

Badminton Club With A Proud Record

ST. COLUMBA'S Badminton Club's teams are enjoying a remarkable run of successes this season. At the half-way stage they are as yet unbeaten with 16 victories to their credit and 120 points scored as against 24 by their various opponents.

The club, which has a restricted membership of 26, had only one mixed doubles team competing in the Cambridgeshire Badminton Association's Leagues five years ago, and that team won promotion to the first division in 1957-58. Since then the club has entered two more mixed doubles teams, two men's teams and a ladies' team in the various leagues. The club's first team has twice reached the semi-finals of the knock-out cup competition and hopes one day to progress further.

These achievements have been accomplished without any "trial" system for the admission of new members and, in fact, it is only during the past two seasons that the club has, because of a full playing membership, stopped admitting beginners and providing them with coaching. About five members of St. Columba's

have played for the county during the past few years but this season the number is fewer.

The reasons behind the various teams' successes can be attributed partly to the fairly high average standard of play which has been attained this year. A short coaching course early in the season has undoubtedly helped many of the members.

There are several other contributory factors to the satisfactory position in which the club finds itself at present, but none can give more cause for pleasure than the happy atmosphere in which the members play.

Club socials from time to time help to foster a friendly spirit and the committee think that this is probably more important than winning matches.

PATIENTS SEE ONE-ACT PLAYS

St. Columba's Club Drama Night

THE St. Columba's Players presented two one-act plays recently at St. Columba's Club's drama night, and also at Fulbourn Hospital where they were once again well received by an appreciative audience of patients and staff.

The plays, which were produced by Harold Dockrill, were a drama, "Anti-Clockwise," by Sidney and Muriel Box, and a comedy in three scenes, "Before the Flood," by A. A. Milne. In both plays assistance had been given by Miss Enid Barr, the County Drama Adviser.

"Anti-Clockwise" concerns the mystery surrounding the death of the elderly Clara Fitzwalter, whose demise does not exactly cause those who knew her to be completely grief stricken.

Jean Male, as her niece Emily played her exacting role with competence, and Grace Dockrill made an effectively dislikeable Clara. The parts of the doctor and Mrs. Aldringham were played by Dorothy Graham and Anne Syme respectively.

The events portrayed in "Before the Flood" may not have been authentic but they proved to be highly diverting. The part of Noah was taken by Geoff. Gilvray, who made an imposing figure of the prophet. Noah's wife, Hannah, understandably spent most of her time worrying about provisions for the ark, and Grace Dockrill succeeded in conveying a housewife's anxiety at such a prospect very convincingly. John Chatham as the eldest son, Shem, and Hazel Layton as his wife Kerin, portrayed a quiet, steady-going couple with effect and made a good contrast with the youthful, romantic pair. Japheth and Meribal, whose roles Bill Steen and Pam Arnott filled admirably. Dorothy Graham as Ayesha, and Ian Male as Ham brought about a convincing reconciliation, which, apparently, did not leave the audience unmoved. Harold Dockrill as Nathaniel and Anne Syme as Tirzah made brief but entertaining appearances.

Lighting and effects were controlled by Michael Cosgrove. The Group's make-up and costume supervisors, Kathleen McWilliams and Mary Gilbert, were assisted by Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Samson. All who took part in the productions were thanked by the Chairman of the club (Rev. A. S. Cooper).

U.S. Clergyman's 'American Commentary'

St. Columba's Club were treated to an "American Commentary" on Wednesday evening when the Rev. Sam Hill, of the U.S.A., came along at short notice to give an interesting and amusing talk. His title gave him plenty of scope and Mr. Hill kept his audience's attention by covering a wide variety of subjects in both humorous and serious vein.

The speaker had quite a bit to say on the pronunciation of certain college names, such as Cainus and Magdalene, as well as old favourites like Cirencester and Wymondham! The Englishman's love of tradition was compared with the American's eagerness to create newer, bigger and better things. Mr. Hill thought that Americans were more sensitive but that the British were more stable.

