



## CHAIRMAN REVIEWS RESULTS

### Confidence in future, despite problems

Confidence in the long-term future and the continuing expansion of the company was expressed by Mr. S. B. Wilks, Chairman of the Rover Company, in his annual statement to shareholders.

In his statement, Mr. Wilks said: "The year under review has been a difficult one in many ways, not only for us but for the industry generally, and it is therefore particularly gratifying to me to be able to tell you that our overall turnover in value, and in number of vehicles sold, has been marginally higher than last year, which itself constituted a record in the Company's history. Our sales would have been appreciably better had it not been for labour troubles which we and certain of our suppliers experienced during the year.

#### Two problems

"As you will see later when I deal with the financial results in detail, despite higher turnover our profits are substantially less, and reflect the lower margins at which we have had to operate. Costs have continued, and are still continuing to rise, not only directly but also as a result of loss of output due to stoppages.

"These two problems of rising costs and wasteful stoppages will have to be solved, if this country is to compete successfully with its overseas competitors especially if, as seems probable, we join the Common Market. In making our plans for the future we must assume that they will be solved, if not by sensible discussion and agreement, then by the sheer force of economic circumstances.

#### Plans proceeding

"You are already aware of the plans we have in hand for expanding our production capacity and improving its efficiency. These plans are proceeding satisfactorily, and the building work, and provisioning of machines and equipment, are in progress.

"From time to time I have told you of the arrangements we have made for the manufacture and assembly of our products overseas where local circumstances make this essential or desirable. During the year our Land-Rover plant at Port Elizabeth in South Africa has been completed, and is now operating, and arrangements have reached an advanced stage for opening an assembly plant for Land-Rovers in the Central African Federation.

#### Turbine car

"We are still continuing our development of the Gas Turbine Car, and in October we published details of our latest prototype which will be undergoing extensive testing in the coming months. This latest prototype has been designed with the possibility of future production in mind and, whilst no definite date can yet be given for its introduction our Engineers are well satisfied with the progress that is being made.

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### The Princess visits the Rover stand



After opening the Earls Court Motor Show, Princess Alexandra toured the exhibition. In this photograph she is seen at the Rover stand talking to Mr. L. G. T. Farmer, Vice-Chairman of the Company. On the left of the Princess is Mr. M. C. Wilks, our Managing Director, and next to Mr. Wilks is Mr. W. Martin-Hurst, Deputy Managing Director. On the right of Mr. Farmer is Mr. A. G. S. Herbert, Executive Director, Sales.

On Page Two there is a summing-up of the show results, and on Page Three there are pictures of the Rover display and scenes on the Company stand.

#### Also in the News

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## RAMAC ... it will handle records by the million

Recently returned from a trip to the U.S.A. is Mr. Howard Jones, head of the Organisation & Methods Department at Solihull. The purpose of his trip was to study the latest developments in data processing equipment and techniques, as part of the Rover Company's preparation for installing an electronic computer in July, 1963.

The Company has for some time been looking into the possibilities of using a computer, and a Steering Committee was set up earlier this year to give policy guidance on the computer project.

The recommendations made to the

Committee have now been approved and the computer chosen for use at Rover is made by International Business Machines Limited and is known as the IBM 1401 RAMAC Data Processing System.

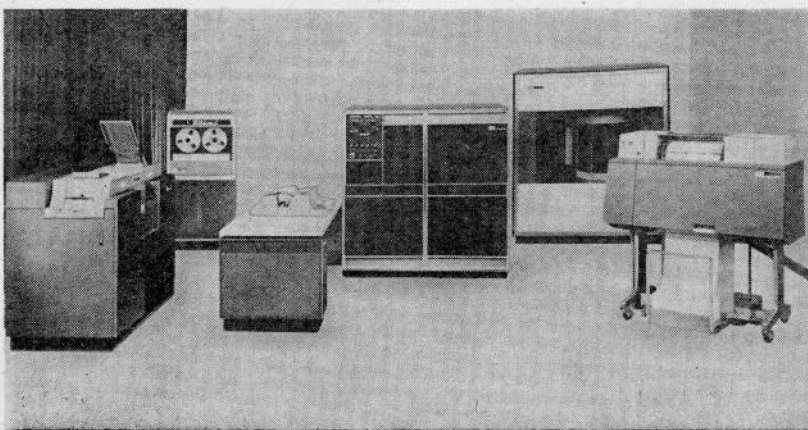
Specially designed for commercial work, the 1401 is a transistorised machine which works at high speeds and possesses great flexibility of operation. It can read punched cards at up to 800 cards per minute, punch cards at 250 cards per minute and print documents at up to 600 lines of 132 characters per minute. The working store of the computer is magnetic core storage, giving immediate access to 8,000 numerical, alphabetical or special characters.

#### Magnetic spots

At the heart of the system is the RAMAC disc storage unit, in which can be stored records up to a total of 20 million characters, access to any record being obtained in an average of half a second.

This equipment has been developed to overcome the need for sequential processing, which is required in systems using punched cards or magnetic tapes as their main storage medium. It consists of a series of magnetic discs, similar to gramophone records, rotating on a central pillar. Information is

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This photograph shows the complete computer equipment, which is, from left to right, the card-read punch unit, the magnetic tape, the console enquiry station, the processing unit, the RAMAC disc storage unit, and the printer.

## Foundation Stone Laid

On November 23, the foundation stone for the new Rover factory at Pengam Moors, Cardiff, was laid by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman E. Ewart Pearce, M.B.E., J.P., F.C.A. In the next issue of ROVER NEWS there will be a full account and photographs of the ceremony, which was attended by Aldermen and Councillors of Cardiff and Directors of the Company.



## HIS SUGGESTION WAS A £20 WINNER



Mr. E. Scott, General Works Manager, Tyseley, presents a £20 suggestion scheme award to Mr. G. H. Jarvis, maintenance electrician, Perry Barr. Left to right in the picture: Mr. H. Hayer (Works Superintendent, Perry Barr); Mr. R. Knowles (Personnel Officer, Tyseley); Mr. B. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Taylor (J.P.C. members); Mr. Scott; Mr. Jarvis, and Mr. Cordelle and Mr. Glancy (Shop Stewards).

## £100 AWARD IN LATEST PAY-OUT FOR IDEAS

Bigger and better ideas are coming up in our suggestion scheme for improving our efficiency—which is just what we all want, says Mr. W. Ethell, secretary of the scheme.

### COMPUTER PLANS

● From Page One

recorded in the form of magnetic spots on concentric tracks on the face of each disc, each track being divided into a number of records.

