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POLO NOTES

TOM CRAGG

Cheshire's New Home of Polo

I am well acquainted with most games, but watching polo played on horseback is a new experience. First impressions, quickly confirmed, were that this sport thoroughly deserves the big public its promoters in these parts hope to attract to it, though it must be confessed that, without the aid of mechanical transport, that is scarcely possible.

The mid-Cheshire Polo Club, successor to the Manchester club, which merged its identity into that of the new club following the termination of its thirty-years tenancy of the old ground at Ashley last year, has a fine ground at Budworth Common, just off the Northwich-Tarporley Road, and here in the heart of the hunting folks' domain a successful future seems assured for its activities.

One can conjure up a picture of a brilliant Saturday afternoon, and squires and other gentry arriving at the ground on horseback or on horse-drawn coaches, and the villagers and "townies" trudging leisurely along to make a day of it at a polo tournament. But the conjuring stops at that. These are days of motor cars and motor buses which so very capably ensure the swift mobilisation and dispersal of crowds, and it is to that type of development one looks for polo to acquire something of the exciting glamour of a point-to-point meeting. I sincerely hope that will happen, for it is time democracy, which has widened its sporting interests so greatly in the last decade, took unto itself something more satisfying and more intelligent than some of the so-called sports which are of mushroom growth. Polo at least gives the onlooker the pleasure of sport without adventitious mechanised trappings and their attendant concomitant noise, which is itself a commercial asset in at least one type of racing.

I've heard it said there's no pure sport except the boat race, but here's a pure sport in polo and I wish everybody could go to watch it some time. There's joy in watching the preparation of the ponies, noting the speed of the exchange for fresh mounts at the end of each chukka, and the stable lads' quickness in cooling off and rugging up the ponies that have played. There's a lot more in polo than knowing the difference between a bridoon bit and a surcingle.

Our photo shows Major Hon. L. Cripps clearing from Major B. W. Heaton, followed by Miss N. Winterbottom.



The new ground has more than one advantage over the old one. It has sandy sub-soil, and therefore is fit for play immediately after rain, however heavy. Mr. Ralph Midwood, a playing member, who resides not far away from it, undertook the work of getting it ready for this season though this big task could only be commenced at Christmas. This entailed tremendous efforts as no machine could be found which alone was capable of removing such tough grass as two years' uninterrupted growth had left upon it; and so it is not surprising that the removal of the grass cost £60. But everybody concerned is to be congratulated on the results already achieved. The ultimate objective is to have a level ground, and groundsman W. H. Jones, who has been with the club, or, rather, the Manchester club, a dozen years, is concentrating upon this job of work with hearty enthusiasm to make this the nicest sole of grass in the north.

Mr. D. P. G. ("Pat") Moseley, captain of the club, is very happy about the club's prospects. Already there are 20 playing members and 120 non-playing members and he tells me there will be more members in each section. Matches with Yorkshire, North Staffordshire and possibly, Rugby, are the principal fixtures but regular Saturday attractions in the shape of sides matches and tournaments are provided, hence the opportunity for the public to support an enterprise which offers itself as an attraction in this way (to quote Mr. Moseley), "We are trying to do something more for the public than ever before."

I have attended each match played by members of the club since the official opening of the season on May 13th, and am busying myself to master the rules, memorise the names of the players as one has to do in other sports, note their styles in horsemanship, and as players, and already I have acquired an expectancy of skilful daring from certain quarters, just as one can rely on certain players in cricket and football giving a pleasing display every time out.

Captain W. Filmer-Sankey, of "Grand National" fame, is a new playing member. His captain has ridden in the "National", too, and as Miss N. Winterbottom, one of two clever women players, is well-known as a point-to-point winner, the club has racing contacts, to say nothing of the Midwood family's interest, through the membership of Mr. Ralph and Captain John Midwood (17th Lancers), and of Major B. W. Heaton.

