

February 20th. 1951

ROSE LAWN,  
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,  
BROADSTAIRS,  
KENT.

Dear Frank Snell,

Yes, I do remember Henley's Shavian remark: but surely it doesn't apply: for Frank Richards resembles Byron's pirate, Lambro, who, you will remember, was 'the very mildest-mannered man ~~that~~ that ever scuttled ship! ' Was I really a severe critic? My own idea was that I coo'ed as gently as a sucking-dove! And in truth I did like the masterpiece, especially the religious atmosphere: and in the character of Mr. Reed you certainly had something. It is very interesting to know that he was, as I guessed, a real person: and that, my dear boy, must be counted as a tribute to your power of portrayal. It is not every young writer who can give the reader such an impression.

Many thanks for the snap of Timo. I think the photographer made a good job of this. He does really look a most lovable animal, ---only second to Sammy! He now has an honourable place among my pin-ups.

I think you have a good idea in trying your hand at short stories, on subjects with which you are well-acquainted, such as Soccer and bowls. If they are good, I believe that only the



paper shortage, and consequent shortage of space, stands in the way. At least, I can say that I always like such stories myself, and never miss one if I come across it. It does seem to me ever so much more agreeable and entertaining to read a story about something real, such as a good game, instead of the tiresome love trash that most writers dish out--the same stuff over and over again, world without end!

The conclusion of your letter saddened me a little, my dear boy. I do hope that your good friend has pulled through, and that your anxiety is over. I know very well what you feel like, for as you may guess, I have had my own experience of watching by a sick bedside, through the long night that seemed as if it would never end. I shall hope to hear that all is well when you write again.

With best wishes,

Always yours sincerely,

*Frank Richards*