

THE BRENTHAM BULLETIN

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**Vol. 2 No. 1
JANUARY - 1949
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EDITORIAL

To the helpful and willing crew of correspondents, greetings and thanks, and to subscribers, who supply the interest, we wish a very Happy New Year. As 1949 comes in, all the resolutions are made earnestly, to be abided by sedulously for a short time, but so easily dropped at the first inconvenience. Late arrival of the magazine ranks high on our list of faults, but unfortunately sometimes this is unavoidable (Christmas holidays). Determined efforts will be made.

This seems an opportunity for a few harmless prophecies for 1949:—

1. Widespread acclamation of the decadence of the modern age.
2. We shall export everything and leave nothing for ourselves.
3. A flood of ground nuts will save us from starvation.
4. Thousands of little Charlies will be seen crawling about the streets.
5. Gradual reversion via the New Look to pre-Mediæval costume.
6. 1949 will be completely forgotten in posterity.

Although one cannot help feeling that the operative word for success is effort, it is as much with a sense of hope as of apprehension that we look forward to the coming year.

It is very gratifying to note the latest photographic adornments in the lower bar, but what a pity that the intervening years are not on record. Each year at least one event will be a new achievement, making Club history, so why not commemorate in some way.

Suggestions for the improvement of the magazine are always received gladly, and any submission will be included, if possible. The main drawback to addition remains—space, but I am sure the presence of a cartoon or caricature would give pleasure.

By the way, don't forget that subscriptions (6s. 6d. including postage) will be welcomed at an early date. Please address to "The Brentham Bulletin."

BRENTHAM PLAYERS

The membership of the above Society, although satisfactory, is still not yet up to pre-war strength.

We shall be pleased to welcome new playing or non-playing members, so come along and support this entertaining section.

The Secretary is prepared to enrol you any evening, the subscription is 5s. for the rest of the season. Membership entitles one to book a seat at each of the plays presented.

Our next play (a comedy) "The Blue Goose," by Peter Blackmore, will be presented on Friday and Saturday, January 21st and 22nd. Rehearsals are going well, and we can promise you an enjoyable evening.

Members will be able to book their seats on Friday, January 14th, from 8 p.m. Tickets will be on sale to all Club members every evening from Saturday, January 15th, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. F. F.

FOOTBALL

The spectators, of whom we would like to see more in numbers, have had the opportunity of witnessing some entertaining football provided by the 1st XI, and the team is once again to be congratulated on its continued fine showing. The record of the 1st XI to date is as follows:—

P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	
				For	Ag't
11	8	2	1	61	10

and these figures do not allow much scope for any criticism, but there is evidence of a lack of constructive play between the wing-halves and the forwards, with the result that the effective forward pass is delayed. This delay has little effect on the ultimate result when the opposition is weaker, but against opponents who enjoy some superiority, our forwards become too closely marked and their task is made increasingly difficult. The decisive victory by 5—0 in the Middlesex F.A. Cup-tie against Ruislip was most praiseworthy, as our opponents were expected to provide some very stiff opposition.

The Reserves, whose total record to date is as follows:—

P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag't
12	5	1	6	24	33

have been unable to progress in the League, and two of their recent games have been friendlies which, to the disappointment of the

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team, have been away from home. L. Gambles, R. Lewry and J. Howard have shown good form in a team which if left alone in the matter of selection, has every chance of becoming a successful side.

The 3rd XI may be justly proud of their record, which is:—

P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag't
12	7	2	3	32	26

Three players, P. Howard, J. Edwards and D. La Nauze, have shown very promising form, and with further experience should be given every chance to play in the Reserve XI in the very near future.

To those players who feel they cannot last the 90 minutes, and to those who know that a little mid-week training would prove beneficial, an invitation is extended to turn up on Wednesday evenings at 6.45 p.m., and support the half-a-dozen or so stalwarts who regard physical fitness as a necessity.

Finally we wish to thank the Steward, his wife and daughter, for their combined efforts in providing such excellent and appetising hot meals to the leg-weary players after the games. It is an innovation which is highly appreciated.

GRAND NATIONAL NIGHT (Continued by general request)

For several days, in fact, since the December issue of "The Brentham Bulletin," I have heard loud mutterings of disapproval in the once peaceful precincts of the Club.

