

WALTER LINDRUM

MANNOCK & MUSSABINI BILLIARDS EXPOUNDED 1904 & 1908

Cannon play is an art in itself. The English style -- far & away the most varied & complex -- of billiards, does not demand the application of such a proportionate quantity of this controlling power as the pocket-work; for the essence of the scoring on a 12 feet by 6 feet six-pocket table arises from winning & losing hazards. The cannons merely serve to place the player in position for the less exacting, but more remunerative, pocket strokes. Now & again some of the leading lights of the professional world dispense a sequence -- or, as it is called, a "nursery" -- of the "close cannons", with which the **Continental & American pocketless form** of billiards is replete. The refinement of this play is picturesque & pleasing, but it asks for a wonderful delicacy of "touch".

With the **smaller balls** used in our game, the **faster cloths**, & the extremely "**lively**" **cushions**, "nurseries" of close cannons are rendered most difficult on English match tables. Up to date, the pocket play has been found to outmatch it in the production of points. What may happen in the future it is not easy to foretell. **There may arise a player who will devote his sole attention to cannon play, & in the fullness of time he may revolutionize our best known scoring methods.** To me, this is more than doubtful. If such masters of cannon play as **Vignaux, Slosson, Schaefer, & Ives** could not adapt their game to the English table, one may well be allowed to ask -- Who, then, can?

WALTER LINDRUM 1910??

Little Walter Lindrum, brother of the Australian champion, is early on the warpath, in his endeavours to emulate the deeds of brother Fred. The midget found his way over to Melbourne, where he crossed cues with another little chap named **Don Drysdale**, in a game of **300 up**, for the boy championship of Australia. After a good and interesting battle young Lindrum won **83**, with best breaks of **30, 22, and 21**. Walter, like his father, is a left hander, and displays a good knowledge of the game, frequently making breaks the other side of 50.

AMATEUR BREAK COMPETITION

The decision of a break competition at the end of each session, introduced by **Cecil Harverson**, was the outstanding side attraction of last week's match. Dozens of competitors took part, but few got over the first hurdle in the shape of a half-ball loser into the top pocket from white on centre spot, player in hand. **Most of the amateurs allowed for the different angle thrown by the Crystalate ball, the majority being Bonzoline users.** The winner turned up in **Walter Albert Lindrum**, brother of the Australia professional champion. This **13-year-old** youngster, who will be 14 on August 29, had many tries to make a break, but it was not until the semi-final session that he opened up position and scored a neat **42**. Mr **D Dewsbury** came second with **33**, Master **Hughes 25**, and the ex-champion amateur of Australia, Mr **J B Belfield**, fourth with **24**. It was a most popular competition and of much educational value.

..... Harverson agrees that the angle thrown by **Crystalate** in half-ball strokes is not so wide as with **Bonzoline**, " but with side on a forcing stroke, you can get an exceptionally wide angle with Crystalate," remarked the South African.

A SKILFUL YOUNGSTER

Lindrum the little the **12** year old brother of the Australian champion, has reached the dignity of a **150 break**. This excellent performance, for one so young & so small, was achieved at Billiards Ltd, on a tight standard table. Young Walter's opponent was **D Dewsbury**, who recently took part in the State Championship. It was made without the semblance of a fluke, so Manager **Joe Andreoli**, of Billiards Limited, informs me.

WALTER LINDRUM V ALMA

Much interest was displayed by a full attendance at the Investor's Club last night in an exhibition game of 750 up between "Alma", a well-known amateur, and young Walter Lindrum, brother of the champion, and who himself may certainly lay claim to be the boy champion of Australia. Walter, who is only **13 years old (and very small for his age)**, displayed remarkable talent. He is a pocket edition of his brother, and though his style, of course, is not yet matured, it is marked by much of the crispness and "quality" which distinguishes that of Fred Lindrum's. The boy continually overreached, and having to use the rest every two or three shots, nevertheless played a fine all-round game. He showed a sound knowledge of billiards, as well as exceptional powers of execution, though, with a restraint commendable in one so young, he made but sparing use of these. His average was 12.5, so "Alma", though he lost by over 100, was not discredited. Young Lindrum's highest breaks were 104, 56, 54, and 45, and he scored 750 to his opponent's 631.....

WALTER LINDRUM AND GEORGE MCKAY BY HAZARD

An exhibition game of billiards was played between Walter Lindrum (the boy champion, **14 years** of age) and George McKay, a well known local cueist, at Rankine's Grand Billiard Lounge, Hindley street, on a Thursday evening, in the presence of over 400 people. Lindrum conceded 150 start in 750 up, and the game was very interesting, and both players were in splendid form. The young champion was a little nervous at times, but the way the lad hung on to his opponent was a treat to watch. From McKay's safe miss the boy made a fine 42 with all-round play, quickly followed by a 22, 24, and a 50. McKay was not idle, however, for he put in a 24, followed by a splendid break of 88 with all-round play, and broke down on a simple pot. The applause was loud, and sympathy was expressed on all sides for his breaking down so near the century. The scores were called 438 all at this stage, but from that out the balls broke in McKay's favour, and being in splendid touch he quickly ran right away from his opponent, and only wanted 9 while Lindrum was 131 behind. McKay took it a bit easy on his next shot, and left the boy a chance to show what he could do with the losing hazard play. His break of 105 all off the red was a treat and brought down the house. McKay then made 7 and broke down on a simple cannon, and amid intense excitement Lindrum went out with an unfinished break. Lindrum's breaks were 41, 22, 21, 24, 23, 32, 50, 87, 28, 22, 27, 105, 38, and 27 (unf) : McKay's, 24, 88, 30, 33, 36, 22, 43, 24, 37, 21, 41, and 58. The average for the game was --- Lindrum 25, McKay 20.Mr Alex Rankine..... is now negotiating with **Miss Roberts**, lady champion of the world, to come over for a series of games with young Walter Lindrum. If he is successful a treat is in store for all billiard enthusiasts.

BILLIARDS

The form of Walter Lindrum during his visit to South Australia has been remarkably good, and his scores, according to a billiard authority, have never been equalled in the

State by any other player of his age under any rules or conditions --- not even in the old spot-stroke days. The following is a list of breaks made by him in South Australia, viz --- 357, 225, 176, 174, 171, 168, 154, 148, 140, 140, 138, 138, 132, 128, 128, 127, 127, 124, 119, 119, 113, 108, 105, 102, 100.

WALTER LINDRUM V FRED LINDRUM 18,000 UP ALCOCK'S BILLIARD PARLOR ELIZABETH ST 1914

Fred Lindrum, jun., billiard champion of Australia, yesterday entered upon a game of 18,000 up against his younger brother, Walter Lindrum, boy champion of the world.... Fred Lindrum..... is conceding..... 4000 points..... began well.... breaks of 43, 46 & 80.... 82.... He.... scored rapidly from a sequence of **nursery cannons** at the top of the table..... a rapidly compiled break of 111. He worked the balls to the top of the table, where he executed a number of delicate cannons. He scored the majority of his points in this way, but before the break terminated he brought off a number of well-played losing hazards off the red in the two centre pockets. **Nursery cannons**, however, were the feature of his game..... he had scored nearly 450 points in an hour, against 250 subscribed by his brother..... Walter Lindrum, at his next visit to the table, scored a break of 43, mostly by losing hazards of the red in the two centre pockets..... scored breaks of 44, 68 & 53. He played an open game, & exhibited a variety of strokes. On several occasions he attempted to get the red ball into George Gray's favorite position, & in his break of 68 he scored 57 off the red.....

..... At the evening session Walter Lindrum was in splendid form, & scored at a rapid pace. He gave an excellent exhibition of all-round billiards & averaged 36½ throughout the session. His best breaks were 45, 87, 67, 64, 52, 49 & 95 (unfinished). Fred Lindrum's chief contributions were breaks of 64, 63 & 78. During the day the younger Lindrum scored 1,166, against.... 1,090.

..... A **cue** will be presented during each week.... to the amateur making the highest break.... playing from the D, with the red ball on spot & the white ball on the centre spot..... yesterday... the highest break... was 25..... At Thursday afternoon's session **ladies** will be admitted to the game free of charge..... In the afternoon Walter Lindrum raised his overnight break of 95 unfinished to 109, & at his next visit to the table he compiled a break of 61 --- an excellent all round display. Fred Lindrum then..... strung together a break of 139..... At his next visit... 108.... which led up to the best effort of the afternoon. This was a break of 176, contributed by Walter Lindrum. The boy scored with remarkable ease, & played a brilliant all round game. He broke down on a long, but comparatively easy, red loser. At his next visit he compiled another fine break of 91.

..... Both players showed erratic form during the first half of the evening session. Walter Lindrum was the first to get going with a break of 87, but he did not produce his afternoon's form. He was not so certain of his shots, & missed several easy chances. Another large house was present for the evening session. (Fred Lindrum)..... sticking to the all-round & top-of-the-table game, he made 179, 110, 90, & 162 ; but, usually a deadly **potter**, he missed several easy reds that would have left him exceptional positions at the spot end. As an offset to this, his cannon play off two or more cushions was frequently of a very high order. He plays these shots with an exact strength that most professionals will risk only when they are playing ball-to-ball cannons..... The table, with a short napped cloth, is **very fast**, & until last night Walter Lindrum had not mastered strength for the red hazard..... 114.... 107.... 87.... 76....

..... Fred took up the running with a beautiful cannon off three cushions, played with dead pace & securing position to a millimetre..... Nothing of note took place until Fred, who had been looking for **nursery cannons** in previous breaks without finding many of them, at last gathered the balls at the spot, & here he hatched out **60**, & not a doubtful egg in the whole clutch. The break, which added 204 to his score, was most picturesquely played. Besides the fine string of close cannons there were several all-round cannons that appealed to the spectators. Walter could do nothing with the leave, & Fred scored 108, notable for more clever cannon play..... 204... 122... 108..... Walter... had bad fortune, for after getting 90 at mixed billiards in a style that would have done credit to any professional, he was confronted with a dead end, from which he could extricate himself only with an almost impossible pique..... 146... 98... 90...

..... In three cues **the champion** made nearly 600 points --- 178, 242, 147. Most of the play was mixed billiards, though now & then he would gather the balls near the spot & give the spectators an opportunity of watching some finished top-of-the-table billiards. As a rule he does not cramp this game into the pot-&cannon groove, but plays along the line of the **least resistance**, going into **baulk** whenever it suites him. In making screw or half-screw cannons about the spot, & at the same time keeping the balls together, he uses **transmitted side** with great effect. From positions from which all amateurs & many professionals would lose the first object-ball through driving it down the table, Fred, by loading his own ball with **check side**, will bring the other back at an unexpected angle, & so keep position..... In this session **Walter** was in excellent form also, making breaks of 83, 58, 125, & 158. The 125 was a **red break**, but he played **all-round billiards** in the others. For the hazard the table was just a trifle **slow** in the afternoon --- not on the **cushions**, but on the **cloth**. Like Fred, Walter plays the long loser with **thin half-ball** contact, & unless the table is rather on the fast side it requires something in the nature of a **punch** to bring the red ball into the "**bullseye**".

..... There was just one feature in the evening session, & that was Walter's break of 309 off the red, for which he received a long round of applause..... The champion..... 102..... If he made no breaks, however, he brought off some fine individual strokes --- notably a four-cushion cannon from a very awkward position at the bottom of the table. Although the cue ball had to travel at least 30ft, he played with exact strength, & bunched all the balls at the right hand bottom pocket. This stroke, which enabled him to make his only century, was loudly applauded.

..... Play as fast as any ever witnessed at Alcock's Billiard Parlor was displayed by Walter Lindrum..... Walter started off with a break of 149, including **40 nursery cannons**, followed by a run of 116, principally off the red, & still another of 96 at all round billiards. Fred followed with a fine break of 162, compiled in a manner worthy of his reputation & skill, but his brother countered again with a break of 166. In a trifle under 50 minutes Walter added 583 & Fred 309 to his score..... The champion kept the table to himself for the greater part of the session, scoring in masterly style. He gives one the impression of being better than ever, even though he has made far larger breaks in previous seasons. But this explained by the fact that he is deliberately debarring himself of the **red hazard**. He made a few losers in the session, but at the first opportunity he always forced the balls to the **top** of the table, & when a pot would have enabled him to continue with hazards he resisted the temptation. If this line of action militated against heavy scoring it afforded the spectators a number of **spectacular** shots in the way of screws & round-the-table cannons. It is not too much

to say that those who have seen Fred only in games where he felt it necessary to confine himself strictly to orthodox billiards have had a very inadequate conception of his technical equipment when he chooses to give himself a free hand. The feature of the afternoon play was his break of 269, which illustrated every phase of billiards except the hazard.

..... There was something of a reversal of form in the evening, for, while Fred shone by fits & starts, Walter's light was generally steady, & not infrequently brilliant..... In a break of 117, mainly at the spot end, he showed a control of **white (keeping it between the spot & the top cushion)** that Stevenson, the greatest top-of-the-table player in the world, could hardly have bettered, so far as it went.....Capital play on both sides was seen... yesterday.... But for a number of safety misses... the averages would have been exceptionally high. As it was, each made an average of nearly 90 for six visits..... The champion commenced well in the evening with 226 at **all-round** play; the next break over the century mark was 103 by Walter. After 81 by Fred, there was a blank until his brother ran up 89 off the red --- almost all **long losers**. Hobart Smith has got the table into fine condition, & Walter made nearly the whole break from the "**bullseye**" position. At the leave, Fred, after forcing position with a difficult thin hazard into the top pocket, gathered the balls together at the spot end from a drop cannon, & made 93.....

..... Soon after this there a curious resemblance to a situation that had occurred on the previous evening. The younger Lindrum's ball was tucked under the side cushion, a foot below the middle pocket; the red was on the spot, & Fred was in hand. Seeing that there was but a very dubious cannon left, he elected to run a **coup**, as he did on Wednesday in like circumstances. Walter played a fine forcer, but brought the red into baulk, &, giving a **miss** in the "D", he again neutralised the coup. An exact century at mixed play by Fred, & 55 at the top of the table by Walter, were the only other breaks of note..... **Safety** tactics were the order of the day, but though Walter gave no fewer than **eleven misses**, he was unable to prevent the champion scoring freely, for Fred made 78, 124, 100, 85, 86, & 147. By way of a quid pro quo Fred gave **eight misses** himself, &, with the game thus cramped, Walter did well with his breaks of 115, 91, 83, & 78 (unfinished).

..... After an absolutely bald patch Fred added 40 & 108 to his aggregate, & then running a **coup** by way of safety, he was disagreeably surprised with a clever **double baulk** played by Walter, with his own ball well below the middle pocket, & the red on the spot..... A break of 87 by Fred was interesting, from the fact that it contained a sequence of **close cannons out in the open**. This difficult variant of close-cannon play is seldom exploited at English billiards..... The youngster again... outplayed his elder brother, who acted the part of spectator for the greater portion of the session..... The younger player.... at his next visit.... compiled a very fine break of 362 by **all round** methods, though the red loser stroke formed a prominent feature of the run..... Fred Lindrum's form was... too bad to be true..... It is but fair, however, to the Australian champion to state that on more than one occasion his cue ball appeared to **roll off** when approaching the object sphere, & he missed scoring in consequence..... The match of 18,000 up..... was concluded on Saturday night..... Apart from 248 off the red by Walter, in the evening no large breaks were made.

The final scores were..... W. Lindrum 18,000. F. Lindrum 15,831

..... There were two amateur cue competitions during the fortnight. No "White Hope" competed, for the first was won by Mr Murdock with a break of 75 ; & the second by Mr Forster, with a break of 13.....

WALTER LINDRUM V FRED LINDRUM 18,000 UP WHERE? WHEN?

..... the play was particularly good. When this happens there is seldom much to record, for a player really in form leaves himself nothing but a succession of easy shots; if he has to do something brilliant in the way of execution it will only be when he takes up his opponent's leave..... In the evening the champion made a fine cannon, when he had the balls in line along the top cushion; his own ball being in the centre & the red in the left corner. A screw off the red was possible, but with the white in the way it would not have been sound tactics to attempt it. The champion therefore played off the white, & went all round the table for a cannon. This is often done as a **fancy** shott, & with the balls precisely placed it is not difficult, but it is quite another matter when they have to be taken as they are left.

..... on Friday.....he made seven breaks for three figures, & as Walter made eight it will be seen that the scoring was unusually heavy. It was nearly all done at the **spot end**; indeed, throughout the match there was remarkably little **all-round play** on either side..... The **hazard** made a brief appearance in the evening. When he paid his final visit to the table Walter Lindrum wanted 103 to go out, & this he did in an unfinished break. When he had made 32 he lost the white, & so he ran to his points with red losers. That was the only time during the match that anything like a hazard break was made..... The final scores were:--

W. Lindrum 18,000 (ave 39). F. Lindrum 16,488 (ave 37)

The breaks for three figures made during the match were as follows:--

W. Lindrum (60 breaks of 100 or over), 490, 371, 370, 338, 323, 298, 294, 288, 286, 282, 267, 257, 254, 242, 230, 230, 228, 221, 212, 210, 210, 208, 197.....

F. Lindrum (59 breaks of 100 or over), 503, 423, 291, 275, 261, 259, 258, 201, 196.....

WALTER LINDRUM 15 6 SEP 1913

Walter Lindrum, who is just 15, is a little marvel. He already knows more about the game than his brother Fred, now one of the most skilfull of living players, did at the same age. He has had his training under the direction of his father, an Australian champion of the past, & you can see from many of Walter's ways, which are exactly like Fred's, that they have been brought up in the same school, though not at the same time. Walter plays the **long loser** with the same **slinging** action that Fred does, & his pose is the same as Fred's; but he goes in for none of Fred's **over-elaborate swinging** of the cue prior to the stroke. All kinds of scoring methods appear to be already within his scope. He has already attained considerable insight into top-of-the-table scoring. He has a light touch, he pots the red with certainty, & he foresees where the balls will run to. With him, as with Fred, the break usually comes to an end through his missing a deceptively "easy shot", when the balls are set for a good break. When he fails he goes to his seat with a placid expression on his face --- a player of greater note always seems to go to his seat "cussing" things, under like circumstances --- & he seems to wait patiently & contentedly while his opponent is piling up a score --- signs of a valuable temperament.

There are many shots it is a treat to see him execute, particularly the **long jenny**, when the object ball lies almost touching the cushion. **Middle-pocket jennies** he treats as

commonplaces ; & the well-known **follow-through winner** at the top of the table, with the balls a little out of line, he brings off in a quite offhand manner, where a timid player would resort in preference to the available cannon. The only oddity noticeable in him is a **pouting & twisting** of the lips when he is making **forcing** shots, as if extra movements had to be then called in to the aid of the tiny right arm. He is otherwise singularly free from mannerisms which interfere with mechanical perfection. If all goes well, Walter Lindrum should develop into a great billiardist. He is still very young, & he will be in the growing stage for some years yet, so one is fain to hope that too much may not be made of his precocity, & that his juvenile brain may not be staled with too much practice. As evidence of Walter's scoring rate, which is fast, it may be mentioned that on one evening, when his only two called breaks were 58 & 71, he made his sessional points, 583, in an hour & 35 minutes. On another evening **Miss Roberts** scored her quota of 417 in an hour & 10 minutes.

