

NOVEMBER, 1948

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

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No. 104.

PRESIDENT: W. G. WEBB.

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Owing to various circumstances outside our control it has not been possible to issue the *Belgravian* as regularly as had been anticipated. It will be noticed that this is the first issue since February and many items have had to be passed over and others dealt with briefly. It is hoped that we will be able to publish more frequently in the future.

The 61st Annual General Meeting held at Belgrave Hall on Saturday, October 9th, was perhaps the biggest ever, as nearly one hundred and fifty members were present. The Hon. Secretary's report, which had been printed and circulated, was taken as read and the Hon. Treasurer explained in some detail the Balance Sheet. Upon the recommendation of the Committee it was unanimously agreed to award Honours Badges to Alan Sexton and Jack Stirling Wakeley: Alan for his A.A.A. and Southern A.A.A. successes in the Junior 220 yards championships and Jack for his wonderful performance in the 24 hours' walk which he won by covering 122 miles 1,411 yards. These two are special awards needing the endorsement of the Meeting, and this was readily given.

We must also congratulate Alf Taylor on having the honour of Life Member bestowed upon him. Alf has done a large amount of thankless "Back Room" work, principally on the Social side, and few will forget the manner of his handling of our junior cross country members three seasons back; so that the honour is well deserved.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee and with the unanimous approval of the Meeting, Bill Webb was elected to the Presidential Chair for the ensuing twelve months. In thanking the meeting for the honour they were bestowing upon him, he said that increasing family ties, plus *anno domini*, had finally caused him to relinquish the office of Hon. Treasurer, which he had held since 1924. Syd King (and his wife) were elected to the vacant office.

Several new appointments were made: E. T. Bateman taking over the Field Events; Frank Simmons the Junior Section; Micky Pyer, Junior Coach; and new blood was introduced amongst the captains by the election of Vern Blowfield, Ted Stimpson, Len Grimshaw and Len Fletcher. The elected Committee have been strengthened by newcomers in Bert Mitchell, Dick Towndrow, Len Grimshaw and Bill True. So that with the "old'uns" hanging on we may look forward to even better times than those we have already celebrated.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

Our congratulations to Jimmie Bellchambers and Harry Evans upon their appointment as Walking Judges. To have such an honour bestowed upon them is a mark of appreciation of merit and ability from the "powers that be." In their time both Jimmie and Harry were distinguished competitors, both having won high honours on the track and road, and they are still enthusiastic workers, both in the Committee room and at our sports meetings. For many seasons now they have officiated at all the main Championship meetings, both summer and winter.

Most of the original nominations of members for the Olympics, for one reason or another came "unstuck" at the final trials, but a new star arose in Bill Lucas to join company with Harry Churcher, Willie Nankeville and Rene Howell. Bill Lucas was selected for the 5,000 metres because of his 3rd in the A.A.A. 3 miles championship. Bill eventually finished 7th in his heat in about 15 mins. 29 secs. Willie Nankeville ran magnificently in the 1,500 metres. His second place in the heat, about 15 yards behind the winner, Erikson of Sweden, in 3 mins. 55.8 secs., was an excellent performance and showed that Willie could use his head as well as his feet. The day of the final turned out very wet and the general conditions were none too good for either competitor or spectator. The race itself was very fast and Willie running exceptionally, eventually finished 6th in 3 mins. 52.6 secs., just under three seconds behind the winner, a time which before 1932 would have won an Olympic title.

What really happened to Harry Churcher in the 10,000 metres walk we shall probably never know. He, however, won his heat in 46 mins. 26.4 secs., two seconds inside Olympic record. In the final, a "caution" in the early part of the race worried Harry considerably and he perceptibly steadied himself and afterwards never seemed comfortable and appeared to have lost confidence, finishing 5th in 46 mins. 28 secs.

Of Etienne Gailly, running for his country—Belgium—better known to some of us during the war as "Steve" and his very gallant effort in the Marathon will probably be talked of in the future almost as much as the memorable "Dorando" marathon. Etienne led practically all the way and was first to enter the Stadium but he had run himself to a standstill and was eventually third, his time being 2 hrs. 35 mins. 33 secs. Since returning to Belgium he competed in the Inter Allied Games held in Antwerp and finished second in the 5,000 metres and he came back again to England in September and was second in the Britannia Shield cross country race at Halton.

Etienne sends greetings to the Club and wishes to thank his many Belgrave friends for their kind wishes and thoughts.

We were pleased to renew acquaintance with Fred Rowell, another war-time member; this journey he was Manager of the Canadian Olympic Athletic Team.

SEEN AT WEMBLEY DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

Our Running Hon. Secretary as Marksman, ensuring that the World's fastest athletes didn't have their fingers in advance of the correct position at the starts. He must be an expert now on starting blocks; and was probably glad he wasn't called upon to handicap the fields on accustomed A.A.A. standard times at any rate! *Bert Ellsey* judging Field Events and standing up well to the strain of hours of competition. Our announcer's voice (*Arthur Cook* to you) floating over the air. *Harry Evans* and *Jimmy Belchamber* judging the walkers; *Syd Roberts* stewarding and producing mysterious jugs of refreshment for the monarchs of the Judges' stand and doing a grand job on the Road Walk. *Harry Parker* recording on Marathon and Road Walk and sitting tight at other times when it rained too hard, ably assisted by *Jack Chapple*! Our *General Hon. Secretary* taking things easy after discharging his responsibilities on the 50 Kilos Walk—except when seen sprinting around the track from Judges to Chief Judge during the Track Walk; *Dick Savage*, a busy man of Road Walk and Marathon days, in charge of a coach; *Charlie Poulter*, *Syd King*, *Percy Wright* and their battalions of assistants all doing great work on the Road Walk; *George Chantler* first and last pointsman on the Marathon, an arrangement which permitted a good view of all that happened in the Stadium. Not forgetting *Joe Turner* with an "Omega" in his hand and sitting astride a white bench. And last, but not least, our portly friend and

adviser, *Wally Jewell*, assistant referee and chief judge, complete with pencil and scoring cards and visibly thinning under the strain of the "photo finishes"; and away at Herne Hill Track Dr. Woodard was acting as chief medico to the cyclists. *Chief Insp. Jack Bidgood* was "on the job" for both Road Walk and Marathon, supervising the courses throughout their length.

