COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 7th

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning departed from Royal Air Force Lyneham to visit Slovenia.

Her Royal Highness called upon The President of the Republic of Slovenia and later saw the work of Save the Children Fund and its partners in Ljubljana.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by The President.

The Countess of Lichfield and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs are in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 7th

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide, this morning opened the ICAN Speech and Language Nursery at the Alverton County Infant and Nursery School, Northallerton.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).

Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust, will open the Kent Wing of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstel Road, Harlow, Essex, on Oct 15.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sir Mark Oliphant, physicist, Governor of South Australia, 1971-76, is 95; **Mr Godfrey Talbot,** broadcaster, 88; **Viscount Caldecote,** Chairman, Investors in Industry, 1980-87, 79; **Sir Edward Eveleigh,** a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; **the Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham,** former diplomat, 77; **Prof Sir Richard Harrison,** anatomist, 76; **Sir Michael Fox,** a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 75; **Sir Robert Scholey,** Chairman, British Steel, 1986-92, 75; **the Marquess of Anglesey** 74; **Dr César Milstein,** joint winner Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1984, 69; **Mr Peter Wood,** theatre and television director, 68; **Mr Neil Harvey,** former Australia cricketer, 68; **Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP,** Speaker of the House of Commons, 67; **Prof Sir John Cadogan,** Director of Research, British Petroleum, 1981-92, 66; **Mr Alasdair Milne,** Director-General of the BBC, 1982-87, 66; **Mr D.R.W. Silk,** former President, MCC and TCCB, and Warden of Radley College, 1968-91, 65; **Mr Ray Reardon,** six times World Snooker Champion, 64; **M Albert Roux,** chef and restaurateur, 61; **Dame Merle Park,** ballerina, and Director, Royal Ballet School, 59; **Mr Brandon Gough,** Chairman, Yorkshire Water, and Chairman Higher Education Funding Council for England, 59; **Mr John Hardman,** Chairman, ASDA Group 1988-91, 57; **Lord Romsey** 49; and **Lord Palmer** 45.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr N.R.W. Parslow and Miss T.L. Undery

The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Parslow, of Ewhurst, Surrey, and *Tania*, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Undery, of Chalbury, Dorset.

Mr S.M. Woodcock and Miss E.C.M. Hewitt

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Ivan Woodcock and the late Mrs Betty Woodcock, of Witnesham, Suffolk, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John B. Hewitt, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr R. Stevens and Miss C.L. Clements

The engagement is announced between Russell, only son of Mrs J. Northcott-Hammond, of Pont Robert, Powys, and Mr W.H. Stevens, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John *Clements*, of Tregathenen, Cornwall.

WEDDING

Mr N.C. Hewitt and Miss A.M.P. Campbell

The marriage took place on Oct 4, 1996, at St Michael's Church, Sandhurst, between Mr Nigel Charles Hewitt, younger son of Major Maurice Hewitt and the late Mrs Heather Hewitt, of Camberley, Surrey, and Miss Alison Patricia Campbell, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Campbell, of New Milton, Hampshire. Canon Ken Humphreys officiated.

A reception was held at St Anne's Manor Hotel, Wokingham, and the honeymoon is being spent in New Zealand.

MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

A service of commemoration and thanksgiving for Merchant Taylors' School will be held in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday, Oct 18, at 2.30 pm. Tickets for reserved seating can be obtained from the Triennial Secretary, Merchant Taylors' School, Sandy Lodge, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2HT, or tel. 01923 820644. Please advise if you are an old boy of the school.

AIR CDRE SIR FRANK WHITTLE

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Cdre Sir Frank Whittle will be held in Westminster Abbey on Friday, Nov 15, 1996, at noon. Applications for tickets accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, should reach the Ministry of Defence, PId(Cer) (RAF), Room 544, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1N 8RU, by not later than Monday, Oct 21, 1996. Applicants should state their connection with Air Cdre Sir Frank Whittle, or the organisation they represent, if applicable. Tickets will be issued 7 to 10 days before the service. All are welcome. Applications should not be made to Westminster Abbey.

Mr T.I. Wood and Miss C.L. van Gerbig

The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs John Wood, of South Brent, Devon, and *Camilla*, daughter of Mrs Sarah van Gerbig and the late Mr Peter van Gerbig, of New York.

