



INSTITUTED 1930

**Glasgow and District
Churches
Badminton Association
1930-1980**

**Golden Jubilee
Souvenir Brochure**

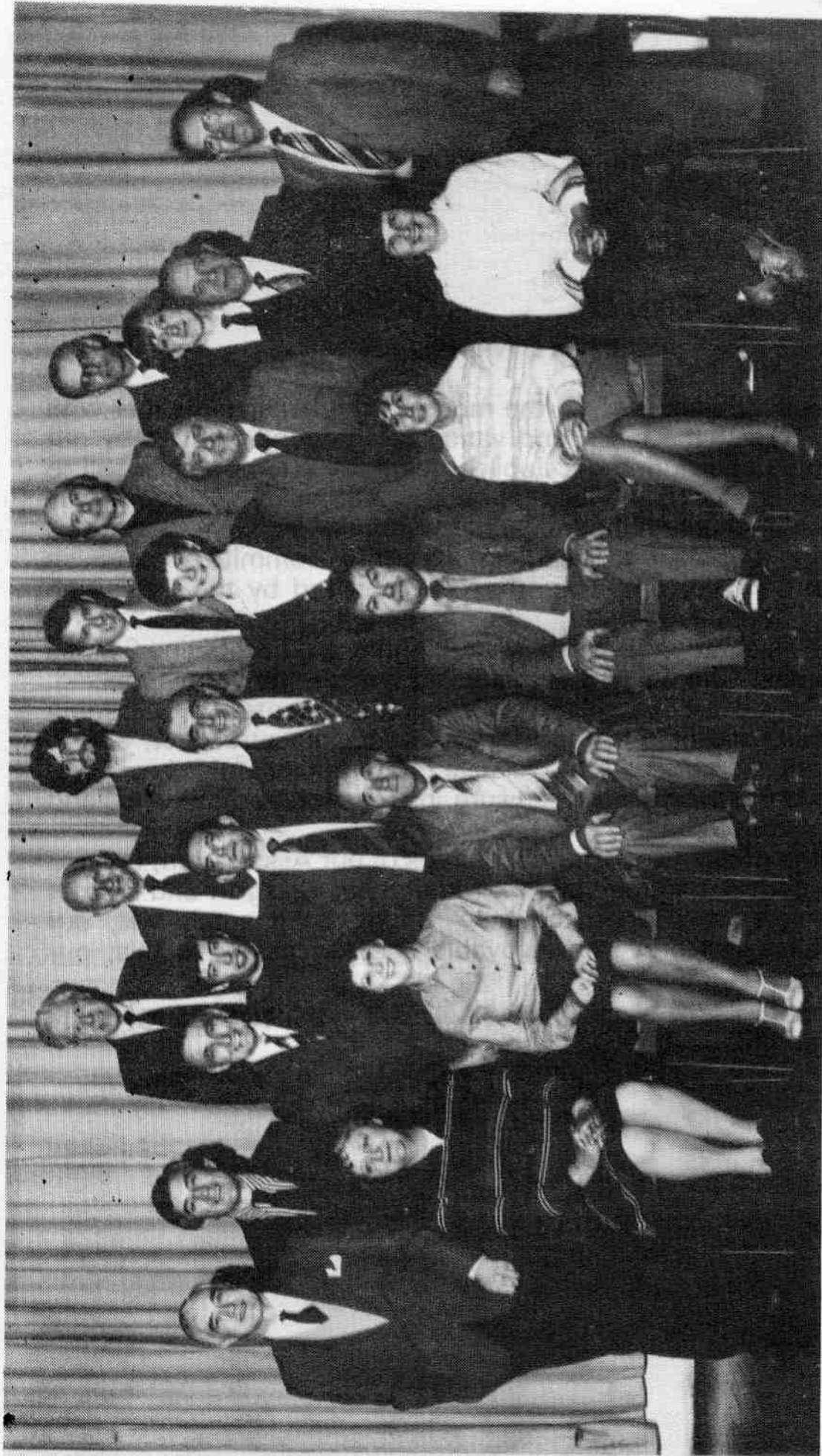
FOREWORD

As this brochure illustrates, in the most comprehensive manner with words and pictures, the many and varied celebrations enjoyed by our members and visitors during our Jubilee Year, any attempt by myself to try and explain its success would be quite unnecessary. Suffice to say that I was tremendously honoured, not only to be President during this particular year, but also to head an executive committee of which everyone can be justly proud, as they have proved by the organising ability.

Our Jubilee celebrations were launched, rightly so, by a Divine Service held in Broomhill Church where many old friendships were renewed. This was followed by a civic reception, kindly granted by Glasgow District Council, and held in the City Chambers. In retrospect, and in refreshing one's memory with the relative photographs in this brochure, this was an evening which will, I am sure, be remembered by young and old for many years to come.

Finally, to the present and future members of our Association, I would ask that they continue to maintain their identity as Glasgow and District Churches Players, and when the time arrives, as it surely will, our Diamond Jubilee will prove as enjoyable and successful as this, our Golden Jubilee.

GEORGE CRICHTON



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1980-81

Back row: R. Blair, F. McCracken, I. Buchanan, J. McCulloch, W. F. Shannon, A. Bowie. Middle row: G. P. Russell, L. Clark, D. Baird, K. Mansfield, J. Cunningham, R. Masson, E. Gordon, R. McMorran, I. Spalding, H. McCulloch, G. Wylie. Front row: Mrs. J. McCarrall, Mrs. E. Crichton, G. Crichton, J. Airth, Mrs. M. McCulloch, Mrs. J. McMenemy. Absent: G. McGraw, Mrs. E. MacFarlane, A. Ferguson, Miss P. Don, E. Tweedie.

REMINISCENCES FOR OUR JUBILEE YEAR

While we don't intend to give a detailed history of our Association (this was done most competently in our "Coming of Age" brochure) some reminiscences were promised in this year's handbook.

