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The 9th Edition

1929

THE

BELGRAVIAN

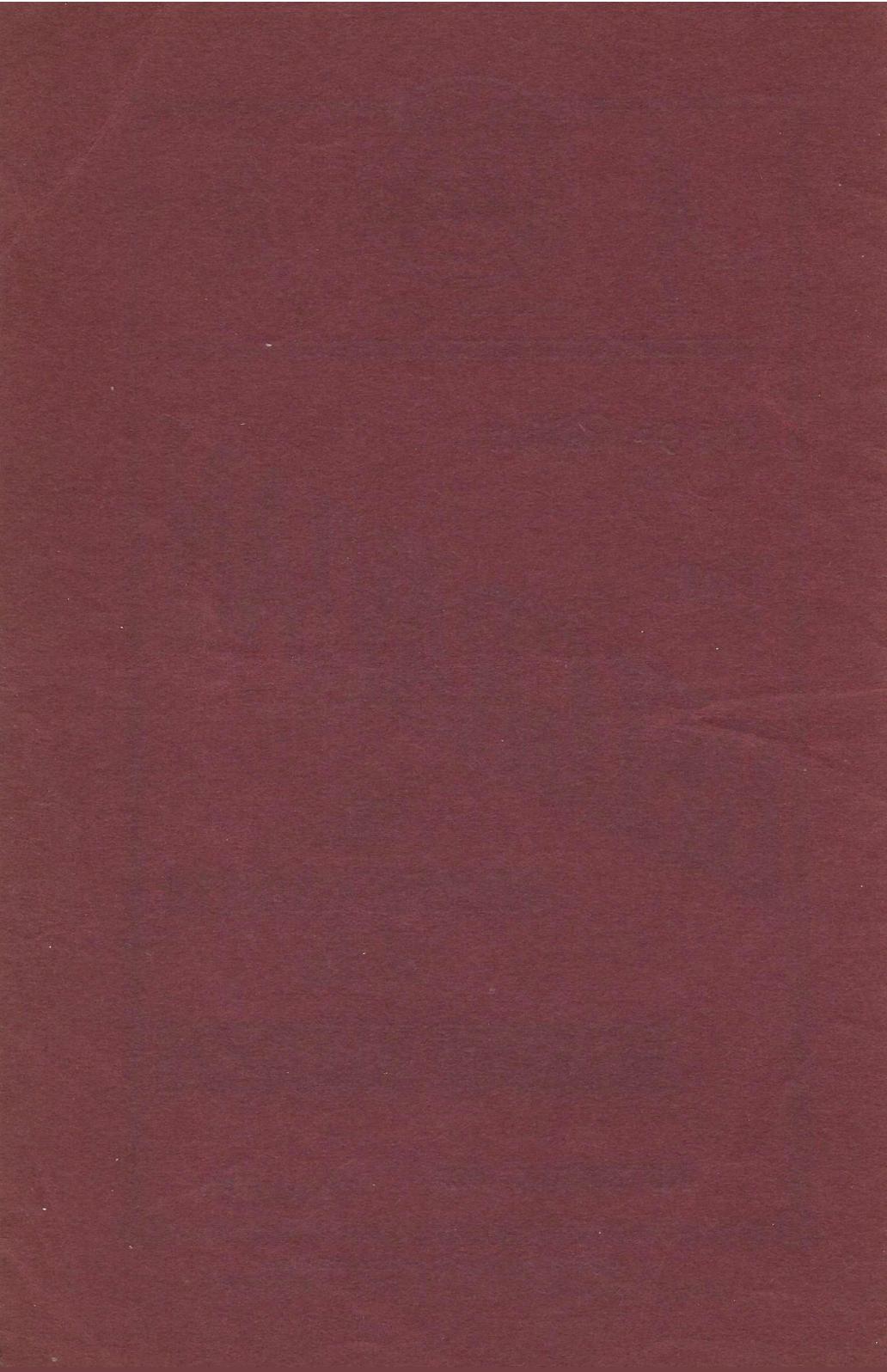
The
OFFICIAL GAZETTE
of the

BELGRAVE HARRIERS

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THE 9th* EDITION
(1929)
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN
NOVEMBER.

President : E. GORDON.

Gen. Hon. Secretary : W. L. BAYLISS, 71, Ravensbury Road, S.W.18.

Hon. Treasurer : H. PARKER, 4 Albert Bridge Road, S.W.11.

Hon. Editor : A. A. HARLEY, 44 Rosebury Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

We must once again open by congratulating Tommy Green, this time upon his selection to uphold English prestige abroad in the International 100 kilometres (62½ miles) Race at Milan. We have every confidence in his ability to prove that British walkers are still pre-eminent and to show that a Belgrave champion is a champion indeed.

The month we welcome F. E. Eborall, C. E. Pritchard, J. E. Harvey and A. T. Webb to our ranks, and wish them every success in the claret and gold.



