

**POULTRY ASSOCIATION  
Annual Euchre Party**

ODD FELLOWS HALL  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22nd**  
AT 8.15 P.M.  
ADMISSION . . . 50c  
Prizes dressed poultry

**BRITISH NATIONAL SECOND  
DESPITE SOIL STICKINESS**

Editor's Note: Russell Bellhartz of Bruce Station, Ont., a former president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian plowing team at the fourth World Plowing Match in England, has sent home on-the-spot reports of his trip with team members Robert Timbers of Stouffville, Ont. and Edwin Demman of Portage la Prairie, Man. Here is the third:

By Russell Bellhartz  
OXFORD, England — This is an account of two great plowing matches—the British National and

the World. I can imagine you want to hear right away a description of the Canadian team of Bob Timbers of Stouffville, Ont. and Mickey Demman, of Portage la Prairie, Man., in action in the world contest, but I feel I should describe the matches in chronological order. The British National was the first.

When we arrived at headquarters about 9 a.m., there was activity everywhere and excitement was in the air. Groups of people from this side and from our side of the Atlantic had already gathered. These included a large delegation from Canada but perhaps the most colorful group of all was the United States delegation. All of them wore large western hats with bands advertising the 1957 World Plowing Match to be held at Peebles, Ohio. In conversation with one of the women members of this group, I asked her if she knew the U.S.A. judge for the World Match, whom I had met the previous day. She laughed and said, "Well, I should — he's my husband!"

Well, the British National was a real show. Maybe not as large as our International Plowing Match, but it seemed to me to be turned out better. There were flowers and shrubs everywhere and the officials had not spared paint, nor elbow grease for that matter, in making everything

spick and span. It was a beautiful sight.

**Horses Steal Show**

Before the match got underway, there was a parade of contestants and the horse plowmen stole the show. There were 14 teams and some of the horses were handsomely decked out; perhaps too much in the way of decorations for plow horses, but they did look splendid. However, the plows were a different matter, for some were rather crude-looking and some were ancient.

During the match, I noticed that all the high cut work was done with horses pulling old plows with very long mould boards on wheels. There were tail pieces on the boards and so many gadgets that I couldn't figure out what they were used for. Most of the teams walked on the land instead of in the furrows.

Also, there were some long, heavy doubletrees and singletrees and about eight feet of chain between the plow and the team. It seemed to me they would be very hard to handle as well as draw. It wasn't long before both the horses (weighing between 1800 and 1800 pounds) and the men were in a lather. However, there was some excellent work done.

In the mechanized section, there were 132 tractor plows. These included some high-cut, crude-looking ones and there were some of the semi-digger type, such as our boys have been using. Some of the tractor plowmen turned out work that was comparable to the best of our International and I must say the stewards were very strict. No one was allowed to break any of the rules.

So much for the British National. It was the next day that was really exciting for us. It was the opening of the two-day World Plowing Match that would decide this year's winner of the Esso Golden Plow trophy, symbol of world plowing supremacy. For the last two years, Hugh Barr of Northern Ireland has been the winner, although the first year it was put up, it was won by Jim Eccles of Brampton, Ont., with our Bob Timbers a close third. That was in 1953 at Coburg, Ont. where the first World Match was held under the sponsorship of Imperial Oil Limited. Naturally our boys wanted to bring that Golden Plow trophy back to Canada, even in the face of teams from 13 other countries.

The day of the big match, we were up at 6 a.m. Bob and Mickey appeared well rested and in good spirits. The fog or mist as they call it here, was quite dense. On arrival at the match headquarters, we found a larger crowd than the day previous had already gathered. They wanted to see the boys from the competing countries as they disembarked from a motor coach that brought them from the hotel. Our boys went immediately to their equipment to make last-minute adjustments and to warm up the tractors.

At 11 o'clock, all the contestants had lunch together in a big tent on the grounds. Half an hour later they were lining up their tractors in parade formation. Each tractor bore a card with the name of the competitor's country. As far as a parade goes, the only thing lacking was music. It was headed by an official car followed by two tractor-drawn wagons, the tractors driven by girls. On the first wagon rode the 12 judges and on the second were the stewards and coaches, or team managers. These were followed by the 25 contestants with their tractor-drawn plows. The parade circled the headquarters and then proceeded to the contest field.

On arrival at the field, which was completely fenced in, we were amazed to find that spectators, three deep, had already taken up places around the whole of the field. As is traditional with World Matches, the contest started with the firing of a red rocket.

The first day was stubble plowing and on opening the split, all competitors, except six at the high side of the fold, found the ground to be sticky. They had difficulty keeping mould boards clean. Bob Timbers had to stop every few yards and clean off his mould board. However, he finished well in my score and made the fastest finish in the field. He was a close second to Hugh Barr of Northern Ireland on total score. But Mickey Demman did not fare quite so well at the start. Because of soil sticking, he was a little off but on the whole he was among the top ten. All scores in the stubble contest, with the exception of Hugh and Bob, were very low.

All teams had finished before the rocket was fired to announce the end of the first day. The boys seemed a little tired but the only thing they mentioned was the hope that they would draw better soil the next day for the grassland plowing. Nobody could quarrel with that hope.

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