Yes, Belgrave were well in evidence—on the track competing for the honour of Britain, in the crowd witnessing unforgettable sport and performances—and wherever wanted, giving a hand with the big and little jobs which go to make up the tremendous organisation of the World's largest sports meeting.

SOUTH OF THAMES C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

Held at Cheam on February 14th over a seven miles course, and there was a field of 222 runners representing 24 clubs.

The lead was taken early on by D. A. Gander of Horsham Blue Star Harriers and he retained this throughout to win in the good time of 38 mins. 34 secs.

Our team, well led by Frank Abberton, were putting up a good fight for team honours with the South London Harriers, while Herne Hill also had three men well up.

Thanks to some good last lap running by Blunden, Charlton and Stan Davies we eventually ran out winners of the "Dewar" Shield with a total of 141 points, with South London 145 and Herne Hill 177.

We also had the satisfaction of winning the "Colman" Cup, which is awarded to the club with the lowest score for its complete team of twelve men.

Our placings were as follows:—

3 F. J. Abberton, 38.58; 8 W. E. Lucas 39.35; 23 C. L. Stokell 40.23; 33 F. K. Blunden, 40.47; 34 S. Charlton, 40.50; 40 S. Davies, 41.05; 43 J. W. Brown, 41.12; 51 C. Abberton, 41.28; 62 K. G. Stimpson, 41.42; 70 G. Durrant, 42.03; 95 A. Smith, 42.48; 133 H. A. Bishop, 43.57.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES C.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The Senior, Junior and Youths championships were held at Aylesford on February 28th and it speaks well for the arrangements that these three races were carried through on the same afternoon. The hospitality extended by the local Paper Mills was on the highest scale and will long be remembered by the competitors and officials alike.

In the Junior (under 21) event there were 20 teams and we did well to finish in 6th place. Eddie Short led our team home in 6th position, Mike Heard was 12th, Eric Bishop 27, and Len Bishop 68. Others to finish were: L. A. Adams 83, R. Garwood 88, and S. G. Brooks 106.

The senior race was over a 10 miles course and from the start Sydney Wooderson went in front followed by Vic Blowfield, with Ted Stimpson also well up. Len Herbert was coming through well and Frank Abberton and Tom Clinton were also well placed.

Albert Frost unfortunately had a bad time but Tom Carter was running well and eventually became our sixth scoring man with Les Stokell unluckily missing a winner's medal by two places.

We also won the Odling-Smee Cup, awarded to the first Surrey club to finish a complete team of twelve.

Our positions were as follows:—

3 V. S. Blowfield, 56.46; 4 E. S. Stimpson, 57.24; 7 L. W. Herbert, 57.50; 10 F. J. Abberton, 58.05; 15 T. P. Clinton, 58.20; 36 C. T. Carter, 60.01; 38 C. L. Stokell, 60.05; 65 R. W. Tobin, 61.37; 84 S. R. Eales, 62.25; 90 A. E. Frost, 62.50; 106 A. F. Mitchell, 63.28; 132 G. M. Pearson, 64.15.

Team Result: 1 Belgrave H., 75 points; 2 Blackheath H., 113. (Thirty-two teams closed in and 299 runners completed the course.)

THE ENGLISH C.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

These were held in Graves Park, Sheffield, on March 13th, and being a fine day a very large crowd watched the racing.

There were tremendous fields for all three races, Senior, Junior and Youths.

Once again Sydney Wooderson was up the front but this time there was a small bunch of runners with him including our own Vic Blowfield. On the last lap Wooderson made his effort but Vic kept with him stride for stride and then about half-a-mile from the finish Vic made a gallant attempt to get away from his man and succeeded up to a point. The only snag was that there was further to go than Vic had thought and Wooderson came again to beat Vic up the finishing straight.

Len Herbert had run well throughout as had Ted Stimpson, now getting back to his pre-war form, and with Frank Abberton also making a last lap effort, and Tom Carter and Tommy Clinton coming along well we found to our satisfaction that we had beaten Sutton Harriers, the holders, to record our fourth National victory.

Les Stokell was once again a good 7th man and Albert Frost and Dick Tobin completed our team.

Positions were: 2 V. S. Blowfield; 12 L. W. Herbert; 15 E. S. Stimpson; 27 F. J. Abberton; 41 C. T. Carter; 57 T. P. Clinton; 64 C. L. Stokell; 95 A. E. Frost; 132 R.W. Tobin.

Team scores were: 1 Belgrave H., 154; 2 Sutton H., 174; 3 Blackheath H., 183.

In the Junior race Eddie Short was again our first man home in 7th position, and to gain such a high place in a race speaks well for Eddie's strength and determination. Mike Heard also ran well in finishing 40th and Arthur Bruce ran pluckily on a damaged foot to be 56th, with Eric Bishop 65, R. Garwood 112, L. C. Bishop 117, and L. A. Adams 138. In the team race we were placed 8th out of an entry of 30 clubs so can be well satisfied.

THAMES VALLEY HARRIERS ROAD RELAY, APRIL 5TH.

We entered five teams for this annual road relay but owing to absentees eventually only placed three teams in the field.

Birchfield had a good four running for them and although Vic Blowfield gave us the lead on the first leg, which Ted Stimpson maintained on the second stage, Bill Lucas had to give way to Reeves of Birchfield and Bobby Reid went off with a good lead from George Lucas for the last lap.

Final results were: 1 Birchfield H.; 2 Belgrave "A"; 10 Belgrave "E".

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THE BRIGHTON RELAY.

