

# Around and about ...

**Left at the Post** — Jose Rabins tells how on September 3 1939, when war broke out, the Southern Rhodesian Defence Force immediately sent out an urgent call to all members to report for active duty. Mr Rabins and 200 others went post haste that afternoon to the Drill Hall where they were “processed”, injected, and kitted out till about 10 that evening. The young men were told to go home and report the following 9 am. Early the next day Mr Rabins reported to his employer (Sam Rabinovitz), saying: “I’m off to war.” He went to the Drill Hall to wait with the rest of the “army”. Meanwhile his mother and his best friend, Arnold Sheen, rushed to the station to bid him good bye. Although she hunted frantically for her son, she missed the train and had to return home to wait for news ...

**Harris Woolf Orkin** — Born in London, he came to Bulawayo in 1955. He was Hon treasurer and chairman of Chovevei Zion, on the committee of Congregation, its president and trustee. He was also a member of the Matabeleland Division Council of the Board and of Cazo, and served as chairman of its southern regional committee.

**Leo Alexander Levy** — Influential Bulawayo businessman, he came from Lithuania in 1925. He built a business empire from humble beginnings as a hides and skin trader. He formed several large companies and was chairman United Portland Cement Co, MD for Gwelo Land and Minerals Co. He ranched in Gwanda from 1926 to 1931, became head buyer for

factories to detect hearing loss and started a Hearing Aids Bank. He has been president of the Board.

**Mr H Schatz** — He was deputy head of Founders High School, but was promoted in 1962 to the assistant director of Schools Audio Visual and Television.

**Dr Lionel Bergson** — One of the first Jewish doctors to enter general practice in Bulawayo in 1926.

**Abe Bik** — Chairman Education Committee of Rhodesian Zionist Council and vice chairman of *Histadrut Ivrit*, convener of Hebrew *Ulpan*. He went on *aliyah* in 1964.

**Paul L Sale** — Veteran Zionist and pioneer, he was Hon life vice president of the RZC. He worked for many years in Zionist areas and with the Hebrew Congregation. He played a leading part in establishing the Weizmann Country Club, was its Hon life vice president. Born Lithuania, he arrived in SA in 1895.

During the Boer War, he served with the British Forces. He settled 1908 in Plumtree where he organised local Jewish community affairs.

He moved to Bulawayo in 1930. He was a committee member of the Congregation for many years, vice president and president twice. Enthusiastic, devoted Zionist, “Oom Paul” was a tireless worker in many campaigns. He headed many drives including IUA. He hosted many well-known Zionist figures including Dr Chaim Weizmann and Prof Selig Brodetsky.

**Phil Baron** — Son of Dora and Max Baron, pioneers of Bulawayo Jewry. He was a brilliant scholar involved in the Rhodesian Arts Council, Old Miltonians Assn, chairman of RZC Medical Committee and chairman of the Bulawayo Friends of the Hebrew University.



One of these delightful youngsters went on to become a mayor of Bulawayo. Can you guess which one? He is fourth from the left, the golden boy of Bulawayo — Jurick Goldwasser.

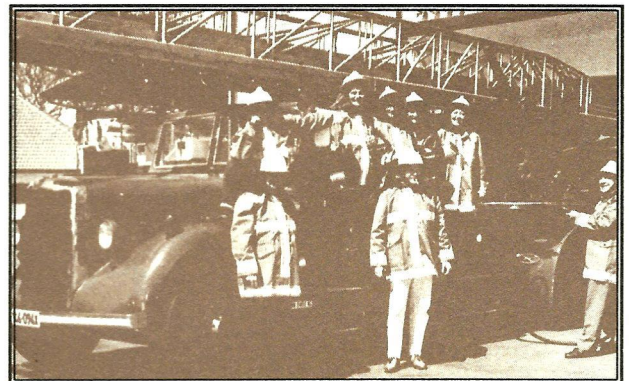
when who should appear only three hours later, but her “lost” son. Mr Rabins says: “In the confusion and the ‘great coats on, great coats off’ attitude of the army, about 20 young men were left off the roll call! Obviously I had to go back to my boss and report that I was ‘back from the war.’” However, 10 months later Mr Rabins finally did join the ranks for nearly five years.

**Arthur Sarif MBE** — Born in Bulawayo and educated at Milton, he was articled to a legal firm before outbreak of World War Two. He volunteered for service in west and east Africa with the Royal West African Frontier Force, became a Major and was awarded the MBE. Afterward he became a partner in a legal firm. He was an active sportsman, keen bowler and rugby player. In 1939 he got Matabeleland Rugby colours. He was instrumental in starting the Rhodesian Maccabi Association in 1953, was its first chairman, and in 1957 visited Israel as part of the Rhodesian Maccabi team. He was president of Weizmann Country Club, Parkview Sports Club and Guild; president of RZC 1958-60, exec member of the Board; co-founder of the Jewish Day School Movement; served on the Board of Governors of Carmel, was co-founder of the Centre Party in Rhodesia and at the time of his death in 1972 was one of its two National vice presidents.

the Rhodesian Export and CSC, and pioneered the export of frozen beef to England. He helped Government in the relief of famine and drought. For his service to the cattle industry he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1959. Among the pall bearers at his funeral were Chief Justice Sir Hugh Beadle and Mr Justice J M Greedfield.

**Phil Taub** — Born St Petersburg, Russia in 1898, he came to Bulawayo in 1936 from the Belgium Congo where he had been since 1926. He opened a motor company in Bulawayo, of which he remained a director of more than 30 years. He was a co-founder of Weizmann, and was its chairman/president. He was associated with many Jewish and non-Jewish social and benelvolent societies.

**Dr Bernie Tatz** — He has been a member of the Lions Club of Bulawayo since 1969. In 1972 he was the instigator of the Corneal Transplant here and in 1974 started Riding for the Disabled. He also instigated hearing tests in schools and



The task of preparing for the Centennial Celebrations fell on the shoulders of this sterling lot. (Back from left): Ronit Loewenstern, Wendi Lepar, Judy Chitrin, Rifca Baron, Betty Rabinson. (Front): Tony Wiesenbacher, Brian Shapiro, Colin Gordon (chairman). Why the fire engine? Colin complained at the meetings of all the smoke from cigarettes and threatened to call the Fire Brigade!