He commented that from the attitude of crowds, in his experience it seemed that there was almost more reverence to be found at a cricket match than in St. Paul's Cathedral—the restraint shown was phenomenal compared with the excitement aroused by thousands of cheer leaders employed at sports events in America. The absence of central heating in the majority of homes was one of his complaints, to which he added the fantastic solution that if the British cut

out the "tea-time" habit they would be able to afford central heating!

LARGE RELIGIOUS FOLLOWING.

Mr. Hill struck a more serious note when he spoke of certain problems which he considered were more prevalent in the States than in many countries, such as the sex-consciousness of such a large number of Americans and the amount of liquor which was consumed. There was a large religious following—Mr. Hill's own church was filled morning and evening every Sunday—but many prominent people only attended in order to keep in the public eye and used the Church as a tool to further their own ends.

The "commentary" concluded on the happier topic of holidays. Almost every American seemed to possess a car and this enabled them to get away for "vacation week-ends" frequently. There had been a move from the cities to the suburbs which had spread more and more as the speed of travel increased and now a 40 to 50 mile journey to work by a normal American was not unusual. The ambition of most of his countrymen, said Mr. Hill, seemed to be to possess a baby farm—a cow and a garden!

The Rev. A. S. Cooper (chairman) thanked Mr. Hill for his talk and for answering questions afterwards. Next Wednesday the club will hold its 10th anniversary celebrations.

ST. COLUMBA'S CLUB SOCIAL AND DANCE

MAY Week has never been passed unnoticed in the programmes of St. Columba's Club and this year was no exception. The Club added its share to the extra gaiety in the social life of Cambridge with a social and dance.

The first half of the evening was devoted to fun and games which were arranged by Mrs. R. Sime, who was assisted by Mrs. J. Parkinson. Between the games, which included the old favourite "Bigamy" and a new film star game—"Name the Stars," there was time for a couple of competitions to take place. The first of these was for the ladies with the gentlemen as judges, an ankle competition! This was followed promptly by one for the men involving knobbly knees! The winners, who might, in the latter case at any rate, prefer to remain anonymous, received prizes for their bravery!

After refreshments the dancing started and continued non-stop to a suitably late hour.

Prizes were won in the elimination dances by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodford and Mr. and Mrs. Les Thurston. An Eightsome Reel proved popular and modern and old-time dances completed the remainder of the programme with the exception of a square dance in which the caller was Les Thurston.

The Chairman (Rev. A. S. Cooper) thanked the members who had been responsible for the organisation of the evenings.

Fantasy Night at St. Columba's

ST. COLUMBA'S CLUB members expected a programme which would be quite different on Wednesday, and they got it!

"Albert in Columbaland," devised by the Chairman (Ray, Albert Cooper), was certainly different and the experiment worthwhile. The scene as the programme got under way was a fantastic one, with a White Rabbit, a Dormouse, the Mad Hatter, teddy bears, a tortoise and numerous other queer animals mixing with the more normal club members. Albert (the chairman) was led through various unusual situations by the White Rabbit, played by Les Thurston. Their first visit was to Mr. Mouse (Ian Mole) and his friends the teddy bears and the "sleepy-late-as-usual" tortoise (Daphne Foreman, Hazel Layton and Jean Male respectively). Here they were told a story and played a game in which everyone took part. On to the Caterpillar, alias Geoff Gillvray, where poor Albert had to answer a number of problems before proceeding to the Duchess and the Cook (Grace Dockrill and Mrs. Morris), where another game took place. An interlude with the Mad Hatter, the Dormouse and the March Hare came next. The former, Harold Dockrill, had a wonderful array of hats for sale, but Mr. and Mrs. Winter discovered in time that the rain had stopped!

AFTER TEA . . .

After the Mad Hatter's tea party (refreshments for everyone at 8gd. per head) the fantasy continued with a dance led by Jean Rogers (as the Gryphon) and the Columbaland dancing group. Human whist was organised by the Queen of Hearts (Joyce Thurston) and the White Rabbit, and a cameo sketch was presented by the Columbaland drama group. At the trial which followed, the Mad Hatter was found guilty of repairing the hall clock with margarine and the King of Hearts (Michael Cosgrove) obviously agreed with his wife's sentence of "off with his head!" Albert was next to take his stand in the dock and the "What's My Crime?" panel of Marina Chapman, Jimmy Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. Arnott had no hesitation in finding him guilty of bullying the committee into organising "Albert in Columbaland" for him! The sentence was, of course, identical with that of the Mad Hatter.