A reading and writing head is mounted on an arm which moves vertically to the required disc and horizontally to the record on the appropriate track. Any record may be addressed and located in an average of half a second but optimum arrangement of the records may reduce this time considerably.

Elaborate checks are incorporated to ensure that information has been correctly written on a record from the core storage and that information is correctly read back when it is subsequently required for further processing. The system includes a Console Enquiry Station, fitted with an electric typewriter, on which answers to enquiries to the RAMAC records are printed out.

#### Big task

The first department to have the assistance of the computer will be the Material Control Department where hitherto there has been no machinery which could adequately deal with the problems brought about by the complexity of present day production.

Detailed planning for the introduction of the computer is a very big task and this is being carried out by specially trained personnel in O & M Department in co-operation with IBM and the departments concerned. Mr. Howard Jones has been made responsible for the overall co-ordination of this work, and Mr. Bryan Claydon is deputy to Mr. Jones and head of the programming staff.

The question many people will ask is: "What effects do computers have on clerical work?" Generally speaking, a computer takes the drudgery and monotonous routine out of clerical operations and allows the departmental specialist more scope for applying his skills.

It will provide information which previously has been unobtainable in time to be of real value, thus enabling decisions to be taken which can make a significant contribution to the efficient running of the Company.

Since August, some 17 suggestions have been adopted at Solihull and awards to the value of £160 have been made. Other awards, ranging from £3 to £50, await confirmation and it is expected that the total payment will exceed £250.

The biggest of the recent awards—£100—has gone to Mr. A. H. Thacker of the Trim Shop, Solihull. A Perry Barr winner was Mr. G. H. Jarvis (Maintenance electrician). He received a £20 award from Mr. E. Scott, General Works Manager, Tyseley, and Chairman of the Suggestions Committee. Also in attendance at the presentation were members of the Joint Production and Consultative Committee and representatives of the Shop Stewards.

#### They Collected . . .

Others who received cheques recently were Mr. W. J. Bishop (Press Shop, Solihull); Mr. G. Bevan (Land-Rover Production, Solihull); Mr. J. L. Gilbert (Land-Rover Production, Solihull); Mr. A. R. T. Cook (Service Dept., Solihull), who each received £10.

*HAVE YOU any ideas on how your job could be improved? If so, put them up, and see if you can get in the money, too.*

### YUGO-SLAVS VISIT SOLIHULL WORKS

Solihull factory was visited by a Yugo-Slavian military delegation on October 27. Their visit to Rover was because of their interest in the Land-Rover, with which many were quite familiar.

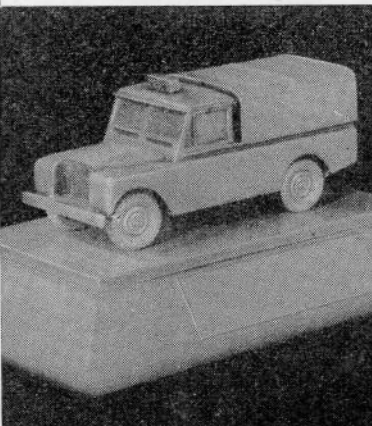
The officers visited all parts of the Land-Rover assembly lines and later saw T.3, the Rover gas turbine prototype car.

### PARTIES FOR THE CHILDREN

Rover (Tyseley) Social & Athletic Club is again organising parties for employees' children, aged 5-12 inclusive. There will be tea parties and a visit to the pantomime at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Children aged 5 to 8 will be invited to parties at Acocks Green canteen on January 20 and 27, and those aged 9 to 12 will visit the matinee pantomime performance on February 3. Further information will be made available later.

### MODEL FOR MALAYA



This silver model of a Land-Rover is being presented by the Company to the Royal Malayan Police, who have been supplied with large numbers of Land-Rovers over the past ten years. The model will be kept in the R.M.P. officers' mess in Singapore.

## The Chairman's Statement

● Continued from Page One

"The Accounts this year reflect the early stages of the expansion programme to which I have already referred. The Fixed Assets of the Group which include Trade Investments have increased by approximately £819,000 and in addition there were commitments for capital expenditure of approximately £3,800,000 at the end of the year."

Dealing with the accounts, Mr. Wilks said: "During the year the Shareholders approved an increase in our Authorised Capital, and subsequently further capital was raised by a Rights Issue. As a result of this, and further issues of employees' shares, our Issued Capital now amounts to £5,097,034 as compared with £4,237,940 last year."

#### Employee shares

"The total number of employees' shares authorised by the shareholders has now been taken up, and we are therefore recommending that a further 250,000 of these shares be created from the 1,611,864 Ordinary Five Shilling Shares still unissued. Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting at which this recommendation will be considered will be sent to the members with the Annual Report and Accounts."

"The Group's Capital Reserves have increased by £1,546,884, being £1,380,884 premium on shares from the recent rights issue and the estimated Taxation Relief on Investment Allowances amounting to £166,000 which, as you will see later, it is recommended be transferred to the General Capital Reserve Account. The Group's Revenue Reserves have increased by £751,246, being the portion of the profits which it is recommended be retained in the Group together with a small increase in

the Surplus on disposal of fixed assets Account."

Mr. Wilks also said: "The Balance Sheet shows that we were in a strong liquid position at the end of the financial year. These liquid resources will be required to meet expenditure on our expansion programme."

#### Trading surplus

"The surplus on Trading and Investment Income amounts to £2,234,440, a reduction of approximately £530,000 as compared with last year. The amount of £735,878 provided for Depreciation of Fixed Assets this year is £400,000 less than last year when the Body Dies for models then current were wholly written off."

"The provision for Taxation on the current profit is £1,007,433, and after a small adjustment attributable to Minority Interests in Subsidiary Companies, there is a group Net Profit of £1,229,079 of which £1,190,210 is dealt with in the Accounts of The Rover Company Limited."

"After adding the balance on the Profit and Loss Account brought forward from the previous year, £200,000 in respect of Provisions for Taxation no longer required and a Dividend of £28,000 received from a Subsidiary, there is a total of £1,609,544 available for distribution."

#### Reserves

"Your Board recommend a dividend at the same rate as last year, namely, 9½d. per share less income tax, and this will account for £494,117. They also recommend the transfer to Capital Reserve of £166,000 representing the estimated Taxation Relief on Investment Allowances, £500,000 to General Reserve, making this Reserve £5,000,000; £25,000

to Reserve for provision for Staff Pensions and Welfare, and a further £150,000 to the Reserve towards the cost of replacement of Body Dies, making this £800,000. These allocations will leave £274,427 to be carried forward to next year in the Parent Company's Accounts."

