



Dear Sir,

We have not yet received from you a contribution (4d. per copy) to the finances of the Gazette

From a monetary point of view we shall not be able to send you further copies unless we have your support.

A P.O. for 2/-, say, will save asking you again for some time.

Yours faithfully,

THE COMMITTEE.

THE 2st EDITION
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN

FEBRUARY, 1928.

President : W. H. HARE.

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

Hon Treasurer. A E MACHER, 164. Bedford Hill, S W. 12

Editor : B. J. T KNIFTON 81, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith

SURREY C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP AT TOLWORTH.

On January 14th there were 112 starters. Duffett was well away but the team were not showing until half a mile or so had been run. Pyer was then in the first 15 followed by Rice and Bayliss a dozen yards away.

Coming back from the country, Pyer was still leading our men with Smith and Footer 30 or 40 yards away. The latter pair improved their positions in circuiting the field and were intent on overtaking those ahead. W. Bayliss was taking J. Andrews along.

On returning the second time, Duffett who had been running keenly with Wetherill for 4½ miles was still fighting it out. Wetherill was 2nd and Duffett 3rd, on the run-in. Harwood, the winner, had established a clear lead after about a mile and was never challenged.

Footer now led Pyer by about 15 yards, and the two of them were making a plucky show. Footer had played a waiting game but Pyer had been getting the most out of himself all the way. A. E. Smith came next. He was putting out every ounce and is an inspiration to any team runner. Later came W. L. Bayliss bent on scraping up every point, with J Andrews making' up our scoring six.

The course was trying, being very soft and wet. Traquair ran his usual race and Rollins gained experience from his run. Rice found the going too much for him, after a promising start.

Actual Position.	Team Position.		Time
3	—	E. A. Duffett ..	32 18
6	4	H E Footer . . .	32 58
7	5	A. D Pyer . . .	33 3
14	11	A. E Smith	33 28
20	16	H. Cook	33,57

23	18	W L Bayliss	34 8
26	21	J D. Andrews	34 10
33	29	W Rice	34 33
60	54	W H Williams	36 3
62	56	A Traquair	36 3
83	77	H. L Rollins	37 30

BANSTEAD WALK (21/1/28).

Our walkers did well here, the first three being on top form. As predicted in our last issue the record, 96 m 5s by G R Goodwin, was challenged by the winner.

Result was a draw.

J. B. Carne and E Saunders started but did not complete the course.

			Time
1	T W. Green	.. ..	96 17
2	H F King	.. ..	96 40 3/5
4	F Rickards	. . .	99 30 2/5
9	R D McMullen	. . .	104 20 2/5
13	S L King	. . .	105 45
15	S. A Manning	. . .	108. 9

Belgrave: 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 12	...	...	Pts
Surrey: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	...	...	39
			39

10 MILES' CHAMPIONSHIP.

Often we have heard that Wimbledon Common is too light for cross-country running, and to those who still hold this belief I would advise them to avoid mentioning it to 21 of our members who enjoyed(?) 10 miles of it on January 28th.

Arthur Clark held the Macher Shield as the previous winner, and as some of the others disputed his right to have it for another year, they fought it out for more than an hour in pouring rain, with half a gale blowing in the faces

The course was two laps of the Common, by way of the Golf Links, Beverley Brook, up the Horse Ride to the Flagstaff, then round Kings Mere and home again via the Windmill.

After the start the field soon spread out, and at the first mile Clark led Duffett by a yard or two, with Pyer, Webb, Footer and Khlopin about 40 yards behind, and the rest following in close order. Much the same order was apparent at the half-distance, except that Clark had dropped Duffett about 150 yards, the latter being as much in front of Webb and Pyer, who were having a good tussle. Then came Footer and Khlopin. Field, Webb and Pyer here seemed well in the running for the handicap as they were well above form, but Ford appeared to be suffering the penalty of too fast a pace

at the early stages of the race.

On entering the field for the finish Clark had 300 yards' lead on Duffett, and Pyer had gained ground and taken 3rd place. Quite like his old form. Webb just managed to hold off Footer for 4th place. Then at various intervals the others arrived, nearly all shewing the effects of the heavy going and a relentless wind. Field had dropped to almost last, but Jones and Traquair had put in some good running.

