

MAY 1955

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

We regret that yet another Club stalwart in the person of Bill Fish, has passed away. He will be remembered by most of our present day members as the man who sat at the gate at Battersea and Tooting Tracks and we shall certainly miss his cheery face during the coming track season. An appreciation by Alf Harley will be found in the following pages.

Looking back over the past few months, it is very encouraging to note the improved performances of our members as compared with the previous year. 1st in the South of the Thames, 2nd in the Southern Counties and 5th in the National shows considerable improvement amongst the runners, whilst the walkers, who were 3rd in the National 10, gained a place for the first time for some years in that event. Whilst there is still room for improvement, it would seem that we are definitely on the upgrade and we can look forward with confidence to further improvement during the coming months.

We are indebted to Mrs. Aplin, Frank Elson's sister, and Don Brown for two more Club Trophies. Mrs. Aplin has generously offered to present a trophy in memory of Frank and in view of his long association with race walking, the committee, with the approval of Mrs. Aplin, decided to allocate it to the newly instituted 7 miles Track Walking Championship and it is hoped that Mrs. Aplin will be at the track to present it for the first time.

Don Brown has presented a Style Award for the 2 miles Track Championship, which should act as a further incentive to our walkers.

It is interesting to note that we now have 39 Club trophies for which members may compete.

Editor.

W. J. FISH.

Members will learn with real regret of the death of our Life Member and Vice President, "Bill" Fish, which occurred on March 5th. Bill had been a club stalwart for many years and even in recent years, when gravely handicapped, he still managed to get to our track meetings and act as Chief Steward. In the 1920's he turned out regularly in our walking events and teams and for very many years he was a tower of strength in preparing the track for our meetings and in clearing away afterwards. He was always on hand at our open dances

carrying through a difficult job on the door and every Saturday he was at Clapham Junction Station with our special rail tickets for members, and in attendance at our mid-week quarters for a similar purpose. In addition we relied upon him to prepare and maintain our sets of numbers for all our racing throughout the year. In fact, Bill worked hard for Belgrave in many ways, never sparing himself. When one remembers that his market work had him out daily in the small hours, how easily and justifiably he could have excused himself from performing those many duties he undertook on our behalf. But he did not, and his devotion to and hard work for the club - inspite of difficulties which could easily have become acceptable excuses - provide a great example for our younger members.

We mourn his passing and extend our sincere condolences to Bill's family.

We also note with regret the passing of Harry Fearn, a former Assistant Hon. Secretary of this Club and a great sower of strength in the days when our track training and meetings were held at the Sports Ground of Prices' Athletic Club.

FRANZ STAMPFL

It is with regret we have to announce the departure of Franz Stampfl for Australia in July.

Franz came to Belgrave as a young man in the summer of 1937 and quickly endeared himself to those with whom he came in contact. Within a few weeks he had organised our training as it had never been done before. He did not ask us to do what he himself could not. His enthusiasm and personality were such that members were attempting to do things they had previously avoided.

The war years came and Franz was lost to us, until four years ago when due to the request of club members, who had heard a lot about him, the club were happy to again ask him to become our professional coach.

This wise move had an almost immediate effect as our Field Events men began to show improvement which has continued until now when they are in a happy and flourishing state. The encouragement he has given to what was the "Cinderella" side of Belgrave - the sprinters - is tremendous. We can now safely say we have our strongest ever sprint team. It is to be regretted that our longer distance men have not sought his assistance for I feel that he would have been able to give them an abundance of good advice. It is not generally known that Franz is also a first class coach of distance running. It is not yet too late to ask his advice, so distance men, what about it!

As for the reason for his departure, he has been offered a lectureship at Adelaide University and will be the National Coach of Australia. Australia's gain is our loss and we wish him "Bon voyage" and every success in his new venture.

On a more personal note, I would like to add my appreciation of the help I have received as a club coach. I only hope I shall be able to pass on to club members some of the lessons I have learned during the past four years.

Frank Simmons.

A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again Frank Webb has volunteered to take charge of the distribution of tickets for the A.A.A. Championships in July. Will members please note that despite a protest, no price concession is now granted for block booking by clubs and tickets are therefore 5/- each, the only advantage being that you can be sure of a seat with the rest of your club members.

Tickets are now on sale and can be obtained from Frank Webb, 50, Longford Avenue, Southall, Middx. Please note all applications MUST be accompanied by cash - no money, no tickets. Send early and avoid disappointment.

CHRISTMAS DAY PAARLAUF

Friendliness was, as befitted the season, the keynote of a highly successful Paarlauf, a newly instituted Christmas fixture, run round the green at Wimbledon Common on Christmas morning.

In perfect conditions, apart from a brisk breeze, twelve runners turned out to gain their first experience of this comparatively new type of relay. To ensure reasonably even parring, the names of the six best runners were placed in one hat and the remainder in another. This method turned out to be quite satisfactory as the field kept surprisingly close together throughout the race, 332 yards covering them all at the finish.

Autrey Reeve, Hon. Sec. of the Wimbledon A.C. who kindly came along to help, made the draw and the race was started outside Lauriston House by John Jewell, the Assistant Hon. Secretary of the Road Runners Club.

After 300 yards, our former member, Jim Edgar, running by special invitation, went ahead opening up quite a gap, but Ron Linstead closed up on him at the half mile mark and overtook him running with great style and ease. Ron paired with "Pub" Childs, got well ahead during the first four laps of the 1415 yards circuit, but the pace then told and Len Bishop, paired with Eric Gebbett, who had been running a fast but steady race closed up gradually taking the lead on the 5th lap, a lead which they never lost again during the race.

After the 67 minute whistle had gone, no further change over was allowed and Charlie Walker, paired with Gordon Biscoe, appeared to be caught napping, Gordon being caught in possession of the baton. However it is doubtful whether even Charlie could have made much impression in the last three minutes as Len and Eric were well ahead and Gordon did very well to hang on to 2nd position.