# Honours on the playing fields

*He who hesitates is last.*  
Mae West

by Jennifer Bernstein

THE Jews of Bulawayo have always participated, and in many cases excelled, in the different aspects of sport, and their contribution has not been limited to participation but has included its administration.

When the community was at its peak, two Jewish sports clubs, as well as the



*The original tennis shelter at Parkview Sports Club opened on July 3 1937. It was demolished in May 1955.*

Rhodesian Maccabi Association were active in Bulawayo. Their history is part of our development.

The idea of a Jewish club was first mentioned in the early 1930s, by Samuel Rabinovitz among others, but no progress was made for some time. This may be because the community felt it was too small or that the leadership lacked imagination or that the community was nervous about segregation.



The **Parkview Tennis Club** began under the leadership of Archie Landau and Bennie Goldstein. Most Jewish tennis players at the time were members of Queens Sports Club, where anti-semitism was a problem. In 1936 some Jews decided it was time to start their own tennis club, again amid opposition from others who felt it was elitist and insisted the club be inter-denominational.

However, Wallenstein's plot, which still had various market garden vegetables growing on it, was leased. Two tennis courts and a small thatched pavilion were built for about £700. On July 3 1937 Parkview Tennis Club was born and the pavilion was opened by Mr D MacIntyre MP, Mayor of Bulawayo.

Mr Goldstein convened the Foundation Committee in December 1936. Parkview

grew and prospered even though more than 40 members were away on active service during the war.

Willie Fredman formed an Actions Committee in 1952 to buy the land, approximately 11 acres. Freddy Reiff recalls that one Sunday afternoon, he and Mr Fredman called on Mr Segal, who lived in a small house on the grounds, and after much persuasion, they negotiated to buy his unexpired 25-year lease for £5,000. He moved shortly thereafter.

Others on this committee were Charles Whiteson, Sydney Gruber, Eli Zacks, Gus Fredman and Joe Davidoff. Foundation membership cost £100, made up of an initial £15 deposit and a monthly stop order of £2. Another innovation for the club was that it soon became known for its non-racial stance and was the first multi-racial club in Bulawayo.

Junior tennis espouses the future of any club. Parkview was lucky have to the enthusiastic help of Lily Fryde. It was she

who started the junior tennis section and she built it up to become the pride of the club.

Bowls started in 1954 with the opening of the Ralstein and Grossberg greens by the mayor, J M MacDonald. These were put down by Paddy Gallagher and were maintained by Dick Powell. Three more were added, the Schur, Zlattner and Kantor greens, and they soon earned a reputation of being the best in the Federation, if not southern Africa. It became necessary to organise bowls along proper lines and in 1954, a Men's Committee headed by Harry Rosenberg and a Ladies' Committee headed by Lily Rosenberg, were started.



*Parkview Actions Committee, 1952. Willie Fredman, Charles Whiteson, Sydney Gruber, Eli Zacks, Gus Fredman, Joe Davidoff.*

An important factor in this section's rapid growth was the splendid representation of the Bulawayo and District Bowling Association by Parkview delegates. Mention should be made of Sonny Jacobson and Sonny Kaplan, who were president and secretary respectively for three terms. With such excellent facilities, Parkview went on to stage the SA Inter Provincial Tournament and became a venue for the National Bowls.

A handsome donation from Annie Gruber helped build a squash court in January 1955. At the first AGM, David Salomon was elected chairman. The Gruber court was one of the finest of its day and with 70 active members, they went on to win the Men's Squash League for the first time. Later a second court was added and named after that doyen of squash, Issy Sarif, who coached many players.

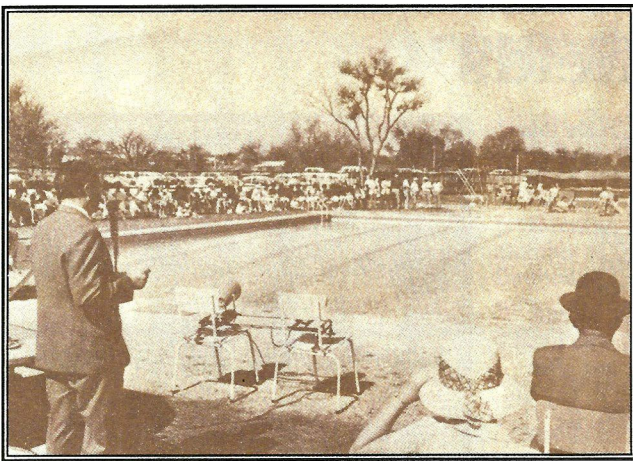
Parkview Sports Club was now lucky to receive a new 99-year lease direct from the City Council.

Table tennis began in 1957 and by 1961 Parkview was the largest table tennis club in the city. The ladies' section won its league three years in a row. That year also saw the opening of the basketball court built with the help of Maccabi.

At the sixth AGM in 1959, Sid Gruber, club chairman, reported the money situation



*Arthur Sarif addresses the crowd at the first Maccabi Tennis tournament at Parkview, October 1952.*



*The opening of the swimming pool at Parkview Sports Club.*

good and amenities were of the highest standard of any club in Southern Rhodesia. Children were specially catered for and a professional tennis coach was on duty every Sunday afternoon.

Parkview held a banquet for the club's Silver Jubilee in 1961, attended by many dignitaries and members. Many toasts were proposed led by Mr A Landau, the first club chairman, and a sumptuous meal made it a memorable event.

The swimming and paddling pools were opened in September 1962 by chairman Freddy Reiff. Guests of Honour included Members of Parliament and city councillors and the first plunge into the water was taken by Marilyn Sidelsky, a well-known Rhodesian swimmer. There was a full social programme, which included bowls, a fun fair, children's events, diving and swimming displays by Rhodesian and South African title holders, a water polo match, and a mannequin parade, followed by a braai.