With sports centres catering for present day participants it may be difficult for young players to realise the vital role that church clubs and halls played in the development of badminton in and around Glasgow. The local church hall was not only the most convenient, it was often the only place for playing this great game. From the mainly sociable once-weekly get togethers gradually games became more competitive, leagues were formed paving the way for the country-wide S.B.U. present day organisation.

In Glasgow Churches Association we can be justifiably proud of the part we played in bringing this about. We are all indebted to the foresight, imagination and hard work of the late Andrew Wishart Swan who in 1930 convened a meeting of interested parties and within a short period organised the Glasgow Churches Badminton League as it was then called and became our first General Secretary, an office which he held until he retired in 1965 to become President. Our membership reached a peak of 144 clubs in the mid fifties. At one of the earliest meetings the format of 4 mixed doubles was agreed — a tribute to the foresight of the founders. The word district in our title is apt as over the years we have embraced clubs from Clydebank, Kilsyth, Cumbernauld, East Kilbride, Airdrie, Newton Mearns and Nitshill.

Many of the church halls provided a distinct advantage to the home club. There was the "Room and Kitchen" with its unique peculiarities giving rise to rude comments from intolerant visiting teams, Stonelaw with its stone pillars, Rockvilla with a slope which many football clubs might envy and the myriad of halls with overhanging balconies and sundry problems.

Reference has been made to the tremendous part played by A. W. Swan, but over the years there have been many others who have given great service and indeed it is remarkable how few secretaries and treasurers we have had in our 50 years. The committee responsible for organising our Jubilee Celebrations is a mixture of young and "elder statesmen" and the enthusiasm and originality of the former should safeguard the next 50 years. An endless list of names of those who expanded and ran our Association could be given, but of more interest are the many photographs throughout this booklet showing well kent faces.

As in all sports, competition is the stimulus players need to raise their playing standards and here our Individual Championships have played their part. Many venues have been used for our competitions but that remembered best by post war players must be Coplaw Street Drill Hall — surely the coldest place at least in the West of Scotland, Bellahouston Sports Centre, Palace of Arts and Cockburn Centre are idyllic by comparison.

Representative matches against other associations have formed friendships and rivalries which are cherished by those privileged to take part either actively or in an official capacity. Over the years our opponents have included: Bute, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Langside & District, Milngavie, Mount Vernon, Newcastle and Paisley. Whenever possible we used to travel by bus and hilarious return journeys were the normal, even on the odd occasion when we lost. Perhaps the most memorable journey was to a match that never was. Setting out to play at Dundee in 1957/58 the bus eventually became completely stranded in deep snow, at this stage a foraging expedition reached a nearby farm returning with cans of tea and scones. Eventually the team plus officials had to fight through the snow, at times walking over fences and fields so deep was the snow, until reaching Blackford. With the roads still impassable, a train was sent from Dundee to get us all back to Glasgow, some fifteen hours after leaving. Naturally we have to look to our top clubs to provide the bulk of the teams for representative games and in the past these have come from Milngavie B.B., Auldfield, Govanhill, Cathcart O.P., Stonelaw (all now defunct), Rockvilla and more recently St. Margaret's Polmadie and Govan O.P.

The social side of our affairs has always been in good hands, and the Annual Presentation Dance is one of the highlights of our calendar. For many years this was held in the old St. Andrew's Halls and we had little difficulty in selling 450 tickets. The abundance of silver trophies at these occasions makes quite a show even if our treasurer does wince when faced with the bill for engraving. In addition to our Annual Dance we have tried many other successful ventures. These have embraced Pantomime evenings, a rail cruise to St. Fellans, a trip "doon the water" on Queen Mary II (when the cost was 2/6 (12½p) per ticket). In the 1950s we had two great weekends at Whitley Bay, travelling down by bus and enjoying a few days at the seaside during which reputations were made and lost. Over the last few summers the keen golfers in our midst have been keeping in touch by means of inter-club golf matches.

As was said at the start of this article, we have not attempted a chronological history, but as the title indicates, reminisced our way through 50 years of progress. If we have highlighted the wrong things our excuse is they are the ones which most people who read our Jubilee Brochure will want to know or to remember. This booklet is being printed as our special season draws to a close and to the many who read it we trust it will recall happy memories of the past and dare we hope — inspiration for the future to those in whose capable hands it lies.



Mr. A. Wishart Swan at the desk presented to him by the Association on his retirement from office.

