting in one of those creaky basket chairs in the lounge at the College Annexe in Regent's Park in December 1918. My escort called out to him. "Hello, Harry, not at work today?" "No—cobblers' half holiday today", came the quick reply.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The obituary to Harry Northgreaves will be found in the "In Memory" section.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1162

The Last Enemy

by Richard Hillary

Read by Corbett Woodall

Richard Hillary, a young Oxford undergraduate, is a member of the University Air Squadron before the war. On joining the Colours in 1939 he opts for Fighters, seeing in them the equivalent of medieval knight against knight, one fighter pilot pitching himself in mortal combat against another. Kill or be killed. He fights for no ideals, and is cynical of those of his fellows. Finding himself shot down in the North Sea and realising the state of his burns, he deflates his "Mae West" in order to kill himself but it is not to be. His parachute keeps him afloat until rescued.

In the brilliant hands of McIndoe he is not a model patient but on a short leave in London during the blitz, he gains the humility and the knowledge of one people, one purpose, against the Fascist evil, from a dying woman.

A forthright autobiographical description of the pilot's own attitudes as he saw himself. Yet he takes no credit for his obvious great courage, although he admires that quality in his comrades in hospital.

Cat. No. 1096

Enquiry

by Dick Francis

Read by Philip Treleaven

A fast moving story concerning Kelly Hughes, a jockey who, together with the horse's trainer, has been warned off for pulling up the favourite and thus coming in to second place. Kelly knowing he is innocent, and that witnesses have lied at the enquiry sets out to find who has framed him. He is not only in for an attempt on his life, but a roughhouse from an unscrupulous private detective, and a fight for his life against a maniacal woman armed with a razor sharp knife. In the end, though, he gets back not only his licence but something he, but not the trainer appreciates.



David Bell with former members of St. Dunstan's nursing staff in South Africa including; Moira Black, Laura Ellis, Piki Frost and Jean Martin

FROM CAPE TO CAIRO by David Bell

Sibyl and I sailed on the SS *Canberra* early in January on what proved to be a very interesting and exciting tour of the African Continent.

Two days after leaving the cold grey shores of Albion we were basking in the sunshine on the island of Tenerife. Going ashore for a tour of the island who should we meet but Miss Carlton on her way from Australia for a holiday in England. We exchanged news of St. Dunstan's and mutual friends and discussed the merits of our respective ships as Miss Carlton will, in a few months, return to Australia on the *Canberra*.

The port of Santa Cruz was not very attractive at first sight—a shabby typical dockside town. We drove up the hills to a plateau and found the ancient but picturesque city of La Luguna, narrow streets and quaint old houses. The Cathedral had golden treasures on view—at a price, but we drove on through sun-trapped valleys with concrete irrigation channels bringing water down from the hills to the banana plantations. We stopped to see them picked

and packed for the European market. Around us were examples of extreme wealth and poverty and this was also the main impression gleaned throughout Africa. We made our way back to the ship through a variety of stalls and vendors, the usual tourist trap.

At 6 p.m. we sailed through a maze of Russian, so called fishing vessels, a touch of the right-hand down a bit, into the open sea and onward south.

Life on board a big liner can be one of routine, but there is a choice of many functions to suit all tastes. Sunbathing, sampling the many bars, interesting lectures and classes for dancing and making Ascot hats for the races, all for augmenting our entertainment. From the Bridge came announcements of the ship's progress with information about our position in relation to the African coast and the historic islands of Ascension and St. Helena, etc., during the 12 day voyage. 6 days out from the U.K. we crossed the Equator with the usual high jinks of Father Neptune and his disorderly crew.

At Cape Town we said goodbye to the *Canberra* and the new friends made during the voyage who were going on to Australia.

A lovely clear, sunny morning for Sibyl's first view of Table Mountain—without its tablecloth. Jimmy Ellis, Mrs. Opperman and St. Dunstan's Committee gave us a grand red-carpet welcome. Later St. Dunstan's organised a reunion of the nursing staff who looked after me at Tembani 30 years ago. This was wonderful and I can never thank Mrs Opperman and Jimmy enough for all they did to ensure my warm reception.

We spent 10 days in the beautiful Cape Province; our hosts, Kaye and Owen Frye, lived on a fruit farm in Durbanville and we lived on the most delicious peaches, nectarines, plums, figs and so became acclimatised to life in the Southern Hemisphere. Friends took us over the routes of the 1820 pioneers, the Voortrekkers, with their long Cape Wagons and oxen struggled over the Hottentot Holland mountains—a journey tiring enough for us in a luxury car. We visited vineyards and a winery in the Stellenbosch district and an Apple Farm at Elgin, this farmer is branching out and making a success of growing raspberries and flying them to Covent Garden for Christmas.

Our next call was at Durban, then Pietermaritzburg to visit Winsome and Jimmie Collins who wish to be remembered to the Oribi boys. Albert Mason also sends regards, he is as jovial as ever.

To Johannesburg by plane where I met Dr. Penn in his new clinic, still called Brenthurst. 30 years on, he said, "you are as ugly as ever" and of course I said, "thanks to you", but I think he was pleased to see an old patient still living.

50 miles out of Jo'burg we had tea at a Royal Engineers holiday centre, Sappersrust, very popular with ex-Sappers and their families. They also have a shrine where the ceremony of turning the pages of the Remembrance Book is timed to coincide with the same ceremony at St. Paul's in London.

We stayed with many friends in the Transvaal and were taken to interesting places, amongst them, native hospitals, schools, locations, etc., giving us a little insight to the terrific problems with which they are trying to cope.

