PERME SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB



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March 1983

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EDITORIAL

I am pleased to present to you yet another issue of Quickmatch, jampacked with news, funny jokes, not so funny jokes, cartoons and all the usual load of venerable shoe repairers.

In addition we have commissioned a special article on the history of the Waltham Abbey Powder Mills which will be issued in two parts. (Buy this issue and get part II FREE !) I had hoped to include reproductions of some old pictures and engravings to accompany this article but because the stencil cutting machine is in dire need of an overhaul the quality of print was unacceptable. I hope to remedy this by the next issue. The cover of the issue is from an engraving of the Powder Mills in 1735 when the Mills were owned by the Walton family. My apologies for the poor reproduction and I promise to try and do better next time. My thanks to all the contributors who have overwhelmed me with articles etc. and especially our resident cartoonist who never fails to amaze me with his wit and perspicacity.

The deadline for the next issue will be Friday 27th May so keep the contributions coming.

Norman Paul EDITOR

P.S. Someone found the following in another magazine but thought it too vitriolic, so here goes:

> WHAT KIND? Someone has said the Membership of any organization is made up of four bones: There are the WISHBONES who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do all the work. There are the JAWBONES who do all the talking but little else. Next come the KNUCKLEBONES who knock everything that everybody else tries to do. Finally there are the BACKBONES who get under the load and do the work. WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU?

BAR TALK

When I talked in the last isue of the modest price increases imposed by our brewers I little realised how prophetic my remarks would be. A number of the larger brewers, including "MACS", have recently increased prices by about 4p a pint. In some cases these are the second or third increase in a year, and the usual budget increases have yet to come. With the recession continuing to deepen it seems to me that the brewing industry is in danger of drowning (its sorrows ?).

I am sorry that the King Keg has been in such poor form since Christmas, especially since I drink copious quantities of it myself. The problem is not that it is undrinkable but that it lacks head and sparkle. I have complained in writing to our brewers and hope that something will be done to improve the quality.

The response to my previous plea for new blood in the bar staff has been zero, reflecting the usual apathy and complacency to which I have become resigned. Surely, some of you could do with some extra pocket money ?

Bob. McGuchan

BADMINTON AND CROQUET

Badminton and Croquet may be regarded as the infra-red and ultraviolet ends of the sporting spectrum but both are flourishing. Old badminton players never die they just lose their cocks and take up croquet (I presume you mean "shuttles" Ed.) The latest recruits to croquet, or escapees from badminton, are Dave and Chris Needham and Reg Deadman. According to my calculations Allen Clarke should be the next defector.

Badminton is still played on Tuesday evenings at the Paternoster Sports Centre throughout the year and at £2-35 per court hour the Treasurer has a Securicor guard when paying in the fees. There is no truth in the rumour that a tunnel is being dug from Powdermill Lane to the North Site Engineering Shop to enable badminton players to sneak in there at night. Seriously, it would make a superb hall for badminton (He said wistfully). We are still being visited by Adrian Phillips in between his bouts at South Bank Poly and we may have to introduce a "county" membership fee. Ernie Cook sheds his years each time he plays but like Bryan Howard I fear he will soon be a candidate for croquet. Ron Craik manages to take a rest with a quiet game of squash in between badminton games but he keeps putting tennis strokes into both games, much to the confusion of the opposition (a further distraction is provided by the trampolining ladies on court five).

Croquet should start on the first Monday in May (and then successive Mondays throughout the summer), weather and Bank Holidays permitting. "Klunking" starts at 6pm and Ike always insists on an early finish to sink a few "sundowners". Geoff Hooper was able to provide some of the "scuttlebutt" from the far south site (RARDE) last summer and we're "hooping" (Oi? It's my job to make with the funny puns.Ed.) that his merry guffaw will ring around Larsens again this year. Dave and Chris Hewkin should be once more making us all feel old by bringing their daughter along to rush about with so much energy (a state which can only be described as "pre-badminton").

Here's to continued success for both clubs and not forgetting the old saying "Old croquet players never die, they just peg out". Bryan Howard

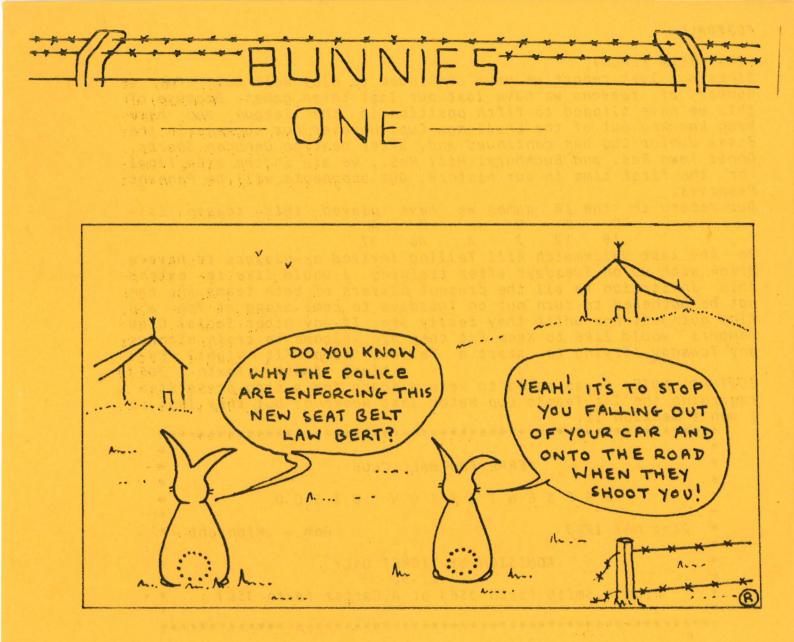
SQUASH

With reference to the "Tri-sport" challenge issued by this club in the last issue of Quickmatch, not only have the Badminton and Tennis Clubs responded, but the Football Club has also expressed interest. I therefore propose to expand the challenge to any Club that is interested. The challenge, if you have forgotten is for teams to play squash, badminton and tennis. The structure and rules of the tournament will be formulated with the secretaries of the various clubs involved although each club must have at least one female member in their team for the mixed doubles event.

Ron Craik Squash Club

FOOTBALL SECOND TEAM LATE REPORT - STOP PRESS

League position-mid table STOP Still in Charity Cup STOP Still no Mnaager STOP Only one supporter STOP Tony Williams lost in deep mud STOP (Couldn't Stop? Ed.)



n IS THE WATER YES, THE SOCIAL WORKERS' STRIKE CLUIS BEER IS AFFECTING STRONGER PERTE BERT? 1 1-Am .. R

-3-

FOOTBALL

FIRST TEAM REPORT Since our last report we have continued to play well but, for a number of reasons we have lost our last three games. Because of this we have slipped to fifth position in the league and have been knocked out of the Challenge Cup. However our success in the Essex Junior Cup has continued and, after beating Dedbden Sports, Ongar Town Res. and Buckhurst Hill Res., we are in the area final for the first time in our history. Our opponents will be Pennant Reserves. Our record in the 18 games we have played this season is:-P W D F L A 2 37 18 12 4 48 the last Quickmatch Bill Telling invited ex-players to have a ID drink with us on Tuesdays after training. I would like to extend this invitation to all the present players of both teams who can not be bothered to turn out on Tuesdays to come along at 7pm and find out just how unfit they really are. If any other Social Club members would like to Keep Fit they are welcome to train with us any Tuesday (Trying to start a Fellows Keep Fit Night? Ed.) Nigel Smith (extn 366) EDITOR'S NOTE; I was asked to keep a space for a stop press item regarding the Ist Team's Cup Match last weekend: but they lost so I won't mention it. ***** * × × * PERME FOOTBALL CLUB * × * PRESENTATION DISCO × * 21st MAY 1983 8pm - Midnioht -¥

> ADMISION BY TICKET ONLY £1-50

From N.Smith (extn 366) or A.Carter (extn 356)

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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My contribution to the Christmas edition of Quickmatch ended on an optimistic note with regard to our progress in the New Year, so it is very pleasing to report that we are so far having a very good start to the New Year.

Our Third Round opponents in the Essex County Cup were Riverhawks a team from East London who, on record, are one of the best teams from that area. The result that day was a 3-0 win to Riverhawks, two of the goals coming late in the second half. Against such classy opposition our performance gave some indication that we should do well in our own league and cup competitions. So, it is nice to report that our current position: in the league is SECOND with good results against Old Harlow (5-1 win) and a 3-3 draw against league leaders Puckeridge.

On Sunday 20th February we played Sheering in the semi-final of the League Cup and won 3-1. Our performance that day was a little below par but with the tension involved in a semi-final plus the very small pitch that we played on, restricting our natural running style, I suppose this was to be expected. The Cup Final will be played on Sunday 24th April. At the moment we do not know the kick-off time other than that it will be an afternoon match. When the programmes are printed this information will be on them. Anyone wishing to come along to cheer us should contact myself or Bill Coe as admission is by programme only.

Bill Warren

*

CHESS

The Chess Club has experienced a somewhat unhappy time since the last Quickmatch.

One of our stalwarts known to many of you, Joe Eley, was involved in a road accident recently, and as these notes are written, is still in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. However, reports are good and we hope to have him back in the fold soon.

and we hope to have him back in the fold soon. Joe's absence, together with others for various unavoidable reasons, have forced us to field weakened teams in recent matches and it seems unlikely that any of our four teams will top their League this season.

On the bright side, we are pleased to welcome back one of our former members, Dave Adkins. Although initially a little rusty, Dave is now regaining his old style and proving a valuable asset. As always, we are on the lookout for players of any strength. The Essex Commercial League will probably disband at the end of this sseason and if so we shall consider entering a team in the bottom division of the Essex League. This would prove an ideal base for beginners to the game and to players as yet inexperienced in competitive chess (Question: How can Chess be played NON-Competitively ? Ed.) I know of several people who fall into this category and I hope that they will respond to this appeal before I come chasing them? Please contact either myself (ext 425 or at the bar) or John Cook (ext 238).

Ian Griggs

SNOOKER

The internal Snooker and Billiards Competition is under way and going well. The semi-finals and finals will be played on dates yet to be arranged but it is expected to be towards the end of March. A notice will be posted as soon as dates are arranged. The two PERME teams are sharing mixed fortunes in the EDWASCA League with the "B" team in the lower half and the "A" Team in the top half of Div.II. The "A" Team had a good win over LTB"A" to go through to the semi-finals of the Hobbs Cup which is to be played on neutral ground. (I thought you played on a table? Ed.) Just inside the snooker room, on the right hand wall, there is a set of rules. These rules were formulated by the Snooker Club and ratified by the Central Committee to ensure the smooth running of the snooker room. Please abide by these rules as failure to do so could lead to expulsion from the Club. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve the running of the snooker room please let me know. The Junior Snooker Club is still running every Monday at 7.30pm and any youngsters interested, come along.

Barry Barrett Snooker Chairman

CB RADIO CLUB

The CBRC has now been running for 4 weeks and at the last count we had a membership of 28 with others interested in joining. We have run two events, the first being an Inaugural Party to get the club running, and the second was a Slide Show. On the other two weeks we had general evenings where members could chat, play darts, have a drink etc. If you would like to join, please come down to the Club on a Friday night and meet us. Dave Church

NOTICE:

Eenny Goodman, Earney Bigard, Johnny Dodds, Jimmie Noone. What do these persons have in common? If you know the answer then perhaps you may be interested in forming a JAZZ APPRECIATION SOCIETY. Contact Dave Spooner - Stores Accounts - extn 479.

CHILDREN'S CORNER - A FAIRY STORY

Once upon a time, a little Fume Cupboard was delivered to the ESTABLISHMENT. He was taken to a laboratory which was to be his new home and his OWNER looked on him with pride. Soon, some men came and put him together and placed him in his place in the corner which was to be his very own place. More men came and connected up his water and gas pipes and still more men came to put in place the wires that would carry the ELECTRICITY which would bring his heart to life.

But no one came to connect his chimney and put his heart in place until he was about one year old. Some men came to put the chimney in place and, then, he heard the dread words - "It's not repairable", "It's irreplaceable" - because his little heart that would make him suck and blow air was broken.

make him suck and blow air was broken. Now his OWNER no longer looked pleased with him. He started to use the little Fume Cupboard to store bottles of chemicals just as if he were an ordinary cubboard, not one designed to do an IMPORTANT JOB. At night, when his OWNER and the other people called SCIENTISTS went home, the other pieces of furniture and equipment made fun of him and he wished he had not been so proud when he first arrived. Some pieces of equipment who moved about from one laboratory to another, told him stories of the BIG GROWN UP Fume Cupboards in other laboratories who, although they were dirty with chemicals, did IMPORTANT JOBS, like blowing NASTY SMELLS into the DIRECTORS OFFICE. The poor little Fume Cupboard was very sad.

Then, one day, a Bright Young Engineer took pity on him. He promised the OWNER he would get "something done". The OWNER did not seem to believe the BYE, but the BYE went away and found a new heart and got it put in place. Then Bob the ELECTRICIAN came and connected up the new heart to the wire things carrying the ELECTRICITY which had been there all ready for a long, long time. The OWNER realised that the little Fume Cupboard's SIXTH BIRTH – DAY was almost here and he decided to give the little Fume Cupboard a special Birthday Party since it wasn't really his fault that he had not worked for so long. On the BIG DAY, the little Fume Cupboard was dressed in coloured bunting and, at the appointed hour many guests assembled in the

On the BIG DAY, the little Fume Cupboard was dressed in coloured bunting and, at the appointed hour many guests assembled in the laboratory. A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON (Well, they said he was) came and said some kind words and pressed the starter button. The little Fume Cupboard's heart roared into life and his suction was enough to blow out the SIX CANDLES placed inside him; there was such a big cheer from all those around.

such a big cheer from all those around. But then a nasty FAT MAN stepped forward and put a MAGIC BOX into the mouth of the little Cupboard. The OWNER, the VIP and the BYE looked anxious (especially the BYE). The FAT MAN smiled and said "He'll do" and everyone relaxed, cheered and smiled.

The CELEBRATIONS continued for the whole TEA BREAK and the liitle Fume Cupboard felt very happy and pleased that, at long last he would be able to do the IMPORTANT JOE he had been bought for. The moral of this, basically true story, dear children, is that you should never expect an immediate answer to prayer. But one day a BYE may come into your life and EFB will eventually finish that job you waited so patiently for.

> Uncle Bert Safety Section

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: The Story of the "SCRUBBERS" That Lie in Wait Behind the Admin Building. (Soho has nothing like this?) THE PROPELLANT EXPLOSIVES AND ROCKET MOTOR ESTABLISHMENT

AT WALTHAM ABBEY

ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Contributed by Malcolm McLaren, Management Services

PART I

THE EARLY YEARS OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

The present Establishment at Waltham Abbey occupies the site with the longest continuous association with explosives. Just after World War II the Research Establishment took over from the Royal Gunpowder Factory which had provided a manufacturing capability since 1787 and which, in its turn, was the successor to the earlier privately-owned Powder Mills. No history of this Establishment is therefore complete without reference to the history of gunpowder itself.

Gunpowder is an emotive word which conjures up a whole range of impressions, from dastardly plots to festive celebrations, but for five centuries it remained the undisputed explosive and propellant and, as such, it served to change world history. At a more parochial level it is responsible for PERME Waltham Abbey being where it is today.

It is now accepted from the writings of Taoist alchemists, as early as the 9th century, that the Chinese were the first to develop incendiary mixtures of saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal and later, in 1044, to give detailed compositions of these mixtures. The availability of saltpetre and an awareness of its properties were key factors in this development. Knowledge of gunpowder then spread westwards to Europe through the Arab countries where saltpetre was unknown before the early part of the 13th century but later became known as "Chinese Snow". In Europe, Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar, is credited with the earliest experimental investigations of gunpowder but he was so apprehensive of the consequences of his discoveries that in his account written in the mid 13th century he concealed the details of the composition in an anagram which, surprisingly, was not deciphered until 1904! Despite this secrecy the composition and its propellant properties became more widely known and led to the development of the gun, the earliest known illustration of which appears in a manuscript dated 1326 by Walter de Milemete, chaplain to Edward III. Twenty years later, after further development, the gun was being used for the first time on the battlefield by the English at Crecy in 1346. Although some gunpowder was being made at the Tower of London, most of that used in the next two hundred years was imported from Europe where Antwerp and Hamburg were the main trade centres. It was not until the second half of the 16th century that the gunpowder industry began to expand, possibly as a result of the Queen's Ministers advocating, in 1560, the construction of new Powder Mills to overcome the shortage of gunpowder at a time of deteriorating international relations.

It was at this time that the earliest link between Waltham Abbey and gunpowder was established, appearing in the form of a letter from an Italian to John Tamworth of Waltham Abbey concerning the supply of saltpetre and sulphur. The early years of the Waltham Abbey Mills are shrouded in uncertainty but a legend exists that the powder used in the "Gunpowder Plot" came from Waltham Abbey. It is known that, just before that fateful day in 1605, the main conspirators were frequent visitors to White Webbs a house in the nearby hunting district of Enfield Chase. The powder could have been purchased without suspicion and then transported by water down the River Lea to the Thames.

The importance of the Mills appears to have flourished as by 1662 Thomas Fuller, the local minister, was writing in his "History of the Worthies of England" that more gunpowder was made by the mills in his parish "than in all England besides". Fuller recognized that the manufacture of gunpowder was a dangerous occupation stating that the Mills had blown up seven times in seven years but without the loss of life. It was however only three years later, in October 1665, that the local Parish Registers recorded the burials of two workmen killed in a mill explosion, a tragedy which must have been viewed with some concern as it was most unusual for the cause of death to be given in the registers.

The gunpowder industry was in private ownership and the Waltham Mills were no exception. Little is known of the early owners but the names of Richard Stock and John Berisford both appear as "powdermakers" in a land transaction of 1648. Samuel Hudson was powdermaker in 1669 at the time of the earliest known, but the still extant, title deed to the site in which details are given used for the processes of "grindinge, boylinge, of buildings corninge and dryinge of powder". The Mills then passed into the possession of the Walton family in whose hands they remained for three generations. By 1735 the Mills were owned by John in that year by John Farmer in his Walton and were described history of Waltham Abbey as being "esteemed the largest and compleatest works in Great Britain", and although no details of manufacture are given it is known that the powder mills were worked by horses but that water power was used for the "corning" and "glazing" engines. By 1770 the use of water power had spread the powder mills which were then supplying "near one hundred to barrels weekly for Government Service, each barrel containing one hundred weight".

NEXT ISSUE - Nationalisation of the Waltham Abbey Mills.

COMPETITION RESULTS

There were no entries received in either of the two "CB HANDLES" competitions in the last issue but many entries for the CARTOON CAPTION. It was most gratifying to see you all responding to the very seasonal cartoon and it was decided to award three prizes of a most excellent wine to the three best (in my opinion) entries. From Mark Phillips we had:"ISN'T THAT MARK PHILLIPS?", "WELL WE DID WARN HIM ABOUT KEEPING HIS DESK TIDY!" and he shared with John Kemp who gave us:

"ISN'T THAT THE CARTOONIST UP THERE", "YES. MARK PHILLIPS FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM". which I liked because it followed on from one of the other cartoons in that issue and if somebody can show that he actually read Quickmatch then I think he deserves a prize. John also sent in, "THAT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT BARRIER'S WORKED ALL WEEK" which deserves an honourable mention but NOT an actual prize.

From Dennis Mansell: "WHAT'S HE HANGING AROUND FOR?" "DUNNO IT'S AFTER FIVE".

And from Brian Hammant with the most succint entry which, in my humble judgement, was the best: "SO THAT'S THE NEW REDUNDANCY SCHEME"."YES! IT'S CALLED VPRIP".

Other honourable mentions:

"THAT'S THE THIRD ONE THIS WEEK"."THEY COULDN'T GET A RISE ANY OTHER WAY" (Dennis Mansell)

"THOUGHT HE'D BEEN PROMOTED"."DIDN'T FANCY BISHOPTON"(Ian Costen) "DIDN'T HE WORK ON PI"."YEAH!JUST HEARD WHO HIS NEW BOSS IS" anon "TIRED OF LIFE"."NO. FORGOT HIS PASS". (Mrs.I.Mezen)

CROSSWORD

BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE IRISH TIMES



ACROSS

1. A boxer's blow

- 6. and Judy
- Suffolk, a type of shire horse
- 8. A humorous magazine
- 9. A mixed party drink served from a bowl

The last incorrect entry received by the Editor will be awarded a prize of a blunt pencil and a book of Sunday Times Crossword Puzzles.

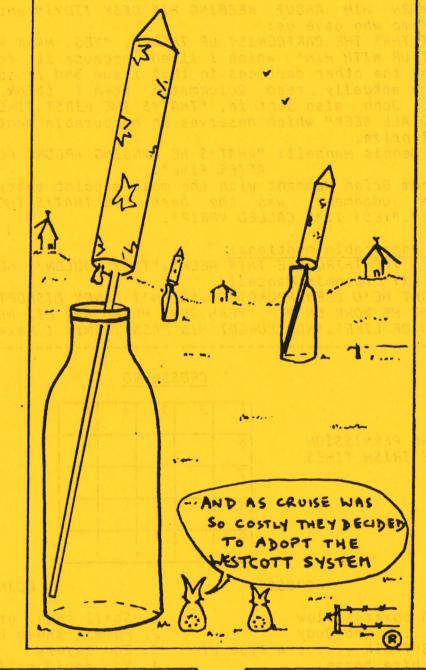
DESPERATELY NEEDED - SENSIBLE COMPETITIONS

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEXT QUICKMATCH ISSUE - 27th MAY

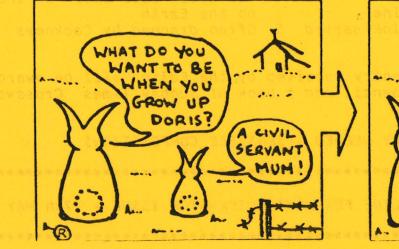
DOWN

- 1. Small round green vegetables
- 2. Female sheep (plural)
- 3. Egg layers
- 4. You could sail seven of these to the Earth
- 5. Often dropped by Cockneys

JNNIES -TOD-



orean vegetablas (clurel)



WIHY'S THAT DORIST COS, THEY ALWAYS PASS THE BUCK!

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE Two Radio Controlled Cars complete with Radio Control, Electric Starter and Accessories. £90 o.n.o. Ring Waltham Cross 20262

MOTOR MART Humber Sceptre (Hunter shape) 1970/71. Engine OK, Recent cylinder head overhaul but body ratty. Ideal for breaking for spares. £75 o.n.o. Will deliver. Contact Tony Kosecki on Extn 271 or 356.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE ADS ARE GENUINE

SILLY ADS

FOR SALE Complete set of body building weights and twenty vols of magazine "Macho Muscles" £17 no offers. Contact J.J.Fitzgerald, extn 425

WANTED Flesh coloured truss, preferably unused. Contact J.J.Fitzgerald, extn 425

UNIQUE COLLECTORS ITEM Rust coloured M.G., needs slight attention Will exchange for skateboard. Ring Ted on 312.

HOLIDAYS in ALBANIA. Ring 425 for free brochure. You'll never go anywhere else again.

WANTED A Day Off. John the Dog extn 531

Editors Note: Genuine advertisements are printed free of charge. There is however a small fee for the inclusion of "silly ads" which are private jokes that I don't understand. Will the perpetrators of the above send their remittances to me as soon as possible. The rate is 15 words for £1 and then 10p per word.

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR - No.2

- 1. "I just can't see the point of a page 3 girl modelling clothes (Actually Ian, you can't see either of them. Ed.)
- 2. "Well I'm the brewery rep and I still say there's nothing wrong with the beer.... Oh? That's very nice of you, I'll have a pint of graught cider please ?
- 3. "I wouldn't stand too close to Alan Wright at the Country and Western Evening if I were you. He's bought a ten gallon hat for the occasion".
- 4. "I didn't know we had coloured members". "No! That's just the few of the Committee that are painting the Hall".

SOCIAL

Since the last Quickmatch, we have successfully negotiated the busy Christmas period and booked many of our 1983 functions - see Social Calendar.

The New Year dance proved to be as popular as ever - so much so that we have already booked the band for 1984!

The second Ladies Fashion Evening also proved another "sell out" and we were delighted to welcome back page 3 girl, Pam Heaney, one of the two models displaying the dresses. The proceeds from the evening (ticket sales and raffle) raised over £150 for the New Mossford Home for Handicapped Children. As you will see we have booked two further Fashion Shows later this year and I'd urge those wanting tickets to book as soon as the posters come out - during the week leading up to the last show tickets were as hard to get as Cup Final Tickets?

Ian Griggs

BRASS BAND CONCERT featuring <u>W A R E B R A S S</u> An Evening of Popular Music, Light Classics, Show Tunes and Traditional Marches

This accomplished 24 piece band have appeared on TV and provided background film music. They will also feature the WARE TROMBONE QUARTET - the 1982 South of England Trombone Quartet Champions.

Saturday 30th April

8pm - 10.30pm

Ploughman's Lunch Tickets £2.50 from Allan Ball, Ian Griggs or at the Club Bar.

Our Third LADIES FASHION SHOW

Friday 27th May

8pm - llom

<u>Tickets</u> (strictly limited to 260) - 50p WATCH OUT FOR POSTERS AND NOTICES ADVERTISING TICKET SALES

<u>SPRING DANCE</u> featuring THE CLAYDON EDWARDS SOUND

Saturday 4th June 8pm – Midnight <u>Tickets</u> £3 including supper FURTHER DETAILS NEARER THE EVENT

Saturday 12th March	COUNTRY'N'WESTERN EVENING
Saturday 30th April	BRASS BAND CONCERT
Friday 27th May	LADIES FASHION EVENING
Saturday 4th June	SPRING DANCE
Friday 2nd September	SQUARE DANCE with MIKE BURNHAM
Friday 16th September	LADIES FASHION EVENING
Saturday 15th October	AUTUMN DANCE featuring "FIESTA"
Saturday 10th December	CHRISTMAS DRAW

The above functions have already been booked and further details will be published in the preceding Quickmatch.

It is hoped to fill the gaps with further social events and the return of your completed Social Questionnaire below will help us to book the functions that you want?

To assist your Social Committee to finalise the remaining 1983 programme, would you please complete the form below and return it to any member of the Social committee - Ian Griggs, Allan Ball, Alan Wright, Norman Paul, Steve Hutchings, Barry Barrett, Keith Fowler - OR leave it in the Club postbox.

To the Club Social Committee:

1. I would support the following functions....

TRAMPS BALL	Yes/No
FANCY DRESS DANCE	Yes/No
CHEESE AND WINE EVENING	Yes/No
SUMMER FETE/GARDEN SHOW	Yes/No
LIVE MUSIC IN THE SMALL	
HALL ON SAT.EVENINGS	Yes/No
BALLROOM DANCING CLASS	Yes/No

2. Any other events/artists you would like us to consider:

Signed