T. W. GREEN,

whose fine performances on the road have added considerably to Belgrave prestige and given us ample reason to acclaim him as one of the best long-distance walkers ever.

(This photograph is published by the courtesy of the Editor of "The Daily Sketch").

AMONGST THE GIANTS.

By J. B. Belchamber.

"Comparisons are odious" runs the old saying, and for most of us it is indeed fortunate that such a dictum should receive general acceptance, and that we should be allowed to enjoy our little triumphs, to glory in our successes and to entertain a satisfying conceit of ourselves, without having proof forced upon us that the wine of success with which we are pleasantly intoxicated was, after all, only small beer. But when achievements of outstanding merit are to be weighed and truly valued, what standard have we unless we compare them with the greatest of like performances done in the past? Consequently, our readers will excuse me if I touch briefly upon the history of walking in England before dealing with Tommy Green's great walking during the past few months.

From about the year 1870 until 1889, professional walking was very popular here, and some brilliant world's records still stand to the credit of the pedestrians of those days. In 1874, W. Perkins walked a mile in 6mins. 23secs., and three years later he walked 20 miles in 2hrs. 39mins. 57secs. Harry Thatcher's records at 21 and 22 miles, made in 1882, are as wonderful as the 20 miles figures of Perkins, whilst the records made in the same year by W. Franks from 23 to 29 miles are very fine indeed. At 30 miles and upwards the great and popular Billy Howes was supreme. In 1878 he walked a superb 50 miles race, and the times then recorded still stand as professional world's records from 30 to 45 miles. When made they were world's records, and as in the previous month he had walked 127 miles 1,210 yards in 24hrs., he was now acclaimed as the greatest walker of all time. In 1880 he walked 100 miles in 18hrs. 8mins. 15secs., thus making himself the holder of all world's records from 20 miles to 24 hours. Only one professional has ever lowered any of his figures, J. Hibberd having got inside them between 50 and 70 miles during 12 hours' races on two occasions in 1882 and 1888.

Two other phenomenal performances were accomplished by the professionals of this period. In 1877 E. P. Weston walked 1,000 miles in just under 400 consecutive hours, 150½ of which were spent in resting. Thus in 17 days (or, rather, only 15 when allowing for Sundays, when he rested) he walked approximately 7 1-5 times as far as the Nijmegen walkers do in 4 days. Then in 1882 George Littlewood covered 500 miles in 130hrs. 33mins. 45secs. I have lost the record of this race of his, but I think he was attempting to walk 500 miles in the six working days of a week; and he had actually covered almost 540 miles and had still several hours in hand when he possibly got a little bored or

remembered perhaps that he had over-earned his money, or that the public-houses would be closed if he remained on the track till midnight. Achievements such as these made the life of a pedestrian a very hard and precarious one, since records alone possessed the power of holding the crowds that supported him. George Littlewood realized, perhaps, that he had made the walking game too hard; for by 1844 we find him devoting his attention to running and setting up records in 6 day races, many of which still stand. Then in 1888 he ran $623\frac{3}{4}$ miles in 144 hours. Not a bad week's work, eh? He certainly worked hard to earn his title of "The Peerless," and if he did not discover for us the limit to which human endurance can go, he fixed the mark so high that no one has since endeavoured to show that it could be surpassed. So it not really surprising that by 1889 walking was in a state of decline.

A few years elapsed before amateur walking attracted much attention, but from 1894 to 1900 W. J. Sturges was setting up some very fine amateur records from half-mile up to one hour. Between 1904 and 1908 G. E. Larner succeeded in reducing these, and his figures compare well with the world's professional records. It is, however, with long-distance walking that this article is chiefly concerned and, at this, it appeared for several years unlikely that amateurs would approach the high standard set up by the professionals. In 1905, however, Jack Butler walked 50 miles on the track in 7hrs. 52mins. 27secs., and by this very fine performance heralded a glorious era in the history of amateur walking. The times returned on this occasion still stand as amateur records from 26—29 miles, whilst from 30 to 50 miles they are world's records, being approximately 5 minutes faster than Billy Howes' records of 27 years earlier.

So great were the achievements of our long-distance amateurs for a few years after Jack Butler's great walk, that now only a few of the world's records between 50 and 132 miles remain in the names of the old-time professionals. The five performances of this period that stand out most prominently are:—

- 1—13th June, 1905, Jack Butler, Poly Harriers, 50 miles in 7hrs. 52mins. 37secs.
- 2—22nd June, 1907, T. E. Hammond, Surrey W.C., London to Brighton and back, 104 miles in 18hrs. 13mins. 37secs.
- 3—12th Sept., 1908, T. E. Hammond, Surrey W.C., 131 miles 580yds. in 24hrs.
- 4—4th Sept., 1909, H. V. L. Ross, Tooting A.C., London to Brighton, 52 miles in 8hrs. 11mins. 14secs.
- 5—2nd May, 1914, E. C. Horton, Surrey W. Club, 73 miles 145yds. in 12hrs.

