

Sutton Mandeville



CRIBBAGE HUT SLATE CLUB

MEMBERSHIP DOUBLED

ANNUAL DINNER AND FETE

The Cribbage Hut Slate Club, Sutton Mandeville, having more than doubled its membership during the past year, never held an annual dinner and fete under more favourable conditions than it did on Wednesday. Evidence of this most satisfactory growth was apparent in all phases of the festival – first in the large gathering at the dinner, over which Mr M. S. Waters, of Swallowcliffe presided, and later in the fete programme.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

According to a statement made at the dinner by the genial host, Mr Albert Spencer, jun., the title of the Club has an interesting historic association, of which few possibly are aware. When Cromwell assumed the Protectorate, he forbade people to discuss politics corporately in public and so the people of the village of Sutton Mandeville, did what doubtless many another village did, established a Cribbage Club, and, in the pretence of meeting there to play cribbage, they gave expression to their political beliefs. Contrary to have any desire to have politics in any way associated with the affairs of the Slate Club to-day, the Chairman at Wednesday's gathering rejoiced that, as a Club, they knew no politics. The Committee, under the direction of the capable Secretary (Mr A Mullins), work in perfect harmony, as the completeness of the arrangements testified. The Committee is composed of the following:- Messrs S. Burt, P. Heasel, H. G. Hoskins, J. T. Mullins, F. Canning, E. Ball, E. C. Hardiman, W. Coombes, sen., H. Cabel, C. Scammell, J. Mullins, T. Hoskins and W. Coombes, jun.

CAPT. BULL SUSPECTS THE PACT

Dinner was admirably served by Mr and Mrs A. T. Spencer in a marquee near the Cribbage Hut, the material for the decoration of which was loaned by Mr Waters and others. The Chairman was supported by the Secretary and Capt. Bull, Messrs G. Bracher, E. Willis, C. Lever, Fairchild, A. J. Cuff, E. Perrett, R. Cross, T. Raymond, A. Lever and F. Targett.

Following the loyal toasts, Mr A. Spencer, sen., gave the toast of “The Armed Forces of the Crown,” and Capt. Bull, in replying, said no doubt the ideals of the League of Nations were excellent if they could be carried out, but personally he did not think they would ever be able to carry on in the way the supporters of the League advocated. He considered it would always be necessary to maintain efficient forces, because quarrels had always occurred, and they always would do so long as man existed. While he advocated the maintenance of efficient forces to defend our Colonies, upon which we so largely depended, he did not think they should maintain forces to be at the disposal of other nations at their beck and call. At the present moment if our politicians were not very careful there was a very great danger of England being led into something – another scrap of paper. He did hope the Government, before signing the Pact with France, would consider the seriousness of it.

Mr Wyatt proposed the toast of “The Visitors,” to which Mr Willis replied.

Mr A. T. Spencer, jun., in proposing the toast of “The Chairman,” expressed their thanks to Mr Waters for his continued interest in the Club, which he showed in so many practical ways. (Hear, hear).

FREEDOM FROM POLITICS

The Chairman, responding, said it was a pleasure for him to take part in that sort of function, because it was a rare occasion when one attended a gathering where there were no politics – at which people of all religious beliefs and all political creeds mixed together. (Hear, hear). And he could see that at that table they even had some teetotalers. (Laughter.) It was, indeed, very pleasant to be present at such a function where all strife was left out, and they met in perfect harmony. (Applause.) He was very pleased to see there that day members of their Club who had recovered from illnesses – Mr Robert Cross and his brother, Mr Thomas Scammell, and Mr Reuben Pearcey. (Applause.) He congratulated the Club on its Secretary, Mr Mullins, in fact, was more than a secretary. He called him a director of ceremonies. (Laughter and applause).

Mr Fairchild, giving the toast of “The Cribbage Hut Slate Club,” congratulated them upon the success of their festival that day. He had enjoyed the conviviality. (Hear, hear).

SICK BENEFITS PAYMENTS

Mr Mullins, in reply, said last year they were able to pay out in sickness benefit £10 7s. and already during the present year they had been able to pay out £10. They were better than a Slate Club, he claimed, because they paid full benefit for 12 weeks and half-pay for 12 weeks, whereas an ordinary Slate Club only paid out full benefit for six weeks and half-pay for six weeks. Their membership, he said, now stood at 55, compared with 24 last year, an increase of 31.

“The Health of the Host and Hostess” (Mr and Mrs Spencer, jun.) was drunk on the call of Mr Cuff, who congratulated them on the excellence of the spread. – Both Mr and Mrs Spencer acknowledged the compliment.

Sports and other forms of amusement, including bowling for a pig, provided an interesting afternoon, and in the evening a dance was held. Music was played during the afternoon and evening by the Fovant Band, under Mr H. Foyle.

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