The Chairman's statement concluded: "As to the future, it is difficult to predict the final outcome of the current year's trading. Rising costs to which I have already referred, restrictions at home and increasing competition abroad, are bound to have their effect on our results."

#### Every effort

"As to the long-term future, I am confident that we, in common with the rest of the British motor industry, whatever short-term difficulties may be encountered, will continue to expand. In this connection this country's probable entry into the Common Market is very much in our minds, and every effort is being made to improve our sales and service arrangements in that area, so that we may take full advantage of the opportunities which will result."

"In conclusion I would like on your behalf to thank all our employees for the work that they have done during the year and the results which they have achieved."

### FILM SHOW

Over 100 people attended an evening film show on November 1 in the Works Canteen at Acocks Green. The Sports and Social Club Committee have decided a similar film show will take place monthly over the next few months. Next show is on Wednesday, December 13.

# A good Show for Rover —that's the summing-up

With the Industry passing through a trying period, there was a special interest in the reception given to this year's Motor Show at Earls Court.

Attendance figures were the second highest on record, and 578,034 people visited the show—almost 150,000 more than last year.

The Rover stand, which had on display three 3-Litres, an '80' and a '100', was well attended and the interest shown by visitors augurs well for the future.

### MORE ORDERS RECEIVED

Our Home Sales Manager, Mr. B. H. Liggins, summed up by saying: "We received considerably more enquiries than were obtained at the previous year's show and these have to date already resulted in orders in excess of those placed at the same time last year."

"There is little doubt that the 3-Litre is now fully accepted as the leader in the large, quality car field and from the indications and results of this show, we can look forward confidently to a year of consistent demand."

### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

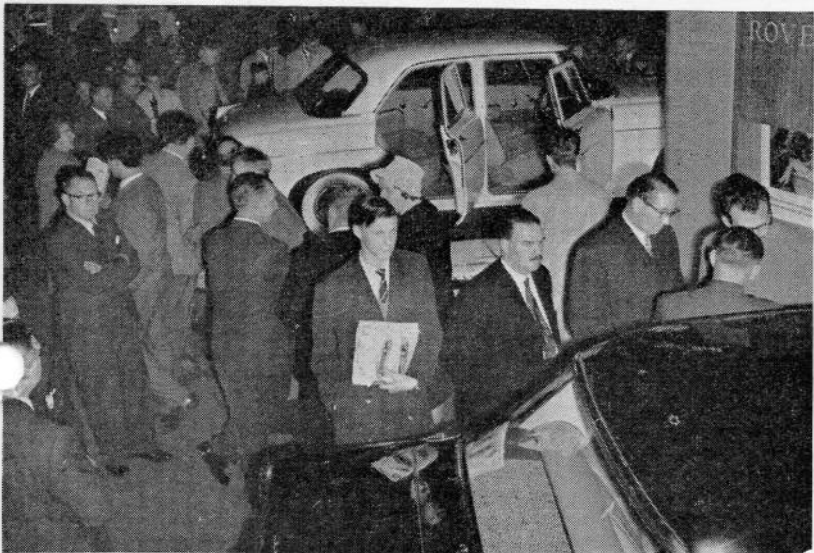
The show also provided a splendid opportunity for overseas distributors to discuss sales matters with export representatives.

Dealers and distributors who visited the stand came from France, Germany, Holland, Portugal, the Argentine, the Persian Gulf, Trinidad, Switzerland, Malaya, Malta, Finland, Italy, Denmark, Nigeria and Algeria.