Mr P.G. Stannah and Miss J.L. Thompson

The engagement is announced between Patrick Gordon Stannah, of London, SW6, and Josephine Lisette Thompson, of Hampstead.

LUNCHEONS

Women of the Year

Princess Michael of Kent was a speaker at the Women of the Year luncheon held at the Savoy yesterday in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. The Marchioness of Lothian, Founder President, presided with Ms Floella Benjamin, Executive Chairman, the Hon Diana Makgill and Miss Diane Canady, Vice-Chairmen, and the Countess of Airlie, Lady Healey, Lady Val Arnison and Ms Paddy Campbell, Vice-Presidents. The other speakers were Mme Vigdis Finnbogadottir, international guest of honour; Miss Heather Rabbatts, Ms Victoria Wood and Miss Maureen Lipman, who paid tribute to Aung San Suu Kyi.

Miss Rachel Sullivan received the Frink Award on behalf of the winner, Mrs Mary Ashwell. Other guests of honour included:

The Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Lady Macdonald, Mrs Justice Arden, Dame Fiona Caldicott, Dame Peggy Fenner, MP, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, Ms Lesley Abdela, Mrs Louise Atkin Walker, Mrs Julia Allison, Ms Barbara Amiel, Ms Janet Anderson, MP, Miss Joan Armatrading, Miss Jane Asher, Mrs Liz Ravidge, Dr Susan Bewley, Ms Bibiana Boerio, Miss Samantha Brewster, Miss Rosemary Brook, Miss Deborah Bull, Ms Sue Cameron, Mrs Pat Campbell, Miss Felicity Clark, Dr Lisa Clayton, Miss Anne Diamond, Miss Anne Dickinson, Ms Margaret Drabble, Ms Rosie Eagleson, Dr Ismat El Sa'id, Dr Vivette Glover, Mrs Pat Greenhill, Mrs Lois Hainsworth, the Rev Moira Herkes, Miss Claire Hulet, Prof Carole Jordan, Ms Tessa Jowell, MP, Prof Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Ms Mary Kenny, Ms Helena Kennedy, QC, Ms Vanessa Leeson, Miss Denise Lewis, Prof Rosamond McGuinness, Mrs Monica McWilliams, Ms Mette Mahon, Dr Angela Milner, Miss Dinah Nichols, Mrs Jenny Pitman, Ms Jessica Rutherford, Mrs Pearl Sagar, Ms Daphne Todd, Mrs Beryl Vertue, Ms Deirdre Vine, Ms Ruby Wax and Mrs Grace Wedekind.

Guild of Editors

Mr John Griffith, President, Guild of Editors, and Editor, *Liverpool Echo*, and Mr Bob Satchwell, Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee of the Guild, and Editor, *Cambridge Evening News*, were hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at Bloomsbury House, WC1, in honour of Mrs Elizabeth France, Data Protection Registrar.

RECEPTION

Peter May Memorial Appeal

A reception was held yesterday at The Oval, Kennington, to launch the Peter May Memorial Appeal for the London Playing Fields Society.

Memorial Services

Mr John Boon

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr John Boon was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. Canon Thaddeus Birchard officiated. Mr Christopher Boon (son), Miss Dorothy Tutin and Mr Nicky Henson gave readings. Mr Anthony Flynn and Dr Joseph McAleer, Harlequin Mills & Boon, Toronto, Mr David Whitaker, Chairman, J. Whitaker and Sons, and Mr Alexis Koutchoumouow paid tribute to Mr Boon. Among those present were:

Mr and Mrs Charles Boon, Mr and Mrs Humphrey Boon (sons and daughters-in-law), Mrs Christopher Boon (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Alan Boon (brother and sister-in-law), Mr Julian Boon, Ms Gillian Clements, Mr Luke Clements, Ms Nina Clements, Mrs Dinah Norman.

Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Baroness David, Sir John and Lady Brown, Sir Roger Elliott, Lady Forbes, Lady McIntosh, Sir Derek Thomas, Ms Ruth Guzner, Managing Director, Harlequin Mills & Boon UK, Mr Simon Master, President, The Publishers Association, with Mr Clive Bradley, Chief Executive, and Dr Fernando Gutedes, President, International Publishers Association; Mr Mark Le Fanu, General Secretary, Society of Authors.