John Burr and Dave Hooper, both rather unfit, ran extremely even laps but were unable to get into the running and Jim was breathing down Dave's neck when the final whistle blew. Dave Baulch and Charlie Dabbs also lapped with admirable regularity but had to be content with 3rd position.

After the race everyone adjourned to the cottage to wash down and enormous baking of Mince Pies provided by Mrs. Jean Manning with a hot and rather alcoholic "Witches brew" concocted by Arthur Whitehead. We feel sure that the runners would like to thank Charlie Smart, Autrey Reeve and

John Jewell for their very capable handling of the race.

Result.

1. L. Bishop	} 6m. 145yds.	4. R. Linstead	} 5m. 1694yds
E. Gebbett		P. Childs	
2. C. Walker	} 6m. 5yds	5. J. Burr	} 5m. 1584yds
G. Biscoe		D. Hooper	
3. D. Dauloh	} 5m. 1740yds.	6. J. Edgar	} 5m. 1583yds.
C. Dabbs		A. Rishop	

BOXING DAY MEETING - BATTERSEA PARK

This year's Boxing Day Meeting commenced for a change in bright weather, but as the meeting progressed, it turned much colder.

The heats of the 120 yards handicap promised an exciting final, and so it turned out, with J. Stevens (10) first up by inches from fast finishing virtual scratch man Ioan Meyers (1yd) and M. Harris (6½) 3rd.

Nearly all the knowledgeable types were, long before the race started, giving the winner of the 2 miles run handicap. After the first two laps, their nomination Peter Casselton, began to prove them right. Although at one time it looked as if Patterson was going to upset the odds, Casselton's strength and speed stood him in good stead. The best feature of the race was the expected tussle between Jack Brown, John Burr and Cliff Roffey, and an exciting battle it was with the three of them coming home within 2 seconds of each other. It was good to see Alan Bishop picking up a pot.

	Result		
1. P. Casselton	(320) 9m. 10s.	4. J. Burr	(60) 9.21
2. E. Patterson	(220) 9 15	5. J. Brown	(8c) 9.22
3. A. Bishop	(275) 9 16	6. C. Roffey	(60) 9.23.

The three miles Walking Handicap was as exciting, if not more so, as the run. In this race there were two distinct battles. One between Ives (not Wally) and Harry Shields over the last few laps, and the other between Eric Hall and Syd James for practically the whole of the distance. First it was Eric who showed in front, then Syd took over. For lap after lap this went on until Eric managed to get that 2 or 3 seconds in front of Syd during the last 440 yards.

	Result.		
1. D. Ives.	26m. 46s.	4. S. James	27m. 06s
2. H. Shields	27. 02s	5. C. Speechley	27m. 16s
3. E. Hall	27. 04.	6. M. Nye	27m. 36s

In the Shot Put Ted Gaworski gave us his usual Boxing Day exhibition of class putting. A stanger in this event was Ivan Meyers who made the most of his 3yd. 1ft. 6in.

Result

1. R. Harris	(6ft) 48ft. 1in.	2. T. Gaworski	(Sc) 44ft 1in
3. I. Meyers	(10ft 6in) 42ft. 5½ins.		

JUNIOR C.C. 5 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - 18TH DECEMBER 1954

Ron Linstead travelled up from Somerset to defend his title in this race and having had good facilities for training had almost returned to the brilliant form he was showing a year ago.

There was a considerable amount of speculation before the race as to the merits of Brian Trower and of course, D. Chevalier, who has been showing rapid improvement, could not be left out of the reckoning. However Ron proved that he was really fit and after a close race was first home followed by Trower, six seconds behind, with Chevalier only three further seconds in arrears.

Result				
1. R.Linstead	26.47	6.P.Childs	28.16	11.P.Pepe
2. B.Trower	26.53	7.B.Morris	28.21	12.J.Frost
3. D.Chevalier	26.59	8.D.Pettican	28.24	13.W.Cousins
4. G.Goode	27.17	9.R.Braine	28.25	14.R.Corway
5. F.Wright	28.01	10.C.Dabbs	28.59	15.R.Macaulliffe

The handicap resulted in a win for D. Chevalier (45s) with J. Frost (3M) 2nd and G.Goode (45s) 3rd.

SURREY SENIOR C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP - COULSDEN, 1st JANUARY 1955

It was a very cold afternoon and tried to snow half the time. Nine teams and a number of individuals made up the 110 starters and of these only six failed to finish the course. The course of just over 7 miles, had a straight start of half a mile, then three laps all of good grassland and paths, with steep drops and some good climbs and a half mile straight to the finish.

The prophets gave us a possible third place if we were lucky, but right from the start we seemed as though we might do better than that. After the first half mile we had Masters, Walker and Bagnall in the first 30, with Patterson Bauloh, Short, Trower and Bedford in the twenties, and although positions changed a bit, our scoring six were always placed well in the first thirty. Walker and then Bagnall seemed to fall away in the middle of the race, whilst Bedford slowly battered his way through the field. About two miles from home it was seen that our packing would earn second team medals and the fight was on to see who should have them. Jim Masters finished 8th and so was again invited to represent Surrey in the Inter Counties at Liverpool and we congratulate him on his running in a good class field. S.L.H. not surprisingly won the team race with 45 points, Belgrave 2nd 105 points and H.H.H. were 3rd with 129 points.

Individual result

1.D.Price	41.20	24. Patterson	45.08	44. Briggs	46.45
8.Masters	45.21	25. Short	45.13	50. Hitchcock	47.11
15.Walker	44.20	26. Trower	45.15	63. Bishop	48.04
20.Bedford	44.46	31. Gebbett	45.38	65. E.Bishop	48.22
21.Bagnall	44.54	38. Abbott	46.21	74. Heathfield	49.08
23.Bauloh	45.01	42. Collis	46.40		

The Junior Championship was held the following week at Richmond Park. Of the nine which we entered, only five competed on the day, which is a very poor show, even having regard to the fact that many of the juniors are in the Services. With our team at full strength, we must have secured a place. B. Trower was our first runner home in 10th position (29.08), G. Goode 19th, D. Hooper 25th and P.Pepe 30th. P. Childs did not finish.

