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Belgrave Harriers

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EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

As no one has responded to my appeal for a new Hon. Editor, I have agreed to carry on for the time being but would still be pleased to learn of someone willing to take over the office. The Committee have again considered the question of a general issue of the magazine to all members and it has been decided to revert to the former practice and dispense with the annual charge of 2/-. Every member will therefore from now on receive the magazine quarterly and it is hoped that this will add still further interest in the general activities of the Club. In order to keep the cost of production at a minimum, the magazine will in future consist of 16 pages instead of 20, but I am confident that this will in no way detract from its value and interest to all Club Members.

This issue marks the beginning of a new Club Year and I know that you will all join in extending hearty congratulations to Tom Carter on his election to the Presidential Chair. For the benefit of the younger members in particular, it is hoped to publish a review of his athletic and club career in January.

Hearty congratulations must also be accorded to our two members, Eric Hall and Stan Vickers, on their selection to represent Gt. Britain in the Olympic Games. I am sure that the good wishes of every member will go with them on their trip to Melbourne.

With the commencement of a new winter season, we look forward to a full support of the programme which has been arranged and an abundance of successes across the country and on the road.

The Editor.

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to record the death of one of our members Leneord Demmon who was killed whilst engaged on Police Duties in Cyprus having volunteered for service there from the Metropolitan Police. Len joined the Club in December 1952 and showed great promise as a walker, particularly over the shorter distances and was a member of our winning "Garnet" Cup Team early this year. A former member, Maurice Eden, who was with him at the time was wounded. The funeral took place at Orpington on 7th September when our President and other members of the Club were present.

R. I. P.

CLUB TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

This being the major Club event of the summer season, it is only right that it should be given pride of place in our magazine. The importance of this day in our track calendar however, does not appear to be appreciated by a large number of our members, judging by the small support that was given both by competitors and spectators. It is realised that August is the peak holiday month which accounted for the absence of our Gen. Hon. Secretary and probably a few other familiar faces, but this could not account wholly for the poor entries in some of the events and the large number of empty chairs at the track side. This is always an excellent meeting and it is hoped that it will receive better support next year.

Weather conditions on this 11th August were not very promising in the morning, but after a lunch time shower, the clouds broke up and left us with a very blustery wind which affected many of the times. Some titles changed hands, which seems to be a good thing, but in some events, the holders for various reasons did not compete.

Percy Luxon retained his title in the Long Jump with a leap of 22ft. 10ins. Mal Ash was 2nd and D. Ansell 3rd.

The sprint titles found a new holder in C.R. Jones. He won both in 10.8s. and 22.7s. respectively, a just reward for the hard work he has put in during the track season, both for himself and for the club in matches. Ian Mayers and Ron Holtum were in 2nd and 3rd places in the 100 yards, whilst Ian and Denis Merrett took the placings in the 220. Alan Sexton won the 440 yards in 53.5s. with B. Morris 2nd and P. Eldridge 3rd. Frank Kemp gained a standard. Our 440 strength is definitely getting stronger as there were two heats before the final.

The 880 yards was won by John Davies in 1min. 56.8s. G. Leroy was 2nd after making all the running for the 1st lap. This lad is a welcome addition to our middle distance strength. Roy Glen held on to 3rd place after an interesting struggle with Stan Boreham. Brian Hallowell won the mile in 4m. 21.5s. with John Davies 2nd and Ray Tooby 3rd. John took the lead with 220 yards to go but Brian fought back in the home straight and passed John a few yards from the finish. It was the best mile we have had for years.

Clive Ryan again brought off the double in the Junior sprints winning the 100 yards in 11.4s. and the 220 yds in 23.3s. Entries were very poor in both these events, only 4 starting in the 100 and 2 in the 220. P. Harris and P. Brazier were 2nd and 3rd in the 100 yards and P. Cornelius was the only other runner in the 220. P. Brazier won the Junior 440 yards in 54.9s. with D. Mitchell 2nd and R. Harris 3rd. G. Stevens won the Junior 880 in 2m. 7.8s. with D. Mitchell again 2nd and D. Gill 3rd. Stevens had a very hard race, with all three finishing within 6/10ths of a second and later fell over in the mile. The mile was won by C. Dabbs, in 4m. 34.3s. with T. Gower 2nd and T. Tupper 3rd. There was a ding dong battle between the first two over the last quarter and I wish some of the seniors could show as much spirit in their running.

Whilst all this was going on, the field events people were performing and it is something to be proud of to have the first three in the weight put beating 45 feet. J. Jones was first with 46ft. 3 1/2 ins., a championship best, with T. Gaworski 2nd and R. Harris 3rd. The Discus saw yet another best championship performance by T. Gaworski with a throw of 133ft. 9ins. R. Harris was 2nd and J.P. Jones 3rd. Ron Liggins won the Javelin also with a best championship performance of 169ft. 1in., with

T. Strang 2nd and P. Porter 3rd. Ron was on a night shift and it was much to his credit that he competed not only in this but in other competitions without the much needed sleep.

Mal Ash retained his hurdles title in 16.4s. with H. Khan 2nd and B. Coleman 3rd. It was good to see Brian after a long absence due to studying for a career. Mal again retained the high jump title having virtually no opposition - a versatile bloke is Mal. The junior high jump was won by Alan Elliott with P. Griffiths 2nd but only two jumped. Elliott could be a useful performer if he would only train more regularly.