More recently in 1980 Sonny Jacobson attained the highest position in the world of bowls when he was elected president of the International Bowling Board. He was a founder of the original Parkview Club and served for many years on the Rhodesian Olympic Council.

The Jewish Guild also provided the stimulus for the formation of the **Weizmann Country Club**, in 1950. After the war, people wanted more social activities and the minutes of the Bulawayo Jewish Guild show how they tried to find land which could be developed. The founding of Israel in 1948 gave many a new sense of consciousness which made an impact on the community.

Various sites were looked at outside Bulawayo, one where the Bulawayo Country Club is now situated. The story goes that the owners, two prominent Jewish businessmen, did not want to be accused of having

profited out of the community, so the land changed hands at least twice, before being sold to the Bulawayo Country Club.

On October 11 1948, at a business meeting not connected with communal matters, Mr W Lowenthal mentioned a property of 230 acres for sale, with buildings on it that would lend themselves to a country club.

at £1 each. To avoid isolation, the club was not professedly Jewish or otherwise, but there is no doubt that most wanted it to be a Jewish club.

Wonderland Estates, at Gumtree bordering Matopos (about 20 kms outside Bulawayo off the old Essexvale Road), was bought at a reduced price of £13,000 and at the first shareholders' meeting on December 6 1948, the first Board of Directors included Mr Sarif as chairman, Mr W Lowenthal as vice-chairman and Mr J Rabins as secretary.

The community opened its heart and its coffers to help develop water and electricity supplies. Cash donations, interest free loans and other help were freely given.

In May 1949, another meeting was held where it was estimated that a further £10,000 was needed for development over 18 months. Major decisions were made: that a Jewish Club be formed; that its name be the Bulawayo Jewish Country Club; and that a provisional committee would frame its constitution. Mr I Isaacson was appointed convener.

The club's first function was a disaster! When shareholders were invited for a look-see, not only did the heating fail, so tea was made on a primus stove, but a prominent Jewish citizen drove his car into a hole and was not left with a good impression.

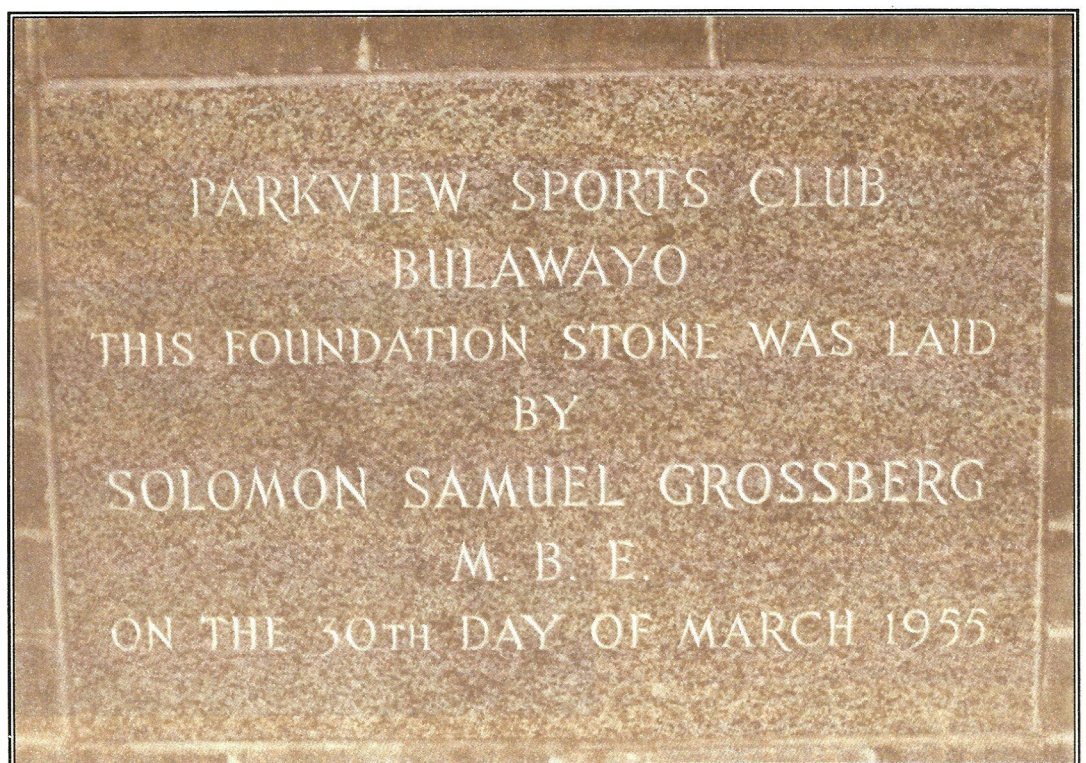
Meanwhile, the constitution was drafted and adopted provisionally. Mary Segal, of Cape Town, got Dr Chaim Weizmann's consent from Israel to use his name.

The First General Meeting was held in March 1950. The constitution was adopted and the First Council Committee (Mr P Eagle — president) and the First Executive Committee (Mr A Sarif — chairman) were elected.

The idea of a Jewish country club was enthusiastically discussed. The site was inspected and plans went into action. People were canvassed for financial support. As there was no time to decide on a club constitution, it was decided to offer



shares in a non-profit making company, which would buy the land. To avoid any group or individual securing control, no person could take up more than 200 shares



At this stage, there were about 60 members but by the next month's meeting it had more than doubled. *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* and other social functions were held at the club, which still had limited facilities. Electricity was connected in August 1950 at 7.30 pm in time for a dance starting at 9 pm. Needless to say, the electrician was a guest just in case of a breakdown!

The club-house was cosy and intimate, even though it was a large residence. The kitchen was well equipped, the minutes say, with "electrical fittings and devices to simplify and speed the work". Preparation began for bowling greens, tennis courts and other amenities. Most importantly a liquor licence was obtained.

Two large dams were built with the help of Mr S Loewenson from the Irrigation Department to supply water for the grounds which were planted with trees, flowers and lawn. Other features included swimming and paddling pools, designed by Leonora Granger, and a children's playing field.