This was only good enough to give us 5th place in the Team Championship which was won by South London H. with Herne 2nd and Hercules 3rd.

CLUB 10 MILES C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP - MACHER SHIELD - 22-1-55

This race was brought forward one week from the advertised date to avoid racing on consecutive weeks. The weather was fair but the common was very wet, there were pools of water everywhere and I doubt if conditions have been so bad underfoot in any of our championships since the war.

The field set out across the common and there was a bunch still together when the golf course was reached. Jack Brown then made an effort and moved away from the rest on his way down to the brook, never to be challenged again. He came round 56 seconds in the lead at the end of the first lap and the rest of the field were fairly well strung out with Bedford making his way through from about 11th at 2 miles. Positions changed but little in the second lap, the gaps becoming larger. Cliff Koffey was kicked on the thigh by a horse but the damage was not too serious and he managed to carry on, and at one stage looked like catching Jumbo. Jack Brown stormed on and won by just over two minutes, one of the best country races he has run in Club colours.

Result.

1. J. Brown	57.44	9. E. Short	61.26	16. E. Bishop	65.57
2. J. Masters	59.46	10. E. Gebbett	61.58	17. D. Jones	66.21
3. C. Roffey	59.55	11. C. Collis	62.44	18. I. Edmunds	68.5
4. A. Bedford	60.23	12. D. Abbott	63.19	19. C. Henn	69.23
5. J. Burr	60.25	13. L. Bishop	64.48	20. F. Eradnum	69.45
6. P. Bagnall	60.40	14. P. Hitchcock	65.17	21. L. Eush	69.49
7. C. Walker	60.58	15. A. Bishop	65.30	22. C. Manning	69.59
8. D. Baulch	61.03				

The handicap was won by D. Jones (9.30) with D. Baulch (3.30) 2nd and J. Burr (2.45) 3rd.

On the same day the Youths Championship for the "Overseas" Cup was held and in conjunction there was a match with Sutton and Cheam.

One of the outstanding features of this race was the vastly improved running of P. Carr, the winner of the handicap. Last year he finished last of a field of 18, whilst this year he was 4th in a time just over seven minutes faster. G. Flanagan, the winner, ran strongly throughout to hold off the challenge of G. Knight, Sutton and Cheam.

Result.

1. D. Flanagan	20.13	5. R. Braine	21.40	9. E. Beagley	23.43
2. D. Chevalier	21.23	6. G. Stevens	21.50	10. D. Crookes	23.53
3. H. Boreham	21.31	7. L. Dabbs	23.22	11. W. Couzens	23.59
4. P. Carr	21.36	8. D. Taylor	23.35	12. R. McKenzie	27.10

The match resulted in a win for Belgrave by 15 points to 26.

SOUTH OF THAMES C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP - HORSHAM, 5-2-55

This was a varied 7½ mile course with tuft grassland, paths, muddy plough, wet fields, a hard climb, three quarters of a mile of flat running on top and then down to the finish. There were two laps of this after a small lap of grass land in the starting field. Bagnall was soon

prominent, being third after half a mile, with Masters only a few places behind him. Foord of Brighton and Barrett, SAG. were first and second almost from the start and never looked as though they would be replaced.

When the field had settled down, Jim Masters was running 3rd with Baker of the local club who eventually beat him and our scoring six were in the first thirty. It was the heaviest course the boys had struck this winter and all looked very tired towards the finish.

We won the team race more easily than expected finishing six before Walton's third man or Surrey's fourth. We also won the Coleman Cup for 12 to score by a margin of about 450 points. Team Result:- Belgrave 113 points, Walton 204 points, Surrey A.C. 230 points. Coleman Cup 498 points.

We were unfortunate in having John Burr as a spectator but he had recently had a bad attack of flu' and was not fit to race. Colin Collis did well to complete the course as he too had a bad cold, but the "twelve" cup was at stake. Gordon Biscoe, I think, found the going and the distance just a little too much for him, but he stuck gamely to his task and finished in the first half of the field of 205.

A photograph of the winning team is published below.



Front: B. Trower. D. Baulch
Back: P. Bagnall. J. Masters. E. Gebbett. E. Patterson. G. Poulter
Masseur.

AYLESBURY YOUTHS ROAD RELAY - 5TH FEBRUARY 1955

This event consisted of four laps of three miles each and 24 teams were entered. At the end of the first lap G. Flanagan was 3rd in 18m. 13s. handing over to R. Braine who finished 5th in 18m. 47secs. C. Dabbs, running the 3rd

leg, improved our position to 4th. in 19m. 25secs. but in the absence of D. Chevalier who was unable to run owing to cartilage trouble, H. Boreham, who was suffering from a bad cold, sportingly ran the last leg, but went back to 7th place, in 19m. 18secs. Our aggregate time of 75m. 20secs. was 38secs slower than last year when we finished 6th and no doubt had we had Chevalier we should have gained a place.

SOUTHERN C.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS - BRIGHTON, 19TH FEBRUARY 1955

The course for this race was a gruelling test of stamina. It was hilly with a few heavy patches and a lot of hard slippery running over which they would not dream of racing horses. Though not fit for beast, the men got on with it until like Jumbo Masters, their feet were crippled.

Pirie, Norris and Foord fought it out all the way and our chaps were never in the hunt for the leading positions. Our leading runner just managed to beat South London's 6th, but by some remarkable packing, six men in 14 places and 64 seconds, we gained second place in the team race.