The classic of the road relays, "the BRIGHTON," promoted by the *News of the World*, was held on April 10th, starting from Mitcham Common. The weather was kind, there being bright sunshine without much heat, and a large party of supporters accompanied the team along the road. The finish of the race was most dramatic and those of us who saw Bill Lucas start off thirty-one seconds behind the Birchfielder on the last lap, thought it was all over bar shouting, and continued in a rather leisurely way into Brighton. Bill, however, had other views and maintained that lazy-looking but devastating stride of his right up to Max Jones who was leading. Max was unable to respond to Bill's challenge and there was a mighty roar from the crowd when it was realised what was happening and Bill eventually reached the finishing line just 20 seconds to the good. Truly a wonderful finish and reminiscent of that of years ago when Brickwood of Mitcham beat our own Arthur Allum in the finishing straight. The start of the race was far from impressive from our point of view, Ted Stimpson being unable to keep the fast pace set by the other runners and finished at Purley

Corner 71 seconds in arrears. Tom Clinton ran a good leg and handed over to George Lucas at Merstham in sixth place. George started with supreme confidence on his 4½ miles jaunt up Redhill and along the switch-back to the Prince Albert where he handed over in second place, clocking 22 mins. 36 secs., only 4 secs. slower running than Birchfield who were now leading. Over the next stretch of nearly five miles, Tom Carter took us to within two seconds of the leader. Ken Stimpson on the next stage to the Half Moon at Crawley, about 3½ miles—easily passed his opponent and handed over to Martin Williamson well in the lead. Martin ran extremely well to maintain this advantage to Handcross with a margin of 13 seconds in hand. The next leg to Hickstead, about six miles, is considered as perhaps the stiffest and most important, and Vernon Blowfield was up against Bobby Reid, "Sidney" and Stan Belton (Surrey). After a terrific struggle Vern. was barely a yard ahead of Reid at the change over, with Wooderson some distance in the rear. On to the foot of Dale Hill, about 4¼ miles, Len Herbert was never comfortable and eventually finished 35 secs. behind the Stagbearers. Eddie Short had Dale Hill to climb (shades of Bert Footer) but ran splendidly, in to Pycombe, although he was only able to reduce the Stagbearers lead by 4 secs., and so on to the Brighton front to see Bill Lucas turn the corner of the Aquarium ahead, to our frenzied delight. The time for the whole journey, 3 hrs. 57 mins. 29 secs., was the fourth fastest in the present series.

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SURREY COUNTY ROAD RELAY.

This newly instituted championship was held at Woking on the 25th September and nine clubs entered teams of six men, each to run a lap of just under three miles.

Willie Nankeville, our A.A.A. 1 mile champion, led off and gave us the lead from Surrey and Mitcham.

Len Marchant kept the lead and then Stan Davies went off and running with a badly blistered foot he allowed the Surrey men to get within two seconds of him. Eddie Short went next and running a well judged race went right away to give us a 40 seconds lead.

Archie Bedford was our next and he kept the lead so that Bill Lucas ran home an easy winner in 1 hr. 30 mins. 27 secs.

Surrey A.C. were next in 1 hr. 32 mins. 5 secs. and Mitcham A.C. third in 1 hr. 34 mins. 24secs.

We thus became the first holders of the "Underhill" Trophy awarded to the winning team, and our thanks go to the Old Woking Club for the splendid tea which they provided after the race.

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WITH OUR ROAD MEN.

Quite a number of members have been competing in open road races this season and "Champ" Smith has done a good job in keeping them together. We were also pleased to see Bert Footer out again and showing that he is still a force to be reckoned with at distance running.

Tom Clinton has also done very well and he won the Portsmouth A.C. 10 miles race on March 29th when we finished second in the team race with Tom Carter 7th and Dick Tobin 11th completing our team. George Chantler finished 6th but was running for our "B" team who were placed 4th while our "C" team finished 6th out of an entry of nine teams.

On the 17th April in the Walton 10 miles race, Tom Clinton finished first with Tom Carter fifth, Geoff Pearson 14th and Bert Mitchell 16th. We won the team race beating Reading.

Dick Towndrow won the 15 miles road race promoted by the Wigmore Harriers, and Geoff Pearson and Con Abberton finished equal fifth.

In the Finchley "20" Geoff Pearson was 17th in 2 hrs. 13 mins. 31 secs., quite a creditable effort.

On the 8th May our lads went to Chichester for the 16 miles road race to Portsmouth and Dick Tobin was our first runner in 8th place, Bert Footer 9th, Bert Smith 10, George Chantler 14, Con Abberton 15, J. McDonald 18, Tom Carter 24, and as we had entered two teams they actually tied for third place in the team race and Bert Footer won the toss for "B" team as to whom should take the prizes.

In the Kent County open 20 miles event our lads ran well to beat the Polytechnic and Blackheath in the team race. Our positions were: G. R. Chantler 5, C. Abberton 6, A. Smith 8, G. M. Pearson 9, J. McDonald 10.

In the Bexhill 16 miles road race on August 28th George Chantler was 12th in 1 hr. 42 mins. 35 secs. and Bert Mitchell 19th.

This year we held our own Marathon championship, in conjunction with the Polytechnic race from Windsor to Chiswick, and after a good race Frank Abberton was the first to have his name inscribed on the new "A. F. Mitchell" trophy.

The evergreen Bert Footer was second, only seven seconds behind, and George Chantler gained third place.

The following gained A.A.A. standard medals:—

F. J. Abberton, 2 hrs. 50 mins. 13 secs.; H. E. Footer, 2.50.20; G. R. Chantler, 2.54.38; and C. Abberton, 2.58.50.

FIVE MILES ROAD RACE.

This was held on March 20th at Belgrave Hall and there was a good field for what is considered our "trial" race for our team for the Brighton Relay.

Vic Blowfield and Len Herbert were notable absentees but Ted Stimpson ran a good race to beat George Lucas with both Archie Bedford and Eddie Short causing rather a surprise by their forward positions.

"Ginger" Charlton was another to run well and he won the sealed handicap with Ken Stimpson second and Eddie Short third.

