

SPECIAL FOR CHESTERFIELD

CHESTERFIELD'S GREAT DAY

Close by the Staveley Iron and Chemical Works at Barrow Hill, Chesterfield, stands a magnificent new eighteen acre Sports Stadium, probably the finest anywhere in the Midlands. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chesterfield, Alderman and Mrs. Frank Hadfield, were among the distinguished guests who mingled with the crowd of more than sixty thousand for the opening ceremony.

The Staveley Company's band, famous throughout the whole of the Midlands for its brilliant performances, gave the big day a tuneful send-off.

Mr. S.W. Martin, the popular Managing Director of the Staveley Company, spoke during the ceremony, and was followed by Mr. T.A. McKenna, the Company's Chairman. Five years ago Mr. McKenna revealed that the Board were planning the sports stadium, and it was fitting that he should introduce Lord Burghley to declare it open. In a lively speech, Lord Burghley, a great sportsman himself, expressed the hope that, with the facilities provided at the stadium, many who trained there might become future British champions.

Now began the day's sport, with a fugitive from the cycle races upsetting things! But it wasn't long before everyone had settled down again - and away they went for the one mile Derbyshire Championships final.

Keeping an eye on everything was the organiser Mr. R.J. Hawley who'd put in a heap of work to make things run smoothly. But here's W. Hulatt, of Alfreton, storming in to win the mile in the good time of four minutes, 27.2 seconds.

The arena and ground stewards made certain that everything went along without a hitch. Then the crowd got one of its biggest thrills of the day - the 440 yards scratch cycle race.

Timekeeper Mr. Crookes had to watch closely as R.B. Oliver beat R. Holmes by little more than a width of a tyre. Then, a few minutes later it was time for the ladies to get the wheels turning. By covering the 530 yard course in only 45.4 seconds, Miss Bickerstaffe was the winner.

The men's cycling champions received the Upperferth Cup from Mrs. Powell. An exciting event was the 880. A Webster managed to hold his lead from E. Gallagher and come home the winner.

Here's the 120 yard hurdles, with I.J. Smith of the Greengarth Athletic Club romping in with a sound lead from G. Coulsen.

During the afternoon Lady Burghley, watched by her husband and Staveley officials, planted a tree to commemorate the opening of the new stadium.

Local press-photographer Joe Smith was on hand to record the scene as Mr. Turner and Sir Arthur Matthews, alongside Mr. McKenna, watched another tree planted by Lord Burghley.

Back on the track, the gruelling six mile race gave the crowd plenty of thrills. Here they come towards the finish.

F. Morris of Bolton United Harriers was first across the line having covered the six miles in two seconds over the half hour.

The women's four by 110 relay race gave victory to a fine team of sprinters - the Liverpool Harriers and Athletic Club. The huge crowd saw a girl from the Sheffield United Harriers score a splendid victory in the women's hundred yards. Here's the winner - Miss J. Newbould.

The Men's 220 saw the star of the show, MacDonald Bailey, in action. His easy win proved what a supreme athlete he is. In the semi-final he clocked 21.1 seconds, and in the final itself knocked that odd second off to crack the English native record set up in 1914 by two tenths of a second.

In the evening the arena became a mighty stage for the famous Don Cossack riders, who gave a faultless display of trick and acrobatic riding. Just watch them in action!

The celebrations weren't over until long after nightfall, and a grand firework display set the seal to Chesterfield's great day.

So ended a great occasion for the Staveley Company. As Lord Burghley commented, the superb new sports stadium began as a dream - became an adventure - and now it is a reality.