


The Goonist



MOVEMENT

The Official Club
for the
Goon Show

17a, Gransden Avenue,
Hackney. London. E.8.

AMHerst 3619.

Dear Members,

In last month's issue, I very foolishly mentioned that I would like to see an "Anti David Whitfield League" formed. I have been severely reprimanded for this, and I hope you will accept my humble apologies!

I think I should mention at this point that although I speak on behalf of The Goons on occasions, all the opinions which I express are my own, and are not expressed on behalf of anybody except myself!

I am still receiving a large amount of letters asking for a photo of Harry. In case you overlooked the paragraph in the June issue, Harry is not going to supply us with any, as he has a Fan Club of his own. I know you think this is unfair, and as you very rightly point out, he is a "Goon", but I am afraid that I have no power, or indeed no time to write letters to him which I know will only result in promises that never materialise. I hope this does answer your queries.

To move on to a brighter topic, may I thank you once again for all your many letters in appreciation of last month's magazine. Whilst I am glad that you enjoy reading them, I feel they could still be improved, and if you have any suggestions as to how I could do this, I should be very interested to hear them!.

Sincerely.

Rayna.

On May 23rd I was lucky enough to be invited to go and see the transmission of "A Show Called Fred". As all members who saw these shows know, there was not a studio audience, so this was an experience that was even more out of the ordinary. Unfortunately I did have to go to work on the day of the transmission, or else I would have been at the studios all day. I did manage to get there fairly early though, and equipped with a visitor's pass which Max had left for me at the reception desk, made my way to Studio 4. After being greeted by Peter, Spike and Max, I was ushered to a small corner of the room, and was just in time to see a run-through of the Show. No sooner had this finished, than another one started, and so it went on, until three quarters of an hour before the transmission. I was then shown around the control room, and I am sure that you have no idea of the amount of work that goes on before a show of this kind can be televised. The control room was absolutely covered with plugs, switches, and tape recorders. All the music for the show is recorded on tape beforehand, so as to achieve a better sound reproduction, and I felt that I needed at least six pairs of eyes to see all that was going on:- The producer rushing frantically around giving instructions to everybody, the make-up girls who deftly applied and removed those very effective moustaches and beards that were so often used, and of course the masses of cameramen.

If you remember on this particular date the show was divided into two main sketches - "Ying ton Tonight" and "Escapers Club", and each portion of the room was used for one particular part. Right in the middle of the room was an outsize projection screen, and every so often a film was projected on to it, in the form of a large expanse of water. Spike knelt in front of the screen, facing a T.V. set with a camera hovering above him, and practiced the movements of the Australian crawl. That does give you an idea of how that effect was made.

I have two regrets, however, (a) that I was so enthralled in my conversation to a couple of reporters, that I missed seeing the actual transmission, and (b) that I forgot

to take a note book and pencil with me, in order to give you a fuller report!

THE BLUEBOTTLE SAGA

No one knows exactly where or when Bluebottle was born. Some experts suggest he was exchanged for a brass Lurgi-Tuner Pawn ticket.

At the age of 27 he eloped with his school teacher to live in an onion plantation in Romney Marshes. This he gave up at the outbreak of war to join the Camel Division of the 92nd. Unmounted East Grinstead Tram Spotters, enjoying a distinguished military career, until in 1942 he volunteered for hazardous duties. On being accepted he fled to South America!

On being demobbed his interests turned to music, and here joined the moronic-type Jazz Band of Miff Mole and his Agency Five.

He has since spent most of his time trying to sabotage the B.B.C. by means of the "Goon Show" assisted by someone named Sellers. Bluebottle denies this emphatically, saying that Sellers is trying to get in on the act.

Last year when introduced to Marilyn Monroe, he was heard to make one of his rarest remarks "I like this game".

He stands 5'2" in his elephant socks, has green hair, (both of them) and bloodshot eyes. He also takes size 13 in kneecaps, which are reversible.