Jack Brown's performance was a little disappointing, but Charlie Walker had obviously recovered from his cold on the "Club" 10 day. Bedford ran a good race and again was seen making his way through the field as the race progressed. Roffey and Bagnall gave of their best whilst Dave Bauloh ran above form and forced himself past Ingles in the home straight to make sure we had six men home before T.V.H. had three. Gebbett and Patterson ran well to form and should be satisfied with their performances. The going did not suit Colin Collis at all and Burr and Bishop had obviously not fully recovered from colds. Jim Masters unfortunately injured his foot again on the iron hard ground; he had already done so once this season in the Inter Counties. South London proved easy winners with 62 points, Belgrave 2nd. 122 points and T.V.H. 3rd 205 points.

In the Junior event, with three of our best lads unable to compete, our chances of making a good show were slight. Ron Linstead had received an injury during a training run, G. Goode had a severe cold and Frank Wright was unable to get leave. However the rest of the lads had a good try but could do no better than 20th out of the 24 teams.

The Youths' event proved one of those occasions when the selectors slipped up in the omission of J.K. Palmer, who has no club record but has been doing extremely well at Northampton. With the late arrival of R. Braine and the unavoidable absence of P. Carr, we finished 14th out of 36 teams who closed in. G. Flanagan made a fine effort to finish 13th and would have done better but for a fall at the start of the race. All the lads tried and justified their scoring positions in a field of over 200 runners.

THE NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS CARDINGTON - 5TH MARCH 1955

The three Championships, Senior, Junior and Youths, were held at the R.A.F. Depot, Cardington and on our showing in the Southern Counties there were hopes that a place might be attained. It was of course conceded that S.L.H. would be invincible.

The tempo for the day as far as Belgrave was concerned seemed to be decided at the outset when our coaches

were held up in London by a State Funeral Procession. From then on, there was no improvement as the leading coach was glued to the "Learner" driver in the rear one. Whilst on the subject of coaches - the wheeled variety, would it not be advantageous to have larger coaches with more leg and luggage room for the winter events when we are all bundled up with so much clothing.

Upon arrival the course was found to be very flat, but what it lacked in contour was made up in the atrociously heavy nature of the going; stretches of plough recently thawed, particularly muddy bottlenecks at gates and ditches and a deal of running over generally rough ground. A bitterly cold east wind added to the discomfort of all concerned.

The Race! In the first few hundred yards it looked as if Archie Bedford was challenging the favourites for a place in the international team at San Sebastian. We wonder why? By about 800 yards it was Cliff Roffey who was seen to be to the fore as far as we were concerned. Had Archie forgotten the Spanish sun already? At about 2½ miles Cliff was still leading our team and lying about 60th, Pete Bagnall was next, 83rd with Eddie Patterson 85th, next J. Masters 96th, Dave Baulch 118th, Charlie Walker 120th, Eric Gebbett about 150th, and Jack Brown about 160th. What had happened to Archie?

At 6 miles Cliff Roffey was still heading our team in 63rd position, Bagnall had moved up to 68th, Masters 79th, Patterson lying much the same at 89th, Charlie Walker up to 105th and Archie must have put in some sterling work on this lap to be lying 109th. Eric Gebbett 127th, Jack Brown 141st and Dave Baulch 149th completed the team.

There was some change in the last lap. Jumbo Masters passed Cliff Roffey to finish 61st and win the Harry Parker Memorial Bowl. Our congratulations to him and to Patterson who ran one of the best races in our team. A total of 478 points gave us 5th place to South London Harriers, 180. We did however win the Charles Otway Cup for the first unplaced team to finish 9 men.

After the races we all assembled in the great hangar on the station and waited for the presentations. We gather that something was said by the Mayor and one or two others, but their words were completely lost in the hubbub which always occurs when athletes get together. When the time came Jumbo Masters tried to get through the throng to receive the Otway Cup, but it was eventually collected by Peter Bagnall. Our interest in the proceedings being over, there then followed a most interesting tour of the R.A.F. Station to find our coaches. They were of course only a few yards from our starting point.

The return to London was a miserable affair, the journey being made without the usual stop. Where was the resurgent Belgrave Spirit about which we have heard so much this winter. It does seem a shame that this "business of running" should have become a fixed (a) journey to event, (b) event and (c) return to base, affair.

Our thanks are due to all our helpers and supporters, notably Arthur Whitehead and his Dor-mobile NAAFI waggon and Charlie Poulter and his equipment, so welcome at the end of a gruelling race. We are indeed fortunate that they have supported us at all the Championships this winter.

The less said about the Junior Race, the better. Ron Linstead was still suffering from his ankle injury and with two of our other potential team men not available, it was a sorry day. Of the 39 teams which closed in, we were last. Need anymore be said except thanks to the four who did try.

Two good placings in the Youths Event, with G. Flanagan 17th and J. Palmer 49th, were not backed up well enough to bring us in to the picture. Palmer was recovering from an attack of flu otherwise he would have probably done better. We then had to go back to R. Braine, 138th and H. Boreham, 158th to complete our team with a score of 362 which gave us 17th place out of the 86 teams which finished the course. However the lads tried and in fact improved on their "Southern" effort.

ILFORD ROAD RELAY - 12TH MARCH 1955

This was the usual 10 lap race, each of three and three quarter miles, but this year we were only permitted to run two teams whereas last year we started and finished four. The "A" Team started quite well with Dave Baulch 9th, but Abbott, 23rd for the "B" Team, did not run nearly as well as expected. Masters then pulled the "A" Team up to 4th place but Brian Trower showed his lack of recent racing with a rather slow time which contributed greatly to our subsequent defeat. Smart regained one place and then Jack Brown, with the second fastest time of the day, brought us back to 4th. Burr gained a place but Bagnall was passed by Ken Norris, T.V.H. who did 17.42, the fastest time of the day. Walker gained two places and Roffey put us in the lead. Bedford ran last and was caught by Knight of Essex. He immediately, perhaps unwisely, tried to drop him and we were beaten by five seconds.