Miles	Yards	H. V. L. Ross on 4/9/1909 Record	T. W. Green on 14/9/1929	H. V. L. Ross on 3/4/1920	W. F. Baker on 12/9/1925	T. E. Hammond on 1/5/1909	T. Payne on 25/9/1920	J. Butler on 22/9/1906
		h m s	h m s	h m s	h m s	h m s	h m s	h m s
5	..	Streatham Hill Station						
10 844	..	Swan & Sugar Loaf, S. Croydon	1 40 0	0 41 42	1 30 50	1 34 22	1 34 34	1 30 49
12 997	.	Purley Corner			1 56 3		1 52 46	
18 647	..	Feathers, Merstham	2 54 32	2 42 17	2 47 0		2 46 15	2 46 20
20	—	Red Hill Post Office	3 12 27	2 59 37	3 4 42		3 3 38	
24 909	.	Chequers, Horley	3 52 49	3 44 38	3 44 38		3 43 54	
29 1121	.	George, Crawley	4 40 48	4 30 29	4 36 47	4 35 28	4 34 25	4 38 15
34 86	..	Red Lion, Handcross	5 26 17	5 16 28	5 20 37		5 19 6	
38 398	...	Queen's Head, Boiney	6 6 25	5 55 45	6 1 19		6 0 39	6 5 48
45 803	..	Dale Hill Summit	7 14 39	8 15 58	7 13 55		7 13 34	
52	—	... Aquarium, Brighton...	8 15 41	8 16 2/5	8 16 2/5	8 18 18	8 21 33 2/5	8 23 27

A few of Billy Howes' records (those round about 80—90 miles) yet remain, but that he has been dethroned is by no means certain. He set up his records on an indoor turf track of eight laps to the mile, and this was surely a severe handicap in an effort of several hours' duration. A bad time is bad enough in the fresh air, but I imagine it would be much worse in the smoke-laden and confined air of an indoor track. Moreover, there is the monotony to be allowed for; and is it not love of the open air and hatred of confinement that does so much to make us enthusiastic long-distance walkers? I will not attempt to praise any of the five performances set down above. To me they appear to be beyond it, and I feel a desire to cheer whenever I think of any of them; It should be noted that, in spite of the hills, Harold Ross walked to Brighton at exactly the same rate as Jack Butler covered his 50 miles on the track. This point is particularly interesting when coupled with the fact that they are joint holders of the British Amateur track record at 20 miles, both having walked the distance in 2hrs. 49mins 26 secs., although at an interval of 16 years.

The Great War now intervened, but road-walking was resumed immediately it ended, and in 1920 Ross walked to Brighton in 8hrs 15mins. 58secs. In this race Tommy Payne set out as though he was determined to shift the record for good and all to somewhere about 7hrs. 30mins. Certainly, his times stand as a warning; but, in spite of this, they also compel admiration and may well be recorded here —

18 miles	647 yds	—Feathers, Merstham ..	2hrs. 34min. 11sec.
20 miles	—	Post Office, Redhill	2hrs 50min. 37sec.
		(he just beat 3hrs. for 21 miles).	
24 miles	909 yds.	—Horley	3hrs 30min 2sec.
29 miles	1121 yds	—Crawley	4hrs. 19min. 45sec.
34 miles	86 yds	—Handcross	5hrs. 5min 48sec.
38 miles	398 yds	—Bolney	5hrs. 48min. 30sec.

So, he unquestionably beat S. C. A. Schofield's amateur track records at 24 and 25 miles, W. Frank's world's records from 26 to 29 miles and Jack Butler's world's records from 26 to about 41 or 42 miles. Had such a feat been performed in the course of a long-distance track walk his name would loom large among the world's record-holders, but in the Brighton race his effort was thrown away. The sporting papers mentioned that he had got well inside the best times recorded at various places on the course, but not one of them noticed what he had done to the track figures. Yet by comparing the 34 miles record of 5hrs 9mins 34secs., with his time at Handcross, and the 38 miles records of 5hrs 50min. 52 secs., with his time at Bolney, it will be realized that he had shattered them. From the 42nd mile, however, he slowed down and was finished at Dale Hill. The time accomplished by Ross

in winning this race speaks more for his phenomenal strength than his faster race in 1909 does. Then, he started at a more judicious pace, whereas, when chasing Payne, he covered 7 miles in the first hour. No other walker has ever done so and reached Brighton, although back in 1906 Jack Butler was only a little slower over the first 7 to 10 miles.