With 18 finishing out of 21, it speaks well for the spirit of "sticking it" that is in the team, and we hope that a reward may soon come to them in the Open Championships.

Details:—

		Act.	Start.	Time.	H'cap	Pos.
		Time.	m s.	m s.		
1	A. Clark ...	63 34	Scr	63 34		7
2.	E A. Duffett .	64.52	1 20	63.32		6
3.	A. D. Pyer .	65 24	2.50	62.34		2
4.	W. G Webb .	66 46	4 45	62. 1		1
5	H E Footer .	66 48	1 50	64 58		12
6	P N. Khlopin	67 12	4 0	63.12		5
7.	A Robertshaw ...	68.43	4 0	64 43		11
8	A G Jones ..	69 16	5 30	63 46		9
9.	J. D Andrews ..	69 39	5 15	64 24		10
10.	A Traquair ...	70 56	8 15	62 41		4
11	H L Rollins .	71 5	8 30	62 35		8
12.	F G. Ford .	71.54	8 20	63 34		3
13	S Drake .	73 44	8 10	65.34		13
14	G Still .	74 38	6 40	67 58		16
15	A. W Jannaway .	76 58	11 0	65 58		14
16	L E Fletcher ..	78 35	12. 0	66 35		15
17.	A. H Field ...	78 40	8 0	70.40		17
18	C W Roud	81 55	9 45	72 10		81

A E.M.

Stoke-on-Trent,

4th January, 1928.

My dear old "speed-merchants,"

Having had a request from the "eternal worry," H. Parker. I find it a pleasure to tell, or let you all know, what a fine club you belong to.

Now up here the club running is very different from what I have been used to. The fellows roll up on Saturday about 2.30, have a friendly nod of the head to each other, get stripped, run—and no mistake about this!—come back, get dressed quick—no tea—or buns at other peoples' expense! and bid each other good night.

There is a marked absence of "Personalities," such as a President with the silhouette of a greyhound—no Footers with the "Oxford and Cambridge" cultured voice, expressing docile statements about running, no innocent novices who work for Gas Companies—no little fat Machers, or secretaries with little black books, and as for "Handicap Kings," well! they must all be at Battersea Park, as I've not heard of any such things here yet!

Anyhow when I see the difference it convinces me what a brotherly crowd the "Bels." are (Club Championship days excepted) and the inter-club races are a great idea, although not so popular with the "experts," but without these races the weekly runs are rather ordinary and a bit tame.

We do not have such a "backbone" in the clubroom—older members and interested followers of the club's activities. When I see how these chaps jog along it makes me realise what happy days are spent at Wimbledon and Battersea Park. Anyhow, I feel very satisfied with the knowledge that I had four years of the very jolly crowd, although the prospects of ever spending any more seasons with you seems very small. Anyhow, I hope to spend one or two Saturdays per annum in your company.

I am looking forward to the day when we can entertain you to a social run—so start saving up 7/6 (plus gambling expenses, en route) by next October or November, and come and have a trip to Stoke.

In concluding I can only wish the club athletic success and trust that the Hon. Secretary will see that he puts cheery news into the "Sport and Kennel" for the sake of "idle" members.

All the best,

Longfellow

(K. B. O'KELL).

Dear Mr. Editor,

One night about 40 years ago I first heard the old battle cry of "Up the Bels." whilst running "Round the Bridges," the old track of many an athletic club.

The pacemaker of the "Bels." that night was a very tall young man, "A.H.N." they called him. He was at that time Secretary of the club and persuaded me to join.

The club room was sometimes in the "William the Fourth" on the Embankment, and at other times at the "Kings

Arms," Ranelagh Road, which was kept by a man named Pethick who took a great interest in the club.

Besides running, boxing, walking and some weight-lifting made an attraction to many of us.

About the end of 1888 a few of the "Bels." became interested in a small club in Surrey Lane, Battersea, and they formed the now defunct Battersea Harriers.

