

# **THE BRENTHAM BULLETIN**

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<b>BOWLS</b>	<b>CARDS</b>
<b>CRICKET</b>	<b>CHESS</b>
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	<b>DARTS</b>
<b>GOLF</b>	<b>DRAMATIC</b>
<b>TENNIS</b>	<b>OLD-TIME</b>
<b>TABLE TENNIS</b>	<b>DANCING</b>

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JANUARY - 1948  
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BRENTHAM BULLETIN: *Editor*—MR. R. O. BONNICK

*Business Manager:* MR. J. W. C. DWYER

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## EDITORIAL

For some time past it has been felt that, consequent upon the new constitution of the Club, and in view of the ever-widening scope of its activities, the time had come for re-issuing a Club magazine. Accordingly, under the auspices of the House Committee, and with the full support of the Committee of Management, production arrangements have been concluded and we now have pleasure in presenting the first issue of the BRENTHAM BULLETIN.

In producing the BULLETIN our aim has been to provide a comprehensive cross-section of the many facets of the Club's activities, and to give individual sections the opportunity of recording progress and of publicising any announcements they may wish to make. It is hoped, therefore, that the BULLETIN will be of interest to all members and that this will be reflected in the sales figures which will, of course, determine to a very large extent the future of the BULLETIN itself. To assist members to obtain copies at their own convenience, and on the date of issue, we are offering a special annual subscription of 6s. 6d. This sum will entitle any purchaser to a copy of each month's BULLETIN for a period of one year, these copies to be posted to members, post free, on the day of issue. Since this arrangement should also considerably assist our own distribution arrangements we do appeal to all subscribers to co-operate by taking out an annual subscription.

No magazine has yet been published which has been free from criticism, and it would not be pessimistic to say that we do not expect to prove the exception: in fact, we have already received quite a number of comments in anticipation of this issue not appearing! However, we do welcome your criticisms and will respect your suggestions, and would add only that we should be grateful if these be conserved for quieter moments and not hurled at us during the final climax of "Oh, Salome" or when we are on the point of engineering an impossible snooker!

In conclusion we would take this opportunity of thanking all those who have directly or indirectly contributed to the production of this magazine, subscribers, printers, and not forgetting our advertisers themselves.

The compliments of the Season to all.



## BOWLS

The Annual General Meeting of the Section was held on Monday, November 3rd, when the following officers were elected for the coming season: *President*, Mr. W. Fletcher; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. W. Armstrong, B. Beckton, A. Denham, L. C. Lowman, F. J. Milner, J. Roberts, J. G. Taylor; *Captain*, Mr. S. W. Ruffey; *Vice-Captain*, Mr. F. H. Tilleard; *Committee*, Messrs. L. Scares, T. Swindin, F. Knight, F. Hawkins; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. T. Luxford; *Hon. Ass. Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. W. M. Small.

The Committee are pleased to report that the whist drive held on Wednesday, December 3rd, was a great success. The prizes were presented by Mr. J. Scares, and Mr. H. Sebborn acted as M.C.

The long awaited Honours Board is at last taking shape, and it is hoped to include further information regarding this item shortly.

Favoured by good weather, and thanks to the energetic efforts of the ground staff, ably assisted on occasions by certain of the members themselves, good progress has been made with the preparation of the new green. Unfortunately frost caused a temporary delay, but work has again been resumed and, given a continuance of good weather, re-laying should be completed early this year. In conclusion members are asked to note that the annual Supper and Distribution of Prizes will take place at the Club on Tuesday, February 17th, at 7.30 p.m.

## CRICKET

At the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Cricket Club held on October 23rd, Frank Ahl was re-elected Captain of the Club for 1948, with Bob Felton as Vice-Captain. The "A" XI and the "B" XI will be captained by Len Haworth and Tom Whittington respectively. Len Haworth resigned the Secretaryship after ably filling this office for the last seven seasons, his place being taken by the election of Arthur Thurland.

## GOLF

Much remains to be done to restore the Section's former popularity, but at least some progress can be recorded during 1947. A marked improvement in the condition of the course has been achieved despite the difficulties of a too-dry summer, and further improvements are in hand for the coming season.