In 1924 W. F. Baker, of the Queen's Park Harriers, won the Brighton race against a very stiff head-wind in 8hrs. 40mins 50 1-5 secs., but as the day was otherwise a fine one, no one suspected that either of the Brighton records were in danger. The next year, however, when up against P. Granville, of Canada, he did the journey in 8hrs. 16min. 16 2-5secs, time which, up till then, only Ross had bettered. Then in 1926 he proved himself to be as great a walker as any the world has produced by covering the double journey in 18hrs. 5min. 51sec., thus reducing one of T. E. Hammond's seemingly unassailable records by no less than 7min. 46sec. Since then he has twice walked in and won the Brighton race and has also won another double-journey race, the latter in time only beaten by his own and T. E. Hammond's. And now, with our memories freshened, we can study Tommy Green's recent performances with keener interest. During the past 8 months his successes have been too numerous to mention, but his wins at long-distance walking are as follows :—

1st—Guildford Walk, 50 kilos.	31¼ miles
1st—Outer Circle Walk, Birmingham	25 miles
1st—Settle to Bradford Walk (course record)	32 miles
1st—Lewis Walk, Manchester	25 miles
1st—London to Brighton Walk (8hrs. 15min. 41sec.)	52 miles
1st—Manchester to Blackpool Walk (7hrs. 56min. 55sec., course record)	50¼ miles

So, of the stalwarts whose deeds light up the history of the London to Brighton race, only one has beaten Tommy's time. His time also in the Manchester to Blackpool race should be compared with the 50 miles track record set up by Jack Butler in 1905. This road is not so undulating as the Brighton one, but at several places there is a surface of cobbles. Yet despite cobbles, small hills and the extra quarter of a mile, Tommy was only 4mins. 28sec. outside the track figures. So is it not true that the select few who stand by right upon the peak of the mountain must close in a little in order to make room for our champion?

This article would be incomplete without a comparison of his time on different stages of the Brighton race with those made by his compeers. The following table give details of the five fastest performances accomplished, of Jack Butler's record of the pre-macadam road days and of the second fastest performance of Tommy Payne's. (Payne won in 1911 in 8hrs. 20mins. 5secs.,

but I have not got particulars of this race; the one given is but $1\frac{1}{2}$ mins. slower).

A study of Tommy's times reveals him to be the most even walker of them all. Both Hammond and Baker were models of this respect, but for sheer consistency of pace they never equalled this performance of Tommy's in a race to Brighton. Thus, thirty-two fifty-seconds of his complete time is 4hrs. 46mins., and from his time at the George, Crawley, we see that he must have passed the 30 mile mark in about 4hrs. 44mins 30secs. The same test applied at the Red Lion shews that he should have passed it in 5hrs. 25mins., and he took 5hrs. 26mins 17secs. At places as far apart as Red Hill and Bolney he is still within a minute of what absolute mechanical exactitude would do. In every other good performance there has been a quite considerable falling off in pace at the end of the journey, but not so here. His first 20 miles were covered in 9min 37 1-3sec. and his last 32 in 9m'n. 29sec. per mile Harold Ross, when making the record, covered his first 20 miles in 8mins. 54secs. per mile and the last 32 in 9mins 47 1-3secs. per mile. In Baker's best performance the first 20 miles averaged 9mins. 14secs. and the last 32, 9mins, 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs. Although I have not got T. E. Hammond's time at Red Hill, it will be seen that he was 5 mins. 20secs. ahead of Tommy Green's time at Crawley and 2mins. 37secs. outside of it at the Aquarium, Brighton. He probably passed Red Hill in about 3hrs. 3mins. or 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mins. ahead of Green's time. This shows that our Tommy was (1) 8mins. 20secs., (2) 10mins. and (3) about 12mins. faster over the last 32 miles than W. F. Baker, H. V. L. Ross and T. E. Hammond, respectively, in their fastest performances. A similar comparison of the tabulated times at Crawley emphasises this point. As it is agreed by all that he was very strong at the finish, this augers well for Great Britain when he represents her in the World's Championship 100 kilometres (62 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) race at Milan on 10th November next. That he will not be upset by the journey, water or climate, and will so be enabled to give of his best, and that he will bring to Great Britain the coveted honour, is the earnest wish of all the Belgraves.

THE FIRST INTER-CLUB RUN OF THE SEASON.

On Saturday, October 19th, we met Thames Valley Harriers and Ashcombe A.C. at the former Club's Headquarters at Hounslow, and a five miles inter-team race resulted in a very comfortable win for the Bels.

The race was over two laps of very flat country, and after the first half-mile our boys were all bunched together in the front. Judging from some of the remarks overheard in the dressing room after the run, N. R. Dewberry thought it was a track race and set up a very fast pace. At any rate, it served the purpose of taking our team men away from the crowd, and quite possibly accounts for us placing the first six men home.