All in all it could be called a good days sport. I did notice that some members chose to go out training in preference to running in the championships, which I think was very bad form. There are also quite a number of members who apparently thought a club vest was not good enough and turned out in anything other than claret and gold. We have our colours - why not wear them.

The Hop, Step and Jump Championship was held at an evening meeting on 18th July when Percy Luxon retained his title with a leap of 44ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

It is interesting to note that on the same day as the Championships, Jack Brown competed in the Kent County 6 miles championship and won in a new County record time of 29m. 40.3s.

"Candidus"

A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS - JULY 13TH and 14TH 1956
By "Olympian"

For those people fortunate enough to be able to spare the time to attend the first day of the Championships, the Friday programme can usually be depended upon to produce an exciting competition as on "Finals" day and in addition, the seven hours of events are usually sprinkled with Belgrave members whereas on the Saturday our numbers have dwindled to somewhat less than a handful.

This year proved no exception. The early events comprised the Hammer, Tug-o-War and Long Jump but our members were not prominent in any of these. The track races began with the heats of the 220 yards hurdles and I was a little disappointed to find Denis Merrett missing from the entries. We were however to see him perform a little later in the heats of the 100 yards. Together with Denis, was Ron Holtum, who last year reached the final and finished 4th and we were hoping for a repeat performance. Unfortunately neither could do better than 3rd in their heat which was not good enough to take them on to the semi-finals.

We began to take interest when the preliminaries of the Weight commenced for we felt that our trio of Gaworski, Jones and Harris would make their presence felt. Unfortunately all were below their best form and although each gained a standard, none figured in the first six places.

We had but one entry in the 880 yards, but John Davies was destined to give us our greatest thrill by qualifying for the final in a time of 1.52.8, a new club best performance. His lack of experience however, coupled with some excessive buffetting on the first bend, did not allow him to repeat this time on Saturday and our hopes of a place were dashed.

The 440 yards was next and once again we had a lone entry in Alan Sexton. He was unfortunate to pick a heat in which F. Higgins the native record holder was running and the pace proved too hot. Alan nevertheless was 3rd in 50.4 which only he in our club has bettered this year.

Charlie Jones and Dennis Merrett came out for the heats of the 220 yards and each qualified for the semi-finals by finishing 3rd in 22.7s. They could not however improve on this time sufficiently to gain either a standard or a place in the final.

The one mile heats saw some grand racing and Brian Hallowell was unlucky not to reach the final. His time of 4m. 11.2s. in finishing 3rd in his heat was only .6 of a second too slow. If he could have repeated his best time of 4m.10.6s. made in June he might well have joined in the Saturday final. Here again Brian has a bright future ahead of him and we shall almost certainly see him in top competition within a short time.

It was left to the walkers to keep the "Claret and Gold" flying and how well they did it by finishing 2nd and 5th in the 7 miles. Stan Vickers was 2nd to Coleman who was invincible on the day and Eric Hall produced his best time for the distance.

In the remaining events we had little or no interest and our hopes turned to the few numbers left to battle out our cause on Saturday which proved to be an absolute "stinker". Heavy drizzle marred the performances and both competitors and officials had their ardour sadly damped.

Ted Gaworski gained a standard in the discus but Harris was not so fortunate. Mal Ash had a fall in the heat of the 120 yards hurdles when nicely placed and might well have done his best to date. Our team in the 4 x 110 yards Junior Relay were well beaten in their heat mainly through poor baton changing and our hopes of seeing Belgrave colours to the fore were once again dashed. Then came the 880 yards final on which comment has been made. This was followed by the two miles walk which again gave our walkers a chance to shine. Unfortunately Stan Vickers was far from well and his fifth place says a lot for his courage and tenacity, attributes which could well be copied by a large number of our members.

After the final of the 100 yards, 440 yards and 120 yards hurdles and one mile, came the three miles. Jack Brown who had beaten 14 minutes three weeks earlier in the Southern, was competing although not wearing our colours - that vest you wear Jack is most drab compared to Belgrave's claret and gold - and we were anticipating a further improvement on this time. Jack worked his way to 8th position in a time of 14 mins. exactly. It is a pity he did not consider turning to this event three or four years ago when his basic mile speed would probably have given him even better three mile times and when a performance between 13.45 and 14 mins. were considered top class. Now of course with our leading runners well under 13.30 and approaching 13, Jack's best effort is no more than average. The meeting ended with the steeplechase, 220 yards and 440 yards hurdles but we had no competition in these.

From Belgrave's angle it was a little disappointing with emphasis only on John Davies' 880 yards, Brian Hallowell's mile and Stan Vicker's 7 miles walk. These were bright spots on an otherwise gloomy horizon. The day will come when we have some runners of International class but at present our individual performances are by no means good. Our club can offer better facilities for training and racing than most, so the reason is not obvious - can anyone find the remedy?.

BROCKMAN TROPHY

On June 30th we were called upon to defend this trophy which we held in conjunction with Hern Hill H. having tied the previous year. Having to split our forces owing to the Beverley Baxter contest the same day, it seemed that victory might be beyond us, but good fortune and good performances prevailed and

we managed to win by the small margin of one point.

Ron. Holtum and C. Jones ran exceedingly well to gain 2nd and 4th places in the sprints. Mal Ash was second in the 120 yards hurdles and Percy Porter 5th. Alan Sexton won the 440 yards hurdles in 49.7secs. a grand performance. Alan is approaching very good form after his injury at rugby.

