

QUICKMATCH

DECEMBER 1978



WHO TO CONTACT

		<u>Ext</u>
Membership	Jim Burgess	481
Bar	Nigel Evans	277/460
Sports	Stan Berry	259
Social	Elsa McFarlane	497
House Management	Ike Eickhoff	451
Treasurer	John Anderson	217
Publicity:		
Printing	John Holloway	207
Quickmatch	Ike Eickhoff	451
Distribution:	Janet Cooke	226
Outings	Eric Speller	517
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Chess	Bob Jones	223
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Football Youth	Bill Warren	333
Golf	Dave Salter	493
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Shooting	Eric Sallis	536
Squash	Bill Pember	510/380
Table Tennis	Mike Farey	560/595
Tennis	Janet Etchells	492

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Quickmatch which we hope you will enjoy. We bring you news of the latest developments in the future of the club as well as details of the many events associated with this festive time of year.

I was very pleased with your response to my request for contributions, and the ones which passed the censor are included.

You may remember that last year our Christmas Competition was in five parts, with three prizes for those who completed all parts. This proved to be a mistake, so this year there are three competitions with a separate prize of a bottle of plonk for each. You may enter all of them or only one or two if you wish. Good luck!

'Taking the Lid off Outings' included in our last issue was a great success. (This is a personal view, I'm sure Eric Speller would disagree. He would say it is entirely due to his organising ability and the unstinting efforts of his Outings Committee.) Anyway, anything that gets me into a cold, wet, tossing boat in the middle of December, in the murky depths has got to be successful! This issue we take the lid off the Social sub-section because there could not be a better time of the year as far as I am concerned to highlight the sheer hard work of this particular section. Unfortunately, it could not be a worse time for Elsa McFarlane who is at her busiest right now. So a special thank you to you Elsa.

There have been no comments from you on this subject, but in my experience of serving on the Social Committee, no news is good news. So long as events are successful and things go right there is hardly ever a word said, but dare to make a slip and the telephone doesn't stop ringing!

I can only assure Elsa, that your social programme is doing well.

Finally, may I offer you all the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year on behalf of the Quickmatch staff.

John Holloway
Editor

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As I stated in the last edition of Quickmatch the question of the future of the Club and its relocation to the North Site Canteen is the most important issue facing Central Committee and myself in particular and I have no doubt progress reports will dominate my contribution to Quickmatch for some time to come. I can now tell you that the proposal that the Establishment should retain the canteen and that the Club should be housed in the canteen has been ratified and we are now ready to embark on this new phase in our history. We have agreed the plan in principle and some general matters of policy have been discussed and agreed. Thus it has been confirmed that although the main hall will not be part of the Club, the club will be free to use it in the evenings except when it is needed by the Establishment or has been booked through the Establishment for a specific function. It has also been granted that in the longer term a certain amount of extension to the building could be allowed providing that the general aspect of the complex is not degraded.

We are now at a stage where we can get down to details and begin planning the largest hurdle facing committee that is the conversion of those parts of the canteen allocated to us into a suitable club facility and the general objective must be to at least duplicate the amenities our present building offers. Obviously we shall require a lot of help from the Establishment to implement the conversion and the building works programme which that will necessarily entail and I am negotiating with the Establishment to clarify the division of responsibilities between club and official side. In the meantime, we have accepted an action to construct plans detailing our requirements and this will keep us busy for the next few months.

Christmas is approaching fast bringing with it our most hectic period of parties and social functions. When you attend these activities we put on, spare a thought for the hard work that is going on behind the scenes. A little praise does no harm and boosts the flagging spirits. I mention this because criticism is the more common reward for our efforts and I am reminded of two recent incidents in the club involving needless argument and unpleasantness between member and bar staff. I often find myself having the unenviable task of arbiter in such disputes and usually there are faults on both sides. We have yet to find the perfect barman who is superefficient, scrupulously fair, friendly to everybody and insensitive to rude or intolerant remarks, and it is natural that some are better than others. On the other hand how many of us can claim to be equally perfect as customers. Don't we all have off-days? Preserving the spirit and atmosphere of the club must be a two-way process - let's all try a little harder.