Membership now totals 36, but many more members can be accommodated without overcrowding, and, indeed, are required if this season's hopes for the re-introduction of Club tournaments, etc., are to be fulfilled.

Seasonal vagaries of weather have imposed a temporary lull on planned activities, but a number of stalwarts continue to plough up the course at week-ends, and local salvaging operations have likewise been unaffected. The river Brent remains a trap for the unwary expert and novice alike—and still takes its toll of lost balls. Most of the hazards remain unchanged, though their preservation has been achieved only by the application of forceful restraint on one of our more energetic members!

P.S.—With relief we pass on to the Chancellor of the Club's Exchequer the following poser put by a member whose enthusiasm for golf is apparently rivalled only by his interest in economics: "Does the provision of sand for bunkers rank as Capital Expenditure which is to be curtailed by Government decree; if not . . . ?"

We learn with regret the passing of an old friend, Frank Armfield, for many years an active member of the Section and for some time Chairman. We offer our sincere sympathies to Mrs. Armfield.

Members will also regret to learn of the passing, on November 30th, of another former member of the Section, Mr. E. J. Ephgrave. Amongst his many activities, Mr. Ephgrave was the first President of the Brentham Ex-Service Men's Association and was a prominent figure in the social life of the Club.



## FOOTBALL

Owing to cup matches we are somewhat behind with our Southern Amateur League fixtures, but with only the Middlesex A.F.A. Cup Ties remaining to be played we can now concentrate on the league programme. The results of league games to date have been rather disappointing, the first eleven having won one and lost two. The reserve eleven have done better, having won five and lost one.

In the A.F.A. Senior Cup we were drawn against Willesden (a strong Spartan League side), and were unlucky to lose after extra time. In the Middlesex F.A. Senior Cup we visited Hounslow Town (Corinthian League), and although we lost badly the game was enjoyed by all. By a win over Old Fincunians we still remain in the Middlesex A.F.A. Cup.

The reserve eleven lost to Siemens Sports Club in the A.F.A. Junior Cup and to Alpertown Old Boys in the Middlesex F.A. Junior Cup, but by their victory over Mayfield still remain in the Middlesex A.F.A. Junior Cup. The return of Frank Turner to outside left has greatly strengthened our forward line, and we hope to see a great improvement in the future. A list of home fixtures for January is shown on page 10.

## TENNIS

A very successful season closed last September with the Club Finals Day. Results of these were as follows:—

Ladies' Singles: winner, Miss M. Mitcham; runner-up, Miss M. Cavan.

Men's Singles: winner, Mr. A. Thurland; runner-up, Mr. W. Brown.

Ladies' Doubles: winners, Mrs. Netherton and Mrs. Curnow; runners-up, Mrs. Simmonds and Miss Cavan.

Men's Doubles: winners, Mr. A. Thurland and Mr. P. Goodridge; runners-up, Mr. H. Clark and Mr. W. Brown.

Cups and medals were presented to the winners and runners-up by Mr. J. G. Boyce during the course of a Finals Day Flannel Dance held the same evening.

The membership of the Section finally reached 120. This is one of the largest memberships in the history of the Section, and argues well for the future. Many improvements to the playing facilities are already in hand, and when these and the proposed re-surfacing of the hard courts have been completed the Section should have amenities comparable with those of any Club in the district. The number of matches played last season was necessarily restricted, but from the results of these it is evident that the standard of tennis at the Section is still well above average.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Section the following officers were elected for the year: *Chairman*, Mr. A. J. Priske; *Secretary*, Miss K. Priske; *Treasurer*, Mrs. P. James; *Ladies' Captain*, Mrs. J. James; *Men's Captain*, Mr. R. O. Bonnick.

Unfortunately Mrs. Brenchley has since found it necessary to relinquish the Match Secretaryship which has been taken over by Mr. J. Brewster. Thanks are due to Mrs. Brenchley for the hard work she has done for the Section over a number of years.

At the end of last year a Winter Section of the Club was formed and despite rather unsatisfactory playing conditions a good turn-out is being regularly maintained.

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

Having got over the seasonal festivities, we hope good progress will now be made in the Billiards and Snooker Championships, entries for which close on January 10th.