Placings and times were as under:—

1 E. S. Stimpson, 29.33; 2 G. F. Lucas, 29.48; 3 A. W. Bedford, 30.8; 4 E. A. Short, 30.9; 5 T. P. Clinton, 30.23; 6 S. Charlton, 30.27; 7 C. T. Carter, 30.32; 8 W. E. Lucas, 30.41; 9 K. G. Stimpson, 30.50; 10 M. E. Heard, 31.6; 11 C. L. Stokell, 31.10; 12 F. J. Abberton, 31.45; 13 A. F. Mitchell, 31.48; 14 R. W. Tobin, 31.56; 15 E. M. Bishop, 31.59; 16 S. Davies, 32.9; 17 R. R. Minahan, 32.9; 18 G. R. Chantler, 32.16; 19 H. W. Shields, 32.29; 20 A.H. Bishop, 32.36; 21 J. McDonald, 32.42; 22 R. Garwood, 32.50; 23 T. F. Morrell, 32.54; 24 A. Smith, 32.58; 25 D. W. Cattrall, 33.14; 26 L. Bush, 34.11; 27 A. E. Taylor, 34.19; 28 J. W. Kennedy, 35.27; 29 F. R. Webb, 35.40; 30 W. G. Isaac, 35.43; 31 B. C. Lulham, 35.43; 32 K. R. England, 36.8; 33 A. S. Groves, 36.10; 34 W. F. Merryman, 36.46; 35 J. E. Flower, 37.48; 36 H. N. Jeffrey, 39.15; 37 S. G. Brooks, 39.16; 38 W. J. Cook, 39.17.

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THE TRACK SEASON.

On the whole I think we can be said to have had a fairly successful season and we had the satisfaction of seeing three of our club members compete in the Olympic Games as members of the Great Britain team. Actually another member, E. Gailly, was a member of the Belgium team and put up a magnificent performance in finishing third in the Marathon race. Will Nankeville also ran the "race of his life" by finishing 6th in the 1,500 metres final and when one looked through the list of those qualifying for the final, this was indeed a sterling performance.

Harry Churcher and Bill Lucas also performed well without actually "hitting the high-spots" and cannot be said to have let the team down, rather was it a question of our men being outclassed by the wealth of opposition they were up against.

We also competed in the "Kinnaird" Trophy and "Waddilove" events and also took part in an inter-club contest at the opening of the new sports stadium at Brighton.

An encouraging feature was the promise shown by some of our Junior members and in Alan Sexton we have one of the finest young sprinters in the country. Alan crowned a successful season by winning the A.A.A. Junior 220 yards championship and another good performance at this meeting was Michael Paxton's win in the 440 yards.

Our Junior sprint relay teams also did well in winning the Surrey County 4 x 110 yards and being placed second in the A.A.A. Junior event against strong opposition.

We are badly in need of a few first class sprinters for our senior matches as Lionel Grimshaw had muscle trouble and Gordon Lowers was not always available.

Len Marchant and John Cope were our mainstays in the middle distance events and as usual we always had plenty of men to call on for the long distance races.

Micky Pyer has been looking after our Youths section and has made a first-class "discovery" in M. J. Stearman. This lad looks a second Derrick Burfitt, having much the same style, and he won the Surrey County Youths 1 mile title in fine style. Also at this meeting D. E. Marshall won the 220 yards and being a school-mate of Alan Sexton's we expect still better performances in the future.

Charlie Smart came home from Germany to compete in the A.A.A. meeting and ran well in both the six and the three miles without quite catching the selector's eye.

George Lucas and Len Herbert had what was to them rather a disappointing season and we hope that a full season over the country will see them both fighting fit for next track season.

Reg. Ruddick won the Surrey County 6 miles track title and should prove a great help to our teams when he is qualified to represent us.

We once again won the "Gordon Stewart" Trophy put up by Ealing Harriers and had many enjoyable matches against both new and old friends.

TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

100 Yds. (Sen.).—G. R. Lowers 1; M. H. Broadbent 2; L. G. Christmas 3. Time: 10.7 secs.

100 Yds. (Jun.).—A. D. Sexton 1; D. J. Merrett 2; R. B. Thomas 3. Time: 10.3 secs.

100 Yds. (Boys).—P. D. Hunt 1; H. E. Blunt 2; R. Durban 3. Time: 11.8 secs.

220 Yds. (Jun.).—A. D. Sexton 1; D. J. Merrett 2; D. E. Marshall 3. Time: 22.5 secs.

220 Yds. (Sen.).—G. R. Lowers 1; G. B. Wood 2; G. H. Jarvis 3. Time: 23.9 secs.

440 Yds. (Sen.).—J. T. Cope 1; A. J. Heathfield 2; A. J. Beaumont 3. Time: 52.7 secs.

(Standard.—S. C. Botwright.)

880 Yds. (Jun.).—M. J. Stearman 1; E. L. Cunnell 2; R. J. Walton 3. Time: 2 min. 9.2 secs.

880 Yds. (Sen.).—J. T. Cope 1; J. W. Brown 2; H. A. Bishop 3. Time: 2 min. 1.8 secs.

(Standard.—V. D. Wynyard.)

- 1 Mile.—L. W. Herbert 1; W. E. Lucas 2; V. S. Blowfield 3. Time: 4 min. 25.8 secs.
 (Standards.—A. E. Frost, M. E. Heard, M. H. Graves, J. W. Kennedy, K. G. Stimpson.)
- 3 Miles.—L. W. Herbert. Time: 14 min. 52.2 secs.
- 2 Miles Walk.—H. G. Churcher 1; D. McMullen 2; J. G. Coleman 3. Time: 14 min. 48 secs.
 (Standard, 2nd class: C. F. Sutton.)
- Javelin Throw.—1 C. Melchoir, 161ft. 9in.; 2 G. Jarvis, 154ft. 9in.; 3 G. Powell, 143ft. 8in. (Standards: L. Higgins, S. Jones, D. Whitehead.)
- Discus Throw.—1 J. Mackenzie, 113ft. 3½in.; 2 S. Jones, 104ft. 9½in.; 3 W. Sutton, 104ft. 9½in. (Standards: L. Higgins, G. Freestone.)
- Shot Putt.—1 S. H. T. Jones, 38ft. 7½in.; 2 W. Sutton, 34ft. 3in.; 3 C. Melchoir, 32ft. 6in.
- Long Jump.—1 S. C. Botwright, 19ft. 3½in.; 2 T. C. Jones, 18ft. 8in.; 3 G. Wood, 18ft. 5½in.
- High Jump.—1 W. Anderson, 5ft. 4in.; 2 A. Nichini, 5ft. 3in.; 3 L. G. Christmas, 5ft. 1in.
- Hop, Step and Jump.—1 G. B. Wood, 40ft. 5in.; 2 T. C. Jones, 38ft. 3in.; 3 J. Sinclair, 35ft. 5½in.