His hobbies are grint collecting and singing - although he can't really sing - just hums in the warm weather.

Where is Bluebottle now ? Well, wherever Flies go in winter, Bluebottles go too!

MALCOLM GREENWOOD.

MEMBERSHIP

The following member's terms have expired, and when re-joining will they please make their postal orders out to "The Goonist Movement", and quote their membership number?

342, 360, 363, 373, 374, 413, 416, 423, 427, 434, 435, 459, 442, 443, 447, 453, 456, 458, 474, 436, 466, 467, 485, 487.

LONDON MEMBER'S PROPOSED GET TOGETHER

As yet I am still unable to give you details of the dance, but in order that it should be a success, I must know how many people are interested. I think you will appreciate that it is useless for me to hire a hall that can only hold 500 people, if 1,000 or more are going to come, and remember the more people that attend, the cheaper the tickets. For the benefit of new members, here are the very few details that I was able to give last month:- The Dance will either take place at the end of this year, or the beginning of next, as many of the Goons will be there as is possible, and the tickets will not cost more than 7/6d each. So please do let me know if you are interested!

GOON TURNTABLE REVIEWS

Of course you are now all aware of the fabulous success scored on Bluebottle Blues/Walking Backwards for Christmas". I personally think that the outstanding feature of "Walking Backwards" is Peter's piano playing, and now the vital question we all must ask ourselves, is, "Is this a challenge to Liberace". As for the other side, well, I think that it's one of the funniest records I've ever heard. New members wishing to have their copies autographed by Peter and Spike can do so, by sending me their record envelopes, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Harry too has a new release for Philips in the form of "We'll keep a Welcome". As much as I admire his voice, I don't think he quite reaches the same standard on this disc, as on his previous ones.

GOONISTICS

I am afraid that from the point of view of news, last month was quite uneventful. However, readers of the N.M.E. will have heard about the exchange of views myself and the Editor - Ray Sonin shared on "The Dickie Valentine Show". For the benefit of members who do not read the N.M.E., here is a brief outline of what happened. In the July 7th. issue he reviewed the show, and more or less said that Peter ruined it. On the 9th. he received a letter from me telling him exactly what I thought, which he answered and also printed in the "Talking Points" feature in the next issue. Ever since then his reviews of the Show have been good, and not only complimentary to Dickie but to Peter too! Several of you did write to Ray Sonin, and Peter has asked me to thank you for the support you gave him. Pathe Pictorial have still not filmed the drawings which The Goons exhibited in London a couple of months ago. As previously stated in the June issue, another series of "Fred" shows will commence on the 17th. September, starring Peter, and written by Spike. Harry's Palladium Show is to continue until December. "The Dickie Valentine Show" originally scheduled to terminate on June 21st, has been extended for another two weeks. For the past few weeks Bob Duffy has deputised Ken Sprang in Ray's Quartet, who has been in hospital.

FAN CLUBS

Once again "The Goonist Movement" is honoured to have the membership of the President of one of the largest Clubs in the Country:- Margaret Schofield, who runs Lita Roza's Fan Club from "The White Swan", 116, Sherlock Street, Birmingham, 5. When writing to Margaret for details, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

THE GOON AT LARGE IN LEICESTER

The audience at the "Palace" was tense and still; the orchestra were playing the last bars of the intermission music, and as the Tabs unfurled the spotlights flooded the stage, empty save for a Grand Piano, till a small and tubby figure bounces on the boards to say "Well hallo there", yes Harry was at large in Leicester.

Most of you, I am sure are familiar with Harry's stage technique and his now famous shaving act, so I don't feel there is any need to describe it to you. However, I would like to say that as far as I can find out, that is the only week the Palace has been packed, although we have had some grand artists such as Winnie Atwell, Dave King, and many others. A night such as this would seem great but my three GOON ADDICT friends and I had decided to go back stage to see if we could see anything of our idle (idol).