Mr Peter Allsop, Mr and Mrs Philip Attenborough, Mr Geoffrey Chapman, Mr and Mrs Ian Chapman, Mr and Mrs Charles Clark, Mr John Davies, Mr André Deutsch, Ms Marian Dome, Mr Barney Goff, Mr and Mrs Hamilton, QC, and Mrs Hamilton, Mr Colin Hayes, Mr Ronald Hedley, Mr David Hicks, Mr Robin Hyman, Mr and Mrs Tommy Joy, Mr Jeremy Lever, QC.

Mr David Machin, Mr Donald Morrison, Mr Tom Rosenthal, Mr Rivers Scott, Mr Thomas Sharpe, Mr Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, Mr John Sumsion, Mr Ion Trewin, Mr Michael Turner, Mr Rayner Unwin, Ms Maggie Van Reenen, Prof David Waddington, Mr Terry Waite and Ms Sally Whitaker, together with many other friends.

Mr Ivor Mills

A celebration of the life of Mr Ivor Mills was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. Mgr Freddie Miles officiated. Mr Denys Hawthorne read a sonnet by William Shakespeare and the epilogue to *The Character of Ireland* by W.R. Rodgers. Mr Derek Bailey gave an address and Mr Andrew Gardner read *Hello, it's Ivor here...*, by Mr Liam Hanley. Ms Ruth McGinley (piano) played Rachmaninov's *Adagio Sostenuto in D flat* from *Moments Musicaux (Op 16)* and *Danzas del Gaucho Matrarero* from *Danzas Argentinas (Op 2)* by Alberto Ginastera. Ms Mary Nelson (soprano) sang *Danny Boy*, accompanied by Mr Andrew Smith (piano). Among those present were:

Mr Rory Mills (son), Miss Claire Mills (daughter), Mrs Elva Robinson (sister), Mrs Muriel Mills, Mr Bertie Robinson, Mr Michael Robinson, Mr and Mrs Graham Lewis, Mr Roger Lewis.

Sir Alastair Burnet, Sir Geoffrey Cox, Sir David and Lady Nicholas, Mr Stewart Purvis, Chief Executive, ITN, Mr Ian Bell, Director, Corporate Relations, BT, Mr Colin Browne, Director, Corporate Affairs, BBC, Mr Malcolm Argent, Deputy Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, Mr N. Lillitos, Chief of Press and Broadcast, Post Office, Mr Peter Carver, Director General, Association of the Manufacturers of Domestic and Electrical Appliances, Mr Howard Lee, Chairman, Gavin Anderson and Company.

Miss Gloria Hunniford, Mr and Mrs Paddy Hopkirk, Mr Julian Havilland, Mr Desmond Hammill, Mr and Mrs Liam Hanley, Mr Mike Morris, Mr Keith McDowall, Mr Rory McPherson, Mr Bob Southgate, Mr Peter Sissons, Mr Denis Tuohy, Mr Peter Allen, Mr Richard Whiteley, Mr James Bredin, Mr Derek Dowsett, Mr and Mrs John Egan, Mr and Mrs Peter Fairley, Mr Norman Fox, Mr John Groves, Mr Robert Hargreaves, Mr Keith Hatfield, Mr John Hargrave, Mrs Anne Jolliffe, Miss Diana Edwards-Jones, Mr Iain Johnstone.

Mr and Mrs Peter Kinsella, Mr Desmond Smith, Mr and Mrs Ivan Sharrock, Mrs Janice Walsh, Miss Sally Wheatley, Mr Hugh Whitemore, Mr and Mrs John Armstrong, Mr and Mrs Andrew Crockart, Mr Dennis Davison, Miss Susan Fox, Miss Sally Jordan, Mr and Mrs J. Lennox, Mr and Mrs James Morwood, Mr and Mrs F. O'Hegarty, Mrs L. Penfound, Mr and Mrs Peter Pizzey, Mr Max Rainey, Mr John Rainey, Mr and Mrs Cliff Sisley, Mr and Mrs Stewart Sharrock, Mrs Lily Shrank and Mr and Mrs W.R. Tinbin, and many other friends and former colleagues.