The first bowling green was made ready thanks to a donation from Isaac Pieters, and the help of Col Sonny Webb, one of the estate trustees. Grass was specially imported from South Africa. When the swimming pool was finished, terraces were built on either side for bathers and "kibitzers", the club announced.

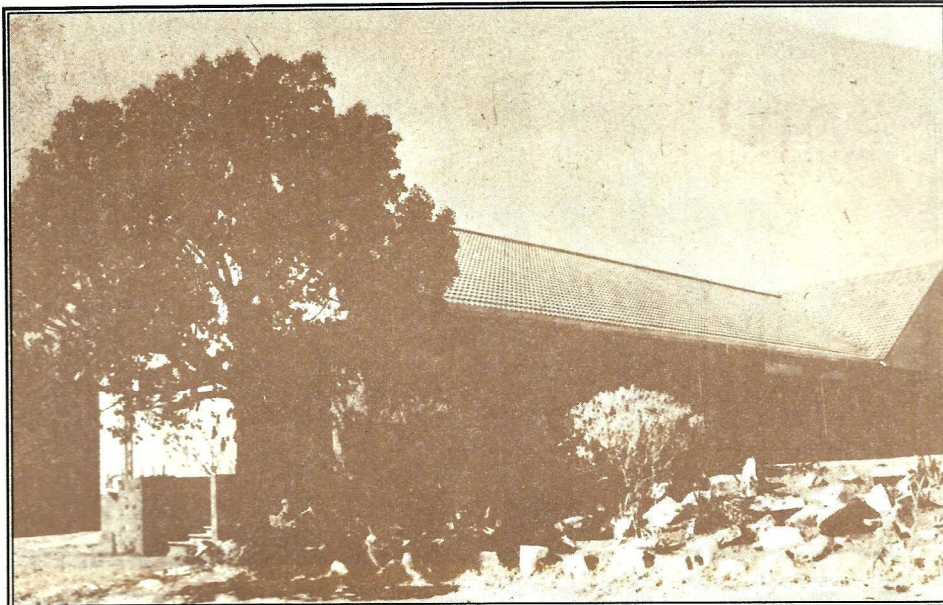
Early in 1952 a tractor was bought, which "paid for itself over and over again," the minutes say. How, is anyone's guess! The caretakers, Mr and Mrs Fuller, began working in May 1952 and Mr Fuller supervised the building of the bowling green and two tennis courts. Entertainment, such as braais, a beer garden, cinema, variety evenings, fetes, and even hobo dances, became a mainstay.

The first two tennis courts were ready by the year's end and early in 1953, the Club began Sunday lunches which became a popular family outing.

The bowls section was started in October 1952 by Hymie Zinn, who became its president. Two months later a Maccabi tournament was held with teams competing from Johannesburg and Salisbury. The hosts won the day, but as yet had no colours to carry to victory.

The club was so popular that plans were made for three more greens and two more tennis courts, but as always, money was a problem.

The Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir John Kennedy and Lady Kennedy, paid an informal visit in May 1953. Weizmann Club was officially opened in 1953 by the Minister Plenipotentiary for Israel to the Union of South Africa, Mr Hyman. Many prominent people visited over the following years, including Dr Cohen, President of the British Board of Deputies and Dr Pearlzweig of the World Jewish Congress. By 1953 there were more than 500 members.



Parkview-Weizmann Club House, 1994. The drought has taken its toll on the lawns and flower beds.

### Past Chairmen Parkview Tennis Club

1937	A Landau	1946/47	RG Fredman
1938/39	B Goldstein	1948/49	E Eliasov
1940/44	C Whiteson	1950/51	W Fredman
1945	W Kaplan	1952	S Gruber

### Past Chairmen/Presidents Parkview/Weizmann

Parkview	Chairman	Weizmann	President	Chairman
1953/58	C Whiteson	1950/52	P Eagle	A Sarif
1959/60	S Gruber	1952/53	J Sager	A Sarif
1961/62	F Reiff	1953/54	J Sager	K Gonsenhauser
1963/64	W Fredman	1954/55	I Isaacson	E Eliasov
		1955/56	P Taub	E Eliasov
		1956/57	A Sarif	C Kluk
		1957/58	S Rabinovitz	J Rubenstein
		1958/59	J Palte	C Kluk
		1959/60	J Palte	P Taub
		1960/61	G Jacobson	I Scher
		1961/63	A Sarif	I Scher
		1963/64	E Eliasov	E Broomberg
		1964/65	I Scher	