Flying on to Rhodesia, we stayed with another ex-nurse in Salisbury. Another interesting and politically uneasy country, trying hard to be fair and wanting to be understood—a white island in a black sea. Again we had to fly to do our sightseeing as distances are so great. Victoria Falls was well worth the effort, flying over it then walking 1¼ miles alongside the Falls through the rain forest (spray), listening to that mighty cascade of water, aptly named by the natives, the smoke that thunders. We sailed up the Zambesi and enjoyed everything there was to see and hear in that historic setting.

At Kariba Dam everything was laid on for us—two of the eight sluice gates were open, making an impressive boiling pot with the tons of water released to assist the Portuguese with their project further down the Zambesi.

Next on the visiting list was Zimbabwe, the ancient ruins of a medieval structure near Fort Victoria with the Acropolis at the top of a 350 ft. hill which we slithered up and down on a wet day. Nothing is known about the people who built this fascinating place though it has been dated at around 800 A.D.

As a visitor to Salisbury I was interviewed on T.V. and before leaving for Kenya we were invited to Government House for coffee with the President and his Lady.

In transit to Nairobi we spent one day in Blantyre, the capital of Malawi, a poor country but struggling economically, maintaining good relationships with the white countries in the South.

We were met by friends again in Nairobi and taken around its environs, visited a Maasai training centre and watched the tribesmen processing leather and various skins—what a pong! While at lunch in the house of the English couple who ran the centre some of the men walked in to watch us eating and see how the white people lived! We drove out to Lake Nakuru, the Flamingo Lake, a wonderful sight and sound when they take flight and again the smell!! Quite a thrill, we hope H.R.H. Prince Philip enjoyed it as much as we did. Again the political situation is very complex. They are going ahead with Africanisation, but are they doing the right thing for the right motives?

On to Cairo, for to those who knew it

during the war it has changed, the European influence has gone and not been replaced, nevertheless an interesting city with the Pyramids, Sphinx, Memphis, Mohamed Ali Mosque and the Mena Palace. Also for the tourists Son et Lumiere at the Pyramids—most impressive.

As the sun set over the Pyramids we said "farewell to Africa and the land of the waving palms"—all Desert Rats will know this well used epithet.

Our final stop before home was in Athens, such a contrast, the short hop over the Mediterranean into another world—clean, sparkling, refreshing and gay and expensive. A paradise for American tourists who climbed to the Acropolis with us to see the "heap of old stones" at the top. The temperature then (in March) was 12°C pleasantly warm during the day and a little chilly at night.

We were happy to land back in dear secure Albion, still cold, damp and grey. It is difficult to convey in this account the thrill and adventure of it all—travelling with different air lines, security checks, strange customs and languages and the political unrest, so worthwhile meeting old friends and their families, something to remember for a long time to come.

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.

George William Baldwin of West Molesey, Surrey, became a St. Dunstaner in March, 1972. He served with the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War and is at present employed in industry. He is married with a young family.

Frederick Arthur Livermore of Surbiton, Surrey, joined St. Dunstan's in March 1972. He served in the East Surrey Regiment in the First World War. He was on the Army Reserve and served in the Second World War. He is married with a grown-up family.

YOGA CLASSES

Mr. Frank Burkhill, B.A., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., who has studied various systems of yoga in India, has kindly offered to conduct classes at St. Dunstan's Headquarters. The system to be taught is known as Hatha Yog and the particular advantage for blind people is that movement is restricted to postures in order to strengthen and flex various parts of the body. The reward is said to be a resilient body, a sense of well-being and a more positive attitude to life.

There will be five training periods each lasting approximately 1½ hours. The first class will be held on Tuesday, 30th May, at 6.30 p.m. and the remaining four instruction periods at the same time on successive Tuesdays ending on 27th June.

The recommended dress for males is either a shirt and shorts or pyjamas and those attending should provide a body length blanket to lay on the floor.

It is hoped to make up a class of 10-12 St. Dunstaners, and wives are also welcome. Those interested please apply, as soon as possible, to the Welfare Superintendent at St. Dunstan's Headquarters.

Alec Rimmer of Maidenhead, Berks., has been associated with St. Dunstan's for some years but became a full St. Dunstaner in March 1972. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps in the Second World War. He is married with a grown up family.

John Edward Walker, of Bishop Wilton, near York, came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1972. He is married with one daughter and is a retired farmer. He served in the First War with the Royal Field Artillery and was wounded at Ypres.

Rowland William Walton of Flixton, Manchester, came to St. Dunstan's in March 1972. He served in the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, then with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars and finally with the Royal Armoured Corps during his Army service from 1937 to 1946. He was in Burma and was wounded there in 1942. He is married with two grown up children and a twelve year old son.

Ovingdean Notes

Although this is supposed to be a report of the March "happenings" we cannot wait to tell you about the Easter Weekend which was "betwixt and between". "Ah-ha", you say. "That means more chat about those bonnets". How right you are. Credit where credit is due, as our old Mum always says. We were full of admiration for all the bonnet makers and wearers. For the third year running we had the most delightful display. Big hats, and small hats. Hats covered in flowers, fruit and feathers. Comic hats, clever hats and glamorous hats. What a wonderful show! Our congratulations to all of you and thanks for making this year's Easter Bonnet Parade such a success. Thanks must also go to the Judges, Group Captain and Mrs. S. G. Lugg of Rottingdean, who were visiting us for the first time. They performed their difficult task with great charm and we hope that we may meet them again in the future.

LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS

Easter Male **Tommy Gaygan**
Two Buns in the Oven **Mrs. T. Gaygan**
Hatched **Mrs. Highcock, V.A.D.**
House of Fraser, 50 years **Bob Evans**
Mexican Easter **Miss Briant, V.A.D.**
Hot Cross Bun **Cyril Eighteen**
Breakfast Eggs **Mrs. Gee**
They grow on you **Mrs. Williams, V.A.D.**
The Pyramids **Fred Barratt**
Floral Tribute **George Stanley**
The Birds and the Bees **John Lee**
Country Garden **Mrs. J. Lee**
Jockey Cap **Barbara Bell**
Yellow Bonnet **Harry Dakin**

Of course, Easter really began for us on Good Friday. After lunch a coach-load of St. Dunstaners and their Escorts drove to Wyndham Farmhouse for tea. In the evening we listened to "The Aspern Papers" a play by Michael Redgrave. Considering that all our play-readings are done without any previous rehearsal this was rather an ambitious choice. Certain members of the cast began to wish they had obeyed the old adage "never volunteer". However all was well. Guest Readers Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lilley and Mr. Andreae combined with Miss Dagnall, Mrs. M. Williams and Mrs. E. Lane to give a delicate and understanding interpretation of this difficult play.

Luckily although the weather was not perfect we were able to enjoy outings to Plumpton Races on Saturday and Monday. The first of the Season! In spite of heavy showers overnight, the course was reasonably dry. Although we may have backed a few losers at least we did not have to dig in the mud to find our shoes!

On Easter Sunday we looked forward to being entertained by Miss Jay Thomas and her concert party. Over the years we have come to expect a high standard of performance and an atmosphere of gaiety from this party. We were not disappointed. A capacity audience enjoyed every minute of the show. Joe Swales gave a vote of thanks to the party and Margaret Stanway presented a bouquet to Miss Thomas.

Other Events

Other events during March included a "Music for Music Lovers" recital given by Miss Dagnall. Incidentally these gramophone programmes of good music have been running for a year now. We had two discussions, the first being "That the Common Market is our Salvation" with opening speeches by Fred Barratt and Eddie Allchin. Joe Langley and Paddy Cooke opened the second discussion on the subject "That a Law Should Be Passed to Enable a Doctor to Allow a Patient to Die". We were pleased to welcome the Brighton Tape Recording Club when once again they put on an evening entertainment prepared especially for us. A reading of the play "The Foolish Gentlewoman" was well received. The guest readers were Mr. Gus Tennyson and Mr. Les Harris. Mr. Harris returned the following week armed with a pile of records to give a most enjoyable gramophone concert. Mr. Harris's concert took place on Palm Sunday, which leads us nicely up to Easter. Wait a minute— isn't this where we came in?

Masonic Occasion

REGINALD THEOBOLD of Ipswich, a physiotherapist, has been Master of his Masonic Lodge for the past year and he recently presided at a very splendid Ladies' Night. His family including his mother, and friends attended.



Lord and Lady Fraser relaxing in their garden in Regent's Park

A UNIQUE ANNIVERSARY

Tributes from St. Dunstan's Worldwide

From the Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's

For fifty years Ian Fraser has been our Chairman with our beloved Lady Fraser by his side.

I believe it would be well-nigh impossible to over-estimate what these two remarkable people have achieved for St. Dunstan's during this time.

It was Lord Fraser's lot to follow our outstanding Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., not by any means an easy task to undertake, and to lead St. Dunstan's through the years of great expansion brought about by two World Wars and the periods of consolidation between and after them.

He has achieved this with signal success and has given hope and encouragement to thousands of blinded ex-service men and women.

Quite apart from his vitality and energy in the service of St. Dunstan's, he has found time to be a Member for many years of the House of Commons and later of the House of Lords and has, by his personal tenacity, been able to help the causes nearest to his heart—the blind, the ex-service community and the disabled. For many years he was President of the Royal British Legion and has used his persuasive powers in obtaining numerous increases in pensions for war disabled people.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind and other organisations concerned with blind welfare have benefited from his wisdom and advice. In addition through his widespread interests at home, in the Commonwealth, in South Africa, and many other countries he has travelled widely bringing prestige to the blind world, and has, to a great extent, been their representative and champion.

On behalf of the members of the Council and all St. Dunstaners we convey our thanks and best wishes to Lord and Lady Fraser and we hope that he will continue to lead us for many years to come.

Ion Garnett-Orme

From Australia

Our men on returning from active service found it very difficult to enter into a new life of blindness.

In 1960 Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, visited Australia. What an inspiration he was to our boys. He gave them the courage and determination to fight and win through to "Victory over blindness". Life was worth living after all.

To you Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, Australia sends heartiest congratulations on your fifty years as Chairman of St. Dunstan's and we sincerely hope you will remain in this position for years to come.

W. H. Luck

President, Australian Blinded Soldiers' Assn.

From Canada

The members of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded extend sincere best wishes and congratulations to Lord and Lady Fraser on the 50th Anniversary of their stewardship of St. Dunstan's.

The dynamic drive of Lord Fraser is quite evident in the success of his personal life as well as that of St. Dunstan's. So successful that one is apt to forget that like most of us he lost his sight in battle.

All the blind in Canada owe a great deal to St. Dunstan's. Its founding in 1915 by Sir Arthur Pearson inspired Canadian veterans to start a service programme (CNIB) for all the blind in Canada. Following the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Ian Fraser's guidance has created the present worldwide reputation of St. Dunstan's and benefited the blind of the world. The natural kindly understanding of our Honorary Vice-President, Lady Fraser, endears her to the hearts of all St. Dunstaners.

We wish them many more years of happy leadership.

F. J. L. Woodcock

Former Executive Secretary,

Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded

From New Zealand

The members of St. Dunstan's Blinded Services Association Inc. extend heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Lord Fraser of Lonsdale and Lady Fraser on the occasion of celebrating Lord Fraser's 50th anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

This is a great record of service in any organisation, and it is all the more credit to him when it is realised that it is but one



A memorial service for Sir Arthur Pearson at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. These services are an important part of every Canadian reunion



W. Luck (left) and C. Symes, President and Secretary of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association at their 20th Biennial Conference held in Melbourne during 1971

New Zealand St. Dunstaners at their 1971 National reunion at Rotorua, the thermal region, famous for its hot springs. Their reunions are held every three years





Peter Orphan, a coloured St. Dunstaner in South Africa making mats

of his many public activities together with his involvement with his family business.