When the South of the Thames C.C. Championship was revived they made themselves first claim "Bats." and the "Bats." won with the "Bels." third. I remember very well some of the old runners. A. H. N. Edwards was one of them, he was quite a versatile performer, winning races at one, five and ten miles, and also I believe a Boxing Day sprint. In those days the Boxing Day races were run along the Embankment at Pimlico ("2-1 bar 1," what a voice poor old Jimmy Hart had in those days).

Tommy Gee was a very good half-miler and boxer. Bob Richardson, sprinter. W. J. Gilbert, good miler. Old Charlie Cook, sprinter and also the brothers East and Lathom.

The improvement in the club has struck me forcibly. In those days it was a trouble financially as well as numerically and many a time the President, Mr. Morton Carr, came to the rescue and put the club at rest so far as money was concerned, and at their meetings told them to stick together whatever happened.

About 1890, Mr. Morton Carr got some influential people together and tried to get the building which is now a hospital outside Battersea Park as a club house for us, and also a track on the piece of ground facing; but more money was wanted than he thought it was worth, and so he had to turn it down.

The field in Battersea Park which is now the track was used by the "Bels." and "Bats." during the summer for training, but there was no accommodation, only the grass, and that in patches.

Of course, there is one man whom you all know, Harry Wright, who is your timekeeper. He also took the times for the old "Bats." Looking at a photograph taken in 1891, he looks no older than at the present time.

Well! good luck the "Bels."

Yours,
TOM JONES.

SOCIAL RUN WITH MITCHAM A.C., EPŒOM H. AND CROYDON H., AT SUTTON.

The four clubs mustered about 60 for this popular fixture which took place on 21st January. We had ideal weather and the runners divided into three packs, went about 7 miles over some very stiff country.

After the run we all motored to the White Hart Hotel, Mitcham, for a tea and social evening. Excellent arrangements had been made for us and I am confident everyone had a glorious time. Mitcham A C made this the occasion for presenting the Inter-club relay shield won by us for the third time. E. A. Duffett accepted the trophy for the club and thanked the other clubs in a short speech. It is to be regretted that W. H. Williams was badly spiked during the run, that, however, we are glad to say, did not deter him from giving his "turn" at the social afterwards. We hope that still more Belgravians will turn up to these socials which well deserve their support.

W.L.B.

SOCIAL EVENING, JANUARY 28th.

A merry party of 47 sat down to tea at St. John's Hall, on January 28th after an afternoon out in the rain, and those who had not had enough for their bob in the handicap, could not complain of the chance given them for a bob in the tea. Here again the same spirit of "sticking it" was very obvious in our members. During the tea, the prizes and medals won during the afternoon were presented by Miss Macher, and judging by the applause, the prizes had gone to deserving cases.

Following tea, several members and friends kindly entertained us with songs and recitations, and stump speeches. A popular innovation was the community singing of a few sea chanties led by Mr. Thomson, and we enjoyed entertainment by Miss Fish. Then we indulged in a little dancing, closely followed by a whist drive of 10 hands. After that dancing was the order of evening until about 10.30 when we all went home tired, but well pleased with the evening's amusement. The committee wish to thank all those members and friends who so kindly helped to make the evening a success. We wish to foster this sociable feeling amongst the members, and we should welcome any suggestions to improve these shining hours, and with the support of you all, we are encouraged to carry on the good work.

Don't forget to come along to our next SOCIAL on February 18th. If you didn't come to the last, come to this and see what you've been missing.

A.E.M

A Club Dance was well supported by dancers and standers-out on January 11th. The number guaranteed a financial as well as a social success. We had a fine hall at Battersea Town Hall with a good floor and the band provided the appropriate music in good style.

We have some enthusiastic dancers. Our boys have expressions to suit different occasions, for example a Footer's face when telling or appreciating a yarn at Wimbledon is indescribable, but when finishing over country it expresses a certain mixture of determination and self-caused distress. Yet again at the dance it shewed a sedate solemnity which we have never seen before and which we suppose he must think fitting to the occasion. Then there is our star dancer, Rollins, who thinks dancing delightful, or so we infer from his expression. He gathers his lady lightly to him with his right hand and poises his left, clasped to hers, in the fashion of an artist. Then away to the quickening sounds! To trip, to glide, to stride, to pause, to wheel! Ah, such is the way of radiant youth! Do you recall him now? A young Apollo sweeping down the hall.