OBITUARIES

Lord Roskill

Roskill (1986): fraud trials

THE LORD ROSKILL, who has died aged 85, was a judge of the utmost intellectual distinction, at his best when dealing with commercial law; in criminal cases and as leader of public inquiries he stirred some controversy.

This was especially true of the committee which he led between 1968 and 1970 to consider the best site for a third airport for London. The committee expended massive industry — 160 witnesses submitted representations running to three million words — and made detailed cost-benefit analysis of the various possibilities.

It paid less attention to the likely political reaction. The choice of Cublington, near Wing in Buckinghamshire, caused a furore.

Villagers cheered as Roskill was burnt in effigy; leaflets informed householders how to resist eviction, and even how to make petrol bombs; and more than 200 MPs signed a petition against the report. Within four months the Government had announced that the third airport would be built at Foulness — another plan destined for oblivion.

In 1983 Roskill, with his vast commercial experience, was appointed to head another contentious inquiry, into the way fraud trials should be conducted.

His report, published in 1986, recommended that in such cases trial by jury should be replaced by examination before a judge and two expert laymen. The legal profession reacted with outrage, and there was much talk about denying an Englishman his birthright of being tried by his peers. Jury trials were retained.

Subsequently, however, the Guinness, Blue Arrow and Barlow Clowes investigations tended to bear out Roskill's position. "I'm impenitent about non-jury trials for complex frauds," he declared in 1992.

Some of his commission's proposals were adopted. Evidence from overseas via a simultaneous satellite video link was allowed, and the defence's right to veto jurors without showing proper cause was abolished.

But the Serious Fraud Office — recommended by the commission to integrate the ways in which fraud is prosecuted — has proved a doubtful asset. The low rate of convictions has led to its being dubbed the Seriously Flawed Office.

Eustace Wentworth Roskill was born on Feb 6 1911, the youngest of four sons of John Roskill, KC, and of Sybil Wentworth Dilke, the niece of Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, the Radical MP whose career was ruined when he was cited as co-respondent in the notorious three-in-a-bed divorce case.

All four brothers took Firsts at Oxford. Stephen, the eldest, became a leading naval historian; Ashton, a barrister and chairman of the Monopolies Commission, was knighted in 1967; and Oliver pioneered industrial consultancy in Britain.

Eustace was educated at Winchester and Exeter College, Oxford, where he read Modern History. Called to the Bar in 1933 as the Middle Temple's Harmsworth scholar, he joined a commercial chambers, where he practised successfully until 1939. During the Second World War he worked at the Ministries of Shipping and War Transport.

With the return of peace Roskill quickly re-established himself at the Bar, and took Silk in 1955. He was appointed chairman of Hampshire Quarter Sessions in 1960, and Commissioner of Birmingham Assizes in 1961.

The next year Roskill became a High Court judge, attached to the Queen's Bench Division. In commercial cases he showed an extraordinary capacity to master labyrinthine complexities, and to deliver extemporary judgments of great lucidity and coherence. In criminal cases, however, his touch was less secure.

In 1965 Roskill sentenced to death George Thatcher, who had been found guilty of shooting a lorry driver in a raid on the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Mitcham. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the Court of Criminal Appeal, which concluded that there was no direct evidence that Thatcher had fired the fatal shot, and that Roskill's direction to the jury had been too critical of some of the defence evidence.

In his early days on the Bench Roskill favoured harsh sentences, especially for young and violent criminals. The experience of serving as Vice-Chairman of the Parole Board between 1967 and 1969 to some extent modified his severity, but he was still capable, when promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1971, of showing his steel.

"If the slightest leniency is shown in these cases," he remarked in dismissing an appeal against a sentence of 14 years for kidnapping, "people are led to think that the courts do not care."

In 1977 Roskill brought obloquy upon his head for his judgment in a rape case. The year before he had expressed the unexceptionable view that "girls thought to be an easy lay are entitled to protection". Yet he was one of three Court of Appeal judges who freed a Coldstream Guardsman who had been sentenced to three years after a vicious assault on a 17-year-old barmaid.

"Richly as you deserve your three-year sentence," Roskill told the man, "we do not want to see your career in ruins. The best thing you can do now is to go back to your unit and continue to serve your country."