Bob Wolton ran a creditable 6th in the 880 yards considering the small amount of training he has had owing to studies. The mile was the tit-bit of the afternoon. Boyd of E.H.H. and Johnson of Woodford Green set a hot pace. Our John Davies and Brian Hallowell ran with rare judgment and proved that with wise training they are capable of giving the best a run for their money. John finished 3rd in 4m. 11.8secs. but Brian could not find his usual burst and had to be content with 7th place.

The 3 miles was out as far as we were concerned. Jack Brown was not able to run owing to injury and Mike Browns retired also owing to injury. Ron Liggins was third in the Javelin with 184ft. 3ins, this after coming off night duty with no sleep. George Edwards was not able to gain a place but went as second string to Mal Ash in the Pole Vault and gained 5th place with 10ft. Mal was 2nd with 11ft. 6ins. In the "throws" our two stalwarts Gaworski and Harris did their stuff again gathering valuable points in both shot and discus. In the high jump Mal Ash was placed 5th, but Percy Luxon failed to score. Percy won the Long Jump but only scored two points in the triple jump.

Our two steeplechasers Eddie Short and Pete Baganll, finished 3rd and 5th after taking a horrible bashing in the process. It is a pity that some of our longer distance track men don't display courage of this sort and help Belgrave to once again take its place at the front in distance running.

Contrary to various comments that the trophy was won by the field events men, I think the quick wittedness of Percy Porter running in the hurdles and gaining two points was the greatest factor. Woodford Green's Captain congratulated us on our win and for the wonderful struggle between the two clubs.

F. Simmons.

BEVERLEY BAXTER TROPHY

As mentioned above we had to split our forces on the 30th June as we also wished to defend our possession of the Beverley Baxter Trophy at Palmers Green, but unfortunately there was a very poor turn out and we only scored in two events. J.P. Jones was our only winner, putting the shot 43ft. 6ins. A.Jackson a relatively new member making his first appearance for the Club ran an exceptionally good quarter to finish 2nd in 51m.7secs.

T. Morrell.

MATCH v QUEENS PARK HARRIERS

This match was held at Paddington Rec. on July 3rd and a good turn out of our lads was very encouraging to me especially as holidays and other reasons prevented some attending. The unreasonable ruling of the Queens Park H. that only those who appeared on the programme would be allowed to compete annoyed me immensely and I did not mince my words in protest. However we proceeded to compete under the handicap of chaps running in events they were not used to and they all gave of their best.

C.R. Jones and R. Holtum were 1st and 3rd in the 100 yards. A. Sexton and D. Butler 1st and 4th in the 220 yards. P. Eldridge 3rd in the 440 yards. J. Heathfield 2nd in the 880 yds

D. McLean 1st in the mile and we won the 6 x 220 yards relay.

In the Junior Match our lads did quite well considering the opposition, winning the 4 x 110 yards relay, 4th and 5th in the 100 yards, 3rd and 4th in the 220 yards, 2nd in the 880 yards and 2nd place in the mile team race, together with minor placings in two field events. Some of our lads doubled up in some events to try and gain points which speaks a lot for their club spirit. Queens Park won the match with 108 points to our 91, a creditable performance by our lads.

MATCH v CAMERIDGE HARRIERS

There was a poor turn out on July 7th despite numerous cards and personal contacts and also due to the Southern Junior Championships and Senior 4 x 110 yards relay. Alan Sexton won the Senior 100 yards in 10.3s. and the 220 yards in 22.8secs. Roy Glen was 3rd in the 440 yards and also competed in the shot and discus. Jim Heathfield won the 880 yards in 2mins. 1.6s. using tactics that paid a good dividend. Steve Boreham ran well in the mile as also did Shippen. This lad can be a good prospect with another winter over the country. Pete Bagnall and Len Bishop were 1st and 2nd in the three miles and it was good to see Len out again after an injury. The senior 4 x 440 yards relay of Sexton, Glen, Boreham and Heathfield, won despite good opposition and having already competed during the afternoon in other races.

Our juniors, all eight of them, gave a good account of themselves being 4th in the 100 yards, 2nd and 3rd in the 220 yards, 2nd in the mile, 3rd in the 880 yards, but dropped the baton on the last leg of the 4 x 110 yards relay. Here again lads doubled up and even did three events to try and gain points

Mal Ash won the high jump and Long Jump with Adjei 2nd. This last addition from the Gold Coast should be an asset when he settles down. Who were the two juniors who had to be called from a game of golf to run in the 220 yards and then finished their game afterwards?

CARSHALTON CORONATION TROPHY

On Saturday 21st July we retained the Coronation Trophy. Charlie Jones was 3rd in the 100 yards, the race being won by Brasker of Mitcham in 9.9s. Both our sprinters reached the final of the 220 yards which was won by Charlie Jones with D. Butler 6th. Alan Sexton won the quarter and in doing so set up a new ground record. Brian Hewson of Mitcham won the 880 yards with G. Davidson 5th. As we had no one for the mile, George again turned out and although only finishing 6th, scored another point.

In the field events J. Jones was in great form and broke the ground record for the shot put with 47ft. 1in. Mal Ash won the high jump and just failed to equal the ground record. He also finished 4th in the javelin. In the long jump Percy Luxon who holds the ground record finished 2nd and although not jumping at his best was only beaten by 1½ins.