Dewberry, as you will see from the results underneath, has shown a very welcome return to form, and with a little steadiness at the start is quite capable of doing even much better. Arthur Penny, the winner, was, I think, the fittest man in the race, and looked a winner all the way. At the end of the first lap he had a nice lead, and looked to be travelling quite comfortably, although "Bert," with one of his "do or die" finishes, nearly caught him in the last fifty yards.

Mitchell, I understand, had the misfortune to stop and adjust his shoes during the race, but even so managed to finish close up. Syd Warboys, the winner of our road race, appeared to me to be running very confidently, and is undoubtedly a great asset to our team. S. Chorley and T. Morrell also ran very well. Another member who came out "trumps" was Jim Tosh; he seems to improve every time out.

There were quite a lot of new men in this race, and it speaks well of their enthusiasm when you see that eighty out of eighty-three finished the course.

T.J.F.

RESULT.

1	A. W. Penny	B	27	45	24	J. Waskett ...	...	T	30	41
2	H. E. Footer	B	27	46	25.	A. McDonald ...	...	T	30	42
3	J. E. Flower	B	28	4	26	E. W. Hunt ...	...	T	30	43
4	W. S. Mitchell	B	28	9	27.	A. Canard ...	...	B	30	45
5	S. H. Warboys	B	28	10	28	J. L. Longford ...	...	A	30	49
6	A. Allum	B	28	25	29	F. Felton ..	...	T	30	52
7	A. J. Nuti . . .	T	28	30	30.	R. Hedges .	...	T	31	4
8	L. J. Cohen	A	28	37	31	J. Sheppard ...	...	T	31	10
9	A. L. M. Phipps .	T	29	15	32.	J. G. Coleman ...	...	B	31	14
10	W. G. Webb	B	29	18	33	F. Jackman . .	...	T	31	15
11	E. A. Duffett .	B	29	20	34.	T. Pritchard ...	...	B	31	17
12	N. R. Dewberry ..	B	29	24	35	A. Robertshaw ...	...	B	31	24
13.	A. E. Smith . .	B	29	26	36	J. E. Tosh .....	...	B	31	25
14.	W. A. Rice . . .	B	29	47	37.	P. G. Jenkins ...	...	A	31	32
15.	J. Bates	T	29	55	38.	S. Drake . . . .	...	B	31	40
16.	W. C. Jones . .	A	29	59	39	J. Marsh ...	...	A	31	42
17	W. G. Lowry . .	A	30	5	40	G. Randell... .	...	A	31	48
18	J. W. Sibley . .	T	30	9	41.	W. Sherwill ...	...	T	31	48
19.	G. W. S. Cook ..	A	30	17	42.	A. E. Miller ..	...	B	31	52
20.	F. W. Hutchins ..	A	30	21	43.	C. Griffiths	...	B	32	2
21	S. R. Chorley	B	30	34	44.	J. Rixon ... . .	...	T	32	3
22	T. F. Morrell ..	B	30	36	45	D. A. Sloper ...	...	B	32	8
23	W. Dobson . . .	T	30	40	46.	F. C. Stevens ...	...	T	32	9

47	E Revill	...	T	32	18	64.	G. Windmill	.	A	33	49	
48	M. T Parker	..	T	32	27	65	T. W. Day	.	A	33	50	
49	R. Freestone	..	B	32	32	66	J. A. Jones	..	B	33	54	
50	T. Cotton	.	B	32	40	67.	G. McMasters		T	34	19	
51	C J. Brookes	..	A	32	42	68.	W. S Carter	..	T	34	35	
52.	F R. Webb	..	B	32	50	69	W. Digby		T	34	36	
53	T. M. Egleton	.	A	32	55	70	M McMasters	.	T	34	41	
54	G. Stoneham	.	A	33	1	71	D Paton	..	T	34	52	
55.	H Dann	..	T	33	2	72.	A. T Webb	..	B	35	6	
56	G. Pluckrose	..	T	33	3	73.	L. E. Fletcher	...	B	35	7	
57.	R. W. Beswick	.	A	33	10	74.	R. H Taylor	...	A	35	8	
58	J Bamfield	.	A	33	20	75	B L Pritchard	..	T	35	18	
59.	W. Wittall	..	A	33	28	76.	J. Harris	...	T	35	20	
60.	C. Buswell	..	A	33	29	77.	C H. Phillips	..	B	35	36	
61	C Cobon	.	A	33	33	78	A Parker		T	35	43	
62.	G. W Spry	.	A	33	40	79	W. Donoway	.	A	35	50	
63	D. Ashley	A	33	46	80.	J. Willison	.	A	35	51

TEAM SCORES.

Belgrave H—	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 27, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 43, 45, 49	..	...	...	...	..	505	pts.
Thames Valley—	7, 9, 15, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 41, 44, 46, 47, 48, 55, 56, 67, 68, 69, 70						881	pts.
Ashcombe A C—	8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 28, 37, 39, 40, 51, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 79						1,084	pts

THE R.W.A. OPEN SEVEN MILES RACE.