ST. COLUMBA'S ENTERTAIN WITH "MIKADO" SKIT

ONE of St. Columba's Club's best novelty shows, "The Mikano," was staged at the club recently. Gilbert Ash, "Steve" Stacey and Albert Cooper wrote the script and lyrics, the latter being set to well-loved melodies from "The Mikado."

The show, which was in three acts, was presented by the "Oily Khan Opera Company," and the excellent piano accompaniment was provided by Eileen Pauley.

Included in the cast were Josie Pogson ("Ping-Pong") and Margaret Mitchell ("Sing-Sing"), both of whom had joined the cast at very short notice. Together with Joyce Thurston (a charming "Yo-Yo"), these three little maids provided the glamour in the show, while the romance was supplied by "Yo-Yo" and "Tic-Tac" (Les Thurston). In his dual role (he was also a bearded foreign student, "Oo-Ar-Yu") he gave the audience much pleasure, especially in his duet with "Yo-Yo" which was well received.

Gilbert Ash, as the understandably worried treasurer "No Do," made the most of his part, and "Steve" Stacey in the role of "Ah-Fishoo," the Vice-Chairman, also appeared to enjoy herself.

The club's apparently wealthy assistant treasurer and general secretary, "Doc-Dah," played by Geoff Gilloray, had little to say but gave the impression that he knew a lot very well received.

more about here the club's money had gone than did the treasurer. The arrival of the club's chairman—the "Mikano"—was the climax of the operetta and it was a part in which Albert Cooper obviously revelled.

When the curtain finally came down it was upon what could undoubtedly be termed an outstanding success.

In thanking Eileen Pauley, Michael Cosgrove (lighting and effect), the authors and artistes, Ian Male congratulated them on the outcome of their labour, especially in view of all the unavoidable casting difficulties which had dogged the rehearsals. "The Mikano" would certainly be remembered. *

OPERATIC MEMBERS ENTERTAIN AT ST. COLUMBA'S

ANOTHER extremely popular concert was presented at St. Columba's Club recently by Gilbert Ash by members of the Cambridge Operatic Society. The artists on this occasion were Cristina Whiting (soprano), Freda Cook (contralto), Peter Chamberlin (baritone) and Kenneth Hiron's (bass), with Eileen Pauley at the piano and Gilbert Ash himself to provide additional entertainment.

The programme was, as always, light and varied and got off to a good start with two duets by Cristina Whiting and Peter Chamberlin, "Trot here and there" and "Love's garden of roses."

The rousing "Devonshire Cream and Cyder" was Kenneth Hiron's first contribution, and he followed this up with the contrasting "Isis and Osiris" by Mozart.

From Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience" Freda Cook sang "Silvered is the raven hair" and from "The Yeoman of the Guard" the quartet chose "Strange Adventure."

The first part of the concert concluded with Gilbert Ash reading an excerpt from Jerome K. Jerome's popular book "Three Men in a Boat."

Two lovely ballads, "The Rose of Tralee" and "Sea Fever" (John Wre-land) were Peter Chamberlin's choice for solos, and Cristina Whiting then sang, "I heard a robin singing" and "Waltzing the hours away." Another bass solo by Kenneth Hiron's, "Sentry's Song," was followed by the quintet, including Gilbert Ash, singing "Try we life-long" and by the latter's "Love Unrequited" which might be said to have begun the finale of the concert so well was it received.

Two more duets by Cristina and Peter, "Give me thy hand" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "Down Vauxhall Way" (a lovely lesser known song by Herbert. Oliver), were very popular with the audience, as too were Freda Cook's last solos, "When you come home" and "The lilac tree." With Eileen Pauley at the piano, the company ended a memorable evening with the rousing "Wandering the King's Highway."