WALTER LINDRUM

News has just come to hand which shows that in little Walter Lindrum, all being well, Australia will be strongly represented in the billiard world at no distant date. The youngster, under the watchful eye of Lindrum pere, is making rapid strides as a result of assiduous practice, & this is verified by the fact that he has just compiled a sterling break of **380**. In commenting upon this excellent performance, a correspondent says : "Has improved wonderfully, & this break for one so young at all-round billiards is one of the brightest achievements it has been my lot to witness". All of which may be accepted as coming from one of the leading professionals of Victoria. A tour of Western Australia is being arranged, & the lad may also tour N S Wales directly. Fred Lindrum, sen, is located at "Bleak House", South Melbourne, where he is doing well in a one-table saloon.

WALTER LINDRUM DEFEATS MISS ROBERTS 1912

The Australian champion's **fourteen year old brother** has won his first long game. The boy was opposed to **Miss Ruby Roberts**, the world's lady champion billiardiste, to whom he conceded **750** start in **6000**, and won by **338** points. This lad is having greater opportunity of advancement than any other boy i know of, and if he continues to improve may have even a greater record than his brother had by the time he reaches man's estate. As Miss Roberts defeated young **Taylor**, the boy champion of England, some time back, young Lindrum's win is a good one. Unlike his brother, Walter plays **left-handed**, copying his **father's** cueing in that respect.

WALTER LINDRUM DEFEATS MISS ROBERTS

The billiard match of 16,000 up between Walter Lindrum, the young Australia player, & Miss Ruby Roberts, the champion lady player of the world, was concluded at Alcock's Parlor, Elizabeth-street, on Saturday night. Lindrum played consistently throughout the game, in which he was giving away 6000 points. Miss Roberts played indifferently at several sessions. There were times, though, that she displayed capital form. Lindrum reached 16,000 with a break of 100 unfinished, when his opponent's score stood at 14,530. During the day he also made breaks of 129, 120, 118, 90 & 80. Miss Roberts had runs of 48, 46, 41 & 39.

WALTER LINDRUM V MISS ROBERTS

"O.K.": Bonnie Ruby Roberts & boy Walter Lindrum, properly boomed & staged, might be worth a good many hundred pounds gate-money in England this coming winter.

Considered as a draw for the public in general, rather than for billiard cranks & experts in particular, the maiden & the lad would be more effective than any pair of adult male champions. Their fresh young skill in the game is more instructive to ordinary amateurs than the finest play of the mere men champions.

But the chief attraction of the show is in its sex rivalry & human interest. The women who went to see Ruby & Walter play beautiful billiards at Alcock's Rooms (Melbourne) the other week were as taken by the personality of the performers as the men were staggered by the mere precocity of little Walter's talent. The meagre boy made it a sufficiently good race by conceding a start of 2000 in 7000 to the buxom girl, who finished within two or three hundred points of him. If they were touring in England the managerial policy, of course, would be to give Miss Roberts a rather longer start & spread tales of how her young friend always gnashed his teeth --- in private --- when he got beaten.

In Australia women are invited to come gratis to the Ruby--Walter matches. In the Cold Country, where 20 times as many women are familiar with the rudiments of billiards, they would be expected to bring the men along to buy seats for them. Moreover, an enterprising manager would probably secure the particular patronage of the Pankhurst League, & reserve a section of the seating accommodation for suffragettes.

FRED LINDRUM JUN V WALTER LINDRUM A REMARKABLE FINISH A TIE

Saturday evening at the London House billiard hall witnessed a remarkable match brought to a conclusion --- perhaps the most unique in the history of high class billiards. As the clock struck 1 o'clock (the stipulated closing hour) Walter Lindrum was in the act of playing a stroke which made his score exactly equal to his elder brother's total of **17,289**, & this great game consequently ended in a **draw**.

The play from the very outset of the match was of a superlative quality, & it is open to doubt if two professional players have ever given fine combined displays on the board of green cloth than those of Fred Lindrum jun, & his brother, Walter. They were continuously throwing big breaks at each other at almost each of the 24 sessions, the features being of course the junior player's masterly innings of 689, & the equally meritorious 612 sent up by Fred Lindrum, while several breaks of 500, 400, 300, 200 & innumerable single "century" runs were credited to each.

On Saturday afternoon play was resumed with the game very open, as only 39 points separated the two player's aggregate scores, the balance being in favor of Walter Lindrum. The game progressed at a fairly even rate, & at the adjournment the younger player had aggregated 814 points, with highest contributions of 290, 183 & 128, while Fred Lindrum had subscribed a total of 690, mainly by the aid of three fine hands which yielded 177, 127 & 108 respectively.

Visitors in the evening --- & they were numerous --- had the pleasure of witnessing some delightful billiards, quite equal to any that had preceded them, while the scoring was of a particularly rapid rate --- the first hour's combined play contributing exactly 1000 points. The junior player resumed with an unfinished 74, & he did not relinquish possession of the table until he had converted the full break into 509. His other highest efforts were 117, 85, 68 & 50. Fred Lindrum was wonderfully consistent, & sent up in consecutive hands 72, 130, 223, 125 & 108, a sequence that excited the company to most cordial appreciation. Later he had further runs of 164 & 81. Total scores:-- Walter Lindrum 17,289 ; Fred Lindrum jun, 17,289. The match was carefully marked & called by Fred Lindrum, sen.

WALTER LINDRUM OFFERS GEORGE GRAY 4000 IN 18,000

Fred Lindrum snr, who looks after the business end of his son Walter's affairs, writes that he is anxious to make a match for Walter with George Gray. No mention is made of any stake-money, but the statement is made that Gray was not entitled to half the gate-money whether he won or lost. The amount Lindrum, senior, suggests is that the winner should take two-thirds & the loser one-third, after the usual expenses are met.

PATRIOTIC GAMES YIELD GOOD SUM

*Those who conceived the idea of arranging exhibition games of billiards in aid of the Patriotic Fund hav reason to be well satisfied with the result of their efforts. Up to Saturday last 57 pounds had been realised from admission fees, & the sale of billiard cues, which had been donated by Alcock & Company Pty Ltd..... Last week, owing to the presence of many Show visitors in the city, Alcock's Billiard Parlor, Elizabeth street, was reserved by the firm for games in aid of the Patriotic Fund. The contest between Fred Lindrum, jun & his talented young brother, Walter, proved, as was to have been expected, a star attraction. In attempting to concede Walter Lindrum 350 in 1500, the Australia champion took on a severe task, & one that proved beyond his powers..... Fred Lindrum topped the century with 102, 342, & 132 ; whereas Walter only once ran a break into three figures, with 113. Fred Lindrum has abandoned **red ball play**, which he detests, & his break of 342 was all the more meritorious because achieved by **all-round** methods. The **nursery cannons** were masterly, & spectators were treated to a display which not even **Tom Reece** could have improved upon.*

WALTER LINDRUM V FRED LINDRUM 16,000 UP TALENT OF THE LINDRUMS BY SPOT WHITE

*In their game at Alcock's Billiard Parlor, which is drawing to a conclusion, the Lindrum brothers have given a remarkably fine all-round display. No mammoth breaks have been recorded, because the red ball has not been made use of to any extent; but a better exhibition could not have been wished for. Australia has arrived at a stage when it is more or less independent of the visits of professionals from abroad.....Fred Lindrum, junior, the Australian champion, took on a hard task when he agreed to concede his 15-year old brother, Walter, 4000 in 16,000. Fred has discarded the red ball game, & revels in top of the table play. Not even HW Stevenson has a more delicate touch than this young man, & he marshalls the balls around the billiard spot with great skill. But Walter is little less versatile, & the pace with which he scores is **phenomenal**. **Charles Memmott**, the former Australian champion, declares that Walter Lindrum could vie with any professional in the world as regards the **rate** of scoring. On only rare occasions does the lad **hesitate** for an instant, & in him we have an embryo champion.*

*Despite his extreme youth, Walter Lindrum has a wise head, & in matches conducts himself with the assurance of an "old stager". I was amused on Tuesday afternoon to see Walter deliberately pot the object white on two occasions, & attempt to make a big run off the red. Questioned on the subject, the lad remarked that he was anxious to liven the game up. "If i can establish a considerable lead, beyond my proportional points", he added, "Fred must go after me, & the result may be something to excite public interest". The scheme, however, did not shake his elder brother's resolve to stick to play of the all-round order. Fred Lindrum will not undertake to limit himself on the red ball in money matches for the championship, such as that which **A E Williams**, the English professional sought; but for exhibition purposes he has abandoned losing*

hazard sequences, **which he graphically describes as "ping pong" off the top cushion.**

Session	Fred Lindrum junior			Walter Lindrum		
	Points	Visits	Average	Points	Visits	Average
1	743	45	16.5	584	44	13.3
2	347	16	21.7	582	16	36.4
3	454	17	26.7	585	17	34.4
4	776	36	21.6	583	36	16.2
5	1104	28	39.4	341	28	12.2
6	676	26	26.0	815	26	31.4
7	1117	23	48.6	407	24	16.1
8	717	26	27.5	748	26	28.8
9	777	12	37.5	605	20	30.2
10	758	22	34.4	583	22	26.5
11	309	11	28.1	584	11	53.1
12	842	33	25.5	501	33	15.2
13	967	29	33.4	483	30	16.1
14	720	21	35.7	750	21	35.7
15	722	16	45.1	599	16	37.4
16	430	23	18.7	584	23	25.4
17	815	28	29.1	523	28	18.7
18	526	20	26.3	650	20	32.5
Total	12,800			14,507		

One of the chief features of the match now in progress is the remarkable **fast** scoring of Walter Lindrum. His brother Fred shook Walter by the hand & said: "That's the fastest **300** break i have ever seen played"..... The final scores were: Walter Lindrum, 16,000 (average 74); Fred Lindrum, 14,577 (average 68). The following are the breaks over the century..... Walter Lindrum; 548, 518, 507, 484, 480, 450, 380, 355, 320, 313, 306, 317, 301, 300, 276..... Fred Lindrum; 577, 550, 515, 441, 375, 333, 325, 313, 300, 278.....

**WALTER LINDRUM V CLARK MCCONACHY
RED BALL CARNIVAL BY FRANK H HART MAY 1916**

Not since George Gray & Fred Lindrum junior filled Alcock's Parlor to overflowing some years ago has a billiard match in Melbourne created such public interest as that now approaching conclusion, be Clark McConachy & Walter Lindrum.... 17-year old.....

GREEK MEETS GREEK It is a case --- possibly unique in the annals of professional billiards --- of one **red-ball expert** against another. When Fred Lindrum toured Australasia with **George Gray** --- winning, it may be remarked incidentally, the majority of games --- he did not employ the red loser. I doubt whether he had cultivated the stroke then; but in no case would he have used it, for the remarkable success of the Lindrum-Gray combination lay in the (then) youngsters being utterly dissimilar in their methods. After Gray left Australia, Fred Lindrum applied himself publicly to the losing hazard, & demonstrated that he could use it with telling effect. We are now witnessing what, i believe, is the first instance of a solid fortnight of uninterrupted hazard play.

SEVERE STRAIN Walter Lindrum, at the early age of 17, is up against a stiffer proposition than George Gray ever had to face. Gray, it is true, took on the world's best players, men who could, when in touch, exhibit absolute wizardry in compelling the balls to answer their commands; but Gray had sole use of a scoring medium which no all-round player can withstand. Walter, on the other hand, encountered McConachy under parental instructions that he must "**fight fire with fire**", & use the red loser exclusively. The mere **physical** --- not to speak of **mental** --- strain involved is prodigious. Lindrum, senior, remarked to me on Saturday, "Not for 200 pounds would I have Walter go through such an **ordeal** again. It is too severe for a **lad** of his years".

BRILLIANT STROKES McConachy, while having a **weak** conception of the all-round game, as practised by first-class professionals, is a **capable** stroke player, particularly with the masse' & pull-back. Once he left the three balls almost in line --- the red about 9in. beyond the middle pocket, his own ball less than an inch behind, & the object white near the baulk line. He essayed a masse' screw-back, & failed by the barest margin. The effort was applauded, & McConachy, conscious of having nearly brought off something out of the common, left the table. But the cue ball had a lot of momentum & spin left. Hugging the cushion, it continued on & twirled into the bottom pocket, some 7ft from the point of contact with the red. This result surprised & amused everyone. Walter Lindrum, in the course of his big break on Friday, mullered a stroke & left the red in baulk against the bottom cushion. He recovered position brilliantly. Making a loser into the left-hand top pocket, he drove the object white into baulk at such a nicely calculated angle that it struck the red & brought that ball out in easy position for "**all red route**".

WALTER V CLARK MCCONACHY BY SNOOKER

The Lindrum -- McConachy match, now in progress in Melbourne, has resolved itself into a "**red battle**". Each player is out to win, & he figures that the best way to do so is to use the **royal red road** to victory all the way. There is no diversion. It is **red, red, red** all the time. I put in a few hours watching them last week, & while I like to see the **long swinging** red loser flying towards the goal into the **top pockets**, I must say that I **tired** of watching those short **middle losers**, at which the New Zealander is such an adept. And I was not alone, for during the session the spectators were restless, & many quit long before the end was in sight.

Even **George Gray** mixes his billiards a little --- very little, it may be --- but these youths rarely do. It is the same old fare all the time, & neither is a very attractive player. McConachy has **unorthodox stance & queer grip & bridge**, while young Lindrum's artistry of cue movement is somewhat **hampered** by playing **left-handed**. It looks **awkward**. Probably because there are so few (if any) good players outside the lad who **disfigure** their movements by using the left hand. In his early days I believe the Australian champion played left-handed, but recognising that it was rather **unsightly**, wisely changed to the right hand.

Despite this apparent **blemish**, Walter Lindrum has furnished into an extremely fine player. His cue movement is free & agile, while his touch, execution, & judgement are worthy of the most matured player. If his all-round play is on a par with the skill displayed in working the red ball, Australia has a champion who will keep our billiards in the forefront for many a day to come. Not the least important of the lad's qualities is his great **grit**.

The same remark applies to McConachy, who has determination writ large from his **steely eyes to the square chin & clenched teeth**. Both of the youths appeared to do better after one or the other had made a large break. It was this bold **determination** which held the spectators together more than an **attractiveness** in the display. There is a feeling that the match is going to be one of the most **fiercely-fought** engagements that has ever taken place in Australia.

When McConachy defeated the Australian champion in their late match, after being 500 behind on the fourth of thirteen days play, quite a number of those who follow billiards closely picked the New Zealander as a sure winner. They figured that he would have thrown off the initial nervousness, got the strength of the table, & acquired greater accuracy, as the result of his 18,000 up the previous two weeks. Others who had seen young Lindrum at work against his brother were equally confident that he had only to devote a few days practise to the "in-off-&-in-off" business to be equally expert as the visitor, would give him the advantage in the other phases of the game. That was the position when operations started on Monday of last week.

The New Zealander got going first with a run of 219 shortly after play started..... but in the evening the eighteen-year-old, getting busy with runs of 301, 183, 228, 177 & 215, got close up..... McConachy gradually fell into arrears. In the third session the youth scored 955 to 257, despite that the leader had carried an unfinished run of 293 to 461.....The lad was now getting an accurate eye for the **long half-ball angle**, & going straight into the net of the pocket, without touching the jaws, at every shot.

Outside of **George Gray**, no living player that i know of had made a break of **786** before his eighteenth birthday up to Walter Lindrum's doing the feat on Friday. He had brought forward **486** from the previous day, & a great crowd put in an appearance in the expectation of seeing the lad do something big. And they were not disappointed, for it was not until he had reached the total stated that he failed to make a rather wide long loser into the left corner pocket. What makes the run the more meritorious is the fact that the **white ball** was in the way --- behind the D --- during most of the later part of the break. In fact, it was mainly owing to the awkwardness of the bridge caused by the white's proximity that what looked like a thousand break was cut short. It was indeed a fine performance, & deserved the applause which greeted it. One has only to glance at the New Zealander's face to notice **determination & grit** writ large there, & he proved it later on in the day by running up a slashing **501** break made with the sang-froid which characterises his play.

WALTER LINDRUM'S RECORD BREAK

Before playing this match Walter had put in two or thee week's solid practice at the hazard, & in the sessions that have been played so far, he has, with rare exceptions, kept to red ball play. He is now over 1,700 in the lead. Yesterday afternoon Walter made his record, carrying his break of **486** of the Thursday evening to **786**. But for faulty judgement he might have gone on much further. The white ball, behind the "D", was somewhat in the way all through the latter part of the break. In the shot that he broke down at there was the right hand centre pocket left, but in order to get this, he would have had to bridge **over** the white. It was not a very difficult shot, but after hesitating, he decided to play for the left corner pocket, which was a trifle wide, & he missed it. The break was perfectly played until the inevitable miss came, & the young player received prolonged applause for making what is his record break in public.....

WALTER LINDRUM DEFEATS CLARK MCCONACHY

Although Walter Lindrum... defeated McConachy by 5,533, in the match of 18,000 up level... the play was interesting to the end..... It was impossible that McConachy could win when it came to Saturday, for, though he is probably the **fastest hazard player** in the world, he had no chance against time.....But there was always the possibility that he might make a very large break ; & then it is recognised that he is one of the rising stars on the billiards horizon. He is very raw as regards all-round billiards, but his hazard play is exceptionally fine, & it is marked, too, by character. No one who has seen him play this match would regard his long scores off the red as merely the result of **mechanical efficiency**.

Of Walter Lindrum's play, it need only be said that he has surprised even his greatest admirers. The general opinion was that he would win... not on account of any superiority in hazard play, but because his skill at all-round play would enable him to get into the hazard more frequently..... however, he showed himself more **consistent** at hazards, if not **cleverer**, than his opponent. So far as **determination** is concerned, there is nothing to choose between the two.

..... though Walter has not established a world's record, he has proved himself the greatest hazard player of his **age** that has been seen here or elsewhere. In the afternoon session Walter carried his unfinished break of 614 to **617** only, falling down at his second long-loser. His other breaks were 175, 77, 145, 251 (unf). McConachy scored one break of note only. -- **450**. In the evening, Walter carried his unfinished break of 251 to **455**. His other break was 383....McConachy ran up 234..... Walter went out with... 21. He got all the applause that he could wish for, & the "cheers for the loser" were very hearty. The loser was the first to congratulate his young opponent.....

820 MADE BY WALTER LINDRUM 4 SEPT 1916

What is described as the most remarkable break by a youthful billiard player was registered by Walter Lindrum..... yesterday afternoon, when at the **top of the table** game he made a break of **820**..... Lindrum averaged 100 in six minutes. Previous to the big effort he made a run of 354 before he broke down. Starting again, he made the break of 820, until, becoming fatigued, he missed an easy shot off the red. The break was remarkable inasmuch as it was practically all made at the top of the table. The first time he went into hand was at 187, & he did not again go into hand until he reached 605. At 638 he got a run of **40 nursery cannons**, & at 805 he played from hand again. There was not a **foul** or **fluky** stroke in the whole break. With the exception of the **three** occasions when he went into hand, the break was made entirely at the top of the table.