200 competitors started in the R.W.A. Open Seven Miles Race held at Preston Road, and of these 23 were Belgrave—a very good proportion. We were the only Club to enter and start three teams.

This year we lost the "Berman" Cup, for the first team in the scratch team race, to our friends and rivals, Herne Hill H. This team, always dangerous, has improved, and if we had had the assistance of Bob McMullen (who is resting) and T. W. Green (at present long-distance training), a very close struggle would have been seen.

A pleasing feature of the race, from the Belgrave point of view, was the excellent walking of Paul Khlopin, which enabled him to finish 28th in the scratch race and 7th in the handicap. Several others showed up well and the younger members are showing improvement. A. H. Field and C. W. Redgrave both did quite well. Included in the Belgrave representation were half a dozen novices who should develop and emulate Paul's success.

Frank Elson, in finishing 8th and a minute behind our champion, Len Fletcher, displayed very good form and should go very near winning the junior when the time arrives.

Although our party left Preston Road without any awards, the all-round performances were quite satisfactory and indicative of successes to come.

RESULT.

		Act Time		All'ce		H'c'p Time	
		m.	s	m	s	m	s.
1.	C. W Hyde, Enfield A C	51	56				
2	A H G. Pope, Woodford Grn A C	52	55				
3	E. F N. Presland, H H H. ..	53	10				
5	A. L. Fletcher (A) Belgrave H	53	54	..	— 40	53	14
8	F H Elson (A) ..	54	57	.	2 30	52	27
20	J G Scamell (A) ..	56	35	.	2 10	54	25
26	F Rackards (A) ..	57	12	.	1 50	55	22
28.	P Khlopin (B) ..	57	23	.	6 20	51	3
33	W. Dodkin (B) ..	57	38	.	5 30	52	8
35	J. Rathbone (A) ..	57	50	.	3 20	54	30
60.	B. J Knifton (A) ..	58	35	.	2 40	55	55
83.	C. H. Speechley (B) ..	60	6	.	5 50	54	16
84	A H Field ((B) ..	60	6	.	7 20	52	46
96	S L King (A) ..	60	26	.	4 50	55	36
113.	R. J Hulher (B) ..	61	7	.	6 40	54	27
117.	C W Redgrave (C) ..	61	26	.	7 20	54	6
120	H J Fletcher (B) ..	61	28	.	6 40	54	48
129	G Tucker (C) ..	61	40	.	6 10	55	30
139	W J Fish (B) ..	62	23	.	6 50	55	33
147	A A Harley (C) ..	62	38	.	6 30	56	8
157.	H C Larman (C) ..	63	40	.	7 0	56	40
158.	R. F. Elson (B) ..	63	41	.	6 50	56	51
195	S. B Ashby (Ind) ..	67	35	...	6 30	61	5
198	A H Moor (C) ..	69	7	.	6 30	62	37
203.	F E Eborall (Ind) ..	74	1	.	6 30	67	31

SCRATCH TEAM RACE.

1	Herne Hill H.—3, 4, 15, 21	..	43 pts.
2	Woodford Green A C—2, 12, 18, 25	..	57 pts.
3	Belgrave H.—5, 8, 20, 26		59 pts.

Our "B" team—Messrs Khlopin, Dodkin, Field, (A H) and Speechley—were placed sixth in the team handicap Khlopin was seventh in the individual handicap

OUR VISIT TO MITCHAM.

October 26th saw Belgrave, Croydon and Epsom migrate to Rose Hill Farm in force, at least, that was the impression I received upon entering the 'Mitcham "Hotel," for it was packed almost to suffocation. If one had closed one's eyes upon entering, one might well have been entering the pigsty that was placed just outside, for the noise was awful; greetings, cat-calls, and all the other noises that one associates with Harriers being heard.

Anyway, it was not long before the first and fast pack started, containing almost all the Belgrave contingent and one or two of the Mitcham mob. The course was set for 5 miles, over very rough country, and such obstacles as railway track, builders' dumps and all manner of fences were encountered. The pace was quite easy and the run was most enjoyable; at least, I believe that was the general opinion. About 80 runners, divided into 5 packs, were out.

After the run we were transported by the Mitcham char-a-banc to the "White Hart" to enjoy a social evening that had been arranged for us. We partook of tea, after which several speeches were made on behalf of the clubs represented. The essence of each was, I think, to the effect that we had all enjoyed the run. The tea and the remainder of the evening we hoped to enjoy as much.

After tea the Mitcham Junior Championship prizes were presented.

The rest of the evening was spent, by most, in dancing, side-stepping and other acrobatic feats, punctuated by short amusing sketches by a famous Mitcham comedian, Rex Lenfesty.

Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and evening, and all I can hope is that we, the Belgrave, are able to give Mitcham, Epsom and Croydon an equally social evening on November 23rd, when they visit Wimbledon to test our hunting grounds and catering capacity.

