

REG HARRIS: SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Reg Harris - cycling champion of the world - leads a parade of who's who in sport at London's Savoy Hotel. There too, is Aja Vranova - the Czech girl who, after winning the world skating crown, stayed on in Britain. Denis Compton (though now a Cup Final footballer) represents cricket - while Raich Carter speaks for soccer. Maureen Gardner - now Mrs. Dymon - and her Olympic conquerer Fanny Blankers-Koen represent the lady champions. Minister of Health Aneurin Bevan is guest of honour at a Sporting Record party that pays tribute to Reg Harris. Britain now holds only three world championships and Mr. Bevan says:-

"We had to wait a long time before we got the World Cycle Championship, but we've got it at last and we're very grateful to him for that. We have exported plenty of cycles. It's time we won on one of them. I can assure all those who have taken part in sports that all of us now in the political world know what a close finish feels like."

To a popular cyclist from Manchester goes the sporting public's highest honour. Harris - who won his world title the hard way - draws on his own experience for this sound piece of advice:

"We have in this country a lot of very fine athletes, cricketers, footballers and what have you. Somehow or other, when it comes to international competition, generally speaking, we seem to fall just a little bit too short of the mark. But I can't help thinking that if our people here in this country of ours were given anything like just 50% of the facilities that are given to our opponents that come from the Continent, I do feel that the prestige of this nation would be upheld in a very much better manner."