The artists were warmly thanked by Mr. Ian Male.

FESTIVAL GUYED BY ST. COLUMBA'S

Revolutionaries Near Downing Street!

AT St. Columba's Club on Wednesday evening a "Festival of Skit-tin'" was held by members of the Club. The theme of this experiment in entertainment was that the Cabinet of the State of Columbagio—incorporating the Duchy of Sciatica—was in session and plans were being put forward by the various ministers for the Festival.

Each minister naturally claimed that his department was the one to organise things and reasons were given in accents of Spanish, Italian and German origin with varying degrees of success.

The Prime Minister, Don Alberto Bombasta—in the person of the club chairman, Rev. A. S. Cooper—after his opening speech, was frequently ill at ease, this being due to the lack of brotherly love among his ministers and the references made to the brevity of life which lay ahead of him.

The head of his police force and Minister of the Interior was played by a sinister looking Mr. H. G. Ives, complete with top hat, beard and side whiskers, who went by the name of Colonel Roberto Rosero.

The Ministers of Food and Education, better known to club members as Harold Dockrill and Ian Male, put their cases effectively and were referred to by their colleagues as Senor Grina Grosero and Professor Texta Buca.

LADIES IN THE CABINET.

In order that the ladies should be represented Janet Merring became royalty for the evening as the Grand Duchess of Sciatica, Donna Dolores Mascara, in the Cabinet as Minister of Female Affairs. She put her case graciously and with intelligence.

In the roles of Ministers of Offence (Admiral Bellicosia), Commerce (Dr. Karl von Schwindlie), and Health (Dr. Cascara Sagrada) were Messrs. G. W. Green, H. Carr and a member from "Down-Under," Mr. Atchison. Mr. Green upheld his army, navy and air force with great fortitude and humour, while Mr. Carr presented a forceful Germanic outlook on matters of commerce.

To round off the speeches the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Don Stoneo Broco—played by Gilbert Ash, accused the ministers, emotionally, of having already spent or nefariously acquired all the money in the State and that he could not afford a Festival.

Uproar ensued during which a trio of revolutionaries invaded the stage, for "council chamber," and proceeded to liquidate the government, which had evidently not been quite so popular as it had considered itself to be.

The Vice-Chairman of the Club, Mrs. D. Linton Male, thanked all who had taken part in the entertaining and humorous programme.

ST. COLUMBA'S CLUB DRAMA GROUP

Under the title "The Drama Group Entertains" the St. Columba's Club Drama Group presented their summer session show to the club recently. Instead of the usual straight plays the group staged a variety of items which gave its members considerable scope to show their versatility.

An excerpt from "The Importance of Being Earnest" was the curtain raiser, with the leading parts played by Grace Dockrill and Bill Steen. This was followed by the first of two "Who Dunnits?" in which the audience were invited by a detective (Ian Male) to help in the solving of a murder mystery. The suspects included Harold Dockrill, Hugh Arnott, Bill Steen and Grace Dockrill, while other parts were played by Les Thurston as the constable, Robert Arnott as the doctor, Jean Male as the widow and Pam Arnott as the artiste.

A selection of tableaux was next on the programme and these depicted famous historical characters. The audience had no great difficulty in identifying the characters and obviously appreciated the fact that the tableaux were intended more as light relief than anything.

The characters in the second "Who Dunnit?" sketch were played by Marina Hamilton, Joyce Thurston and Eddie Macpherson in addition to several of those who took part in the first sketch. The evening concluded on a light note with another series of tableaux in which the accent was on fictitious characters.

All those taking part were thanked by the Chairman (Rev. A. S. Cooper), and in particular Harold Dockrill, the drama group's producer. Lighting and effects were by Michael Cosgrove.

ST. COLUMBA'S CLUB MEMBERS' NIGHT AND MAY BALL

FOLLOWING on from a successful St. Columba's Club this week produced another in their popular series of "Members' Nights", variety programmes. As with the ball, the success of the evening depended on team work in the arrangements and presentation, and the club was not lacking in this quality in either event.