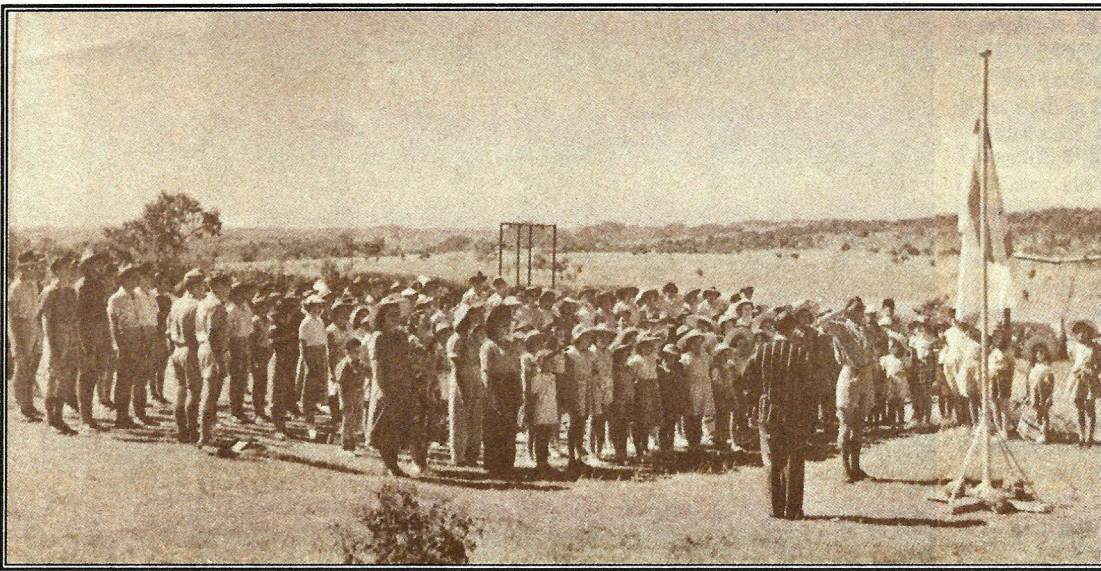
Merger June 1 1965

### Parkview Weizmann Sports Club

	Chairman	President
1965/66	C Whiteson	1966/70 W Fredman
1967	A Sarif	1971/73 C Whiteson
1968	E Eliasov	1974/75 E Eliasov
1969/74	B J Katz	1976/77 F Reiff
1975	B J Katz/B Lowenthal	1980 B Tatz
1976	B Lowenthal	1993/94 B Tatz
1977	L Bernstein/B J Katz	
1978/79	L Bernstein/F Reiff	
1980	L Bernstein	
1981	B J Katz	
1982/83	B Tatz	
1993/94	B J Katz	

### National Honours Board of Club Members

Basil Katz	tennis	Phina Rosin	bowls
Judy Joubert	bowls	Ian Raizon	squash
Ethel Kaplan	bowls	Peggy Eliasov	squash
Natie Lieberman	squash	Merlyn Finch	swimming
Ronnie Lange	squash	Colin van Wyk	swimming
Bruno Fiorentino	basketball	Avalon Gonsenhauser	bowls
Olive Katz	bowls	Apie Solomon	bowls
Mabel Ginsberg	bowls		



*A youth rally and mass picnic at Wonderland Estate, April 1950, before officially becoming Weizmann Country Club.*

Later that year, the Rhodesia Maccabi bowls team trials were staged at Weizmann with three of its members among the team of five selected. They distinguished themselves at the Maccabi Games and won the rinks and pairs competitions. That year too, Rev Yesorsky and Cantor Golub conducted the *Yahrzeit* of the late Dr Weizmann in a moving open air ceremony. The uniformed youth movements planted trees for the occasion.

The club entertained Australian women bowlers and a visiting Balfour soccer team in 1954. The swimming pool remained popular with the children but early in 1955, a polio epidemic kept them away. After requests by the Medical Officer of Health, it was decided to close the pool until the all-clear was given. When the scare was over a first-class swimmer was hired to keep watch and give lessons.

Weizmann always assisted the youth movements and in 1955 Habonim held its first camp there. By now club membership was more than 600. Members achieved sporting recognition for their skills and in 1958 they won the Forbes League, a premier competition in bowls.

But in the end, loss of membership and financial difficulties forced the two clubs to merge.

On June 1 1965 **Parkview Weizmann Sports Club** was started at the Parkview premises under the Parkview constitution which was amended. Willie Fredman became Hon president of the new governing body. The pool was finally closed in 1976 when it became too expensive to repair and was little used. Bowls proved to be as popular as ever and

night bowls was introduced and continued right through to the 1980s. Blind bowlers also enjoyed the use of the club facilities and charity days were held every year.



Sadly, today the Parkview Weizmann Sport Club is having some financial difficulties — the buildings are neglected and

membership, in comparison to other Bulawayo sports clubs, is down. However, a few young people have recently joined and it is hoped more will follow.

Prior to the formation of the two sports clubs and the Rhodesia Maccabi Association, many sportsmen played under the banner of the **Balfour Club**.

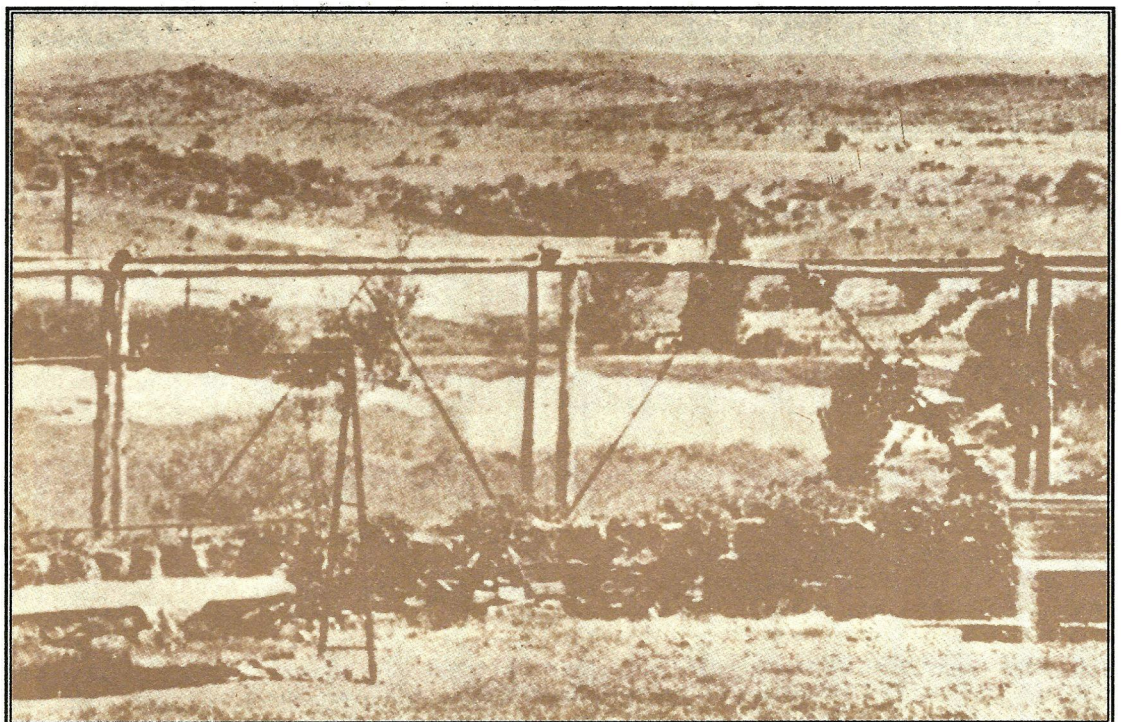
This was linked to the Guild, which meant that all members could join the sporting activities of Balfour. Phil Baron was chairman of the 1952 Balfour Committee, which proved its high standard of play when it won the Matabeleland 1st League Cup tennis competition a year earlier.