R McGuchan

CHILDREN IN THE CLUB

As a registered club we are not prohibited by law from having children on the Club premises including the bar areas. For many years we did believe that there were legal restrictions - a misconception arising from the complexity and ambiguity of the Licensing Act - and this explains our previous rules governing children. Anyway the position is now quite clear and it is the right of the Club or its management to decide whether children should be allowed into the Club and if so what restrictions should apply.

The question of children in bars is rather emotive and even within committee there are many contrasting opinions. There are obviously some who do not like to see children, especially young children, in the bar; children are impressionable and the bar is not the best teacher of language or habits. There are others who may come to the Club to escape the domestic environment and get away from children for a few hours. On the other hand many feel sympathetic with the problem of parents who for one reason or another may find it very difficult to have a night out and the Club could provide a welcome freedom from being housebound. The arguments can be endless but it is the duty of the committee to reach some compromise and decision. The consensus is that children should be allowed into the Club and although this must still be governed by some rules as specified below our position is much more relaxed than before.

One of the main issues regarding children has been the question of time limits. To many it would be distressing to see young children becoming overtired and falling asleep in the chairs. However, we are reluctant to usurp the parents' responsibility in this and we therefore will not impose any time limit but simply ask the parents to be considerate to both their children and the other members of the Club.

rules governing bringing your children into the club are:

- 1 Children must be accompanied by their parent(s) who will be expected to exercise proper control over the children's behaviour.
- 2 Parents with children are requested to use the lounge area rather than the bar.
- 3 Children will not be served with alcoholic drinks even if they are only acting as messengers for the parent.
- 4 Parents are requested to keep children away from the serving areas.
- 5 Children will not be allowed into certain social or other functions held in the Club Lounge (occasional Fridays or Saturdays). In such cases parents with children may use the upstairs flat.

These are the Club's rules. May I also remind you that the law states that children (under 18) may not purchase or consume alcohol nor may they play a gambling machine such as the one in the club bar.

CLUB CHAIRMAN

TAKING THE LID OFF 'SOCIAL'

The editor has decided in this edition to 'Take the lid off' the Social Sub-Section and I suppose that this busy time of year is as good as any to do this.

I shall begin by listing for your benefit the hard-working people who form this sub-section:

Elsa McFarlane, Cash & Costing, Ext 497	De Eickhoff	PR	Ext 519
Janet Cooke	"	"	226
Maureen Gaughan, PA/PS	"	"	243
Stan Derry	PR	"	259
Graham Bishop	END	"	503
	Jack Howe	MDP	
	Fred Saunders, Services,		Ext 577
	Bill Warren	E Branch,	Ext 333

The policy of the Social Sub-Section is to provide entertainment for the membership. This can very often be a thankless task when we have gone to a lot of trouble to provide a function and hardly anyone turns up. I would like to try with your help to get to the bottom of the apparent apathy which seems to surround the social scene these days, particularly those functions which are held in our own Club Lounge.

This is my first year as chairman of the social sub-section and I would like to start the New Year with a better understanding of the type of entertainment the membership would like to see and take part in.

Please don't forget that to provide this entertainment for you, the people listed above give up a fair amount of their spare time for no payment whatsoever, but when all's said and done, the evening is only as good as the people who turn up and participate. To begin with, we would like you to co-operate by filling in the tear-off slip provided and returning it to me.

ELSA McFARLANE, Cash & Costing Office

I would like to see the following functions in the North Site Canteen/Club Lounge.

My general complaints on the present running of the social events are as follows:

Name
Section

Social

As you read this we will be entering the busiest period on the social calendar.

We start with the Christmas Draw on Friday, 1st December from 8.00 pm to 12.00 midnight in the North Site Canteen. Over 12,000 tickets have been sold and we hope to have around 160 prizes. Music and a buffet will be provided and admission is free.

On Friday, 8th December also in the North Site Canteen we are holding another Christmas Silver Band Concert from 8.00-11.00 pm. This function was very well received last year by those who attended. Tickets price £1.20 including buffet are available from Elsa McFarlane, Ext 497.

On Tuesday, 12th December, everyone is welcome to join in the Carol Singing around the Monkswood Avenue Estate. All proceeds go to the Salvation Army Old Folks Fund.

Christmas Prize Bingo features again on the calendar this year on Sunday, 17th December, starting at 8.00 pm. Prizes will consist of bottles of drink and Christmas Fare.

On Thursday, 21st December, there will be a Christmas Party for PERME (WA) employees only. This starts straight from work at 5.00 pm in the North Site Canteen and disco music and buffet are included in the ticket price which owing to ever-increasing cost is £1 this year.

The Club Christmas Party will be held in the Club Lounge on Saturday, 23rd December, from 8.00-12 midnight. Disco music will be provided by Dave Church. Why not come along and join in the Christmas Spirit - all members and their guests are welcome and admission is free!

The New Year Party is in the Club Lounge on Sunday, 31st December, from 8.00-1.00 am. Music will be provided to help you see the New Year in.

The New Year Dance is to be held in the North Site Canteen on Friday, 5 January 1979, from 8.00 pm to 1.00 am. Tickets are not yet available for this dance but watch for further details.

In addition to these functions there are also two of the normal 'First Sunday of the Month' Bingo Sessions on Sunday, 3rd December, and Sunday, 7 January.

I hope that you will come along and support some of the functions listed, they are arranged for your benefit and are only as good as the people who attend them.

If you have any questions on any of these functions please phone:

Elsa McFarlane, Ext 497

DARTS KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

As these competitions reach their climax on the 15th December, may I thank all those who have helped by playing their games promptly so that there was no serious hold up as in previous years.

The line-up for the finals are as follows:

Men's Singles

S Colgate or A Wright v L Boyce or D Brundrit

Men's Pairs

D Panting and M Leonard v D Church & D Brundrit or B Rozier & B Naylor

Ladies Singles

V Holloway v L Bishop

Ladies Pairs

W Stewart & J Cooke v E McFarlane & V Holloway

Mixed Pairs

G & L Bishop v J & V Holloway

Fours

BND South Site v Engineers

The finals will be held in the Club Bar starting at 8 pm so come along and support your favourites.

CRICKET SECTION

1978 encompassed several highlights for the Cricket Section. The first tour in the Club's history, promising team and individual performances, the best ever position in the Waltham Abbey 20-Over League Competition and telling humour.

Taking these in reverse order, the witty retorts started early in the Season. Fielding a strong side, PERME contrived to lose heavily. "Can't understand it" said the skipper sadly, "we had a good side on paper." "Not so bloody good on grass though" came the swift reply. Having failed to hit a full toss (for the non-technical, a ball that hasn't bounced) and being bowled in the process, a disconsolate PERME batsman crept back to the pavilion. "That ball swung like a banana." "So did you" "Plenty of gaps in the field" said another returning batsman. "Plenty around your bat too" Following a 15 minute grope in which he scored no runs, the PERME batsman returned after seeing his middle stump removed. "Difficult to score out there, but I can't

put my finger on the reason." "Or your bat, apparently." Who needs enemies if you play cricket for PERME!

The Club finished third in the 20 over competition having been robbed of outright victory by just one ball; PERME lost to High Beach, the eventual winners, on the fifth ball of the 20th over. The highlight of the competition was John Battson's hard struck 64 runs against St Thomas which set up a 9 run victory. The best team performance was against Waltham Abbey where the Club's accurate bowling and steady batting set up an overwhelming 9 wicket victory. Over the remainder of the Season the Club won 4, drew 10 and lost 7 - a blacker picture on paper than on grass! The club averaged team scores of 125 per match while opponents managed only 100; the difference between victory and a draw was in many cases PERME's slower scoring rate and this will be a feature on which batsmen will need to concentrate in 1979. With personal averages of over 20 coming from John Pink, Garf Pryde, Colin Mitchell and Steve Penfold and in the high teens from Richard Penfold, Aidan Crowley and Bob Gaines, there is a good deal of backbone. The bowling averages were topped by David Orr closely pursued by Colin Mitchell and Bob Gaines. Chris Robbins with 23 wickets and John Harris with 21 show that the team's attack is not without a cutting edge. In the field, Aidan Crowley clutched on to a very creditable 13 catches while Kevin Kiff and Richard Penfold shared 20 more. With fine ground fielding, particularly from Messrs Richards, Mitchell and Pryde the foundations are certainly sound.