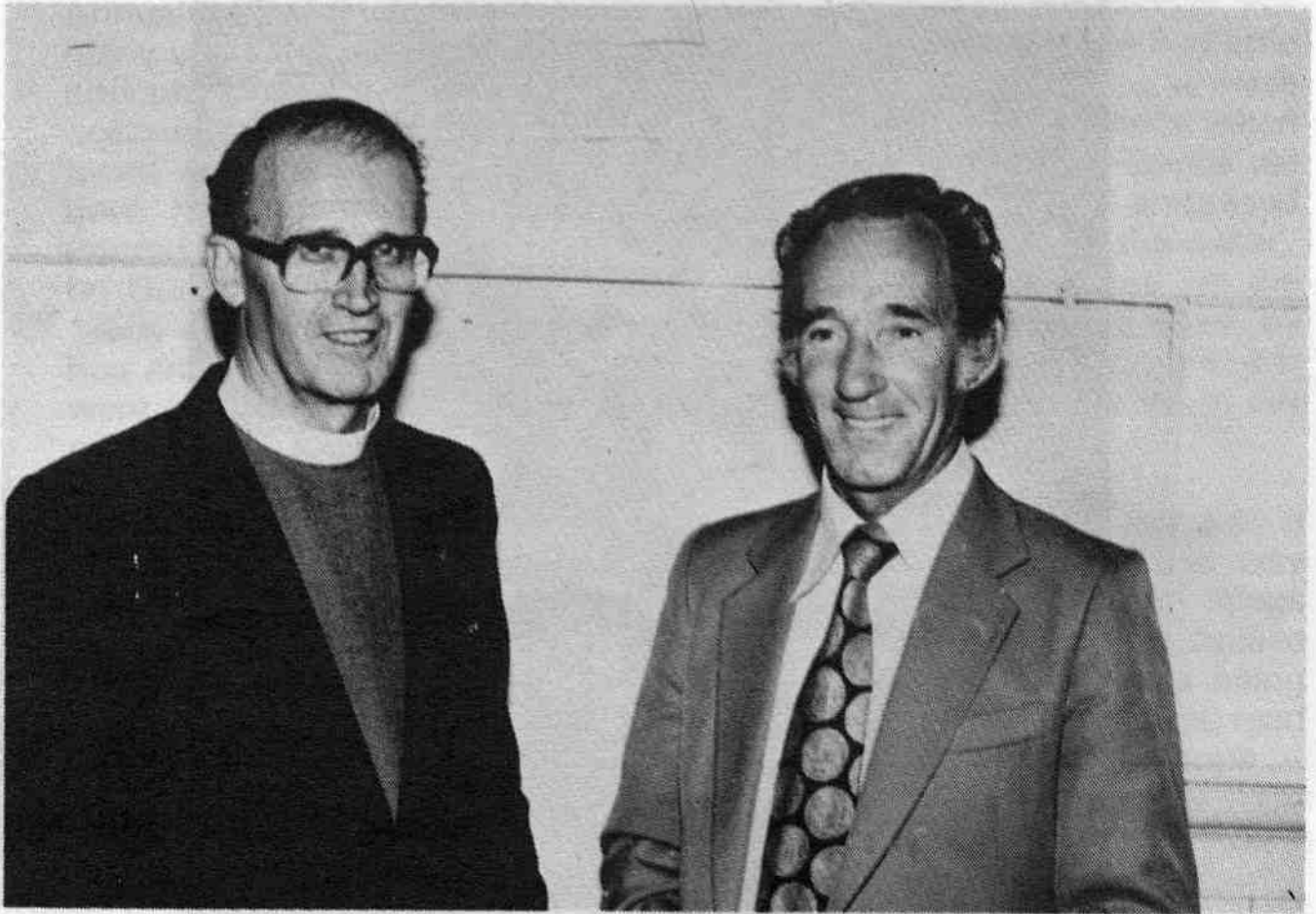
E. Clifton, J. Conroy, N. Sherman, B. Cunningham,

RE-DEDICATION SERVICE

The first event in the Jubilee Year was the Re-dedication Service held in Broomhill Church, at which the Rev. J. Aitchison, B.D., gave us an excellent sermon on the place of sport in the Christian way of life. Mr. Aitchison spoke with authority as a distinguished sportsman himself, who has played in and taken great interest in our Association. It was heartening to see an excellent turnout on this occasion, followed by a social get-together in the church hall, when many of our older members renewed acquaintance with one another after a lapse of many years.

Over a very welcome cup of tea and biscuits provided by the ladies of the Executive Committee and assisted by members of the Broomhill Badminton Club, old friendships were renewed and reminiscences exchanged between erstwhile opponents. Among those present, Nancy Taylor, Willie McHowat, Dick Drummond, John Vass and Alf Cording were a few of the early 1950s personalities with whom we have rather lost touch in recent years. Duncan Baird, Frank McCracken, Eric Tweedie and Paul Russell are still to the fore, serving on the Executive Committee.

We are very grateful to Mr. Aitchison, the Kirk Session and the members of the Badminton Club in the Broomhill Church for the opportunity of worshipping and for their hospitality on this splendid evening.



Rev. J. Aitchison and G. Crichton (President)



E. Tweedie, E. Crichton, G. P. Russell, P. Sommerville.



E. Crichton, J. Cunningham, N. Shannon, D. Cunningham.



I. Tweedie, E. Tweedie, D. Baird.



G. Hamilton, F. Shannon, I. Hamilton.



With the formal part over we then got down to the serious business of renewing old friends and acquaintances — yes even those.

W. Russell, W. Simpson, B. Russell, P. Russell, D. Don.



M. McNab, J. McNab, N. Farquharson, N. Taylor, A. Cording.



Mr. and Mrs. Airth and friends at tea.



W. McHowat, N. Don, R. Blair, G. Topping, D. Don, M. McHowat.

RECEPTION BY CITY OF GLASGOW COUNCIL

On Friday, November 7, 1980, there descended on the City Chambers nearly 600 people from all the airts clutching their much prized invitation to one of the really big events of our Jubilee Year.

Gradually we all found ourselves seats in the Banqueting Hall or in the ante-rooms outside it. Eventually we were persuaded to stop talking by the arrival of Councillor Philip O'Rourke, J.P., the Deputy Chairman standing in for the Lord Provost who had been called to London in connection with one of the many crises which are nowadays a feature of Parliamentary and Municipal life.

In his speech of welcome Councillor O'Rourke paid tribute to the works of our Association in providing badminton facilities when these were most scarce, teaching the young and not so young the finer points, but above all, fostering a friendly but determined spirit of competition. This is not the place to review our history but suffice to say our President George Crichton replied suitably.

With the formal part over we then got down to the serious business of renewing old friendships, reminiscing, going over old victories and defeats — yes even those.

In the Banqueting Hall the George McCulloch Orchestra did their best to provide music for dancing over and above the general level of conversation. For the music lovers amongst us the Glasgow Youth Choir gave an excellent concert in the Council Hall conducted by Agnes F. Hoey. After the concert was over many of our members took the opportunity of examining the Council Hall and the many other features of our magnificent City Chambers.

Even going for a drink in the "Misery Hall" took ages, not because of slow service but again because there was always somebody else to talk to. It is interesting to learn the reason for the name "Misery Hall" which apparently is so called because it was there that councillors met their constituents with their inevitable complaints.

In between all this we all enjoyed a most excellent buffet in the Upper Corridor with its paintings of former Lord Provosts.

While it is invidious to name names we feel we must mention Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Borland (one of the first treasurers) and Mr. and Mrs. Quinn who played in the very earliest days of our Association.