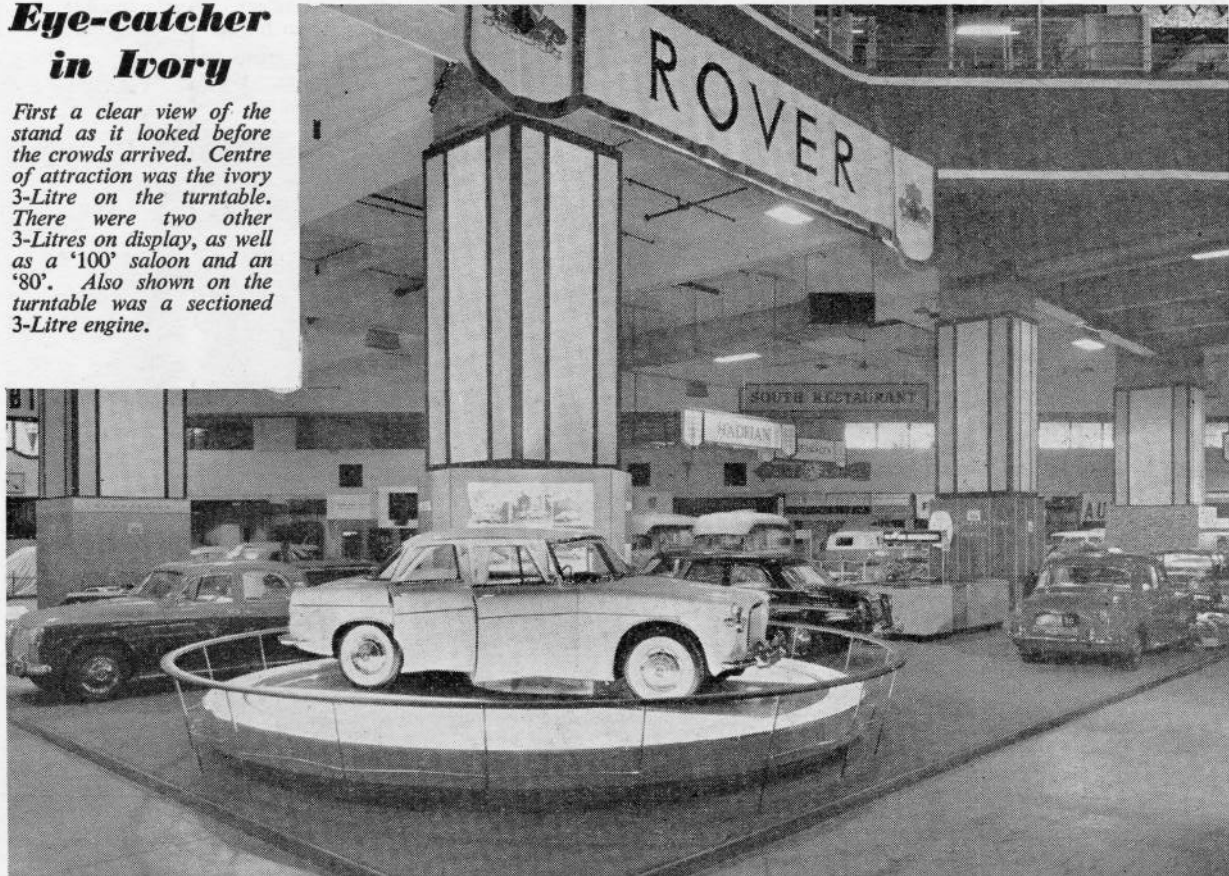
A PHOTO-VISIT TO THE ROVER STAND

# Earls Court, 1961

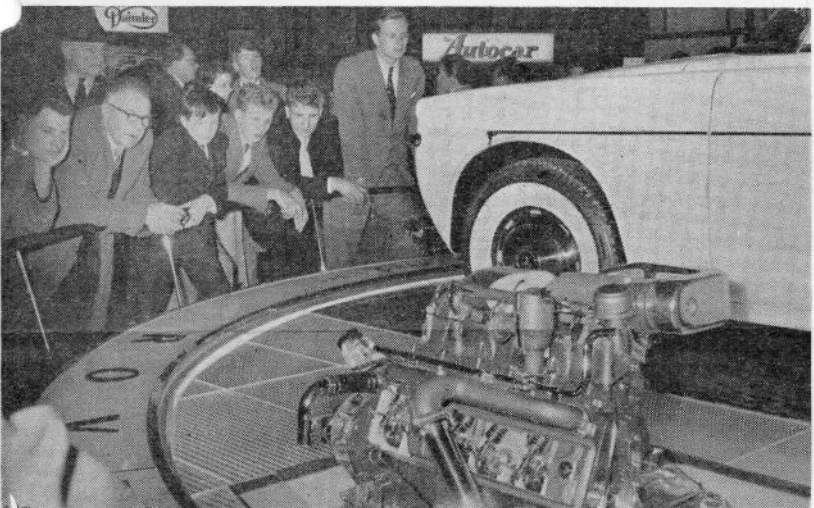


### Eye-catcher in Ivory

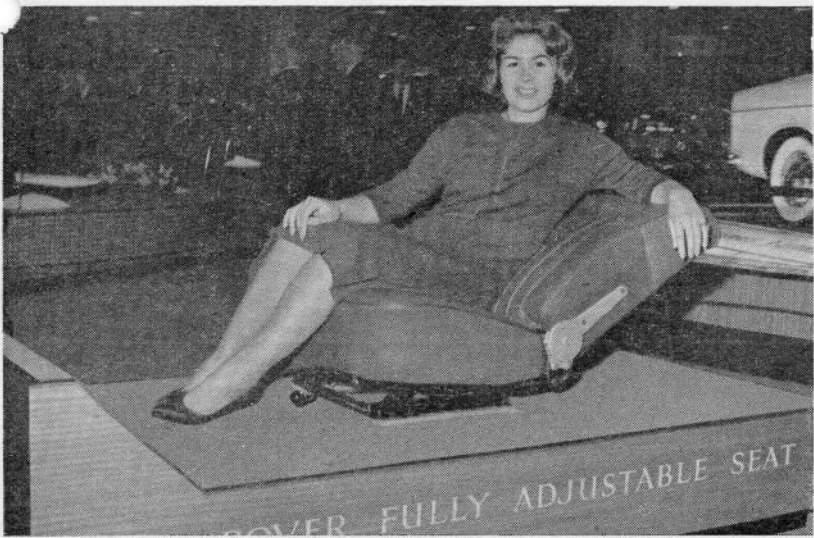
First a clear view of the stand as it looked before the crowds arrived. Centre of attraction was the ivory 3-Litre on the turntable. There were two other 3-Litres on display, as well as a '100' saloon and an '80'. Also shown on the turntable was a sectioned 3-Litre engine.



Once the show opened, this was usually the scene on our stand—the cars surrounded by interested visitors.



Visitors young and old found the show-finished, sectioned 3-Litre engine a fascinating exhibit. Below, a model at the show demonstrates the operation of the fully-adjustable seat available for the 3-Litre.



The above picture shows Miss Jean Shaw on duty at the reception desk in the Rover Distributors room in the gallery.

### Paris footnote

Pictured below at the Paris Show is the Rover display. President De Gaulle (right) stopped to inspect our vehicles when he visited the show.





# ROVING REPORTS

## His Service link . . .

Wreath-bearer to Rear-Admiral Sir Anthony Miers, V.C., at the Midland Festival of Remembrance in Birmingham Town Hall on November 12 was Mr. W. Harrow, of Service Reception, Solihull.

Mr. Harrow, a wartime submariner, served in Sir Anthony's flotilla as an Engine-Room Artificer. Their acquaintance was renewed recently when the Rear-Admiral brought in his car for servicing at the factory.

Mr. Harrow spent six years in the Royal Navy, nearly all of the time in submarines. He has been with Rover for 16 years.

## A farewell to Mr L. Jones

A presentation that had been delayed for two months took place at Tyseley on November 2. It marked the end of 30 years' service for Mr. Lew Jones, who received his gift from Mr. A. J. Worster (Production Director).

Mr. Jones was a member of the Progress Department at Tyseley for many years before becoming Supervisor of the Tyseley Booking Office in October 1954, and subsequently moving to Acocks Green Booking Office in January, 1959.

Ill health during the last few years compelled him to relinquish some of his duties, but his many friends will be pleased to hear that he is very much better and able to enjoy his retirement.

—and to

## Ellen B. Draper

Another farewell ceremony took place at Tyseley on October 27 when gifts, subscribed for by her workmates, were presented to Mrs. Ellen Beatrice Draper, a Viewer in No. 6 Machine Shop, on the occasion of her retirement at the age of 65. She had 25 years' service with the Company.



The presents included a wall clock, handbag and musical box and many other items. Sincere wishes for a happy retirement go to Mrs. Draper from all her colleagues, who is shown above with Mr. Frank Raynor, Inspection Foreman for her section.

## A CHAT WITH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Mr. Harry Allen, Foreman of the Machine Shop, Acocks Green, received many 'Get well' messages at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. He also had a very pleasant surprise from a visitor on Nov. 1. The visitor was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who stopped and spoke to him during her visit to the hospital.



## Man of many parts

Scouring quarries and mountainsides in search of pieces of rock may not be everybody's idea of leisure, but for Eric Bowen, of M.C.D., Solihull, this is a feature of a visit to any part of Britain.

A conference at Whitley Bay brought fossilised shell fish, a holiday in Wales and the bark of the pre-historic tree, the giant lepidodendron. Mr. Bowen, who has been with Rover for 7 years in Purchase and M.C.D., took up the hobby 10 years ago when shown fossilised animal footprints in a South African desert. He added the pursuit to an already wide range of interests, among them Celtic history and philately. The list has grown since, and includes economics and political constitution, subjects in which he passed the entrance examination to London University after only eight months' part-time study.



