

The Daily Mail Sporting Section

News Of Sport At Home And Abroad.

HOCKEY AND BANDY

AS THEY ARE PLAYED ON THE CONTINENT.

A Comparison of Two Sports Much Played in Northern Europe.

EUROPEANS SEEM TO FAVOR BANDY IN WINTER SPORT.

Hockey, However, Seems to be Gaining Favor in Many Localities.

By J. G. Higgins.

In a January number of "Collier's" of this year there appeared an article by Mr. Vance Thompson on "Winter Sports at St. Moritz." In this article he says, inter alia, "There is no hockey on the ice at St. Moritz—none at all events of the kind played in French Switzerland—at Les Avants, for instance. Bandy has superseded it quite. Of course the only difference is that hockey is played with a "puck," while bandy is played with a ball. But the difference is wholly in favor of bandy, which is the best of all games played on the ice by skaters.

In hockey the "puck" is dribbled along and there are tame moments; in bandy the skater can carry the ball along in front of him while going nearly at full speed."

Now anyone who has played both bandy and ice hockey can tell that the fact that one is played with a ball and the other with a puck is not the only difference and that whatever difference does exist between the two is not wholly in favor of bandy.

What Bandy Is.

Bandy is a mixture of hockey and ice-hockey. It is played on the ice with a stick and a ball. The stick somewhat resembles a field hockey stick but is flat on both sides so the ball can be hit on either side—a thing not permissible in field hockey. The ball is like a lacrosse ball. The goals are about 12 feet wide and seven feet high. In St. Moritz where the rink is very large, about 100 yards long and 70 wide, nine men on each side are played. The teams are arranged in the following order:—A goal-keeper, two full backs, three half backs and three forwards. However, the half backs and the forwards can be arranged differently. Thus there may be only one half back and five forwards or two half backs and four forwards.

In Prague and Vienna the rinks are smaller and seven a side, drawn up as in hockey play. The off-side rule differs from ice hockey, and in this respect bandy resembles field hockey. No player is offside if three of the opposing team are between him and their goal. This rule detracts from the merit of the game. This was noticeable when the Oxford Canadian Hockey Team (composed of Canadians studying at Oxford) played the St. Moritz Bandy Team in December 1909. The latter was considered the best in Europe.

Game New to Them.

The game was new to the Canadians. They had always played hockey, and their practise of the other game was limited to one week; consequently they played in hockey fashion. The forwards would play and pass as if the hockey offside rule applied. The backs would not pass ahead.

Not so the St. Moritz team. They would rarely rush up ahead. Their forwards did not remain in line but were separated and drawn up in a diagonal shape. One player kept down by the Canadian goal. A back would pass the ball in a long sweep to a forward, who would pass it to another forward up the rink and from him it would go to the forward stationed near the goal. There was no waste of energy. There was no quick rush. Their play made the game tame at times; there was too much like mere hitting the ball from one to the other.

No Better Than Hockey.

I am afraid I must disagree with Mr. Thompson when he gives the palm to bandy. In my estimation bandy falls much below hockey. It is a slower, less scientific game. It is a much easier game to play. Naturally it is less difficult to hit a ball across the ice than to shove a hockey puck. The ball rolls at the least touch. That is probably the reason why bandy will keep the upper hand of hockey in some winter resorts.

Men, who have passed their youth and would find hockey too difficult and strenuous, will be able to enjoy a

game of bandy. Ice hockey in spite of Mr. Thompson's remarks is a much quicker game. He may not have seen hockey of any merit at all, and I do not think he will see any good hockey team in Switzerland, except at the annual tournament at Les Avants, the well known resort in the mountains above Montreux.

There is an Inter-Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge played each year at Wengen or Villars in the Bernese Oberland (Switzerland), but the class of hockey is poor. No Canadian is allowed to take part. At Oxford there are many Canadians, most of them Rhodes Scholars, where as Cambridge possess none or only a few. The result would be that Oxford would have a team composed entirely of Canadians who have been playing hockey all their lives; whereas the majority of those taking part in the Inter-Varsity match are only in the embryo state of a hockey player. Of course in no part of Europe is it possible to find by any means a first class team.

Requires Time.

It requires time and practise to learn how to manage a hockey puck, but when once the art of dribbling has been attained the control over the puck is much more secure than over the ball, which often rolls over the stick. To shoot in bandy it is necessary to hit the ball, and this is not easy to do when skating at full speed with a moving ball. When one considers how a good player can sweep down the rink at full speed with the puck under perfect control and can shoot without slackening speed one jot, one fails to see how bandy is superior in this respect.

Moreover as has been mentioned before the offside rule takes from bandy the thrill of hockey and gives to it many tame moments. There is lacking the mad graceful rush of hockey when the forwards come up rugby fashion abreast and the puck is passed quickly from one to the other as they are travelling at lightning speed. Hockey is the refined development of bandy.

Hockey Supersedes It.