"Members' Night" was produced by Miss Jean Allen and Mr. Ian Male, and was an "all-comedy" edition. The programme commenced with a short sketch entitled "The Last Bus," and this was followed by a comedy-song-and-dance act by Jean Allen and Katrina Hill as "A Couple of Swells." This was the first time an act of this sort had been attempted by any club members and it was a most creditable effort.

A monologue by Ian Male entitled "The Crickety Match" came next, and then a one act play, "O.H.M.S.," which was produced by Katrina Hill and had an all-female cast to do it full justice. The programme concluded with an act by Les Thurston, Ken Allen and Ian Male which caused much merriment among both audience and cast alike. This was "The Eno's Sisters," and they brought the evening to a fitting climax.

The May Ball, held on Saturday in the Gibson Hall, proved to be still a popular annual event. The hall was gaily decorated and a carefree atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening. Scottish, modern, old time and square dances were all tackled with gusto by the dancers, and the elimination dances provided considerable fun in addition to the opportunity of winning prizes. All who contributed towards the success of the ball could not help but feel that their efforts were worth while.

"YE SAINT COLUMBA'S FAYRE"

"Ye Saint Columba's Fayre" was held on Wednesday evening at St. Columba's Club and was under the management of Mr. George Green, the club treasurer.

The "Fayre" was the first of its kind in the history of the club and the experiment proved to be a success both socially and financially. The usual "Penny in the Bucket" and darts stalls were available, and a shooting gallery was provided — for "amusement" only. A modern coconut shy on a midget scale was very popular and prizes were given in this, and most of the other attractions, to the winners. When one became disheartened through constant failure there was always one stall which could be visited and, on payment of 3d., a bottle could be fished for and caught, the number therein guaranteeing a prize. This proved to be another popular item in the "Fayre," as did the fortune telling of Gypsy Rose Lie, alias Mrs. Marie Green, who charged 6d. a time and won quite a reputation for herself in one way or another.

A treasure island was in evidence and the treasure was discovered by Mr. Horace Pettit; a model yacht was exhibited and members were invited to guess its name, the winner receiving the yacht as the prize. Refreshments were on sale during the whole evening for those who had enough money left to buy them.

At the close, the Rev. A. S. Cooper, chairman, thanked Mr. Green and his assistants for all the work which had been put into the fair and for helping to make it such a success.

Next Wednesday there will be the third of the discussion series "What's Your View?" and in this case it will be "On the Prison System" and will be introduced by Mr. H. G. Ives.

PEOPLE FROM 20 COUNTRIES AT ST. COLUMBA'S

NEW YEAR'S EVE was the setting and St. Columba's Club the scene of what was undoubtedly one of the most memorable occasions in the Club's history. Representatives of nearly twenty countries attended a party at the invitation of the Club and many added to the gaiety of the occasion by wearing their colourful national costumes.

The Vice-Chairman, Mrs. D. Linton (Male) welcomed the guests in the absence of the Rev. A. S. Cooper. Mrs. Male referred to the Queen's tour of friendship and goodwill, which, she said, were also the aims of St. Columba's Club. She hoped that the party would provide evidence of this and that the guests would enjoy both it and their visit to Cambridge.

The party began with several games, among which "Bigamy" provided many hilarious moments. Next came demonstrations of square dancing by Club members under Les Thurston's leadership. An energetic game of balloon football concluded the first part of the programme.

After refreshments, Mr. Constantin, of Mauritius, presented a short entertainment; Miss Umathevi, of Malaya, sang a solo, and was then joined by Miss Koh Yau Lin in a duet of a lovely Malayan song "Terang Boelan." Two German songs were then sung by Miss M. Abel and Miss G. Brauner, and finally the audience were treated to some Nigerian songs and choruses.

Several more games, including "indoor cricket," followed and then the chimes of "Big Ben" ushered in 1954. After "Auld Lang Syne" had been sung and a barn dance and "Highland Schottische" the party ended.

A representative for the visitors thanked the Club for its hospitality and friendship and the M.C. (Ian Male) replied that it had been a pleasure for all the members present and had provided St. Columba's Club with its "Highlight of 1953."