

# RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 9, No. 10.

July, 1952.

## **HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI.**

It is our sad duty to record the death of His Majesty King George the Sixth which occurred on February the 6th.

The news, which reached Rendcomb by word of mouth before mid-day, seemed to us, as to many others, scarcely credible. Many of us listened to the Prime Minister's fine broadcast on the night of February 7th, and everybody to the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the next day.

A Memorial Service for His late Majesty was held in Rendcomb Church on Friday, February 15th.

We would not presume to add to the many fine tributes paid to King George VI except by expressing our own deep sense of personal loss.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

### Easter Term, 1952.

Term began on Wednesday, January the 16th, and ended on Friday, March the 28th.

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The Lodges Race was run on Tuesday, March 11th. A note appears elsewhere in this issue.

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On Tuesday, January 22nd, a party from the Senior School went to hear a concert given in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Rudolph Schwarz. An account appears on page 9.

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On Saturday, the 23rd of February, there was a Concert in Big School by a small String Orchestra conducted by Mr. Tooze, of which an account appears on page 10.

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A Sixth Form party saw a production of *The Tempest* at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, on Wednesday, March the 26th. Another senior party went on Wednesday, the 13th of February to the Theatre Royal, Bristol, to see a performance of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

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On Monday, the 28th of January, Captain Lawrence Smith, a member of the Army team of lecturers to schools, gave a talk to the upper part of the school about the Army in relation to National Service. The talk was well delivered and the lecturer's quiet sense of humour was appreciated. While members of Forms IV and V probably learned a good deal from this talk, it is unlikely that the older boys present heard much that was new to them. This was no fault of the lecturer's, but was simply due to the shortness of the time available. In a small school like this, where the National Service problem of the older boys is a matter of close concern to the school and where these boys have easy access to those in authority, it is probably true that they are better equipped with information on this subject than those in a larger institution, who would probably derive more benefit from lectures of this nature. All the same, we are grateful to Captain Smith for coming.

On Thursday, February 21st, 1952, Lieut.-Comdr. J. Reed gave a lecture to the Senior School about National Service in the Navy.

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Our meteorologist informs us that the weather during the term, apart from a severe frost or two in late January and early February, was mild, and, at times, almost Halcyon. Immediately after we broke up, however, the Cotswolds was visited by a blizzard which might well have cut us off for a day or so from our hearths and homes had things been less well timed. As it was, the first flakes were falling before many of us had reached our destinations.

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A public dinner in recognition of the work of Mr. J. H. Simpson, was held at the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea, on Saturday, April 5th. Mr. H. C. Cooksey, principal of the college, presided, and the chief speakers were Professor W. O. Lester Smith and Mr. L. C. Schiller, H. M. I. Both emphasised the original contribution which Mr. Simpson had made to modern educational practice. After some years as an assistant master at Gresham's School, Holt, Mr. Simpson became an H. M. I. and then returned to teaching, this time at Rugby. As a Rugby master he wrote *An Adventure in Education*, a book which led to his becoming the first headmaster of Rendcomb College. After leaving Rendcomb, Mr. Simpson became principal of the College of St. Mark and St. John and is now dean of the College of Preceptors.

Among the considerable company, the following, with Rendcomb connections, were present. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. C. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Schiller, The Rev. J. R. Bateman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bolton-King, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. C. Lucas, Mr. R. Rich- ings, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Browning, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Raggatt, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Terrett, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. C. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Maslin, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Vaughan, Miss C. A. Simpson, Messrs. F. Nevel, R. G. Daubeny, A. M. M. Wilson, G. M. Wilson, D. Dakin, R. Betterton, E. J. Miller. The Headmaster was unable to be there.

## COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer, 1952.

**Prefects**—P. G. Cockell, D. C. de Peyer, P. D. de Iongh,  
M. E. Knight, J. W. J. Reed, J. D. Painter.

**Workman**—P. M. Gerrard.

**Furniture Co. (General Meeting Election)**—M. V. Harley,  
D. A. Godfrey, J. M. Rolfe.

**Picture Men**—R. H. Jones, M. D. Richards,

**Music Warden**—P. D. de Iongh.

**Senior Music Librarian**—K. A. Statham.

**Choir Librarians**—M. A. B. Forster, P. Mew.

**I/C Notices**—G. H. Richards.

**Lamp Men**—D. E. Barbour, T. Gay.

**P. W. Man (Meeting Election)**—M. D. Rayner.

**Deck Chairs**—J. Bolton-King.

**Stage Men**—P. G. Cockell, C. D. Whittle, R. M. Sumsion,  
R. O. G. Hayter, M. D. Richards.

**Librarians**—P. W. Dutton, D. C. de Peyer, M. G. Petter,  
R. M. Sumsion, M. V. Harley, R. W. Muchamore.

**Manual Foremen**—C. D. Whittle, T. Gay, J. Gough, R. J. Bird,  
R. M. Sumsion, D. J. B. Forster.

**Henmen**—R. A. Powell, D. E. Barbour, W. J. Prime, R. J. Bird.

## MEETING OFFICERS.

Summer, 1952.

**Chairman:** —P. D. de Iongh.

**Secretary**—D. C. de Peyer.

**Games Captain:** —K. A. Statham.

**Games Committee**—J. W. J. Reed, P. D. de Iongh.

**Field Secretary**—P. L. Waite.

**Senior Shopman**—P. B. Marwood.  
**Shopmen**—R. N. Horne, M. V. Harley.  
**Banker**—R. M. Sumsion.  
**House Committee Treasurer**—J. R. Gosden.  
**Games Committee Treasurer**—N. H. Walter.  
**Record Committee Treasurer**—P. Rose.  
**Tennis Captain**—R. H. Jones.  
**Auditors**—R. W. Muchamore, F. S. G. Richards.  
**Breakages Man**—R. O. G. Hayter.  
**Paperman**—B. Glastonbury.  
**Finance Committee Treasurer**—M. G. Richards.  
**Finance Committee**—P. G. Auden, C. H. Thomason.  
**Amplifier Committee**—P. M. Gerrard, M. J. Edwards.  
**Cycle Committee**—G. E. Page, J. K. Walter, P. B. Marwood.  
**Drying Room Committee**—R. W. Alder, W. J. Prime,  
G. H. Richards.  
**Record Committee**—P. Rose, P. D. de Iongh, R. H. Jones, M. J.  
Edwards, M. D. Richards.  
**Entertainments Committee**—A. G. B. Wallace, R. M. Muchamore,  
M. D. Richards, J. K. Comrie, M. G. Cooper.  
**Magazine Committee**—H. J. Greenhalf, J. B. O'Brien,  
D. G. Vaisey.  
**Inspectors of Nuisances**—A. C. Lucker, R. C. Pilkington.  
**Tennis Games Wardens**—J. M. Rolfe, J. R. Ellis.  
**Hockey Games Warden**—R. A. Powell.  
**Cricket Games Wardens**—D. A. Godfrey, B. Glastonbury.  
**Junior Tennis Groundsman**—R. N. Horne.  
**Junior Cricket Groundsman**—C. H. Thomason.

## OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We offer our sincere congratulations to:

Francis Nevel who was married on February 25th in Berne, Switzerland, to Miss Marianne Koch. Their present address is [REDACTED], London, N.W.1.

John Baillie, who was married in Scotland during April.

Geoffrey H. Bye, who was married on the 31st of May to Miss Gwendoline H. Dyster, at Croydon Parish Church.

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A. D. Wilcox is on the staff of the Teacher's Training Department at Loughborough College.

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Angus Primrose is now a director of the Dolphin Yacht Yard Ltd., Galmpton, near Brixham, Devon. There was an interesting article on a yacht designed by him on page 97 of the February, 1952, issue of *The Yachting Monthly*.

\* \* \*

C. E. Coles is a Lieut. Commander in the Royal Canadian Navy.

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R. G. Collett is a Major in the Army, but we have no further information.