It is the sincere wish of all that the approaching years should bring health and happiness to this grand couple who, each in their separate ways, have been an inspiration to all St. Dunstaners and their wives by their precept and example.

J. E. May

St. Dunstan's New Zealand Representative

From South Africa

St. Dunstaners throughout the Republic of South Africa join with me and the members of my Board in sending you sincere and warm congratulations on Fifty Golden Years of inspired leadership, as Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

Over twenty-five years of close association with the organisation, perhaps I, more than most, have been privileged to observe much of the result of your dedicated and indefatigable work for those blinded in the wars of this century and from which the whole of the blind world has benefited.

We renew our congratulations and include in our tribute sincere affection to you, and to your companion and helpmate Lady Fraser.

Natalie Opperman

Chairman, St. Dunstan's (South Africa)

BRIDGE NOTES

BRIGHTON

The fourth Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 11th March. The results were as follows:

J. Whitcombe and W. Scott	89
F. Griffie and R. Goding	80
J. Chell and Partner	74
M. Clements and F. Mathewman	57
F. Rhodes and Partner	56
S. Webster and A. Dodgson	53
W. Burnett and A. Smith	49
H. Kerr and R. Bickley	46

LONDON

On the Spring-like day, Saturday, 18th March, 1972, nineteen St. Dunstaners and their friends gathered in the London Club Rooms for that popular event, the Bridge Drive, making a total of 9½ tables for that afternoon's play.

The prizes for St. Dunstaners had been

chosen with care and exceptional taste by Mr. and Mrs. Meleson, and those for their partners were articles made by St. Dunstaners.

The winners were as follows:

- 1 W. Miller and Mr. Webster
- 2 W. Allen and Mr. Woods
- 3 R. Armstrong and Miss Lyons

We were pleased to note that a comparatively newcomer in the Bridge game at St. Dunstan's took first place. Some may say that there is an element of luck in rubber bridge but as we all know, luck thrives on skill.

Miss Sheila Lyons graciously presented the prizes.

On behalf of the St. Dunstaners R. Evans thanked the guests for a pleasant afternoon's play and the voluntary helpers for the tea provided.

R. ARMSTRONG

St. Dunstan's Fishing Club



Beginner's Luck!

The four days fishing organised by St. Dunstan's for 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th was unfortunately a wash out, or should I say a "blow out". The only day we were able to get out was Sunday, 9th April, which unbelievably was a perfect day, especially as it was completely against the type of weather we had been having for the past 10 days, strong to gale force winds. Weather wise the week-end was very disappointing, especially as this was the greatest number of entries for fishing that we have ever had.

Those who attended on Sunday were lucky to have a perfect day, sunny and warm with a calm sea, and included A. Mitchell, T. Gaygan, W. Richardson, R. Cameron, R. Young, J. Whitcombe, J. Wheeler, J. Simpson, B. Jubb, N. Perry, S. Blake, F. Barratt, W. Fester with J. Kennedy and myself in attendance.

Fishing wasn't quite so good, I think the fish were so surprised with the sudden change of weather that they lost their appetites, mostly what was caught was channel whiting, pout whiting and one small codling, despite this, everyone enjoyed the day, and none more than Tommy Gaygan, his first time ever and using the special equipment made for the handless, had the proud boast of the best catch of the day, a 3½ lb. channel whiting, plus 3 of lesser weight and a 1 lb. codling, needless to say, Tommy has offered to give a talk to the Fishing Club on the finer arts of sea angling!

The fishing club champion for the year ending 30th March 1972 is R. Young, with a 19½ lb. cod and Bob will be representing St. Dunstan's in the Southern I.T.V. Sea Angling Championships at Littlehampton on June 27th. Our sincere congratulations to Bob and good luck in the competition.

JOCK CARNOCHAN
Hon. Secretary

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

The Football Pontoon ended on the 18th March 1972, and was won by F. Pusey with Brighton. The "booby" was shared by Mrs. Douglas, R. Evans, Mrs. Phillips, P. Sheehan and Mrs. Sheehan, their teams being Everton, Fulham, Blackpool, Watford and Swansea respectively.

The Domino prize-winners for the month of March were as follows:

2nd March	1	J. Padley
		W. Miller
9th March	1	W. Miller
	2	W. Harding
16th March	1	D. Watkins
		J. Padley
23rd March	1	D. Watkins
	2	W. Miller
		M. Sheehan

W. MILLER

MIDLAND

Since my last report we have held two club meetings, both being fairly well attended.

At our meeting held on 12th March, we played off several domino knock-out matches both in the singles and doubles matches. The catering for this meeting was arranged for us by Mrs. Sally Bilcliff and we all thanked her very much.

Our April meeting was held on 9th April and included a "Bring-and-Buy" sale, which brought in quite a nice little sum of money towards Club funds. Details were also given about our annual outing, this year to Weston-super-Mare, in June. I must have final details of numbers for this trip at the May meeting.

No domino matches were played off at this meeting but the draw was made for the next round of the Sir Arthur Pearson competition and it is hoped to play off some of these next month. The tea for this meeting was prepared by Mrs. Barbara Kibbler and we all thanked her very much for her splendid effort.

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, 14th May**. Please remember that I must have final details of numbers of members who wish to attend the outing.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.

DEVELOPING A STYLE *continued from March Review*

You are *North*, you deal, not vul. and open one NT on either of these two hands.