WALTER LINDRUM IN FORM

In billiard circles the feature of the week has been the play in private of Walter Lindrum. This young player has been practising for weeks on one of the standard tables in his father's city rooms. On Monday, he compiled a run of 820..... no player in Australia had previously made 820 by all-round billiards. In fact, it is doubtful whether any one in the world has made a break that in actual merit equals young Lindrum's effort..... there was only one run of **nursery cannons** --- broken at **18**. Walter's father, a great authority on the game, has all along entertained the idea that ultimately a player could perfect the top of the table game to such an extent that it would even **overshadow** the much abused "**all-red route**". "Some authorities used to **ridicule** the idea when I suggested it", said Mr Lindrum, "but Walter is going to open their **eyes** now"..... A couple of years ago Mr Lindrum was preparing to take Walter to England, & at Colombo alone he had

made engagements returning 200 pounds. Of course, the **war** put a stop to the scheme..... After the war he will, no doubt, visit **England** in the hope of gaining the highest honors. Recently, Mr Lindrum has sent a challenge to **Newman**, offering to back Walter against him for 100 pounds. In the meantime, Walter will try to win the Australian championship from his brother, Fred. The title cannot be involved in the game, which will start on September 18, because the brothers have agreed to place a restriction of **25** on hazards, both losing & winning. However, i am told there is an understanding between them to play a match for the championship a few months later.

LINDRUM BROTHERS MATCHED BY HAZARD

Fred Lindrum.....shall be opposed by...Walter, at Alcock's Parlor on September 18..... level..... 16,000 up. There will be a limit of **25** on hazards..... Each player has been practising hard for weeks..... Talking about the prospects of Walter Lindrum ultimately reaching the top of the billiard ladder, his father, Fred Lindrum, senr, stated that even now he would be prepared to back the boy for 100 pounds against any player in the world under Billiards Control rules. "I have never seen anyone play better than Walter Lindrum", said Mr Lindrum, "& i am convinced that, as young as he is he has not a superior in the world. A good line in his prospects will be got from his match with his brother Fred". **Tom Reece**, in a match with **Melbourne Inman** recently, eclipsed his own individual break of **780**, by compiling **901**.....

W LINDRUM IN FORM BY HAZARD

It will be surprising if Walter Lindrum does not make a record break in the course of his match with his elder brother, Fred. His play all he week has been brilliant. **HW Stevenson** at his best never gave a better exhibition of top of the table play than this young player has. No phase of the game has troubled him, & experts are freely looking to him to win the highest honors the world of billiards holds. And he is going to be an immensely popular player, for he has a delightfully **free** style. Indeed i have never seen a **faster** scorer. One well-known expert, with a life-long experience of the game, stated on Wednesday that he at first thought that Walter was just going to make a fairly solid player. "But after seeing him rattle up that 400 odd on Tuesday", said the expert, " I am convinced that he will become one of the most brilliant players we have ever seen. Without having seen it i could not have credited a player with making the improvement in a few months that Walter has".

In conversation the young player a few hours before the match said he "felt great". As much as in any other branch of sport it is necessary that a billiard player should keep in good condition. Being neither a **smoker** nor a **drinker**, Walter does not find this hard. It can hardly be pleasant to Fred to realise that his hitherto supreme position in the Australian world of billiards is threatened by his young brother. Elder brothers are always apt to forget that the younger members of the family advance, & perhaps one would not have to look back far to the time when Walter marvelled at the skill of Fred. But Walter is coming along apace, & when they meet in earnest for the championship -- - it is understood they are to do in a few months time --- Fred will need all his powers to hold the title. Up to the time of writing Fred had not shown his best form by any means. In praising Walter it must not be forgotten what a genius of the cue the champion is. At the top of his form he may be able to account for his brother. At all events, it would be a great struggle.

AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP APRIL 1916

Large attendances were present at both sessions of the championship billiard match at Alcock's Parlour on Saturday, & the play was exceptionally good. In the afternoon session the younger player scored 802 points in 14 cues, giving him an average of over 51. The session occupied only an hour & three quarters, & as the champion made his full quota it will be seen that the scoring was very rapid. Walter Lindrum's first break was 206(full), & after 82, 89, and 52 he settled down to hazards in faultless style, making 292 & 182. A very difficult **long hazard**, which most players fight **shy** of, strangely enough appears to be **easy** to him. This is the position when the red ball comes down the **centre** of the table & stops on the baulk side of the **centre** spot, but yet not near enough to the line for a middle pocket hazard. Fred Lindrum tries to keep the ball in the middle of the table, but he takes care to play it with strength that will not bring it below the **centre** spot. Walter tackles the **dangerous** shot with the greatest **confidence**, & it is very seldom that he misses it. On Saturday he was playing long strings of this particular hazard, sending his ball into the corner-pockets with that peculiar "**clop**" that always indicates that the ball has got home at a great pace without touching the pockets. Every now & then he would succeed in bringing the red a little further down, which enabled him to make the **centre** pocket loser for a spell. For this he uses the **run-through** much as **Gray** does. The **very thin hazard** into the pocket, however, which is a shot that Gray **side-steps** when possible, the younger Lindrum has thoroughly mastered. Most of this afternoon play was founded on the hazard. The champion, after 88 & a few smaller breaks, ran out with a very finely played all round break, which he left unfinished at 386. This season he is playing a game that for variety is probably unequalled. With the exception of **Roberts**, the retired world's champion, no player uses such a wide **variety** of shots. Many of them, too, depend on **novel** combinations that he has worked out for himself, & this makes his play of exceptional interest to watch. The breaks for this session were;-- Fred Lindrum, 88, 386 (unfinished); Walter Lindrum, 206 (full), 82, 89, 291, & 182. The sessional scores were called:-- Fred Lindrum --- 7,334. Walter Lindrum --- 7,067.

The balls in the champion's unfinished break had been left with the white **in hand** & an easy **drop cannon** near the top of the table. Lindrum could have secured position for **spot end** play, but he preferred to score **all round** --- getting over the ground very fast, for the whole break occupied less than 20 minutes. A **misscue** when trying for a thin hazard into the corner-pocket pulled him up at **461**. He was loudly applauded. After this nothing of note was done until Walter made 139 in pretty style at **mixed play**. Fred contributed 139 also. There was a good deal of top-of-the-table play in this. As he was now leading by over 400, & as he was playing to a **millimetre** gauge, it was no wonder that Walter was looking a little anxious. He tried to stop Fred with **safety** play. Fred accepted the challenge, & several clever **tactical** shots were exchanged.

Walter was the first to break away, &, **potting the white**, he began hazards. His judgement of strength improved as he went on, & eventually he was scoring with machine-like accuracy, using first one **middle** pocket & then the other, & giving Hobart Smith a great deal of **walking** exercise. When the second century mark was reached there was suppressed applause, & it broke out again for a moment when he had made 300. When the fourth century had been passed the "house" was at very high tension, but very quiet. It was not until he had made **432** that the boy broke down at one of those awkward long losers that have already been referred to. It was the **greatest** break that he has ever made in **public**, & he was most heartily applauded.

The champion had made 62 when the clock striking 10 brought a splendid session to the time limit. The game now stands:-- Walter Lindrum -- 7,959. Fred Lindrum (in play) -- 7,923.

.....The match for the championship of Australasia, in which Walter Lindrum has challenged his brother, the holder of the title, reached the first stage on Saturday, April 15, with the younger player leading by 786.... The champion was fortunate enough to make what is said to be a **world's record** on April 14, with a remarkable run of **173 consecutive nursery cannons** in a break of 532. He began these cannons behind the **spot**, & succeeded in carrying the balls **past** the **middle** pocket, & from that point right round to the opposite **middle** pocket. It will be seen that he had steered the balls past **four pockets**, & had driven them for about **27ft**, before he had to break the string. Getting past the middle pocket is not in itself an exceptionally difficult feat --- **Reece**, for example, did it on one or two occasions when he was playing in Australia --- the difficulty lies in leaving the balls in position to go on scoring. The playing, too, has to be true to a hair's breadth at the **baulk** end, because if there is the slightest **error** in position the player cannot recover by potting the red as he could at the spot end of the table.

It is noticeable that neither of the players has seriously attempted to use the **hazard**.....the play has been at the **spot end**, though there have been several fine runs of **nursery cannons**..... the play showed a further improvement during the second week..... Walter Lindrum.... On Tuesday afternoon he made 252, almost solely with cannons & hazards; & in this break he showed remarkably good **control** of the **white**, which he would keep **just moving behind the spot**, always bringing it **off the top-cushion** to the **same position again**..... On Wednesday Walter Lindrum made a great effort, & it was all that the champion could do to hold his own. They were continually **passing & repassing**. Walter made seven breaks over the century, two of these being over 200. Fred Lindrum, who with much strenuous play had caught up 300, had secured a lead of 59 at the end of the evening session. It was remarked that he was not only playing very well, but with extraordinary care also. As a rule, he ticks off **nursery cannons** at the rate of **one a second**, & even faster, but he was playing them **very slowly** on this occasion, & the same unusual deliberation marked his play generally.

Possibly the finest session of the match was that on Thursday afternoon --- the last but one. There were only 11 cues, & as Fred made 857 his average was just over 77. Walter's average was 65. In spite of the heavy scoring on both sides, the session occupied only one hour & 50 minutes.....The end was rather disappointing, for, while most people expected to see the champion win, there seemed every possibility of a close game. Fred, however, was not to be denied, & in six visits he got his last 700, so that his average was over 116. Walter did practically nothing.

A curious incident occurred in this session, & it was one that might have easily lost Lindrum the game if he had not had so much in hand. He had a close follow-through cannon to play, with his ball almost touching the first object-ball. With a clever delivery he made a sort of **stun run-through**. So far as the spectators could see, there was no suspicion whatever of a "foul". Lindrum turned to the marker & said, "Was that a foul?". The marker, who was not in a position to see the shot clearly, at once called a **foul & spotted** the balls. The champion got one of the surprises of his life. However, he should not have asked the question. After the balls were spotted he made one or two

shots & then broke down (sic?). Speaking of this incident when the game was over, the marker said that he had been under the impression that Lindrum told him that it was actually a foul.

..... The game was called:-- Fred Lindrum --- 14,000. Walter Lindrum --- 13,285.

On Tuesday Fred Lindrum will commence a match with Clark McConachy, the champion of New Zealand, giving him 2,000 in 18,000. The game will be played at Alcock's Parlour.

..... When play was resumed on April 14 in the billiard match between **Newman & Gray**, Newman's score stood at 16,351, Gray being 1,503 behind. However, the Australian scored 1,202 during the session, including breaks of **584 & 601**. Gray failed to catch his opponent in the evening session, & the match ended with the positions as follows:--Newman (receives 2,000) 18,000. Gray 17,589.

Owing to the Easter holidays, Mr Fred Lindrum, sen..... has decided that, in place of playing their match for the championship of 16,000 up (which would necessitate play on Good Friday), the points shall be reduced to **14,000**, so that play may end on Thursday evening.....

JOHN ROBERTS. Nearly twenty years must have elapsed since i visited **Greenbushes** (W.A.) with a Ministerial party. Having time on our hands before breakfast, another reporter from Perth & myself prevailed on Lindrum, senior --- then a **hotelkeeper** in the town --- to let us use his billiard table. As **marker** we had the services of the present Australian champion. Young Fred was scarcely tall enough to reach over the table, & yet, we were informed, he had made a half-century break on the previous night..... Walter Lindrum also received an early grounding in the art..... Watching them at the table together last week, i speculated mentally whether any pair in the world could match them..... **John Roberts** has cabled, through Alcock & Company Proprietary, with the object of getting Walter to play in England under his management for two or three years.

THE LINDRUM BROTHERS BY THE BOSS

They stand out alone as the most versatile pair of billiardists that Australia has produced..... **Walter Lindrum** holds the world's record break (under present rules) of **1417** against HW Stevenson, & his two other breaks that followed were **333 & 461**, which gives a total of **2211**.

Tom Newman's total for three successive breaks as given a few days ago in the cables, playing against Inman totalled **2113**; viz. **558, 705 & 850**. According to the cables Newman's performance is described as a world's record for three successive breaks. My opinion is that Walter Lindrum holds the record in that respect, for the reason Lindrum scored more points & made his breaks on a 3¼ inch pocket, & consider the Australian standard pocket **more difficult** than the English standard pockets, & is only known to first-class billiard players that has had the experience of playing on both English & Australian tables. **Fred Lindrum, jun**, is very close up to the above two great scoring feats, as, playing against Tom Reece, Fred Lindrum, jun, made three successive breaks of **1239, 581 & 184** --- total **2001**. A billiard match between the Lindrum Bros. is likely to take place at Alcock's Billiard Hall early in May next. The game is to be 16,000 up, with afternoon & evening sessions, the sessional points being 666.....

WALTER LINDRUM V CLARK MCCONACHY SYDNEY NOV 1916

Those who remained away from the match between boy champion Walter Lindrum & Clark McConachy, the New Zealand champion, had no **soul** for billiards, & they missed a regular treat in displays of elegant billiards in every department of the game. I could sit all night & watch this marvellous youngster. Walter Lindrum, in his artistic displays at top-end billiards, in which he rattles up breaks with the equality, rapidity & brilliancy of a **Stevenson**. Already he is a past-master at the game, & as he is only 18, Heaven only knows how far he'll soar above all other living professionals by the time he reaches his majority. He is a **phenomenon** as a billiards expert, while as a son i am glad to be able to record the fact that he is affectionate & dutiful to a very good father & mother. Pere Lindrum stands in a most unique position, a position which i doubt has ever before been occupied by a father in sport. He has reared & placed before the public two sons, both champions in the same profession ; the former champion of Australia, & might easily have been champion of the world had he cared to sail for the title, the latter undoubtedly the boy champion of the world, & he is such an able performer now that i predict a deletion of the word "boy" before the coveted title, at a no distant date. If he goes to **England** after the **war**, he is certain to find backing for him to play for the world's championship. Should he play for such title, Walter will be the first Australian to have so competed, & he will have the best wishes of his large number of friends, that he may be the first to bring the world's riband to Australia. And now to McConachy, of whose fine ability i have already written. He is but **21** years of age, & as his vast knowledge of the game has been acquired without the tuition gained by seeing big professionals at work, he may be fairly dubbed a "wonder".

He has never been fortunate enough to see such fine experts of the cue as Roberts, Stevenson, Reece & Inman in the pit, &, that being so, with the knowledge displayed by him after but about **five** years practice, he will ere long notch his name high up on the billiard pro's barometer. **Mac** shows a pleasing difference from the general run of professional in the fact that he is possessed of a very genial disposition, is even-tempered, & devoid of anything approaching vindictiveness. It was refreshing to sit beside him & hear his fraternal comments on his little **cobber's** play, all the time wishing that the youngster would make a big break, & these excellent feelings culminated in an unostentatious display of his friendship & manly disposition towards his youthful opponent on Saturday evening when, after having being defeated by 3,645 points, he joined the public in the round of well-earned applause to Walter, & then with a broad school-boy smile on his happy-looking face, he hopped around the table, took Walter by the hand & heartily congratulated him.

Now, as billiards professionals go, the public thought a lot of this generous action, & rightly too, & when "One for the loser" was called, my! didn't he get a rousing reception --- & he well deserved it. I predict great things from Mac's cue ere long. N Krakeour & T Pierce, as marker & checker respectively, carried out their duties with satisfaction & care. Messrs Heiron & Smith, Limited, are to be congratulated upon the very excellent table furnished for this match --- but there, 'tis like endeavouring to paint the lily white to express the favorable eulogies of the players & public upon the excellence of the firm's work in this connection. The firm is fortunate in having such an excellent worker as its outdoor representative, Mr Percy Smith, who managed this affair with the thoroughness of a Ward or a Smythe. Mr Billy Salter, another of the firm's pillars, relieved at the marking, &, as on a previous occasion, he did so in admirable fashion. I could not close without a word or two of praise to our old friend, **Joe Andreoli**, who was ever

ready & most willing to do anything tending to the comfort of the players & public. **Joe** has a paternal affection for young Walter, who, while sucking his feeding bottle, knocked the balls about under **Joe's** wing & eagle eye. Good fellow, Joe.

Walter Lindrum 16,000. Clark McConachy 12,543. Century breaks by both players during the whole game :--Lindrum (50) --- 471, 413, 299, 283, 262, 261, 239, 228, 226, 220, 208, 199, 197, 190, 180,McConachy (33) --- 223, 189, 186, 181, 180, 170, 168, 166, 157, 154, 152, 148, 146, 145, 141.....

WALTER LINDRUM V E J CAMPBELL AUG 1917

A match of 18,000..... Walter Lindrum ...gives E J Campbell, the Victorian champion, 7,000, was commenced at Alcock's Parlor yesterday.....Lindrum played a remarkable scoring game, for his average in the afternoon was **109** & in the evening over **107**. He was depending on the **hazard** almost entirely, & possibly 90 percent of his hazards were made into the **centre pocket**..... Lindrum's breaks were --- 186, 353, 111, 357, 167, 239 (unfinished)..... Campbell had but few chances.....once... he ran up 109 at all round billiards..... In neither session did Campbell have much chance of stemming that **red tide** which, in spite of a start of 7,000, will overwhelm him soon unless he can dam it back more effectually..... But Lindrum, though scoring mainly with the aid of the red loser, did not stick to it quite so persistently as on the previous day.... he relieved the tension occasionally by all-round & top-of-the-table play.

He is one of the fastest hazard scorers, for he devotes the minimum time to spotting. One point about his hazards is worth noting, for it is unusual. When the red comes up a little too far for an easy long loser, & yet not quite far enough for a loser into the centre pocket with the half-ball contact, Lindrum **drags** his ball over into the **centre-pocket** with **strong running side**. Played this way, it is considered very **difficult** to judge correct **strength**, but he seems to find no difficulty in recovering position.

Lindrum's breaks were --- 259 (full), 144, 303, 156, 93, 317, 136 (unfinished)..... The feature of play yesterday..... 532, nearly all off the red..... chiefly into the **centre pockets**.... Campbell.... endeavoured to get on dry ground with **coups**. Five of these he ran in succession, but, tho this temporarily checked Lindrum, it proved in the end to be of no "military advantage"..... Lindrum's breaks were --- 139, 92, 150, 60, 263, 89, 57, 532 (unfinished). Campbell, 79..... In the afternoon his average was 108, & in the evening 83.... Lindrum's breaks were -- 547 (full). 489, 289, 452, 107, 57 (unfinished)..... Large attendances were present..... Lindrum was in brilliant form.....After playing mixed billiards..... he resorted to red loser & made **529**. Campbell did better... than he has done... but never... a three figure break. Lindrum made 180, 100, 166, 220, 120, 119, 529..... On Saturday Walter Lindrum was in better form than ever. In the afternoon he gave Campbell an almost complete rest, for at this session his **average** was **187**, & he made a break of **610**, all off the **red** with the exception of the first two strokes

The flexibility of his play was shown by this break, for whereas he has been using the **centre** pockets for his hazards, & has made the **long loser** only to **recover position**, he now kept to the **end pockets**, & it was the **centre pocket** shot that was used for **position**.....