Soon afterwards a group of women disrupted one of Roskill's hearings, chanting "Licence to Rape" and "Roskill out". A group of Labour MPs tabled a motion for the judge's dismissal.

Later in 1977 Roskill was forthright in refusing four prisoners leave to appeal against their conviction for murders caused by bombs in Guildford. Referring to "a cunning and skilful attempt to deceive the court by putting forward false evidence", Roskill concluded that "there are no possible grounds for doubting the justice of these convictions or for ordering a retrial." Twelve years later with the emergence of further evidence the convictions were quashed.

In 1980 Roskill was appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. The next year he argued that the barrister Ann Mallalieu was not entitled to tax relief on her "dull and dowdy" working clothes.

In 1984 Roskill was one of three judges who decided (Lords Scarman and Fraser dissenting) that national security had demanded the return of a document which Sarah Tisdall, a clerical officer in the Foreign Office, had delivered to the *Guardian*. The paper concerned MoD plans for dealing with demonstrations at Greenham Common.

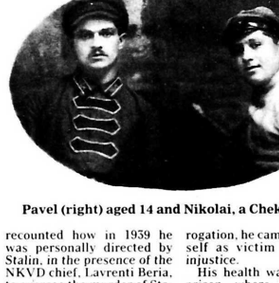
Roskill retired as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 1986, although he continued to sit as a member of the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords — notably in a case which decided that grammar schools should not provide fewer places for girls than for boys.

From 1987 to 1993 Roskill served as chairman of the Take-Over Panel Committee. Earlier, from 1981 to 1988, he had been chairman of the London International Arbitration Trust. He was President of the Senate of the Four Inns of Court from 1972 to 1974.

Roskill was knighted in 1962 and sworn of the Privy Council in 1971.

He married, in 1947, Elisabeth Jackson; they had a son and two daughters.

Pavel Sudoplatov



Pavel (right) aged 14 and Nikolai, a Cheka officer

PAVEL SUDOPLATOV, who has died aged 89, was a ruthless and unquestioning agent of Stalin; he was responsible for carrying out and overseeing political killings, including the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

The shadowy head of special operations of the Soviet intelligence service, the NKVD (later the KGB), Sudoplatov became known in the West in 1994, when he published a volume of self-serving memoirs that offered a fascinating, if distorted, glimpse into the world of Soviet intelligence.

Pavel Anatolievich Sudoplatov was born in Melitopol, Ukraine, in 1907. His father was Ukrainian, his mother Russian. As a teenager he followed in the footsteps of his elder brother Nikolai, and joined the Cheka, the early Soviet secret police, taking part in operations against Ukrainian nationalists.

In 1927 he joined the secret political department of the NKVD in Kharkov. There in 1928 he met Emma Kaganova, a senior officer, whom he married.

After a year in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, where he led an NKVD guerrilla unit, Sudoplatov was posted in 1937 to Belgium, to take part in the kidnapping and murder of Stalin's opponents. In his book he gave a detailed account of how he killed a Ukrainian nationalist leader, Yevgeni Konovalets, with a bomb hidden in a box of chocolates.

Sudoplatov proudly recounted how in 1939 he was personally directed by Stalin, in the presence of the NKVD chief, Lavrenti Beria, to oversee the murder of Stalin's rival, Trotsky, who was living in exile in Mexico.

During the Second World War Sudoplatov ran Soviet agents in German-occupied territory, and later acquired intelligence for the Soviet atomic weapons programme.

Sudoplatov's downfall began with the death of Stalin in 1953. Beria was arrested in the power struggle that followed, and Sudoplatov's arrest came shortly after. He was held in the Lubyanka, where a guard stole his Swiss watch, which he had acquired in Belgium in 1938.

"This petty theft ended what was left of my Chekist idealism," he wrote later. Apparently shocked by the lapses of discipline in the course of his arrest and interrogation, he came to see himself as victim of political injustice.

His health was broken in prison, where he went on hunger strike and was forcefed. His trial began in 1958, five years after his arrest. He was released from jail in August 1968.

After his release, Sudoplatov and his wife lived in Moscow, where he earned a living translating. In 1982 he submitted to the Central Committee a seven-page letter outlining his career and his contributions to the Soviet Union, and appealing for official rehabilitation, a status that would restore his military rank and pension rights. This was only granted 10 years later, after the Soviet Union had collapsed.

