

LETTERS

● You can dictate a letter to the Evening Standard at any time. Telephone 01-353 2666 or 2667. Please give a daytime telephone number where possible. The editor reserves the right to reject or shorten letters and regrets that he is unable to acknowledge every letter.

Via Dictate-A-Letter

I DISAGREE with Alan Watkins's diagnosis of our rugby faults Doesn't England Want To Win? [April 8].

As a player who participated in my county's nearest bid for the championship (Kent), who won over 21 county caps and who captained on occasions, I would say the last chance of a player obtaining an England trial is through his county, especially if he is a local player who cannot join one of the glamour clubs.

Our country's rugby is not being democratised to the extent of the other home countries. Despite wider selection methods, the ruling oligarchy consists of the same sort of people.

In an amateur sport it is a sad fact that it is the size of your wallet and the amount of spare time at your disposal, more than your ability, that gets you into a position of power. It is just a matter of luck if the Rugby Union Committees, in any given year, contain people of deep rugby knowledge.

I think the present selection committee is just dumb. Dumb people cannot recognise thinking players, only charging tanks and sheer avoidupois.—**Dick Hills**, Eddington Road, West Wickham, Kent.

ROBERT LANGTON'S article on Tolmers Village [Thursday] attacks Camden Council for its refusal to make a deal with Stock Conversion Ltd. to let the company develop the area. As residents of Tolmers Village we

A brawn versus brain scrummage



DICK HILLS
Rugby power.

wholeheartedly support the council in its intention to purchase the land and do its own residential development.

The reason Stock Conversion wants to develop is profit (the company's profit to date on the Euston Centre development across the road from Tolmers Square is in the region of £60 million). Such profits arise out of the inflated land values in Central London and should belong to the local community, not to private capital.

What is more, whereas the council has shown itself responsive to the wishes of local people, Stock Conversion has ignored

the residents, and has deliberately let the area decay for more than 10 years. We welcome the Community Land Bill as a step towards a situation where land in London and other cities is developed in the interest of the community as a whole.

The houses now occupied by squatters had been left empty by Stock Conversion for years before the squatters moved in. The company can have no use for the property at the moment. The council is supporting the squatters in their campaign against this senseless and unnecessary eviction, which will result in up to 100 people being made homeless in a time of housing crisis, while their houses are left empty.

We urge Stock Conversion to defer evictions until the issue is finally settled as to who shall develop this much abused area.—**Rachel Syers**, co-ordinator, Tolmers Village Association, Timothy Wilson, Tolmers Village Squatters' Action Group, Drummond Street, N.W.1.

Wrong image

YOUR newspaper recently carried yet another report of the so-called devaluation of private houses caused by the GLC buying nearby property for council

grasping and greedy to maintain the fabric of the building.

I am an educationally qualified well-paid single person who works with computers and my flat is well decorated, well furnished and equipped with plenty of books, and classical records.

So please give us a break and do not assume that we are all milling around in the lower levels of society.—**Alan Green**, Brixton Hill, S.W.2.

Public servant

WHO DOES Andrew Faulds think he is? No one has priority with public transport, which taxis are. How conceited of MPs to believe they should have first claim to taxis at the Palace of Westminster. He should remember it is a public building and he is a servant of the people. From his letter he sounds like a thug lacking in common courtesies. What an example from an MP! — **Giles Ender's**, Lampard Grove, Stamford Hill, London, N.16.

TONIGHT'S RE

Chick Pea Salad
IF YOU are trying to avoid