(A)	(B)
♠ Q 10 8	♠ Q 10 8
♥ A Q 10	♥ A Q 10
♦ K 10 8 6	♦ A J 8 6
♣ Q 8 6	♣ Q 8 6
13 pts., LTC 8	15 pts., LTC 8 [7]

I am your partner, we play simple Acol 13-15 and 16-18 No Trump, "Stayman", the losing trick count, 4NT for Aces. We usually have 2 Aces if we take slam initiative. I will project my response and sometimes your rebid leaving you to make the next bid. Please bid all the 4 sequences giving two replies, one for (A) and one for (B) hands. And then read my comments to see if we are in harmony. The bidding stems from "Stayman" "Two Club" and

is logical. If the bidding switches from No Trump to a Suit we deem the opening one NT as 8, not the usual 7.

Now to the last March problem, it is a good one.

Contract 5 Diamonds by South. West lead Spade Queen.

♠ A K 10			
♥ A 10 2			
♦ K J			
♣ K 7 6 4 3			
♠ Q J 9 8 6 3	N		♠ 7 5 4
♥ K	W	□	♥ Q J 9 7 5
♦ Q		E	♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 2		S	♣ J
			♠ 2
			♥ 8 6 4 3
			♦ A 9 7 6 5 2
			♣ A 5

The Bidding

	N	S	Comments	My hand
1	1NT 2D ?	2C 2S	Your bid after "Two Spades" is "No Bid" on (A) and "Three Spades" on (B), reason, you read my hand as 1 5 card suit of Spades, 2 <i>an unbalanced hand</i> , 3 at least 10 points, 4 LTC 8. There might be a game if you are max. I might have a void or singleton. Over your "Three Spades" with hand (B) I will bid "Four Spades".	♠ A J 9 7 5 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ Q 9 7 5 ♣ 5 10 points LTC 8
2	1NT 2D ?	2C 3S	The routine is the same only I have jumped in Spades—forcing to game. You read me, 1 good 5 card suit, 2 <i>an unbalanced hand</i> , 3 at least 12 points, LTC 6. There will be an occasional hand where you will consider 3NT the best contract but remember 2. You will no doubt have bid four Spades on both hands (A) and (B).	♠ A K 9 7 5 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ Q 9 7 5 ♣ 5 12 points LTC 6
3	1NT ?	3S	Because major suit game bids can be catered for via "Stayman" as in 1 and 2 this way shows the strong hand. You read me as, 1 16 points, forcing to game thoughts of slam, 2 semi solid suit, 5 cards at least, 3 unbalanced, LTC 5. Hand (A) you bid 4 Spades and on hand (B) with 2 Aces and max. 15. You ask me for Aces and you bid six Spades. After your 4 Spades with (A) I would probably cue bid my Club Ace and you would cue bid your Heart Ace then I might be tempted to bid six Spades.	♠ A K J 9 7 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A K J 7 16 points LTC 6
4	1NT 2D or ?	2C 3D 3C	No's 1 and 2 are seeking a suit contract [major] this time we angle for a no trump contract with a 5 card minor-semi-solid and an unbalanced hand as in 1 and 2. There must be at least 10 points, it is not forcing and 3 Clubs may be the best contract. With hand (A) no bid, with hand (B) bid 3NT. The basis of all these bids is 10 points [23 cops.] and an unbalanced hand with a 5 card suit. It is logical and easily remembered.	♠ 5 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 9 7 5 3 ♣ A K J 7 5 11 points LTC 7

Query: How can you make 5D against best defence? Here is the play, the winner of each trick is shown in bold capitals and leads to the next trick.

This must be the ultimate in "Dummy Reversal Play", where declarer reduces his trumps to below the number in dummy. Tricks 2 and 8 are very neat.

ALF E. FIELD

Trick no.	W	N	E	S
1	SQ	SA	S4	S2
2	S3	SK	S5	CA!
3	S6	S10	S7	D2
4	C2	CK	CJ	C5
5	C8	C3	H5	D5
6	DQ	DK	D3	D6
7	C9	C4	H7	D7
8	HK	H2!	H9	H3
9	SJ	H10	HJ	D9
10	S8	HA	HQ	H4
11	C10	C6	D4	DA
12	S9	DJ	D8	H6
13	CQ	C7	D10	H8

DERBY DAY OUTING

We are pleased to note that the response to the suggested outing to the Derby has been such that it is now a definite date on our calendar for 1972. There are still, however, a number of vacant seats in the coach for those of our readers who may want to go but have not yet booked.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

Less than a month to the closing date 24th May, 1972, for the Derby Sweepstake. The winning ticket will cost just 15p, and there are prizes for everyone whose horse comes under starter's orders. Send stamped addressed envelope to Editor, D.S.S. Dept., St. Dunstan's Review, at Headquarters. Only qualification for entry—you must be a St. Dunstaner.

Eastern promise

A reader who has just left for a holiday in Greece tells me shepherd's pie was served on the flight to Athens. It was styled "British moussaka."

FAMILY NEWS

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. RAY BENSON, of Horsham, Sussex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 29th March, 1972.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JOHN READ of New Haw, Surrey, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 5th March 1972.

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR RELF of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 8th April, 1972.

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM STANLEY of Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5th April, 1972.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ERIC SIMPSON of Manchester, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 5th April, 1972.

Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. CHARLES CUMMINGS of Verwood, Dorset, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 28th March, 1972.

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. CYRIL HOBBS of Ferring-on-Sea, Sussex, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 19th March 1972.

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS NICHOLSON of Beeston, Notts., who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 26th March, 1972.

Golden Wedding

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JAMES ROBINS of Shefford, Bedfordshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 10th April, 1972.

Diamond Wedding

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. LACEY of Eastwood, Essex, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 8th April, 1972.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:

ROBERT CHANDLER of Richmond, Yorks., who announces the arrival of two more grandsons born January and February, 1972.