..... Campbell's small lead was melting like a snowball in sunshine, & towards the end of the session they were together with the scores at 8,965..... The principal breaks made by Lindrum during the day were --- 610, 102, 68, 209, 172, 84 (unfinished). Campbell made 69 & 35.

..... As it was obvious that Campbell, after being passed at the half-way stage, had no hope of winning the match of 18,000 which was first arranged, it was decided that Walter Lindrum should be considered the winner, & that **another game of 9000** should be commenced, Lindrum conceding **3,500** points.

The first session of the new match took place... before a good attendance.... spectators were relieved when Lindrum practically abandoned the hazard for all-round & top-of-the-table play. He will not resort to the red this game unless he is obliged to do so through losing the white. After so much red-ball play it might have been thought that his delivery would have been somewhat stiff for the more delicate manipulation required at the spot-end; but this redoubtable young player showed that such was not the case, for from the first his touch was nearly perfect. At both sessions he gave a delightful exhibition of three-ball billiards..... The feature of the day's play was Lindrum's fine **all-round break for 455**..... The principal breaks were : Lindrum, 197, 155, 137, 74, 79, 136, 455 ; Campbell, 81, 58, 72..... Playing all-round & top-of-the-table billiards, & leaving the red hazard entirely in abeyance, Walter Lindrum.... has been scoring heavily.... on Wednesday afternoon his **average** was **150**, & as he got his sessional points of **750** in just **50** minutes, he was scoring at the rate of 15 a minute..... The breaks were --- Lindrum --- 132, 204, 152, 195, 106, 110, 421, 60, 65, 266, 128, 111, 83, 128. Campbell --- 64, 64, 55, 98, 61, 42, 151, 71, 43, 35, 35, 32, 88.

..... The **Victorian champion** was doing fairly well.... but was showing nothing like his best form.... he scores well for a while, only to fail at perfectly easy shots..... Lindrum --- 139, 258, 94, 217, 69, 87, 139, 80, 86, 63 (unfinished). Campbell --- 83, 48, 44, 52..... Walter Lindrum passed Campbell (recommend 3,500) yesterday in the match of 9,000 up.... Lindrum, 7500; Campbell, 6,714.

(Frank H Hart -- 5 September 1917).....The break of 455 on Monday evening testified to Walter's skill in the higher branches of his art. What chance would George Gray have against the younger Lindrum on recent figures? Mighty little, i am afraid. Yet the bogey of prestige is such that Gray would almost certainly decline to meet his young rival on level terms.

WALTER LINDRUM V TED THOMPSON 9,000 UP

St George's Lesser Hall.... 9,000 up.... Thompson being allowed 4,500..... both sessions were well attended.... The visitor... made a break of **534** unfinished... & in the evening increased it to **594**. His other breaks were 146, **233**, 236, 118, & 83 unfinished. Thompson's best were 42, 45, 31, & 24.... Lindrum 1,500; Thompson 4,731..... Lindrum made a fine break of **528** at all-round billiards, which did not include a **nursery cannon** of note..... other breaks were, 119, 146, **224**, 110, 171 unfinished. The last mentioned break included **two** strings of **nursery cannons**. Thompson's best efforts were 25 & 23.....last night.... the visitor... made... 183, 199, **394**, 152, 172 & **207**. Thompson... 43 & 33..... on Saturday.... Lindrum, 98, 220, 272, 171 & **489** (in **21** minutes). Thompson's best was 68. The final scores were:--- Lindrum, 9,000; Thompson (received 4,500) 5,841. best breaks on Monday.... 187., 136, 98, 95, 101, **214**, **214**, & 100 unfinished. Yesterday he added three to the last-mentioned.... &... **266**, 190, 169, 151, & **348** unfinished. Thompson's best... 48, 60. This afternoon Lindrum & Thompson will commence a series of **three** games of **2,000** up, Thompson receiving a start of **1,000**..... At the conclusion of each session there will be **three** games of

snooker, & Lindrum will give **fancy shot exhibitions**. A break of **25** won the **cue competition**.

WALTER LINDRUM V TED THOMPSON 2000 UP

Walter Lindrum made a break at all-round billiards of **629** unfinished, in a half-hour's play..... others.... 193 & 128..... Thompson... 69 & 42. The snooker games... two each... Lindrum's best breaks... 49, 45, & 41 ; Thompson 24..... The visitor... ran it into **692**. His other breaks were **290**, 119, 124, & 70 unfinished. Thompson... 90 & ... 48 & 42.

WALTER LINDRUM V TED THOMPSON 3000 UP

At St George's Lesser Hall... Lindrum conceding 1,500 start..... Lindrum's breaks... 76, 71, **252**, 193 unfinished, & Thompson 48... last night Walter Lindrum carried his unfinished break of **301**... to **901** unfinished... Thompson did not get an innings. Lindrum's others... **220** & **240** in **eight** minutes..... yesterday afternoon Walter Lindrum continued... & ended at **1237**, **two** points behind his brother's record of **1,239**, made by **Fred**... against **Tom Reece**.... other breaks... 96, 193, **274** & 192. Thompson's... 47, 42, 52 & 37.

WALTER LINDRUM V MAURITZ 500 UP

Mauritz (receiving 300) ... at the St George's Lesser Hall. Mauritz only scored **21**... Lindrum... made... **537** at all-round billiards... In the evening's game... (same start) Mauritz only scored **12**.... breaks... 119, **238** & 137 unfinished. At snooker Lindrum won **three** out of **four** games... losing one game on the black. Lindrum's best... **82**, 45, 41 & 37.

APPLAUSE HEARD 500 MILES AWAY THE ADVERTISER 5 APRIL 1918

One would think that the person honored would be deeply moved by applause that could be heard 500 miles away. The particular acclamation referred to, though spontaneous and genuine, was not in thunderous volume, but nevertheless it was heard 500 miles distant. The brothers Lindrum were the subjects of applause which achieved the distinction mentioned. On Easter Monday night, when the two billiardists were nearing the completion of their 10 days match at the Palace Billiard Halls, Rundle-street, their father, in Melbourne, called up by long distance telephone Mr PJ Brady, the manager of Palace Halls, on a matter of business. He enquired whether the match was finished , & Mr Brady, knowing that Walter Lindrum was very close to his points, told the father, in Melbourne, to listen intently. Almost immediately there was a burst of applause from the next room, where the match was in progress. "That acclaims Walter the winner", he said to Mr Lindrum, sen, who distinctly heard the cheering.

WALTER LINDRUM BREAKS TWO WORLD'S RECORDS

In the last two sessions of the billiard match of 10,000 up at Mildura Recreation Club, Fred Lindrum maintained a slight lead over Walter Lindrum.... At the afternoon session neither player was taking risks, & consequently Fred's average was only 47 & Walter's 65..... At the evening... Fred made **504** by a splendid exhibition. At Walter's fourth visit he broke two world's records & a district record. He made **638** points in **16** minutes, which is a **world's record for fast scoring**, & also the **world's record for sequence of nursery cannons**..... The final scores.... Fred, 10,000 ; Walter, 9914. In the final session Fred averaged **89** & Walter **98**.

CUE MAGIC 333 IN 9 MINUTES

Walter Lindrum in one hand put together a spectacular break of 333 in nine minutes in his game with Fred Lindrum yesterday. His mastery over the balls in getting them into good position was remarkable.....

BILLIARDS AT MERBEIN

A large assemblage of Merbein residents assembled at the spacious billiard saloon of Mr Harry Gray Bishop on Monday evening last to witness a billiard match of 800 up between Walter & Fred Lindrum, among the spectators being nearly a dozen ladies..... Walter put together 15 on his fifth visit, Fred responding with a nice break of 54, top-of-the-table play being interspersed with a run of **nursery cannons**..... **Fred**... got the balls in position & ran to 61 with a series of **nursery cannons** along the top-cushion, the break finishing at 69 on a difficult screw shot..... **Fred** strung together an attractive break of 158, of which practically the whole of the first hundred was from a series of **nursery cannons** along the top-cushion & carried down along the side cushion to the **centre pocket**..... **Walter**, breaking away & getting the balls in position, put on 100 from nursery cannons &, following with an exhibition of all-round-the-table play, brought the break to 238..... Walter went to the table 24 times for his **800**, his average being **33**; while Fred... **653**... an average of **28**.

WALTER LINDRUM AFTER GRAY

..... Walter's father has publicly announced in the papers this week that Walter is prepared to concede Gray half the game in 18,000 up, with a close limitation on the losing hazards; or, if such a limitation does not suit, Walter will take Gray on at the Queenslander's own game, & give him a concession of 1,000 start..... Fred... said... his son would much prefer to play the all-round game... as he felt certain that the public were **tired** of the red loser. There are plenty of amateurs who can make breaks of 200 or 300 from the red ball who would be hard put to make a run of 50 or 60 at all-round billiards..... So far as backing is concerned, there was plenty of money for his son to stiffen the challenge..... The terms of Lindrum's challenge are most generous --- too generous, in fact. Great player as the lad is, I am doubtful of his conceding Gray half the game..... though Gray does specialise on the red, he is not such a dunce at all-round billiards as the start would indicate. The challenge to concede one thousand in 18,000 is the better proposition for Lindrum..... unless Gray has been concealing his form, which is doubtful.

What Gray requires is a vigorous course of the practice which his father insisted on when George was in the knicker-bocker stage. I will be much surprised if the challenge is not accepted --- it is generous in the extreme, from a boy of 19, who has never left his native country, to such a seasoned & travelled player as the one-time red-ball marvel.

STEVENSON IN SYDNEY

England's most brilliant cueist, hero of many most strenuous battles & builder of a long chain of colossal breaks & averages, Harry W Stevenson, arrived in Sydney yesterday by the s.s. Roggeveen from Java. Stevenson is accompanied by his wife & little daughter, Joan, & the party left England in the latter part of last year for South Africa, where the ex-champion played a number of games with Harveson & Ferraro. He was very successful, & his form was of the best, his best break being over **700**. The **Apostle of Touch** afterwards headed for India, & played Bombay, Madras, & Calcutta. Manilla in the Philippines, was next, & thence on to Hong Kong, Yokahama, Singapore, & Java, etc.

The genial one looks well & just a wee bit older than when last here in 1911. Naturally he was very busily occupied attending to the family luggage & i had but a brief chat with him prior to going to press. He stated that he felt very fit, & that he was playing in good form. He laughingly said, "Still good enough to turn on a 700 or 800 just to please the public". Our weather, he remarked, was agreeable to his health, & he feels sure his billiards will please the public taste. I reminded him that he was to be up against a rough diamond in young Walter Lindrum, & he answered that he understood so, but that if the lad stuck to the all-round game at which he is known to be a pastmaster, the public will enjoy an interesting battle.

Regarding the "**all-red**" route Stevenson remarked that while it was open to Lindrum to play as he deemed fit, he thought the public had already been well fed up with that class of play, & something more spicy & entertaining in the way of all-round or top-of-the-table billiards would be furnished. We here know the great powers of young Lindrum as a threeball player, in every department of the game, & we are glad of the opportunity offered him to pit his ability against this highly seasoned artist, all the more because it is considered by some that he can hold his own against the world's best &, that being so, it is hoped he will meet the Englishman at his own game, **all round** & **spot-end** billiards, when, should he win, his reputation will assuredly be enhanced beyond expectation. Stevenson is to be publicly welcomed by Home Recreation Limited (Heiron & Smith) in the show-rooms at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

STEVENSON & WALLY SYDNEY 1922

The billiard match of 16,000 up between HW Stevenson (England) & Walter Lindrum (Australia) commenced at the Champion Billiard Room, Bathurst St, yesterday afternoon. It is Stevenson's first public appearance here, after an absence of 19 years, & the opening sessions were well attended..... Stevenson was clearly out of touch, his best effort being 74. Lindrum started confidently, & compiled breaks of 149, 146, & 101 unfinished..... carried his 101... to 248, breaking down on a red loser. He followed this with an excellent 106, failing by a **miscue**. Then he compiled an attractive 111 off the red ball, winding up the session with an 84 unfinished. Stevenson again could not get going, & failed to register a break over 50. He broke down on the easiest shots..... (afternoon 67 to 235, & evening 1334 to 379).

..... By excellent all-round billiards..... took his score to 243. He later put together breaks of 132, 100, 133, and 71, while Stevenson's best were 42, 62, & 41..... Stevenson started early with a 40 & followed with a fine 151..... then Stevenson gave his best exhibition to date. Mostly from **nursery cannons**, he ran to 205, & broke down on a centre pocket loser from the middle of the table..... Shortly after the Englishman compiled another 151, again relying chiefly on **nursery cannons**..... Lindrum... put up a splendid 139. He got another chance soon afterwards, **potted the white**, & got 84 off the red ball..... Stevenson did not add many more when Lindrum set the red **waving up & down** the table once more. He made a magnificent unfinished break of 138 off the one ball..... (afternoon 1998 to 650, & evening 2645 to 1252).

..... Lindrum commenced..... with an unfinished 138. This he carried to 218. Later... 198, 117, 247, & the best Stevenson could make were 58, 48, & 96..... At night the Australian took his unfinished effort to 72, every point coming from the red. Shortly after he **potted the white** & ran up a nice 64, mostly with **centre pocket losers**..... Lindrum added a 134.... the result of interesting play at the **top of the table**..... Then

Stevenson found a touch, & put together a fine 141 break. He fell down on the easiest **centre** pocket loser from baulk. Both men played safe for a while, Lindrum finding the first opening. He got busy at the top of the table, & registered a beautiful break of 222..... (afternoon 3330 to 1471, & evening 3996 to 1783).

..... At the afternoon session Lindrum..... his unfinished 69... he carried up to 139, & 94. Stevenson made.... 82. A favorite shot of Lindrum's is to **pot his opponent's ball** to play off the red. By this means he added another 82. In the evening the Australian gave the finest exhibition of the match. After compiling a break of 118, Lindrum made a nice opening, & by versatile billiards brought play to a close with a magnificent break of **411** unfinished. His score was the result of all-round play, but the majority of the points came from **nursery cannons** & work at the top of the table. He was loudly applauded..... (afternoon 4254 to 1958, & evening 5,333 to 2,413).

..... The young champion commenced the afternoon with an unfinished break of 441, which he took to **541**. Lindrum later compiled a beautiful red-ball break of **474**.....Stevenson's visits ... produced.... 96 &... 172..... The night session found the Australian in the same splendid form. He ran up a neat break of 102 off the red, & followed with 168 off the red, & two superb totals of 252 & 235..... Stevenson had few opportunities..... 138. Stevenson frequently **walked from the room** while Lindrum was in the middle of a break. It is a **disconcerting** practice..... (afternoon 6000 to 2797, & evening 6667 to 2948).

..... On Saturday afternoon, Lindrum made a perfect break of **400** off the red, in reply to which Stevenson only contributed an 85. The Australian again had matters his own way at night, when he reached the allotted total for the session with a magnificent unfinished break of **410**. Stevenson's best & only break was seven..... (afternoon & evening 8001 to 3036).

..... Yesterday afternoon the young champion compiled breaks of 63, 432, 55, & 68 (unfinished). The big total was the result of delightful play at the top of the table. Lindrum continued his unfinished break at night, & ended at **359**, all off the red ball. Stevenson failed after scoring 3, & Lindrum's next visit resulted in a masterly compilation of **313**, made by top of the table play. Stevenson scored six from a white loser & two cannons, & again broke down..... During Lindrum's 313 effort Stevenson **interrupted** him, complaining that he had placed his ball **out of baulk** when about to make a shot. The few words that passed did not seem to affect Lindrum.....(afternoon & evening 9331 to 3250).

..... Walter Lindrum made a magnificent unfinished break of **1273** off the red ball in his match against HW Stevenson yesterday. He commenced the break in the afternoon, when he made **604**, &, continuing at night, carried his score to **1273**. Naturally nearly all the shots were **centre pocket losers**, but the young champion played the **bottom pocket losers** with the same confidence & accuracy. He was enthusiastically applauded at the conclusion of the night's play. Lindrum has broken the Australasian record of **1239**, established by his brother Fred, at Melbourne in **1911**. But he has yet to make **2196** to reach **George Gray's** break, which is a world's record. In the afternoon Stevenson made breaks of 98, 144, 102, & 122; but he did not have a shot at night.....(afternoon & evening 10,668 to 3,618).

Walter Lindrum..... yesterday carried his unfinished break of 1273 to **1417**. The entire score, with the exception of **two** cannons, was made off the red, & for **bonzoline balls**

it is a world's record. Actually, however, the record break is **2196** (unfinished), established by George Gray in England in 1919; but this was made with **crystalate** balls, & Lindrum's wonderful achievement will be noted in the billiard annals. When the Australian "broke down" (he failed on a bottom pocket losing hazard) Stevenson had a chance, but did no good. Lindrum then made breaks of 66, 325, & 114 (unfinished). Continuing his break at night, Lindrum made 158..... the Englishman.....By spectacular billiards... produced... 122, 59, & 172, the latter being a particularly fine effort. After compiling two 85's Lindrum set the red ball going, with the white in baulk, & ran up to 281, when he decided to brighten the game with some cannon play. The result was a delightful exhibition of all-round billiards, & when the allotted score had been reached the Australian's break was 458 (unfinished)..... (afternoon & evening 12,000 to 4,042).
Lindrum... during the afternoon session... made breaks of 461 & 155. Stevenson's best... a prettily compiled 298. In the evening Lindrum was again in good touch, & made a fine break of 378, mainly by top-of-the-table play. He also made breaks of 182 & 114 (unfinished). Stevenson's best... was 115..... (afternoon & evening 13,332 to 5,178)..... yesterday afternoon the Australian carried his... 458 to 513..... Stevenson's best was a nicely compiled 331. At night Lindrum's unfinished effort ended at 134, & later he made breaks of 104, 52, 121, 113, 70, & 59 (unfinished). Stevenson put together 90, 103, 40, & 138.....(afternoon & evening 14,666 to 5,937).
 Walter Lindrum... won easily with a margin of 9457 points on Saturday night. Stevenson played doggedly right to the end, but failed to amass half the score made by his youthful opponent. During the afternoon session Lindrum compiled 665 points to Stevenson's 150, while at night he scored further breaks of 390, 281, & 137. Stevenson made further breaks of 126, 123, & 47.... Lindrum 16,002, Stevenson 6545. In a statement made at the conclusion of the contest Stevenson expressed **surprise** at the tactics adopted by Lindrum throughout the game. He said that he had expected Lindrum to play round the table billiards, whereas he had **monotonously** scored off the red. Lindrum denied the charge made by Stevenson that he had scored all his points off the red ball. he stated that less than **6000** points were obtained by him through this particular class of billiards. Lindrum repeated his previous statement that he had no immediate intention of going to England, but would return to Melbourne next week to play a series of games there.

HALF-WAY STEVENSON & WALLY BY SNOOKER

Walter Lindrum, on receiving his billiard baptism against a world's champion last week, came through with the astounding average of 78.67 for a whole week's play..... His top run, the 541, was mostly made at the top of the table..... but towards the end of the week..... he left that more attractive class of billiards for the more prolific red loser. Asked as his reason, he simply said ;

"The red hazard returns three points, cannons only two. I can play both systems equally well, so why should one take two points when the rules allow you to get three by an almost as easy method? Besides, some friends have been good enough to lay me goodly sums of money to nothing about making a thousand break, & i am after it, by way of least resistance --- the three to two way".

That about sums up the position, even more so than the claim that the **red ball** of **Stevenson's set** (which they have been playing with for the latter half of the week) is said by Walter to be **out of true**, so much so that he prefers to have it in the **middle** of the table rather than along the **top** cushions.

Walter Lindrum disclosed his billiards brilliance by defeating HW Stevenson, the English ex-champion, by more than half the game, making a world's record break of **1417** & a record average for 16,000 up. The billiard match finished on Saturday was full of thrills, & the young Australian, in his first real big game, delighted admirers by displays of the finest all-round billiards ever seen in the State. He was at home in every phase of the game. It mattered not whether the position demanded was soft treatment along the top cushions, massed runs round the billiard spot, or the robust long & short losing hazards. It was all the same. He just played the game the position warranted. If the white was hanging over the jaw of a pocket it was holed, & the red gone on with, & it was from this source that he gathered quite a lot of points, including most of the world's record run of 1417. The white was in the way when that break started, & he perforce had to go on with the red, which he did with such great accuracy & true cueing that he held the table for the greater part of three sessions.

On other occasions he hardly bothered the red at all. On Saturday he gathered nearly all of his points in the two sessions at the **top end**, & only went **into hand** on **six** occasions when compiling breaks of 270, 390 & 281, which were made in successive visits to the table. Certainly in the early part of the week he did **flog** the red ball perhaps unduly. But while that stroke has the imprimatur of the controllers of the game, & has a greater value placed on it by them than other strokes, it would be rank heresy & foolish to neglect it.

The recent alterations of rules have made it necessary that all records under those rules should date from the time of their adoption --- August, 1919 --- hence the figures made by George Gray & other big compilers do not now take the count. That is the reason why Tom Newman's world record of **1274**, made at the beginning of the present year, held sway until Wednesday last. This is confusing to those who do not keep up to time with the variants of billiards. Newman's break was made with **ivory** balls, which the professionals consider superior to **composition** balls as playing material, otherwise they would not use them in their championships & other big matches.

In the late match the playing material was the popular **Bonzoline** ball, which is mostly used in the British Dominions; so, if the English argument is sound, Lindrum's world record is even better than the figures indicate. It certainly may be said that as it was not made by what is called all-round billiards, it is not so valuable a record as if it had been made with three balls. But such an argument is mere fudge. That method, despite anything to the contrary, is not only lawful, but, to my mind, more **skilful** than a lot of the **monotonous** play which takes place round the billiard **spot**, & more **skilful** than runs of close **ball-to-ball** cannons, which American & Continental cueists can run for days & days without falling down.

The young Australian is just as proficient as any player i have ever seen at what is called top-of-the-table play. Take his 541 break on the first Friday, almost wholly made from all-round billiards. The 422 on the second Monday came from the same source; & so on in many sessions. But, to take an even more concrete example: During the two sessions on the closing day Lindrum scored 1335 points to Stevenson's 600. With the exception of 43 losers (129), all of these points were made at the top of the table with such celerity that the youth looked like going out in two sticks, until he slackened off. This rate of scoring was pretty well the same as the rate right through the game --- about a five to two gait.

And i am certain that had Lindrum discarded the red altogether there would not have been a much greater difference in the aggregate scores. My reason is that were he not on the red he would have been at the top of the table, where he proved his excellence so frequently. Reading the result, those who did not watch the game may say: "Oh, Stevenson was out of form!" Such a conclusion is wrong. At times he played as well as i have ever seen him do during the many years i have been an admirer. The 298 & the 331 breaks were equal in cueing to anything he has ever done. They were almost perfect breaks, & the wonder was that he ever broke down; but, as a well-known authority on billiards wrote a while back: "Stevenson's play, as a rule, is not consistent. When in form he is hard to beat, scores very quickly at the top of the table, is a stylish player, but **weak** at **forcing** hazards from **baulk**". That was written some years ago, but is as true to-day as when penned. During the late match he was continually getting into trouble with **covers**, & had to get out with **masse**' & other more or less difficult strokes. His troubles reminded me of a criticism of a former Premier of this State by a colleague: "Yes; he is clever, but it takes him all his time to get out of troubles that he should never have got into". And that about fills the bill as a criticism of the ex-champion's billiards. He is still weak on long losers if they have to be forced, & was never happy in their execution.

One of the reasons why Stevenson does not play the red ball to any extent is that he is weak on that stroke. He does not play it as Lindrum & other Australians, either as a **run-through** or **half-ball** stroke, with the result that he **loses position** in a couple of shots or so. A friend who is intimate with Stevenson told me that he mentioned this weakness, & his reply was: "In my **young** days we did not play the stroke your way, & i am **too advanced in years** to alter my system".

Personally, i am really sorry that Stevenson did not make a bolder bid for victory; but in meeting our **23** year old youngster he was up against the stiffest proposition of his billiards career --- not excepting when he met **John Roberts** at Caxton Hall. The youth was out to win, & by as many as possible, even though he relaxed in his resolve on a few occasions. The meeting with a player with the world-wide reputation of Stevenson, was what he had been waiting for since his teens. And why should he neglect the opportunity of proving his worth when it comes his wa?

That eminent writer on English billiards, Mr George Reid, in commenting on the performance of **Newman's** world's record in January, remarked: "I have searched a quarter of a century's notes & diary in vain to find a parallel of a fortnight's play that yielded over **70** to the winner..... Newman averaged over a **hundred** on **nine** occasions, & made breaks of **609**, **606**, & **582**, returning the marvellous average of **68.66** for the **16,000**.

Let us compare those figures with Lindrum's during the recent match. They will give a line as to the abilities of the English champion & our youth. Lindrum also averaged over the **century** on **nine** occasions, several greater than the second century, & one the whole of the points for the session, while the breaks that flowed from his cue were 48 over the century, comprising runs of 1417, 541, 477, 474, 461, 454, 422, with others of lesser scoring value; while his average for the whole game was **77.33**.

While the table provided by Home Recreations. Limited, was an excellent specimen of their handicraft & played splendidly, the room was not constructed to hold crowds such as flocked to the game, & towards the right baulk end it **dipped** slightly --- sufficient to make the red ball roll **half an inch** or so in its dying strength. That was the only

blemish, & that it did not affect the play to any extent was proved by Lindrum's great break from that end of the table.

Walter Lindrum 16,002 (ave 77.33) HW Stevenson 6,545 (ave 31.61)

Lindrum (48): 1417 (world's record), 541, 513, 477, 474, 461, 454, 422, 390, 359, 333, 313, 281, 278, 270, 252, 248, 243, 235, 222, 210, 205, 182, 158.....

Stevenson (20): 351, 298, 203, 172, 151, 151, 151, 144, 144, 142, 141, 138, 138, 126.

STEVENSON & WALLY ETC

When taking a **flashlight** of the billiard match last week, the operator forgot to turn off an electric fan behind the flash, with the result that the **acid** was blown across the **cloth** & burned it so much that Home Recreations, Limited, had to put a new cloth at a cost of about 28 pounds for the next session --- rather smart work. **Walter Lindrum**, who was standing close by, had a narrow escape, the **acid** just grazing his **eye** & **hand**. Complaint has been made in the daily press at Stevenson **leaving** the room while Lindrum is in break. It might appear **discourteous** to an opponent, but the visitor explains that the continual **watching** of the red ball rolling up & down the table affects his **eyes**, which is the reason why he seeks the outer.....

BILLIARD SQUIBS

Stevenson..... should learn many fine points..... during his visit..... The **cue tip** should be in perfect order at least **three days** before commencing a big match. Stevenson's cut tip did not seem to please him during the progress of the game against Walter Lindrum at Sydney. Perhaps Walter was scoring too fast. **Sand-papering** the cue at the table whilst his opponent is in play is prohibitive. A first class player, after holing his opponent & the red left for an easy losing hazard, usually goes on with the red ball play, instead of giving **double baulk**. Stevenson pots the white & **double baulk**. There are very few professionals that can play the losing hazard to the extent of a 300 break. What seemed to annoy Stevenson was Walter Lindrum's fine all round play, & followed by a break off the red, 541 top-end play & 474 red. After the 474 break Stevenson went to the table & played a stroke before the applause subdued. Very few professionals can play both, *vis*, red-ball & top-end play.

"I'll wait for you love & you wait for me love" is out of date in Australia.

Iron the table after every session is the custom in Australia, done by a man that knows what heat to put in the iron. The balls washed before each session, & not carried about in a greasy pocket..... There is a likelihood of Stevenson withdrawing from his contract of playing Walter Lindrum three games. Perhaps the scores of the first game at Sydney did not please Stevenson..... There was an offer at City Tattersall's Club, Sydney, for Walter Lindrum to concede a start of 6000 in 16,000 to Stevenson. Walter Lindrum is prepared to give exhibitions at clubs country towns, hotels, etc. Address, Alcock & Co, Melbourne.

HALF-WAY STEVENSON'S FEW CHANCES

on the white ball in what is known as the "postman's-knock" shot, ie, with the white directly behind the billiard spot, from where he would pot the red, come out for position & play a rat-turnabout on to the white, driving the red over near the pocket, hole it & come back again for the cannon. Making 19 cannons & the same number of red winners shows the remarkable touch & accuracy of the youth's cueing. Just now he is capable of doing anything on the table, & were he well advised, he would, for the rest of the week, prove that he is more than Stevenson's equal at the form of billiards which the visitor is one of the world's exponents.

Most of the time Stevenson has been nursing his cue & getting eye-ache watching the youth in possession, & when his turn came little was left, or he was, in billiard parlance, "too cold" to take advantage of the position. At times he has played nicely indeed. His 205, & one of his 151 breaks were quite equal to his old-time form, but frequently he has gone out on easy shots, or failed to hold position. The reason is that he has not had enough play. Opponents sometimes are generous enough to give opportunities. But the Lindrums cannot forget that HWS against one of the family on his last trip, limited him to **25** reds, while running as many as he pleased himself. Further, Walter is out to win. "I always am & always will be", he told me last week, which certainly is a wise resolve, & one I agree with. Another axiom of the youth is that gate-money cuts no ice. "Let my opponent play his game. I will play mine, & as the late Sir Ross Smith put it, 'Australians are not **squealers**'." And that is about all there is to it.

..... I do not think they will meet again, although it is said that young Walter has backing to give Stevenson a fourth of the game in 18,000, & lay him 1000 pounds to 500 pounds on the result. That may only be talk.....

STEVENSON BY SNOOKER

As HW Stevenson has struck something like his old form, another meeting might be arranged with Walter Lindrum. If the rules were not departed from in the way of the restriction which Stevenson made in his games with Frank Smith & Fred Lindrum, & Walter was to concede, say, 4000 in 16,000, the game would be a big draw, especially in Melbourne..... I noticed that the visitor is playing the loser in much better shape than in his first game, & he might avail himself of its scoring strength in the same way as the leaders of billiards are doing in England. It would be a pity if Stevenson was to depart without recovering some of the prestige lost in the opening game with the youthful Australian.

..... That billiards has advanced from a point-making standpoint there can be no denial. But it is doubtful if the comparison for style & charm is comparable with that of John Roberts or HW Stevenson of 20 years or so ago. It is the astonishing consistency & brilliancy of the young players that surprises.

For the past few years --- ever since George Gray startled the billiard world --- the standard of breaks has been **galloping** upwards, where before it only **jogged** along. Take Walter Lindrum's recent **hurricane** performances, **Newman's** recent breaks over the tenth hundred, or champion **Smith's** six runs over the 500 in successive days --- 744, 690, 598, 562 & 573 --- when opposed to **Johnny Davis**, or his 534, 570, 752 & 715 in successive days in another game with **Melbourne Inman**. Both these performances were accomplished during March. What has the future in store? & who will be the equal of Smith, whom English critics proclaim the greatest billiard player that ever looked along a cue in England, not even excepting the great **John Roberts**?

LINDRUM ANSWERS STEVENSON

Walter Lindrum... is **incensed** at the remarks attributed to HW Stevenson, the former champion..... published in "The Herald" on Saturday.... amounted to a charge of **monotonous** losing hazard play... & a consequent **slump** in the **receipts**. Fred Lindrum... speaking for his son... said....

"Apparently HW Stevenson did not like the fine exhibition at all-round billiards & losing hazard play given by Walter..... Walter's top-end play & **nursery cannon** play fairly outclassed Stevenson, & I have no hesitation in saying that Walter could concede Stevenson half the game start. For that reason Stevenson should not be entitled to

more than one-fourth of the gate receipts. In the late match in Sydney the **large attendance** was the result of Walter's big breaks & masterly play at the top of the table. The **gate receipts** were the heaviest up to date at Sydney, whereas in the match between Stevenson & Fred Lindrum, now being played, in which the latter is limited to **ten** hazards, the receipts are barely paying **expenses**. The losing hazard is really the **backbone** of all-round billiards, the same as the spot stroke is to top of the table play. How many losing hazard players can be found among billiardists who can make 300 off the red The Lindrum brothers of Australia, & **Darlington Smith**, of England, are perhaps the only players. The **middle pocket** loser becomes **monotonous**, but the **long loser** is a **beautiful** stroke. To show how popular the losing hazard became at Sydney, a break of 474 by Walter brought forth applause so great that Stevenson became **bewildered**, & went to the table & played a stroke before the **applause** subsided.

To give the public an idea of the fine breaks made by Walter at all-round billiards against Stevenson, the following may be quoted:--- 541 (made in 19 minutes), 513, 461, 454, 432, 390, 313, 281, 278, 270, 252, 248, 243, 235, 222 at all-round billiards. At losing hazard play the breaks were:--- 1417, 474, 472, 359, 333, 210, 205. Stevenson's best breaks were 331, 298, 203". Lindrum added that the only patron that asked for the return of his **money** in the match was a friend of Stevenson's.

SMITH'S GREAT VICTORY

Willie Smith's second championship win was full of merit. He won at the first time of asking, then stood out, & this year came in again, & on to victory. No player of recent years has had his success, & he should certainly commemorate the day he met old **Harry Gray**, & was induced to give up the **linotype keyboard** for the **cue**. Gray is a sort of billiard **foster-father** to the champion, & they should be proud of each other.....

LINDRUM BROTHERS IN ADELAIDE

Walking into a city billiard hall during the week, i asked the marker (writes M F) where i could find the Lindrum brothers. "Come this way", he said. I was introduced to a dapper young man, who was busy writing letters on one of the tables. It was the elder brother, **Fred**.

When did you begin playing billiards? i asked.

He smiled. I was nine years old when i started. He said. I practised eight hours a day for two or three years. My father made me practise **one** shot every day for six months. It was what is known as the **long losing hazard**. The red ball on the centre spot, you play from baulk, bringing the red ball back to the **centre** every time. I was **14** when i played my first match. I won, annexing the championship of Western Australia. In 1907 i wrested the championship of Australia from a great player of that period, **C Memmott**, & i have held it ever since. In late years i think it has only been on sufferance, however, as i consider my brother **Walter** is at present the best player in the world. With **Stevenson** in Sydney recently, in a match of 16,000 up, he won by over 9,000. Stevenson is in the front rank of the world's cueists.

Have you had any humorous experiences? I asked.

Yes. A chap strolled into our saloon in Melbourne one day, & said, "i'll give you 40 in a 100, sonny. (I was only a lad). Break'em up. I broke them up & went out. He turned to me & said, "That's pretty hot. How many will you give me? Well, i said, i can't say. I have never seen you play. I have played in some queer places & on some queer

tables. In Gippsland i once appeared on a table which had **blucher boots** nailed on to the wood for pockets. It took me some time to fish the balls out of the toes.

Who in your opinion is the hardest man to beat at the game?

Melbourne Inman is certainly the hardest. He is up to all the points which are likely to put a player off his game.

Walter, who had just walked in, & was sitting alongside, chipped in.

He employs all the tiddly winking, aggravating methods possible.

Is match playing a severe strain?

Undoubtedly, **Fred** answered. I always maintain that the hardest thing a crack billiard player has to do is to learn to sit down & watch the other man. **Reece**, for instance, is a player of high calibre, but he often beats himself. But if you'll excuse me, he said, I'll let **Walter** give you something now.

Do you, apart from your match games, practise much i asked the younger prodigy.

We sometimes have a knock around in the morning, but as for serious practice, i've had all i ever want to do. When i started i was about 10 years of age, & i was locked in a room for eight hours a day. I never even had the three balls. My father gave me one ball to practise with first. The idea is to start a beginner on the right track. Teach him to hit the ball correctly first & to handle his cue. After a few months i was allowed two balls, but it was a long time before i could bang away with the three. I think that is the reason why the majority of amateur players never advance beyond a certain stage. It is the hard gruelling one & two ball practise which gives a professional the necessary touch & action which enables him to do what is seemingly marvellous to the ordinary cueist. I can recommend some shots as a means of affecting improvement in young players. Slow screws, run throughs, long jinnies, & side screws, are shots which if practised assiduously, make for improvement. You enter the realm of touch when you master those shots.

Have you had any quaint experiences?

Many. I walked into a saloon in Melbourne one day, & a chap said, 'i'll give you forty in a hundred for a couple of bob'. I declined. He kept on pestering me & at last i said. 'i don't know if you know it or not, but my name is Lindrum'. He was a bit of a wag, & looking at me with a grin, he said. 'Oh, well, if that's the case i'll only give you twenty'.

I suppose you have to be careful & not let anything interfere with your form ??

Yes. I would not like to take on wharf lumping & then try to put up a hundred break. Billiards, as played by professionals is a big strain.

How do you account for the loss of form by **George Gray**? I asked.

We have that question asked us all over Australia. Walter replied. In my opinion it was because of his concentrating so much attention on the losing hazard & letting his other game go. When he lost control of the two-ball game he found that he could not regain his old form.

What is your favorite method of scoring?

In my recent match with Stevenson i made a break of **513** from **nursery cannons** & top of the table play in **fifteen** minutes. I think that is nearly a record for fast scoring. I would like to say i have had many tempting offers to go to England, but i consider that Australia is a much better proposition for the professional cueist. The only thing is the lack of good players here. In my match with Stevenson in Sydney the gate receipts were **600** pounds, & we turned fully **400** pound away. After all the expenses were paid, a trip to England would probably mean a reduction in my income.

The billiards match, 16,000 you, between Fred Lindrum, the champion of Australia, & Walter Lindrum, the holder of the world's record for a break (1,417), was resumed at the Palace Billiard Halls, Adelaide Arcade, on Tuesday, under the management of Mr **PJ Brady**. When play ceased on Monday evening the scores were:-- Fred Lindrum 1,332; Walter Lindrum 1,012. The former carried his break of 70 to 193 & gave an exceptionally fine exhibition of top-of-the-table play. Walter Lindrum did not get going so quickly, but when he found his touch he rattled up some nice breaks.