OVER THE COUNTRY.

I said at the opening of last cross country season, that given a fair "rub of the green" we had the men who could sweep the board, so far as the "open" championships were concerned, and I must say that our lads more than justified our high hopes. To win practically all the major events of the cross country season and then carry on to win the "classic" London to Brighton Relay was, I think, a performance that will take a great deal of beating.

With the help of Dick Towndrow, and such as Archie Bedford, Eddie Short, Mike Heard, "Ginger" Kennedy and Jack Brown, to mention only a few of our promising members plus the help of last season's stalwarts, I think we shall have yet another successful year over the country.

December 4th sees the first of the County championships with the Surrey Youths race, and youngsters between the ages of 16 and 18 who wish to compete should turn up at Belgrave Hall and contact Micky Pyer who is in charge of the training of our juniors over the country.

The following Saturday we have the first of our Club Championships and as there is a sealed handicap in conjunction here is an opportunity for all members, both fast and slow, to show their paces.

On December 18th we have our 5 miles (under 21) race for the Savage Shield, and here again we are holding a handicap open to all members between the ages of 16 and 21.

Boxing Day sees the usual track meeting at Tooting Common and there are events open to sprinters, runners, walkers and shot putters, so make a note of sending in your name and don't forget the meeting starts at 11 a.m., as last year a few turned up in the afternoon and so had a wasted journey.

New Year's Day is County Championship day and we shall have teams in both the Surrey and Middlesex County events, as our members who are qualified to run in the latter race compete as members of the Cadogan A.C. and should contact Frank Webb if they wish to enter.

On January 15th we have a visit from the Thames Valley Harriers for a social run.

January 29th is the day of our club 10 miles race for the "Macher Shield" and we shall be pleased to see our old friend Albert Macher present the shield to the winner.

We then come to the "open" championships and on February 12th the South of the Thames 7 miles race is due to be held at Horsham, followed a fortnight later by the Southern Counties events at Sandhurst.

March 12th is the day of the English cross-country championships and the venue is the Bromford Bridge Racecourse at Birmingham. We can be sure that Birchfield Harriers will make a strong bid for the title on their own door-step, but hope that once again we can bring the title down South, and given the proper support I am sure we can do it.

We then have the usual crop of open Road relays, culminating in the London to Brighton race, which if we win this year, will set up a new record for the total number of wins by any one club but will also be our second hat-trick of victories, a feat also performed by no other club.

As usual we shall have our supporters coaches on the road and those wishing to book seats should make early application to the Social Hon. Secretary, Dave Shepherd.

It will be noticed that we have "B" team matches and these are intended for those members who do not get a chance to represent the club in the big races.

We hope to arrange more of these as the season progresses and members wishing to take part should keep in touch with the cross-country captain, Alf Taylor.

Once again I wish all our members a very successful season and any further information as regards fixtures, training, etc., I shall be only too pleased to help in any way I can.

E. A. Duffett, 57, Harcourt Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

WITH THE WALKERS.

In our last issue comment was made on our chances of a win in the Junior Championship this year and everyone was very hopeful of adding another one to our many successes in this race. However we have yet another year to wait. The race this year was held at Bradford and at about 7½ miles, after it looked as though we were in a fairly comfortable position, Bert East failed to please the judges and was ruled out. Bert Webb and George Bentley, who had walked together almost throughout, maintained their positions at 4th and 5th and after Bill True and Don Heath had been told of the loss of East, they both got down to it and succeeded in carrying our team into 2nd position. Next year we hope to have the services of Joe Scamell in addition to some new members when our chances should be even better than this year.

The Surrey County 10 miles Championship provided us with an easy win, our team being led home by Harry Churcher. In addition to gaining the first two places in the Individual Championship and taking Team honours, our "B" Team were placed 3rd.

Our Middlesex Walkers did not meet with quite so much success. After Jack Rutland had received one of his few disqualifications, our Cadogan team managed to finish 3rd, Enfield beating us into the place by 1 point.

A fortnight later thousands of Londoners witnessed the first athletic event ever to be held in Hyde Park and saw Harry Churcher cut out a terrific pace which took him further in front at every step. The race was, of course, the National 10 miles Championship and Harry's time of 75.10.4 must be the fastest ever accomplished on the road. Needless to say, he retained his title as also did the Club in the Team event. We, therefore, become the initial holders of two new trophies—The London Shield given by the *Evening News*, and the Ingram St. Dunstons Cup given by Mr. Ingram of St. Dunstons. Bert East of the "B" Team walked well to finish 8th and get a place in the Surrey Team which tied with Middlesex for 1st place and contained three of our men, viz., Harry Churcher, Charlie Churcher and Bert East. Of 23 teams to finish, our "B" Team was placed 6th, only 10 points behind the third team.

The following week Charlie Churcher took a small team down to Chichester for the trek from there to Portsmouth. The race resulted in Charlie setting up a new course record. Bert Clayton walked well to finish 4th and with Alan Robins and Joe Wilson making the second half of the team, we finished 2nd to Enfield.

In the postponed Woodford Green Open the following week we were without Harry and Charlie Churcher, and although our lads were well placed, with Bob Readman (3rd) leading them home, we could only get second to the promoting club who naturally were out in full strength.

The Regents Park 15 proved the biggest catastrophe of the season. Apart from Charlie Churcher, who although beaten into 2nd position by Charlie Megnin and returned almost same time as last year, everything went wrong. Our "A" Team men were disqualified almost in a procession. First Bert East, then Colin Sutton and then Joe Coleman. Despite this we managed to finish 4th one place in front of the "B" Team who gave a good account of themselves.

The following week we were invited to take a team down to Halton for a match with the R.A.F. Although the majority of our opponents were Air Force Apprentices they showed great keenness and it looks as if Fred Herring is going to produce some real talent in a couple of years' time. After the race we were entertained to a first class meal and a good time was had by all.