JOHN CASWELL of Reading, Berks., who announces the birth of his third grandchild, born to his daughter Jacqueline. Nicholas Powell was born on 2nd November, 1971.

Congratulations to:

JAMES WHITE of Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, who announces the arrival of a second grandchild, born to his daughter on 26th March, 1972, a second son, to be called Philip Richard Heath.

JOHN EDWARD COOPER of Rhyl, North Wales, who announces the arrival of a grandson, born to his daughter Dorothy in Australia, on 29th March 1972. He is to be called Graham and is a brother for Judith.

HAROLD HOLDEN of Hindley, Lancs., is very pleased to announce the arrival of his first grandchild, a son, to be named Geoffrey, who was born to Keith and Carol.

LEONARD HOLLAMBY of Oldham, Lancs., is pleased to announce the arrival of two grandchildren. His elder son's wife gave birth to a girl, Amanda Jane, born on 30th January, 1972 and his younger daughter, Kathleen, gave birth to a boy, Mark, on 8th March, 1972.

JOHN WALTER LAWSON of Warrington, Lancs., is pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, born to his daughter, Jacqueline in March 1972.

PATRICK LOWRY of Saltdean, Sussex, has pleasure in announcing the arrival of a grandson, born to his daughter Ruth, and is to be called Ian. He is a brother for Zara.

FRANCIS NUNN of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, announces the arrival of a grand-daughter, born to his daughter Kathleen on 18th March.

ALFRED WATERS, of Colchester, Essex, announces the arrival of a second grandchild, Stevan Mark, born on 19th January, 1972—a brother for Colin.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

CHARLES DUCKETT of Reading, Berks., who proudly announces that he has become a great grandfather for the first time. His great grand-daughter was born on 4th March 1972 and is to be called Christelle Marie Thompson.

ALBERT WOOLLEN of Saltdean, Brighton, who has become a great grandfather for the first time when a daughter, Johanna Samantha, was born on 6th April, 1972, to the wife of his grandson, Adrian Legg, son of his daughter, Helen Legg.

Long life and happiness

Ian, son of our St. Dunstaner, HAROLD EARNSHAW of Manchester, married Marianne Loyne of Cromer at Cromer Parish Church, on 22nd March, 1972, and we wish them every happiness.

MRS. J. L. KEMPE (widow of the late Samuel Kempe) of Troon, Cornwall, has pleasure in announcing that her elder son, Edward Courtney Kempe, was married to Miss Sonia Pauline Trengove at St. Gluvias Church, Penryn, Cornwall, after Christmas last.

JOSEPH LAVERTY, Millisle, Co. Down, announces the marriage of his daughter Kathleen to Alan Brown on 12th November, 1971.

HUGH NABNEY of Belfast has pleasure in announcing the marriage of his son, Thomas, to Dorothy Lean on 25th March, 1972.

MRS. NOLAN, widow of the late JOHN NOLAN of Acton, W.3, has pleasure in announcing the marriage of her son John to Miss Kathleen Henderson on 4th April, 1972 at St. Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen, Leicestershire. The young couple are both school teachers in Brighton, Sussex.

GRANVILLE WATERWORTH of Coventry, is pleased to announce that his son Raymond, married Marilyn Ann Fellows, on 8th April, 1972, and we wish them every happiness.

JAMES LEGGE of Bristol, tells us that his son, Alistair Simon, in competition with 400 others was presented with the 2nd prize in his grade at Rolls Royce (1971) prize giving on Thursday, 23rd March, 1972. Alistair is in his third year apprenticeship at Rolls Royce.

FRANK MADGWICK of Crawley, Sussex, is pleased to announce that his two daughters, Barbara and Carol have obtained their bronze medals for the following dances:—Samba, Cha Cha Cha, Waltz, Modern Ballroom and Jive. They are now looking forward to trying for the silver medal in these subjects.

EDWARD MILLS of Walsall, Staffordshire, is pleased to announce that his Grandson Alex Allardice has passed his final examination and is now a S.R.N.

ROY NEWTON of Oldham, Lancs., is pleased to announce that his daughter Elaine has passed a Mother Care Examination and another daughter, Diane has acquired a Swimming Diploma.

LESLIE VERNON SMITH of Newton Longville, Bucks., announces that his daughter Mary has passed her Grade III examination with merit in connection with her Pianoforte lessons.

In Memory

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

Ernest Henry Bunting. *1st Royal Berkshire Regiment.*

Ernest Henry Bunting of Tottenham, N.15, died peacefully at home on 30th March, 1972 at the age of 77 years.

He served with the 1st Royal Berkshire Regiment from 1911 to 1918 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1964 when his sight deteriorated seriously. He had already retired from work. Among his many interests he was very fond of his garden and greenhouse. During the last few years his health gave cause for concern, but Mr. and Mrs. Bunting celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August, 1970.

He leaves a widow, a son and family, and a daughter and family in Australia.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

WILLIAM FITZGERALD of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who mourns the death of his sister on 1st April, 1972.

ROBERT FINCH of Solihull, Warwickshire who mourns the death of a sister-in-law, in March 1972.

Mrs. J. A. Hills, wife of our St. Dunstaner, JAMES HILLS of Tenterden, Kent, who lost her brother last October and shortly afterwards a sister passed away.

FREDERICK SMITH of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, whose wife, Mrs. Emily Beatrice Smith, died on 27th March, 1972. Mrs. Smith had been very ill and having hospital treatment since the beginning of the year.

FREDERICK WILLIAM TAYLOR of Surbiton, Surrey, whose sister, Mrs. Nora Harman, died on 24th January, 1972. Mrs. Harman was a regular helper to St. Dunstan's Sutton Club and was well known to a number of St. Dunstaners.

