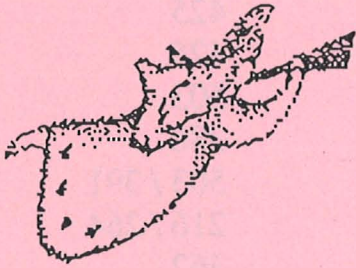
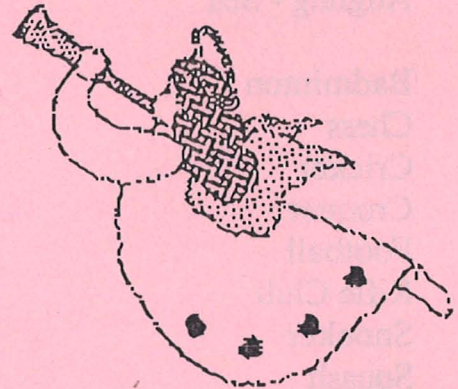


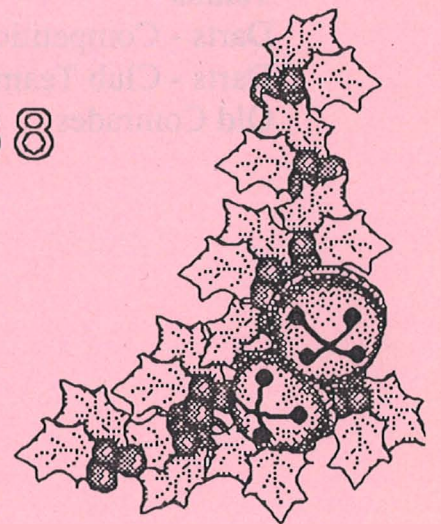
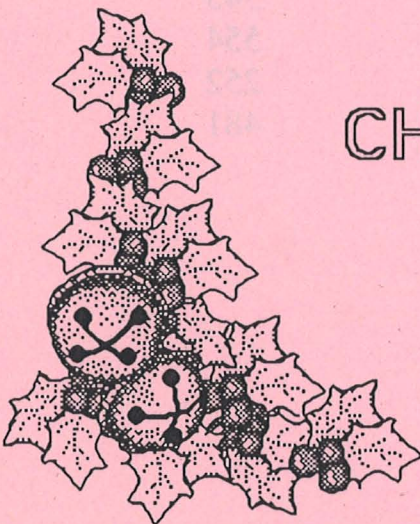
# THE POWDERMILL CLUB



# QUICKMATCH



CHRISTMAS 1988





## Who 's Who in Powdermill

Chairman	Anthony Arber	Extn 401
Secretary	Malcolm Ashby	425
Treasurer	Ken Hicks	425
Social	Bill Coe	503
Outings	Barbara Coe	386
Sports	Barry Barrett	503 / 391
Bar	Ernie Mumford	216 / 264
House Management	Gordon Horne	362
Membership	Terry Foulsham	425
Publicity	Penny McManamon	444
Quickmatch	Neil Shepherd	442
	Sally Westlake	409
Angling - Coarse	Tony Smith	412
Angling - Sea	Dave Mullenger	399
	Terry Stemman	369
Badminton	Bryan Howard	469
Chess	John Cook	238
Cricket	Bert Betts	229
Croquet	Bryan Howard	469
Football	Bill Warren	406
Rifle Club	Isobel Barter	408
Snooker	Barry Barrett	503 / 391
Squash	Peter Maher	552
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## EDITORIAL

( Cue drum roll ! )

Wonders will never cease - an edition of Quickmatch ! ! I bet you all thought it had died a death; but no - it rises from the ashes like a phoenix reborn. This is the bumper issue. Spring, Summer and Christmas all rolled into one. You now have a new editor, sorry two new editors. Where one could cope, two can do better ( Sorry Dave ). It's always better with two !

Although we got off to a slow start there will be no stopping us now. We have introduced one or two new items in this issue which we hope you will find amusing. If they prove popular we intend to make them regular features. One of the new features is our very own comicstrip. All the characters are fictional and any similarity to anyone alive or dead is purely accidental. If you have any comments on the new features, or indeed Quickmatch itself, we would be delighted to hear from you. We may even print the better ones ( for the purposes of this magazine better closely equates to legible ).

We have managed to arm twist one or two people into writing an article on events that have taken place over the summer. For example, the NP2 / NP4 challenge hockey ( more like rollerball ) match and the Sunday Times National Fun Run. Not wanting to boast but both your editors excelled in both these events ! ( Don't know what S. means I barely know how to hold a hockey stick, never mind, hitting the little white thing - N. ). If you have taken part in any amusing or interesting events, we would love to hear from you - so start writing everyone. After all Quickmatch is your magazine and we can't publish it if you don't send us articles to put in it. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this festive issue, for those who offered and did not deliver your names have been noted ( So beware Aunt Sally 's probiam page ).

Enough from us, we will now let you read on and enjoy yourself. Hope you all had a good summer holiday and your Christmas is a thoroughly festive event. Cheers ! !