At the end of the meeting we learned that we had won the trophy by 5 points. It must be pointed out that if George Davidson had not turned out in the mile and javelin, we should not have had anyone for these events and it is doubtful if we should have retained the trophy. Our score was 40 points with Mitcham and T.V.H. both 35.

FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN TROPHY

This junior competition held at Bexley on 21st July was poorly supported despite 30 cards being sent out by Ron

Linstead and personal contacts being made by me, particularly after certain people had asked if they could have a run and did not turn out. Again our lads competed in two events finishing 3rd in the 4 x 110 yards relay, 5th in the 4 x 220 yards, 4th in the mile medley relay, 2nd in the 1 mile team race, 3rd in the team shot put and 3rd in the team javelin, with a net result of 3rd place in the competition. This must be very disappointing for Ron Linstead as he has strongly urged more junior competition only to find that if the people who had been informed had turned up, we could quite easily have won.

In some open handicaps we had Stan Vickers 3rd in the two miles walk off 120 yards and D. Carter 3rd in the 100 yards off 7 yards. I hope that in future the juniors will give Ron more support.

SENIOR RELAYS AT PORT SUNLIGHT

We embarked at 8.30am on Saturday 28th July for Port Sunlight and our hopes were high for our prospects in the two Senior Relays. In the 4 x 440 yards our team of Alan Sexton, Jackson, Davies and Morris were third in their heat and did not qualify for the final according to placing, but imagine their surprise when they learned that they had in fact qualified as the fastest losers, and they eventually finished 4th in the final.

The 4 x 110 team of Merritt, Holtum, Jones and Mayers won their heat in 43.3secs., the fastest of the two, which looked as though we had a very good chance in the final. This was not to be for although our lads improved on their time with 43.1s. they were narrowly beaten by T.V.H. by one yard in 43s.

At the same meeting we had two entries in the Junior one mile walk with Terry Clark and Nick Milsum. They both walked exceptionally well with good, fair walking and were a credit to our Walking Section. They finished 3rd and 4th respectively in 7m.23s. and 7.28. Their vocal support was welcomed during the relays.

MATCH v HERNE H.H. and L.A.C.

It was a very pleasant surprise for your Track Captain to find so many of the lads turned out for this match on 13th August, which proved to be a keenly contested affair, with milers running quarters and even sprints, which is surprising in these days of specialising and good to see.

I will not fully describe the match, which we won, although the juniors were disqualified in the relay. Sufficient to say that everybody gave of their best and that some of the performances give me hope of even better teams next year, when surely some of this talent will out those who don't think these matches are worth running in!

It is in these smaller matches that perhaps some of the stalwarts of the future can be found. We were graced by the presence of our President whose words of encouragement will no doubt do a power of good to our younger and eager runners and field events lads so that their future endeavours will reap a just reward. Mr. Ryan, the father of Clive Ryan, was also present and his help and encouragement to all our lads was much appreciated. He acted as unofficial timekeeper to keep the lads happy about their individual times.

F. Simmons.

ROAD RUNNING

The Southern 20 Miles Road Race was held on 5th May in conjunction with the Essex County Race at Brentwood, and

our team was weakened by the absence of Colin Collis and Geoff Pearson, but we felt fairly confident of a place.

The field set off at a fair pace and a check on positions at 5 miles found E. Gebbett 9th, R. Plummer 17th, A. Bishop 19th, which gave us 2nd team place behind Southern. A check at 10 miles found E. Gebbett fading rather badly having dropped to 13th with R. Plummer 14th and Bishop 16th, leaving us still in 2nd team place, with Walton now leading. By 11 miles we received a further setback when Gebbett retired followed by F. Bradnum at 13½ miles which left us with the bare three to score. They, however, fought valiantly to the end and maintained their second place to Walton with 41 points to 23. R. Plummer was 12th in 2h.0m.49s. H. Bishop 13th in 2.05.16 and A. Penstone 16th in 2.7.27.

CHICHESTER TO PORTSMOUTH

On 12th May we entered a team for this annual race along the South Coast. The conditions were good as usual and the organisation was up to standard. We did not succeed in obtaining a team place but we managed to carry off two consolation prizes. E. Gebbett finished 12th in his best time of 1h. 31m. 45s., R. Plummer was 15th, A. Bishop 29th and A. Penstone 30th. Others to finish were J. McDonald, F. Bradnum, S. Szuoik and R. Fairman.

SURREY COUNTY 20

This was held on 26th May and we brought off the closest of victories to win the team race on our last scoring man from the holders Walton A.C., each scoring 16 points. Early on it seemed as if we had the team race in the bag for we had two in the first four and our third man was 6th. In the later stages however, our second scoring man faded slightly and our third man was overtaken just before the finish. Colin Collis was 4th in 1.55.55, E. Gebbett 8th in 1.58.55, Pearson 11th in 2.0.35 and H. Bishop 19th in 2.12.24. J. Braughton, a second claim member was 6th.

On the same day R. Plummer and W. Wortley were running in the Kent Open 20 at Chislehurst and Bob ran very creditably to finish 10th in 1.59.48.

POLY MARATHON AND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

This race started in dismal conditions in the grounds of Windsor Castle and at 3 miles Colin Collis and E. Gebbett were well up with the leaders. Our team hopes were not so good as last year and T.V.H. were much stronger. As the pace proceeded, we found Collis getting away from Gebbett at 8 miles and from here he gradually built up a good lead on Eric which he maintained. Behind these two, R. Plummer was running a good race though not quite up to his usual marathon form. We finished 4th in the Open team race and 3rd in the Southern Championship.