And so to the National 20 at Sudbury. Our teams were supported by what must be the biggest crowd of Club Members and friends ever seen at a road race. Our Road Captain, Charlie Churcher, surprised most people by not adopting his usual get-a-way method and the opening stages of the race were unusually slow. Later on, however, Charlie developed stomach trouble and was obliged to fall back. About the same time Colin Sutton had trouble with his shoes and lost a lot of ground. In the centre of the field, however, our Vice Captain, Jack Bidgood, was doing some excellent work holding together about half a dozen of our walkers which no doubt had much to do with the ultimate result of the race. On recovering from his trouble, Colin Sutton battled bravely on recovering position after position and eventually caught up on Jack Bidgood and Co. Charlie, however, had continued to drop back and with our friends, Surrey W.C., holding two places in the first five, a win for us seemed out of the question. Eventually our lads finished in a procession with five consecutive placings from 18 to 22 and backed up by George Bentley, Joe Wilson and Joe Coleman, we succeeded in taking the Nijmegen Shield with our eight walkers in the first 48, an excellent performance on which all are to be congratulated.

In the meantime the Track Season had opened with a 2 mile walk handicap on 1st May. Naturally the entry was not very big and the race was won by our Track Captain, in the fast time of 14.19 with Syd King 2nd and Joe Scamell 3rd.

Three weeks later the second Track Handicap attracted a much larger entry and resulted in a win for Don Heath with Bill True 2nd and young Jimmie Coates 3rd. On the same evening a not too successful Novices' race was held, the only two competitors being introduced by the aforementioned Jimmie Coates.

The following Saturday we sent a team to Leicester for the "Round the City" Walk and against strong opposition came out winners, a good omen for the 50 kilometres.

And so we come to the most notable success in the Club's history for many years—our Track Captain's achievement in setting up a new World's record for 5 miles. Unfortunately this was held on the same day as the Club Championships and Harry was therefore deprived of the Club support which he deserved. Our thanks are due to Surrey W.C. who so ably assisted in the management of the race in the absence of our own members who were unable to be present.

Following this splendid effort, Harry then went to Tooting and successfully defended his two miles title, holding off Bob McMullen and Joe Coleman who finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The following Monday we staged our increasingly popular Inter Club Contest at Tooting. An entry of nine teams was one more than last year and all the four races were well supported. The total of 55 walkers was an increase of 14 over the previous year. In the absence of Harry Churcher and Bob McMullen, our chances of success were much reduced, but we eventually came out winners with 106 points to Highgate Harriers 102 with Surrey W.C. 3rd.

In the Southern Counties 2 miles Championship at Uxbridge, four of our walkers competed and once again Harry led the field to win in the excellent time of 13.53, eleven seconds in front of Jim Morris and beating Bert Cooper's 1935 time of 13.54. Mac and Joe both succeeded in gaining Southern Standards.

And so we come to the last R.W.A. National Championship, the 50 Kilometres, which was held at Birmingham. After our win at Leicester, we had great hopes of gaining our 2nd National Success of the season, but what seemed on paper a good team, failed to materialise. At the half distance, both Bert Clayton and Colin Sutton were forced to retire and although Pat Sapcote and Joe Wilson walked exceedingly well, they were not good enough to get the team a place. However, they both retain their "Junior" status and with Pat Sapcote rapidly improving, he should be a big asset to the teams next year.

Jack Bidgood walking as well as ever, led the team home in 12th position with Charlie Churcher two places behind and both qualified for standard medals. Surprise of the race was the excellent performance of Lloyd Johnson who finished 2nd to Rex Whitlock and gave the Olympic Selectors something to think about.

On the same day, our fast track men competed in the Kinnaird meeting Team Race, and with the team being led by Harry Churcher scored a convincing win over Highgate Harriers with our Surrey friends third.

Our annual Mob Match with Surrey Walking Club at Tooting Bec attracted the very large entry of 35 and scoring 10 aside we emerged the winners. George Atkinson won the sealed handicap with veteran Charlie Speechley 2nd and Alan Robins 3rd.

At the White City on 3rd and 10th July respectively, Harry Churcher secured a double win in the 2 and 7 miles walks and with these following on his previous successes, we had great hopes for him at Wembley in the 10,000 metres. However, perhaps a very heavy summer programme had some effect on Harry, because when the big day came, he was obviously not on his best form, and although he won his heat comfortably, in the final on the Saturday, he was fifth to J. Michaelsson of Sweden. The first five however beat the previous Olympic Record.

On 13th/14th August the Surbiton Town Sports Club, with the assistance of Ernie Neville, promoted a 24 hours track walk. Our only competitor, Jack Stirling Wakeley, was known to have been doing some very hard training, and after maintaining an almost even pace throughout the 24 hours, won by the huge margin of 10 miles, having covered the distance of 122 miles 1,411 yards.

A month later we came to the Annual London to Brighton Trek and our entry of 12 competitors was the biggest since 1938. Unfortunately Jack Baker was unable to get to the start, but even so we still had hopes of a place. After doing about 35 miles, however, Jack Bidgood was forced to retire with blistered feet and with the remaining men making a brave effort, we had again to be content with 4th place, Team honours going to Surrey W.C. Jack Wakeley, first man home for the club in 12th place, thus becomes this year's holder of the "Belgrave" Cup.

Perhaps the most surprising performance of all was that of George Oliver, who, competing in his first Brighton, finished 18th, just outside first class standard and very deservedly won a special handicap prize presented by Charlie Poulter.

Thus we come to the end of another Club Year. Successes we have had as well as misfortunes and disappointments. One thing is certain, many of our walkers are reaching the veteran stage and will soon need replacing by younger members if we are to maintain our position as one of the leading clubs. In the current season, every effort should be made to increase the number of Junior walkers as it is hoped to have a sufficient number to put on the race for the new Junior (under 21) Cup presented to the Club by Tommy Green and also to form the basis of some strong teams for the future.

R.W.A. JUNIOR TEN MILES CHAMPIONSHIP AT BRADFORD.
February 7th.

1 L. Allen (Sheffield U.H.), 81.06.4; 4 A. Webb, 84.37; 5 G. Bentley, 84.37; 22 W. True, 88.10; 27 D. Heath, 88.35; 30 P. Sapcote, 89.02; 36 J. Robins, 89.35.