**SALLY WESTLAKE & NEIL SHEPHERD**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Festive greetings to all Club members. The Club has survived another year and I hope we shall continue to next Xmas and beyond. Plans to close both sites have now been confirmed by senior management and the proposed timing of the run-down given. This will mean a major change in the lives of those employed at the sites. For some, the daunting task of moving home to a new area, for others the prospect of looking for new jobs locally looms large. Whatever your situation I would like to wish you good luck for the future in all that you do. As for the Club, we shall endeavour to carry on as long as we can, much depends on the support of the membership and the availability of people to organise the running of the Club. However the overriding factor is the use of the Club building, for which no definite date of closure has been given. The committee is currently investigating a number of proposals which may extend the life of the Club after site closure. We will continue to keep you, the members, informed of any progress we make.

There is a full Xmas calendar of events and I hope you will give them your support, especially the Children's Party and the Pantomime. The adults have not been forgotten and they have a few events planned as well. My thanks must go to all the committee members for helping to run the Club throughout the year, as well as the bar staff and others who work behind the scenes but never get a mention ( *Does he mean us - Eds* ), they know who they are ( *Yup, he does mean us* ). Finally I hope that you all have a merry Xmas and a very happy New Year.

ANTHONY ARBER

Chairman



## R. O. Presidential Xmas Message

It will probably be a long time before any employee of either Royal Ordnance or RARDE, Waltham Abbey, Powdermill Club member or not, will forget 1988. It could perhaps be described as an 'interesting' year, by which of course is meant a confusing, uncertain, morale-sapping, worrying kind of year. Yet in some respects several aspects of our futures have been resolved, even if not quite as some of us would wish. We now know formally that both establishments are to close and approximately when; many people know where they are to be posted and can therefore start to plan accordingly. Unfortunately, a substantial number of you do not yet know your destination and with you I can sympathise on a very personal level since that is precisely my position. Surely the organisation cannot manage without us - can it? Others of you will also retire or be made redundant, some voluntarily, if such a thing is possible, the rest of you less willingly. For you, both organisations will endeavour to help with the search for alternative jobs.

Overall, for the physical scientists among you, the closure of the two establishments and the scattering of the dedicated work forces is yet one more manifestation of increasing entropy. Therefore, according to the second law of thermodynamics, it would take a great deal of work to reestablish a phenomenon like Waltham Abbey.

In all probability 1989 will be an equally unforgettable year. The move of Royal Ordnance will be essentially complete by the year's end and most of the staff will have departed; that of RARDE will be well down the line. Many more of you will become aware of your destinations and future during the course of the year and physically both sites will take on an abandoned appearance. 1989 will therefore be the last full year of the Powdermill Club as we know it and several important decisions will need to be made by members regarding its assets and fabric.

Much of the foregoing is rather depressing and for the many of you with long years of service at Waltham Abbey I can well understand this being a sad time. However, on the positive side, it is also an exciting and stimulating time with openings available to those prepared to adapt and generally ride out the storm. Remember there are always opportunities in chaos.

Probably for the last time as co-president of the Powdermill Club let me wish you all a Happy Christmas and an exciting and rewarding New Year. May your 1989 be unforgettable for positive and essentially pleasant reasons.

D G TISLEY



## RARDE Presidential Xmas Message

As the year draws to a close and RARDE Waltham Abbey passes its two hundred and first birthday, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Powdermill Club the compliments of the season.

My particular thanks go to the Committee for all the sterling work that they have done during the course of the year. With our diminishing resources in terms of the number of pairs of hands available to keep the Club running smoothly, the way in which they have maintained the very high standard of all the functions and activities is something for which I would like to express my personal appreciation.

1988 has been a difficult year both for RARDE Waltham Abbey and for the Club, marked as it has been by the closure announcements of both RARDE and RO Waltham Abbey, so I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the future of RARDE Waltham Abbey in so far as it affects the well-being of the Club.

Before RARDE transfers its programmes and its staff from Waltham Abbey to its headquarters site near Sevenoaks we are undertaking a major building programme at RARDE Fort Halstead. This programme has just started, and we now anticipate that it will be largely completed mid to late 1990. We do not see therefore the rundown of activities at Waltham Abbey before mid 1990.

As far as the Club premises are concerned, the Club sits on MoD RARDE real estate, and here the future is less clear. The future use of the North Site, including the Club premises, is currently under review, and it is possible that another government department may wish to take over part or all of the site after RARDE leaves. Alternatively, the Lea Valley Regional Park may take it over. In either case some clearing up and decontamination will be necessary, which will take some time, so there is unlikely to be any pressure for the Club to vacate the premises for some time yet.

So in summary, if the members of the Club wish it to continue operations on its present lines, then from the RARDE point of view, there is no reason why it should not do so, and indeed the Establishment will give all the practical support that it can.

Perhaps, however, with Royal Ordnance leaving Waltham Abbey by the end of next year, a decision on the way ahead for the Club should be sorted out in 1989.

G. Hooper



### BAR REPORT.

The busiest time of the year fast approaches us yet again, at least as far as the bar staff are concerned. The arrangements for the festive period are :-

- Christmas Eve - Open. Bar extension till midnight.
- Christmas Day - Closed all day.
- Boxing Day - Open lunchtime only.
- New Years Eve - Open. Bar extension till 12:30 am.