J.E.T.

SPORTS JOTTINGS

By "Observer."

In view of the nearness of the South of the Thames races it will be interesting to see what difference the new rule *re* Service athletes will make as regards some of the competing clubs' strength. The new rule is to the effect that in future no Service athlete will be able to represent a Civilian club in S.T.C.C.A. race unless he was a first-claim member of the club at the time of joining one of H.M. Forces. One must remember that Service athletes have a big pull, in the matter of training, over their Civilian confreres and they naturally are a great help to Civilian clubs. With this rule in operation we shall no doubt see more Service teams entered in these races and it should encourage the Service novices although, where two good men are stationed in a depot devoid of any enthusiastic runners, it is hard luck, as before they

just joined a good Civilian club and, of course, received the necessary support in team races

The running packs that go out from the "Rising Sun," our evening running quarters, appear to be much smaller than last year. Part of the reason is perhaps that some of our runners have now migrated over to the walking section, but a bigger reason seems to be that we have two evening training quarters, one the "Rising Sun," the other "The Duke of York's." It seems strange that this should be so, both are close to each other and it is equally easy to reach one as the other. Moreover, I believe, both packs run over the same ground, namely, round Hyde Park. This is a state of affairs which I, for one, do not believe will foster the right team spirit so essential for the big cross-country events and also a race like the Brighton Relay

My next three Club members are .—

J. Mackie, the Field Events vice-captain, and our strong man at Putting the Weight. With steady training, throughout the winter, he should greatly improve on his last year's performance, namely, 32ft. Also a fair performer with the Discus and one who should benefit our Field Events men considerably

S. L. King, a past walking Secretary and who in that position, according to some members, has yet to be equalled. Has competed over the country for our running teams, but has been most prominent as a walker. Shewn some good performances on the road, being 10th in the "Junior" in 1923/4, and if he decides to stick to walking should do much better in the future

J. B. Carne, an ex-Public Schools walking champion, and one who has not quite fulfilled his early promise. Has accomplished some fine walks, notably in the Croydon to Godstone walk last year, and it is a great pity that owing to business claims he is unable to turn out more often. His father, Mr T. W. Carne, is a Club Vice-President and a well-known figure at our track meetings during summer.

WITH THE WALKERS.

The road-walking season is now well under way and most of our members have already tried themselves out in competition, both in "Opens" and closed events.

On October 12th the Metropolitan Police met the Stock Exchange in a match over 14½ miles. The first man to finish out of 51 competitors was Fred Rickards, while J. Rathbone and J. Bid-

good finished practically together in 5th and 6th places. Neither Rickards or Rathbone need introduction, while Bidgood, although a comparative newcomer, brought himself to notice by being the third man in our victorious team in the London to Brighton walk last September. All three were walking for the Police, and it will certainly enhance our reputation in the Force to see three of our members in the first six.

The following week found some of our club-mates walking against each other; for a match—Railways A.A. versus Metropolitan Police, at Brighton—brought Tommy Green and Fred Rickards into opposition. The distance was between 9 and 10 miles and Tommy beat the second man by over 2½mins. Rickards finished 6th.

Among the 25 or 26 Bels. who supported the R.W.A. Open 7 miles Handicap at Wembley, was Len Fletcher, who has decided to give the road another trial this winter. He has in previous years put up some sterling performances over “sevens” and “tens,” so it was not a bit surprising to find him leading the team home, and finishing 5th in the scratch race. There was quite a Belgrave atmosphere on this occasion, as besides our numerous entrants, we supplied several officials, and our supporters, including a few Vice-Presidents, brought our number up to about forty or more.

A very pleasing feature of the last few months is the flow of new members to the walking section. Our present walking stars cannot shine for ever and the more competition there is for places in teams the better for the club as well as the individuals. Many of our younger men show promise of equalling if not surpassing the standard of our present stalwarts, so we have every reason to think that the Belgraves will be one of the leading walking clubs for some years to come.

There have been many anxious enquiries about our old friend, Bob McMullen, many of us being afraid that he had retired, but the other Saturday he turned up at Wimbledon, looking very well, and assured us that he will commence serious training in time to assist us in the R.W.A. National Championship; probably about Christmas. Another “missing” man is H. F. King; we hope that he has not packed up.

After the Enfield and Greenwich open sevens, our next fixture is the Banstead Walk. This is held annually by the Surrey W.C. and each year they kindly give us the invite to join in and make a match of it, but it is regretted that of recent years we have not made much of a show there. The distance is 11¾ miles, but we have surely more than half-a-dozen walkers who can

tackle the distance, so it is to be hoped that as many as possible will make an effort to assist the club in this match, to be held on November 23rd.