Sudoplatov's memoirs, *Special Tasks*, were written jointly with his son, Anatoli Sudoplatov, and the American journalists Jerrold and Leona Schecter. The book was later judged deeply unreliable in its more spectacular claims, particularly his account of his role in Soviet atomic espionage.

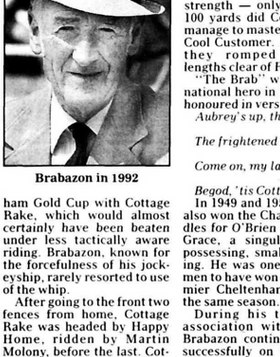
Some of his claims were confused and inadequately supported. This was particularly true of the incredible charge that leading scientists in the Manhattan Project (America's programme to develop an atomic bomb), including Enrico Fermi, Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard and Niels Bohr, had cooperated with the Soviet intelligence effort. An old spy, in his eighties at the time of writing, Sudoplatov had not changed the habits of a lifetime.

Among the book's other claims was that Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who acquired the aura of legend for helping German and Hungarian Jews escape Nazi-held territory, and who disappeared in 1945, was captured by Soviet military counter-intelligence and executed secretly by poison injection in the Lubyanka, two years later.

"My story is based on what I remember," Sudoplatov wrote later, in answer to the controversy the book caused. Though it added to the obscurity of Cold War history rather than illuminating it, the account was at least an atmospheric depiction of the grim, ruthless, elaborate world of Soviet intelligence. Sudoplatov remained a Stalinist with few regrets.

Sudoplatov's wife died in 1988; they had one son.

Aubrey Brabazon



Brabazon in 1992

AUBREY BRABAZON, who has died aged 76, was a superbly stylish Irish jockey with the rare distinction of being every bit as good on the flat as he was over fences and hurdles.

While Brabazon established an instant empathy with his horses, he could ride as powerful a finish as any of the fashionable jockeys who confined their activities to the flat.

In 1946 he shared the Irish jockeys' championship with his great friend and rival, Martin Molony.

Aubrey Brabazon was born on Jan 7 1920. His father, Cecil Brabazon, had the Ranger's Lodge Stable on The Curragh, and ran a thriving stable of flat and jumps horses.

Young Aubrey had his first ride at 13, and was apprenticed to his father at 14. He had the first of his 406 winners in Ireland the next year, 1935, on Queen Christina at Phoenix Park.

He made his first impact in England when riding for a young trainer then completely unknown outside Ireland, Vincent O'Brien. In 1948 they won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Cottage Rake, which would almost certainly have been beaten under less tactically aware riding. Brabazon, known for the forcefulness of his jockeyship, rarely resorted to use of the whip.

After going to the front two fences from home, Cottage Rake was headed by Happy Home, ridden by Martin Molony, before the last. Cottage Rake, however, rallied so well under the urged driving of Brabazon that he won by a length-and-a-half.

Brabazon went on to complete a treble in the Gold Cup on Cottage Rake. Their victory of 1949 was again decided by Brabazon's strength — only in the last 100 yards did Cottage Rake manage to master the gallant Cool Customer. A year later they romped home 10 lengths clear of Finnure.

The Brab', as already a national hero in Ireland, and honoured in verse:

Aubrey's up, the money's down,
The frightened bookies quake,
Come on, my lads, and give a cheer,
Begod, 'tis Cottage Rake.

In 1949 and 1950 Brabazon also won the Champion Hurdles for O'Brien on Hatton's Grace, a singularly unprepossessing, small, bay gelding. He was one of only six men to have won the two premier Cheltenham events in the same season.

During his triumphant association with O'Brien, Brabazon continued to ride successfully on the flat. In 1948 he won the Irish Oaks on Masaka, an unpredictable and temperamental filly owned by the late Aga Khan, and trained by Frank Butters at Newmarket. Two years later he won the Irish 2,000 Guineas on Mighty Ocean.