Then there are Mr. M. G. ("Mick") Moseley, who has brought back from the Argentine, where he played last winter, 13 polo ponies; Mr. M. A. Bellhouse, who was playing at Cannes not long ago; Major the Hon. L. Cripps, formerly of the Wirral; Sir John Barlow; Mr. Noel Hardy, plucky but unlucky (in the matter of injuries); Mr. J. N. Clegg and Mr. J. Shaw. Then there is Miss S. B. Rolt, a gallant girl rider, who is supreme as a polo player among the women of Cheshire. To see her meet a male opponent's close riding-off challenges is to realise her zest and fearlessness. Her hitting is crisp and control of her mount excellent.

Mr. Frank Spiegelberg, the secretary, just recovered from illness, is intent upon making every visitor to the ground enjoy the visit. What more could a secretary do than to study the comfort of the stranger, as well as the friend within the gates.

With such an intensive effort as the players are making to improve their game, individually and collectively, it is fair to assume that some will acquire stiffer handicaps before the season ends. In any event, though it is clear that the natural outcome of all the practice, private and public, in match play proceeding at Budworth Common will be the growth of a community of interest in polo on a scale never previously attained in Cheshire.

As for the non-playing members, their enthusiasm is a help, too, as witness the action of two or three ladies who left their pavilion seats to stamp down turf cut up by flying hooves at a recent match. They did this while play was in progress in another part of the field, and they neither saw the umpire's admonitory glance nor heard his call to them to desist!

THE NATIONAL

Aintree on Grand National Day presented a colourful spectacle, the sun shone brilliantly all day long. The National itself had a perfect start and a popular winner. On this page we present some of the Cheshire personalities who went a-racing.



(Left)
Miss Beth Read, the Hon. Philip Lever, Mr. Johnston Houghton and Mrs. Philip Lever.



AT THE LAST FENCE.
"Macmoffat" (21) who was second, and "Workman" (16) the winner.



Mrs. George Thompson and Mr. Allen.



(Left)
The Hon. Margaret Acton and Miss Shelagh Garry.



Mrs. Tubbs, Captain the Hon. and Mrs. Whetherly.

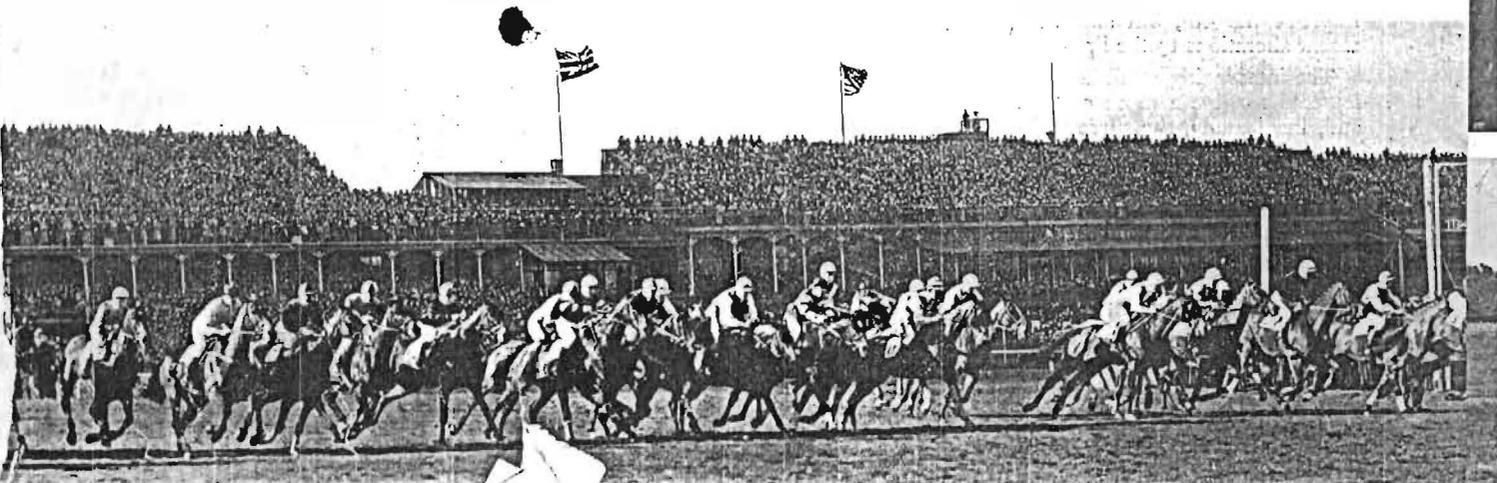


(Right)
Miss Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Parker-Boles, and Lady Lovat.