It was pleasing to the many onlookers to see that both players confined themselves chiefly to **nursery cannons** & top of the table play, so that the public were given an opportunity of witnessing a scientific game in which great skill is required. Although Fred Lindrum has held the Australian championship for 16 years, it was obvious that his equal has not yet been produced in the Commonwealth. At the close of the afternoon session the scores were:-- Fred Lindrum 2000; Walter Lindrum 1,304. The best breaks were:-- Fred Lindrum, 119, 66, 61, 191, 78, 56, & 50 (unfinished); Walter Lindrum, 191.

Play was resumed in the evening before a fair attendance. Walter Lindrum made a fine break of 205, compiled chiefly by **nursing** the balls the full length of **two** cushions & safely **passing the corner pocket**. While at the table he made **68** cannons. The scores at the close of play were:-- Fred Lindrum (in play), 2,668; Walter Lindrum, 1,920. The best breaks were:-- Fred Lindrum, 69, 87, 169, 110, 114 (unfinished); Walter Lindrum, 103, 128, 205. The match will be continued this afternoon.

WALTER LINDRUM ON TOUR KALGOORLIE 26 AUGUST 1922

The game of 8000 up between Walter Lindrum & **R Augustine** was continued yesterday afternoon. The Australian crack was in fine form & ran to his sessional points (800) in **50** minutes. And in the evening, when the game was resumed, he scored his points in **45** minutes. His chief breaks at both sessions were 361, 242, 91, 87, 363, & 210 unfinished. The closing scores were --- Lindrum (in play), 6400; Augustine, 4975..... the game will be resumed at 8 o'clock ... at the Palace Hotel billiard saloon.

GREEN TABLE TIDINGS THE BILLIARD PLAYER NOV 1953

Front Cover photograph. This photograph displays **the private Billiard room of Walter Lindrum, in the 30's, with a Table specially supplied by the firm of EJ Riley Limited**, of Accrington, Lancashire, of which we publish some interesting historical notes, in connection with our series on prominent Trade firms & personalities, in this issue. Around the walls of the room can be seen Certificates awarded by the BA&CC to Walter Lindrum for his outstanding achievements in Great Britain. The room & table attracted general attention & admiration in Melbourne.

[Wally replaced the Riley with a Duke (made by Alcocks in 189?) in 194?].

A Mosbro' (Derbyshire) licensee was fined 5 pounds & 35s costs or allowing two youths to play billiards in his Billiards room on a Sunday. Although the entrance-door was locked, a policeman espied the players & gained access by the back door.

We have learned from Mr EC (Ted) Lowe, Manager of Leicester Square Hall (London), of the death on November 25 of **Mr Percy Lucas**, of Chelsea. Mr Lucas, aged 74, had been a regular attendant at Billiards & Snooker events for half a century, & was known to all players, past & present. He knew the famous John Roberts, & sponsored William

Spiller, the old time professional, who made a spot barred break of 529 against Stevenson. Mr Lucas, a partner in the famous firm of Marshall, French & Lucas, was cremated at Putney Vale Cemetery, & Messrs Fred Davis, J Pulman, J Barrie, Sydney Lee, & AL Goundrill, with Miss Joyce Gardner & Mr Lowe, attended the funeral. We regret the passing of this great enthusiast, &, as he was known, **champion** spectator.

THE CLOSE CANNON RECORD THE BILLIARD PLAYER AUG 1953.

The record for a close-cannon (nurseries) break is **1,058, that is, 529 (cannons)**. Walter Lindrum made it at Thurston's Hall on March 5th, 1933, against Joe Davis, whose own record is **279 nurseries, McConachy's, 474**. The record amateur run is **Sydney Lee's 103 "c.c's"** (Am. C'ship, 1934). We reproduce a report ("Times") of the event.

The play in the fifth heat of the Gold Cup Tournament at Thurston's Hall in Leicester Square on Saturday was made remarkable for a new cannon record which was set up by Lindrum during the afternoon. Large runs of close cannons were made by the Australian and other players before this form of scoring was legislated for by the introduction of the **baulk line rule**, but by making a run on **529** consecutive cannons on Saturday Lindrum exceeded them all, and incidentally achieved the unique distinction of actually playing the balls a little more than two and a half times round the table.

By a type of freak stroke bigger breaks than this were made by the use of what was known as the **pendulum cannon**, and before that by the anchor stroke, but in both cases the balls were kept **stationary** and the achievement could not be held to bear comparison with the runs made by playing the balls along the cushions. Lindrum's run is the highest ever made by what might be regarded as orthodox methods. **Earlier in the season Davis had shown that the problem associated with the baulk line rule, which was introduced for the purpose of placing some sort of restriction on this form of scoring, could be overcome in the same way.** The method adopted is to make the necessary baulk line stroke which has to be done at least once in the course of every 200 points scored in a break, **by playing the balls over the line as the cannon run proceeds, and then to cross the line again as the balls are played out of the baulk area.** To accomplish this the player has to avoid "nursing" the balls too closely so that he can play them round the table to make the necessary line stroke in time.

Before Lindrum had secured position for his record run Davis had made breaks of 185 (37 cannons), 91, and 68, while his opponent's chief breaks were 235 and 73. Then, at his seventh visit to the table, Lindrum obtained position with the three balls close together above, and just to the left of, the billiard spot. By perfect control he played the balls as a left-hand player along the top-cushion, down the left side, and twice round the table without experiencing any appreciable difficulty. Lindrum completed four figures and went on with the cannon run until he had taken the balls again into the baulk area, but when he had passed the right bottom pocket he missed a thin cushion cannon, the run having realised 529 and the break 1,164. **It was a really remarkable achievement, and must provide the controlling body much cause for consideration concerning the value of the present experimental baulk line rule.** The remainder of the play was unimportant. During the session Lindrum scored 1,550 for an average of 187, while Davis made 399 for an average of 50, and Lindrum reduced his opponent's lead from 3,987 to 2,836.

The scores at the interval were: Davis (receives 6,000) (in play), 14,556: Lindrum, 11,720. (Result of the match: Davis, 24, 758; Lindrum, 24,007).

Give yourself a few moments rest in the middle of a break, with an easy shot to follow. It helps the concentration. **(Tom Newman)**.

WILLIE SMITH NORTHAMPTON DAILY ECHO 7 MARCH 30

Smith said..... Regarding my match with Lindrum next week.... I will say, to be perfectly candid, i have little chance. He gets those blessed cannons so -- in fact there are more cannons than there were in the Great War..... He is the most wonderful cannon player the world has ever seen & **he makes our nursery cannon players look like novices**. He jabs & stabs & plays them everywhere..... I have been scoring here at the rate of a hundred in four or five minutes. He takes two minutes for a hundred when he is going slowly, so you can tell what chance i have to beat Lindrum..... Smith went on to express the opinion that the rules were a bit lop-sided, & that the time had come to put a limit to the cannons. I think they should have to play a hazard after **35 cannons**," he said.

TOM NEWMAN NEWS OF THE WORLD 16 MARCH 30

This week i saw Lindrum's opening session against Smith. At his third visit he made a break of 1412, mainly by top-of-the-table methods in which he displayed complete mastery of the alternating cannon & red winner movement. He was awkwardly placed at 575, having left red in baulk, but he made seven white losers to gain position for a screw cannon, which brought the three balls into play again..... **His break totalled 1169 before he scored a nursery cannon**, & at night he made only two runs of nurseries in his break of 1809. His tally of 4269 points for the day was marvellous, even for him, & Smith had the unique experience of playing all day without registering a single hundred break..... Here, i fancy, i detect Lindrum's answer to the criticism that he is a "cannon player," who depends on runs of close-cannons for his tremendous breaks. True, he can score like that, but he knows other ways of doing it, & can "turn on" any scoring method at will.

THE DAILY EXPRESS 5 MARCH 30

"S'hhh!" hissed the gate-man as i entered the morgue which thy have made of the Memorial Hall. "He's playing. Make no noise!" Mr Lindrum had the three balls up against the cushion & was irritating them to death. The superb monotony of it! Mr Lindrum & his cue hardly seemed to move. He would shudder slightly, & cue would flicker, & the marker would whisper reverently, "750 !" **"It aint billiards, but i love it"** said a man behind me hoarsely. **"E tickles em like a bloke catchin trout!"** Mr Lindrum made 800 & Mr Newman left the hall. When he came back Mr Lindrum was still playing. Mr Newman coughed to let Mr Lindrum know he was there. Mr Lindrum made nine more & then let Mr Newman play. Mr Newman made 17 & **said "Blow !"** Mr Lindrum returned & took the balls away into a corner & enjoyed himself thoroughly. Mr Newman fell asleep. So did i. When i awoke Mr Lindrum was still there. I went to the amateur championship. Everybody was smoking & laughing & jolly. This was billiards! Mr Steeples, a smiling young man, strode up & made 27. Mr Wood replied with a gallant 5. Splendid billiards! Mr Steeples attempted shots which Mr Lindrum has never heard about; & Mr Wood would indulge in those magnificent "slosh & pray " shots which may score ten. Yoicks! They picked the balls out of the pockets

themselves, too! They talked & they smiled, & i stamped & hammered with my feet. Oh, Mr Lindrum, were you here!

EVENING STANDARD 3 MARCH 30

Walter Lindrum & i talked of his English tour over our cups ---- with tea in them. The young Australian, who has charmed London & provincial audiences by the beauty of his billiards, is an amusing story-teller. Yorkshiremen appeared to have particularly appealed to Lindrum. After he had made a break of nearly two thousand a Leeds man said to his neighbour: "**Aren't you going to clap, Bill ?**" "**No, i ain't. E can't help it,**" was the reply.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 5 DEC 29

A "full house" for a billiards match! That is something new for London. It is more remarkable when the house is the Memorial Hall in Farringdon Street, into which yesterday they succeeded in packing over a thousand people. Walter Lindrum, the young left-handed Australian player (he looks little more than a boy), is said, by those who know, to be the greatest player who ever handled a cue. That seems to be obvious from his scores -- 16 four-figure breaks in seven weeks. But he is also the most attractive, which is obvious from the crowds who go to see him fight it out with Willie Smith. You climb flights of stairs, past massive oil paintings of Nonconformist ministers, & come to a hall which, with timber roof & Gothic windows, looks like a church. In these staid surroundings you hear **cheers & laughter** as if it were a theatre. **The laughter** comes when Lindrum gets the three balls almost touching at the top-of-the-table & proceeds to make cannons **almost as fast as the referee can count**. The whole journey of his ball is often not an inch. It touches the other two so delicately that you scarcely hear it & they scarcely move. On he goes along the tip of the table half an inch or an inch at a time while the score mounts --51-53-55-57-59-61-63, on and on so that he will score a hundred in the time an ordinary man would take to chalk his cue. When he comes to the corner he has to go warily, or he will pocket one or other of the balls & spoil his position. Sometimes he will stop as long as **10 seconds** to think how he is going to get round the corner. Then comes a master stroke, & off he goes down the side of the table --65-67-69-71-73-75. It all looks so ridiculously easy that you have to laugh -- till as the balls begin to separate a little you realise the infinitely delicate touch that is keeping them together. Perhaps Lindrum will stop to remove an invisible speck from the table, & u get an idea of the microscopic judgement of force & distance upon which this high-speed scoring is built. Gradually the position breaks up, & a difficult stroke awaits him. He looks at it & laughs. He walks all round the table. He chalks his cue. He fingers his collar. Once yesterday a friend to whom he glanced called out: "**That beats you, Walter!**" Lindrum said: "**Would you like to try it?**" Then came a stroke which made the spectators gasp with admiration & break into applause. Off he went again along the top-of-the-table.

All sorts of people are there to enjoy this exhibition of perfect skill. Middle-aged women in big fur coats, young women with shining stockings, parsons with "dog" collars & bookmakers at leisure till flat-racing begins, very old men & very young men -- all watch the table & the youthfull Australian moving rapidly about it, with the intensity that is usually reserved for the third act of a thriller on the stage. Smith makes a wonderful foil for Lindrum. He scorns to play the same stroke twice. He is solemn & resolute, almost grim, & he plays billiards which only Lindrum could beat. It is of course, a spectacle which no billiards player would willingly miss, but among the thousands who have

enjoyed there are many who hardly know one end of the table from the other. No one could fail to feel the magnetism of skill so perfect & so rare.

RISO LEVI DERBYSHIRE TIMES 22 FEB 30

Lindrum..... in Great Britain...compiled 47 four-figure breaks, the largest of which is 3262, which is the world's record under present rules..... Excluding compilations by freak strokes, the only break which Lindrum has not yet beaten is the elder Peall's record of 3,304, but, wonderful as the great spot-stroke player's compilation undoubtedly was, it has, unquestionably, been surpassed in point of merit by the Australian's amazing record break.

Today there are limitations to the number of consecutive in-offs or ball-to-ball cannons a player may make, & in addition to this the red may only be potted twice off the spot. When Peall made his great record no restrictions of any kind had yet come into force, & the red could be potted off the spot an indefinite number of times. Dawson had 600 consecutive pots in one of his big spot-stroke breaks. Again, in the days of the spot-stroke, a standard pocket measured a full **35/8"** at the fall of the slate, whereas today its width is a shade under **3½"**. You have only to ask any good amateur what that eighth of an inch means. To-day, the **3⁵/₈"** which are still to be found on many tables are always termed "**buckets**" by capable players. Were professionals to play on tables with such easy pockets, & they were also allowed just **three pots off the spot, instead of two**, their breaks would, like Tennyson's book, "go on for ever."

WILLIE SMITH CHRONICLE 8 FEB 30

.....Lindrum is the best in the world. He is the super cannon player to an extent which makes the limit of 35 cannons ball-to-ball look ridiculous. The cushion is a fourth ball to Lindrum. He is never in danger of losing position through having to play onto a cushion first. He makes this contact as easy as playing direct on to the ball.

WALTER LINDRUM MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 28 JAN 30

Speaking of his mammoth break building, Lindrum said :

"There is every possibility of a big break being made in the near future. Perhaps it will come in Manchester. I want just a little bit of luck to end one session with a break of about 2000, & to go on at night to 3000 or 4000. I am in such form that anything may happen. **The break may run to 5000.**"

Asked if he did not feel the strain of making big breaks, Lindrum said :

"Through not having to play many difficult shots i find the physical strain much less than it would be with any other player. I get over the ground very quickly. Against Davis in London i made a **1000 break in 24 minutes**. That was my record rate of scoring. My usual rate is **2½ to 3½ minutes for each hundred points**. My quickest century break in nursery cannons was in my Glasgow match with Smith in the course of my 2140 break: **I made 50 cannons in 56 seconds**. Some people seem to think i have learnt the nursery cannon game in recent years, **but i made 200 close cannons when i was 16 years of age.**"

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS 27 JAN 30

Smith at 27 missed a difficult pull-back cannon, leaving the balls close together for Lindrum, who started a clever run at the top-of-the-table with a series of cannons and red winners. Then he got the balls together for a run of nursery cannons. With 74 of these nursery cannons he ran his break to 200 before coming over the **middle-pocket**. He played a **losing hazard off the red**. **Then with a loser off the white** he brought

the balls together again at the top-of-the-table & began another run of 68 nursery cannons. Then he repeated his previous tactics, but failed to get the balls quite near enough. It required a massé shot & a long cannon before he could once more begin with nurseries. At the end of this run, which numbered about 60 cannons, Lindrum had scored 501 in rather more than 10 minutes. At 614 Lindrum found an awkward position with both the object-balls lying close to the top cushion, & his own ball also near to the cushion, about four inches away. He played a magnificent screw back losing hazard, easily the finest shot of the match up to this stage. A few minutes later in another difficult position he doubled the red with marvellous precision.

All the crowded audience are impressed with Lindrum's amazing quickness & self-confidence. This was never more clearly shown than when the occasion came to use the long rest for a difficult forcing cannon. Lindrum checked the cue & tested it for straightness with a nonchalant & apologetic smile. Almost immediately he began another series of nurseries, beginning at 716 & ending at 902, making 93 nurseries. A bout of open play followed, until at 947 he once more achieved his top cushion position & rapidly ran his break to 1000, at which figure he still held the position. Lindrum reached his thousand in 35 minutes. His open play continued to be marked with the apparent absence of effort. So far he had only once been in a really difficult position, when he played the screw back loser. At 1222 he began another run of nurseries which took him to 1384, a run of 81 nurseries. This run was only concluded by his reaching the middle-pocket, & when his score stood at 1401, only half a dozen shots intervening, he once more got the balls together.

2,000 FT DROP

A dark featured little man sat in the front row of the stalls at Thurston's Hall during yesterday afternoon's session of the Lindrum -- Davis match. He did not clap & he did not smile even while each & every other man in the hall leaned forward from his seat in anxious mood. The little man was Bert Hinkler, & before the players had gone to the table he had congratulated Lindrum on the latter's recent world billiards record & had been introduced to Davis. "You two fellows have collected some records between you", humorously remarked Davis addressing Lindrum & Hinkler. "By the way, Hinkler", added Davis with mock hostility, "how much would you require to take Walter up a couple of thousand feet & then drop him to earth?". Quite obviously Davis had in mind the aggregate of two sessions in which he had been compelled to sit idle while Lindrum put up his 4,137. "You wait until Walter & i have tired of collecting world records", laughingly replied the airman.....

BREAK OF 4,137 BY LINDRUM 20 JAN 1932

Walter Lindrum has done it again! Bewitching the balls at Thurston's for nearly three hours, spread over two days, the wonderful Australian yesterday completed a break of 4,137, & established a new world's record.

Lindrum has monopolised break records for several years. His 3,262 in 1929 was the best ever. He improved on this by making 3,905 a year later. Now comes this latest triumph, which his opponent, Joe Davis, described as..... "A truly astounding performance of dual control --- of brain & of balls".

The great effort failed when, by a hair's breadth, Lindrum failed to bring off a cushion cannon. The wizard of the cue smilingly acknowledged the applause of the spectators, & did not look a bit like a man who had undergone a tremendous mental strain.

On reaching 4,000, Lindrum made a brief speech, joked with Davis & Inman, who was in the hall --- & just carried on. He said afterwards that he felt quite confident he could go on indefinitely. "Just a little kick of the ball, due probably to a speck of chalk on the table", he said, almost apologetically, in explaining the cause of his breakdown.

Lindrum went to the table yesterday with 3,151 unfinished, having played throughout the previous evening session. The position left on was not at all promising from a tactical point of view, & he remarked: "I have a few steeplechasers to get over before I'm settled". "Never mind, Walter. Just go on. You're saving my billiards chalk", rejoined Davis.

Lindrum pocketed the red in the middle left pocket from hand the while the object white lay near the red spot. Soon Lindrum had close cannon position, but from left to right along the top cushion. This was when he was at 3,220. Reaching the corner he worked his now famous "twist" of the balls, & off he set, fraction of inch by fraction of inch, in the opposite direction along the top cushion. He had a total of 112 close cannons, which ended, as if according to schedule, at the left middle pocket.

A particularly brilliant shot --- even for Lindrum --- a minute afterwards made the onlookers forget all about the seriousness of his task. He went for, & got, a double-kiss cannon, & "nursery" position. Before getting to the left middle pocket he had 3,700 unfinished, & in this run he had 123 cannons.