1 Sheffield, 33 points; 2 Belgrave H., 52 points.

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SURREY COUNTY TEN MILES CHAMPIONSHIP. March 6th.

1 H. Churcher, 76.26; 2 C. Churcher, 79.33; 4 A. East, 81.01; 5 D. McMullen, 83.05; 9 J. Bidgood, 85.37; 10 J. Coleman, 87.01; 13 J. Wilson, 89.09; 16 S. King, 90.01; 17 G. Boddington, 90.40; 18 G. Doubleday, 90.43; 21 D. Heath, 92.34; 22 W. True, 92.34; 23 G. Atkinson, 92.41.

1 Belgrave Harriers "A," 12 points; 3 Belgrave Harriers "B," 38 points.

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY TEN MILES CHAMPIONSHIP. March 6th.

6 A. Readman, 83.37; 8 C. Sutton, 85.30; 10 A. Webb, 86.33; 19 P. Sapcote, 88.39; 33 R. Frazer, 93.13; 35 S. Spencer, 93.43.

1 Polytechnic Harriers; 3 Cadogan A.C.

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HANTS COUNTY TEN MILES CHAMPIONSHIP. March 6th.

2 H. Clayton, 88.22; 5 R. Rowbottom, 100.44.

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NATIONAL TEN MILES CHAMPIONSHIP, HYDE PARK. March 20th.

1 H. Churcher, 75.10.4; 4 C. Churcher, 79.16; 8 A. East, 80.42; 17 J. Coleman, 81.55; 20 J. Rutland, 82.18; 24 A. Clayton, 82.57; 30 C. Sutton, 83.52; 32 A. Webb, 84.07; 34 G. Bentley, 84.11; 39 J. Bidgood, 84.42; 42 P. Sapcote, 85.16; 47 A. Readman, 85.19; 49 D. McMullen, 85.31; 69 W. True, 87.49; 86 J. Wilson, 89.27; 89 R. Frazer, 90.01; 95 S. King, 90.15; 108 G. Oliver, 91.25; 170 P. Wilson, 103.09.

1 Belgrave Harriers, 42 points.

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CHICHESTER TO PORTSMOUTH SIXTEEN MILES. March 27th.

1 C. Churcher, 2.1.35; 4 H. Clayton, 2.18.54; 18 J. Robins, 2.31.37; 19 J. Wilson, 2.31.37; 23 R. Rowbottom, 2.34.36; 25 A. Stirling Wakeley, 2.35.51.

1 Enfield A.C., 24 points; 2 Belgrave H., 36 points.

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WOODFORD GREEN OPEN "TEN." April 3rd.

1 A. Cotton (W. Grn.), 82.07; 3 A. Readman, 82.30; 5 D. McMullen, 83.50; 10 G. Bentley, 85.46; 13 J. Coleman, 86.25; 15 J. Bidgood, 86.25; 23 P. Sapcote, 88.13; 27 C. Sutton, 88.48; 42 S. King, 92.12; 47 R. Frazer, 92.47; 53 S. Spencer, 94.01; 54 G. Atkinson, 94.22; 59 G. Oliver, 96.13.

1 Woodford Green A.C., 16 points; 2 Belgrave H., 31 points.

REGENTS PARK OPEN "FIFTEEN." April 10th.

1 C. Megnin, 2.24.6; 2 C. Churcher, 2.3.18; 9 A. Readman, 2.8.33; 15 J. Bidgood, 2.10.11; 17 A. Webb, 2.10.43; 18 G. Bentley, 2.10.44; 28 H. Clayton, 2.13.54; 44 J. Wilson, 2.17.56; 55 P. Sapcote, 2.19.35; 60 J. Robins, 2.21.16; 73 S. Spencer, 2.24.51.

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TWENTY MILES CLUB RICKETS SHIELD CHAMPIONSHIP April 24th.

1 C. Churcher, 2.56.48; 2 C. Sutton, 3.0.22; 3 J. Bidgood, 3.0.47; 4 A. Readman, 3.7.2; 5 P. Wright, 3.3.16; 6 G. Bentley, 3.10.40; 7 J. Wilson, 3.14.55; 8 P. Sapcote, 3.15.31; 9 D. Heath, 3.18.7; 10 G. Doubleday, 3.18.25; 11 G. Oliver, 3.19.25; 12 G. Boddington, 3.19.33; 13 S. Spencer, 3.21.6; 14 R. Frazer, 3.23.30; 15 R. Rowbottom, 3.24.5; 16 G. Pink.

Handicap: 1 D. Heath; 2 J. Bidgood; 3 G. Oliver.

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R.W.A. NATIONAL TWENTY MILES CHAMPIONSHIP, SUDBURY.

May 8th.

1 G. B. R. Whitlock, 2.52.7; 18 H. G. Clayton, 3.3.33; 19 J. C. Bidgood, 3.3.44; 20 C. F. Sutton, 3.4.15; 21 C. E. Churcher, 3.4.19; 22 A. Readman, 3.4.57; 32 G. Bentley, 3.8.48; 33 P. Sapcote, 3.8.50; 45 J. Wilson, 3.14.20; 48 J. Coleman, 3.15.22; 65 G. Doubleday, 3.21.23; 74 G. Boddington, 3.23.26; 76 S. Spencer, 3.23.41; 96 G. Oliver, 3.31.34; 100 F. Tasker, 3.33.31; 106 A. Pink, 3.38.7.

1 S.W.C., 56 points; 2 Belgrave Harriers, 78 points.

Nijmegen Shield: Belgrave Harriers.

LEWIS'S ROUND THE CITY WALK (22 Miles) LEICESTER. May 29th.

1 H. Martineau, 3.3.45; 6 C. Churcher, 3.10.40; 11 H. Clayton, 3.17.11; 12 J. Bidgood, 3.17.50; 13 G. Bentley, 3.18.6; 44 D. Heath, 3.34.50; 48 S. Spencer, 3.37.10.

1 Belgrave Harriers, 32 points.

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R.W.A. NATIONAL FIFTY KILOMETRES CHAMPIONSHIP,
BIRMINGHAM. June 19th.