(Above) Miss Diana Bean and Miss Jean Palethorpe.

(Below) The Start of the Grand National!



Miss Diana Ledward Smith, elder daughter of the late Jerome Ledward Smith, and Mrs. Jerome Smith, of Upton, Wirral, Cheshire, whose engagement is announced to Flight-Lieutenant Patrick Hunter Dunn, elder son of Mr. W. A. Dunn, and the late Mrs. Dunn, of Ardentenny, Argyll.

Flight-Lieutenant Dunn is an instructor at the Royal Air Force Central Flying School, at Upavon, Wilts. He is a pilot in the Royal Air Force Long Range Development Unit, which flew to Egypt 1cst October. He also piloted one of the formation of four Vickers-Wellesley aircraft of the Royal Air Force that completed a non-stop record formation flight of 4,300 miles in July last.



The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. James, of St. Osyth, Brooklands, Cheshire, and Jennie Elder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Vincent Fawbert, of Everley, Bramhall, Cheshire.

Miss Joan Olive Beatrix Walker, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Walker, of Charlesville, Birkenhead, whose engagement is announced to Mr. Godfrey N. Booth, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Parkin S. Booth, of the Eyrie, Wallasey. Both are popular members of Wirral's younger set: Miss Walker is enthusiastic about tennis and riding, while Mr. Booth is a member of New Brighton Rugby Club, Wallasey Cricket Club, and plays golf.



Another unqualified success was this year's annual dinner of the Cheshire Society in London, held at the Holborn Restaurant on February 8th.

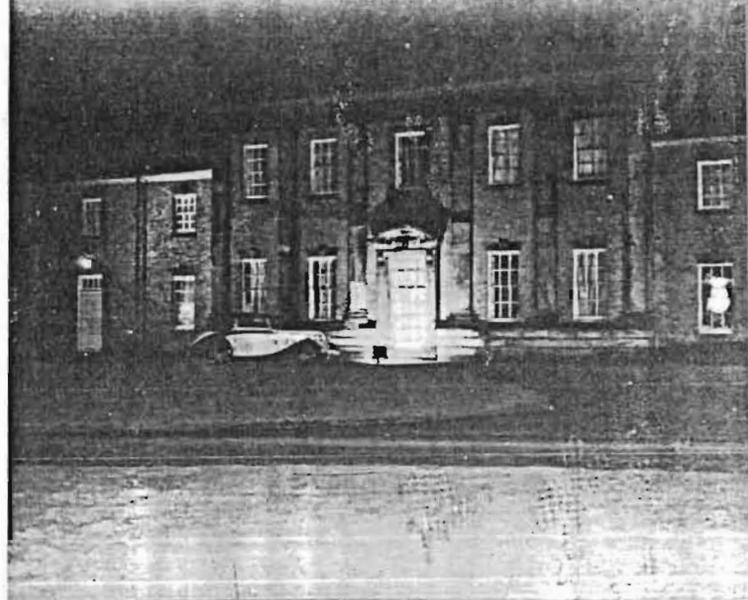
In the first place it was the silver jubilee dinner, the Society having been formed as far back as 1914. Secondly, it was graced by a distinguished gathering of well-known Cheshire people.

Mr. R. M. Montgomery, K.C., Recorder of Chester, and Mrs. Montgomery, received the guests, among whom were included Sir Charles and Lady Cayzer, Sir Lawrence Margerison and Lady Margerison, Sir F. Boyd Merriman, Mr. J. A. Cowley, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Abell, and Mr. E. Sims-Hilditch, of Harmel House, Haslington, Crewe, who acts as honorary county secretary for the Society.