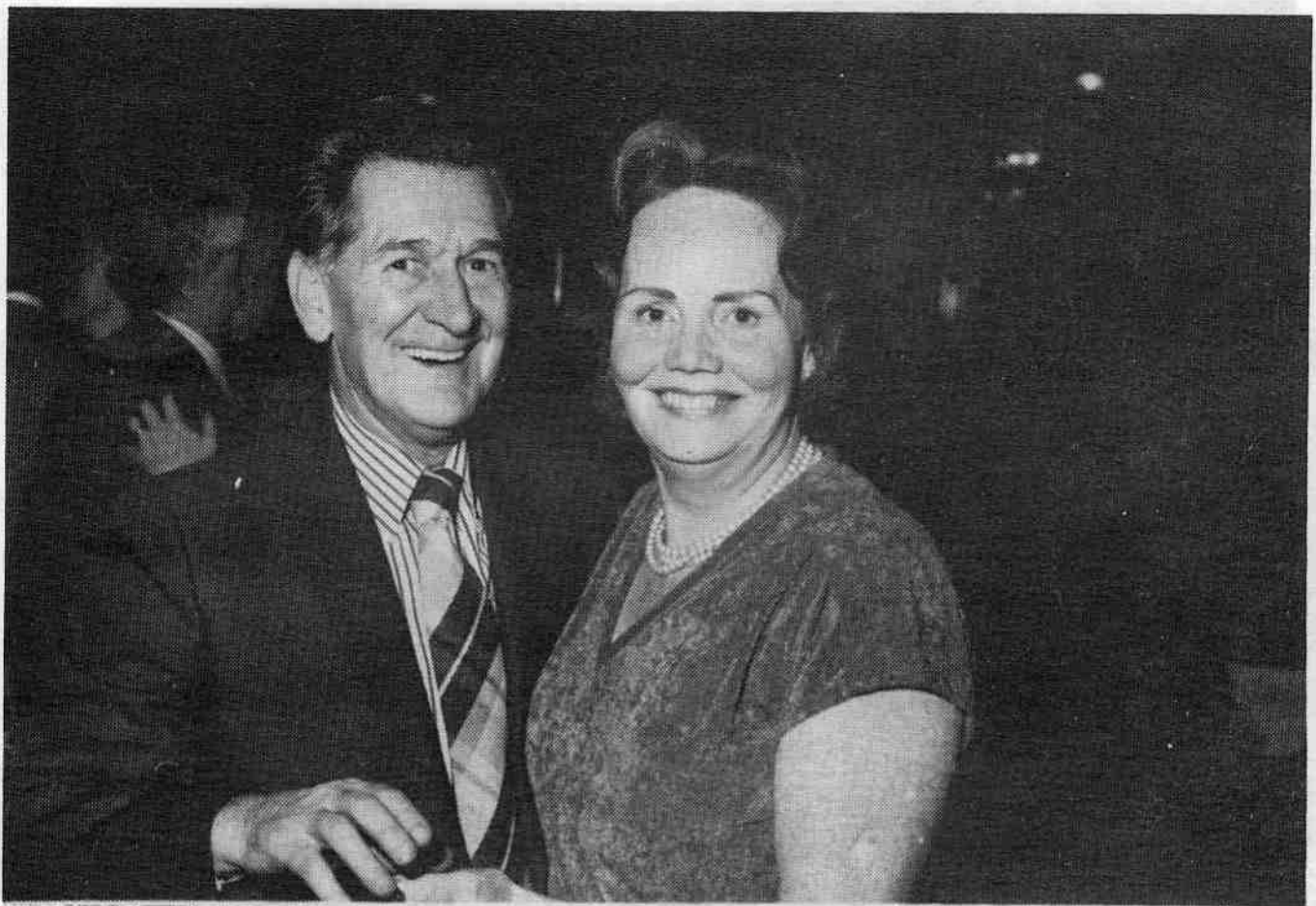
All in all, an evening that was as memorable as it was enjoyable.



Councillor P. O'Rourke, J.P., and G. Crichton (President)



E. Crichton and K. Purvis (Edinburgh Churches President)



Mr. and Mrs. McLean



F. Shannon, J. McCulloch, G. Cameron.



A. Liddell, R. McLay, M. Keady.

Councillor P. O. ... and ...



J. McCarroll, H. McCarroll, J. McCulloch, E. Harding, M. McCulloch.



W. Ross, D. Bell, D. Ross, I. Deans, J. Stevenson, F. Shannon, J. Montgomerie, N. Shannon (all of whom won titles playing with Frank Shannon).



D. Cunningham, L. Montgomerie, G. Montgomerie, M. Aird, A. Montgomerie, H. Aird.



"Auld Lang Syne"



"Should Auld Acquaintance(s) . . ."

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Before this event took place, the Executive Committee were rather unsure of all the problems of staging the different games and the response of the clubs. As it turned out, the organisers' preparatory work was excellent and the enthusiasm shown by all who took part ensured an outstanding success. Forty-four teams took part in the heats, over four nights, and a total of sixteen heat winners contested the finals.