In 1958 Brabazon won the Omega Plate at the Manchester meeting in November on the two-year-old Red Ross, for his father. Red Ross had been unplaced in Ireland on four previous appearances and the Irish stewards launched an investigation into the discrepancy in form; they withdrew the licences of Cecil and Aubrey Brabazon for 1959. Aubrey had only ridden Red Ross once previously so it was hard to see how he could have been involved; he was reinstated in early April 1959. In 1960 he retired as a jockey, to take over the Ranger's Lodge Stable.

Among the races he won as a trainer was the Ulster Harp Derby with My Kuda, which he rated his best horse.

Aubrey Brabazon was a convivial and popular man who lived in something of the style with which he rode.

He married, in 1948, Ethne Dyer; they had four sons and three daughters.

And this is Lady – pity she's got mad beetle disease

OLIVER PRITCHETT

SCIENTISTS believe that, within the next 10 years, beetle rearing could become an integral part of the farming fabric, the *Telegraph* reported yesterday. I must say I find this an exciting prospect. It will be marvellous to see the old farmers driving their herds of gleaming black beetles down country lanes, assisted by their specially trained beetle dogs. On market days, it will be good to watch the great characters at the coleoptera auctions gathering round, leaning on their sticks and expertly surveying some magnificent pedigree specimen in the matchbox in front of them.

Experts tell us that all sorts of beneficial predatory insects will soon be munching for man. One of the first to be used, according to yesterday's report, is the rove beetle *Aleochara bilineata* with its insatiable appetite for the maggots of cabbage root fly, which causes enormous damage to crops. Insects are already widely used instead of pesticides in commercial glasshouses and ladybirds are helping to protect hops from aphids.

The encouraging thing is that gardeners will soon be getting the benefits of specially bred insects. I have been browsing through my new beetle catalogue to see what sort of creatures are now becoming available.

The polymer ant (£15·99 for a packet of 250) is a particularly helpful little chap. He chews up old, unwanted plastic flower pots, seed trays and potplant labels, then spits them out in the form of a sort of paste which he sees to make his incredibly intricate nest.

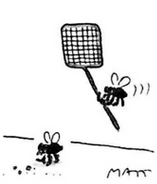
The only drawback with the polymer ant is that he also has a tremendous appetite for hosepipes. An average colony of 3,000 ants can get through four feet of hosepipe in a day.

The answer to this, is, of course, the sprinkler wasp (£19·99 per swarm), which lays its eggs inside hosepipes then hangs around to defend the larvae when they hatch. The sprinkler wasp is a particularly hysterical type and has a nasty sting, and I understand that some water companies are thinking of making use of it in times of drought.

One of the greatest boons to the gardener is likely to be the parade ground beetle, only £4·99 for a box of 10,000. These beetles are light green and have a way of arranging themselves in straight lines on the soil, evenly spaced out, so they look like a row of delicious young seedlings. A bird comes to eat them, finds they taste disgusting and vows never to touch a seedling again in its life. (You will also need a £9·99 box of cabbage white butterfly eggs for the parade ground beetles to feed on).

Insects can be a help inside the house as well. They can even tell you when your potplants need watering. The drama queen beetle, nestling in the leaves of the cyclamen, for example, becomes agitated when the humidity falls below a certain level and it starts to simulate death throes. The rattle of its brittle wings against its hard body tells you it is time to do the watering.

There is no need to worry about petals falling off your flower arrangements and littering the carpet. The pot-pourri spider (£14·99 each) carries them off to a secret place. The amazing thing about this spider is that it uses bundles of perfumed petals to attract its mate. For those who are nervous of coming across the pot-pourri spider without warning, a couple of flock wallpaper moths (£29·99) may be the answer. For some reason that nobody understands, these moths start to do elaborate aerobatics whenever they spot a pot-pourri spider. For the rest of the time, they live quietly in flock wallpaper, feeding on the tiny mites that inhabit the fuzz.



Some people may regard these developments in insect husbandry as meddling with the balance of nature, with potentially dangerous effects, but there is really no cause for alarm.

However, if you live near a farm where rove beetles are used to eat the cabbage root fly maggots there may be some problem when all the maggots have been consumed; there is a slight risk that you may be invaded by 800,000 or so ravening rove beetles.