## Leader of Gleemen

Mr. David Thomas, A.C.V. (I.C. Spring Test, Solihull) is the founder-conductor of the well-known Solihull Gleemen's Choir, which he started in 1950. They have given many concerts in aid of the blind, church funds, schools and old people's welfare. They have also given exchange concerts in Wales, and competed at Leamington, Cheltenham and Nottingham, and in 1960 were the winners of the Catshill Music Festival. During Solihull's Charter Year the then Mayor, Alderman Douglas Cooper, referred to the Gleemen as the "Ambassadors of Solihull". Mr. Mostyn Richards, another Rover employee, of the Argon-Arc Welding Dept., is also a member of the choir.



Above: Mr. J. W. E. Walton (President) presents the Rover Individual Ambulance Cup (for privates) to Pte. H. Watson.

Right: Divisional Supt. T. P. Mulholland receives his 20-year Efficient Service Certificate from Mr. Watson.

## St. John Ambulance Division praised

The Rover (Acocks Green) St. John Ambulance Division held their Dinner and Presentation in the canteen at Acocks Green on October 6.

Mr. J. W. E. Walton (President) and Mrs. Walton, Mr. W. C. Allen (Vice-President) and Mrs. Allen, attended the gathering, together with several departmental heads, 'E' Corps Staff, Management Committee Members and all members of the Division and their wives.

Divisional Superintendent T. P. Mulholland gave an excellent report on the Divisional workings and the outstanding merits of several members. Thanks were expressed to Mr. J. W. E. Walton, Dr. V. A. Lloyd, Corps Officer L. J. Rose, Mr. S. Merchant, the Rover Sports and Social Club, 'E' Corps Staff and several others who had helped to make this Division a success. The Superintendent added that the Division had been running over 20 years, and was now stronger than ever.

Corps Superintendent S. Clark, S.B.St.J., replied on behalf of the Commissioner for Birmingham, Brigadier M. L. Hayne, K.St.J. Among many items of interest, he stressed the importance of the Rover Competition Team quickly getting back into top competition work, where a few years ago they were one of the leading teams in the Midlands. He was also most grateful, on behalf of the Corps Staff, for the splendid support the Rover Division had given to the citizens of Birmingham.

The President then presented the Individual Ambulance Cup to Private H. Watson and in congratulating him noted that this was his third win.

This was followed by the presentation of Service Awards to all members of the Division ranging from 2 years to 21 years service.

After a splendid dinner, a first-class variety concert completed a most enjoyable evening.

## Tennis section's good 'report'

The Christmas Social of Acocks Green Lawn Tennis Section is to be held on December 16. Cups and prizes will be presented by Mrs. K. Currie. Tickets are obtainable from section members.

Mr. D. Cole, the L.T.A. Coach, states in his end-of-season report that the standard of play has improved considerably. Now it has been decided to enter 2 teams in the Birmingham Area Lawn Tennis League for next season.



## APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION DINNER A BIG SUCCESS

The Rover Apprentices' Association 4th Annual Dinner was held on November 4 at the Regency Club, Shirley. Apprentices and ex-apprentices were joined at the dinner by the Vice-Chairman of the Company, Mr. L. G. T. Farmer.



Mr. A. J. Worster presents the Apprentice Motorist of the Year trophy to Mr. E. C. Wishlade.



—and Mr. L. S. Shaw presents the Snooker trophy to Mr. D. Allen.

Mr. A. J. Worster (Director Production), Mr. R. W. Bromley (Executive Director, Service), Mr. P. Wilks (Executive Director, Engineering—Cars), Mr. J. W. E. Walton (Executive Director, Production—Tyseley), and Mr. W. J. Robinson (Executive Director, Production—Solihull) were also present.

Mr. Worster presented his trophy for the Apprentice Motorist of the Year to Mr. E. C. Wishlade (Overseas Planning Dept., Solihull) and Mr. L. S. Shaw (Apprentice Supervisor) presented the snooker contest trophy to Mr. D. Allen.

In his speech Mr. Farmer referred to the progressive part that the Land-Rover has played in the British motor industry.

Altogether the evening proved the most successful dinner held by the Association, writes our correspondent.

## PERSONAL NEWS FROM THE FACTORIES

### BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations to . . .

**AVERS**—To Mr. and Mrs. Avers, a daughter (Jacqueline) on October 7. Mrs. Avers was recently a member of the Accounts Department.

**BLOOMER**—To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bloomer, a son (Gary Graham) on October 22. Mr. Bloomer works in the Erection Shop, Tyseley.

**DAVIS**—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Davis, a daughter (Lynn Karen) on September 2. Mr. Davis works in the Press Tool Drawing Office.

**MCARTHUR**—To Mr. and Mrs. Donald McArthur, a daughter (Donna Susan). Mrs. McArthur was until recently employed as a typist in M.C.D. Solihull.

**POTTER**—To Mr. and Mrs. William Potter, a son (David Edwin) on October 24. Mr. Potter works in the Engine Build Section of the Experimental Shop, Engineering Department.

**WHITE**—To Mr. and Mrs. L. White, a daughter on October 31. Mr. White works on Group 236 Ryland Road.

**WILEMAN**—To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wileman, twin daughters (Karen Ann and Kim Jean) on September 14. Mr. Wileman works in the Planning Engineers Dept., and Mrs. Wileman was formerly with Plant Layout Dept.

**WILSON**—To Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, a daughter on September 12. Mr. Wilson works on the Land-Rover Section of the Experimental Shop.

### MARRIAGES

Congratulations and good wishes to . . .

**CARTER-JUDGE**—On September 16 at St. Adrian's Church, Small Heath, Mr. A. T. Carter to Miss G. A. Judge. Miss Judge works in the Land-Rover Trim Shop.

**FISHER-RANDLES**—On September 23 at St. Mary's Church, Acocks Green, Mr. Frank Fisher to Miss Betty Randles (Inspection Department).

**HUMPHREYS-FITZHENRY**—On September 16 at Birmingham, Mr. L. C. Humphreys to Miss B. M. E. Fitzhenry (Land-Rover Trim Shop).

**JARRETT-CULLEN**—On October 7 at Olton Church, Mr. Dennis Jarrett to Miss Sheila Cullen (Plant Layout Department Tracer).

**JONES-STILLING**—On October 28 at Lyndon Methodist Church, Sheldon, Mr. Derek Jones (Specification Department, Solihull) to Miss Jean Stilling (Hollerith Dept.).