FRANCIS WHYTE of Misterton, Nr. Doncaster, Yorkshire, who mourns the death of his wife on 29th March, 1972.

Harry Northgreaves. *17th West Yorkshire Regiment.*

Harry Northgreaves of Weybridge, Surrey, died on 29th March, 1972, whilst staying on holiday at Ovingdean, Brighton. He was 73 years of age.

He served in the 17th West Yorkshire Regiment from 1914 to his discharge in 1918 when he came to St. Dunstan's.

He trained in bootmaking, matting and netting and afterwards he trained as a telephonist. For approximately the first nine years as a St. Dunstaner, Mr. Northgreaves had a shop where he carried out boot repairs and matting but in 1930 he changed his career to become a telephonist in London and continued with this type of work until his retirement in 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Northgreaves then moved to Addlestone and made many friends locally. Unfortunately Mrs. Northgreaves' health has been a cause for concern since 1969 when she was admitted to hospital and is still an in-patient. Mr. Northgreaves moved house to stay with his married son and daughter-in-law to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Joseph Patrick Carruthers. *Somerset Light Infantry.*

Joseph Patrick Carruthers, late of Belfast, died at Ovingdean, Brighton, on 2nd April, 1972, at the age of 57 years.

He served in the Somerset Light Infantry from 1939 to 1945 but his eyesight did not deteriorate for some time and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1967.

Mr. Carruthers' health precluded any training for a remunerative occupation but he did undertake some hobby training which gave him pleasure. He did not enjoy good health but latterly he has been gravely ill. He leaves a family.

Edward [Ted] Hall. *Royal Army Veterinary Corps.*

Edward (Ted) Hall of Newbury, Berks. died on 16th March, 1972, at the age of 74 years.

He served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps from 1915 until his discharge in 1917 and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. Mr. Hall came of a farming family. He trained as a first-class boot-maker and carried on with the work until 1927, and then returned to farming continuing with this until a few years before his death when he officially retired from the very active work but he always kept a very close interest in the activities of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 12th April 1970 and were the recipients of numerous telegrams of congratulations.

He leaves a widow, two sons, twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Alfred Palfrey. *2nd South Wales Borderers.*

Alfred Palfrey of Barry Dock, Nr. Cardiff, South Wales, died at his home on 4th April, 1972. He was aged 76 years.

He served in the 2nd South Wales Borderers from 1915 to 1916, being wounded on the Somme in 1916 and coming to St. Dunstan's that same year.

He trained in boot repairing and had a successful shop for some time, and he also did a considerable amount of mat making.

He and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1966. His wife predeceased him, having died in December, 1970. Since Mrs. Palfrey's death he was cared for most devotedly by his youngest daughter, Mrs. Donovan and her husband. He leaves a grown-up family.

Lewis Robert Price. *1st Hertfordshire Regiment.*

Lewis Robert Price of St. Albans, Herts, died at home on 28th March, 1972. He was 74 years of age.

He served in the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment from 1916 until his discharge in 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1970. He served for 48 years on the staff of a local newspaper in Hertfordshire but his sight deteriorated due to service in the First World War and he came to St. Dunstan's. During his retirement he enjoyed the companionship of his wife and a son, who lived at home, but in recent months Mr. Price has been somewhat housebound due to poor health and died suddenly at home on 28th March.

He leaves a widow and two sons, and other members of the family.

St. Dunstaners in the Alps

by John Carnochan

Some time ago St. Dunstan's received an invitation from Claude Cavaillier of the French War Blinded to participate in the first International Winter Sports for the physically handicapped to be held at Courchevel 1850 in the French Alps from March 18th-25th. This was accepted and from a list of our regular sportsmen four lucky names were drawn, Bill Claydon, Joe Humphrey, Bill Phillips, and Mike Tetley with myself and Ben Mills as escorts. Joe Humphrey described our team like this, "None of us were skiers. I had taken a crash course on a dry ski slope outside Belfast for a couple of weeks which gave me the slight edge on the others who hadn't ever had on a pair of skis before and as for curling—we just hadn't a notion. We couldn't even have curled our hair! We were planting our faith in our own physical fitness, on which we had all worked, and the supreme ability of our trainer, John Carnochan, St. Dunstan's Physical Training Instructor, ably assisted by Ben Mills, of Lee-on-Solent fame, and these two were our greatest assets."

The opening ceremony took place at 9 p.m. with speeches from the organisers, presentation of programmes and badges of the Courchevel coat of arms to all delegations. Seventeen countries took part, comprising 300 competitors of different disabilities. After the ceremony there was a brilliant display by over 100 ski instructors

which Mike Tetley described in these terms, "The spectacle was 100 skiers each holding a lighted torch skiing down the slopes in a long line which twisted and turned like a flaming snake sliding down the mountain side".

The aim of our visit was to take the initial skiing and curling instruction and



The St. Dunstan's Winter Sports team: Joe Humphrey, Mike Tetley, Bill Claydon, Bill Phillips
Photo: George Konig, Rex Features

depending on progress, and competence, to evaluate our chances in competition and, indeed, to see if Winter Sports as such are worth pursuit for St. Dunstaners in the future as another outlet to sport. The competitions ranged from Slalom, that is starting at a height of 180 metres with a descent of 350 metres negotiating 22 gates en route; Alpine skiing, similar to Slalom minus gates, the emphasis on speed; cross country, a distance of 5 kilometres where most of the effort is derived from using the ski-sticks, and curling which is similar to green bowls but played on ice.

Curling

This is how Mike Tetley described his introduction to curling; "The curling pitch has two targets painted in red and blue on the concrete, which is then covered with water, frozen and the targets show through the ice. Two chocks are hammered into the ice at either end of the pitch so that when you push the 40 lbs. circular granite curling stone by its protruding handle, your feet don't slip on the ice.