The end came owing to one of the object balls carrying just half an inch too far. It meant all but a cover. Lindrum took the short rest at the baulk end & tried to get the cannon by playing first on to the top cushion with running side. The effort failed by "a coat of paint".

But that was not all. To complete a remarkable day, Joe Davis went to the table & also proceeded to reach four-figures. In no other match on record have opponents made four-figure breaks in consecutive visits to the table. Davis was in play with 1,131 unfinished at the interval. Interval scores: Davis (recommend. 7,000) (in play), 9,775; Lindrum, 7,162. Davis was only able to keep going for another 13 minutes when he resumed his big break at night, failing at a difficult red loser when he had made 1,262. Afterwards he made 565 & 299 (unfinished), & Lindrum 414, 519, & 80. The Englishman averaged 252 for 1,008 & Lindrum 253 for 1,014. This is one of the rare occasions on which both players have returned four-figure aggregate in the same session. Closing scores: Davis 10,783; Lindrum, 8,175.

NERVOUS CROWD

When Walter Lindrum resumed his match with Davis at Thurston's Hall, London, today, he established a new world's record break, passing his previous best of 3,905. He broke down at 4,137.

Lindrum's position at the resumption of play was none too easy. The red ball was rather awkwardly placed, from a tactical point of view near the middle pocket of the table with the object white near the red spot & Lindrum in hand. Lindrum got the red winner to begin, & then a cannon at the top of the table, & a red winner played with the right hand, now, apparently, he was comfortable.

He left himself a cannon position which involved manoeuvring for a kiss. In three minutes Lindrum had passed 3,200.

There was a wobble about one red winner which caused anxiety to everybody except Lindrum, & at 3,220 he got close cannon position while moving from left to right on the top cushion. An adroit "twist" at the corner & Lindrum was travelling the balls along the

top cushion in the right to left direction, which was much more favourable to the left-handed cueist. Halfway down the left upper cushion Lindrum had totalled 3,400.

A run of 112 close cannons finished at the middle pocket, & Lindrum did not like the way he had left the white at the other pocket. However, with the aid of the rest from the far side of the table, he got the loser. A moment later he successfully got round a top-of-the-table difficulty by using the long rest.

There were calls of "ssh" as applause broke out on the execution of a particularly thin cannon just before Lindrum passed 3,500, but the onlookers, as a whole, could not resist loud cheering when Lindrum got a double kiss cannon, & close cannon position into the bargain, at the top right pocket, & set off along the top cushion on another run of nurseries.

Just before reaching the corner he passed 3,600. The tenseness now was such that it was noticeable that not one person in the room was smoking. Before getting to the middle pocket Lindrum was 3,700 unfinished. This run of nursery cannons totalled 123.

Some of the positions which followed were not too nice, but Lindrum seemed to be the most unconcerned person of all present. Once an "oh" went up all round when the red wobbled on the brink of the pocket, & then those who had shuddered joined in the laughter which Lindrum started.

After 33 minutes play Lindrum reached 3,907, thus beating the world's record break of 3,905 which he had held. At once a tumult of applause broke out, & the cheering lasted for several minutes. Lindrum was almost mobbed by those who wished to congratulate him. His opponent, Davis, was the first to congratulate the Australian, & he gave him a resounding smack on the back.

After three-quarters of an hour's play Lindrum broke down at 4,137. Lindrum said: "I thank you most heartily for your appreciation of my break. I can assure you that it is only possible to make such a break before a tolerant audience such as you are. I am proud to have broken the record in London again".

Just before he resumed play Lindrum addressed Inman, his fellow professional, who was seated in the stalls, with, "Now you can buy me a drink, Mel", which brought loud laughter. The mirth was renewed when Lindrum called to the referee, Chambers, "And I'll buy you one, Charles".

"I have only within the past few days gained satisfaction with my cue tip". Lindrum told a Gazette reporter before he began play. "My previous tip worked loose, &, although i fitted another, i could not get it to 'bed' properly. It is one thing getting a tip to stick on to a cue, but it is entirely another matter to get it to sit correctly to the smallest fraction of an inch, which is what i require. "I find that a slant in the setting of my cue tip, which cannot be detected by the eye, makes itself apparent in play".

WHEN LINDRUM WAS NERVOUS

"What were my sentiments during my record break of 4,137?" said Walter Lindrum, in answer to a reporter in London to-day. "I will try to give them as faithfully as i can recollect them. "Frankly, i was nervous before i went on for the last lap. I wanted to think of billiards last thing in the world. But people would come to me with the question, 'How many are you going to make?'

"The insistence of that query prompted me to think, 'Some of you people are tearing each other to pieces to get into the hall. Well-meaning though some of you are, you'll be tumbling over each other to get out again in a couple of minutes if i am not left

alone". "Believe me that red winner to resume the play was a real worry. I knew perfectly well that it was a shot i ought to get without any difficulty in the ordinary way. But this time it worried me.

"When my thoughts seemed to be mixed up with swarming bees, a man i had met somewhere came to me, & asked me to arrange for his admission to the hall. "I told him quite candidly. 'Judging by the look of things now, i don't know how I'm going to get inside myself". That was the beginning of affairs.

"Off i went in the play. Down went that red. Close cannons. "Click, click, click., click. "From out of the darkness around me there is a roar of applause. On & on i go. Oh, yes, the chant of the figures by the marker keeps me up to date in the progress of things.

"Can i break the record before i get to that middle left pocket. Yes, I've done it. My hands are wet. Now the applause is dying down. I must crack a joke about something. If i don't -- "On & on. I'm past 4,000. A few more points. I've failed. Will they forgive me? That whole-hearted applause answers the question for me.

"Now here is the joke of it all. As i sat in the ante-room, a man, a latecomer, rushed in with the query, How many did you make, Walter? "Do you know, for the life of me i couldn't tell him. I knew that the break was something over 4,000 --- some small number of points --- but the exact number i didn't know."

Lindrum said that with the same cue he had made successive world's records of 3,262, 3,905, & 4,137. He added that the English billiards follower was a "stout fellow".

GOING ROUND & ROUND ON THE REVOLUTION COUNTER

Walter Lindrum, the Australian billiard player, wanted to make a break of 5,000 at Thurston's, Leicester-square, in a match with Joe Davis. There doesn't seem to be any reason why he shouldn't. Or 50,000, if you like. He made the previous highest break, 3,905. Before he began, Lindrum, outwardly as cool as ice, sat in a little curtained alcove & stared blankly into space. A "Star" reporter asked him what he was thinking about. Lindrum said: "Seven hundred, & it wants a lot of making. I am out after the record. I wish to goodness the first shot was over".

And then before a big crowd, which included three women, Lindrum took the table for the most difficult shot it chanced he had to make. This was a pot red in the left-hand middle pocket with the ball set at a difficult angle. Lindrum did it. After that he began the slow task of gathering the rather widespread balls. He was successful, & runs of 112 & 123 close cannons quickly came. But the world's record was not broken without apprehension. Several times while collecting the 756, Lindrum got the balls rather widely separated. But always with a wizard touch brought them together again.

His opponent Davis came late. In this he showed sense. It must have been rather wearing to have to watch Lindrum's immaculate billiards. Only once did the crowd have a thrill. That was when Lindrum was 3,342; he discovered a microscopic speck on the tip of his cue. From the look on his face he went very close to shouting "Cooee" when he broke the record & went into the fourth thousand.

AT THE KING'S COMMAND AS TOLD TO JM ROHAN

Having gained mastery over cue, balls, cloth, cushions & nerves, i was able to out-distance the players of my time to win recognition from Royalty. And this juncture is as good as any to tell of the greatest day in my life --- the day i was commanded to appear before the late King George & Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. An air of

mystery surrounded the affair & i shall have to tell the circumstances leading up to my visit.

So great was the interest in the tournament promoted by Mr Bill Camkin in the 1931 season that billiards boomed in England as it had never done before. Camkin was a genius & a showman. He was responsible for the attendance of many notable people at sessions, including members of the Royal family. The late King George would have been there only for a severe illness which confined him to Buckingham Palace.

At the conclusion of the tournament, which i won from Tom Newman, His Majesty's private secretary sent a message asking Camkin to call at Buckingham Palace. On arrival he was told that King George would like me --- Walter Lindrum --- to appear at the Palace. The King's secretary expressly asked that the command performance should be kept secret, for several reasons, one of which was that in the King's state of health a gathering of curious people, pressmen & photographers was not desired. Camkin kept this promise.

When i returned to my hotel, Camkin told me that he had great news for me, but could not tell me what it was for a few days. It was over a cup of coffee at 2 am that Bill told me i had to appear at the Palace on February 19, 1931. Was i elated. I didn't close my eyes that night. A few days later i received a letter from Sir Derek Keppel, the King's private secretary, & i came to London from Wolverhampton to see him. He wanted some ideas of the programme i proposed to submit to their Majesties. At the same time he stressed that the command should be kept confidential. Sir Derek was a charming personality whom i found easy to talk to.

I was a bit worried about the dress i should wear & how i should act when i got to the Palace, & all that, but he told me not to worry as the King & Queen were the most delightful people. Returning to Wolverhampton, i rang my tailor in Oxford Street, London, & asked him to make me a suit. I described the sort of suit i wanted. The tailor said he would be up in three days to give me a try on. He went to Thurston's Billiard Room & told Joe Davis, Tom Newman & representatives of the press that i had ordered a suit for a special occasion.

That started the ball rolling, & all sorts of rumors were flying round. Phone calls came by the dozen, while reporters came from all parts of England asking for the exclusive story. It was hinted that i was going to be married. Everyone was curious, including the players i was matched to play. No one gave a thought to a command performance. Camkin & myself kept our secret well.

In private i rehearsed the trick shots i intended to play, for the palace was no place to be bungling shots. I wanted them to be letter perfect. It would have aroused suspicion if a professional had been seen practising trick shots. Many wondered why Camkin & i were missing for hours, but they never found out. We planned to leave London, making sure that we dodged seeing anyone who would want us to explain our movements.

If i had been seen leaving Wolverhampton, where i was playing in an important match, the news would have been flashed to London, where pressmen would have been impossible to shake off. For that reason my afternoon session with McConachy just had to go by the board. On arrival in London i took a taxi to Harrod's Toilet Parlors for a change of dress & brush up. The manager recognised me. "I've just been reading the scores of your match", he said. "Why aren't you at Wolverhampton?"

I talked to him for some time, telling him that i was catching the afternoon train back, as i was in London to fix up some important business. Due at the Palace at 3 pm, it took a taxi from Harrod's at 2:50 pm. When i told the driver my destination he took a second look at me, & Bill Camkin remarked, "He takes you for a foreign diplomat" At the gates he pulled up. "Go right through", i commanded. "Not on your bloomin life", he cried, as he clapped on his brakes. I was trying to explain to him that i had an appointment with the King. He gave me an incredulous look that was as good as telling me he thought i was cuckoo. The situation was relieved when two detectives came forward & told the driver i was expected. Then he drove through the gates.

At Wolverhampton, at 3 pm, a capacity house had gathered to see the afternoon session of my match with McConachy. My manager, McConachy & the referee, Arthur Goundrell, the only other billiardist to be commanded by royalty, were concerned by my non-appearance, as i had a reputation for punctuality. They phoned my hotel. No one knew my whereabouts. The police were asked to try to locate me. A special broadcast acquainted Londoners that i was missing. Newspaper offices got busy: Was i annoyed? Was i walking out on my match? Was i kidnapped?

The early posters played up the news of my mysterious disappearance. Mystery reigned. There certainly was consternation at Wolverhampton. Now let us get back to Buckingham Palace, Bill Camkin & myself were met by Sir Derek Keppel., & ushered into the billiard room. King George & the Queen came down the stairway arm in arm as the clock chimed three. I was trembling with nervousness. But they received me so charmingly that my nervousness disappeared immediately.

There was a few moments talk about the International tournament which i had just won. It was evident that His Majesty had followed it with great interest. Bill Camkin was preparing the implements i had for trick shots. The King addressed him: "Mr Camkin. I must congratulate you for the great interest created in billiards by your fine promotion. It is good for the industry, & the game.

Everything was ready now for the start. I turned to the King, & asked his permission to take off my coat. "Go ahead, my boy, I'm looking forward keenly to your exhibition", he answered. For an hour & a half i played until i had exhausted my repertoire of strokes. Frequently their Majesties came to the table to see a shot replayed. The interest the King took, & the questions he asked proved to me that he knew billiards inside out.

Not wanting to bore them, i asked if there was anything more they would like to see. "I'd never get tired of watching you, my boy; I've never had such a treat", said the King. "And you must have some refreshment before you play another shot", insisted the Queen. After a cup of tea the King asked me if i would play certain shots over again. Needless to say, i was delighted to see him showing such interest. The Queen admitted that she liked my trick shots best. I had to play one shot four times at her request.

In one of my trick shots i jump a ball into a basket, while one ball goes off the table to cannon with a ball on the floor. This shot brought a hearty laugh from the Queen, while King George clapped heartily. I did not allow for the balls on the floor playing truant. One of them disappeared & the Queen laughed to see King George stooping down to look under a settee, where he located the ball.

At the conclusion of my exhibition, the King & Queen stood with me at the side of the billiard table as they discussed champions Australia had produced in different branches of sport. The King's memory for sportsmen & their records was remarkable. He spoke

of the late Victor Trumper, MA Noble, Reg Duff, Syd Gregory, Warwick Armstrong, Don Bradman & others. He talked of the depression in Australia, but felt that the fighting spirit of Australians would soon get them back to prosperity.

In a fatherly way, the King placed his hand on my shoulder, "My boy", he said, "I'm proud of you. Your exhibition has been a wonderful tonic to me". Then he put his hand in his pocket, took out a small packet & said: "Mr Lindrum, i want you to accept this little token from the Queen & myself to remind you of the day you gave us unbounded pleasure", he said as he placed the parcel in my hand. In my excitement i opened the parcel immediately to find a beautiful pair of gold & enamel cuff links bearing the GR monogram. After giving me a box of 500 cigarettes, the King & Queen shook hands & wished me continued success in health & billiards. They entered the room at 3 pm & left at 5:40. Present at that command performance was Lord Abermarle, Lord Fitzmaurice & two ladies-in-waiting.

The King told me that he was still using the cue that was presented to him in Australia some 30 years before. He was delighted when i told him i was using a cue made by the same manufacturers. During my performance Bill Camkin got in touch with someone outside to have all pressmen waiting at Marble Arch. We had to catch the train to Wolverhampton, so could not spare much time. And, incidentally, i did not tell them as much as i have told readers in this story.

The Royal billiard room was palatial. Panelled walls matched the table, which was a craftsman's masterpiece. Built of mahogany, with cushion rails of twice the weight of ordinary tables, it was the finest i have ever seen. The chandelier was of carved bronze. The lighting was perfect. The cloth was olive green with pocket nets to match. I thought it a worthy piece of furniture for a monarch to make his hundreds on, as King George was capable of doing.

The story of my command to the Palace was flashed over England. It explained the mystery of my disappearance. Boys in the street were calling, "Billiards Sensation". Posters announced, "Lindrum Plays For The King". "Lindrum Links With Royalty". Wolverhampton was agog when the London train arrived shortly after 8 pm. The station platform was crowded. When i arrived at the hall where my match was being played, the crowd stood up & cheered for some minutes. I was embarrassed & overjoyed. There was no need to explain my absence. My opponent, the referee & the crowd understood that when a King commands the subject must obey. It was the proudest day of my life.

That evening i gave a poor exhibition of billiards. I was excited, & had lost touch completely, but they all understood. It was my big day. I made a paltry 150, & they cheered as though i had broken a world record. Telegrams started to roll in with offers for an exclusive story of what happened in the palace. When the session was over i was besieged by pressmen. One had a cheque for 2000 pounds, while others had cheques for 500 pounds & 400 pounds for my story. I refused them all. The pressmen of Great Britain had been so kind to me that i would not give a scoop to one & leave others lamenting. They all got the same story, & i retained the friendship of them all; even from the representative of the paper who offered 2000 pounds.

To exploit my honored appearance at the palace for gain was something i would not have done for all the money in England. Honor came before money, but compensations came my way later that showed how my action was appreciated. I was wise not to have commercialised my command by Royalty. Telegrams of

congratulations came from all parts of the world. Trade enthusiasm was at its peak. The Royal Seal was placed on the game of billiards.

My Wolverhampton match was interrupted once again when i was called away to the telephone to answer a call from my parents in Australia. Naturally, they were anxious to know all about my visit to Buckingham Palace. It cost them 24 pounds to hear what i had to say. And dear old mother says it was well worth it. No day i am ever likely to have could give me more pleasure than February 19 1931, the day i played by command for our beloved King George & the Queen.

4,387 PRACTICE BREAK

Whenever the world's professional billiards champion, Walter Lindrum, intends to defend his title he undergoes a special preparation. While practising last week at his father's rooms at Flinders-lane for his match with Clark McConachy, the champion, in a match against Fred Lindrum, jun, observing the balk-line condition, strung together a masterly break of 4,387. He did not attempt speed, but the big hand was put up in the fast time of 3 hr 40 min!

Lindrum's schedule for three days each week before a big match is to commence at 10 am, & play until 5:30 pm, with an interval for lunch. Then he resumes in the evening at 7 pm, & is at the table until 10 pm. His recipe for proficient billiards is practice, & more practice, & he believes he could make a champion of anyone who would undertake to practice eight hours daily.

THE STAR 10 SEPT 30

When Lindrum begins his English season against **Claude Falkiner** at Thurston's next Monday he will be opposing the man who first gave him the idea of specialising on close cannons play. Lindrum saw Falkiner while the little Yorkshireman was touring Australia, & he was fascinated by Falkiner's **dainty cannon play**. Lindrum was then playing billiards on the **George Gray model**, but he deserted the losing hazard game for cannons, with the result that he became the greatest scoring force the game has ever known. Falkiner is still the daintiest cannon player of them all, but he cannot reel off the 1000 breaks as Lindrum does. It is a little difficult to know why this should be so, for Falkiner is a perfect artist at close cannons play -- a phase of the game over which he has achieved complete mastery. And yet he breaks down while Lindrum goes on & on.

JOTTINGS THE BILLIARD PLAYER AUGUST 1931

Newman's humour appealed at times to the Australians. He congratulated his rival at the end of a second 1000 break in succession, & asked, if he could have a shot now. Previously he had caused laughter, when after Lindrum broke down, he informed the onlookers, that he had serious thoughts of visiting the pictures.

In one of his matches against Newman in Sydney, the ease with which he gained nursery cannon position, &, with his tap, tap, tap, added points at bewildering speed, amused the onlookers, who laughed outright. Even Lindrum joined in, & was so convulsed at one stage that he supported himself on the table, says *The Sydney Daily Telegraph*.

JOE DAVIS CALLING THE BILLIARD PLAYER MAY 1941

..... Walter Lindrum once said to me that it was even money on his making a 1000 break at billiards if he got the right position to start with.

WHEN DON BRADMAN MADE A BLOB BY BAULK-LINE

Recently Mr Harry Hodgetts, of Adelaide (a member of the cricket Board of Control), entertained some of the visiting English cricketers at his home & turned on a star billiards match --- Walter Lindrum versus Don Bradman. This was one of the Test matches when the Don did NOT make the customary century. As a billiards player, Don is a good cricketer --- that is, of course, compared with Lindrum standards. Chatting to me in the dressing room during the recent South Australia v New South Wales Sheffield Shield match in Sydney, Don said "Isn't Lindrum a beauty?" To which I readily assented. Questioned as to the result, Don was evasive, but finally told me he had only one visit to the table, & that was when he broke the balls, & left the cueball in baulk. "Dead safe", quoth Don, "but Walter 'fluked' a cannon & went on for the rest of the night". The game ended when Lindrum asked "is that enough?" Asked what break Lindrum made, Bradman replied he did not know, for, after the first couple of hundred, nobody counted. They just watched. With a twinkle in his eye, the wizard of the bat remarked it was not his only "blob" of the season.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS THE BILLIARD PLAYER SEPT 1952

Miss Violet Lindrum writes -- it would be interesting to know if the BA&CC would consider sending a woman player (professional) of note to play her for a championship title.

DEFINITIONS THE BILLIARD PLAYER SEPT 1952

"Secrets" of my play.	Good of the game, working for.
What a billiard professional tells.	See Number One, looking after.
Secrets of my play.	Returning-rail.
What a billiard professional never tells.	Indispensable labour saving device for
A billiard professional.	billiards players which every club
One who makes a living by playing	dispenses with.
snooker.	Governing body.
Amateur close cannon player.	The people responsible for everything
A player who can do nurseries before a	wrong in a sport.
game, & after a game, but not during a	
game.	

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER NOV 64

Seventeen hundred people crammed into the large hall of the North Sydney Leagues Club for the finals of the 1964 NSW Professional 1000 pound Billiards & Snooker Championships, & a further 500 or so Members & visitors to the Club were unable to see the games & retired to a room on the lower floor. The evening opened with the hour of Billiards between **Horace Lindrum & Ron Wright**, Lindrum broke the balls & Wright proceeded to get into his stride making a **33** from his first stroke which he followed shortly after with a **107**. Compiling small breaks Lindrum managed to keep a nose ahead then he reeled off a **93** & followed this with a **168** & finally, **2½** minutes before the completion of the session, he delighted everyone present with a beautiful **114** unfinished. For the first **20** points he played losing hazards & then, having brought the balls together, he continued with **close cannons** along the top-cushion & half-way down the side-cushion, displaying some of the skill of his former competitive days: it was a sparkling end to first-class Billiards from both players. Final scores were Lindrum 620, Wright 274, a total of 894 points in an hour of play.

WORTH RECALLING BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SEPT 1962

Walter Lindrum, playing Tom Newman, in 1931, made consecutive breaks of **451, 1796, & 2583, ie 4830 in 3 visits**. In the **2583** break, he ran into a cover under the top-cushion. He chalked his cue as he surveyed the position, Newman remarking -- **you'll have to dig one out here**. Lindrum replied -- **why this will be the easiest stroke of the break**, & shaping for a masse' stroke, ran through the white onto the side cushion & back on the red. It brought the house down.

TOM CLEARY LOOKS BACK 1971

I shall never forget the great Joe Davis who, in the early 1930's, visited Australia..... i was astounded at the shortness of Joe's cue. It scarcely reached the knot of his tie.....As soon as possible i cut five inches from my cue..... from then onwards.... i never looked back...

..... I would go to bed at night & sometimes dream of making a 500--break. All top players seem to develop along much the same lines. Walter Lindrum was an example. He once told me that often he could not sleep because whilst lying in bed he would continue thinking about the intricacies of the game. He would ponder over nursery cannons, or plan various moves which might differ one--hundredth part of an inch. Occasionally he would get out of bed, sometimes at 3am & go to his billiards table to experiment.

After i became a 500--break player i often watched Walter by the hour playing nursery cannons. He made it look so easy, & i would say to myself, "If only i could catch on to these nursery cannons!" I hoped that i, too, would be able to make a 1000--break, but practise as i did the secret eluded me & i could not conquer nursery cannons. I could take the balls along the top cushion, pass the top pocket & then proceed down to the middle pocket, but to overcome the skilful move of passing this pocket was beyond me. On several occasions i asked Walter to help me with this move, but much to my disappointment he did not come to the party.

There is no doubt that nursery cannons were the secret to Walter Lindrum's mammoth breaks. After making 500 or so at the top of the table, Walter would indicate that he would then play a series of nursery cannons. In two strokes he would have the balls in position & proceed to add a further 500 points by means of nursery cannons, after which he would return to top of the table play.

Playing at the top of the table is very demanding on the player as it calls for heavy concentration. At the same time, the player tends to tire because of having to make quick moves from one side of the table to the other. Walter would overcome this problem by quickly switching to nursery cannons, then back to the top when it suited him. All the world's leading professional players could, perhaps, play top of the table as good as Walter, but none could switch to nursery cannons like Walter. That made all the difference between him & other players.....

..... Walter & i shared a compartment on the train journey to Adelaide & his only topic of conversation was billiards. At last i had to feign sleep, but Walter, who suffered from insomnia, would nudge me & ask for a cigarette, & then take up the conversation again. Half way through the night journey he woke me saying, "Tom, would you have a look under the seat & see that my gear is intact. It would be a shame if i had forgotten something". I examined his kit & reported that all was in order, whereupon Walter said, "Get out the billiard balls". I did so & handed them to him. Walter fondled them for a few minutes & then addressed them, "You poor things --- you are in for a hiding shortly. I hope you are kind to me". He then kissed them saying, "Please forgive me".

.....When giving exhibitions Walter always brought along his own cushions.....strip rubber.... made up of six thin pieces of rubber solutioned together.... allow the ball to bite in on impact & take the necessary "side". Block rubber cushions are of solid rubber which causes the ball to rebound much more quickly & "side" does not react so readily. Strip rubber cushions are considered to be more desirable for billiards.

The tour commenced in the heat of February..... Port Augusta.... Walter was in magnificent form & quickly ran up a break of 1000 unfinished.....

Port Pirie... Pat (Brady) had no time to change the cushions. Walter took one look at the table & almost cried, "They're block rubber cushions". He threw a ball up the table & it travelled seven lengths. He said, "I'll do no good on this table". And neither he did. He was unable to compile a break of 100. After about an hour, Walter suddenly announced, "Ladies & gentlemen -- i am sorry -- but i am not well. We have travelled a long distance today & i need a rest. I assure you that i'll have recovered by evening". He knew that there would be an opportunity to change the cushions..... In the evening... placed the balls at the top of the table position. Hundred after hundred rolled off Walter's cue. At 600 he got the balls into a nursery cannon position, & without visible effort ran the break of 1000 unfinished..... followed by a game of snooker with me. I broke & Walter followed on to clear the table with a break of 138.....

BILLIARDS WALTER LINDRUM 1930

The emulation is always there, but, to be frank, how dismally hopeless it has been with generations of amateurs, taking them on an average. How often have you seen me make a run of close-cannons, gone home, set the balls up as they were for me, scored a few cannons -- perchance a very few indeed -- & then given up, i will not say in disgust, but with a smile of resignation that "Lindrum's way" can never be yours? I want to change all that, to divert the driving force of that emulation & enthusiasm into a channel of regular & consistent progress.

..... Much of the above is very unorthodox, as i well realize. And i am about to be even more unorthodox by teaching you at once the secret of a phase of billiards which is considered to be so advanced that amateurs are warned off it unless they are very exceptionally capable. I refer to nursery cannon play, which i may claim to be the first to exploit as a match-winning force. There were close cannon adepts before my time; i know that & admit their skill. But what they could do was personal to them; they made close-cannon manipulation so exquisitely intricate that each man had a style of his own which was too fragile to be either handed to another or relied on in the stress of combat. If the balls ran favourably for close-cannons, the professional adept would tap them for a while, ever fearful of a cover, & would open the game rather than take any positional risk. That is, apart from exhibition play. In championship billiards, for instance, close-cannons counted for so little that two champions of recent times could be named who won through without playing them. I can say without egotism that i have changed all that, making runs of close-cannons such a formidable scoring force that they hold the balance of power in billiards supremacy.

Now, i want to begin to tell you how to make nursery cannons as useful to you as they are to me. You may not make runs of a hundred or more, bump you certainly ought to be able to tap them off by the dozen, even if a fifty break is a good one for you in all-round play. Touch is the first thing you want, & the big mistake in the past has been

the notion that the touch necessary for close-cannon play is a natural gift. That is not true, such touch can be cultivated on the right lines by any average amateur. Everything depends on how you set to work, & in my first diagram i show you how to make a beginning. Place a ball (i have used the red in my diagram) tight against a cushion within convenient reach of your cueing. Be careful about that; i do not want you to feel in the least uncomfortable. Place the cueball directly behind the red as in Diagram 1, about three inches from it, & play full on red to kiss your ball into precisely its original position. This is not a difficult thing to do once or twice, but i want you to do it with such consistent accuracy that you will be annoyed with yourself if you fail to leave your ball exactly right to a fraction of an inch. "Tap, tap, tap," stick to it, always bringing your ball back to exactly the same spot. If you do this -- just this one simple little exercise -- you will gain that touch which is indispensable in nursery cannon play. You do not want any gift except enough perseverance to train your muscles to the required strength of play, & my shot will do this for you as surely as it did it for me. I am so familiar with the shot that i can make it blindfold as long as i please. This is not a figure of speech. You can tie a handkerchief over my eyes & i will keep on tap, tap, tap, gaining exact position as i would if my eyes were unhampered.

Obviously, the stroke is nothing in a direct scoring sense. But it is everything in what tells when it comes to scoring. That is where so much fallacy has been part of billiard teaching. The idea is to put up a shot & teach the pupil to make it as he might in actual play. This is obviously the only thing to do in its correct place, but jumping in at it straight away is all wrong. When i was a young cueman able to make 500 breaks my father made me play every day for an hour with one ball only on the table before he would let me have the other two balls to practice for another five hours at three-ball billiards. I mention this to prove to you how vital it is for you to put those two balls on the table as i have described, & stick to that tap, tap, tap until you can do it with facile precision. Then, & not till then, can you hope to make progress in close-cannon play. I am not setting you hopeless task. A very little careful experimenting will show you that gratifying progress in this tap, tap, tap stroke is to be made quite quickly, if you are in earnest about it. That is true, but mark this, the better you play the shot we are discussing the more you will excel at the nursery cannons i shall tell you about later on.

..... A man who can make a couple of dozen nursery cannons, a dozen red losers, & thirty or forty at the top-of-the-table is sure to keep on improving. He experiences no demoralizing sense of loss when a mere turn of a ball compels him to turn from a beloved sequence & change the whole nature of his break.

..... For instance, if a man can play the red-ball game so well that he revels in every opportunity to exploit it, & commonly takes heavy toll from any suitable opening, then i should advise him to Crystalate enough, practise a few long losers just to keep this key-shot from rusting, & devote himself to nursery cannons instead of the red ball.

At first he will find this apt to be extremely disconcerting. He will experience a bad time during which his game may appear to be falling away to an alarming extent. If he then decides to stick to the red & abandon his nursery cannon training he will be a red-ball slave for ever. But if he will only persevere his reward is certain. There will come a time very probably when he least expects it, when he will feel comfortable with either a

red-ball opening or a chance for close-cannons. Then he will discover that his red-ball game has not really been affected by the cannon training. There has been some temporary set-back; that is to be expected & allowed for, but the ability is unimpaired as a latent scoring force which is sure to assert itself anew when the bad time wears away.

..... Billiards is not so easy that you can afford to be severe with yourself. By all means play the hard shot every time if that is the only one which offers position you can be sure about. But never do so when you have a choice of easier shots which can be played with scientific positional purpose.

..... Close-cannons are so interwoven into the fabric of English billiards that the elder Cook, the first cueman to win the title of champion after playing for it, ran up a succession of cannons, breaking down at the seventh, in the early stages of the first championship ever contested. It may seem straining for effect to mention a run of seven cannons, but the game was only twelve hundred up, & the best break, by Cook, one of eighty, which contained pretty cannons. In proportion, an eighty-break cueman who could tap off seven close-cannons in succession would about equal a thousand break player capable of a run of eighty or ninety close-cannons. This shows that such play is out traditional game of billiards -- it is nonsense to talk of close-cannon play as foreign to our tables.

In a break building sense i do not regard close-cannons as indispensable as a scoring medium pure & simple, but for all that the man who can play them will always beat the man who cannot do so.

..... Coming to the cannons, the first thing is to leave position for them. It is all very well to arrange the balls in ideal close-cannon position, but you do not find them like that in actual play. As a matter of very hard fact, it is so difficult to leave the balls where you want them for nursery cannons that the task is often spoken of as too much to expect an amateur to master. I do not agree with this view, bump i admit there is enough in it to make a full call on every atom of concentrated effort an amateur may possess. You can only succeed like this. Take any of the positions i am about to deal with, play as i describe to leave nursery cannons. To begin with, you may not do it once in fifty, then once in twenty five, & so on until you regard it as welded into your normal game. This will take time, a deal of it, & much determination not to be beaten by the elusive run of the balls.

..... Having earned your position for nursery cannons -- & i do hope you will do it before attempting to score them -- i dare say you will soon find that you lose position with annoying rapidity through mistakes in strength. There is only one remedy for this -- more & more of that tap, tap, tap practice.

..... The cue-control indispensable for gaining nursery-cannon position is too heavy & pronounced for retaining that position. You need that different sense of touch & cue-mastery which tap, tap, tap gives, & it must be so much second nature to you that you fall into it without conscious effort immediately after making the relatively robust shot which has left the balls available for nursery cannons.

..... It is very deceptive to watch an expert playing nursery cannons with such rapidity that the marker has to gabble his words to keep pace with the scoring. That is the

ideal to aim at, as these shots can & should be played quickly when you are even reasonably adept. But while you are in the throes of your preliminary work it will often pay you to pause & look at a little cannon as long & thoughtfully as you might at a cannon off several cushions on which a great deal depended.

..... As you do this you are learning one of the most important things connected with close-cannon break-building, which is to score as many cannons as you can while taking the balls along a given length of cushion space.

..... I allude to what may be called the directional axis of ball-to-ball contact in close-cannon play.

..... It is very helpful in close-cannon manipulation to acquire the habit of computing this directional line, as it tends to make a known & fixed rule in the place of more or less hazy approximation.

..... Given touch & a sense of the directional line you must go ahead. Without them you are completely helpless & hopeless. No man can tell in print or depict in diagram the infinite variation presented by close-cannons, which look much about the same even to the semi-trained eye, never mind that of the absolute beginner at close-cannon manipulation. You must cope with these variations by relying on your own touch & judgement, by learning from countless failures, & never giving up until you are satisfied with results. At first this is a slow & laborious process. You face your shot, predict where the directional line will run for position, play your best, & fail more or less lamentably. Then, do not be satisfied with something else. Replace the balls very carefully & think out why you did not reach the ideal you had in mind. Then try again & again & again, until you are on top of your job.

..... Watch very carefully indeed every tiny indication of variation in cannon presentation..... The thing you want to remember is that variation in leaves is amenable to break building if tackled when so small that it may be the next thing to imperceptible. But it is so rapidly & decisively cumulative in effect that one poor shot may easily take you from usable position to the end of all possibility of continuing with close-cannons..... This proves that you can never afford to relax for a second when playing nursery cannons, simple as they look. A slight mistake becomes a fatal error in no time unless you are warily watchful of every shot you play.

..... To an extent critical shots may be called anticipative. We see this in nursery cannon play, where as you gradually use up cushion space you steer the balls towards the corner pocket. Then, do what you will, a crisis is unavoidable. You must steer the balls around the corner, & i advise you to do so much sooner than is generally attempted. It is very tempting to just score one or two more before leaving the straight line of the cushion for the awkward right-angle turn. But if you give way to this feeling you will certainly pay for it at intervals by finding the balls too close to the pocket to be steered round. You may have the mortification of leaving white where you can do nothing except pot it, the very weakest conclusion to a run of close-cannons it is possible to imagine.

Therefore play boldly. Take the balls round while the first object-ball is well clear of the pocket.

In November, a friend lent me **Walter Lindrum's** book and also **Richard Holt's** "Billiards and Snooker". Having browsed through both of them, the English billiards players' **predicament** has become only too clear to me. Both books agree that improving your cannon game in general and mastering the nursery and close cannons in particular would greatly increase one's output, but neither book does anything substantial about it. Books, of whatever subject, should teach. These don't. They **baffle**. As both books 'happened' sometime ago i would have kept my views to myself but for the reprint of Mr. Holt's book and Clive Everton's quite objective, if a little too generous, comments on it (Dec issue).....

Whether Lindrum could teach or not, i cannot say. One thing is sure, he had **no intention** of doing so. Instead of saying that for the cannon play you need **knowledge** of a different order, he makes you believe that the only thing you are missing is '**touch**'. This you can attain, says he, by knocking the cue-ball against the object ball 'dead' on the cushion. If that is so, how is it that whenever i tried to teach somebody nurseries the recurring question was always '**What** am i gong to do now?' This may imply lack of **knowledge** of skill, but certainly not lack of '**touch**'.

Lindrum is equally 'helpful' when it comes to the much-argued existence or the non-existence of the '**transmitted side**'. He simply declares himself to be "supremely indifferent to the technical argument" and invites us to "Forget all about transmission of side; call it 'transmission of side **effect**' and you get my idea exactly". No! i for one, does not get his 'exact idea' at all, for these two mean exactly the same thing. Of course Lindrum knew that the cannon game is based on the irrefutable fact of 'transmitted side', but the only diagrams he produces **confuse** rather than **clarify**.

Holt says that nurseries "are really **outside** the **scope** of this book". If so, he should have ended the chapter after dia 95, but, as it is, he has put his foot right in it. In dia. 96, position 'B', which is a **kiss-cannon** from the object-ball 'dead' on the cushion, the solution is a normal '**drive**' from the 'dead' ball (which incidentally no cannon player would attempt in fear of a **cover-up**), with check side on the cue-ball. It is correctly explained that to advance (run) the object-ball use check side on the cue-ball and if you want to check (retard) the object-ball use running side on the cue-ball. After these very correct instructions, Mr Holt rather reproachingly continues that "..one or two believers in the 'topspin' instance this as proof of this theory..". I cannot see what other conclusion one can arrive at while a change of side in the cue-ball makes the object-ball behave differently. But Mr Holt does, like this: first "a kiss takes place" (which is obvious), then "..on the second contact between cue-ball and object ball.." (which is not obvious at all) .. the former (cue-ball) produces the **opposite side** in the latter (object-ball)". Although we have it here in a nutshell, forgetting that second contact bit, Holt comes out with the rather shattering conclusion: "..the **effect** (the transmitted side that is) is wholly caused by the **cushion**". Now, isn't that marvellous!

The **predicament**? Well, first we had **Lindrum**, a very capable player, who **could** have helped but **wouldn't**, then **Holt**, who **would** have but obviously **couldn't**.

Just for the record: the cannon game is based entirely on the usage of 'transmitted side'. As simple as that.....

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