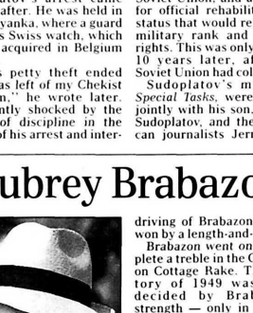
As a precaution you could always get a panic beetle. When this creature sees a mass of any kind of insect approaching, it lets out a shrill warning scream.

BRIDGE HAND

South misses out on his lucky day

By Tony Forrester

Dealer West, N/S Game



West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Contract 4♥
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♠Q

TODAY'S deal, from the Guernsey Congress, has South in too much of a hurry to draw trumps, leaving the door open for an alert East to defeat the contract.

The auction saw the players over-bidding. South's 4♥ would need good fortune to succeed but this should have been his lucky day.

West began with ♠Q to South's Ace. At trick two, ♥A was cashed and a second heart went to East's ♥K. The diamond switch was won by the Ace, declarer crossed to dummy with a small trump and took ♠K, pitching a club.

Next came a spade ruff and ♦K, on which East jettisoned ♠Q, thus avoiding an end play. Declarer pressed on with diamonds, but West won the trick and played a club through dummy's ♣K.

To succeed in the contract, South must leave trumps alone and tackle the minors. Eventually, the defence must allow him access to dummy. He can then take the trump finesse and thus avoid a loser in the suit.

On yesterday's hand, South should play a spade after taking ♠A K. Then she can reach ♠Q in order to cash ♦J.

● Gill Messer and Rob Bannister of Wiltshire won the Great Northern Swiss Pairs in Bisley, writes **Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent.**

Scores: 1 G Messer & R Bannister 71·4 per cent; 2 C Ashmet & G Woodruff (Sussex & Herts) 68·2; 3= G Lucy & R Swarbrick (Berks & Manchester), J Boschier & M Hoskins (Surrey), P Hansenson & D Sherman (Middx) 67·5; Mr & Mrs B Goldenfield (Manchester) 66·8.

CHESS

Hodgson in Monarch's top four

By Malcolm Pein

JULIAN HODGSON is one of four players on maximum points after two rounds of the Monarch Assurance Open at the Cherry Orchard Hotel in the Isle of Man.

Hodgson's attacking play again caught the eye as he defeated David Norwood, his team captain at Yerevan, launching a dangerous assault from a seemingly quiet position.

Alexander Baburin, now of Ireland, handed out rough treatment to the British champion, Chris Ward, accepting his sacrifices, snuffing out counterplay and then advancing on all fronts to win a most attractive game.

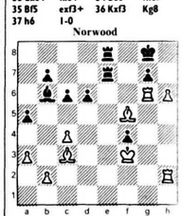
Monarch Assurance, Round 2: Tkachiev 1·0 Hector; Hebden draw Novikov; Hodgson 1·0 Norwood; Emms draws Akrell; Baburin 1·0 Ward, Forster 0·1 Gofstein; 55 players.

Leaders: Tkachiev (Kazakhstan) Gofstein (Israel), Baburin (Ireland), Hodgson (England) 2·2.

J Hodgson — D Norwood
Isle of Man (2)

1 c4	e5	2 Nc3	Nf6
3 Nf3	Nc6	4 g3	Bc5
5 Bg2	d6	6 e3	Bg4
7 h3	Bh5	8 d3	0-0
9 a3	a5	10 g4!	Bg6
11 Nh4	Re8	12 Nxg6	hxg6
13 h4!	Rb8	14 g5	Nh7
15 Ne4!	Ne7	16 h5	c6
17 Qg4	Nf5	18 Qh3	Nxg5
19 Nxg5	Qxg5	20 e4	Qf6
21 exf5	gxf5	22 Qh4	Qxh4
23 Rxh4	f4	24 Bd2	Ra8
25 Ke2	f5	26 Rg1	Bb6
27 Bc3	Kh7	28 Rh2	Re7
29 Bh3	Rf8	30 Rg5	Ref7
31 Rg6	e4	32 f3	Re8
33 dxe4	fxe4	34 Be6	Rfe7
35 Bf5	exf3+	36 Kxf3	Kg8
37 h6	1-0		

Norwood



Hodgson
Final position

"Pavel Sudoplatov." Daily Telegraph, 8 Oct. 1996, p. 23. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0700960741/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.