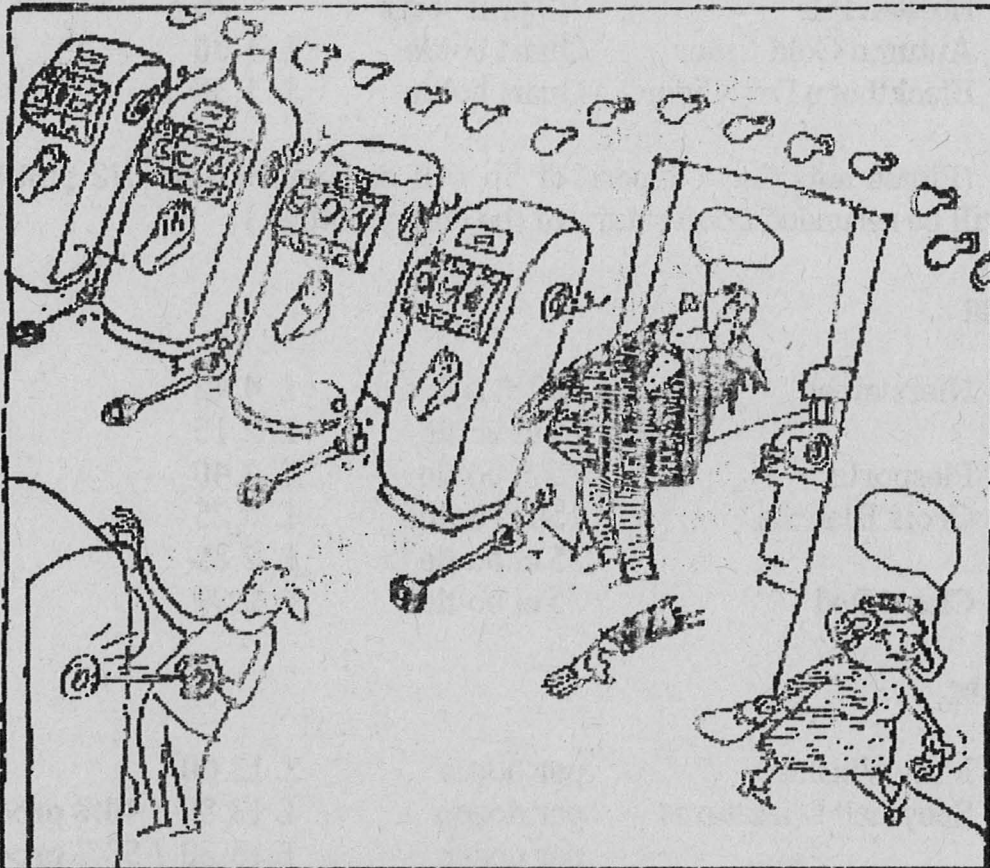
The current guest beer, Festival, will stay throughout the christmas period ( Can't be popular then - Ed ). All that remains for me to say is to thank the bar staff for their work in the past year and for their continued efforts over the next few weeks. I would like to wish both them and all the members of the club a very happy Christmas and an even happier New Year.

**ERNIE MUMFORD**

Bar Chairman

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### COMPETITION.



Can you put a suitable caption to the bar scene above, the best suggestion received wins a bottle of wine.



## CHRISTMAS ORDERS.

If you wish to order beer, wine or spirits from the Club for the Christmas festivities, please notify Steve Hutchings of your requirements in writing as soon as possible ( By 17th December latest ).

### Beers, Lagers et al.

BBA Bitter	5 gallon polyvin	£ 26.92
	9 gallon polyvin	£ 47.78
Abbot Ale	5 gallon polyvin	£ 32.03
	9 gallon polyvin	£ 57.97
	1/2 pint bottle	54 p
Pale Ale	1/2 pint bottle	43 p
Guinness	1/2 pint bottle	54 p
Special Brew	1/2 pint bottle	76 p
Mackeson	1/2 pint bottle	50 p
Carlsberg Lager	1/2 pint bottle	48 p
Holsten Pils	1/2 pint bottle	76 p
Autumn Gold Cider	Quart bottle	£ 1.30
Blackthorn Dry Cider	Quart bottle	£ 1.35

(Please note that a deposit of 5p will be required per 1/2 pint bottle, this will be refunded upon return of the empty bottles.)

### Wines

Niersteiner	150 cl bottle	£ 4.42
	75 cl bottle	£ 2.15
Piesporter	75 cl bottle	£ 2.40
Croix Blanche	150 cl bottle	£ 5.25
	75 cl bottle	£ 2.85
Claret Red	75 cl bottle	£ 2.39

### Spirits.

Malt Whiskies	per bottle	£ 13.60
Speymalt Miniatures	per dozen	£ 13.80 ( 40% proof )
	per dozen	£ 16.20 ( 53% proof )



## **XMAS SOCIAL EVENTS.**

**Sunday 4 December            CHRISTMAS BINGO**  
**8.00 pm**

This is the date set for our Xmas Bingo Session, with the usual seasonal prizes to be won - so come along and enjoy yourselves.

**Saturday 10 December        CHRISTMAS DRAW**  
**8.00 pm**

This is the night chosen for the Club Draw, but due to lack of support at this event in preceding years, this year the draw will take place in the Club bar at approx 8 pm.

**Thursday 15 December        CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME**  
**7.45 - 9.30 APPROX**

The East 15 Acting School from Epping have been engaged by the Club to put on their Christmas Show of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves - Tickets for this event will be 50p each.

**Saturday 17 December        CHRISTMAS DISCO**  
**8.00 - 12.30 pm**

This is Disco night - featuring a wide range of music from the Club disco plus all the usual pre-christmas fun to make this a most enjoyable evening. TICKETS ARE £2 EACH AND WILL BE SOLD TO MEMBERS ONLY. GUESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON THE DOOR.

**Sunday 18 December         CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**3.00 - 6.00 pm**

All members children or grand-children aged between 4 -11 years are eligible to attend this event, which include GAMES - A VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS - ENTERTAINMENT + GIFTS. The cost per child is £1.50

**Saturday 31 December        NEW YEARS EVE DISCO**  
**8.00 - 12.30 pm**

Come and see in the New Year at the New Years Eve Disco. The tickets are £2 each and the same terms of selling apply as at the Christmas Disco.

**Saturday 7 January            NEW YEARS DANCE**  
**8.00 - 12.00 pm**

This is the date set for the New Year's Dance, the tickets are priced at £4 each ( including a supper ). Dancing to MIDNIGHT SOUND ( WHO HAVE ASSURED US THEY WILL BE TURNING UP THIS TIME )!



## CHESS CLUB.

The highlight of the 1987 / 1988 season was the winning of the National Plate for the second time (*Very well done lads ! -Ed*). On the way to the final Powdermill defeated Mitcham 4-2, Milton Keynes 4.5-1.5 and Oxford University 4-2, this latter victory being particularly noteworthy against the team that had beaten Cambridge in the 'varsity' match. In the semi-final we were drawn against the very strong Brighton club, and after a very tough match came out on top 3-3 with the result being settled by board count. The final was against Gloucester in a match played at Peterborough, at the headquarters of Peterborough Software, who sponsored the competition (*Free advertising space, what will we think of next ! - Ed*). Again the final scoreline was 3-3 and we won again due to board count (a tie break system whereby the games between the top players count more than those between lesser mortals). The team that played in the final consisted of:

- |                |                   |               |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Neil Carr   | 2. Gary Kenworthy | 3. Paul Byway |
| 4. John Denton | 5. Terry Turner   | 6. Peter Rose |

Powdermill also won the Lawrence Cup (the London North Circular League K.O. Cup) and finished fourth in the North Circular league itself. The second team were positioned seventh in Division 2. In the Essex League, Powdermill have now finished runners-up in Division 2 for the fourth successive season. This time we were well in the lead up to the New Year (*That's Dec 87 - Ed*) having won all our matches by crushing margins. In January we faltered against relatively lowly opposition and were finally pipped at the post by Ilford. On this occasion it looks as if Powdermill will be awarded a place in Division 1 by virtue of Rayleigh dropping out next year.

At the individual level, Gary Kenworthy has retained the Herts County Championship. He has also been playing regularly on top board for Sussex. Paul Byway, John Denton and John Cook are regulars for Hertfordshire, Neil Carr for Essex and Terry Turner for Norfolk. With another challenging season to look forward to the chess club is on the lookout for more players, with beginners and keen juniors welcome. Contact John Cook on extension 238.

JOHN COOK



## Football Report.

As there was no summer edition of Quickmatch, just a brief recap of last season's achievements. PERME F.C. were Essex Junior Trophy Area Finalists, beating Glendale of Loughton 1 - 0 in the final. We were much the better side than the score line suggests, mainly due to our lack of finishing which was poor by our previous standards. We were promoted to the Premier Division and in the process, set a new record for PERME F.C. with 15 games without defeat. We reached the 3rd round of the Senior Challenge Cup losing 2 - 1 to ESAB and the Semi-finals of the Charity Cup, losing 4 - 2 to Kingsfield Falcons the eventual winners. With promotion and the area trophy win, quite a successful season for PERME.

Our start to this season has been a bad one, we lost several first team players at the start and struggled to field a full side (*rumour had it that Bill actually considered playing himself - Ed*). Since signing on new players, we are playing much better football but unfortunately because of silly mistakes are throwing games away by the odd goal. Our current league position is 4th from bottom, which is something new for us compared to previous seasons. In the 2nd round of the Senior Challenge Cup we went out in extra - time, losing to Bridge Street 2 - 1, after having most of the chances which we wasted, we then gave away two silly goals to end our interest in this competition for this season. Our main aim in the league this season must be to maintain our Premier Division status and hopefully have a good Cup run in the two competitions that we are still involved in.

Merry Christmas,

Bill Warren

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## Snooker & Billiards.

Its nice to see Quickmatch back in circulation again, as we have a whole season of Snooker and Billiards to remark upon. In the EDWASCA League, our "B" team finished top of Division 3. The successful team consists of Alan Dentry, Alby & Steve Wright, Roy Roberts, Mick Perkins and Bill Mackeson, who has just completed 42 years playing snooker for our club. Well done Bill. Further successes were recorded in the 3 a side competition ( Roy Roberts, Alby & Steve Wright ) and the pairs ( Andy Page & Mick Perkins ). Individually, Mick obtained the highest average throughout the season whilst Alan recorded the highest billiard break.