"Either he's a bachelor or a woman hater," soliloquised one poetical-looking individual, "or both," he added as an after-thought. "Thought all three of them were very good," I heard another say. "Joy Willett and Doris Anderson carried their parts very well, and as for Pat Laws—wish I'd been in David Corsie's place."

Let me assure the poetical one, that although a bachelor I am not a woman-hater, I love all members of the gentle sex, and the gods forgive me the monstrous error committed, by not mentioning even one little word, about the three talented young ladies who starred in that memorable play, "Grand National Night."

For me to compliment or even comment on the ladies' acting at this late date would be futile. Any gentleman who is asked, why were the ladies not mentioned in the write-up? (dare I call it that?) should, of course, gallantly answer, because it was beyond the skill of an amateur's pen to write of their performance.

I hope this conciliatory little article has the desired effect. Faith, if the murmurings increase in volume I shall be afraid to visit the Club lest my identity should become known. V. Z.

CHRISTMAS PIE

This Sunday evening show proved to be a riot. The audience comprised roughly 250 people, squeezed into the confines, but they soon forgot any discomfort, since such uncontrollable laughter has seldom, if ever, reverberated through the hall. Produced and com-pêred by the inimitable Tim Coleman, from start to finish, everything went with a swing. It is difficult and would be unfair to single out special items for praise, but Tim was the star and made the show. Nobody ever realised that a certain six members possessed such an affinity to the opposite sex. Mick Dyason very appropriately made-up, scored as the solitary player of a Palm Court Trio, and followed his tele-conversation with Sir Adrian by going through the motions with his 'cello. "Galway Bay" was undoubtedly the best of Harry Smith's songs. The rope scene was cleverly devised prior to the interval—unexpected off-stage preparation. With dignified precision, the Royal Male Quartet disappeared one by one and were followed by Gordon Dain's accomplished playing. I admired the stooge's unfinished recitation with slapstick interruptions of bananas, water and trousers removal.

It's good. Let's have more.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

Since the last BULLETIN was issued, our "A" team in the Harrow and District Snooker League has been beaten by Fair View by 7—5, and has beaten a rather weak Smith's team 9—3, whilst the "B" team has registered a good win against Lowlands by 8—4. The "B's" other game—against Smith's Clocks—has been postponed until January.

The handicaps are now nearing the final stages. In billiards, G. Davies will oppose our chairman, M. West, in the final on Sunday, January 9th, whilst the pairings in the semi-finals of the snooker handicap read: J. Wilkin v. D. Parker, and A. A. Fiddy v. W. K. Kino.

An exhibition match between J. Ecroyd—a professional player—and five of our members, to whom 100 points were conceded in consecutive frames, proved rather a disappointment, as our visitor did not come up to expectations, and failed in the task he set himself.

Another visitor during December to the Club was "Pat" Matthews, an ex-amateur snooker champion—who "showed us the way" in no uncertain manner in a series of frames against Bernard Luxford, Bill Dwyer and Jack Wilkin, making breaks of 35, 34, 28 and 20 in the process.

A delightful evening.—to be repeated, we hope, in the not too distant future.

And so to 1949. May your breaks be many, your flukes "all natural angle ones," and may you enjoy many a "double" before you take a "long-rest."

QUIZ

1. Who are the three members of the Tribunal of Inquiry?
2. Who is the Secretary for Air?
3. Who is the British Military Governor in Berlin?
4. What was Mr. Belcher's post?
5. Who is the French Foreign Minister?
6. Who is the Italian Foreign Minister?
7. Who was disqualified v. Woodcock recently?
8. Who plays the part of Dudley Davenport?
9. Who plays the part of Creep?
10. What is the surname of the latest London quads?
11. Who played the part of the boy in "The Fallen Idol"?
12. What is the H.Q. of the lighthouses?
13. Who is the Archbishop of Canterbury?
14. Who wrote "Don Quixote"?
15. Who is Master of the King's Musick?

(Answers on page 18)

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

During this month the Committee (Entertainments) probably feel that owing to festive season hangovers, etc., a quiet month is most desirable, and in consequence have arranged only two items, Palm Court, Sunday, 2nd; Twenty Questions and Forfeit Quiz, Saturday, 8th; for this last item I believe Cricket Club (previous winners) are awaiting a challenge (did I hear a whisper from the Bowls Section?)

