

OVER THE MERSEY WALL

Four of them started an old boys' club with ninepence!

WITH only ninepence in their pockets, four youths met in a Liverpool school classroom and talked of founding an old boys' association. And in their minds eye they could see a clubhouse, sports fields and the rest. . . .

That was 30 years ago. This week-end three of these old boys of St. Margaret's, Anfield, met again to drink a toast to the project they started. I say three because the fourth member of the party lost his life in the war.

And as the three looked back along the road, they saw that their dreams had been blessed with fulfilment. They had no clubhouse it was true, but a thriving club.

They DO have a sports field and no less than FOUR football teams competing in Liverpool's famous amateur leagues, the Zingari and the Old Boys' Associations League.

Their club is known as Essemmay—a title derived from play on the initial letters of St. Margaret's Association.

The thirtieth anniversary of the founding was celebrated at a hot pot supper in town and, of course, the high spot of the evening was when the three founders found themselves toasted by the rest.

They were Major Bill Corlett, a former secretary of Birkdale Golf Club, Mr. William Snowden, a Liverpool bank manager, and Mr. A. E. Graham, a building contractor.

The fourth member, who lost his life while serving with the R.A.F. in the Second World War, was

standing appointments in the golfing world. He was chosen as manager of America's most famous club, the Augusta Club in Georgia, founded by Bobby Jones.

But let us switch our minds back to Liverpool and the four lads in the school-room.

Just how did they contrive to make their ninepence do all this?

The answer is they ran a concert. And they turned their ninepence into five pounds. Then with the £5 they hired a tennis court. And this led to more concerts and dances and more money.

To-day, theirs is one of the

few old boys' clubs in the city which holds a regular weekly meeting.

Thirty years is a long time. Didn't someone say that the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts?

Alan Bennett, a school-master. All four had been in the same form at school.

Major Corlett formerly held one of the most out-



Three look back. From left, Mr. Graham, Major Corlett, Mr. Snowden (See this page).