### “THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.”

On Wednesday, February 13th, members of the upper part or the school paid a visit to the Theatre Royal, Bristol, where the Bristol Old Vic Company provided us with an agreeable version of the least known of Shakespeare's comedies—*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

In many ways the main interest lay in the light the play threw on Shakespeare's later comedies where the girl disguised as boy is a frequently recurring device.

Chief honours of the production went to the clowns, particularly Michael Aldridge as Launce, and his enthusiastic mongrel,

though John Warren filled out the rather empty part of Thurio with an original line of comedy. Gudrun Ure made a gentle Sylvia, Pamela Alan an energetic Julia, and the Two Gentlemen, Laurence Payne and John Neville, spoke well but were not outstanding. The songs which linked the scenes were particularly well sung.

The set was quite convincing in the court scenes but did not support the idea of a bandit-ridden forest.

Unfortunately as it was a matinee performance, the audience consisted largely of school parties who persisted in keeping up a commentary on the action, constantly rustling paper bags and generally making it very difficult to listen to the play.

However, most people enjoyed the production and criticisms of the production in London were very favourable.

P. L. W., P. S. R.

### **“THE TEMPEST.”**

On Wednesday, 26th March, a VIth form party attended a production of *The Tempest* at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon.

This is perhaps the least dramatic of Shakespeare's plays and consequently gains less from being performed than the others. To be successful on an indoor stage an elaborate production is necessary and the comic characters must be well done. There was certainly no lack of elaboration in the production at Stratford, but clumsiness was successfully avoided.

The immense depth of the stage was emphasised by a series of rocks leading back to a “Dali-like” back drop. In the foreground Caliban’s cave disappeared into the floor and nearby was a sea-shell, which served as a bed for Miranda. Prospero's cave was at the side, off-stage. Certainly this was going to be a magic island.

The play opened in the conventional fashion with thinly clad maidens, representing waves, bowing backwards and forwards, encouraged on this occasion by Margaret Leighton as Ariel. This was quite well done, but somehow the Stratford storm-machine never manages to sound like anything but a lot of stones rolled about in a tin.

The second scene is difficult to get across—almost a necessary evil. The chief object of a producer is generally to get through it as quickly as possible. Shakespeare must have realised that it might drag, for Miranda is only mildly interested and Prospero is in danger of becoming a second Polonius. Richardson managed this scene quite well and the interest of the set was only just exhausted when it was finished.

The other difficult scene is the masque. This was done on a grand scale. Enormous piles of scenery appeared from the floor and the wings, bearing the three spirits. Iris, Ceres and Juno. There was almost too much scenery, for it should disappear at a word, and the best this could do was to sink slowly into the floor.

Apart from this the Isle was very

“..... Full of noises,

Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not,” and there was much use of music of a rather weird nature.

For the actors, Ralph Richardson's Prospero was dignified and imposing, with a slightly unusual but nevertheless impressive, way of speaking his lines. He might easily have been led by *his* love of learning to neglect his kingdom.

Caliban had a powerful voice and a most monster-like appearance. He was just sufficiently human to produce a sense of the injustice of his slavery. There is no danger of anything seriously wrong happening in this play, and even Caliban comes within the rosy glow of the happy ending. One feels that for all his uncouth ways he might in time become house-trained and even lovable.

There seems to be a conventional manner of playing the Shakespearean clown and an accent that goes with it. Both these appear with great regularity in productions of Shakespeare, and Trinculo and Stephano were played in this tradition; but the comic lines are good and the whole situation delightfully amusing.

Unfortunately Antonio and Sebastian were inaudible for a large part of the time. This was also occasionally true of Ferdinand, but apart from this fault Mr. Davison was a decorative prince of the type of Florizel in “The Winter's Tale” and Zena Walker was his feminine counterpart.

Margaret Leighton's Ariel was the most interesting performance. It was she, more than any other performer, who gave the island its sense of unreality and raised it to a more ethereal level. In this interpretation there was much more of the spirit of air than of the impish, Puck-like figure—the way the part is so frequently played. She could well have walked among the waves.