* * *

Three hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood were vastly diverted by the junketings at Mottram Hall, on February 9th, when a Regency Rout was held there in the old-world style. In the result, £170 goes to the Duchess of York's Hospital for Babies. The Quadrille was twice danced by four dashing bucks and as many blushing belles all tricked out in the fashions of Brummel and of Lady Holland. Mr. Wingate Saul, in his elegant green velvet jacket, made a picturesque auctioneer and a good round sum of money, and the inimitable Mr. Stanley Holloway emptied the sitting-out and supper rooms with his infectious humour. No more attractive setting could have been devised than this red-brick mansion with its stately Adam front and 'gay décor within—nor was the gaiety within confined to the décor.

REGENCY ROUT



(Left)
Cutting a pretty
figure and
pointing a dainty
toe. Mr. G. Hill,
Mr. and Mrs. B.
Robertson Good-
fellow and Miss
D. Falkener.



Mottram Old Hall, Mottram-St. Andrews, came to life for the Regency Rout, which was held there on February 9th. An account of this revelry is given on page 10.

THE OVERFLOW FROM THE FILES BAR !!

Mr. C. Nicholls, Jr., Mrs. R. Hance, Miss Di Muir, Mr. Bill Griven, Miss Pauline Budd, Mr. Reg. Hance, Mr. Michael Jones.



(Left)
A brisk business in masks was conducted by Mrs. Leslie Carver and Mrs. Tony Miller, who sold for a good cause these aids to beauty.

(Above) This picture includes Mr. D. S. Houghton, Mr. G. V. B. Carlisle, Miss D. M. Sharp, Miss P. Hendersyde Dick, and Miss K. V. Robinson.

(Below) A crowd scene between dances. The dance floor itself was not often less crowded than this but "a good time was had by all".



"Oysters in the Green Man"
Major Napier Clavering, Miss Hayhurst, Mrs. Napier Clavering, and Mr. Alec Mason partake of the succulent mollusc.



COUNTY *Notes*

MARGARET ROBERTS

WHAT amazing changes have overtaken us since we last met. Our peaceful serenity has been shaken, for even in our own placid Cheshire the long arm of war has stretched, nudging us gently into action. And, like the schoolboy who hates to get up in the morning, I must confess we have found ourselves "jumping to it" with astonishing alacrity.

The short space of war's first week saw a complete alteration in our home arrangements—evacuees arrived, bringing with them both laughter and strife; members of our own families duly departed to join their units; the elder males began to absent themselves from home more frequently at night, to undertake the "dog watch" at their own particular air warden's post; while we mere women have found ourselves suddenly invested with the power to change an ambulance wheel in the dark, and drive in the suffocating swelter of a gas mask.

Yet life, I am happy to inform you, still goes on!

By the time I next write you we shall be more certain of what fresh shocks await us.

Meantime, Cheshire is responding wholeheartedly to the country's call and doing her bit in a variety of ways. Cheshire folk have offered both their homes and their services to both local authorities and the Government for whatever purpose they are most suited.

* * *

Our Joint Masters, Captain G. Richard Barbour and Mr. J. Neville Clegg, are both on military service. Lord Delamere has joined up with the Welsh Guards, and at present Vale Royal is closed. Lady Delamere is in London, and the children, for the time being, are remaining in Scotland.

* * *

Major G. Adshead, for many years closely identified with the Chester Regiment activities, has taken up an appointment at Headquarters, Western Command, as Assistant Military Secretary.

* * *

Lady Burrows, of Bonis Hall, Prestbury, who has for some time been busily engaged in work for the Women's Voluntary Service, has found herself well occupied since the outbreak of war. Her first big job was to assist with the reception of evacuees at Prestbury, and she is now helping to form a Red Cross Depot at Prestbury for making hospital supplies and garments.

Her younger daughter, Sheila, is still at school, but it is quite likely that later on her elder daughter, Mrs. Crossley, will arrive at Bonis to lend her aid. Mrs. Crossley's husband has been called up with the Territorials, but as soon as he goes abroad she will rejoin Cheshire friends at Bonis.

Lady Joseph is among those who has offered her home, The Hall, Alsager, for national service. In due course may be used for convalescent officers, should the local authorities decide on this course.

At the moment it is housing several evacuees from Liverpool. The Joseph's evacuees comprise four children and their mother, and another mother with her five month old baby.

Miss Rosamond and Miss Cynthia Joseph are busy qualifying for the Auxiliary Nursing Service, going daily to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary for their training.

Lady Joseph is president of the St. John's Nursing Service at Stoke, and a meeting has been convened for October at which it is hoped that representatives of all the organisations of the Order of St. John, British Red Cross, local hospitals, hospital working parties, etc., will attend, with a view to encouraging, and also co-ordinating, the war work in the city of Stoke.

* * *

The advent of war has brought forward the date of many weddings planned for the Autumn.

Miss Ursula Reiss, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reiss, of Salterswell House, Tarporley, who intended to be married in London on October 12th, advanced the date of her wedding by a month. She was married on September 14th at St. Helen's Church, Tarporley, to Mr. Frederick Versen, of Church Close, Oakley, Hampshire, son of the late Baroness von Versen.

Miss Reiss wore a wedding gown of white *peau d'apony* and carried a bouquet of orchids and stephanotis. The reception was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, after which Mr. and Mrs. Versen left for a motoring honeymoon in the New Forest.

* * *

The war is also speeding up romances as well as marriages. The latest well-known Cheshire couple to announce their engagement are Mr. John Montague Brocklebank and Miss Mary Very Bullock.

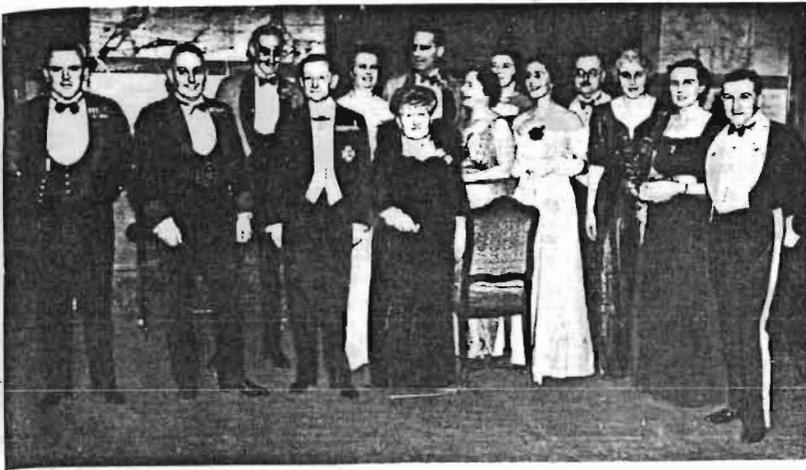


Evacuees from Liverpool, guests of Sir Francis and Lady Joseph, The Hall, Alsager. Four children, their mother, and members of the staff enjoying a three-legged race.

[Continued on page 6]

REVELRY BY NIGHT

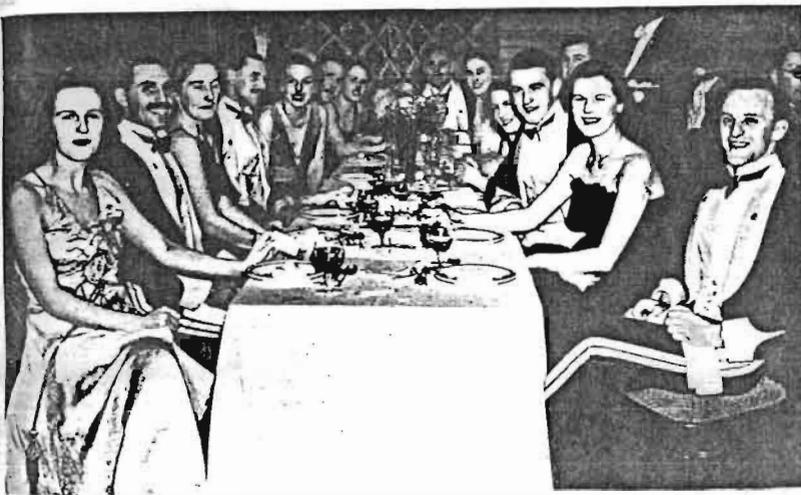
The Annual Joint Dinner Dance of the R.A.S.C. and the R.A.M.C. of the 42nd East Lancashire Division was held on December 9th at the Midland Hotel. Many Cheshire people attended and the function was one of the season's most brilliant and enjoyable.