Well, you who did not see him, come to the next dance.

"JUNIOR" HISTORY.

The R.W.A. Junior Championship originated in 1909 as a team race, but not until 1911 was it termed a championship. The qualification in those days was the possession of more than a certain "mark" in open handicaps, and it was not until later that they adopted the present method of sorting the seniors from the juniors. The distance has always been 10 miles, but as conditions are not standardized comparisons of times have no value. In the first Junior, 1909, H. Evans, who is still with us, was the winner. After this we have no further information except that we did not win or supply the individual winner, until 1920. From 1920, however, we have a good record, having won the team race on two occasions, finishing second once and third three times, whilst a Belgrave Harrier has headed the field in two of the championships, and another of our members won in 1921, although

at the time he was representing another club Three others of our club-mates have been placed.

The 1920 race was held at Blackheath and was the first race after the war. By scoring 54 points we won, the team being F. B. Norris, 5th, A. Trew, 8th; C. Warren, 16th; J. K. Chalk, 25th; Bowes Park was the venue of the next year's race, when through the efforts of J. H. Allen, 12th; E. L. Reeve, 19th; W. H. Hare, 23rd; and F. F. Jackson, 24th, the club was placed 3rd. It was this year that E. G. Cooper finished first while representing Surrey A.C.

In 1922, H. F. King proved the best man in the field and led the Belgravians to their second victory, A. F. P. Spendlove finishing 3rd and J. Miles and Harry Hare 16th and 18th respectively This was at Regents Park and the score of 38 points was the lowest aggregate scored in any Junior until then. This has, however, been beaten since, three clubs having scored 34 points each.

The following year, 1923, at South Wimbledon we received a great set-back getting no nearer than 10th. Oscar Horwood was 15th, C. H. Rogers and F. F. Jackson dead-heated for 45th place, but no information is available as to the name of the remaining member of the team.

Chingford was the scene of the next struggle when we were beaten into second place by only 5 points. F. W. Thorn was the first man for the club and he finished 5th in a field of 160, followed by S. L. King 10th, S. A. Manning 15th and C. H. Rogers 26th Our "B" team finished 13th out of 24 teams, a good performance, and it is interesting to note that on this day A. L. Fletcher, who is now one of our best, was the first man home for the "B" team, finishing 45th.

We went to Uxbridge in 1924 with great hopes, but the team were placed third. F. W. Thorn, who was walking as an individual, secured 3rd place in the race, while Oscar Horwood led the team for the second consecutive year, this time walking 12th, with C. H. Rogers 14th, J. Rathbone 22nd, and C. P. Bain 24th.

No less than 186 started in the 1926 race at Bellingham, this number being composed of 26 teams. Thorn, our best man could get no nearer than 22nd with S. A. Manning 26th, J. Rathbone 27th and O. Horwood 35th, the team dead-heating with Woodford Green for 3rd place.

For the 1927 championship the R.W.A. decided to take us

SYD CANNELL,

ATHLETIC OUTFITTER,

160, KILBURN LANE, LONDON,

W. 10.

Telephone : WILLESDEN· 5223.



**Maker of Worlds Finest Running, Walking and
Cycling Shoes of every description.**

To measure or from Stock.

Self measure forms and Price lists on application.

Perfect fitting and satisfaction guaranteed with all Shoes

— Sole Makers of —

Steel Sprung Running Shoes.



Sports Requisites and Accessories of every description
in Stock.

to Sheffield, and the result was a record entry, no less than 28 teams making 207 individuals facing the starter. As most of us remember T. W. Green, walking as an individual, beat A. L. Fletcher by 2 seconds for the championship. With J. G. Scammell 17th, J. Rathbone 25th and S. L. King 26th, we totalled 69 which placed us fourth, although it would have been good enough to put us in the placings in previous years.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Belgrave have a good record to uphold, and it is up to every man who is eligible as a "junior" and who has the good of the club at heart to do his best by getting and keeping fit for March 3rd, when the next Junior Championship will be held

S. L. K.

WALKERS' NOTES.