The costumes were beautiful and elaborate, while remaining in harmony with the general effect.

The unity of time was cleverly emphasised by having the final scene lit by candles held by the actors as the play came gently to an end.

Altogether this was a good and imaginative performance of a play which requires originality in production and interpretation.

D. C. de P.

### CHELTHENHAM CONCERT.

On Tuesday, January 22nd, a large body of people from Rendcomb went to the familiar Town Hall in Cheltenham to hear the City of Birmingham Orchestra, for the first time under their new conductor, Rudolf Schwarz. Expectations of radical reforms were disappointed: lasting improvements take time.

There was a business-as-usual-pending-alterations atmosphere among the brass which told of a struggle there: the trombones did not have the same assertive quality that they used to have, though the trumpets still seemed determined to give value for money. The strings had mellowed, but certain 'cello passages were rather harsh, and *pizzicato* was often ragged, due, probably, to the unfamiliarity of Schwarz's flowing beat. The woodwind was as good as ever.

The programme offered variety: first the pleasant but not very barbarous Overture to *Prince Igor*, orchestrated by Glazunov. Then we heard Dr. Jacob's *Orlando Gibbons Suite*. Bubble-and-squeak and leftovers on this occasion failed to please. Why should his *William Byrd Suite* seem so much better music? Byrd's polyphony—and probably his philosophy—was more intricate than Gibbons'. Dr. Jacob's modern, complex and clever mind, does not find true expression in an exposition of Gibbons' pious simplicity. It is, for instance, doubtful that Gibbons would ever have thought in terms of a glockenspiel, even had he had access to one. Why therefore must this instrument be introduced? Nobody would try to interpret Handel through the medium of a cinema organ.

Cor de Groot was the soloist in Beethoven's tremendous *Emperor* Concerto. Cool, majestic, and dignified, he was the ideal vehicle for the expression of Beethoven's power. But Beethoven hides sometimes from the hard sun of his personality in the

cool shade of his poetry: and in these groves the impatient warrior did not delight to wander. Here was a Wotan, a man of splendour, not a Hans Sachs with time to think of poetry.

The last work, Brahms' 4th Symphony, found the orchestra at its best. The players attacked it with a spirit which was welcome indeed. Brahms appeals to these dour men from Birmingham as Mozart will never appeal to them until they all wear powdered wigs. Romantic music is essentially more plebeian in feeling than classical, because the emotions are inborn and less responsive to training than the intellect. Hence the widespread distrust of romanticism among those who think they know better. They don't—they only know more.

P. D. de I.

### COLLEGE CONCERT.

On Saturday, February 23rd, a Concert was given in Big School by a small string orchestra conducted by Mr. Tooze. A similar concert had been given last year in the Music Room, and we feel that the new *venue* represented a distinct improvement, since there was much more room for the audience, while the acoustics are at least as good as those of the Music Room.

The Choir, grouped upon the steps of the stage, began the concert with a performance of the chorus, "We love the place where Thine Honour dwells", from Brahms' *German Requiem*; they sang it, on this occasion, in memory of His Late Majesty, King George, VI

Next the orchestra played a Choral Prelude, *Rhosymedre*, by Vaughan Williams. This turned out to be a slight, reflective work based on a Welsh hymn tune; it was played with an expressive simplicity which gave it added substance. There followed a Concerto Grosso in G minor by Vivaldi, taken from the set of six such concerti known as *L'Estro Armonico*. This concise and virile work was given a vigorous and musicianly interpretation which fully justified the enthusiasm of the audience. There then followed a single piece, *The Queen's Delight*, from a set of early English dances arranged by Herbert Murrill. Those of us for whom such music is something of a rarity would have liked to hear some of the other pieces. There is something fresh and uninhibited about these early musical essays which Mozart alone, of later composers, seems quite to attain. Perhaps this is why Elizabethan madrigals appeal to so many amateur musicians.