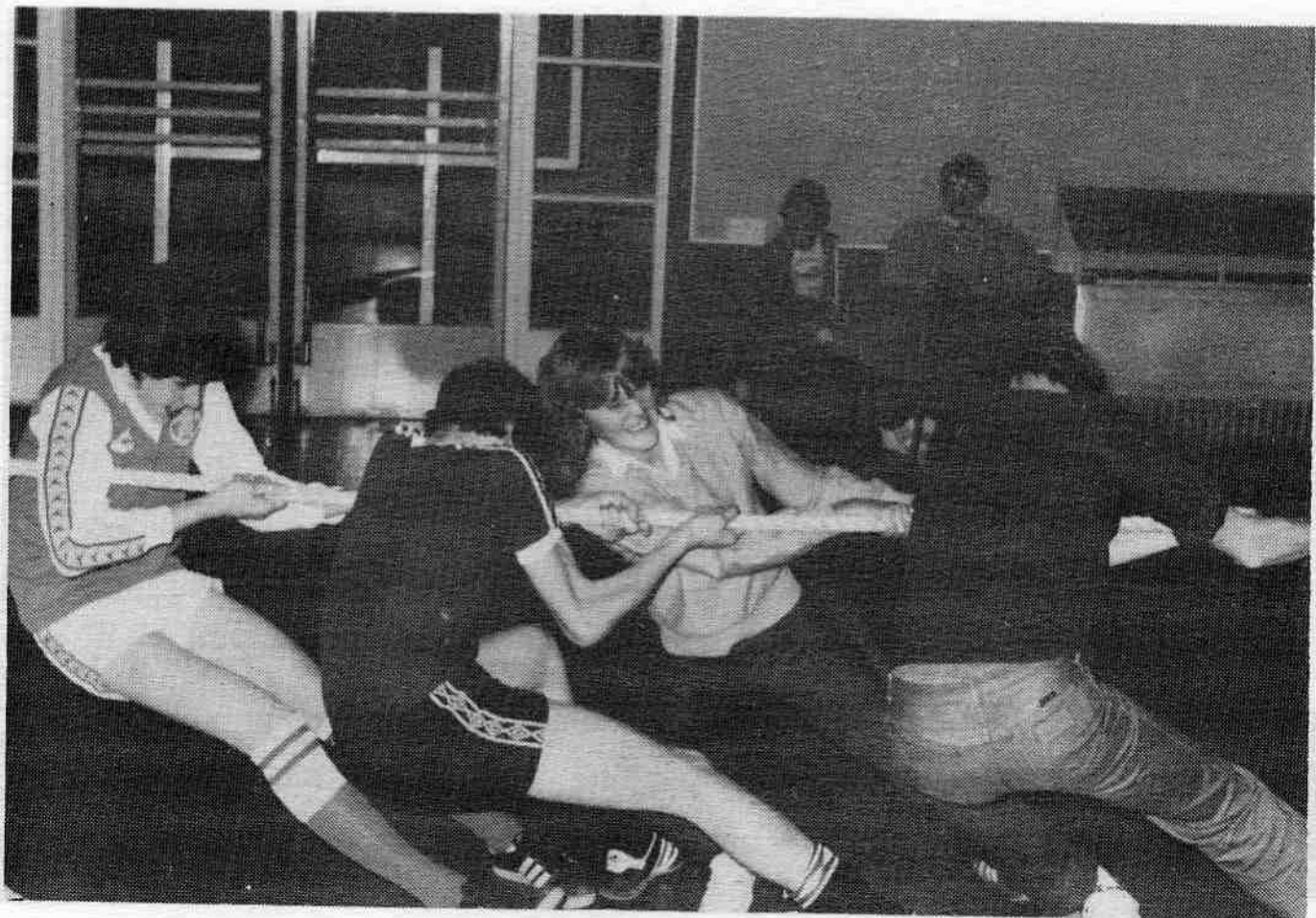
There were eight games played ranging from the sedate memory teasing "Forget me Not" to the rumbustious devil tak the hindmost "Wellie Game" in which Ella Crichton proved the adage — slow and steady wins the race. The other games, all occasions for giving vociferous support (or abuse) to the participants. In the Tug of War, the well built Dennistoun team took the eye and the points. Perhaps surprisingly, in the "Pale Beans" the girls were every bit as good if not better than the boys at landing the bags in the basins.

The climax of each evening was the Obstacle Race which demanded as well as a good eye for an attractive piece (jig-saw) rather more strenuous exertions. Each person started in a sack, carrying bucket and ball, changed into rather large pyjamas, fitted two pieces into a jigsaw puzzle, five skips with a rope, threw the ball up into the netball net, then charged through the tarpaulin tunnel (still with bucket and ball), took off pyjamas, into the sack and back to hand over to the next person in the team. Some delays caused by those inexpert at jig saw puzzles or landing the ball in the net sealed the fate of most clubs.

Maryhill High emerged worthy winners of the tournament — the obstacle race deciding the issue, because it carried bonus points. Each member of the team was presented with a tankard to commemorate their victory. The finals night especially, was regarded as a suitable occasion for fancy dress, Victoria Park displaying the light-heartedness of the whole competition by turning up dressed as babies. We also had Ella and Dina dolled up as Fran and Anna and quite a few males in drag outfits, though Frank baffled most of us with a hair covered pow, which, considering the efforts of the Stamperland team would explain his wish for anonymity. Sandra, with a St. Trinian's outfit, caught the eye, whether such a competition is ever attempted again in the future, who can say, but certainly it was very much worth while and contributed greatly to our Jubilee Year celebrations.



G.A. The "Welly Race"



Tug of War



Competitors for 2005 A.D.



"Hampden Nightmare"
(By courtesy of Victoria Infirmary?)