In spite of our great expectations we again failed to beat the Surrey W. C. over their Banstead course, but we did the next best thing which was to dead-heat. It was good to see the men turning up at Croydon to race merely for the sake of the club, especially in view of the counter-attraction caused by the Cambridge H. Open

A team or teams, as circumstances demand, will be entered in the R. W. A. "Junior" Championship to be held on March 3rd at Wembley, and all probables are requested to keep in strict training for this event.

In the Cambridge Open 7 on 21st January, A. W. Godfrey secured 3rd place in the handicap while the team were placed 3rd, only 24 seconds behind the winning team. J. E. Field put up a very good performance in the scratch race, walking 18th in a field of 134

The Surrey County Road Walking Championship is due for decision on 24th March from the London Vidarians quarters at Mitcham, and not on the 17th as printed in the fixture books. A team will be entered so all walkers having a Surrey qualification are asked to notify me

S. L. KING,

3 Artillery Buildings, S.W.1.

10 MILES' MURPHY SHIELD R.W. CHAMPIONSHIP

(4th February).

The drizzling rain and gusty wind took toll among our walkers. Of a field of 21, eleven finished. The winner came home in convincing fashion but for seven miles he was held by A. L. Fletcher who was more at home over this distance.

However, he made a very game effort and did not spare himself. R. D. McMullen, who whatever his previous form, seems always to shine in this race, was thought to be walking in better style than anybody over the last four miles. H. F. King although further back than usual was very pleasing. He has developed an action similar to that of H. V. Ross, the London-Brighton record holder, and with less arm movement he will have an ideal style for the "twenty." J. E. Field followed up his Cambridge H. Open performance by excellent walking and good judgment. He and J. Scammell were the only "juniors" who walked well, but there is time for the others to come on to top form. It is a pity so many fell out; it won't do to pack up in the R.W.A. Championships. The tail-end men are to be congratulated on seeing it through.

			Start	Hand. Time	Actual Time.	Pos Hdc
1.	T W Green			79 44	79 44	4
2	A L Fletcher	...	0 50	79.39	80 29	3
3	R D McMullen		3 45	78 58	82 43	2
4	H F. King	...	Scr.	83 27	83 27	9
5	J Scammell	.	1 55	81 59	83 54	6
6	J E Field	...	7 10	78 18	85 28	1
7	B J. T Knifton	.	5 0	82.29	87.29	7
8	A H East	...	7 40	82 45	90.25	8
9.	J McDonald	...	13 50	81.39	95 29	5
10.	A Martin	...	12 30	83 40	96 10	10
11	W. G. Dudkin	...	13.40	85 47	99 27	11

U.S.A.

Dear Belgravians,

After spending some months in Philadelphia, between working and trudging the City, I found work. Then I sought for an Athletic Club but discovered that the people are too slow or lazy for athletics. Apart from the High Schools, Colleges and Y.M.C.A. there is nothing doing, much to my disgust, as I thought "God's own country" was "it" for speed, and athletics for the people.

I emigrated to New York district and one evening, when out for a stroll, I came across a running track. Next evening I took my kit down and had a try-out, when who should I meet but M. Davis, the deaf and dumb Poly H. Walker, so we palled-up. He was so excited he could not speak! I was too short-winded for words. After some months of painful spins I grew thin and joined the Morningside Athletic Club, New York. On Thanksgiving day I walked in the "World's Classic race" (so the Yankees labelled it) New York to Coney

Island—10½ miles. There were 131 entries; I started off 114th with 16 men behind me. At 3 miles I was 60th, at 5 miles 39th, and finished 27th, after losing several places in the last 1½ miles through my legs getting so hard (I believe I did not have enough road work). Walking is a dangerous game out here; during the race I was lost in a traffic jam—I held up my hand and took a chance—came through all right. The motorist here is a typical U.S.A. Sportsman of the hit-hard and run-fast type, and he has no respect for walkers. They are a fast nation!

