



Bridgend Sharks try for the Dragon goal in a South Wales Derby.

# Ulster snatch last minute win

## National Championships

Once again the national championships at Holme Pierrepont had to be cancelled because of blue green algae. Is it just because of farm fertilizer runoff and warm weather or could the ever expanding flock of Canada and greylag geese and their ever increasing quantity of guano be a factor?

However, this time there was enough notice to move to Friends of Allenby's venue in the docks in Liverpool, where the increase is in ball games as Everton Football Club's new stadium reaches full height next to them with just the occasional narrowboat cutting between the two. Friends of Allenby members worked hard to put on a good event. Rules were polo related and profit was not the issue that it is becoming at Nottingham. The club had even arranged access to a hall in the city for those who wanted somewhere to camp. Don't be surprised if the move from Nottingham is made permanent.

Nearly 30 teams were present, of whom the most obscure were Drunkendub A. Playing in Deveron Canoe Club colours, they were a group of friends from Aberdeen southwards on the east coast of Scotland who had picked a central name from a hamlet of three houses

and a seagull between Montrose and Arbroath.

Under 16 winners were to be Ulster Youth although their most jaw dropping moment had to be when three of them were lined up in front of the undefended Friends of Allenby X goal and bounced the ball away off the bottom of the frame.

The youth final was between Aberfan and Pennine, who scored within the first minute, Aberfan levelling 30 seconds later. The pace then slowed down until Aberfan shot wide. This led to a Pennine goal that went in off an Aberfan paddle. Aberfan were controlling play in the middle of the first half but had a shot go wide and another blocked before they succeeded again. Pennine again went ahead, matched half a minute later by Aberfan, Pennine again scoring before the interval.

The second half was frustrating for both teams, beginning with an unsuccessful shot over the shoulder from Pennine. Aberfan shot wide and low, Pennine also shooting low before Aberfan had three attempts bounce back off the frame. Pennine had a shot deflected away before they got the first of two more goals almost in the final minute for a win in a match which that was more even than the 6-3 score suggested.

Friends of Allenby got off to a poor start in the women's final with



Cherwell face defence by Friends of Allenby A.