The Other Babes



Jubilation



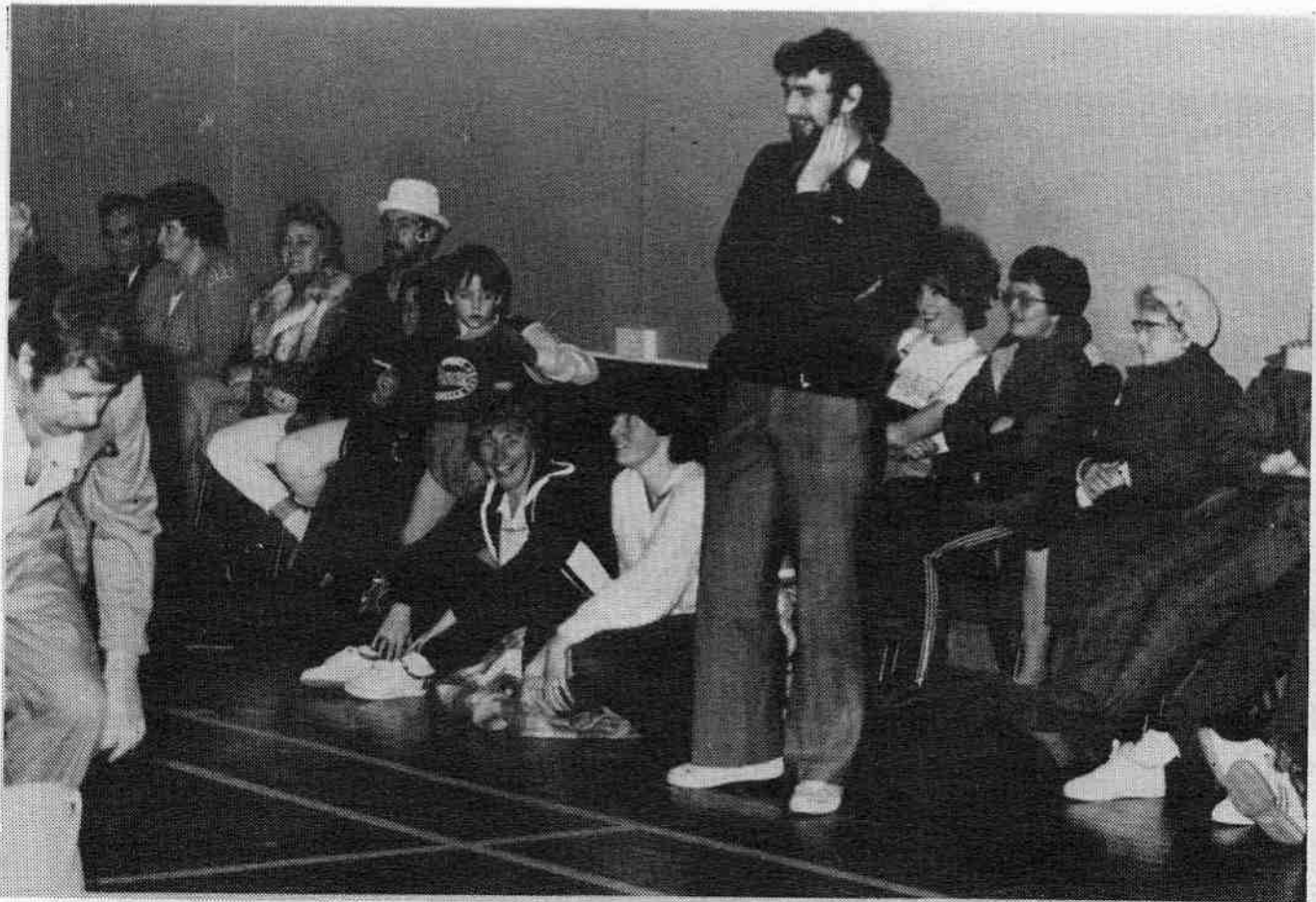
"Come On"