The Cricket Section enjoyed its first ever four during 1978, playing 3 games against teams in North Dorset. Each of the games was played in the right spirit - usually alcoholic - competitive but with good grace and humour. PERME lost the first game with just two balls to go (a familiar story?) and drew the remaining 2. The Club, in its second game, recovered from 9-3 to reach an impressive 168-6, but were unable to wrinkle out the opposition. PERME's bid for victory against Hinton St Mary was halted by 3 remarkable catches by the Dorset side and had to be content with a draw. Activities off the pitch centred around the beer pump and the after-effects thereof; but the Club's drinking ability and good humour helped to ensure invitations to return, all accepted with alacrity.

So things seem set fair for a happy and successful 1979. Nonetheless we are open to offers from prospective players to join us for the season; as well as the tour, the fixtures include games against some delightful village sides and the cricket is of a reasonable, but attainable, standard. Equally, we are also very pleased to see spectators who thus qualify to drink after the game - and umpires are singularly welcome. One final point, the club is in the market for a tea lady to replace the redoubtable Flo Game. The task is a light one required at most 3 hours over a hot urn once a weekend. As well as the congenial company of 22 sweaty cricketers, the job pays £3 per session. Any enquiries for playing, practising, umpiring, spectating or tea-making should be made to Chris Robbins please on Extension 292.

Steve Penfold

S P O R T

We have some Dart venues coming up and here are the details:

Friday, 15th December: Knock-out finals night in the PERME Social & Sports Club.

Thursday, 25th January: First leg of our annual Trophy Match against the Royal Small Arms at their Club.

Thursday, 15th February: Second leg of the match against the Small Arms at the PERME Social & Sports Club

Also we hope to start the PERME Inter-Sectional League sometime in January.

FOOTBALL SECTION

It has been a mixed season so far for the two PERME Senior Football Teams. The first team have played five league matches, winning one and drawing one, and losing three. Their most notable achievement was a charity cup game against Premier Division side Ryde which resulted in a fine 4-1 win after extra time.

The Reserves started the season struggling to field a side but gradually they have managed to sign on more players and now have a good squad of footballers. This has been shown in the results with a 6-0 win a few weeks ago after some heavy early season defeats.

If you are interested in playing for, supporting, or helping run either of the two sides please contact Stan Berry, Ext 259, or Tony Williams, Ext 535 or 519.

CHESS CLUB

We have teams in the North Circular Leagues Div A and B and the Essex 3rd Div and Commercial League. After a poor start to the season they are beginning to show some form, with a consequent improvement in results.

In the National Club Championship we were beaten 4¹/₂-1¹/₂ by Hilltop, but have the consolation of playing in The Plate, a KO competition for 1st round losers. Teams are also entered in the Herts KO competition and the Lawrance Cup.

Last season's Swiss Tournament has eventually been decided and the winner and holder of the Uri Cup is John Cook. The Handicap Tournament was won by Bob Jones. This season's tournament is under way and there have been some early shock results.

There is still a lot of chess to be played this season and any member who is interested in details of the Club should contact the Secretary, Bob Jones, (Ext 223).

BADMINTON CLUB

The Badminton Club has now entered the winter season and because of the limited numbers of courts allocated to us on a Wednesday evening at the Sports Centre we have changed our club night to Tuesday, 7-10 pm.

The Club is now involved together with other clubs at the sports centre in playing matches against local clubs with good results. The club would welcome any good players to come and join us, we also have junior members.

Fees: Full members £3 per season and 40p per night.

A K Clarke (Secretary)

PERME ANGLING CLUB

Our last match which was held along Lower Island Way was very successful and we would like to express our gratitude to the MOD Police for their co-operation. It was won by B Barrett with 12 lb 7 oz of chub and roach, second was A Carter with 5 lb 4 oz.

The next match will be held on the North Site on 3 December 1978.

Paul Benton, Ext 542.

BILLIARDS & SNOOKER

Both our teams are playing in Division II of the EDNASCA League this year, and at present are fighting it out about half way up the Division. We have gained a couple of snooker players this season, but could do with more and we badly need a billiards player, so don't hesitate to contact us if you feel that you can help.

Anyone using the B & S facilities will have noticed that we have some new equipment. Unfortunately not everyone is using it with reasonable care since both long cues have already had to be retipped and someone has ripped the holders for one set of them off the wall.

D C Mullenger

CROQUET CLUB

Despite the bad summer the croquet club continued to play each Monday evening, at Larsen's Putting Green, throughout the season.

The first Croquet League Competition was successfully completed with Ron Holt narrowly beating Chris Hewkin in the final. The league has proved to be a popular feature, adding a little competitive spirit to the club. A similar competition has already been started for the 1978/79 season.

Weather permitting we look forward to a better season than last year, starting in May.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested should contact the Secretary - Ron Holt (Ext 320).

RIFLE CLUB

Here we go again putting pen to paper on behalf of the Rifle Club. Since our last report things have been rather quiet. The teams in the Essex Greville League have both made a poor start to their competitions, but signs are there for an improvement.

The club's own internal competitions started on 1 November and run through to 31 December. So we will be finding out who's name goes on to our large shield, and other trophies.

We have had a few visitors/prospective members to the range over the last few weeks. Even one of our esteemed police constables has been along. Could this be a trend for the future, armed police to keep law and order within the establishment. So watch out anyone running foul of our policemen, you may just tangle with our sharpshooter.

Seriously, the rifle club does not just exist for crackshots and those interested in competition shooting. We are there to cater for all types of shooters from the pure novice upwards. So as long as you are over 18 years of age, come along and try for yourself, and despite sore backs and elbows you may find you enjoy it.

Before signing off may I remind all members that the Rifle Club AGM will be on Friday, 5th January, in the Club Flat. And may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ERIC SALLIS

QUICKMATCH COMPETITION RESULT

Five entries were received for the last competition and they were all very good. However, the entries were whittled down to two - Bernie and Liz Howes, and I was tempted to place the prize bottle of plonk between them and let them fight it out, but in the end I decided not to be cowardly and to give first prize to the more attractive one. Congratulations, Bernie on finding such an attractive wife, and congratulations Liz, you used less words, anyway!

First prize entry by Liz:

The BISHOP's wife AND 'ER SON were in Hamburg ESStimating and placing BETTS on HOWE the 'EVANS they could EICKH OFF to the WARREN to pick BERRYs to COOKE. They CHANGED upon SAUNDER'S MUM FORDing the stream who saw THEM. "MING Saucers are down the tarMAC FAR LANE past the HOLLOW. AYe, and A DAMSel in distress in a PAGEant with McGUCHAN with his elBOW COCKed round GAUGHAN" she said trying to work a SPELL ERasing this rubbish.

Second placed entry by Bernie:

A Study of Road Worlcs during World War Two

The McGUCHANS, a gang of Scottish navvies had just stopped for a break in a cafe. The foreman said "Don't forget. Tar McFAR LANE first."

Turning round he said "What's that your making lady? Coffee?"

"EI, CKHOFFee, COOKed with BERRYs. The recipe's on PAGE 69, if you can SPELL ERsatz" she said.

"Have you got any food?" he asked.

"By CHANCE I found A DAMSon and made a pie" she said "I'll be glad when its the end of the WAR. RENTing crockery, especially this ... HEMMING Stuff is as expensive as having a song sung by Tito GoBI".

"SHOP" was the cry. The lady took a BOW. COCK o' hoop she went into the next room.

"Good EVANS" she said, looking out of the window "there's my MUM, FORDing the stream AND ER SON, and look at that horse that won't move. It's a oob. URGE. SShout It'll move. Look it's SANDERSing along now. HOWEver I wouldn't want to place any BETTS on it."

Try as I may I can't get the name GAUGHAN into the plot, which seems a HOLLO WAY of making excuses.

Bernie Howes

CHRISTMAS QUIZES

1 Actors and Actresses

The answers to the following questions are all actors or actresses. Place them in the order indicated and their initials will spell out a festive greeting. I want to know the stars, not the greeting!

- 5 & 1 A dame well known for her Shakespearean roles, she recently played a queen on TV.
- 3 & 2 Well known for his 'bit parts' in his own films.
- 4 He had an Easy Ride to success.
- 6 Christmas name of Simone Signoret's husband.
- 7 & 9 Star of Summer Holiday & The Young Ones
- 1 & 8 Ex olympic skater turned film star
- 10 She starred in Casablanca (Christian name only)
- 15 & 12 She sang on the good ship lollipop
- 14 & 13 Tommy's mother

2 Limerick

Compose a Limerick about a member of the Central Committee.

3 Phobias

A phobia is a dislike or unreasoning fear of something. Name the phobias which are fears of:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 Enclosed spaces | 6 Young girls |
| 2 Lightning | 7 Work |
| 3 Corpses | 8 Open spaces |
| 4 Spiders | 9 Going to bed |
| 5 Nudity | 10 Water |

Send your answers to John Holloway, PR G418.

STAFF ADS

FORMATION OF A MOTORING AND CAR REPAIR SUB-SECTION

I am thinking of forming a sub-section relevant to the Establishment's motorists. Would anyone interested please contact me. Advantages of such a sub-section include:

- 1 A pool of special tools available to members;
- 2 Access to other members who possess the same model of vehicle or have done so in the past.
- 3 Trade discount.

I G CATT, Ext 207
PR, G418

SMALL ADS (continued)

HAVE YOU ANY GROT?

GROT stands for Good Reusable 'Ousehold Things especially baby clothes, carry cots, baby cots and toys, and is urgently required by the Haringey WEL-CARE Association for homeless and single mothers and mothers-to-be. Collection by arrangement; Contact KIM HENSHAW, Ext 451

A DAY FOR LIVING -- A short story

The sun shone down from a cloudless sky and although it was late in the day it was still hot.

The air was still; not a breeze to sway the trees or even rustle the leaves. It had been a long hot summer and it showed all around him, the leaves already brown. The grass he lay in was hard and sharp to his touch. He wondered how many hours of daylight were left before dusk came, bringing with it the coolness of the evening. He had no means of telling the time. There were those who could tell by the position of the sun, but he couldn't.

What he did know was that he was having to spend more time underground to escape his killers. To breathe the fresh air as he was doing now made him realize, but he knew that he would have to take more risks and do it more often if he was to keep fit and well. He moved forward slightly and found he was out of the sun and shaded by the branches overhead. His eyes looked around once again searching for any movement but there wasn't any. He studied the trees ahead of him and he saw the birds. Starlings and a pigeon, or was it two?

He knew they would give him warning if anybody approached from that direction. They had done so many times before. What was behind him didn't worry him because he knew that only twenty yards back was the entrance to his underground cave. He had dug the tunnel and made sure that it was well hidden in the thicket. He had worked through the nights when there was nobody to see or hear him. His body had ached for days afterwards, but he had been rewarded as he was now, that was the prize -- to lie there in peace and tranquility. His eyes gradually closed and although he felt tired he dared not sleep -- there would be plenty of time for that later.

Eyes closed, he gave up his mind to the thoughts that would come again as they always did. The memories of when he wasn't alone, but with his wife and family. A groan escaped from his lips as he remembered how the happiness he had felt when he was told he was to be a father was replaced by a feeling of loneliness and dread when the sickness came. One day everything was fine. His wife had just given birth to their first child -- a son. He died the next day, his wife three days later. God, would he ever forget? Of course he knew he wouldn't. He had tried so many times, but it was impossible. He felt the tears coming into his eyes and he squeezed them tight to stop them running down his face. Would his wife have survived if she hadn't been weak through childbirth? He didn't think so. The sickness had not been swift, but it was sure. He had sat there by her side as her pains turned to spasms which had

racked her body, till she was screaming in pain. Near the end she could not see him, her eyes were so swollen. He had gone for help, but there was none, everywhere he went they were dying, young or old it made no difference, it seemed the whole world was dying. On the third day he had gone to the next district but it was the same there and when he finally returned home, tired and shattered, he found his wife lying still and cold.

He had sat there just looking at here hoping it was a nightmare, but no. That had been two or three years before. He had waited for the sickness to take him but it hadn't. Why had he been spared? Why couldn't he have died with his family instead of living this non-existent life. There were a few other survivors, but they kept to themselves for fear of dying themselves.

A sudden flutter of wings brought him wide awake, his eyes blinded, trying to adjust to the light.

The pigeons had risen and wheeled away to the right.

Raising his head slightly he saw what had disturbed them. Walking slowly and carefully towards him was a gunman, rifle cradled in his arms across his chest. He recognised him immediately. Usually there were two, where was the other one? He spent precious seconds studying the man's features, the cruel lips, the searching eyes. As he raised himself to a crouch, ready to run, he realised in terror that the gunman had seen him. He turned and ran back to the tunnel entrance, panic rising in him, he ran faster as he neared the thicket. When he was almost there, he glanced sideways and with horror saw the other gunman, rifle pulled into his shoulder ready. God, he must have come from the other side. With blood pounding in his head he raced for the cover of the tunnel entrance.

He was a few feet away when he heard the report, and his legs gave way. He tried to crawl but found he couldn't. His body was going numb. He tried to scream but no sound came. The light was going fast, then blackness, then nothing.

The first gunman lit a cigarette as he casually walked up to where his victim lay. "Well, he nearly got away again, Ted?" Ted laughed, but made no reply. Chas looked at him and he too laughed "Don't you ever get tired of rabbit pie?"

JC

POET'S CORNER

Now is the time of Christmas cheer
Because once again winter does appear
But I'm sure that it won't be for long
And soon the blackbirds will be in song
Once again the buds will bloom
Then Christmas will be over very soon
Children have a wonderful time
And grown ups sing for Auld Lang Syne
Till next year one and all
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Just like to mention how much we enjoyed "ANNIE" - Barbara Coe

J O K E S (?)

Hello, hello, hello. My dog's got no nose
How does he smell then?
Diabolical

Did you hear about the Irish jelly fish? It set.

A vicar was forced to share a railway compartment with a man the worse for drink, who would insist on talking. Angrily the vicar said "Please don't speak to me - You're drunk." "Drunk? You're worse than me, you've got your collar on back to front."

After a convivial evening, two Scots were wending their unsteady way to the homeward bound train. Said Sandy: "Its a wonderfu' thing this new railway amalgamation."

"It is that, man" said his cheerful companion "You're gaun te London and I'm gaun to Glesca, an' we're baith on the same train!"

A Scot was teaching his wife to drive, and as they came down a hill the brakes failed. "Keep your heid!" he said "and try to hit something cheap!"

"Aha!" said the Customs Officer producing a bottle of whisky, "I thought you said your case contained nothing but clothes?"

"Aye, that's ma nightcap" said the Scot.

Overheard in a Supermarket:

1st woman: "Did your old man have a vasectomy?"

2nd woman: "Yes, I'm pleased about that, but now he's getting an electronic organ!"

Why do older cars give way to new ones?

Because everything stops for 'T'.

Two Irishmen were chatting on the street corner as a lorry went by loaded high with turves for the garden. Say's Paddy to Mick: "Sure Mick that's what I'll do when I get rich" "What's that" says Mick. "I'll have my lawn sent away to be cut!"

JOKES (continued)

It was New Year's Eve and two drunks were gazing at the river Lea from the Old English Bridge:

Says one drunk: What's that, pointing at the reflection of the moon on the water.

2nd drunk That's the moon my son.

1st drunk Then where the hell are we!

Feeling low? HAS THE BOTTOM DROPPED OUT OF YOUR WORLD?
DRINK "GROTNEYS" and the world will drop out of your bottom.

A very quiet night in the local pub:

Landlord to customer: Do you believe in life after death?

Customer: Yes, every time I leave your pub.

THE JOURNAL (Continued)

It was New Year's Eve and the drums were beating at the river as from the
the English bridge.
They were beating at the reflection of the moon on the
water.
What the moon was seen
Then where the bell was set

Swelling fast, and the bottom dropped out of your world.
DRIVE FORWARD, and the world will drop out of your bottom.

And what right is the local paper
to publish an advertisement? Do you believe in life after death?
Yes, every time I leave your post.