This year the Committee have decided to award to the winner of each event a small silver cup, suitably engraved. It is thought that most winners would prefer to receive a cup (to adorn the sideboard or to show with pride to their grandchildren when 1948 is but a memory), rather than to be given the usual cash prize which is invariably quickly liquidated (liquified?) in drinks all round.

Another innovation will be that the winners' names will be permanently recorded on the panels over the fire-place in the Billiard Room. This record will be made retrospective for five years, and a professional sign-writer is to be engaged to carry out this work. Now, then, is your chance to secure lasting recognition.

In the Harrow and District Snooker League we are finding the opposition rather fierce, and no quarter is asked or given when points are at stake. Up-to-date results of these matches are posted on the notice board.



## CHESS

Whatever the Section lacks in numerical strength it certainly lacks nothing in the enthusiasm of its members. Under the direction of the match captain, Mr. Dick Bray, competitions are now running which are proving entertaining and interesting. Mr. Harold Allport, who is in good form this season, has so far lowered his colours on two occasions only, and at the moment is well in the running in both the championship and handicap tournaments.

The Section is indeed fortunate in having the services of those two experienced players, Mr. H. H. Bartholomew and Mr. W. S. Wallis. The former known affectionately to all as "Bart" was largely instrumental in forming the Section some five years ago, whilst Mr. Wallis, our top board player, represents Middlesex and the Civil Service regularly in their matches. Up to the time of writing two matches only have been played. In the first, at Barnes, the opposition proved rather too strong for us, and we lost by 8 games to 2. In the second match we entertained our deaf and dumb friends from St. Saviour's, Acton. A very enjoyable game ended with Brentham running out winners by 9 games to 1.

New members are cordially invited to join us, and we can assure them will be made most welcome. Club nights are held every Monday and Friday.

## DARTS

The first half of the 1947/48 Season has now been completed, and with one or two exceptions the teams competing in the newly-formed Inter-Section League have all fulfilled their fixtures. Difficulty in raising teams is still making the various captains' work somewhat onerous, and it is hoped that all members will make a special effort this year to enable all matches to be completed. The position of the first three teams in the league table to date is as follows:—

						Legs	
Tennis Gents	..	..	Played 5	Won 4	Points 8	For 57	Against 53
Cricket "A"	..	..	Played 3	Won 3	Points 6	For 46	Against 19
Billiards and Snooker "A"			Played 4	Won 3	Points 6	For 44	Against 30

As will be seen above there is very little between any of these teams. The O.T.D. Ladies have been playing very well, and were only just beaten by the odd game by the league leaders. The other ladies' team—"Tennis Ladies," captained by Mrs. Fletcher—have also performed creditably.

The Clubman "A" have had several close matches, and just lost to a much inspired Cricket "B" team by 11 legs to 13, whilst Billiards and Snooker "B" have the credit of being the only team to gain points from the league leaders.

The Taylor Cup Competition has been progressing satisfactorily, and in the February issue of the BULLETIN it is hoped to publish the names of the four semi-finalists.

## TABLE TENNIS

With over forty members, the Section is enjoying another successful season. A few new members can still be accepted, and a special reduced subscription is available for members joining for the period January/April.

Club competitions are now in full swing, and Miss M. Mitcham in the Ladies' Singles, and Mrs. H. Thurland and Jack Howard in the Mixed Doubles look formidable challengers in their respective events. So far there have been no surprises in the Men's Singles, although Bill Brown was given a stiff fight in the handicap event by Tony Osang, one of our younger members.

A very full programme of league matches is being undertaken this season, three men's teams being engaged; two in the West London League and one in the Acton and District League. In the former which is a particularly strong league, consisting of eight divisions, Brentham, with teams in both the Premier and First Divisions, are finding it "tough going," but are by no means being disgraced. In the Acton and District Knock-out Cup Competition we have reached the last eight, and now play the unbeaten (so far!) United Dairies team in the quarter-finals. An American tournament is being arranged in January on a date to be announced shortly.



## BADMINTON

The Section has made a very promising start this season, and an average of fourteen members have turned up each practice night. This represents a considerable improvement over the previous year's attendances, and is considered particularly satisfactory.

Mr. Moorcroft, who was our first post-war secretary, unfortunately was forced to resign owing to business reasons, and Mr. Priske was elected to take over. The 1947/48 Committee were elected as follows: Mrs. Brown and Messrs. Davis and Walsom.