Colonel O'Grady, Colonel Johnson, General Sir Henry Jackson, K.C.B., Sir William Coates, K.C.B., Mrs. Johnson, Lady Coates, General W. G. Holmes, C.B., D.S.O., Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Allen Mrs. O'Grady, Colonel Allen, Lady Jackson, Mrs. Barlow, Major Aphthomas.



(Above) Lieutenant-Commander Moorehouse and his table.
(Below) It was a huge joke. Mrs. F. Lord, Mr. J. Fletcher, Mrs. T. Law, Mr. H. Hague, Mrs. W. Graham, Dr. T. Law, Mrs. H. Hague, Mr. F. Lord, Mrs. J. Fletcher, Capt. W. Graham.



A merry throng at dinner. Miss Vandrey, Captain Barber, Mrs. Barber, Captain Sproule, Miss Knight, Mr. Heywood, Miss Edmeston, Mr. Karran, Miss James, Mr. Pringle, Miss Carter, Mr. Jack Lee, Miss Nell Heap Mr. McKerrow.



And round this table we discovered. Mr. I. Winterbottom, Mrs. J. Diggle, Mr. J. Diggle, Mrs. W. T. Winterbottom, Mr. J. C. Hood, Mrs. Gerrard, Dr. Gerrard, and Mrs. J. C. Hood.



(Right) "Have you heard this one?" Mr. E. Gardener, Captain B. L. Braithwaite, Captain Stephens, and Captain J. W. Graham.

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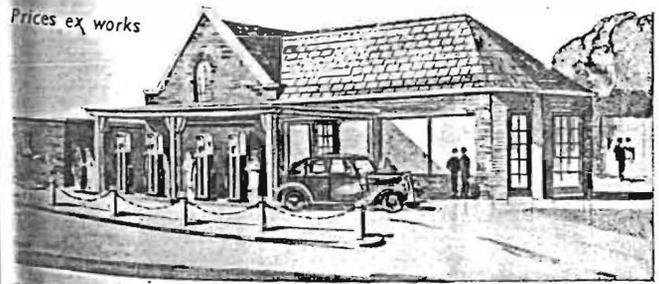
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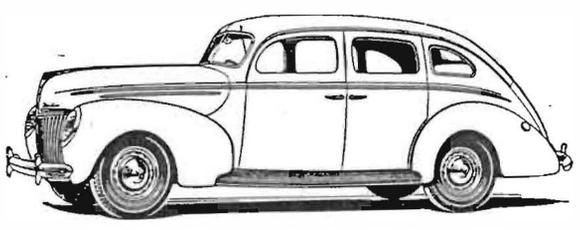
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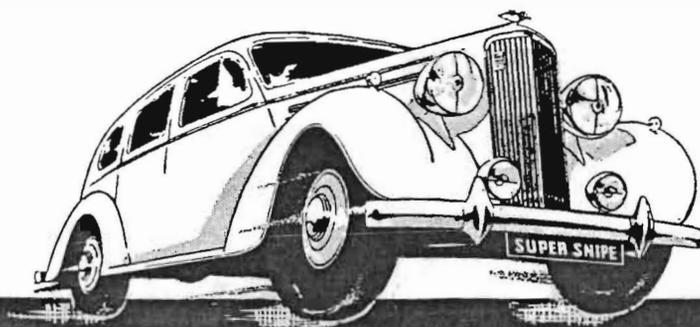
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