A cricket team, the **Nomads**, played league in Bulawayo and in 1952 players included A Sager, M Thal, K Kaye and many more with Lionel Bernstein being the outstanding performer with both bat and ball. He took eight wickets for 15 against Greenlands — quite a feat.

Balfour also fielded basketball teams which were well placed in the league logs and proved difficult to beat. First team players included Mervyn Lange (captain), Basil Katz, Myer Smiezer and others. The Balfour Club also introduced wrestling in the Guild Hall under the wing of the Matabeleland Wrestling Club.



Just as the Olympics are the ultimate goal for the world's athletes, so Jewish sports people aspire to the Maccabiah. The noble



*The view from Weizmann Club House shortly after the land was bought.*

aims of Maccabi inspired Arthur Sarif to form the **Rhodesia Maccabi Association (RMA)** in 1953. He was its first chairman. To start things rolling, a ball was held at Parkview and many social and sporting events followed.

The first Maccabi Mixed Rinks Tournament began at Weizmann Country Club in May 1955 organised on a league basis with 96 participants.

The RMA constitution was adopted in July 1956 with its general aims to participate in the World Maccabi Games as representatives of Rhodesian Jewry; to co-operate with the SA Maccabi Association; to establish closer sporting links with Israel; to provide advancement for Jewish youth and promote the spirit of the Maccabians; and to foster better understanding between all people within sport and culture. Most importantly it promoted *"amongst its members a team spirit, the conception of fair play, good citizenship and self-discipline"*.

Maccabi was the first multi-racial sports association in Rhodesia and had the first coloured and Indians players in its teams.

At the 1958 AGM, Lionel Bernstein was elected chairman of the new Matabeleland Maccabi Council (MMC). The first Maccabi quiz for the Leon Krell Cup was won by the Matabeleland team, which narrowly defeated the Junior Maccabi team and the visiting OFS team. This became a popular annual event.

A year later Mr Bernstein became first chairman of the RMC, a post he held for 20 years, and Basil Katz became chairman of the MMC.

Special weight lifting and body building courses were started for juniors by Dave Goldberg.

In October/November 1959, a 21-day tour of Israel for Sportsmen was organised with SA Maccabi, at a cost of £250 which included air fare, lodgings and tours — compare today's prices!

The Guild was packed in 1960 for the Maccabi Cavalcade of Sports organised by Maccabi. Judo, fencing, gymnastics, table tennis and weight lifting were demonstrated. A highlight of the evening was the contest for Mr Maccabi title, the first time it was held.

During this period, Mr Bernstein and his committee were negotiating with Parkview for a floodlit tennis court for night play. Dozens of youngsters took up the sport and a Maccabi League was formed.

Long before Maccabi was formed, annual Inter Provincial tournaments, which included golf, cricket, hockey, rugby, bowls, tennis, table tennis and swimming, took place at various grounds in Harare and Bulawayo alternately. Maccabi then organised these events which continued until its demise.



Today touring teams have constant problems with hotel and travel expenses. Not so in 1963 when Bulawayo hosted the third Inter Provincial Sports Festival. The Grand Hotel offered bed and breakfast at 25/- a day for visiting Maccabians. The "Stereos" band was hired for £16.16.0 and the cost of the dance ticket was 10/- a couple, which included tea and cake. Play was held at Parkview, Weizmann and the Bulawayo Golf Club, Milton Sports Fields and Carmel School.

Maccabi always promoted sport among our children and assisted Carmel School for many years. Mr Bernstein with Bobby

Styles began to prepare the cricket ground at the school. They hoped it would be the future headquarters for Matabeleland Maccabi Cricket. Maccabi spent £78 removing the well in the middle of the ground to expand the size of the playing fields. Maccabi was represented on the Carmel School PTA and in July 1964, donated two trophies for the girls and boys Inter-House Relay Races.

In 1964, when the Rhodesian Zionist Council became Cazo, Maccabi, already affiliated with World Maccabi, agreed to affiliate to Cazo.

The cricket section was the most active section of Maccabi at the time, and in 1964, the Matabeleland Maccabi Cricket Team won the Baines PTA and RAFA Festivals. Ivor Altshuler and David Vides were instrumental in the organisation of these events.

At this time too, Matabeleland Maccabi was still involved in developing the Carmel playing fields. The local prison provided convict labour at no charge. The only danger was flooding from the nearby stream after heavy rainfall. The opening of the Carmel cricket pitch took place in February 1965 and Mr Bernstein reported that the turf wicket was of a high standard.

The success of our local Maccabi was recognised by an accolade in a 1956 Israeli publication from the Maccabi World Union. *"The Rhodesian Maccabi Association ... a comparatively small territorial organisation, is most active and well known in the different fields of sport and does its utmost in fostering the spirit of sport and education among Jewish youth. Only a short time ago the Bulawayo club provided sports facilities for the Carmel Jewish School."*



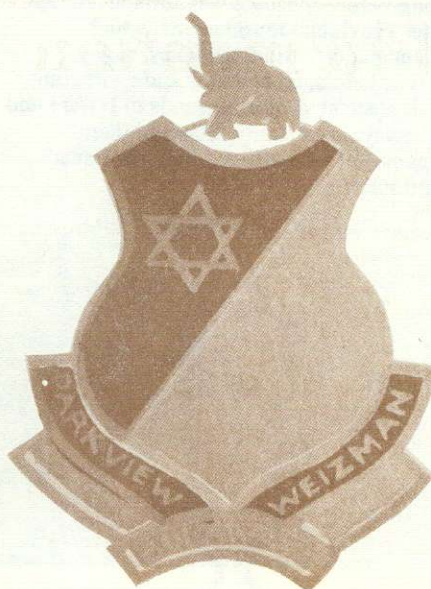
*The Weizmann Committee 1950s. (Back from left): Dr M J Lewis, Betty Wolffe, Irvin Schmulian, Maurice Wolffe, George Tihany, Ben Ellis, Nick Amato. (Middle): Nellie Banet, Zena Jacobsen, Rosemary Sarif, Peggy Eliasov, Gertie Sarif, Daphne Ralstein, Joyce Amato, Marcia Rubenstein. (Front): Alex Ralstein, Harry Mathieson, Arthur Sarif, Charles Kluk, Jack Rubenstein, Monty Rabins, Eli Eliasov.*

Through the years, competitors were selected from various sporting fields to take part in the annual Maccabi Games in Israel. Our bowlers, in particular, reaped a good haul of medals but others also triumphed. After the Six Day War, Rhodesian Maccabi responded to the Israeli Emergency Appeal by donating £1,000, a tremendous effort on their part.