We had wonderful dressing accommodation at the seashore, no water, and the protection(?), afforded by disused bathing boxes, from a gentle breeze blowing in from the Atlantic. There were no deaths, however. Well! the prize-giving was held a week later in a small hall in New York. All the week the wife and I were looking forward to this special event, got up by the "Walkers' Club of America" (our R.W.A.). It was a very poor turn out. The Chairman, in true Yankee style, declared that the race was world-renowned, and gave us some more "bluff." I am pleased he could not read my thoughts! He could never, I am sure, have seen or heard of the walks and dances, etc., of the B.H., they would certainly make some of these guys sit up and use the big word "WE" less often, but this conduct is typical of everything out here. They found I was a month too young for the second fastest veteran, so I was awarded a standard medal—the best I have seen.

On November 13th the Metropolitan 7-mile walk was held—8 entries, the track free, and the second worst that I have ever seen. While the championship was on, a Rugger match was being played on the grass in the centre. In spite of those spectators who stood around on the track, H. Hinckle won easily in 53 m. 10 s.

I entered for the 7 miles National Championship. It was postponed through frost and snow, and they arranged to have it on an indoor track of 8 laps to the mile—enough to make one dizzy. However, for me it proved a fiasco. I arrived at the appointed time to find that nothing was known of the race in that locality. The door-man showed me an obscure notice in a picture paper (nothing about it in

the "New York Times") saying that the race was to be held some distance away, on an out-door track, as they had discovered that an out-door championship could not be decided indoors. I was 15 minutes late and found them racing in a quagmire of melted snow and ice. The secretary, when I tackled him, told me that all the others had been informed of change of venue. He offered me my money back but I told him I didn't want it. They had lowered the standard to 67 minutes! I told him I could do it in my sleep, as it was, everybody did it.

Since, I have found out that the secretary told me a lot of lies. This sort of muddle goes on generally over here, both in sport and business, I think their methods are absolutely rotten. I am disappointed as I have trained five months for these two races, but I'll try again on the indoor tracks.

Cheerio,
CHARLIE SPEECHLEY.

SPORTS' JOTTINGS.

By "Observer."

The Hon. Editor has suggested that perhaps a few items, of what may be interesting news to our readers, would not be out of place. Having had a fair experience of many classes of sport I have undertaken to look after this side of the Gazette, and hope to be able to keep you well supplied with current news and also if possible to assist you with queries, relating to any sport, Athletics naturally preferred, which you may have.

A notable feature of this cross-country season has been the bringing forward, so that most were held on the same day, of Club Fixtures, thus not only avoiding any clashing of fixtures, but also then leaving their men free to concentrate of the bigger and more important races.

The result of a certain club's championship reads like an Army event, the three placed men all being well-known soldier runners. We should imagine that this particular club is very popular in the Sergeants' mess.

Our old friend, T. J. Flower of Kensington A.C., made his club's Challenge Cup his own property by winning their championship for the third time. We are rather glad that our own club's trophies are perpetual as otherwise Arthur would be spending all his spare cash on Goddard's plate powder.

W. W. Clift, of East Herts. A.C., who was 2nd in the recent Herts. Championship, has shewn greatly improved form this winter, and will be remembered for winning the Cambridge Harriers 3½ mile road race last October off a useful mark, and as this runner was last summer receiving 68 in the half and 135 in the mile, he should certainly make a stir in handicaps next season.

A turn-up was seen in Herne Hill Harriers 10 mile walking championship, the winner being D. H. Sayer, who by beating Reddish and Presland, reversed the result of their 7 miles, in which he finished third.

S. A. E. Spinks of North London was another surprise winner, and accomplished a good performance by finishing in front of C. W. Griffiths in their 8 miles. He has evidently improved a good deal as he was in receipt of 4m 40 s. start in their last handicap race, Griffiths being the scratch man.

Yet another instance of a runner being successful at the walking game, is provided by the fine form shewn by V. E. May, of Cambridge H., who has been placed second in the last two open walk handicaps. May was quite a good performer on the track and gained many pots in the half and mile.

A coming star in the Birchfield club is F. Light, who is displaying good form over the country, and is expected to do well in the senior championships. He was a member of their 2 mile track team that performed with great success in the South last summer.

We understand that now most of the Club Championships are over, there will quite likely be some important transfers in the near future.