Two matches have been played so far this season, and although we were defeated in both, the games were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and return fixtures have been arranged. Further matches are also being arranged, and we have no doubt that the experience gained in the matches played so far will be of considerable benefit.

## CARDS

Section Club nights are as follows:—

Mondays at 8.0 p.m.: Whist Drive, admission charge 6d.

Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.: Progressive Bridge, admission charge 4d.

Saturdays at 8.0 p.m.: Whist Drive, admission charge, 6d.

New members are cordially invited to join us on any of the above evenings and enjoy a happy evening. Prizes are given for every event.

All members are asked to note that there will be a Drive on Saturday, January 17th, commencing at 8.0 p.m. Admission charge will be 1s.

## DRAMATIC NEWS

The Brentham Players, whose modest career started in 1912 with play readings, have now got into full swing again. Pre-war the standard of production and acting reached a high level and, judging by the support which has been forthcoming since activities were recommenced, this standard will be well maintained. This season three productions are being undertaken, and two performances will be given in each case. The "Two Mrs. Carrolls" has already been presented, and this will be followed by "The Gleam," a play by Warren Chetham Strode, who is also the author of "The Guinea Pig." "The Gleam" will be presented on January 30th and 31st.

A good response to the appeal for hon. members has been received, but a considerable number more can still be enrolled. Why not join and give us the benefit of your criticism and advice? For the remainder of the season the fee will be 5s., and this will entitle each member to one seat at each of the two remaining shows. Tickets will be on sale to hon. members as from Monday, January 12th, and to non-members from Tuesday, January 13th.

## OLD TIME DANCING

Your Committee take this opportunity of wishing all section members a very Happy New Year. Many of us will be together on the first evening of 1948, since this falls on a Thursday, our regular practice night; but to any whose overnight and/or early morning exertions prevent their attending we hope to have the pleasure of their company again on the following Thursday, January 8th.

Thanks to the loyal support of members, we have had an average Thursday evening attendance of 50 members, which is considered most satisfactory. We hope that this number will be maintained, and, moreover, increased during 1948, and we do extend a very hearty invitation to all those interested (including "door-watchers") to join us any Thursday evening at 8 p.m. We promise them a cheerful and sociable evening for a nominal charge of 6d.

Our first Saturday Dance held on December 6th was a big financial success, and we hope all those who attended were well rewarded by a very enjoyable evening. As usual we were obliged to limit the attendance, and we regret that some late applicants could not be accommodated. However, we hope to see them at our next Dance on Saturday, January 24th, and would remind them that application for tickets should be made now to any member of the Dance Committee.



## NOTES BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is only appropriate that our initial remarks in this first issue of BRENTHAM BULLETIN should embody a few words of appreciation to those members of the House Committee and others who have made this project possible. The amount of organisation necessary in face of existing difficulties makes the effort all the more praiseworthy. Particular mention is made of Messrs. Bonnick, Dover, Dwyer and West, who to our knowledge have burnt considerable quantities of "midnight oil" in order that this first publication should appear with the New Year. We offer all concerned our congratulations, and hope that their efforts will be crowned with success.

Many present day members will, of course, remember the old "Brenthamite," and the excellent purpose it served in keeping members in contact with the various interests which the Club had to offer. The personal touch provided was somehow typical of the very strong club spirit which existed in those days, and which has been largely responsible for the Club's present satisfactory position.

The following extracts from the issues 1917/18 are interesting:—

"Investment Bonds are to be offered at 5s. each."

"The Institute Control Committee has been pleased to subsidise the Billiards Section in respect of the season's prize money."

"Certain dignified members of the T.C.C. were seen running round with a truck full of coke."

"Local greengrocers are complaining of the terrible shortage of potatoes."

Times apparently do not change to quite the extent historians would have us believe!

Members will have noticed the upheaval which has resulted in the closing of the main entrance to the Club. This has been rendered necessary by the extensive cracking of the walls as the result of ground subsidence. Whilst we ourselves have not the least doubt that this trouble was the direct result of wartime damage—an opinion shared by our surveyor—we fear it may be a difficult matter to convince the appropriate authority that such is the case. However, members are assured that every effort will be made to avoid any undue expenditure.