Concentration



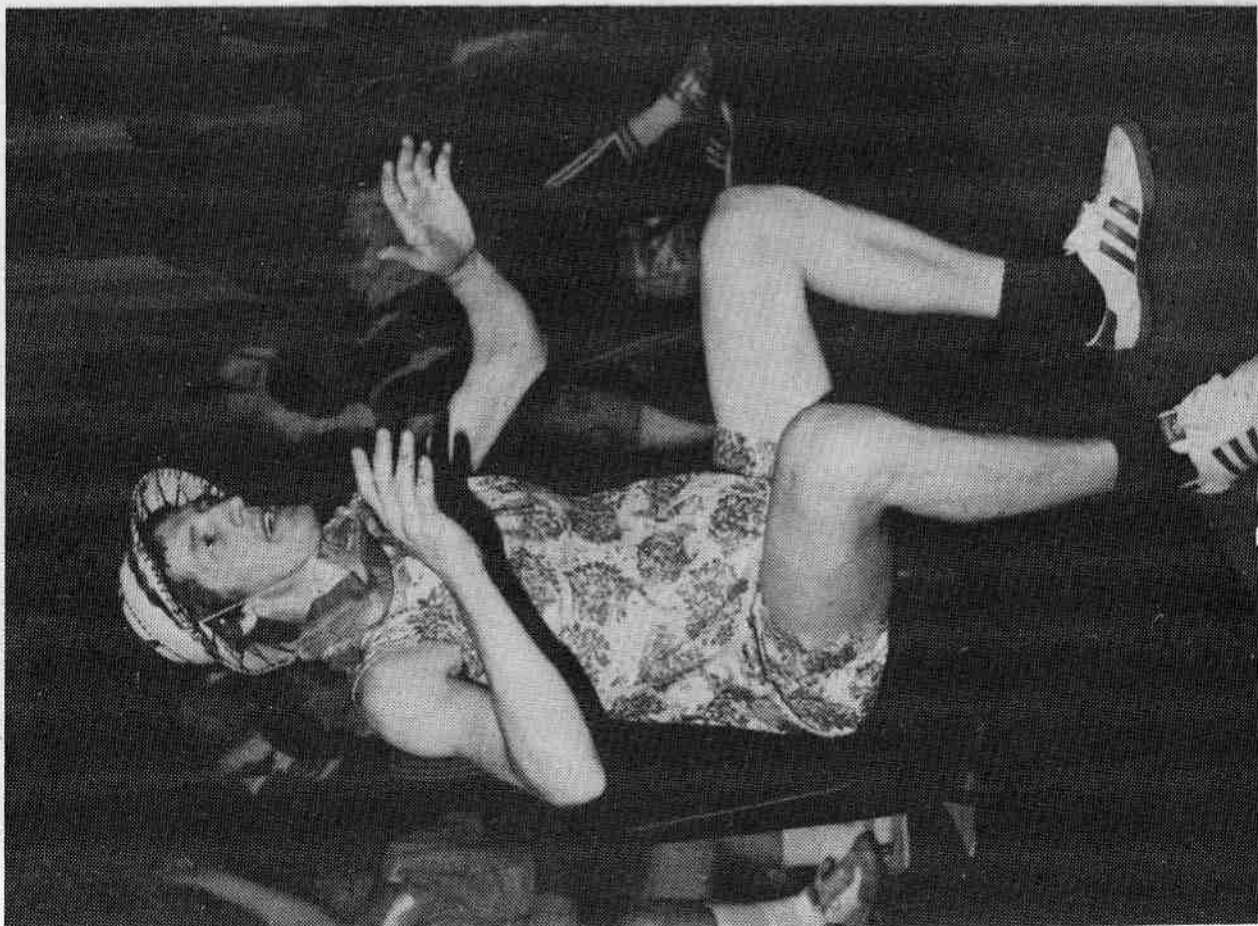
Eyes Left



Keep Trying



Outsize Pyjamas



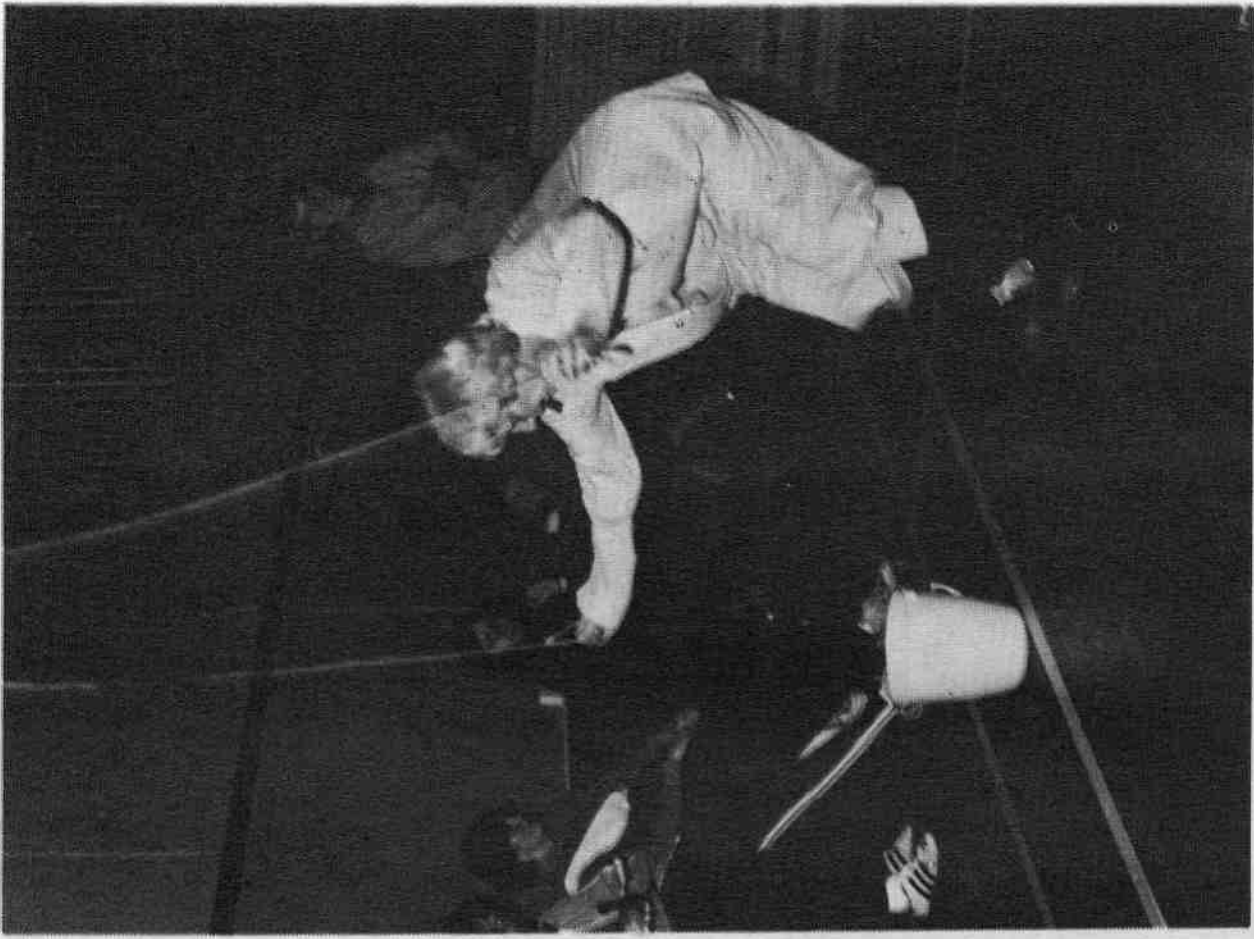
Des in Drag



Just Watching

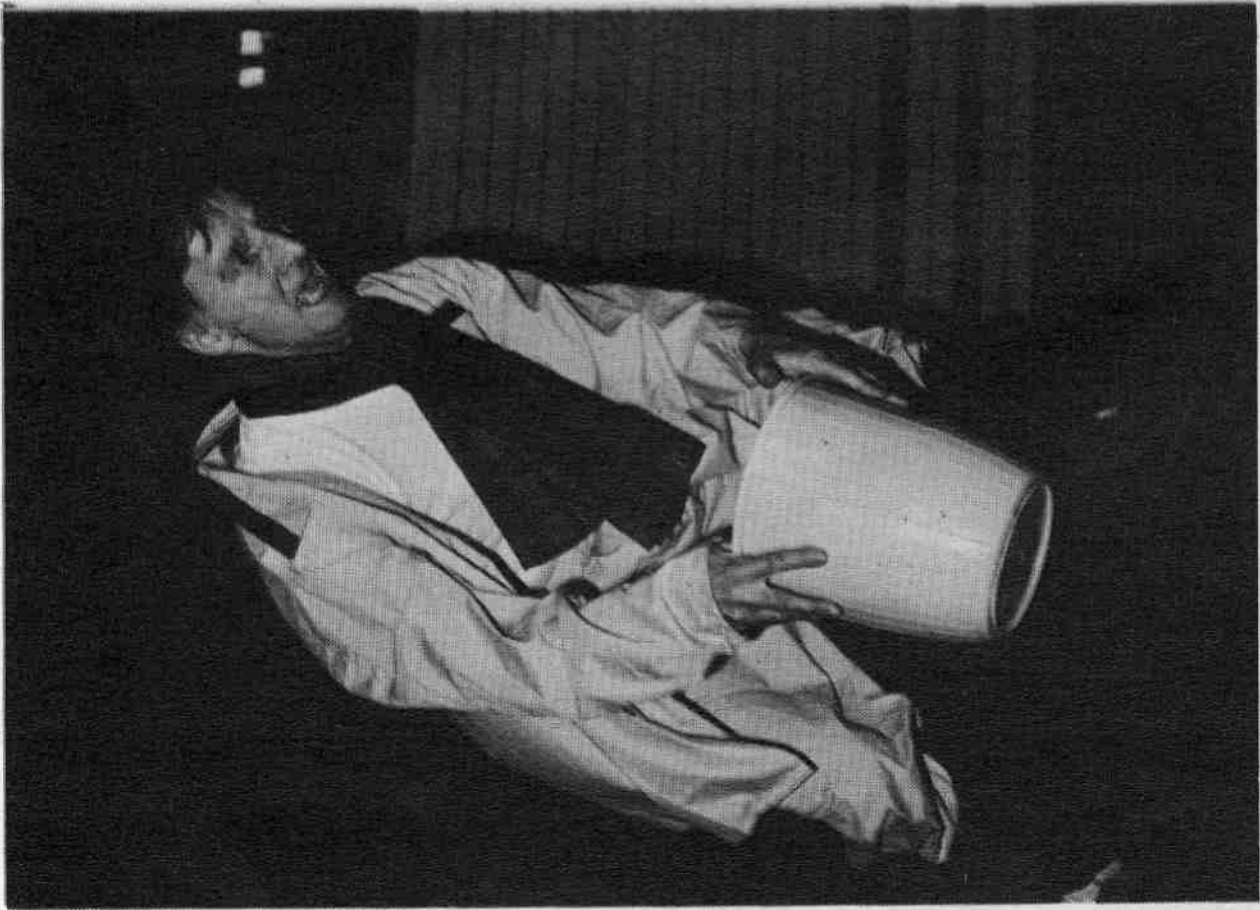


When the Saints, Go Marching on



The Skipper

gaining 24 feet.



What's He Doing?



The Winners



Who Really Won?

THE CARLTON DOUBLE KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

Backed by the generous sponsorship of Carlton Sports Co. Ltd., the Tournament Committee organised a competition to celebrate the "Jubilee" — a competition with a difference. After being eliminated from a mixed doubles knockout tourney, with each round consisting of matches of best-of-5 sets (9 points each set) losing couples were given a "life" and allowed to continue in the competition in the "losers" side of the draw. Ultimately, the couples which were triumphant from both sides of the draw would meet in a grand final to decide the over-all winners. The innovation of 9-pt sets, with no setting, proved very popular, providing an atmosphere of "sudden-death" which is not readily apparent in normal 15-pt sets.

Ian Smith and Davina Gemmell (Govan Old), who progressed through the winners "half" met Ian Buchanan and Lorraine Bennett (also from Govan Old), who, although being eliminated by Ian and Davina in the winners quarter-finals, survived in the losers "half" and thus had an opportunity of revenge. However, once again Ian and Davina were successful and emerged worthy winners. Over-all third place went to Peter Love and Lynn Thompson, again of Govan Old.

The competition was rated a success by all those taking part, and requests were made to have another similar tournament — though to be run a little sooner than another 50 years!



Section Winners



The Winners

The Winners



Runners-Up



Trophies and Prizes kindly donated by Carlton



Third Place

Dance to look forward to on May 1, and for the special year it is taking
 At the time of going to press we have still our Annual Presentation
 Younger members were co-opted for "is a knockout."
 meetings took place at the McCulloch's house. In addition one or two
 important for feeding all the hungry people mentioned above, as all

With most of our Golden Jubilee season gone all too quickly comes the time to look back and forward.