The "A" team consisting of Bernie Argent, Barry Barrett, Wally Sadler, George & Brian Cummings, Paul Jardine and Dave Mullenger finished towards the bottom of Division 1 ( *Come on lads, there's no reason to be shy* ). An excellent result was achieved in the Hobbs Cup when the team finished as runners up. Barry and Wally unluckily lost the deciding frame in the pairs final on the black ball, however Barry recovered to clinch the singles competition. The EDWASCA Presentation Evening, which was held in May, was a great success. Many thanks to Dr A. Owen and Mrs Owen for attending and presenting the trophies. The EDWASCA Presentation evening is scheduled to return again in May 89. In the three club tournaments, the results were as follows :-

Snooker Singles	Wnr	Dave Reynolds	R/up	Andy Goodwin
Handicap Singles	Wnr	Barry Barrett	R/up	George Cummings
Snooker Pairs	Wnrs	Alan Wright	Rs/up	Fred Whiting
		Barry Barrett		Simon Winfield
Handicap Pairs	Wnrs	Wally Sadler	Rs/up	Roy Roberts
		Barry Barrett		Mick Perkins
Billiards	Wnr	Bernie Argent	R/up	George Cummings
Handicap Billiards	Wnr	C. Reynolds	R/up	Wally Sadler

And lastly, Barry Barrett defeated Alby Wright in the final of the Cockney Snooker Classic. Thanks to everybody who entered and refereed the matches.

The annual trip to Wembley to see the "Benson & Hedges Masters Snooker Tournament" will take place on Sunday January 22nd to see the match between Stephen Hendry and Willie Thorne. The coach will be leaving Hoddesdon at midday, picking up en-route to Waltham Abbey and then on to Wembley. The price is £4 for members and £6 for non-members ( includes cost of coach ) and we should arrive back in the early evening. There will be a booking form for this trip so keep a look out for it. I'd like to take this chance to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**BARRY BARRETT**



## RARDE SPORTS DAY.

This year the RARDE Sports Day was enlarged to include a families day with most of the Fort Halstead site open to view, including the Gurs Exhibition. Picnic lunches were also provided. The 10 km road race was held in the morning after a cloudburst which had prevented a proper warm-up period. The race was won by Graham Platt of Chertsey with myself finishing a creditable third.

Waltham Abbey had no representative in the mile race, but NP group managed to raise a tug-of-war team, the like of which has rarely been seen. With the exception of three reasonably muscled individuals, the most notable feature of the squad was its lack of bulk (*Bulky volunteers required for next year - Ed*). Anyone weighing as much as nine stones would have been gladly welcomed. Pitted against CA, we lost the first pull, but for two glorious seconds during the second pull we were actually going backwards before the opposition got to grips with the situation. We hope to take this event more seriously next year.

JOHN COOK

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### London Marathon 17th April 1988

This is a marvellous event to take part in and I strongly recommend it to anyone who has the energy (*Don't all rush at once - Ed*). This year was my 5th London Marathon and my 2nd fastest in a time of 2 hrs 43 mins. My overall position in the race was 567th, or 22nd amongst the over 45's. On this occasion my biggest mistake was leaving my kit on the upper deck of the baggage bus. It is very difficult to negotiate stairs after a marathon when the thigh muscles begin to tighten.

The sponsorship support was as generous as ever and I have sent a cheque for £217-10 to the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children. I would like to thank everyone who donated. I had vowed that this would be my last marathon but I have a qualifying time for next year and my son will be applying for a place also. If he is successful, I may be tempted to join him and have one more try.

JOHN COOK



???????? Quiz Night. ?????????

WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN and WHERE ? - Did you know that STINGO is a strong Yorkshire beer - I didn't. I thought it was a hangover cure ! Mind you, if it's drunk a la " hair of the dog " then I suppose I was nearly right ( Another point Question Master please ).

What am I talking about ? The Quiz Night of course. The Club has just run another very successful Quiz Night. There were over 30 teams entered and I have no doubts that everyone had a very enjoyable evening, excepting perhaps the teams who came 1st and 2nd respectively. I am given to understand that it was neck and neck all the way, a thoroughly nerve wracking experience. Peter Maher, a member of the winning team, said that he was absolutely shattered ( *Are you sure that's what he said Sally* ) by the end of the evening when interviewed by your intrepid editor. I think they were taking the whole event far too seriously - they even admitted that they hardly drank anything all evening, except for Wendy who polished off their bottle of wine ! !

Anyway, the rest of us had an excellent evening and we managed to collect the princely sum of £300 on behalf of the Scanner Appeal by the end of the evening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the question setters ( the winners of the last quiz ), for providing such a good set of questions ( *Does this have anything to do with the fact that Sally's team finished third, I wonder. - Ed* ), and the question master ( Dave Salter ) & his band of helpers for ensuring the smooth running of the evening.

Finally, congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the runners up. The winning team now has the dubious honour of setting the questions for the next Quiz night, which hopefully will be sometime in the Spring. Until then here are a couple of puzzlers to stop the brain going soft ! ( A bottle of wine will be awarded to the first person to send in the correct answers ).

- Q. A man parks his sports car outside a hotel and immediately realises that he is now bankrupt. Why ?
- Q. A man lives in a flat on the thirteenth floor. Every morning he leaves his flat and takes the lift to the ground floor. Every evening, he returns and takes the lift to the ninth floor, gets out and walks up the stairs to his flat on the thirteenth floor. Why ?

SALLY WESTLAKE



## THE SUNDAY TIMES FUN RUN.

### or THE THIRTY-NINE HUNDRED STEPS.

When people are approached and asked if they would like to take part in a Fun Run around Hyde Park at the end of September, the response that you get can be somewhat varied. "HOW FAR ? ! !", immediately springs to mind when the luckless participant is informed of the two and a half miles distance; the sort of distance for which John Cook and other, seasoned London Marathon runners wouldn't even bother taking off their tracksuits.

The more mercenary ask " What do I get if I finish ? ". In response to that I normally lie ! For example I told Jim Haworth that every finisher receives a bottle of Southern Comfort. I think it was only this thought that kept him going, though he was a might disappointed when he reached the finishing line and received his plastic cup full of orange juice. There are economies everywhere !

The event has been organised by the Sunday Times each year for the past eleven though we were blissfully unaware of its existence until last year when Paul Bunyan organised a team. The entry is limited to 30,000 runners who run in 30 age - categories ranging from under - 11's to over - 70's, male and female. Each finisher is given a place in his or her age - category and awarded gold, silver or bronze standard certificates according to their position ; the top 15% getting gold, the next 30% receive silver, leaving the remainder with bronze. There is the usual pile of celebrities running, ( what is the collective noun for celebrities ? ), this year's event included Herb Elliot, Bruce Tulloh, Gladys Bird (nee Taylor ) and the ubiquitous Jimmy Saville. Typically, the course record holder David Moorcroft runs in my age - category. Needless to say I never saw him !

Having the event divided into age - categories means that the Fun Run continues throughout the day and if there is a spread in the ages of your team members then there is usually someone to cheer you on in the individual events. Our team started out with the maximum ten willing volunteers in July, dwindling to the minimum six reluctant, disgruntled footsloggers by the day itself.

The only reason I was asked to write this report was so I could tell the world what a marvellous effort was made by the editors ( *Your fiver is in the post - Eds* ), so I may as well get that over with. Sally Westlake achieved the best placing in the age - categories of all the team, as she did last year, and Neil gave a very creditable performance by getting silver at his first attempt. As for the rest of the team, Peter



Maheer had obviously decided that the course was far too easy and consequently sprinted from the nearest tube station seconds before the start of his race. Being as fair-minded as he is, he then decided to give everybody else a head start while he did up his shoelaces. Laura Taylor, in what may have been her first and last Fun Run, ploughed her way through the largest number of entrants in any category, over 2700, and equalled Neil's effort getting silver first time. She was also the second highest finisher in the team; the women's times are much slower than the men's, honest. As I mentioned above Jim got round but he was suffering from withdrawal symptoms, having only just been surgically removed from his flat cap. The cap's condition was said to be satisfactory. I wandered around the course, with the vague memory of encouraging shouts from the rest of the team, stationed strategically to keep me running (*Don't let him fool you, he recorded the fastest time of the team in just under 17 minutes and 30 seconds. Well done Bernie. - Ed*) Other members of the team were unavoidably absent, John Wilkinson and Eamon Colclough, come back lads we need you. Others found excuses to be absent; you know who you are. Even Paul and friends turned up to encourage, Paul as non-playing manager. The celebrations afterwards didn't quite reach the heady standard of last year (See John, we do need you!).

If anybody is interested in proving how stupid they can be and would like to join us for next year's Fun Run, or would just like more information to form their own team, please contact me and I'll be happy to help. If no-one contacts me, then I'll have to repeat this year's effort of cajoling, begging and threatening to get the team up to the required number. Surely you want to spare me that?! (*Anything but that please - Ed*).

BERNIE DOWNES.

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### NP2 / NP4 Challenge Hockey Match.

or

### "An eyeball to eyeball confrontation."

Many of you may be unaware of the long running competition that exists between certain members of NP2 and NP4. This rivalry has taken the form of several rather violent confrontations. The first two such events could be loosely described as football matches, with the most recent being a hockey match. This is an account of the latter. Now anyone with a modicum of common sense could have forecast that arming 14 people with 3 foot long sticks and telling them to hit a small, but rock hard, white ball around a bumpy pitch on Long Walk was guaranteed to end in disaster.



Both teams fielded one semi-professional player ( Laura and Eamon ) and several admitted to " having played at school " ( *Such long memories ! - Ed* ), but most weren't quite sure which end of the stick to hold and were certainly unaware that it wasn't the done thing to whirl the stick around your head, or anyone else's come to think about it, before attempting to hit that most elusive object, the ball.

The day of the match was set. Now NP2 made a mistake and scheduled a practice the day before the main event ( *Trying to pull a fast one ? - Ed* ). During warming up one of the team managed to injure himself, claiming to have done his back in. Personally I think that the practice scared him to death and he chickened out ! The illustrious occasion duly arrived and a capacity crowd turned out to watch. NP4 decided to put the heavy brigade in goal; it was only a smallish goal and so they thought they would use Malcolm as a blocking tactic. NP2 opted for Suzanne as goalminder; what she lacked in size she made up for in sheer determination ( *We've still got the bruises to prove it - NP4* ). The remainder milled around in the middle, hacking away at this small defenceless white ball, shins, knees, ankles and anything else that came to hand.

The two "professionals" made some initial pretence at playing by the rules but were rapidly dragged down to the level of the rest. Unfortunately no umpire could be located, probably no-one brave enough to take the job on. The game progressed and everyone got into the swing of it, I even remember a few goals were scored. About halfway through the game a certain enthusiastic NP2 player, not to be mentioned, took an almighty swipe at the ball, a bone crunching thwack resounded around the field and Nick Savage crumpled to the floor with a large gash just over his eye. The expectant medics rushed on and whisked him away to hospital, where he resided for the next seven days ! !

Totally undaunted the game continued to its happy conclusion. Who won, I hear you ask. NP2 did of course, by the odd couple of goals in twenty. ( *We wuz robbed - NP4* ). I think the final scoreline should have been NP2 1 bad back : NP4 1 gashed eye. Thanks to Eamon and Laura for providing the sticks and the ball. Can whoever broke their stick please own up to the dastardly deed. Anyone for Rugby ? ! ! ( *Yes please, When ? Nick can't wait - NP4* )

SALLY WESTLAKE ( NP2 )







Dear Aunt Sally,

Please could you phone the bank to arrange an appointment with me to discuss your unofficial overdraft and the way we appear to be banking with you, as opposed to the more usual arrangement of you banking with us.

Yours sincerely,

A. Smith

Manager Barclays Bank PLC

Dear Mr Smith,

Nobody of that name known at this address..

A. N. Other.

Dear Aunt Sally,

I really am at my wits end. My wife has just run off with my best friend and is suing me for every penny that I possess. My firm have just informed me that they are to make me redundant at the end of the month and I am hopelessly in debt. The bank has just retained my credit card and I am in danger of being forcefully evicted from my house as I am in arrears with the mortgage. One of my children has had her name changed by deed poll as she no longer wishes to be associated with me and the other is serving life for murder in Broadmoor. Neither of them are being much of a comfort at the moment. I was relying heavily on my religious faith to get me through this period, but rumour has it that the local priest has excommunicated me on account of the trouble I have had with spasmodic possession by evil spirits. There's no one else but you to turn to. What can I do ?

Desperate of Waltham Abbey

Dear Desperate of Waltham Abbey,

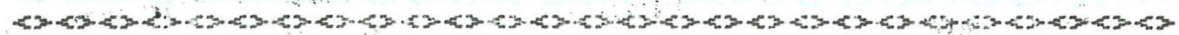
Have you considered suicide ?

Aunt Sally



## POETS CORNER.

Welcome back to an old favourite of years gone by. It is our fond hope to once more re-establish Poets Corner as a permanent feature. With this in mind we proudly present two offerings for your entertainment. The first, penned by the fair hand of Robin Beeson, discusses safety dress and decorum. Whilst the latter is entitled 'The Creation' and is a light hearted view of the imminent move of RARDE Waltham Abbey to Fort Halstead. It would be particularly appropriate if an RO version of their impending move might receive a similar treatment - any budding poets out there? Any other verses would also be welcome, on whatever topic springs to mind, so without any further ado let us begin.



Readers who also receive copies of our rival Royal Ordnance House-magazine "Profile" may have noticed a picture of RO Safety Officers in an autumn issue. Prominent in the foreground was our erstwhile Chairman, Bert Betts, the only tie-less Safety Officer, and generally dishevelled person present. The magazine declined to acknowledge his presence in the photograph.

At the subsequent Safety Officers meeting, Bert was presented with a box of ties by his colleagues. Most were of the very garish type often given as Christmas presents by fond (?) nieces and nephews, and never subsequently worn. In addition, Safety Officers at Westcott provided the following poem (*Come on boys, you can't let them get away with this unanswered - Ed*).

### Appropriate Selective Clothing for RO Safety Managers

There are certain occasions young Bert,  
When your colleagues and mates feel quite hurt,  
Like the last Chorley snap,  
When you spotted a gap,  
In the front row to show off your shirt.

Your appearance has caused us great pain,  
Whereas we have no wish to sound vain,  
It's by general assent,  
Plus you colleagues' consent,  
That the brochure omitted your name.



Your expression looked like you were high,  
You'd been boozing and seemed far from dry,  
But if you can't resist,  
The desire to get pissed,  
At least you could put on a tie.

Now in Bucks we all know Waltham's barred,  
From deserving the term "Avant Garde",  
But wear collars and ties,  
And all Essex could rise,  
From its quagmire as London's back yard.

Since at Westcott we know how to dress,  
Our sartorial standards impress,  
When performing our task,  
Colleagues don't tend to ask,  
If we know that our shirts look a mess.