Mr. Collins, our recently appointed Head Groundsman, with the able assistance of Messrs. Beeling and Hand is making great efforts to complete the various renovations and improvements to the grounds in readiness for the coming summer. The main item is, of course, the returfing of the bowling green. Given favourable weather conditions we have every hope that this work will be nearing completion by the time these notes appear. Mention must be made of those members of the Bowls Section who so willingly supported the grounds staff by undertaking a considerable amount of the "donkey work" which was so necessary in the early stages.

Tennis Section members will be pleased to hear that we have at last been able to place an order for a supply of wire netting, and delivery is expected shortly. With the relaying of No. 3 hard court, and the completion of the grass court repairs, there seems every prospect that they will enjoy much better playing conditions than have existed for some years.

It will have been noticed that the extensive erosion by the river at the lower end of the cricket field has been remedied; very satisfactorily from our point of view as the cost to us was nil, and it has also resulted in a certain amount of work by the Middlesex County Council to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

We have pleasure in announcing that Mr. Laurie Weeks has been co-opted on to the Management Committee until April, 1948, to replace Mr. Buss, who remains in Canada on business.



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## SPECIAL NOTICES

Jack Boyce, our Club Chairman, is being married to Vera Faulkner on Saturday, January 17th, at All Saint's Church, Ealing Common. All members will join with us in offering them our sincere congratulations and our best wishes for their future happiness.

Most memocrs will be aware that recently Mr. J. G. Taylor relinquished the Secretaryship of the Club, and is succeeded by Mr. J. J. E. Bateman. Mr. Taylor has been associated with the Brentham Club almost since its inception, and, except for a short break, has been Secretary since 1906. This is indeed a splendid record, and as a token of recognition for the services Mr. Taylor has rendered it has been the members' wish that a presentation be made to him. Accordingly a subscription list has now been opened, full details of which have been posted on the Club notice boards.

Charles Tovey, one of the older members of the Brentham Club, has been broadcasting during the last six months conducting his own eighteen-piece theatre orchestra, and for the third year in succession will be musical director at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, for Clarkson Rose's pantomime, the subject this year being "Goody Two Shoes." He has also composed the big song in the show "It's a Great Life—if you don't Weaken," and his new entr'acte "Pensive Mood," which has been broadcast by Charles Smart and his Moonrakers and Felton Rapley, is soon to be featured by Sandy McPherson in his Sunday night programme. Charles will be rejoining Clarkson Rose's intimate musical show "Twinkle" for the new year after an absence of two years, during which time he has been conducting for Cyril Fletcher, and this summer at Bridlington for Harry Bennett's show.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

- |      |     |   |
|------|-----|---|
| Jan. | 1.  | Cards, Progressive Bridge, 7.30 p.m.; Old Time Dance Practice, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 2.  | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 3.  | Football, Res. XI v. Kew Association: Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 4.  | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 5.  | Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 6.  | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.   |
| "    | 7.  | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 8.  | Cards, Progressive Bridge, 7.30 p.m.; Old Time Dancing, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 9.  | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 10. | Football, 1st XI v. Old Latymerians: Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 11. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 12. | Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 13. | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.   |
| "    | 14. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 15. | Cards, Progressive Bridge, 7.30 p.m.; Old Time Dancing, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 16. | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 17. | Football, Res. XI v. Alleyn Old Boys: Cards, Special Whist Drive, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 18. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 19. | Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 20. | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.   |
| "    | 21. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.; Snooker, League Match v. Smiths Electric.   |
| "    | 22. | Cards, Progressive Bridge, 7.30 p.m.; Old Time Dancing, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 23. | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 24. | Football, 1st XI v. Ibis: Old Time Dance: Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 25. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 26. | Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m.; Chess, 8 p.m.   |
| "    | 27. | Table Tennis, 7.30 p.m.   |
| "    | 28. | Badminton, 7.30 p.m.  |
| "    | 29. | Cards, Progressive Bridge, 7.30 p.m.; Old Time Dancing, 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 30. | Dramatic, The Brentham Players present "The Gleam," 8 p.m.  |
| "    | 31. | Dramatic, The Brentham Players present "The Gleam," 7.30 p.m.;<br>Football, Res. XI v. Aquarius: Cards, Whist Drive, 8 p.m. |



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