



LEFT: The 1951 British Football Association Cup Final teams march on at the Wembley Stadium

## THE STORY OF BRITISH SPORT

**B**OXING may not be the sport of kings, but it is a characteristic British one which was first practised under the patronage of English gentlemen on the secluded lawns of 18th Century manor-houses. Rugby, cricket, and lawn tennis were also evolved by the eccentric English, and the royal and ancient game of golf spread from Scotland

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of the trials of the settlers, the burning of homes and raiding of farms, the formation of the Volunteers and the Bush Rangers. Harry Atkinson describes his part in the battle of Waireka, and is called the best captain of militia in New Zealand. The dissatisfaction of the settlers with the way they are treated by the British troops, and the mismanagement of Colonel Gold, their leader, comes out in many letters, and there is much criticism of the way the Government is running the war. "A greater farce than sending officers and men down to defend the settlers, with strict orders to allow all who do not happen to live in the town to be murdered or burnt out of house and home, without stirring a finger to help them, was never heard of," says Maria.

In the final section of the letters, which go up to 1894, the controversy about the war and its causes goes on long after the fighting had ended. The war is consistently presented from the viewpoint of the settlers, who blame the disaster on the initial weakness of the Government's attitude to the Maoris. The publication of the correspondence should make an interesting contrast with official accounts of the war, and should also be of particular value as a document of pioneer life in the 'sixties.

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through England to the world at large. These days it seems almost as if Britain's sports were made for export only, for it seems a long time since Englishmen were heavy-weight boxing champions of the world, or even led the field in tennis, golf, rugby, soccer or cricket. But the history of British sport is an honourable and long one, and the story is told in a series of BBC programmes which will be broadcast shortly from the YA and YZ stations. There are six programmes in the series, under the general title of *British Sport*.

The programme *Boxing* traces the history of the noble art from the day in 1719 when, with James Figg as first Champion of England, boxing became a regular sport. It recalls the heyday of the bare-knuckle fighters, from Belcher and Cribb to that historic battle when Sayers and Heenan fought each other to a finish. Bob Fitzsimmons, the last world heavy-weight champion to be born in England, is remembered (New Zealanders will remember that his muscles were toughened in his father's blacksmith shop at Timaru), and boxing today is discussed in interviews with Ted Broadribb, ex-champion and famous manager, and with Freddie Mills, former King of the Cruiser-weights. "Wherever two men stand up to fight it out with their fists, under rules made to ensure fair play, you know that they are carrying on the tradition that was built up in 18th Century England." These words spoken by Onslow Fane, Chairman of the British Boxing Board of Control, convey in a sentence the scope of this feature, which was written by Maurice Gorham and produced by Joe Burroughs.

### From the Centre Court

The opening words in the programme *Lawn Tennis* are spoken by Lord

Templewood, president of the British Lawn Tennis Association. The programme traces the remarkable growth of the game since its beginnings in England in the 1870s. Early days at Wimbledon are recalled by Mrs. Lambert Chambers, seven times Ladies' Singles Champion, and other great Wimbledon personalities who take part are L. A. Godfree and Mrs. Godfree (Kitty McKane), who were the only married couple to win the Mixed Doubles, and Pat Hughes and Peggy Scriven. From the United States Tony Trabert and Nancy Chaffee speak as newcomers to Wimbledon, and Fred Perry and Dan Maskell speak for the professionals. Famous matches from past years are recalled in actual recordings made at the Centre Court at Wimbledon. The programme was compiled and produced by Michael Barsley, with Freddy Grisewood as narrator.

### Birth of Rugby

The third programme in the series outlines the history of rugby from the moment in 1823 when William Webb Ellis, of Rugby School, took the ball into his arms and ran. It tells how rugby emerged from the bad old days of vicious hacking with the formation of the Rugby Football Union in 1871. Six great personalities of rugby discuss some of the legends of the game. They are Ronald Cove-Smith, who was 29 times capped for England, Carl Aarvold, John Tallent, Peter Howard, Kendall-Carpenter, and H. B. T. Wakelam, whose original rugby commentary was the first BBC sporting commentary of any kind. The programme was written by the well-known Springbok Tony van den Bergh, and produced by Peter Eton.

Expert selection from a treasure-house of material had to be made in order to

tell the story of cricket in half an hour. This programme takes listeners back to the middle of the 18th Century—to the first match between Kent and All England on the Artillery Ground in London, and to the triumphs of the Hambledon Club. It recalls the days of heavy side-bets and the emergence of the M.C.C. There are stories of Thomas Lord, the founder of "Lords," of Lilly-white and the great round-arm controversy, and of the incomparable W. G. Grace. Among famous cricketers who have been brought to the microphone are H. D. Leveson-Gower and A. E. R. Gilligan. Patsy Hendren talks about past Australian tours and present coaching methods, S. C. Griffiths discusses county cricket, and Leary Constantine discusses the 1950 tour of Britain by the West Indians. A special feature of the programme is an analysis of the greatest of modern batsmen, Don Bradman, by one of his English rivals, Denis Compton. The programme was written by Felix Felton and produced by R. D. Smith.

For much of the programme on *Soccer*, Alex James, one of the most famous players of all time, and Arthur Rowe, ex-international and now Manager of Tottenham Hotspur, are put through a searching interrogation by a radio interviewer and a football fan. They give their views on conditions and training for professional players, the transfer system, soccer in other Commonwealth countries, and why Britain has not been doing so well abroad lately. Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, talks about the state today of a game that draws a million supporters to professional matches every Saturday and gives a weekly game to some 30,000 recognised clubs of all sizes. Stephen Grenfell wrote the script of this programme, which traces the history of football from the Han dynasty in China, through the riotous game of the Middle Ages, to the big business that Association Football has become today. The producer was Peter Eton.

### Royal and Ancient

Just how royal and ancient is the game of golf is demonstrated in the last programme in the series, which also shows how golf spread from Scotland through England to the world at large. Famous golfing personalities take part. J. H. Taylor describes his first victory in the Open Championship of 1894. Bernard Darwin recalls the golden age of British golf—the days when men like Taylor, Braid, and Vardon were among the world's greatest players. Henry Longhurst talks of the amateur game between the wars and winds up the programme with some advice to the long-handicap player. Charles Whitcombe, who captained the British team in the Ryder Cup competition of 1949, tells the thrilling story of that contest, and Bobby Locke, Champion in 1949 and 1950, tells how he won the Open for the second time. The script was written by Patric Dickinson and the programme was produced by Joe Burroughs.

*British Sport* will be broadcast first from 4YA, beginning on Sunday, June 17, at 4.0 p.m. It will be heard in succeeding weeks from the other YA and YZ stations.