**MORSE-PAYNE**—On November 4 at St. Margaret's Church, Olton, Mr. E. F. Morse to Miss S. Payne. Mr. Morse works in the Cost Office, Solihull and previously was at Acocks Green.

**RILEY-PRITCHARD**—On September 30 at St. Giles' Church, Sheldon, Mr. T. Riley to Miss S. M. Pritchard (Land-Rover Trim Shop).

### DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths, and offer our sympathy to relatives . . .

**PHILLIPS**—Mr. Arthur Henry Phillips died on October 8, aged 51. Mr. Phillips was an Engine Fitter, Assembly Shop, Tyseley, and had been with the Company for 9 years.

**RALPH**—Mr. Walter Ralph died on October 25, aged 57. Mr. Ralph was a Storekeeper, Rough Stores, Tyseley, and had been with the Company for 21 years.

**ROUSE**—Mr. Sidney James Rouse died on October 3, aged 36. Mr. Rouse was a Toolsetter in the Service Shop and had been with the Company for 9 years.



*H. B. LIGHT tells  
of THE SCARAB*  
in  
**THE ROVER  
STORY**

**HARRY'S  
AWARD  
WINNING  
BLOOM**



Photo by courtesy Birmingham Post & Mail

The premier award of the 90th annual exhibition of the Birmingham Chrysanthemum Society held at Bingley Hall, went to a Rover employee, Mr. Harry See of the Service Department, seen above with his winning Japanese chrysanthemum, Shirley Champion.

**Second win**

It was 77-year-old Harry's second win. A grower for 20 years, he won the competition from 1,000 other exhibits.

A keen member of the Rover Horticultural Society, Harry was also awarded the 'Amateur Gardening' Bronze Medalion as runner-up in the Birmingham Chrysanthemum Society's classes.

**— and Roses**

From chrysanthemums to roses, or rather to Harry Wheatcroft. The world-famous authority on rose-growing paid the Horticultural Society a visit on October 12. He is pictured below with a group from the Society after his witty and informative lecture. Now members are looking forward to taking up Mr. Wheatcroft's offer to show them round his nurseries at Nottingham next July.

Footnote for club members — the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Solihull Canteen on December 7.



# The mystery car that stayed in the shadows

Seldom in the history of the light car industry had more curiosity been aroused than that caused by an announcement made by the Rover Company in 1931, of an £85 "Mystery" Rover car.

This was the "Scarab"—the Rover which was "born but never reared".

Many present-day employees will remember the great secrecy and mystery which surrounded the Company's activities during the experimental and development work which took place at a hide-out in the country, away from the works.

Even with the Company's tentative announcement of the "Mystery" Rover, no details were given to public or Press and "Dame Rumour" soon became busy. The "Mystery" car was given a whole page in our "Golden Year for Dealers" sales brochure, issued in September 1931, but still no details were revealed and only a shadowy silhouette of the model was shown, with a background of Egyptian pyramids to create an atmosphere of mystery.

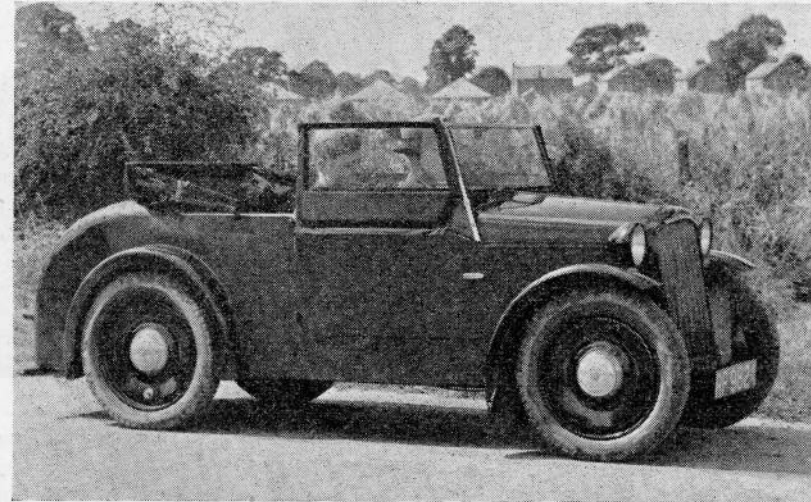
In choosing the name "Scarab" for the new model our publicity staff had tried to symbolise to the motorist in a modern way the "phenomenal" and the "marvellous". (The scarab was an ancient gem in the form of a beetle and originated in predynastic Egypt as an amulet).

**A Barrier**

The Rover Scarab car was revealed for the first time at a luncheon given by Henlys Ltd., to Rover distributors in September 1931, but it was still shrouded in mystery. It was surrounded by a barrier so that no-one should have access to it, and it stood on a revolving turn-table so that though an excellent impression was gained of its "externals", no clue was given as to engine, transmission and so on. It was not intended to disclose details until the eve of the Show.

The sacred Scarab was credited with miraculous power, and the Rover Scarab was assumed to be well named.

What was the Scarab like? You can see from the photographs that the



The "Scarab" — the Rover mystery car.

engine (twin-cylinder air-cooled) was fitted in the rear and built in unit with a plate clutch and three speed and reverse gearbox, the final drive being by short carden shafts to the rear wheels. The radiator was, of course, a dummy.

**Unorthodox**

The Scarab was certainly unorthodox in the light of automobile practice of the period in-so-far as engine and transmission were concerned, but it also incorporated a novel suspension system, i.e. the elimination of unsprung weight to a degree which hitherto had been almost unattainable in light car design. The car would seat two adults comfortably at the front and it was possible to seat two more at the rear. Owing to the position of the engine and the absence of a propeller shaft the floor of the car was low, adding to the comfort and roominess of the vehicle.

It was suggested in some quarters that the Scarab was merely a revised edition

of the popular 8 h.p. Twin Air-cooled car which we produced with such success in the early twenties. It was true to say, however, that the Scarab did not incorporate in its make-up any part previously used in the construction of a Rover car.

**Accessibility**

The best possible use was made of space and just behind the dummy radiator the pedals were arranged alongside the battery. Beneath the bonnet at the front the spare wheel was accommodated, lying horizontal and reached by removing the bonnet itself. The photograph shows the curved bonnet at the rear which was held down along its lower edge by two ordinary bonnet fasteners and fitted over tongues at the top. Louvres permitted easy exit for the air stream, which, drawn up from under the car by a fan, was ejected through them after passing over the

engine. With the rear bonnet lifted away there was an extraordinary degree of accessibility to the whole unit.