Mention must be made here of our most charming and capable ladies, who under the leadership of Miss Sally Clarke, staged such a grand dance on December 18th, aided (as M.C.) by the one and only Doris Anderson who, the following evening, still had a dark brown voice due, no doubt, to her "Sinatra" efforts and bawling at the couples "to get cracking."

At the time of going to press the New Year's Eve Ball is a thing to come, but by now we hope it is something to be remembered; we hope so, for it took many hours to decorate the hall and to make the necessary arrangements.

Palm Court seems to appeal to the folks but serves as a good excuse for the operator back stage to get quietly tight on his own, in between people popping in with "It's too loud" or "Put it on a bit," but very seldom with "What are you going to have?" Seriously, as long as we are providing enjoyment for the few we do not feel we are wasting our time.

Christmas Pie, of which you have been partaking, gives way to Easter Pie, which is now worrying Tim Coleman. Already he has the opening number under way, and several of the "team" have put forward their ideas for sketches. We feel that "Pie" in various forms has come to stay. Keep up the good work, Tim and his Piesters.

As usual we have made the request for suggestions, but none have been forthcoming; we are not looking for work but feel that some new ideas might be lying dormant somewhere.

CHESS SECTION

On Monday, December 6th, 1948, we entertained our old friends from St. Saviour's Deaf and Dumb Institute. A very enjoyable evening was spent, with Brentham running out winners by eight games to three.

Competitions are well under way, and in the championship our Match Captain, Mr. Dick Bray, is so far undefeated.

New members to the section will be cordially welcomed.

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DARTS

Here is the League position for the first half of the season:—

	Matches		Legs		P.
	P.	W.	For	Ag'st.	
Cricket	8	8	20	4	16
Billiards and Snooker	8	6	17	7	12
Bowls	8	5	13	11	10
O.T.D. Gents.	8	4	13	11	B
Club Ladies	8	2	5	19	4
O.T.D. Gents.	8	4	13	11	8
Club Men	7	2	8	13	4
Club Ladies	8	2	8	13	4
Tennis Ladies	7	—	4	17	—

Top score with three darts to date:—

C. Hannington	...	...	...	...	140
S. Morgan	...	...	...	...	140
Mrs. McMillan	...	...	...	...	134

As you will see by the above league table the Ladies continue to have their successes and are a constant danger. The Committee have not yet been able to remove the trebles which they promised to do in the December issue, but they are awaiting their opportunity to nip in the darts rooms when the ladies are not practising.

Your Committee hope you all had a very Happy Christmas, and wish you a Prosperous 1949.

Don't forget to complete your rounds of the Taylor Cup and also the Club Darts Match versus a Colchester team in the Small Hall on Saturday, January 8th.

OLD TIME DANCING

Once every week, with few exceptions, strains of nostalgic waltzes and the lilt of the Tango, interspersed with instructions to "Turn the lady twice" or "Prepare for the grand chain," mean that Thursday's "Old Time Dance" practice night, with "Sandy" Tees in the "chair" is in progress.

This section, growing in popularity with young and old, has already held two successful full dress functions, and future dates to remember are January 29th, March 5th and April 23rd.

With the approach of the New Year, a very cordial invitation is extended to all dancers (young or older), to apply to the Secretary, Mr. W. Burton for membership.

Tickets for the Dances may also be obtained from Mr. Burton.

Will members please note, there will be no practice night on the evening of January 20th.

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An established feminine Hungarian reporter, summarising her impressions of the Olympic Games, gave the following tribute: "How calm the English are all the time. Nothing makes them excited. In sport they seem to applaud most when they are beaten and someone else wins." The occasion of the Olympic Games gave a wonderful opportunity by which to reflect upon ourselves and our behaviour, to determine why we are so different from other people. Foreign elements at Wembley were frankly astonished at the manner of the British spectators—less at the phlegm with which they accept the monotonous defeats of their own athletes than at the enthusiasm with which they acclaim foreign triumphs, and at their generous encouragement of foreign "also-rans." If nothing else was achieved, our people set a fine example in the spirit of fair-play and civilised tolerance.

