

Article published in the Hop Leaf Gazette in September 1950 including details of the newly formed "B-Division"

The Annual Dinner and Presentation of Trophies and individual prizes to the value of £150 took place at the Civic Restaurant, Bristol, on June 6th. Over 300 League Skittlers attended the function which had to be limited to that number owing to the capacity of the building; and the keenness and enthusiasm of these Simonds stalwarts in the City of Bristol gave those who initiated "Hop Leaf" competitions in pre-war days the greatest encouragement for the future.

Speeches were few and appropriately short. Mr. J. H. Law proposed the toast of the League, to which Mr. G. H. Woodland, its Chairman, responded. One item, not on the card, was most unfavourably received during the evening—the sad news that Bruce Woodcock's towel had been thrown into the ring after the fourth round. For quite a while skittlers even forgot their skittles and drowned their anguish in "S.B."

Trophies were won by the following teams and individual members during the 1949-50 season :—

<i>Championship Shield</i>	...	Beaufort Arms, St. George.
<i>Runners-up Cup</i>	...	Black Horse, Redfield.
<i>"B" Division Champions</i>		N.F.S. Old Comrades.
<i>Runners-Up</i>	...	Elbury Sports.
<i>Knock-Out Cup</i>	...	Black Horse, Redfield.
<i>Runners-Up</i>	...	Beaufort Arms, St. George.
<i>Pairs Knock-Out</i>	...	Messrs. J. O'Hare and W. Green.
<i>Pairs Runners-Up</i>	...	Messrs. H. Griffiths and R. Priday.
<i>Singles Champion</i>	...	Mr. H. Bryant ("Bell").
<i>Runner-Up</i>	...	Mr. W. Gibbins ("Beaufort Arms").

It is always a great pleasure to meet our Hop Leaf "boys" whether across the festive board or on the long alley. A final word of tribute to Mr. E. G. Harding (Secretary), mine host of the Black Horse, Redfield, who works as zealously for these competitions as Mrs. Harding for the Bristol lady skittlers. They have both earned the gratitude of Bristol for their charitable efforts during the war and post-war years.

Produced in the editorial style of its day, The Hop Leaf Gazette included articles on; brewery operations, products & branding, pub refurbishments and corporate news, as well as the profiles and obituaries of key employees, licencees & pub management, births, marriages & deaths among long serving staff, brewery sporting & social events.