Times: C. Collis 18th. 2.31.26; E. Gebbett 21st, 2.33.17.; (both best Club Championship performance) R. Plummer 35th 2.39.08.

CLUB 20 MILES OPEN ROAD RACE

This was held on 7th July and once again we had the hottest conditions of the year. A field of 117 faced the starter, the Deputy Mayor of Wimbledon. At the roar of Arthur Whitehead's starting machine the field went away and we found Weekes-Pearson in the lead, closely followed by Stan Szuoik, running his first 20, but with such notable personalities as Ron Clark, Geoff Iden, Bill McMinnis and Harry Hicks in the field, this rashness of an inexperienced runner eventually led to his retirement. Weekes-Pearson maintained the cracking pace he had started and at

5 miles was 1 min. 17s. clear of the field. The first of the stars to crack was E. Kirby who retired with some fourteen others at the end of the first lap. Weekes-Pearson held on gamely to his lead and at the end of the second lap was still in the lead but Ron Clark was catching him fast. At 15 miles Ron was in the lead and Weekes-Pearson was passed again on the last lap to finish third. Ron Clark ran a terrific race to beat the course record but only the first five beat two hours.

The Club Championship was won by Colin Collis in 2hrs. 1m. 51s. with R. Plummer 2nd in 2.07.29 and H. Bishop 3rd in 2.9.47.

BROCKENHURST TO BOURNEMOUTH

On July 18th a small team entered this race over a course of slightly more than 15 miles and our best performance was by Eric Gebbett who finished 5th in 1h. 29m. 10s., followed by R. Plummer 6th, A. Penstone 15th and H. Bishop 23rd. The team finished 3rd to T.V.H. and Eastleigh who took 2nd place as their last man finished before ours, each of us scoring the same number of points.

E. Gebbett.

WALKING NOTES

The summer season just finished has been a memorable one for our walkers and our hopes of three months ago have been realised - two of our lads have been selected for Melbourne. Hard work, regular training and team spirit have been largely responsible for their selection and I know that they are both grateful for the help and guidance they have received. We shall of course miss their assistance in the first three Open Road Walks this season, but I am sure that their thoughts will be with us, particularly for our own Open Race, and that we shall, during the same week receive some good news of them. Whatever the result, I am sure they will be a credit to their country and to the Club.

For the first time for many years, we have won the inter-Club track contest and had a number of successes in County, Southern and A.A.A. Championships. Our distance walkers carried the flag well by winning all the major long distance team events including the Dover to Canterbury and back, the Birmingham Outer Circle, the Hastings to Brighton and rounding off with a grand win in the classic London to Brighton. This position reflects great credit on all concerned.

We welcome to the club as new members David Owen, David Purdy, Jacob Sanderson, Raymond Hall, Kenneth Hill and George Webb and hope they enjoy our company and hope to swell the numbers at Wimbledon and on the track. To our members abroad we send good wishes and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Looking forward to the winter season, please remember that the big event before Christmas is the Club Open 7 when we require the help and co-operation of as many as possible, particularly those with cars. Our PRIZE FUND is also open and I shall be pleased to receive donations as early as possible, however small.

In the spring we shall have the honour of staging the "Garnet" Cup Championship and as we are holders of this trophy I look forward to full support both from competitors and Club members in general. Once again we shall be responsible for the local arrangements and I hope to have the assistance of some of our members with cars in order that we can make the necessary arrangements for judges and other officials.

To all of you I would say, keep you fixture card to hand and support the fixtures which have been arranged. We have some very attractive ones including a trip to Cambridge University when we shall require a few officials. Travelling facilities will be arranged either by coach or train.

With all good wishes for a first class winter season and a very early "Compliments of the Season".

Jack Goswell.

MET. W.C. ONE HOUR PAARLAUF MEETING

This event, the first of its kind in walking, took place on 27th June at Alperton Track and we entered two teams. Our "A" Team consisting of Eric Hall, Ted Smith and George Checkley by a fine display of walking, won the event with a distance of 869 yards, seven yards better than Woodford Green and our "B" Team were 5th with 8 miles 240 yards. On the same evening, evergreen Joe Coleman was 3rd in a one mile handicap.

SPECIAL INVITATION 20 KILOMETRES

In view of the forthcoming Olympic Games it was decided to hold a special 20 kilometres race at Weybridge on 30th June under Olympic conditions, starting on the track, completing a number of circuits outside the track and finishing with a lap of the track. The outside circuits were over the old Brooklands motor track and made fine ground for racing. We received invitations for Stan Vickers, Eric Hall and George Checkley out of 15 from the whole country and although Eric and George were more used to 50 kilometres, they both walked a good race.

Hardy and Allen of Sheffield quickly took the lead at a fast pace, followed by Stan, Coleman and Hawkins. Allen soon came under the judges ban and was disqualified. At the half distance Stan began to move up and passed Coleman. Unfortunately at about 12 k.metres when Stan was moving up fast on Hardy, the Sheffield man was disqualified leaving Stan with quite a substantial lead. He gradually increased this and at 15 k.metres was 1m.23s. in front of Coleman, going on to finish the course in 1h. 37m.34s with Coleman 1.39.46 and Poole 1.40.31.

Stan's time was the only one inside the standard set by the B.A.A.B. and his chances of going to Melbourne looked stronger. It was unfortunate that Hardy did not finish the course as with someone in front, Stan could quite easily have done a better time still. George and Eric decided that the pace of the leaders was too hot and finished in 8th and 10th positions.

INTER CLUB WALKING CONTEST

Our popular annual Inter-Club Walking Contest was held as usual at Battersea Park on 2nd July and we wondered if we could win the unofficial team track championship after a lapse of quite a few years. By a grand display of team spirit and track walking, we finished the evening victors by the narrow margin of 4 points over Met. W.C. with Woodford Green 3rd.

George Beecham 5th and Ray Switzer 13th gave us 36 points in the five miles. For the information of those not well acquainted with the scoring in this contest, all the competitors score points according to their position in the race, the highest number going to the winner, but no club is allowed more than two competitors in each race and no competitors is allowed to walk in more than one event. As 13 clubs were entered the maximum points for any club in one race is 51. In the four miles Eric Hall in 2nd place scored 25 points and George Checkley 6th, 21, making our

total for that race 46, to put us in the lead. In the three miles Dave McMullen 4th and Bob Newson 5th collected 45 points and we had a lead of 4 points. In the final race of 2 miles, Ted Smith was 2nd and Joe Coleman 6th making a grand total of 173 points and maintaining our lead of 4 points to win. It was a grand evenings sport and our thanks are due to the officials and others who contributed towards its success.

BIRMINGHAM OUTER CIRCLE 25 MILES

Five of our walkers travelled up to Birmingham on 14th July for this round the City walk accompanied by Dave Russell, Eric Hall and Jack Goswell as attendants.

From the start Bob Newson and Hugh McGreechan walked a steady race followed by George Beecham and Harry Shields with Fred Rolfe bringing up the rear. After a third of the distance had been covered, Bob and Hugh moved up into 6th and 7th positions, with George closing up on them and Harry in 16th position, and we gradually moved into an unbeatable position. Bob Newson who kept with Mac for the most part, walked one of his best races and they only split up on reaching the track circuit, Mac eventually taking the lead to finish 4th, with Bob 5th. George Beecham, all smiles followed them close behind in 6th position whilst our President, after a hard race completed the team in 12th position and we easily won the team race with 19 points to Leicester W.C. 38. With Fred Rolfe completing the quintet in 19th position, we also won the Harry Hill Shield for the first club to finish their full team and Fred was given the honour of collecting the trophy.

INVITATION 50 KILOMETRES AT CHARLEROI

A team sponsored by the Union of London Walking Clubs visited Belgium on July 15th to compete in an International race over 50 kilometres and included in the team were two of our walkers, Norman Guilman and George Checkley. Bernard Eglinton representing the R.A.F. also competed. The London team finished 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th and easily won the team race.

Norman finished very fast in 2nd position with George 4th and Bernard Eglinton 5th. Norman seemed to enjoy the warm conditions but George found the second half very trying, whilst Bernard had his best 50 kilos. to date and all this augured well for the Brighton. All three were a credit to the Club in this representative race and once again demonstrated the strength of Belgrave. To recap: the performances of the week end, this is what we actually achieved:

2nd and 5th	A.A.A. 7 miles Championship
3rd, 5th and 7th	A.A.A. 2 miles Championship
Birmingham 25	Team Race and Harry Hill Shield
International 50 kilos.	2nd, 4th and 5th.

Is there any other club in the country that could produce such results.

2 MILES MATCH v SURREY W.C.

A record field of 39 turned out for this annual match with Surrey W.C. at Battersea Park on 18th July, including 20 of our walkers which made the job of the officials no light task. Stan Vickers was first home in 14m. 47.6 secs. with Eric Hall 2nd and Dave McMullen 3rd, followed by three more of our walkers and scoring 14 a side, we won the match by 144 points to 262.

Our handicap was won by ever improving Ray Switzer off 3 minutes and the Surrey W.C. handicap was won by A. Jeacock.

DOVER TO CANTERBURY AND BACK

The annual trek from Dover to Canterbury and back

was held on 21st July and we started a team of six. George Beecham following on his good effort the previous week at Birmingham, decided to move into the lead at an early stage and took the prize for the first man to make the turn at Carterbury. On the return journey he held the lead until a mile or so from home when he had an attack of cramp (who said it was the motor bike) and gave way to Hugh Neilson who eventually beat George by 27 secs. Hard luck George, but a grand effort. 3rd last year and 2nd this year in nearly 8 mins. faster time - what about being first next year?. Aply supported by George Checkley, 6th, Hugh McGreechan 10th and Harry Shields 18th, who enjoyed the last eight miles more than any other part of the race, we easily gained team honours with 18 points to Poly's 36 and Essex Beagles 41. Fred Rolfe was 16th. A good record three years running for this team award.

CHERTSEY 6 MILES OPEN WALK

August Bank Holiday 6th August proved a good day for our walkers when two teams entered the open 6 miles race at Chertsey which starts and finishes on the track.

We were pleased to see Nick Milsum home on leave and Wally Emery who has started again. We look forward to seeing him during the winter. Stan Vickers and Eric Hall both walked well to finish 1st and 2nd in 44.37 and 45.51 respectively, Stan setting a new record for the course with stylish walking. With Dave McMullen 9th we easily won the team race with 10 points. Other positions were Ted Smith 10th, Ray Switzer 18th, Harry Shields 21st Bob Readman 22nd, D. Russell 27th, Nick Milsum 28th, Wally Emery 29th and veteran Bert East 34th, totalling 11 of the 39 finishers. Stan Vickers off 2mins. was 2nd in the handicap with Ray Switzer (7.30) 3rd, so we took a good share of the prizes.

HASTINGS TO BRIGHTON

Unfortunately this event clashed with our Club Championships on 11th August which meant that our President was obliged to tender his apologies for absence from our major track meeting. However we took a team of seven plus a few supporters including the President's wife and family and made up a fair party.

The race started in atrocious weather and Jack Goswell had to buy a new shirt before he could start out on his cycle, the result was that he had a hard time trying to catch the field. For a good three hours the weather continued to behave at its worst and consequently many suffered. George Beecham, who needs the sun, had to give it best at 29 miles and Hugh McGreechan who had just come off night duty also found it too much and retired. George Checkley however, who seems to relish such conditions, had moved into an early lead in front of our second man Bob Newson, with Norman Guilment also moving strongly and it looked rosy at halfway. Up to the time that Hugh McGreechan retired it was taking Jack Goswell 18 minutes to get from Bob Newson to Checkley and back again, but with Hugh retiring, Charlie McLenan was able to help out with Bob Newson and George and took George the rest of the way home to finish in the good time of 6hrs. 1m. 2s. Bob Newson held off a strong challenge from McEvoy of St. Albans to retain 2nd place in 6h. 9m. 21s. Norman Guilment who had caught McEvoy with 6 miles to go decided to walk with him - a bad policy when he could have easily come away - with the result that although they virtually passed the finishing line together, third place was given to McEvoy by inches. However as he was walking as an individual it made no difference to the team result and we scored 1, 2, 3, which was one better than our previous record of 7 points. Poly were 2nd with 23 points. Harry Shields who had battled on to finish was in 10th position in 6.26.10 with Fred Rolfe 13th in 6.34.55 out of the 39 finishers. Thus we added one more victory to our string of successes over the longer distances.

RETURN MATCH v SURREY WALKING CLUB

Our return match with Surrey Walking Club at Tooting Bec was held on 14th August when a field of 41 turned out. We provided the first five men home with Eric Hall, Dave McMullen, Ted Smith, Ray Switzer and G. Stevens. Scoring 14 a side we won by 188 points to 215. Eric Hall clocked a really grand performance of 44m.44s. an unofficial record of this course. For his effort he easily won the handicap off 1.45 with D. McMullen 2nd and D. Russell 3rd.

OPEN TEAM RACE AT WHITE CITY

We had a very good entry for this open team and individual handicap held in conjunction with the Fire Brigade Sports at the White City on 18th August. This race, as an individual handicap used to be considered one of the "Plums" of track walking. Stan Vickers off 180 yds gradually moved right through the field to win easily in 13.36 which was equal to 14.05 for the full two miles. A grand effort on a gusty afternoon. Eric Hall gave up an individual place to push Ray Switzer along and finished 4th with Ray 5th and we easily won the team race with 10 points to Highgates 28 and Met. W.C. 39. Two of our newer members E. Froude and D. Stevens gave a forward display and our two veterans Charlie Speechley and Bert East battled bravely through to the end.

Owing to the time taken to collect and carry the china, etc. which had been won, we were late for a little celebration with some of the ladies, plus the President, his lady and the hard working Walking Hon. Sec. to mark the selection of our two walkers for the Olympic Games. An enjoyable evening followed with Stan Vickers parents present to join in the celebration and our Olympic nominations were duly "toasted".

FINAL TRACK HANDICAP

The last track handicap of the season was held at Battersea Park on 20th August when a field of 17 turned out and was won by our most improved walker over the past few months, Ray Switzer off 300 yards in 14m. 8.6s. Stan Vickers off scratch was 2nd in 14.11 and Eric Hall 3rd. It was a grand race with the back markers moving steadily through the field. With two laps to go Joe Wilson was in the lead only to be caught by no less than seven others, but off 680 yards returned 14.46.

LONDON VIDARIANS 25 MILES INVITATION RACE

Owing to the holidays we were not so strongly represented as usual for this annual invitation race over 25 miles at Mitcham on 25th August.

After nearly 12 miles had been covered, a violent hailstorm broke out and quite a number decided they had had enough, including Eric Hall who was just behind the leaders. Ron West, our second claim member, had moved into the lead but was passed close home by Vic Stone who won in 3hrs. 41m. 46s. Bernard Eglinton home on leave from Germany, walked strongly to finish 4th in 3.45.40. George Beecham was 7th after overcoming a bad spell in 3.47.37 and Cyril Yescombe who was very strong over the second half, clocked his best time for the distance in 4.55.44. Scoring three a side, we lost to Surrey by 13 points to 10.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON

Following our string of victories over the longer distances, it seemed that all was set to bring the Brighton Trophy back to the Club on 8th September, but the loss of Bob Newson due to the illness of his wife, was followed on the morning

of the race when Hugh McGreechan, for some unaccountable reason, failed to turn up, which meant that two of our strongest distance walkers were absent. However, undaunted our full team of eight set off from Westminster on the long trek determined to do their best, with Bob Newson and his wife amongst the supporters to help cheer them on.

Our troubles soon started and it was not long before George Beecham was slowing up and we wondered if he would complete the course. A quick check at Coulsden gave us third place and with George not yet fully recovered things didn't look too rosy. When Redhill was reached it was then Norman Guilmar's turn to strike a bad patch and he was obliged to stop for a few minutes. After this however things began to change for the better with George recovering and Norman getting away again.

Mearwhile nearer the front Don Thompson was making it quite obvious that he was out to break the course record and was minutes ahead of schedule. George Checkley who had started off at a very fast pace, second to Thompson, began to lose ground and when Crawley was reached had dropped back to fourth place, Vic Stone having gone up to 2nd and the Italian Resta 3rd. The rest of our walkers by this time were all walking exceptionally and rapidly making up places, a check showing that we had reduced our score from 48 to 34, whilst Poly. were still packing fairly well with 22 points.

By the time Bolney was reached considerable changes had taken place. Fairman of the Poly was rapidly dropping back and George Checkley had again passed Vic Stone. Norman Guilmar, George Beecham and Harry Shields were all coming through well and we had reduced the lead to 2 points with Poly 29 to our 31.

It was after this that things really began to happen. The Italian who had maintained his second place for quite a distance was eventually overhauled by George. Norman Guilmar caught Vic Stone and the tables were definitely turning in our favour. A check at Pyecombe showed that we were now 1 point in front of Poly and our lads still improving their positions. Unfortunately about 1 1/2 miles out of Brighton, Norman had another spot of trouble which enabled Stone to get away once more and Norman was not able to get back the distance. Bernard Eglinton, suffering from lack of a good breakfast started to come through well and at one time was in front of George Beecham and Harry Shields, but was unable to hold it and fell back again. Our positions continued to improve with George holding on firmly to his second place, having eventually passed the Italian about 5 miles from home. Norman had disposed of Fairman, Sharpe and Bailey of the Poly. and George Beecham and Harry Shields were battling out, George having made a marvellous recovery. Whilst this keen battle was going on between Poly and ourselves, Don Thompson was getting farther and farther away from the rest of the field and many supporters were torn between watching this inter-club battle and being at the finish to see Don break the existing record set up by Harold Whitlock nearly twenty years ago. This he eventually did with the astounding margin of just over 8 minutes, after which those who had been at the finish to see him arrive, had to wait 40 minutes for the second man who proved to be George Checkley. Our next three followed in quick succession in 5th, 7th and 9th positions, which with eliminating the individuals reduced it to 4, 6 and 8, making our team total 20 points, whilst Poly returned 31 to be 2nd and Met. W.C. 3rd with 48.

The result was another typical example of team spirit, with at least two of our walkers having sufficient courage to get over really bad spells and come back again to give their support. Bernard was particularly unfortunate to finish 14th in such a race as this and not get into the winning team. Fred Rolfe finished 24th, Cyril Yescombe 39th and Bert Stallard 49th out of 82 finishers.

Times of our walkers who were the only club to finish a full team of eight were:

G. Checkley	8h. 29m. 52s.	E. Eglinton	9h. 1m. 44.
N. Guilmart	8 35 36	F. Rolfe	9 23 38
G. Beecham	8 47 29	G. Yescombe	9 43 35
H. Shields	8 52 58	H. Stallard	9 57 43.

As usual there was a full muster of supporters on cycles, in coaches and cars and the victory rounded off yet another very successful summer season.

HERE AND THERE

Just in time for inclusion in this issue is the success of our versatile field events member Mal Ash who on 8th September won the Southern Decathlon with a total score of 5,178 points, 543 points more than the 2nd man.

On 27th June Stan Vickers won the Stock Exchange 2 miles Track Walking Championship in 14m. 28.2secs.

On 3rd July Ted Smith won the Business Houses 2 miles Track Walking Championship. D. McMullen was 3rd and M. Nye 7th.

In an Inter-County Junior Match on 11th August, Surrey v Essex, Nick Milsum was 2nd in 7m. 34.6s.

Whilst some of our runners may not have been present at Inter-Club meetings, they have had engagements elsewhere.

On 21st July Jack Brown won the Civil Service 1 mile Championship in 4m. 18.2s.

In the Sefton Branker Trophy Meeting on 25th July Brian Hallowell representing the Civil Service was 2nd in the mile and John Davies (Middlesex) was 3rd. In the 6 miles Jack Brown (Civil Service) was 2nd in 29m.40s.

On 4th July John Davies represented A.A.A. in a 1 mile v Kent.

On 25th August Brian Hallowell and Jack Brown competed in a 25 minutes Paarlaf at Ladywell which resulted as follows: 1st pair Gordon Pirie and John Evans - 5 miles 1740 yards. 3rd pair, B. Hallowell and J. Brown - 5 miles 110 yards.

CLOTHING

In response to many requests, the Club is now stocking a long sleeve vest for wear over the country and on the road. To obtain these at a reasonable price, it has been necessary to purchase a large quantity and I therefore hope you will assist the club by buying one. For those who prefer a lighter type and for summer use, we are now stocking a sleeveless vest which is in fact cheaper than the previous one. Full details of club clothing and prices are set out below:

Long sleeve vests	14/6d	Sleeveless vests	8/6d
Track suit lettering	5/6d	Cloth badges	2/6d
Metal badges	3/-	Club ties	9/6d
Blazer badges	22/6d		

Applications for any of the above should be made personally or by post to T. Morrell, 81, Carlton Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey, accompanied by remittance including postage.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at the Express Rooms, Clapham Junction on SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, tickets 16/6d each.

Early application should be made to D. Shepherd, 104, Florence Road, S.W.19. PLEASE SEND CASH WITH APPLICATION