Mr. Lee-Browne coached and umpired first game with hardly a break. Our thanks are due to him and Mr. Bird, Mr. Lee, Mr. Hull, and to Mr. Graty for much valuable help during the season.

There was a very good spirit in first game and in the light of absence of talent compared with many previous years, this was undoubtedly responsible for the somewhat surprisingly good results from the First XI, who won five and drew one of the eight matches played.

There was some difficulty in finding a team, there being available only four regular members of last year's side. But, in the event the matter was resolved quite early on and there were comparatively few alterations during the season.

The first match, against Bristol Grammar School, was drawn 3—3. There was heavy hail just after we had started which made ball control difficult. The team played well in the first half, but the defence made mistakes in the second half, and our opponents were able to force a draw.

Next, we played the Crypt Grammar School for the first time. They were rather weak, being without some of their regular team and we were consequently too strong for them, winning 7—1.

Against Cheltenham College, the team very nearly distinguished itself, and the score of 3—9 does not quite do us justice. The Cheltenham forwards scored twice soon after the start, but we drew level and nearly took the lead in a very good spell just before half-time, when the score was 2—3. In the second half, however, our defence seemed to go suddenly to pieces, and Cheltenham scored five goals in about a quarter of an hour. After this the play became scrappy and uninspiring, except for a fine run by Reed, starting from well inside our half, to score our third goal, de Iongh had a good game and was the 'lynch-pin' of the defence in the first half, but the defence as a whole was disappointing and the Cheltenham wings were getting away too often. We were outplayed by a team which moved the ball about more than we and kept us guessing.

The Dean Close match was rather more satisfactory and with the team at its best, encouraged by a good ground and bright sunshine, we won 6—1. The game was fast and open, the main difference between the two sides being that we were quicker on the ball. Edwards had a very good game on the right wing, and Reed and Statham were in particularly good form. Unfortunately the match was accidentally stopped ten minutes before time and had to be re-started. During this last period, Dean Close scored.

In spite of a heavy shower in the morning, the sun was present, as usual, for the Old Boys' match.

It usually takes teams accustomed to better things a long time to settle down on our pitch. This was the case with the Old Boys and we had scored twice before they were able to stop the ball. All the same, we were lucky to be a goal up at half-time. Just after then, the O. R. s scored twice and it began to look as if we should go down, but the team pulled itself together and scored another three goals. Then, just on time, the old boys scored one more, making the final score 5—4. This was a very exciting match, much enjoyed by everyone.

The 2nd XI played only two matches; they were unfortunate in playing two quite strong sides and acquitted themselves well.

The Junior XI were unlucky to lose all three of their matches, each by one goal. There was considerable enthusiasm here and ability sufficient to enable us to view the future without much concern. Gough, H., turned himself into an efficient goal-keeper. There is a serious shortage of good goal-keepers at the moment, and he may well be valuable in the near future. Horne, Godfrey, Lawson and Payne showed considerable promise.

For the 1st XI R. H. Jones was a sound and courageous goalkeeper. He made very few mistakes and stopped some very hard shots. His *sorties* rarely failed and many times he saved the day for a rather shaky defence.

P. D. de Iongh, at left back, was usually very safe and at times extremely good. He has a very good clearance, and this, together with his speed and good tackle, makes him a formidable opponent. He should watch his passes.

P. L. Waite played at right-back. He is slow but develops a good understanding with de Iongh. He has a good clean hit and his interception was at times excellent. J. M. Harrison and P. S. Rose both played at left-half. The first has a good hit and quite an effective tackle, but he never cured himself of lying too far back and muddling his own back while leaving his wing unmarked. Rose developed a good tackle but he is rather slow and must learn to use his wrists more. His positioning was very good and he rarely wasted a pass.

D. G. Vaisey was very sound at right-half; he worked hard and tackled and cleared well. He should remember that even when he has been beaten by a pass the wing remains his responsibility. N. H. Walter and P. M. Gerrard both played at outside-left. Walter has considerable strength and speed, but his passes too often went behind the forwards. Gerrard followed up well in the circle. His chief fault is in flicking his centres instead of hitting them. C. D. Whittle worked very hard at inside-left and got in some good cross passes, but was too often out of position.

At centre-forward K. A. Statham was very effective. His stick-work was excellent and his shooting hard and accurate.

J. W. J. Reed was very good at inside-right. His ball distribution and dribbling were thoroughly competent, while he resisted the insides' temptation to fall back and help the defence. He and Statham combined very well together. They are both fast across the ground and were an unpleasant problem for any defence. Just how unpleasant is shown by the fact that we scored an average of over five goals a match.

Though inexperienced, M. J. Edwards did well on the right wing. He is not fast but he almost made up for this by good positioning. He got across many good centres during the term.

Richards, F. S. G., played on the left wing in one match and was unlucky to have a very wet pitch.

The Secretary and the Field Secretary are to be thanked for their services; the latter having a particularly difficult job this year.

D. C. de Peyer was a sound and thoughtful captain, who led his side well. At centre-half he worked hard, and his stickwork, passes and interception all improved as the season went on. He managed to help his backs on many occasions, while still keeping an eye on his opposing forwards, and was a source of strength inside our own circle.

## RESULTS.

### **First XI.**

- Feb. 9. —Bristol G. S. Away. Drawn 3—3.
- Feb. 20. —Crypt G. S. Home. Won 7—1.
- Feb. 26. —Cheltenham College. Away. Lost 3—9.
- Mar. 1. —Lydney G. S. Away. Lost 2—4.
- Mar. 4. —Hanley Castle. Away. Won 7—3.
- Mar. 8. —Dean Close "A" XI Away. Won 6—1.
- Mar. 15. —Prince Henry's G. S. Home. Won 8—1.
- Mar. 22. —Old Rendcombians. Home. Won 5—4.

### **Second XI.**

- Feb. 26. —Cheltenham College. Away. Lost 1—4.
- Mar. 1. —Lydney G. S. Away. Lost 0—6.

### **Average 15 XI.**

- Mar. 22. —Dean Close. Away. Lost 2—3.

### **Under 14X XI.**

- Feb. 9. —Bristol G. S. Away. Lost 0—1.
- Mar. 15. —Prince Henry's G. S. Home. Lost 0—1.

**THE LODGES RACE.**  
**(Tuesday, March 11th, 1952).**

This was run under almost perfect conditions with a good entry of 9 people. David de Peyer at his third attempt to beat R. C. V. Waters' 13 minutes 10 seconds records, which has stood since 1933, ran a magnificent race and finished nearly a minute ahead of the rest of the field, all of whom finished strongly. Dutton was not more than 49 seconds outside the record and A. G. B. Wallace and R. A. Powell are also greatly to be congratulated (as under age 16 runners) on finishing in only about a minute over the record.

Unfortunately a discrepancy appeared among the watches used for timing the event. A most careful enquiry into the available evidence was carried out by the Headmaster, the two judges and an independent person who happened to be present. The watches were subsequently tested against Greenwich Time by the judges, in the presence of the Physics Master. It then became apparent that while it was impossible owing to the variable error of the stop-watch to determine the time to a second, there was no doubt that de Peyer broke the record. It was therefore decided to assess his time as 13 minutes 7 seconds, and this therefore stands as the present record.

**Results:**

Senior—de Peyer, 13 mins. 7 secs.; Dutton, 13 mins. 56 secs.; Powell, 14 mins. 4 secs.; Wallace, 14 mins. 4 secs.

Juniors—Thomason, 14 mins. 45 secs.; Gough, H., 15 mins. 2 secs.; Payne, 15 mins. 22 secs.

**North Cerney Race.**

1, Dutton, P. W., 24 mins. 37 secs.; 2, Wallace, A. G. B., 24 mins. 38 secs.; 3, Powell, R. A., 24 mins. 39 secs. (Record: 22 mins. 11 secs.).