Please compare both these pictures with care,  
They display our two standards of wear,  
Please live up to ours Bert,  
Lest again your old shirt,  
From the front page of "Profile" should stare !



The second piece has been widely circulated around both sites and provides a most clear picture of how effectively a sound management structure can operate. An interesting facet of the legend around this piece is that the original version was composed somewhere in the deep, murky pits of the Fort. It seems that Fort Halstead does have its good points as well. This is the Waltham Abbey version of the two poems; a most poignant and suitable epitaph having been added.



## The Creation

*In the beginning was the plan*

*And then came the assumptions*

*And the assumptions were without form*

*And the plan was completely without substance*

*And the darkness was upon the faces of the workers.*

*And they spake unto their Section Heads, saying:*

*"It is a crock of shit and it stinketh."*

*And the Section Heads went unto their Divison Heads, and sayeth:*

*"It is a pail of dung, and none may abide the odour thereof."*

*And the Division Heads went unto their Group Head, and sayeth unto him:*

*"It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong,  
such that none here may abide by it."*

*And the Group Head went unto his Deputy Director, and sayeth unto him:*

*"It is a vessel of fertiliser, and none may abide its strength."*

*And the Deputy Director went unto his Director, and sayeth:*

*"It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."*

*And the Director went unto the Controller, and sayeth unto him:*

*"It promoteth growth, and it is very powerful."*

*And the Controller went unto the Deputy Minister and sayeth unto him:*

*"This powerful new plan will actively promote the growth and  
efficiency of RARDE, and Fort Halstead in particular."*

*And the Deputy Minister looked upon the plan,*

*And saw that it was good, for he always believed his advisors.*

*And the plan became policy,*

*But they all found that in truth it was a crock of shit.*

*And the ghost of Waltham Abbey smiled, for he alone was left.*

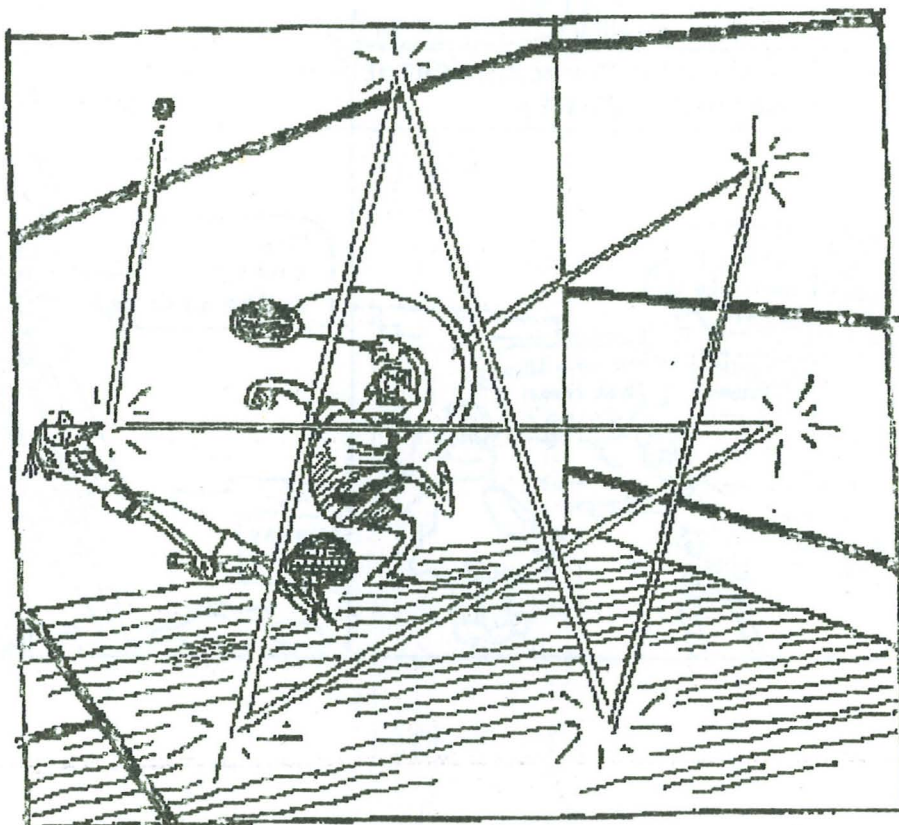


## Squash in Quickmatch.

As most squash players know from the recent letter that I circulated, there have been some major rearrangements in the organisation of the squash league. We are shortly to introduce a 'Squash Ladder' in which all players reside in the one league, moving position therein by challenging and playing opponents one or two places above or below them in the ladder. This should make the league rather more competitive and prevent the sort of stagnation that has set in recently.

As I mentioned, most squash players should have seen the circulation letter and know all the details already but if any new faces wish to enlist then they will be more than welcome. Don't worry if you're not particularly good as you will be placed alongside people of a similar standard. If you are interested, please feel free to ring me on extension 490 or write to Building H10, North Site. I would also like to thank those who have already indicated that they will play - I am expecting a pretty good turn-out. As a final appetiser, a typical moment from one squash match played recently is shown below.

**JIM HAWORTH**





# THE COMIC STRIP

-05-

## PROUDLY PRESENTS

### The Adventures of **HOOPERMAN.**

