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PRINCE CHARLES'S SPORTS DAY.

The Queen and her family arrive at a sports ground in Chelsea for Prince Charles' school Field Day - and Charles does the honours by introducing his friends. First of course to his mother, and then to his father. The boy at the end of the line the Duke has met before.

The programme is an hour's display of P.T. and sports by a hundred boys - starting with a hand-ball game whose rules seem to be a cross between netball and rugby. Prince Charles is not a very skilful sportsman as yet - but he's certainly sporting, and he usually manages to be in the thick of whatever is going on. Right now it's cricket; there don't seem to be any sides, and everybody changes places so quickly to get bored.

Charles at the wicket - and on the ball.

Not only parents are watching, the railings are well lined, too, as Charles takes over the bat.

Here it comes ....

And there it went. But he doesn't miss all the time, by any means; a lot of the strokes wouldn't be found in Wisden, but it's results that count, and he knocks up a couple of useful fours.

Father may have something to say about that finger down the splice when he gets home.

Princess Anne particularly enjoys the relay race, in which her brother's team builds up an early lead. Of course, royal encouragement from the sidelines helps a lot, and Charles makes a sound contribution to the team's effort.

Result - a win for Charles' team.

Star turn of the display is one which Charles suggested - he saw it done, with rather heavier equipment, at the Royal Tournament, and the headmaster adopted the idea.

Theoretically, there's a river underneath - but even if the river had been a real one, nobody would have got wet. Charles leads his team safely across, swinging from hand to hand like a trained commando. Perhaps not quite so fast, so just as confidently.

After the display, the Queen waits for her son to change like any other parent at a school sports day. The heir to the throne is learning to mix with other boys - and no one watching him at work and play can doubt that the experiment is proving a great success...