1 G. B. Whitlock, 4.35.35; 12 J. C. Bidgood, 4.57.33; 14 C. E. Churcher, 4.58.34; 36 J. Wilson, 5.12.30; 37 P. Sapcote, 5.13.44; 38 A. J. Stirling Wakeley, 5.13.55; 54 D. Heath, 5.25.39; 60 G. Doubleday, 5.28.53.

1 S.W.C., 44 points; 4 Belgrave H., 89 points.

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LONDON TO BRIGHTON. September 11th.

1 G. B. Whitlock, 8.14.29; 12 A. J. St. Wakeley, 9.6.0; 18 G. Oliver, 9.16.11; 20 D. Heath, 9.22.7; 26 J. Wilson, 9.25.37; 37 S. Spencer, 9.42.26; 47 G. Doubleday, 9.53.5; 49 R. Frazer, 9.53.18; 61 H. Clayton, 10.12.2; 62 P. Wilson, 10.13.22; 84 R. Fairman, 11.7.15.

1 S.W.C., 24 points; 4 Belgrave Harriers, 65 points.

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Sunday morning strolls have recommenced and start from Wimbledon Station at 9.30 under the guidance of Charles Churcher. Both runners and walkers are welcome.

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Battersea Park Track has been re-opened for training but sports meetings will not be allowed for some time yet.

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A Get Fit Class will be conducted by our Chief Coach, George Clay, at Belgrave Hall each Tuesday evening, commencing January 4th, at 7.15. Sprinters are particularly invited to attend.

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Charlie Smart who although now "almost" settled in Germany is, however, still busy training and racing. He sends his greetings and hopes to be back for some of the big championships, time and circumstance permitting.

George Clay passed the A.A.A. Grade 2 Coaching test, first time. Hearty congratulations, George. He has also passed the County Judges Official test.

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Max Quackenbos, now settled in New Jersey, sends greetings and regrets he was unable to get over for the Games.

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Wally Rispin, who helped us in many team races in pre-war days, is back with Blackpool & Fylde where he was the leading runner during the last winter season.

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We are indebted to Fred Brunning for a new urn at Belgrave Hall.

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Wilf Anderson, who is off to Germany on a tour of duty and may not be back for some months, sends greetings to his many friends.

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Dan Patience, who is now happily married, has settled in Scotland and the proud possessor of a bonny son—whom we have now welcomed as a Belgravian.

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Congratulations to "Ian Michael" on his selection of fathers. I understand his Mother is doing well, but what about poor old Joe? Ian has already been nominated as a member by his grandfather, Tommy Askew. Tommy, I understand, has just celebrated his Golden Wedding Anniversary. Congrats, Tommy.

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Sergt. Bernard Eglinton writes that the R.A.F. have moved him to Ismailia where there is a track on which he is trying to perform. He sends greetings to all.

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Jack Shields and Johnny Briggs went up to Oxford University for the Michaelmas Term and we wish them well academically and athletically.

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Geoff. Osmint, now a gunner in B.A.O.R., sends greetings and says he couldn't attend the A.G.M. for this reason.

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A cheery letter arrived recently from Life Member Ernie Musselbrook, a former cross country captain, with all good wishes to the Club.

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Our good wishes go to Len Cheesley and Julian de Ruyter who have recently been swallowed up by the Services.

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Incidentally it is not generally known that by a Committee ruling there is no obligation on members called to the Services under the National Service Act to pay subscriptions, if they have notified their translation from civilian life. Of course if finances are good the Hon. Treasurer would like to hear from you but it's up to you!

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Willie Nankeville has resigned and says he intends devoting his time to building up the local newly formed club, Old Woking A.C.

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Martin Williamson, our Junior Cross Country champion, is already busy on the track and recently won the Mile for St. Catherine's College at the Cambridge University Freshmen's Meeting, and represented Cambridge University v. Oxford in the Inter-Varsity Relays on November 20th.

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Len Camin is busy as Hon. Secretary of the Eltham United F.C., but still hopes to show his paces on the track.

On December 11th there are 3 miles novices races for walkers and runners, so interest your unattached friends right away and bring them along to try themselves out.

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At long last the Belgrave Winter "Secret" has been disclosed to members. But one date has yet to be revealed—the date of the Ricketts Shield Race—sorry cads!

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Les Cohen has recently been appointed Assistant Hon. Secretary of the Southern Counties C.C. Association; Jack Chapple has been appointed to a similar office in the South of Thames Association C.C. and Ernie Duffett has been elected a Vice President to the same Association.

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We all deeply regret the passing of George Hogsflesh, for so many years Assistant Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association. He probably had more friends in athletics than any other man.

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Social evenings, preceded by a sit-down tea, will be held at Belgrave Hall on the following Saturdays: December 11th; January 29th; and February 19th.

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THE PRESIDENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE WISH ALL
BELGRAVIANS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES.

- Dec. 11.—Blackstaffe Shield Race with handicap.
Horwood Cup Race, with Handicap.
18.—Savage Shield Race, with handicap.
27.—Handicaps at Tooting. 100 yards; 2 miles run; 3 miles walk;
Shot putt. (At 11 o'clock.)
- Jan. 1.—Surrey County Senior and Junior Championships, Redhill Walk v.
London Vidarians and Halton R.A.F.
8.—Olympic Cup Walk.
"B" Team v. Fairey Aviation at Hayes.
15.—Thames Valley Harriers.
22.—"B" Team v. Cambridge University H. & H.
29.—Macher Shield Race with handicap.
Murphy Shield Race with handicap.
- Feb. 5.—"B" Team v. Shaftesbury H. at Totteridge.
R.W.A. Junior Championship, Enfield.
12.—South of Thames Championship, Horsham.
19.—Surrey Walking Club.
"B" Team v. Fairey Aviation.
26.—Southern Counties C.C. Championships, Camberley.
- Mar. 5.—Counties Walk Championships.
12.—English Championships, Birmingham.
19.—R.W.A. Senior Championship.
5 Miles Road Run Handicap.
26.—T.V.H. Road Relay, Cranford.
- Apl. 2.—*News of the World* Brighton Relay.
May 7.—Surrey County 20 Mile Road Run Championship.