The Americans have the greatest admiration for our pluck, determination and ability to smile over difficulties, even though they may ban the film "Oliver Twist" because Fagin is represented as an avaricious Jew, and create a false impression. Ben Hecht may advocate terrorism against British soldiers, yet such disgusting abuse seemed to steel the young envoys to even greater heights of stoic tolerance. In America citizens still remember with pride our heroic resistance in the target areas when German planes were regularly unloading their bombs and disturbing a full night of sleep. One calls to mind the typical, phlegmatic Cockney during the height of a blitz, nonchalantly donning his steel helmet for fire-watching, and remarking, "I don't know what we wants these things for," or the neighbours trundling off to the nearest Tube station with bedding under their arms, quite looking forward to a gossip down below. This casual acceptance of discomfort prevailed at the Olympic Games, and while Scandinavian students kept up their encouraging chants, we were content to listen appreciatively, reflecting that the only slogan we could possibly have yelled, was: "Two, four, six, eight; whom do we appreciate," etc. Yet we did not shout. In Italy and the Argentine referees officiate in peril of their lives at football matches sometimes, but the only disturbances recorded here, were confined to bottle-throwing at Millwall and a few isolated occurrences in Scotland. Similarly on the field of play, Continental methods invariably exceed the limits of sportsmanship, but the Englishman always "keeps his head." Relatively speaking, our companions, the Scotsmen, Welsh and Irish, could be included in this category, although they have well-known less calm traits. Conversation with Norwegian students revealed that they have completely fallen under the spell of British free-and-easy charm, and think we are "wonderful." Whatever

happens life always carries on as usual, and the clerk reaches his office at the usual time each morning.

However, it cannot be denied that the British public have faults. Railway carriages provide a glaring example of our plodding contentment which at times reaches the point of unsociability. A generalisation would term the British as being "shy to the point of rudeness." People sit opposite each other with heads buried in newspapers, and even though the headline is startling and critical, a discussion will very rarely develop. Should two friends already be in controversial mood, perhaps one or two fellow travellers might drag themselves into an argument, but the young girl will continue to gaze out of the window at the beauty of telegraph poles, the parson will stare with a benign, vacant expression, and the workman will suck his pipe and read the sports news. The British attitude to life seems bound up in the merits of football teams or fast bowlers, until one day with a sudden jerk the whole community is awakened to the reality of a grave situation, and everybody realises something must be done. Recently, without warning, the news that preparations were being made for an administrative enrolment of men over 35 years old, suddenly shook England, but the event is almost forgotten now.

There is no denying the fact that there is one supreme factor about the British which makes the race second to none. One word

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will not describe this all-important trait, but it seems that the ubiquitous policeman is an epitome, a controller. He radiates complete control, and has only to lift or wave a hand and traffic comes and goes. If you have lost your way or have forgotten the time, a policeman will tell you, and so long as there is the dominating yet gentle "man in blue," the situation is always under control. Unfortunately every country is not in the same happy state, for Egypt possesses whistling, gesticulating inefficiency; Italy endures filth, squalor and barter; and in France the gendarme openly enter a cafe to demand a free drink while still on his beat. At home, when a "copper" returns a football to the field of play, he receives the loudest cheer of the match.

RODITE.

IN RETROSPECT

The Brentham Magazine was first published in July, 1913, believe it or not, and it is hoped that the reproductions from that date included below will serve as a pleasant reminder to the older members and of interest to younger folk.

"The Institute is open to all investors and members of their families upon yearly payment of a registration fee of 2s. 6d. each for applicants over 17 years, and of 6d. per year for those below that age. The year ends in March. Members joining outdoor sections pay a ground fee of 2s. 6d., irrespective of the number of sections they join. This ground fee is in addition to the equipment fees charged by the various sections."

"Our congratulations to Mr. J. Barnes, one of Brentham's walkers in training, on his 'first' at the Crystal Palace last Saturday."

"The Cricket Committee faced the opening of the season in a somewhat doubtful mood, as they had lost fourteen good men and true during the Winter months, but the newcomers to the estate have more than filled up the gaps. Greater keenness and better fielding among the players exist in no cricket club. A feature of the 1st XI games has been the consistent batting; every man has done his share, the best scores being by Messrs Royce (71), Crutchley (65) and Hogley (58). Mr. Rigg has proved himself to be still a valuable wicket-keeper as well as run-getter."

TOPICAL NOTES

"There is a vacuum cleaner at the Institute. It can be hired at 1s. 6d. per day (5 p.m. delivery and return). You must apply by letter to the office or club. You need not send the dust back in the cleaner."