The "B" Team slowly progressed after their bad start and thanks to good runs by Collis, Len Bishop and Hitchcock, pulled up to 14th position. 30 teams finished.

Times:	"A" Team		"B" Team		
Baulch	9	18.49	Abbott	23	19-53
Masters	4	18-47	Biscoe	24	20-27
Trower	8	20.00	Eriggs	23	20.05
Smart	7	19.10	Collis	21	19.25
Brown	4	17.52	A.Bishop	19	20.17
Burr	3	19.09	Childs	18	20.17
Bagnall	4	19.05	Gebbett	17	19.57
Walker	2	18.31	Goode	15	19.41
Roffey	1	18.46	L.Bishop	15	19.23
Bedford	2	18.25	Hitchcock	14	19.38

CAMBRIDGE H. RELAY - 19TH MARCH 1955

This was a six lap relay of three and a third miles each lap and was held on a fine, bright but chilly day. We had entered an "A" and "B" Team and a special all Vets. team for a separate set of prizes.

Masters "A", Abbott "B" and Jordon "V" went off first and Dave Abbot was seen in the lead after half a mile but unfortunately fell away badly in the second half of his run. Colin Wilson, S.L.H., led by 7 seconds at the take over, from Jim Masters, but as the S.L.H. second man was not ready, Cliff Roffey went off with a few yards lead. The Blackheath man caught him over the last half mile and Peter Bagnall went off 5 yards down. Meanwhile Collis had run very well to pull up the "B" Team from 17th to 10th position and Carter had maintained

the Vets' position. Bagnall ran well to give us a lead of 19 seconds whilst Charlie Smart was pulling the Vets' team up a few places and a lot of time. Jack Brown then ran the race of the day, in the lead, breaking the course record by 13 seconds and giving us a lead of 95 seconds. Bedford and Walker then made sure of our victory though Charlie took things a little too easy in the middle and so we missed the course record by one second. Burr ran well on the last leg for the "B" team whilst Rolls, Whitehead and Herbert brought the Vets safely home for their prizes.

1. Belgrave Harriers	99m.	49 secs.
2. South London H.	100m.	51 secs.
3. Herne Hill H.	100m.	54 secs.

"B" Team. 11th. 105m. 28secs.
Vets. " 23rd 114m. 01secs.

WALKING MATTERS

Despite my earnest appeal in the last issue to ALL OF YOU, that means ALL club members, for some articles, comments, etc., another quarter has passed by without a line from anyone except the usual contributors, viz. Sectional Captains, Secretaries, etc. If you want a varied magazine, we must have a variety of contributors. It would save our Editor a lot of headaches. Try your hand at writing and see what you can do.

Since our last issue, some of my hopes have been realised and Belgrave walkers have been well to the fore. Pride of place must still be held by Eric Hall, 22½ years, with the following achievements:

Horwood Cup winner for second year just outside record.
2nd individual "Garnet" Cup, gaining "Honours" Badge.
1st individual Banstead Race.
2nd individual Surrey County 10 miles Championship
9th individual R.W.A. National 10. Again qualifying
for "Honours" Badge and winner of F.Thomson Cup.
1st Vidarians 15 miles.

No one will dispute his position for the last quarter. Well done Eric. Your results have been obtained by conscientious training and you have set a splendid example to our younger members. Bob Newson is also showing remarkable progress. With good, steady training, the results are bound to follow.

We were placed third in the "Garret" Cup race, but next year we shall be without Eric Hall and Bob Newson who both gained Senior awards in the 10 miles, but there is still plenty of material. Bob Phillips, holder of the Surrey two miles title could be a winner. What about getting down to it Bob with the same determination as the other two.

We are now looking forward to the distance season. You should be reading this shortly before the National 20 which is to be held from our headquarters at Wimbledon on MAY 14TH. Unfortunately we have a track match the same day, but it is hoped that as many as possible will turn up to give a hand and to support what will undoubtedly be a good team, all out to retain their National Title.

Last year we won every long distance race in which we competed, The National 20; National 50 Kilos; Bradford 50 Kilos; Birmingham 25; Dover to Canterbury, Hastings to Brighton and London to Brighton and I know all the lads are

going to do their utmost to retain these titles. Your support will help them a lot.

We have yet another new Championship this year, a seven miles track walk for which a trophy has kindly been presented by the sister of our late President Frank Elson. The race will be held at Battersea Park on Wednesday, 22nd June and I am looking forward to a bumper entry. Whilst on the subject of trophies, Don Brown has presented a "Style" award for the two miles Track Championship which will be awarded to the walker adjudged by the judges to have the best style. This should prove a great incentive to members to improve their styles and the presentation is typical of the enthusiasm of our walking coach Don Brown.

I hope we shall be well represented in the County Track Championships and also in the Inter-Club Walks at Battersea Park on Monday 4th July. I would like to see more of Dennis Ives on the track and some of the other youngsters who came along towards the end of the last track season. Remember Tuesday night is "Battersea Night" From 6pm onwards Don Brown and Len Fletcher, who hopes to be more regular this year, will be there to advise you. Don't let them turn up for nothing.

As a final note I would like to remind everyone, walkers and runners alike, of our Sunday morning strolls. Turn up and try to keep the pot boiling. When you get an Irishman, a West London Cockney and a True Ered London together you can be sure of some fun and I can assure you the battle wages merry. Then there will be the all night stroll to Brighton on May 22nd/23rd when the maps will come out. And so - Good training; good strolling and good racing.

Yours, Jack.