The stage door seemed dark and forboding but as a ray of light shatters the darkness, so the loveable personality of THE GOLDEN VOICED GOON broke our fast dwindling hopes.

This great goon greeted us with such a firm hand shake, I doubt if we shall ever forget it. Off stage as well as on, Harry is a great clown, making jokes out of every conceivable situation, even by getting into his car and finding the dashboard gone, but all was well when he got into the front seat, he'd been sitting at the back.

That week Leicester was at the mercy of the Goon all right.

DAVID OAKES

Well, now that we've heard David's opinion, I'm sure that many of you will be prompted to write about your meetings with The Goons. If you do want these to be included in the next magazine, could you please let me have them on or before the 13th. August.

PRESS CUTTINGS

Barbara Stickland, 1, Whitebeam Avenue, Bromley. Kent, would like to exchange Press Cuttings of The Goons with other members.

PEN FRIENDS

Fred Kennedy, 31, Moorfields Flats, Shalesmoor, Sheffield. 3. Age 17 - Interests: Hiking, records, films, skating, and dancing. Would like pen-friend in either Copenhagen or County Tipperary, Eire. Any members who wish to reply, please send their letters to me, as Fred is in the process of moving!

Hilary Urch, 29 Tennyson Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age 16 - Interests: Reading, collecting photos of film and recording stars, watching most sports, pop music, and traditional jazz. Male or female pen friend.

Clifford Slade, 44, Northfield Road, Thatcham, Berks, Age 21. Interests: Ted Heath, music and cricket, but not girls.

Rita Annan, 78, Francis Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Age 14. Interests: Records, films, Johnny Ray, and modern jazz.

Harry Manning, 103, Scotland Road, Nelson, Lancs. Age 17. Interests: Football and most other sports, collecting modern and traditional jazz, records, and stamp collecting.

Ron Tilling, 10a, Queen Street, Louth, Lincolnshire. Would like to get in touch with someone interested in short story writing. He would like to establish a contact with someone with the idea of mutual unbiased criticisms. He has had four short stories published, and is interested in a wide variety of fiction, including, science, humour and general stuff, but not, as he puts it, in "feminine pulp". Age 20 and would like to correspond with anyone of similar age and experience.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos are still available of Peter and Spike for all members, so if you would like these, please send me a stamped addressed envelope, big enough to take a post card size photograph.

DATE SHEET

July 31st - August 5th Ray at Sheffield Locarno.
August 1st Peter in "Finkel's Caff" (B.B.C. Radio) 8.30 - 9 Light Programme.
August 4th Peter in "The Dickie Valentine Show" (ATV. 8.15 - 9)
August 5th Recording of "Finkel's Caff".
August 6th - August 12th Max at Palace Theatre Manchester.
August 6th - August 19th Ray at Manchester Plaza.
August 8th Peter in "Finkel's Caff".
August 12th Recording of "Finkel's Caff".
August 14th Peter and Spike in "Curiousa & Curiouser" (BBC radio 8.30-9 Home.S.)
August 15th Peter in "Finkel's Caff"
August 19th Recording of "Finkel's Caff".
August 20th - August 26. Ray at Tottenham Royal.
August 20th Ray in "Mid-day Music Hall" (BBC radio 12.25 - 12.55.
August 21st Peter and Spike in "Curiousa & Curiouser"
August 22nd Peter in "Finkel's Caff".
August 23rd Ray in "Henry Hall's Guest Night" (BBC radio)
August 27th Ray's marriage to Ann Wueste at the Caxton Hall, London. (a.m.)
August 28th Peter & Spike in "Curiousa and Curiouser)"
August 29th Peter in "Finkel's Caff".

EXHIBITION OF GOON DRAWINGS. As previously stated in the June issue, there will be an exhibition of Goon drawings in this year's Radio Show, and I hope as many members as possible will try to be there. (Aug. 21st - Sept. 1st).