It was good to meet again or for the first time some people who were involved right from the start of our Association such as Mrs. Swan, wife of the late Andrew Swan and her son Alistair, Miss Goldie who became Treasurer as far back as 1933, Mr. and Mrs. Quinn who also go back to the early pre-war years, Bert Topping of Wellfield who won the mixed double tournament in 1932 and others too numerous to name. How many faces can you remember among the photos which are the main feature of this brochure.

The success of our Jubilee season did not come about by accident as the planning committee was formed two years ago and I think it is fitting to pay tribute at this stage to those involved namely George Crichton, Archie Bowie, Jim and Morag McCulloch, Duncan Baird, Jeanette McMenemy, Frank Shannon, Gordon Wylie, Paul Russell and Eric Tweedie, the latter two doing most of the writing for this brochure. A special word of thanks to Morag not only for organising names for the Civic Reception (gathering them from all quarters) but even more important for feeding all the hungry people mentioned above, as all meetings took place at the McCulloch's house. In addition one or two younger members were co-opted for "Its a knockout".

At the time of going to press we have still our Annual Presentation Dance to look forward to on May 1, and for this special year it is taking place in the City Hall to provide space for all the extra people who will want to come.

Everyone who attended any or all of the celebration events will have their own particular happy memories but the conviviality of the Civic Reception and the uproarious fun of "It's a Knockout" will for most be the highlights of a memorable season.

It would be silly to deny that our Association has been shrinking in recent years with perhaps some loss of interest among the clubs but surely this year will be a turning point as all the events have shown that there is still plenty of fun to be had by our members and their many friends which augers well for the future. May our Diamond Jubilee be even better if that is possible.

Photos used in this brochure were taken by Gordon Wylie of G. E. Williamson (Photographic) Ltd., 540 Sauchiehall Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow.