

WISECRACKS ALL THE WAY TO BRATISLAVA

# GAY ENGLAND PLAY UP THE 'GUARDS'

From FRANK McGHEE  
Bratislava, Monday.  
IF the football England play against World Cup finalists Czechoslovakia here on Wednesday matches their mood of the moment, it should be a memorably gay occasion.

For in spite of irritating delays for Customs and passport formalities at the border, England's nineteen-strong tour party arrived here today in great spirits.

## Flashed

Pick of the wisecracks that flashed back and forth all through the trip came when Customs men peered under the coach that brought the party from Vienna to this historic, towered city just inside the Iron Curtain.

"I'll bet they're looking for Stanley Matthews," someone said.  
Reserve centre forward Johnny Byrne provided a running commentary on the activities of the searchers and the gun-toting border guards.

And after two uniformed officials had searched inside the bus, Leicester goalkeeper Gordon Banks cracked: "Now we'll have to search them."

When the official handing back the passports asked: "Where is Flowers?" the cheeky Bryan Douglas, deadpan as usual, said: "In the garden."

## Tough

But the underlying note of seriousness behind the gaiety was illustrated by manager Alf Ramsey's insistence on getting down to training immediately.

He gave them time only for a cup of tea before ordering them into a tough session at the stadium where Wednesday's match will be played.  
Ramsey's only worry is a toe injury that threatens to

## Armfield is tourists' only doubt

put right back and skipper Jimmy Armfield out.  
Armfield has "a fair chance" of playing, according to Ramsey, but his final decision will not be taken until tomorrow.

Standing by to take Armfield's place is Chelsea right back Ken Shellito, still wide-eyed with the wonder of even being here, after only one previous representative outing with the Under-23 side.

## Happy

Ramsey made it clear to me that he is reasonably happy with the defensive set-up.

He hinted that he means to use this three-match tour for experiments that he hopes will eventually give him a settled forward line.

"We haven't brought

nineteen players just for the ride," he said. "We want to give as many of them as possible a game."

But I have an unhappy hunch that it would be disastrous to experiment with any untried men in Wednesday's match.

Top Czech officials assured me that England will almost certainly face the same team that reached the World Cup finals in Chile last year.

## Setbacks

They have suffered a series of setbacks this year—losing their last three games, to East Germany, Austria and Bulgaria.

"Some of our top men were injured or out of form for these games," said team manager Rudolf Vytlačil.

"But this time I am hoping to have our Chile side again because a victory over England would put us back on top in the eyes of Europe."

After the Czech game, England face East Germany—in Leipzig on Sunday—and Switzerland (Basle, June 5).

# LITTLE BOROUGH MAKE A STIR IN THE VALLEY..

By HOWARD BOOTH  
Borough Utd. 2, Newport 1  
AT 8.40 last night, the picturesque little ground of Borough United erupted into a seething mass of 3,000 howling, yelling fans.

For, right on time the tiny Welsh League club with a weekly wage bill of £45, scored their second goal in this first leg of the Welsh Cup Final.

They have to battle it out again at Newport on Thursday, but this first leg win could see them through to a glittering place in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup alongside teams like Spurs and Manchester United.  
This was a night that will

go down in the history of Borough United—the club that was originally composed of players from Conway and Llandudno Junction.

A night when their picture postcard ground at Nant-y-coed—the valley in the trees—was packed to the limit.

Yet in the first half it looked as though they would be overrun.

They were a goal down after twenty minutes when Newport inside left Ralph Hunt rammed the ball past goalkeeper David Walker.

Newport were on top and they should have had two more when inside right Laurie Sheffield twice shot wide from a few yards.

But how the little Welsh League side fought in the second half.

And in the seventy-fifth minute inside left Bill Russell equalised with a penalty after a foul by Newport left back Jim Frowen.

Then in those last pulsating seconds they scored the winner as left winger Joe Bebb nodded the ball home.



Johnny Scofield, Birmingham goalkeeper, grabs the ball from the feet of Bobby Thomson, Villa centre forward.

# TWO BOOKED AS BLUES STROLL LEAGUE CUP

By PETER INGALL: Aston Villa 0, Birmingham 0

(Birmingham win 3-1 on aggregate)

BIRMINGHAM last night became the new holders of the Football League Cup, thanks to the 3-1 lead they gained in the first leg of the final on Thursday. Brilliant skipper Trevor Smith and his boys deserved to gain this first major Cup success for the club, even though they had no need to go flat out in this goalless second leg.

The scene was set for Villa to stage one of their remarkable Cup rallies in front of their own fans, but there was never a hint that they had either the ability or the determination to do it.

In fact, Villa never gave Birmingham's defence an anxious moment, so poor was their passing and finishing.

Their only two worthwhile efforts came from right half Vic Crowe and right winger Alan Baker. Birmingham, whose attack had more ideas than Villa's, might have scored if centre forward Jimmy Harris had made better use of an easy chance, and if inside left Ken Leek had not been slow in shooting when well positioned.

It was a match of fierce tackles and some niggling fouls.

But tempers calmed down after both right halves—Villa's Vic Crowe, and Birmingham's Terry Hennessey—had been "booked" by the referee.

Joe Mears, vice-president of the Football League, presented the cup.

LEAGUE CUP FINAL—2nd Leg: Aston Villa 0, Birmingham 0. Afc: 49,000. Birmingham win 3-1 on aggregate.  
SCOTTISH LEAGUE.—Div. 1: Rangers 2, Aberdeen 2.

## Walker goes to Wales for a fight!

By TOM LYONS

BILLY WALKER, the heavyweight "hope" from West Ham, meets former Midland area champion Tony Smith (Wolverhampton) over eight rounds at Carnarthen on June 24.

It will be Walker's first fight in Wales and promoter Ben Davies said yesterday: "I've already been snowed under with applications for tickets. It will be a sell-out."

Welsh featherweight Lennie (The Lion) Williams will fight Scottish champion Dave Croll over eight rounds on the same bill.

## FINAL AT MERTHYR

Second Division Cardiff City have agreed to give Southern League Merthyr ground advantage in their South Wales and Monmouthshire Cup final tomorrow night (k o 6.45).

## England's boxers go down in Moscow

ENGLAND'S amateur boxers are still getting a mauling in Moscow!

Middleweight Ernie Loft-house and featherweight Tony Riley both crashed to defeat in the European championships at the Lenin Stadium there last night to bring England's dismal record so far to five losers in six bouts. The lone winner—light middleweight Johnny Pritchett on Sunday.

## Stand-in

Yorkshireman Loft-house, a stand-in for ABA champion Alf Matthews, was clearly outpointed by Austria's Franz Frauenlob, a semi-finalist in these championships in Belgrade two years ago.

Loft-house was willing to swap punches, but the experienced Austrian had him reeling with some heavy right-handers.

Riley, the ABA champion from Coventry, was also well beaten on points by the brilliant 18-year-old Belfast southpaw featherweight Jim McCourt.

## Splendid

The young Irishman had Riley down for eight in the second round and he went on to a splendid win and joined Scotland's Euan Armstrong in the quarter-finals.

Armstrong reached the last eight with a close points win over Peter Weiss of Austria. Results:

FEATHERWEIGHT (first series): E. Armstrong (Scotland) outpointed P. Weiss (Austria); J. McCourt (N. Ireland) outpointed A. Riley (England); L. Baranovs (Hungary) outpointed H. Schulz (Germany); G. Givens (Italy) vs M. Mitrovich (Yugoslavia), stoppage in second; S. Stepashkin (Russia) vs I. Traykov (Bulgaria), stoppage in third; A. Ovanu (Rumania) vs B. Chervet (Switzerland), stoppage in third.

MIDDLEWEIGHT (first series): F. Frauenlob (Austria) outpointed E. Loft-house (England); S. Anders (Germany) outpointed S. Dinnats (Hungary).

## CURVIS NEXT—SAYS CHAMPION

World welterweight champion Luis Rodriguez (Cuba) said yesterday he would defend his title against British and Empire champion Brian Curvis (Wales) if he successfully defended it against Emile Griffith on June 8.

## SPEEDWAY

NATIONAL LEAGUE.—Wimbledon 35 pts (R. How 12, R. Price 10, B. Andrews 8), Oxford 30 (C. Taylor 9, R. Guss 8, G. Gooddy 8).

## HED WON EVERY GRAND PRIX — BUT ON HER TEST HE FAILED

Drawn by HARRY BISHOP

IT WAS THE KIND OF TROUBLE I HANDLE —

MY NAME IS GILLETTE!

HE MAY BE WORLD CHAMPION — BUT HE'S ROUGH, TOO ROUGH ON MY FACE!

WHAT'LL I DO, G-MAN?

... WITH A BLUE GILLETTE EXTRA BLADE ...

BLUE GILLETTE EXTRA SHAVES SO SMOOTHLY YOU CAN'T FEEL IT!

HE'LL WIN ALL ALONG NOW. COULDN'T THANK ME ENOUGH ...

I JUST KEEP THE SHAVES ON THIS CIRCUIT CLEAN. THAT'S MY JOB. MY NAME IS GILLETTE!

USE BLUE GILLETTE EXTRA THE BLADE YOU CAN'T FEEL 2/- for 5