Our own Open Walk is down for decision on November 30th, and as, practically, every active Belgrave walker enters this, we shall probably be fielding four or five teams. The following week we are staging a walk open to anyone, unattached or not, who has not won a prize in a walking race since leaving school. The distance is to be five miles and there will be prizes (not medals), so if you know of any novices, fetch them along on December 7th. Entries with fee (1/-) should be sent to O Horwood a week before.

Our Junior Championship, for the "O. Horwood" Cup, is to be decided on December 14th, and a very keen race should be witnessed. A junior qualification in this race is nothing to do with age, but it is essential that each competitor shall be eligible to walk for the club in the R.W.A. Junior Championship. Our Secretary will give you full particulars of this. As usual, a sealed handicap will be held in conjunction. F. H. Elson holds the cup this year, but is still a junior.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

On November 16th we have the South of Thames Junior race at Epsom Downs. The Club has entered three teams and those selected have been advised. Our lads, with the vocal encouragement they will receive from our supporters, should do well, and we hope to have the winning team once again.

The 23rd will see our housing capacity taxed to the full, for we entertain Croydon H., Epsom H., Mitcham A.C. and St. George's Services to a social run on that day. Following the run will be a Tea and Social evening, and it is hoped to see a large muster present. Tea will be at the usual price.

On the 30th we have our annual fixture with Highgate H. at Edgware. Herne Hill H. will also be there as well, I believe, the Polytechnic H., as last year. After the run there will be Tea and Social evening for those wishing to stay.

On December 7th we have great pleasure in welcoming our friends and rivals, Herne Hill H., to our headquarters at Wimbledon for a social run. On the same day there is the Surrey Youths' 3 miles' Cross Country race, venue not yet fixed. The following team will represent us, viz., T. C. Jones, S. Garland,

F. H. C. White, A. A. Clubb, L. J. Coleman, C. W. Law, P. A. Pelcott and A. G. Thorne. White will be remembered as the lad who won the 1-57 half-mile Club handicap, while Clubb, a newcomer, ran second in the Surrey Youths' half-mile Championship.

On the 14th is the final Inter-Club race between Ashcombe A.C., Thames Valley H., and ourselves from the former's headquarters at "The Angel," Roehampton.

All enquiries to—

E. A. DUFFETT, *Hon. Running Sec.*,
138 Frant Road, Thornton Heath.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE CLUB.

First of all, I must thank everyone who helped to make our First Dance of the Season such a success; those who did the several jobs that are necessary for affairs to run smoothly; those who sold numerous tickets; the London Olympiades; Middlesex Ladies' A.C.; in fact, everyone present. With such support and enthusiasm it makes it worth while to arrange these functions.

I think everybody had a great and wonderful time, judging by the numerous enquiries as to the date of the next dance. The enquirers were disappointed at the fact of it being as far off as January 31st, 1930. There were also many words of approval for the band, so we have engaged them for the remainder of our dances. These are also fixed for Wandsworth Town Hall. There were still a fair number of members absent, but these I regard as unfortunate, as I feel sure they don't know what a fine time they are missing. I can only hope that after reading these lines they will make an effort to attend the next one; then I think the Dances will do the rest.

Now about our next Social at Wimbledon. This is fixed for November 23rd, after training spins with our old friends and Inter-Club Relay rivals, Mitcham A.C., Croydon H. and Epsom H. St. George's Services Club have also been invited, so a big crowd is assured.

The London Olympiades also intend supporting us, together with some visiting clubs of theirs, Luton United Harriers and Civil Service Women's Sports Club. Mitcham A.C. have also a keen ladies' section over the country, so they will be present, too.

Mitcham A.C. gave our boys a great time at the "White Hart" this season. Let us see if we can do the same for them. Up to

the present I have not been overwhelmed by offers of amateur entertainers. There will, of course, be a dance band present, but I would like to see some variety in our programme.

Our affairs are very informal and, therefore, is it not necessary to be a first-class concert performer to put over a song or two and get away with it. Bill Callow is still in the land of the living! There must be some in the Club who can sing a song as well as a few "talkie" stars that I've heard recently. We pay quite stiff prices to endure these. So, now, don't forget. Bring your music and props. along, and we will do the rest.

The charge of 1/3 includes tea and social, and for value is comparable with any entertainment I know. Tea will commence at 5-30 p.m., and if found necessary a second sitting will be arranged for the overflow and latecomers

W.A.R.

STOP PRESS

T. W. Green was placed second in the International 100 Kilometres Race at Milan, finishing five minutes behind Brignoli, the Italian, whose time was 10hrs. 25mins. D. Pavesi, (Italy) was third in 10hrs. 59mins.

Belgrave won the Inter-Club race with Ashcombe A.C. and T.V.H. rather easily, finishing nine men in the first ten. A.C. Caward won the sealed handicap.

At Enfield the walkers were second in the scratch team race and first in the handicap team race.

Full details of the above events will follow in our next issue.