"Again the word 'skittles' is being whispered around. Strenuous efforts were made two Winters back to get a skittle-alley attached to the Institute. Now, if skittles is to be added to our joy of the coming Winter, it is to be hoped that the enthusiasts will get along with the preliminaries."

"The search for Olympic talent has been somewhat enlivened by Mr. Punch's efforts. At Brentham he could find splendid tug-of-war material in the fine body of men engaged in hauling cables through underground pipes, and by hiding behind a wall in Mount Park Road, he would be certain to find a Marathon champion."

"How many Brentham ladies would like to take up that grand old English game of bowls? I should much like to, if only a few of you others would come forward. I read in one of the morning papers that it makes you supple and graceful. Hurry up, then, there is no time to lose for

PORTIA."

January, 1914. The weeding of the gravelled path edges of our streets has caused distress to some of our botanist friends, but it is really very pleasant to be able to cross the kerb stone without being obliged to put on goloshes.

ON DIT

That the blasted tree by the ninth hole bears testimony to the power of the golfer's vocabulary.

HOHEN FIFTEEN (BY JACK)

At Brentham, when the sun was low
The players to the club did go ;
And no one saw the wondrous show
Of me, sir, scoring rapidly.
But Brentham saw another sight,
When Kelly cried in broad daylight,
Commanding tennis men to fight
Amid her peaceful scenery.

(Another powerful instalment next month ; sit tight).

September, 1913.

BADMINTON

No doubt if, and when, our gent's side play Lyons (away, of course) there will be a great following, not because of our possible hopes of winning a game, but rather due to the fact that the team and supporters had a bumper supper on the occasion of their last visit; roast beef, cabbage, roast potatoes, followed by apple pie and custard, although not helping us in our play did fill the bill in more senses than one. As one member put it, "Blimey, I wouldn't have had fish and chips at home had I known this was on the menu"—anyway after all the feeding we lost 9—0, due no doubt to better playing conditions than we are accustomed to

Other results :—

Mixed team beat St. Peter's, 5—4,
Men's team lost to Sandersons 4—5.

This month's matches :—

3rd.	Perivale (Mixed)	...	Home
11th.	Sandersons (Men)	...	Away
29th.	St. Stephen's (Men)	...	Away

Owing to Dramatic Show, "Blue Goose" there will be no play on Sunday 16th and Wednesday 19th—play as usual on 23rd.

Has been whispered in certain quarters that some of the footballers are thinking of joining the Section. They feel, no doubt, it would keep them toned up. All are welcome, but limited facilities naturally keep games down on well attended nights, although on Wednesday evenings at times the bar has been occupied solely by our players. (Who said "the Badminton Section only caters for the few")—naturally it does, and it cannot be avoided in present circumstances, yet when the "few" are not playing they are usually indulging in "wallop," etc.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Jan.	8.	Reserve XI v. Kilburn Poly. (Mx. A.F.A. Junr.)
"	15.	Reserve XI v. Alex. Park
"	22.	First XI v. Fulham C.O.B. (Mx. A.F.A.)
"	29.	First XI v. Old West Citizens

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1. Is there a Kitty?
No, old chap. Beer first—women after.
2. You can't get time off?
Why, I remember one player who often left work early, limping on to the home bus—and he made that an excuse for losing three games.
3. Have you tried this new stuff ————?
Why, that's as old as the hills.
You'll be telling us next, you don't know about double decker buses.
4. Touchline talk.
(Back is seen writhing in agony on the ground.)
Come on, chase after him! Wake up!
5. If you assault a man in England and bash his teeth down his throat and kick him in the stomach, that's just play and you'll get 14 days in jug. But if you lay a finger on him and pinch his watch at the same time, that's robbery with violence, and you'll probably get 18 strokes with the cat and three years in Dartmoor.
6. They're fascinating, all right. I love them. I don't understand them, but I love them. I've got a theory about them.
The weaker sex?
No, those little yellow ducks that bob up and down with their beaks in the water.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. (a) Mr. Justice Lynskey.
(b) Mr. Gerald Upjohn, K.C.
(c) Mr. Russell Vick, K.C.
2. Mr. Arthur Henderson.
3. General Sir Brian Robertson.
4. Parliamentary Secretary to Board of Trade.
5. M. Schuman.
6. Count Sforza.
7. Lee Savold.
8. Maurice Denham.
9. Hugh Morton.
10. Taylor.
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