You launch yourself up the pitch sliding the stone as you go. Whilst you and the stone are both sliding you twist the handle and this gives the rock a slight bias. We St. Dunstaners had a wonderful stroke of luck because we met by chance a curling instructress from Canada, Ruth Ward, who was holidaying in Courchevel and with her tuition, we came on by leaps and bounds."

Our daily routine consisted of breakfast followed by two hours curling practice, lunch followed by three hours skiing instruction. The first days on the nursery slopes included learning the basic techniques, the hold and use of the sticks, walking and propelling oneself, maintaining balance and then on a minor slope practising the slowing down and stopping technique by making a snow plough of the skis. Then returning back up the slope using the sideways walking technique. This was generally very warm work, particularly as each day we had brilliant sunshine and we were all soon nicely tanned.

"Needless to say we didn't all make it at

the first attempt," said Bill Claydon. "Like the good seed, some fell by the wayside, for two kilometres can seem a long way up." According to Joe Humphrey, St. Dunstan's first experience on the nursery slopes caused much amusement to a five year old native who had been skiing since she was born. "She laughed so much she kept falling over and I don't know about the others but my sides ached with laughing."

Ski-tow

The fourth day was the one our four members were looking forward to, that of hooking on to a ski-tow and being towed to the top of the nursery slopes which was about half a mile long.

Bill Phillips recalls: "Off we went to the ski slopes proper accompanied by our instructors who, by the way, occasionally shouted instructions in French when they got excited but never failed to look after us superbly. Riding the ski drag up the slopes—this consisted of a bar between the legs and two flat pieces of metal behind each thigh. You hold on loosely but firmly and are dragged up the slope. Joe enquired his instructor's name on the way up and on being told 'Gabriel' said 'Blimey, are we up that high?'"

Once at the top we could enjoy the exhilaration of free moving down the ski-run. The object of negotiating the slope is to traverse from side to side and if you find yourself going straight down without applying the slow down technique you find your speed increasing rapidly. This was the fate of Bill Claydon on his first free run. The only way Bill was going to stop was either by falling over or colliding with some unseen object. This he did. The object being a lady skier. At least she was a lady before Bill collided with her! I should imagine Bill was doing about 25/30 miles an hour with the result that he was in the "land of nod" for a minute or two, but awakened to continue the lesson with nothing more than a bruised chest. Luckily, the lady was unhurt and Bill didn't lose his "no-claim" bonus. On this nursery slope our team began to enjoy the thrill of free movement skiing without too much hard work. There were plenty of falls, but this is what we had come for and their ski instructors were full of praise for their courage and determination and amazed at

their good progress which proved the importance of the basic lessons.

This determination applied equally to the curling training and on the fourth day, the day of our section for competition, Joe Humphrey was delegated as team captain for the final against a Belgian team. And this is how he describes the match: "We each had our first throw and three of our stones were on the target. The ice was good and solid and helped us. Only one Belgian stone was anywhere near the bull, so that was one end to us. The second end, Mike had a stone on the target, so we were two ends up. Bill Claydon had his stone on the target on the third end, but none of us scored in the fourth and fifth ends. However, our mission was complete. We had beaten the Belgians three nil. Ruth was overjoyed and our own trainers were delighted when we later learned that this had earned us gold medals."

Four Gold Medals

You can imagine how proud we felt when Joe mounted the rostrum to receive the four gold medals on behalf of his team with the T.V. and press cameras taking in the scene.

Friday, being the last day of our skiing instruction, brought the final test, a 5 kilometre ski run being taken to the start by way of a four-man ski chair, like a huge egg in slow flight with the top half in the shape of a glass dome, giving a beautiful panoramic view of the Alps. The eventual distance covered on skis is nearer 8 kilometres. Add half a dozen or so falls and you have had a good afternoon's exercise. But we made it, arriving back at the hotel in time for a welcome pot of tea, or something? This completed the physical part of our visit and I feel our four team members, despite the early frustrations, would do it all again and given a bit more practice, would have been in the minor competition standard.

The other very important part of our visit was the social integration with the many other nationalities all experiencing disabilities. And our linguistic ignorance certainly did not prevent us from communicating and enjoying each other's company. We met with some old friends who had attended our own 1968 International Blind Sports at Ovingdean: Willie Hohm, of Austria and Fritz Kosmehl, of West



The St. Dunstan's party sets off for an afternoon's skiing
Photo: George Konig, Rex Features

Germany, as well as Claude Cavaillier of France who was initially responsible for our invitation and they all wished to be remembered to their many friends at St. Dunstan's. I think the following speech given by our Hotel proprietor to our group at supper one evening underlines the importance of such international gatherings.

"My dear friends, I hope I may call you friends although we recently meet. I am glad to see you so courageous on the snow. You surprised your ski teachers by your quick progression in gliding, making the snow plough brake and specially keeping the good track on the ski lift which is very difficult for a blind man. It is also a pleasure for me to feel friendly with you because the coming Common Market will give us more occasions of meeting. But this Common Market is not only a question

of trade interest. I trust that England and France, together, and specially have a great mission of animation to give a soul to this Common Market. Another great reason of our friendship is that we cannot forget that during the first and the second world wars soldiers of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Commonwealth came to help us and many of them are now resting in the earth of France for their last sleep. We hope that the action of all the nations joined in Europe will avoid in the future such sadness and bring all of you and your children happiness. This is my utmost wish."

Let Bill Claydon have the last word to encourage others. "Finally to any St. Dunstaner who thought that skiing was out of the question, I would say—don't hesitate—have a go—its great."

BACK COVER PICTURE: Bill Claydon wears the St. Dunstan's Badge on the snow slopes
Photo: George Konig, Rex Features