In 1968 the Maccabi cricket team in Bulawayo applied for affiliation to the Matabeleland Cricket Council and in 1968/69 played its first season in the reserve League. This was mainly due to the efforts of Ivor Altshuler, who became president of the RMA from 1968-1973. He managed the 1969 team that went to Israel and was praised for his work. Ivor later went on *aliyah* and formed the first Israeli cricket team. He retained his involvement in Maccabi and in sport.

A coloured player, Mr Hendricks created a stir by playing for Maccabi in 1970. A letter was received from the Matabeleland Cricket Council acknowledging the fact and stating that while it was permissible, the rules of any individual club had to be obeyed when playing in the League.

Another milestone was created in 1972 when a group of youngsters became the first Maccabi Junior team to enter the official Junior Soccer League (known as the European League). That season they made a clean sweep by winning the League, the Five-a-Side tourney and the knock-out cup. A keenly contested League cup final was held at Rovers in 1972, where Maccabi beat OM's.



Not only was the battle fought on the field but many will remember the fight which took place among the spectators, begun by youths and finished by adults. "Ho Ho Maccabi" could be heard from the stands when the likes of Leonard Helfer scored a goal. The Maccabi side were League champions for three years. The team enjoyed an SA tour coached by Adrian Suskin and managed by Mervyn Trappler. Later a visiting Maccabi Youth team was entertained from the Eastern Province.

Maccabi organised many sports tours and played host to diverse teams including an Israeli soccer team which played

Matabeleland at Queens and an Israeli table tennis team which played Rhodesia at the city hall. The Rhodesian team included Le Baron. An Israeli bowls club team came to Bulawayo while on a visit to SA and included Israeli national players. A South African Maccabi tennis team came on a visit which included players of national class like Abe Segal.

A South African Maccabi Men's Hockey team, including several current and former Springboks toured Rhodesia in 1971.

Eventually all good things come to an end and in 1977 when Cazo HQ moved to Harare, Maccabi decided to follow suit. Zack Menashe of Harare took over as chairman of the RMA but Matabeleland remained actively involved.

Problems arose in 1977 when Israel would not allow the Rhodesians to take part in the Maccabiah under the Rhodesian flag. Although the participants had been chosen and all the travel arrangements were made, a disappointed team cancelled at the last minute as they were only allowed to take part as a "South African B Team".

Disillusionment and lack of purpose caused by this set-back resulted in Maccabi folding, and although a cricket team continued to play under the name of Maccabi, it was no longer associated with any Jewish sporting body. It is hoped that with the current promising diplomatic ties between Israel and Zimbabwe, the Association may be revived and be able to send a team to the next Maccabiah. ☆

## Champion for the Youth

Lily Fryde, nee Levin, came to Bulawayo in 1927 to stay with her cousins, the Rev and Mrs MI Cohen. She did much for the younger tennis players when Parkview Tennis Club first started. Although she was very preoccupied with her employment, having worked at the same firm for 18 years, she still found time to give of herself to a variety of communal affairs. In the early 1950s she practically inaugurated a Junior Tennis Section at the Parkview Tennis Club and from this meagre beginning she built up what became a most active and thriving section which was the pride of the club. With her abounding energy and almost "fanatical" enthusiasm, she threw herself into the organisation of this section, which was entirely under her control. Not only did it cater for the sporting need of the children, but socially she arranged regular teenage dances, concerts and fancy dress parades, which were always most successful. In addition to her work for the juniors, Mrs Fryde was also the Hon secretary of the tennis section for many years, during which time her work was of great assistance and value to the club as a whole. (Right: Gill Baron and Lily Fryde with some of the trophies to be presented, 1950s.)



# Jews in sports

**A**LTHOUGH many Jewish athletes did well at school, not many carried on with the sport. The Rabinson brothers showed great talent as did Solly King, who was killed on active service.

Manny Meltzer was an outstanding schoolboy sprinter and represented Bulawayo in the 100 and 220 yards against Tv1, winning both events. He continued at college. He gained first Rhodesian titles in 1929 and got Rhodesian colours in 1936.

Victor Hepker and Phil Baron also did well at school. Charles Weinberg represented Rhodesia at the Inter-Provincial Relay Meeting in Kimberley (1928).

In the late 1930s, Molly Sagar won the Rhodesia School Girls' 100 yards race for Eveline. She was trained by Max Gordon.

More recently, Janine Kaplan was a winner at school and at Bulawayo Harriers. She ran for Mat'land and Rhodesia. In 1970 she was the fastest woman in her age group and the next year went on a Rhodesian Tour to Germany for which she got Rhodesian Colours. She went on to win a Bronze

medal in the 200m at the 1973 Maccabi Games.

In 1971 12-year-old Leonard Helfer broke the 100m record at Carmel School in a time of 13,3 secs — the record still stands. Although Leonard did not pursue his athletics, at Milton School he did break many Rhodesian and school records in the 100m, 200m and 400m events and represented Rhodesia at the 1973 Maccabi Games, where he won a Bronze in the Junior section.

In the 1970s Selwyn Solomon represented Rhodesia for Shot Put.

Max Gordon gave many years of service to Athletics. He was the Hon secretary of the Rhodesian Amateur Athletics Assn and was awarded Rhodesian colours for his contribution. Later he became president of the Mat'land Amateur Athletics Board and, in 1990, was made Patron for his services. In the early days, Max was secretary of Bulawayo Harriers and was organising secretary of the only Southern African Amateur Athletics Championships held in Rhodesia (1947).