**It wasn't there**

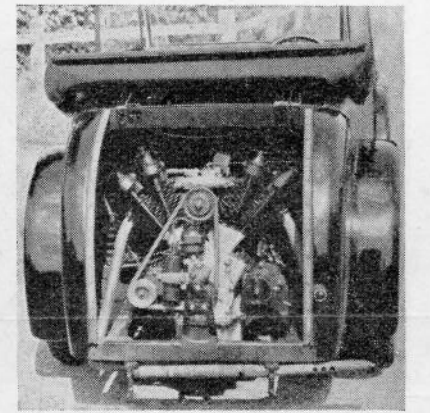
Acceleration was good and at between 50 and 55 m.p.h. the car rode as well as at low speeds. The brakes were also highly effective. The position of the engine and the careful cooling arrangements which had been adopted eliminated any suggestion of "engine smells" in the car even with the hood raised.

The Rover Scarab promised to become one of the most talked-about cars at the Motor Show in 1931—but it wasn't there to be talked about! We proposed making a general announcement in January 1932, but we never did.

The various reasons the "Scarab" was never produced, and apart from about a dozen prototype models it was to remain the "mystery" which had been its birthright.

Mr. Fred Hawkins (Manager, Technical Service Dept.) did, however, use a "Scarab" on Company duty for 12 months or more, and Mr. F. W. Lawrenson (Technical Service) can recall his experiences when testing the vehicle.

There was also a "Scarab" chassis operating as a conveyor truck at Tyseley Works—but where is it now?



"Scarab" — rear engine view.

**Exam. successes for apprentices**

Examination successes for Rover Apprentices in the year ended July 1961 included 5 Higher National Certificates, 16 Ordinary National Certificates, 3 City and Guild Finals and 16 City and Guilds (Intermediate).

Apprenticeships were completed this month by David Farragher (Acocks Green), David Haywood and Roger Harris (both of Solihull Planning Dept.), Cyril Benger (Percy Road) and Paul Bastock (Tyseley).

Whilst these five are finishing, two trainees from Togoland are starting a 6/9 month course. Their names are Peter Mansah and Matheo Womenor.

As well as completing their apprenticeships, Messrs. Farragher and Benger had '21sts' to celebrate, as the pictures alongside show.

**Badminton Win**

Rover (Solihull) Badminton Club men's team played their first Birmingham District League match on October 26 against Bournville, which Rover won by 6 rubbers to 3.

Tyseley Badminton Section would welcome new playing members. Club nights are on Tuesdays. Practice is from 6.30 p.m. onwards in the canteen.

**CELEBRATING THEIR TWENTY-FIRSTS!**



In the Planning Department at Acocks Green, colleagues made a presentation to Mr. David Farragher on the occasion of his 21st birthday. David, who has been with Rover since 1956, is on the left of the picture.



A happy 21st birthday party, with colleagues among the guests, was held by Cyril Benger an apprentice at Percy Road. He is seen here being ceremoniously 'bumped' by his relatives during the party at the Royal Oak Hotel, Hockley Heath, on October 28.

**L.R.O.C. 'RALLY OF THE YEAR'**

Over 150 enthusiastic Land-Rover Owners invaded the Solihull factory on Friday and Saturday November 10 and 11. Their mission was to compete in the annual Land-Rover Owners' Club Rally. The majority of the members brought along their own caravans and by Friday night forty caravans were scattered around the car parks. Torrential rain and high winds could not deter the competitors, and on the Saturday they went through a Concours d'Elegance and several stiff driving tests.

To refresh everyone for the hardest part of the trial, which was to take place on the Sunday, a dinner dance was held Saturday night in the Solihull canteen.

The cross-country trial took place at Fenny Compton, an event that proved popular not only to competitors but to the spectators, including those who saw it on television. The final results of the week-end activities were made known after this final part of the programme, but even more important was the general result of—a wonderful success.

**THEIR PASTIME IS . . . SPEAKING**

Several Rover employees have taken up a new pastime—that of public speaking. Organised and held at the Solihull College of Further Education, the Solihull College Speakers' Club was formed earlier this year by past students of the Effective Speaking Course organised by the College. A number of personnel from the Company attended

this course, and now support the S.C.S. whose meetings are held fortnightly.

The object of the club is to practise speaking in public in the form of debates and similar activities.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Mr. F. Wood of the Solihull Experimental department.

**Happy Traveller**

A Land-Rover traveller sent a letter to the Company recently. Mr. Harvey M. Coverley, writing from Genoa, Italy, said: "I have recently completed a trip from Isfahan, Iran to Menton, France in the Land-Rover which I purchased directly from you in the summer of 1959."

"My route took me to Teheran, along the Caspian coast to the Soviet border and to Tabriz in Iran, Erzerum, Trebizond and Istanbul in Turkey, Alexandroupolis and Thessaloniki in Greece, Skopje, Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana in Yugoslavia, Trieste, Milan and Genoa in Italy and thence to Menton."

"You will be pleased to know that the vehicle performed flawlessly throughout the entire distance (slightly less than 6,000 kilometres)."

"Although some of the way was extremely rough going, there was no mechanical trouble. I consider this an excellent performance."



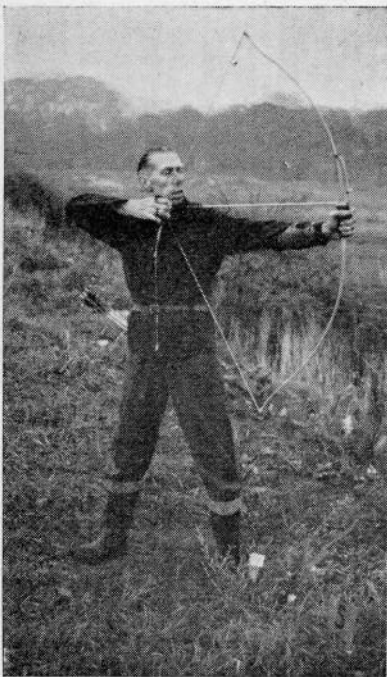
# A BIG DAY FOR THE BOWMEN AT ROVER SHOOT

Seventy-six archers attended and shot at the Rover Bowmen Field Shoot held on October 29 at the Solihull sports field. The contest, which extended from noon until dusk was the largest seen in this part of the country for some time.

Archers came from as far away as Newbury and the U.S. air base at Sculthorpe in Norfolk.

Fifteen prizes were awarded in the different sections and though the main event was won by a visitor, the Rover archers were not disgraced.

The picture on the left shows Rover archer L. Alcott in action, while on the right A. Howell (Rover) receives his prize from section chairman David Goode.



# Tyseley Snooker team snatch win

There was an exciting finish to the Tyseley snooker team's match against M.E.S.C. in the preliminary round of the Major Cup.

At the end of the third frame Rover were 55 points behind, but due to some splendid playing by S. Ayres and A. Morecock, who won the last 2 frames, Rover ran out winners by 250 to 238 points.

The Tyseley team have completed their first month's League fixtures, with the following results: v. Springfield (Home), lost 2-3; v. Midland R. (Away), won 3-2; v. A/Green British Legion (Home), won 4-1.

Solihull Snooker Section recently finished the Inter-departmental Snooker and Darts Knockout Competitions.

Winners of the Snooker Trophy were the Maintenance team (T. L. Knight, N. Bell, E. Taylor and J. Warburton). Runners-up were last year's winners Production Stores (H. Baird, E. Morris, C. Walker and H. Platt). Mr. Lawrence presented the prizes.

### Tables turned

Darts winners were P.5 Cars, and the runners-up Maintenance Dept. These two competed in the final last year and reversed the positions this time.

Results of matches played by the Acocks Green Billiards and Snooker Section up to November 1 were:

'A' team—v. Grange Social 'A', won 3-2; v. Ravenscroft Social 'B' in Major Cup, won on aggregate; v. Acocks Green British Legion 'B', won 4-1; v. Kings Head, lost 3-2.

'B' team—v. P.C.A. 'A', won 4-1; v. Grange Social 'B', won 4-1; v. Farrington, won 3-2; v. Lucas British Legion 'A', won 4-1.

'B' team, having a bye in the Major Cup, had the pleasure of playing a match against the Women's Circle, which provided an enjoyable evening.

# HOW THE SOCCER TEAMS ARE FARING

After one of their brightest starts to a season, the Perry Barr football team recently fell back a little. A 9-0 victory against Smith, Stone and Knight, and a 5-1 victory over Permoglaze was followed by a 6-2 defeat against Unilaw in the "Showell Cup".

Perry Barr have proved that they can score goals—T. Preece in particular—but they need to plug gaps in defence.

Tyseley Seniors are still playing fine football, forging through to the semi-final of the Central Challenge Cup and runners-up in the League at the time of writing.

### Three for Brian

At Solihull the Senior XI have also fallen from grace, losing 4-3 to Lucas GKS in the second round of the Birmingham City Shield. However, luck was not on their side and Lucas scored their winning goal during extra time.

Centre-forward Brian Craemer again led a revival against Dunlop in a recent league match. With only 20 minutes gone Rover were trailing 3-0. Then Brian struck with three quick goals and they stormed home to win by 5-3. These two points made them runners-up in Division 2A of the Birmingham Works League.

### GOLFERS HAVE GREAT SEASON

The Rover Golfing Society have had one of their best seasons, finishing second in the Birmingham Works League Championship after winning 5 matches. Three were halved and only one was lost. A Rover team won the Midland Works and Business Houses Spring Tournament and the Autumn meeting.

In the annual Solihull v. The Rest match, Solihull were again successful by 3 matches to 2. Individual winners were: Penfold Trophy—John Ward (Solihull Trim Shop); Committee Cup—Harry Howl (M.C.D. Solihull); the Farmer Rose Bowl—Jack Williams (Time Study, Tyseley).

### CASH FOR CATCHES

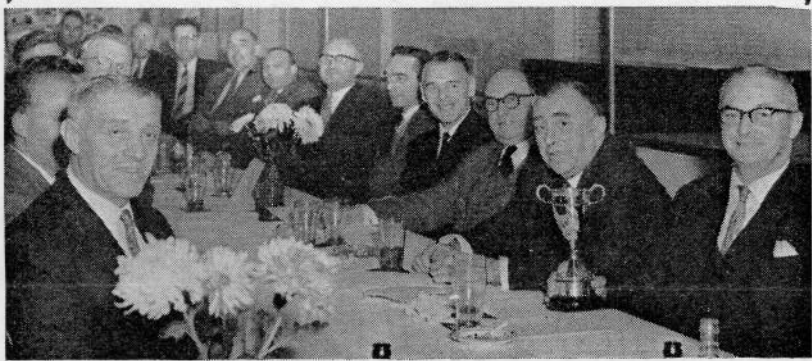
Ryland Road angling club's annual contest was held at Fladbury on October 22. Winners were: J. Bartlett (3-11-8) 1st; C. Price (2-2-12) 2nd; and J. Webber (1-15-0) 3rd.

There was £100 in prize-money shared between the contestants at a social evening at The Crown, St. Pauls Road, Sparkbrook, on October 28.

### ANGLING WINNERS

Percy Road fishing club held their annual contest on October 22 at Hampton Ferry. Winners were: 1st Mr. Attwood (Group 446) 3-2-0; 2nd, Mr. Lewis (Group 450) 2-8-0; 3rd, Mr. Rendell (Group 450) 2-7-10.

# Presentation night for the bowlers



The first dinner of the Inter-Factories Bowling Sections was held at the Rover Acocks Green Club on Friday, October 20. The Tyseley section winners and guests are pictured above.

After 'Grace' by Mr. R. Dixon of Solihull, an excellent meal was enjoyed and the Loyal Toast was proposed by Mr. J. W. E. Walton, President of the Rover Acocks Green Sports and Social Club, who also presided as chairman for the evening.

### 'THE ROVER CLUB'

Mr. W. J. Robinson of Solihull proposed the toast "The Rover Club", and this was responded to in equally witty style by Mr. Walton. Mr. F. E. Seymour, secretary of the Inter-Factories Bowling Sections welcomed "The Guests" and Mr. E. Scott of Tyseley

replied to the toast in a most characteristic way.

### 'THE WORSTER CUP'

After the presentation of "The Worster Cup" to Mr. J. B. Dickinson, Captain of the Tyseley Bowls Section, and prizes to the winning members by the President, Mr. R. Holdsworth thanked the Bowls Section Committee for their efforts in organising the competition. The secretary was presented with a cigarette lighter on behalf of the Committee.

These proceedings were followed by enjoyable entertainment provided by Billy Bream (comedian), Mike Worrall (the 'Master of Mime'), ably supported by Miss Pam Lee (vocalist) and Ian Stuart (instrumentalist)—not forgetting our own Billy Danter (compere and pianist).



Mr. Walton presenting the Worster Cup to Mr. J. B. Dickinson, captain of the Tyseley Bowls Section. Behind them are Mr. R. Holdsworth, President, and Mr. F. E. Seymour, Secretary.



Cartoon reproduced by courtesy of the Solihull News.