J. Smith the well-known Wigmore Harrier, whose fiery locks are much in evidence during Steeplechases at the Bridge, finished well back in the Middlesex race, but shewed better form when winning his club's championship a week later.

Several prominent track runners are displaying fine form in the football world, a few being—Groom, the ex-Herts. sprint champion, who is playing centre-forward for Watford; W. H. Game the Poly. boy, who had a double at Chislehurst last Whitsun, is scoring many goals for the Polytechnic team who play in the Spartan League, while W. A. Hill the Olympic runner is with Nunhead, and Savage the centre-forward of

the smart Sutton United side, competed in the Croydon Gas Co.'s relay team, of whom T. C. Broad the old Surrey A.C. sprinter is a member.

I am sure our readers will wish our late walking Secretary every success in his new post of Hon. Secretary to the London Olympiades A C, and there is no doubt that they will benefit considerably by having a man of his experience at the helm.

Referring to my opening remarks, if any reader has a point he wishes to raise or anything he would like given publicity, drop a line to me and I will give the matter every attention. Thus I hope, that with the co-operation of our members, to be able, through the medium of this journal, to give interesting news to our readers.

Kindly note that we do not answer queries by post, but letters handed to the Hon. Editor, signed with full name and addressed to "Observer," will be given prompt replies in this paper.

BLACK MAGIC --:-- A DREAM.

It was a wild and stormy night. The wind raged and howled through the trees as if ten thousand demons had been let loose to wreak their vengeance upon the people of the earth. Dense black clouds were swept across the sky, clouds that would shortly pour down the rain they carried upon the expanse of moorland beneath. Hither and thither the clouds were hurled by the relentless force of the wind sometimes obscuring the full moon for a considerable time—an eternity it seemed to me as I battled against the fury of the wind. I had lost my way when crossing the heath and had wandered for several hours, facing the full force of the elements, hungry and footsore.

Now and then the curtain of clouds which veiled the moor was torn away by the gale and distorted shadows were cast by the trees in the ghostly moonlight, shadows that assumed strange shapes and caused still stranger fears and fancies. The eeriness of the whistling of the wind through the trees followed by an uncanny silence, the occasional flash of a meteor as it whirled its way through the cosmos, the distant rumblings of thunder and my weakened physical condition, all contributed to the feeling of intense uneasiness that seemed to envelop me. I was filled with a dread of the unknown. Morbid thoughts followed one another in endless procession through my wearied brain. Reason and Fear

began to fight for possession of my senses and it seemed that Fear was gaining the upper hand. And now the lightning played incessantly in the sky and rain began to fall. It was indeed a night of omens, of portents, of forebodings, a night when graves give up their dead and spirits walk abroad.

Suddenly, by the light of an extraordinary brilliant flash of lightning I observed some distance away a bent figure leaning over a huge cauldron which was suspended from a tripod over a log fire. I approached cautiously. The witch (as I thought) seemed to be weaving a spell. She muttered incantations, drew strange geometrical figures on the ground with a long stick and added, at intervals, fresh materials to the pot.

Every story of the supernatural I had ever heard or read came back to me. I thought of the headless ghosts, fettered with iron shackles, that are reputed to walk at dead of night, of the Irish banshees; and of a thousand and one other tales which quicken the action of the heart and send an icy quivering down the spine.

And still the frenzy of the wind continued whilst the witch executed a sort of devil dance invoking the aid of black magic for her nefarious purpose.

A feeling of reaction swept over me, "What Devilry is this?" I muttered to myself, "Is this the twentieth century or is it still the age of darkness and of witchcraft?" I determined to solve the mystery and drew nearer to the witch and her cauldron

It was then that I made an amazing discovery. The witch had a dual personality, two sets of features, both familiar, one a long face with jet black wavy hair, the other a round boyish, smiling face.

"Hallo! Harry! Hallo! Jimmy!" I ejaculated. "What" "Hush," they whispered in unison, "We are preparing the handicaps for the next meeting." The mystery was solved!!

So now you all know the truth about handicapping. Doubtless they will deny it and affirm that they are still devoted to the old-fashioned method of picking (blindly) slips from a hat, but you know that this is untrue. You know!

A.A.H.