The only known baseball player was Louis Weinberg, in the early 1930s.

**Basketball:** Ivan Levin and Rodney Broomberg played for Mat'land in the 1960s and Ivan went on to play for Rhodesia. Lionel Bernstein was president of the Mat'land Basketball Assn and then president of the Rhodesian Basketball Assn for many years. He assisted in bringing the Harlem Globetrotters to Rhodesia on their 1963/64 Tour and hosted the Alabama & Jacksonville State University teams, who played at the Trade Fair Grounds in 1968.

**Bowls:** In 1924, Harry Charles was runner-up in the Rhodesian Men's Singles Championship and in 1925 Jack Moss was Bulawayo Club Champion. Moss (1926 team) and Charles (1927 team) were great enthusiasts. The Bulawayo Club won the Rhodesian Championships in those years.

In 1957 Lily Gruber won the Israeli Open Singles title in Ramat Gan. The following year, and in 1962, she won the Bulawayo Champion of Champions. She also carried away the Bulawayo District Singles and Weizmann Singles titles.



*Kings Athletic Club (hockey section). Winners of the First League Season (Davis Bowl), 1913. One of the earliest original photos we managed to find in its heavy carved teak frame. (Middle row first left): H Cohen, (far right): P Rabinson. W J Atterbury (pres) seated on bench third left.*



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in won the Ladies' Singles Championship, the Sadler Cup, in addition to her fame the Rhodesian Championships and the Rinks Championship titles in SA District in 1963. The Weizmann Rinks Stella Thal, Ressi Herlitz, Avalon user and skip Sheila Mathieson Greaterman Trophy.

na, Olive Katz, Lily Gruber and lan represented Rhodesia in the District Bowls Championships in 1962.

ther Ellenbogen and Phina Rosin Rhodesian Bowling Championship Phina was a member of the Rinks in the SA Bowling Championship where Silvie Solomon won.

1964, Sheila Mathieson won Bowls Singles and, with Phina in the pairs in the Bulawayo Bowling Tourney. The Parkview Olive Katz, Mabel Ginsberg, Ida Ethel Kaplan won the Rinks in the Rhodesian Bowling Championship. Ethel did well in Singles too.

berg played in the winning team in the SA Ladies Inter-district Championships in 1964.

ing year Esther Ellenbogen won Pairs, and the Weizmann Rinks Rhodesian Championships was taken Mathieson, Avalon user, Phina Rosin, and Stella Thal.

year Daphne Rosin and Stella the Rhodesian Champions. Later Bernstein was the Ladies' Bowls of Champions and Louis Harry Rosenberg, David and Sid Rifkin won the Rinks in League.

ck Trappler was the first to win the Israeli Men's Singles so, he had to beat virtually the African team, one by one, the famous Springbok rugby

## The Game of Cricket

1. You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.
2. Each man that's in the side that's in, goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.
3. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out.
4. Sometimes you get men still in and not out.
5. When both sides have been in and out including the not out, that's the end of the game **HOWZAT!**



player Okey "The Boot" Geffin. In 1973 Parkview won the Rinks at the Nationals and the next year it was runner-up in the Trips (Sonny Jacobson, Jack Trappler and Lionel Bernstein.)

In 1981 Apie Solomon was the Singles Champion of Club Champions and was chosen to represent Zimbabwe. Max and Phina Rosin, Peggy Eliasov, Harry Rosenberg, Avalon Gonsenhausner, Apie Solomon and Olive Katz were all honoured with Rhodesian colours.

In 1981 a directive to all clubs from the Ministry of Sport ordered that no more competitions were to be played with South Africa.

**Bowls Administration:** Jews have been strongly represented on the various bowling

committees. In 1962 Nellie Banet, previously secretary of the Ladies' District Bowls Executive, went on to become vice president. Sonny Jacobson became chairman of the Rhodesian Bowling Assn in 1963, and in 1974 he was vice president of the Bulawayo and District Bowling Assn; 1976 elected president of the Rhodesia Bowling Assn; 1981 president of the International Bowling Board. Sonny Kaplan was elected on to the RBA committee in 1963.

In 1964 Max Rosin and Les Reubenson were elected to Bulawayo and District Bowling Assn, Council of Five. Saxon Isaacson was also a member of the Bulawayo and District Bowling Assn in 1974.

Lionel Bernstein was vice president of the Bulawayo & District Bowling Assn from 1976-1981 and then became vice president of the Zimbabwe Bowling Assn from 1981-1984. Asher Bernstein was an executive member of the ZBA at the same time and they accompanied the Zimbabwe team to the World Cup in Aberdeen in July



*Mark George (Max) Gordon: Born in Liverpool 1911. In 1925 won scholarship to Jews' College. Max recalls that his uncle H B Ellenbogen, who worked for Charlick Salomon & Co in Bulawayo, was in England for his bris. "My uncle said, 'This little chap will one day be in my business in Bulawayo.' The story was often repeated. Sure enough, at my Bar Mitzvah, a letter arrived from my uncle wishing me Mazaltov and setting out his plans for me." Max arrived in Bulawayo in 1929, started as an agent for Lloyds of London. He was approached by Rev Cohen to help form the Young Israel Society of which he was president for five years. Max served in World War Two in east Africa, India and Burma, and recalls that he got a bullet through his hat! He was asked by Sam Rabinovitz to take over as Hon secretary of the congregation. He is also a long standing sportsman and in athletics is a track judge, timekeeper, Hon secretary of the Amateur Athletics Association, president of Matabeleland Amateur Athletics and patron of the Board.*



*Cricket Team, 1933. Victors, annual match, Scots V. Jews 1-0. (From left): S S Grossberg, I Sachs (capt), M Aronowitz, C Whiteson, Mrs D MacIntyre, M Michaels, S Melland, L Salomon (vice capt), S Barnett, J Baron, S Aronowitz. (Kneeling): S Gordon, A Boyer.*