WALKING RESULTS

HORWOOD CUP - 18TH DECEMBER 1954

In conjunction with this race, we had a match with our Police friends and a field of 27 faced the starter. We were pleased to welcome Wally Emery once again from Eastleigh. He's certainly got some weight to get rid of before he is fit and we look forward to seeing him more regularly now he has finished his National Service. Bob Phillips, last year's runner up was not a starter. Where were you Bob?. After the first lap round the common and the hills, the field had sorted itself out and coming up the hill the first time, Eric Hall, who had held the lead, was passed by Bob Newson, but once back on the Common, Eric again took the lead and was not again headed, thus winning the cup for the second year in succession in the good time of 56m. 41secs. Bob Newson was a good second in 57m. 10secs. with Len Demmon third, as last year in exactly 60mins. One or two of the newer members walked exceedingly well and George Place took the Novice's prize which was donated by Eric Hall. Arthur Skinner, with an allowance of 10 minutes, won the handicap with Bob Newson 2nd and Eric Hall 3rd. The match, scoring 8 a side, resulted in a win for the Police by 62 points to 20

MATCH V SURREY W.C. - 1st JANUARY 1955

We entertained our friends of Surrey W.C. as is usual on the first Saturday in the New Year over our seven

miles course. In view of the fact that the Police were holding their "Archer" Cup Championship at Amber Court the same day, the field of 25 was quite good. Syd James was first home in 56m. 15s. closely followed by Eric Hall, 56m.26s. with Brian Shepherd 3rd. and the match resulted in a win for us by 47 points to 89.

The handicap held in conjunction, was won by Doubt off a generous 6m.10s. with Syd James 2nd and Eric Hall 3rd, the latter two being off scratch. A special prize for Surrey W.C. was won by Dickie Green off 1.15. He actually finished 4th in the race.

We were seriously lacking officials in this race which gives a bad impression to our visitors. Thanks to Ron Garwood, George Oliver and Ben Knifton for helping us out.

MET. POLICE OPEN 7 - 15TH JANUARY 1955

It was a terrible day for this race but a show of hands by competitors indicated their desire to go on with the show. The toughness of walkers was illustrated by the fact that 110 competitors lined up for the start. Teams as per programme were dispensed with and clubs were allowed to put all their competitors in one team if they desired. The roads were very bad in places and the judges must have had a difficult time making decisions. However they must have been a little lenient as only nine failed to finish. We actually started two full teams and a depleted third and our "A" Team of James, Hall, Checkley and Newson were 3rd to Highgate with 38 points.

Maurice Nye took 3rd individual handicap and our "A" Team of Nye, Newson, True and Hall were 2nd handicap Team. Considering the state of the day, the lads walked very well, and what a day!

CLUB 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - 29TH JANUARY 1955

There was no complaint of lack of judges, officials and helpers for our 10 miles Championship for the Murphy Shield. We had an abundance of cars thanks to Tom Scrimshaw, Dave Shepherd, Ben Knifton, Arthur Penney, Jack Bidgood and Tom Carter and on the whole it was a very successful day. We were pleased to see Percy Wright and Norman Guilmarth up from Portsmouth and also Harold King to remind us of the early days when he won every Open during one winter season. How many of the younger members know him. He comes from Erith, is a rather retiring type, but he is an R.W.A. judge and follows the progress of our new walkers very closely. You should get acquainted. He can give you some very useful hints.

27 started and at half way Eric Hall, Syd James and A. McFarlane (Police) were in the lead, followed by Brian Shepherd, George Checkley, Bob Newson and Percy Wright. On the last lap McFarlane got away and was first home in 80m. Syd James was 1st in the Championship in 80m.34s. George Checkley 2nd and Bob Newson 3rd. Brian Shepherd, 2nd Claim, followed Syd James home. The handicap was won by Ted Smith, with 8 minutes, 2nd was D. Logan, 17 minutes and 3rd none other than the Handicapper, Bill True off 11.30. The match resulted in a win for Belgrave by 104 points to 149.

At the presentation of awards, Alf Harley read a letter from Mrs. Murphy from which we learned that Dick has been confined to bed for some time following two strokes. He looks back with great joy on the many happy times he has spent with Belgrave members at Dances, Dinners, etc. It is just 46 years since he joined the club. I am sure we should all like to send a message through this magazine, to Mrs. Murphy and Dick. Some of us remember your good companionship and enthusiasm in the old days Dick, and our newer members realise that what they have inherited is a product of the hard work and team spirit of those days. Our very best wishes for your return to good health.

GARNET CUP CHAMPIONSHIP - 5TH FEBRUARY 1955

After our own Club 10., we had high hopes of a good showing in the R.W.A. Southern 10 miles Championship which was held at Mitcham. Unfortunately we lost two of our leading men who failed to please the judges and coupled with the fact that Ted Smith was recovering from the effects of flu! we did well to finish 3rd.

124 started on a four lap course round Mitcham Common and right from the start we could see Eric Hall was continuing his good form and was out for blood. After being with the leaders throughout the first lap, He went into the lead at the start of the second lap and from then on was only passed by one man, the winner, J. Hubbard of St.Albans. He took the lead at the beginning of the last lap and finished in a very fast and fine style. G. Meadows, Highgate gave Eric a hard battle but was disqualified about 9½ miles, leaving Eric a clear second, in the good time of 80m.49secs. By so doing, Eric gained his Club "Honours" Badge. Our other lads had been going well and at 5 miles Newson was 13th, Demmon (later disqualified) 16th and Ted Smith 31st, with the remainder of the lads moving up well. Over the second half Bob Newson came through exceptionally well to finish 5th in 84m.36s Having lost Demmon, we had to go back to 27th and 33rd positions to complete the team with a score of 65 points to Highgate's 40, and Surrey W.C. 61.

MATCH V SURREY W.C. - 12TH FEBRUARY 1955

This annual fixture with Surrey W.C. over an 11½ miles course to Banstead and back is always looked forward to and enjoyed by all.

A field of 44 started out on a fine afternoon which later turned to a blinding snowstorm. There was a fast start until the field settled down and after a bunch of the lads had exhausted all the local gossip, they decided to split up. Eric Hall moved into the lead with Evans, Highgate, and they continued together to the turn followed by R. Green, Syd James, Bob Newson, Brian Shepherd, McGreechan and Beecham. Crossing Purley Way, Syd had moved up to Eric and Evans with Bob coming along like a rocket. Up the long climb, Eric and Syd got away from Evans who was caught by Bob Newson at the top. Eric however would not give way and finished strongly in 1hr. 38m. 10secs., with Syd 2nd, 49 secs. behind and Bob 3rd. Scoring 15 a side we won the match by 195 points to 270. A special handicap was deservedly won by Bob Newson off 3.30 with George Beecham 2nd off 9 mins. and he looked at one time as if he would "smash" the handicap. Eric Hall off 1.30 was 3rd.

SURREY COUNTY 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - 26TH FEBRUARY 1955

Surrey Walking Club were the hosts for the race this year which was held at South Croydon over the Warrlingham course, mostly uphill going out and a fall all the way home, and what a race it was. Out of our twelve entered, only eight were able to turn out, but hopes were high. Could Eric and Syd continue their good form, and what of George Beecham, Maurice Nye, Bill True and Doub, who was going to make up the team.

38 started and at 3 miles Surrey W.C. looked like business, with five men before our 3rd. At the halfway Surrey were placed 5, 6, 7, and 8 whilst we were 1, 2, 9, and 14, level at 26 points. George Beecham started to move up to split the Surrey pack, but they put on another spurt and began to move away again. In the meantime Syd James was away in the lead and won in 80m.21secs. with Eric 2nd. George finished 12th. It only remained to see where our 4th man was going to finish. Surrey had four home with 25 points when suddenly Doub appeared in company with Paddy Woods. If Doub didn't come in first we should lose the team race, when for some reason, Paddy almost stopped to speak to someone, leaving Doub to go on and thus give us the victory. Maurice Nye, 14th was our next man and just missed his standard, bad luck.

As a result of the race, Eric and Syd were selected to represent the County at Southport on 12th March.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - 26th FEBRUARY 1955

In the Middlesex event at Regents Park our Cadogan members gave a good account of themselves and very deservedly took third team medals. We actually had four men home before Highgate's third man had finished, but their superior earlier positions gave them the advantage. As a result of the race, three of our walkers were selected to represent Middlesex at Southport, George Checkley 8th, Bob Newson 11th and Hugh McGreechan 12th. Len Demmon, 14th made up the team.

Bob Newson capably carried out the duties of Captain in the absence of Harry Shields and taking everything into consideration, the "Cads" left the Polytechnic very pleased with themselves.

In the Hampshire 10 Percy Wright finished 3rd after a bad last mile, Gerry Warr was 5th and Norman 6th.

R.W.A. NATIONAL 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - 2nd MARCH 1955

A very long journey to Southport which meant a full day's travelling with a race in between trains, aptly describes the National 10.

A party of some 70 walkers and officials left Euston at 8.30am, changed at Wigan, crossed the town to get a connection and arrived at "Millionaires' Town" at 1.50pm for a 2.30pm race. We learned on the train that Hugh McGreechan had become engaged about 48 hours previously and he promised to pay for a round on the journey home, but I think he must have forgotten or else he's saving up.

So to the race. A supposedly flat course 2½ miles out and back twice, turned out to be not so flat, with plenty of turns about half way. There were 149 starters and the Sheffield lads were soon to the front with Maurice, Holland

and Allen filling the first three places. At 4 miles Syd James was 15th, Eric Hall 18th, George Checkley 30th, Hugh McGreechan 36th and Bob Newson 40th. It was pleasing to see Bernard Eglinton home from Germany and competing. From then on the race underwent rapid changes and our lads started to move up. At 5 miles Sheffield lost Allen and Highgate got their noses in front, only to lose Howell and Meadows which put them right back and Woodford came through with a strong challenge to Sheffield who had also lost Holland. After being our leading man for 9 miles, Syd James was passed by Eric Hall who had come up from 18th position and went on to finish 8th in the race and win the Frank Thomson Cup. Syd struggled gamely on but had a bad last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and finished 14th, just missing his "Honours" Badge. With George Checkley 25th and Bob Newson 28th, we finished 3rd in the Team Race with 64 points to 31 of Sheffield and 37 of Woodford Green. As a result of the race Eric Hall and Bob Newson are now classed as "Seniors" and no longer eligible for the Horwood Cup or the "Garnet" Championship. The other placings were H. McGreechan 27th, P. Wright 33rd, G. Beecham 36th, L. Demmon 41st, B. Eglinton 42nd, H. Shields 64th and G. Doubleday 73rd.

All our lads walked extremely well and the result is another good example of team work and hard training.

Middlesex won the Inter-Counties Championship with 30 points and Syd James, Captain of the Surrey Team, and Eric Hall gained 3rd team awards for Surrey.

As is usual when we go to the north, no provision was made for bathing. The presentation was finished by 5.45pm. which just enabled us to get the train at 6pm. On changing at Wigan we partook of some refreshment and when the ticket collector demanded to see my ticket and I could not find it, nobody wanted to know me - nice boys! - however it was unearthy with about a minute to go and we had a nice "quiet" journey home during which someone filled the Captain's gladstone with about twenty "dead soldiers" and pinched his maroon mascot. Who said the "Belgrave Spirit" was dead.

MATCH v LONDON VIDARIANS - 19TH MARCH 1955

This is always a popular fixture, being the first 'fifteen' and makes a good training spin for the Regents Park 15 a fortnight later.

A good crowd went along to Mitcham and a fine afternoon's sport was had by all. L. Evans of Highgate went into a good lead at the start but eventually fell back and Eric Hall, carrying on from his startling 10's confounded everyone by being first man home in the very good time of 2hrs. 6mins. 47 secs. The course was over distance, so they say, but Eric has no doubt got his eye on "Gay Paree", the final selection for which rests on the result of the Regents Park Race. Syd James and Bob Newson were 3rd and 4th in 2hrs 13mins. 44secs and the "Demon-chest-King" 7th. The match, six a side, resulted in a win for us by 40 points to Surrey's 61, with the Police 81.