Hockey is rapidly taking the place of bandy. The Engadine seems to be the only part of Switzerland where bandy is now played. In this district are situated St. Moritz, which possesses the famous Cresta toboggan run, and Davos, two among the best known winter resorts in Europe. In the other districts bandy has given way to hockey. Leipzig is the only part of Germany I know of where bandy is still played. Munich used to play it but three years ago hockey was adopted. In Prague, Austria, both bandy and hockey are played. The German Austrians play the former, while the Czech part of the population indulge in the latter.

Bandy still prevails in Vienna, Sweden, Norway, St. Petersburg and Budapest. Budapest boasts of the largest and richest skating club in the world, with a membership of 18,000. This club sent an invitation to the Oxford Canadian Team to play hockey there in January 1912, but owing to the warm weather that prevailed over Europe at the time there was no ice and the invitation could not be accepted.

Becoming International.

The hockey will soon be played all over Europe. The advent of the Oxford Canadian Team into European Hockey has given a great impetus to the game, and great strides have been made. Their annual tour gives them the opportunity of meeting different teams in different countries. At the International Hockey meeting of 1912 the Canadian rules were adopted. The great change made by the adoption of these rules was in the matter of the offside rule which up to that time was the same as in bandy.

The game has become popular and its success is assured owing to the number of international tournaments that take place every year. In January and February Chamonix in French Switzerland, situated right below Mont Blanc, is a great meeting place for winter sports and here every year an international tournament for the championship of France takes place, in which many nations are represented. At Les Avants an annual international tournament for the championship of Switzerland is played. Besides these there are many minor tournaments. Then there is an annual tournament for the championship of Europe, which is played in a different place each year.

There are now many hockey teams in Europe. Great Britain has three—the Glasgow team of Glasgow, the Manchester team of Manchester and the Prince's team of London. Rinks at Glasgow and Manchester have

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MEN, MOVEMENTS, AND EVENTS IN OLD COUNTRY SPORT

Chatty Personal Items Concerning Athletes and Athletics in England.

GENERAL NEWS OF SPORT OUTDOORS AND INDOORS.

Obsolete Laws Cause Trouble in Some of the English Clubs.

Association football in the Old Country is losing some of the stalwarts who helped to make the game what it has become—a world's pastime. But a few weeks ago, Bristol City lost a valued official in Mr. E. J. Locke; Mr. T. E. Harris, of Notts County, is lying seriously ill; and now comes the news that "Harry" Hamer, the secretary of Bury, has gone to his last resting place. His was one of the most prominent figures in the Soccer game has known, and he was one of the most popular of men. Of keen business perception, he declined to court popularity, but he was respected throughout the length and breadth of the land. Practically associated with the Bury club since its inception in 1885, he was the secretary for about a quarter of a century. He was only 51 years old, was associated with many movements in Lancashire football, and was one of the originators of the Lancashire League, Lancashire Combination and the Central League.

Was Fortunate.

Under Mr. Hamer's guidance, Bury twice won the English cup, by the been built within the last three or four years. The famous Prince's rink in London, quite an exclusive establishment, has existed since 1898. This rink was the means of introducing hockey into Europe. Here hockey was played for the first time in Europe by some Canadians. Paris possesses a beautiful rink in the Champs Elysees called the Palais de Glace, where hockey is played by the Club de Patineurs. In Brussels there are two very fine rinks, one called "St. Sauveur," the other "Pole Nord," though both are somewhat too small for hockey. The latter was built about four years ago; the former is only two years in existence. Each of these rinks has a hockey club.

A skating rink was built in Liege, Belgium, last year, and this year a hockey team was formed there. Hannover, Germany, did have a rink where hockey was played, but I think it was closed down last year. In Berlin there are the two largest rinks in Europe, the "Icepalast" and the "Admiralpalast." In connection with the "Icepalast" is the Berliner Schlittschuh Club (the Berlin Skating Club). With this Club hockey is very popular, and it possesses a fine hockey team. There are two other Berlin hockey teams which play at this rink, the Berlin Sport Club and the Charlottenburg (a suburb of Berlin) Football Club.

Large Sporting Club.

Munich has a large sporting Club called the Maerner Turnverein. München and a branch of this is devoted to ice hockey. All the rinks mentioned above, except the rink at Munich, contain artificial ice. There is enough of permanent frost in Europe, outside of Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Russia, to produce natural ice. The skating season lasts from October to July or August. A couple of the rinks close earlier and are used as music halls till the opening of the skating season. Thus the skating rink "Pole Nord" in Brussels becomes in summer the music hall, "Palais d'Été." In Switzerland, the winter playground of Europe, where thousands of tourists revel for about four months of the year in snow and ice, hockey is rapidly becoming popular. There are about eighteen different hockey clubs, each belonging to a different town or village. Almost every hotel, except those in the larger towns, possesses an ice rink, where skating and hockey are enjoyed.

cord scores in the final, beating Southampton 4-0 in 1900 and Derby County three years later 6-0. It is interesting to recall the names of those who won the cup. In the first year the side was Thompson, Darroch and Davidson, Bray, Leeming and Ross, Richards, Woods, McLuckie, Sagar and Plant. In 1903, the players were Monteeh, Lindlay and M. Ewan, Johnston, Thorp and Ross, Richards, Logar, Leeming and Plant. I do not think one of those men now figures in first-class football, altho' up to a year or two ago Johnston and Thorpe were with Southern League teams.

Good Judge.

The late Henry Hamer was a wonderfully good judge of a young player, a splendid coach, and he always knew the right time to part with a man. There would have been no first-class football at Bury had it not been for him. For years the club struggled on under a great financial handicap, with an average game of seven or eight thousand, while the clubs in the big towns were commanding twenty to thirty thousand more. It may interest some of our lacrosse, hockey, and water polo friends here to note that during the whole of the holiday football in England, in which probably two hundred first class matches were played, there was not a single disturbance reported from any ground, and only two players had to be sent off the field by the referee for rough tactics.

Association Code.

That the Association code has taken a deep root in South Wales, a Rugby stronghold, is proved by the fact that at Ninian Park, Cardiff, over \$2,000 was taken in a match, and during Christmas week, the total receipts were over \$5,000, while the income for the first half of the season at the ground mentioned amounts to over 20,000. This is progress and no mistake.

Collin Veitch, the famous Newcastle United and Internationalist is approaching the end of his football days. He has had wonderful luck throughout a splendid career. During Christmas week, playing against Bradford City, he injured a muscle of his back, which means a rest for a few weeks. He has not made many appearances with the League team this season, but has done sterling work for the reserve.

Up Against It.

The Northern Union are up against a problem. I am almost sure as to the actual wording of the new rule, but it appears that players are being bound down on the plan of no play no pay. This has led to a dispute between that famous three-quarter back, B. Todd, and the Wigan Club. Todd has figured in a Wigan jersey for several years, and assisted the club to many notable triumphs. He has firmly made up his mind never to appear for the club again.

Another announcement interesting to those who follow the Northern Union game is that Edgar Wrigley, the ex-All Black centre three-quarter, of Huddersfield, has been put on the transfer list. It is said that \$2,500 is asked for Wrigley. It seems a rather paltry affair. Wrigley had a damaged knee, and holds that it is now sound again. The club think it only a fair proceeding that he should have a trial in the reserve team to see if the knee is right. The player does not fancy the idea. Hence the deadlock.

Concerning Swimming.

Swimmers on the other side are still wrangling over the status of a bath attendant. A proposal or amendment to the present law emanates from the Southern Counties A.S.A., who have hitherto been far too conservative, that "a swimmer becomes a professional whilst employed in a swimming-bath or elsewhere as a swimming attendant, but on leaving such employment may appeal to his district association for reinstatement as an amateur." It is because of the farcical nature of the old law in question that some districts seem to wipe it out altogether. Everyone employed at a swimming bath, be they superintendent, ticket clerk, etc., are recognised as amateurs so long as they do not accept money for teaching swimming, but the unfortunate individual who has to attend a plunge bath is ostracised. We commend this to the notice of the A.A.U. of Canada.

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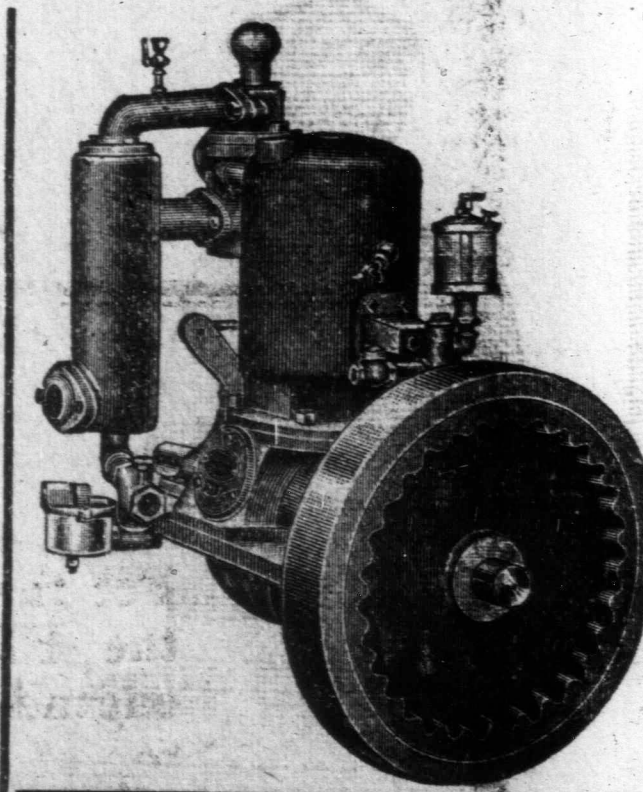
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