

## THE WIZARDRY OF WALTER LINDRUM

Not in any pastime or in any sport has anyone approached the skill of Walter Lindrum, who followed his grandfather and father as a champion on the green cloth. Not only did he have unbelievable skill, but he had purpose and application to an amazing degree, attributes never absent in a great champion in any sphere.

In exhibitions he played some remarkable shots. When challenged to place the balls anywhere on the table in positions from where Lindrum could not score, none succeeded. In three shots he was able to make the nursery cannon position - the three balls close together close to the cushion - after which he would proceed to score one hundred in 35 seconds!

After he, as a young man, had reached the top, no one came anywhere near him as a billiardist, and an example of this was his meeting with Joe Davis in London, in 1932. Davis, who claimed to be the world champion and was good enough to make a 1500 break any day of the week, accepted 7000 start in a 14 days match.

In these matches play comprises periods of three hours at afternoon and evening sessions and on the last day, just as the afternoon session ended, Davis "broke" on a 1300 break, leaving Lindrum 3300 behind as the evening session began.

In this apparently impossible position, Lindrum was not dismayed. He put his head down and, when he lifted it two hours and 55 minutes later, he had scored the world record break of 4137 unfinished!

In subsequent international visits Walter broke the English billiards records in U.S.A. (2609), Canada (1774) and India (981). His remarkable display of nursery cannon play caused the English authorities to introduce a rule which required the baulk-line to be crossed once after 100 cannons had been scored. Lindrum found this simple to perform and, playing only nursery cannon shots, took the three balls three times around the table, crossing 16 pockets, to score 559 consecutive cannons.

We shall never see his like again.