The handicap prize kindly presented by the home club, was won by Eric off "Scratch" which is no mean performance. Some finished cold, some plain tired, but all voted it a good day.

POLICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to George Checkley on taking third place in both the Metropolitan and the National Police

10 miles Championships. Also to Hugh McGreechan and Len Demmon who finished 4th and 5th in the Police "National".

J. Goswell.

TRACK CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

The track season will be under way when you are reading this and I would like all of you, Seniors, Juniors and Youths, to give me your fullest possible support.

I know that many of you, especially the young members, have studies and evening classes to attend to, and I do fully realise that these must not be neglected indeed, some of you know that I insist that these must always come first. We have a very attractive fixture list with plenty of competition for all. Ron Moltum, your Track Secretary, has put in a lot of time on your behalf and our thanks are due to him and his wife for her patience and assistance. Mrs Moltum is a keen supporter besides being a good producer of tea and coffee.

Providing everyone gives me full support, we can have an extremely successful track season. We have the necessary talent to make the name of "Belgrave" felt in all the major competitions and I know that our sprinters are determined to hold on to our A.A.A. Relay title.

I would impress on you that your attendance at away matches is equally as important as those at home. Every one has the right to represent the club and I cannot think of anything better than being a member of a winning Belgrave Team. It can be done, and Belgrave can do it.

Frank Simmons.

COACHING

The last Surrey County Course was poorly attended indeed only two members of Belgrave were present.

These courses were promoted to pass knowledge on the club coaches and we can all learn something for the benefit of our own club members.

The lecture on "Body levers" was most interesting and I know Eddie Short was most enthusiastic about it. The "Weight" training session was again most enlightening. It is generally supposed that manual workers are in little need of this type of training, but this is entirely wrong. These physical training exercises can be a great help.

It is good to see so many taking advantage of the club coaching facilities at Battersea Park and Tooting Bec. Those who are willing to take the advice of the coaches will surely benefit in the long run. Success may not come quickly, but with perseverance success is bound to follow. George Isaacs is putting in a lot of work at Battersea even though his time is limited by 'shift' work. Junior middle and long distance runners should contact George who is always ready and willing to help.

Micky Pyer's school of youngsters are very keen and I know Micky has had as much as he can take after a Sunday morning session with them. This nursery will surely be Belgrave of the future.

FIELD EVENTS

The Summer, we hope, and the Field Events Season are now upon us and I hope the field events men are in for plenty of successes. Judging by their performances during winter training I have little doubt about this. The "Sward" and "Kinnaird" Meetings will certainly give them an opportunity of showing their merits.

Even as early as March 19th some of them were in action at the new Hurlingham ground. Ted Gaworski put the weight 43' 2" and the discus 135' 5" being 2nd in each event, whilst Percy Luxon won the Triple Jump with 45' 7" and the Long Jump with 20' 7". R. Harris finished 3rd in the weight with 41' 10".

If there are any members who are interested in Field Events, will they please get in touch with me or Frank Simmons. You may even surprise yourselves if only you will "have a go".

Jack Chappell.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

We recently received an invitation from a Continental Club to take a team abroad for an Inter-Club match but it was considered that there was not sufficient time to organise an event this year. However the Committee feel that members should be given an opportunity of indicating how much support might be expected should we receive a further offer for next year.

It must be pointed out that we should need to send a fully representative team of track and field events men. This would mean a considerable amount of co-operation particularly the arranging of holidays at the appropriate time and it is estimated that the cost would be something between £20 and £30.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Frank Simmons or Charlie Jones, but remember that preliminary arrangements will have to be made long before the summer of next year. It's entirely up to you!!

NEW CLUB RECORDS

Field Events - Senior.

Long Jump. P. Luxon. August 1954. 23ft. 2ins.

SOCIAL

Owing to alterations to the hall, it was not possible to start any social functions until the New Year's Day Dance. It was a great success and although not as well attended as might have been expected, quite a good number came along and enjoyed themselves until midnight. We were pleased to see our members in such good spirits together with their lady friends, and we feel that they certainly had an enjoyable evening.

Our next Social Function was the Childrens' party at which we had about 35 children, and I think just as

many Mums and Dads. It's a pity that we don't get a few more children to come along as I am sure it was enjoyed very much by the children and quite as much, if not more, by the Mums and Dads. The entertainment was first class throughout and we are very thankful to Tom Carter who arranged for his friend to come along to entertain us with some "Magic". We also have to thank "Father Christmas" for once again attending to distribute the presents to the children.

On February 26th we had our first Social, but the numbers were still not as large as they ought to be. It is most discouraging to make arrangements for these socials and then not get full support. The club is in no position at the moment to bear the burden of financing them and it is therefore the Social Committee's job to make them self-supporting. This can only be done with your full co-operation.

A most successful social was held by the Selsonia Ladies Club on 18th February and it was surprising to note the number of Belgravians who were apron stringed and ties on this occasion, in fact the pub round the corner was empty most of the evening.

We hope to hold more and different types of functions in the future, but the whole of this side of the club is absolutely dependent upon the number of people who attend. If the demand is not forthcoming, we shall have to stop them but I do hope that this will not happen as the Social Committee maintains that a strong social side is one of the most important factors in a good club team.

Yours most sincerely

Dave Shepherd.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 14TH MAY. - R.W.A. 20 MILES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT WIMBLEDON.
- 23RD JULY - BELGRAVE 20 MILES OPEN ROAD RUN.
- 4TH JULY. - INTER-CLUB TRACK WALKS - BATTERSEA
- 6TH AUGUST - CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - BATTERSEA PARK
- 19TH NOVEMBER - CLUB DINNER AND DANCE - EXPRESS ROOMS CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

FINAL REMINDER

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS?