

THE 3rd EDITION
(1930)
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN

APRIL.

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The past month, the climax of the winter season, has been wonderfully successful for our runners and walkers. The cross-country men have been placed in the "Southern" for the first time in the Club's history and followed this up by what is, perhaps, an even better performance—sixth in the National—another "best yet."

The walkers have won the Junior Championship again and now Belgrave hold both Senior and Junior Championships. Incidentally, we are the first Club to have won the Junior title three times. A team went to Birmingham on March 22nd and brought back the "Bishop of Birmingham's Cup"—our first visit to the Midland town for this race since 1921, when we won the trophy for the first time.

"This 'ere Progress, it goes on," wrote H. G. Wells, in one of his novels and this is a phrase which we could very well adopt in connection with our Club's activities, even at the risk of departing from the famous novelist's original meaning. Long may it continue; and congratulations to all those concerned in the past month's contribution to the Club's progress.

* * * * *

Congratulations to Len Fletcher upon again winning the Surrey County Ten Miles Championship, and also to Joe King upon again winning the Sussex Twenty Miles Championship and beating the County record for the distance, which he held. S. H. Warboys also merits our congratulations upon being placed sixteenth in the Inter-Counties cross-country race and being the second man of the Middlesex team (who were placed second) to finish—a splendid performance.

* * * * *

Our Summer season will open with a match *v.* Old Emanuel A.C. at Wandsworth on Thursday, April 24th, and will be followed on Saturday, April 26th, by our match *v.* L.A.C. and handicap programme.

A. E. Strank joins our ranks this month and we extend a cordial welcome to him.

* * * * *

And now for the Brighton Relay Race on April 12th, when we hope to record another "best yet" performance.

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Have YOU paid your subscription?

Without oil an engine won't work—without subscriptions a club cannot carry on! The Summer season is now upon us, which means that six months of the year have gone by—and still a large number of members have not yet paid. Have you paid? If not, do so at once and so help the Club and save the Hon. Treasurer the trouble of writing for it.

"THE SOUTHERN."

(From our Special Correspondent).

Race Hill, Brighton.

I have travelled down here by the "Race Special," in one of the first-class compartments reserved for Belgrave Harriers, and then from the station by special tramcar to the course. Having ascertained our team, the last place in which was in doubt until the arrival, amid cheers, of Hon. Sec., Wally, I made my way to the turning point for the first short lap—a little more than three-quarters of a mile from the Grandstand.

The day, though bright and sunny, is cold, and the spectators, who line the course in large numbers, are glad to avail themselves of any little shelter they can find from the easterly wind which faces the runners at the start. In spite of the wind, however, there is a haziness which obscures the view of the sea, which lies at the foot of the valley on my left, and also the Grandstand where the "field" is now lining up.

"They're off!" Someone standing near me with glasses has seen them start and I can see a solid mass moving steadily down the course, which dips slightly before rising to the bend where I am standing. Here they are—the whole 300 in a bunch—led by Broadley and Payne. I look for the claret and gold. There's Allum.....Jack Flower close to him.....there's Sid Warboys and Ernie.....

I watch them turn through the rails. There is a doubt—the pointsman is not clear—the leaders break out in different directions and cast about like hounds in search of the trail. They find it, and the sudden change of direction catches unawares a horse-

man who is watching the scene and he suddenly finds himself engulfed in a sea of runners—his horse shies, but he can do nothing but let the race flow round him. Arthur Allum has gone wide on the turn and Jack Flower is first of the Bels, as they return to the starting-point to complete the first lap.

They come down the course again, the mass a little less dense now, but still well together. Broadley still leads; Flower, Allum, Warboys and Penny lie well packed inside the first 40. Where's Bert Footer? Here he comes, but well back and not looking any too happy. Go on, Bert! Up the Bels!

They have gone nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles now and leave the racecourse for a stretch of plough, which, though dry and light, begins to string the runners out. They disappear over the hill, and I move on half a mile to see them as they return on the first long lap (at about 4 miles).

Suddenly the leaders appear again; Oddie, Tomlin, Weatherill and Broadley.....S.L.H. have three in seven.....there is a gap..... Harry Payne 9th.....What about Belgrave? Syd Warboys, running strongly, is 26th; Jack Flower 39th; Allum, Duffett and Mitchell, 44, 46, 48. Bert is somewhere up with Jack, who probably "eclipsed" him as they passed (I missed seeing him). Penny, Rice and Smith are together in the nineties.

A wait while the race goes back once more to the Grandstand (Footer, Mitchell and Flower are together here,, 39, 40, 41, I am told) and out on the second lap and making $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles when I see them again, where they cross the road near Warren Reservoir and plunge down a steep hill—rough going and a wire fence to negotiate at the bottom. The same four are leading, but now the order is Tomlin, Broadley, Weatherill and Oddie, followed by Saunders and Ferris, of Wycombe Phoenix H. Warboys has picked up ten places in the two miles and is now 16th—he smiles happily at me as he glides down the hill. Arthur Allum has put in some good running, too, and now lies 31st, with Footer and Flower at 34 and 36, Mitchell 41, Duffett 50.

The long line of runners winds across the fields and round a copse lying in a fold of the Downs and they are in view till they come for the second time to this hill, which is the steepest I have ever seen in a cross-country race; Tomlin and Broadley still have the lead. Oddie is third, but has dropped into a walk (like many others) on the steepest part of the climb and is closely followed by his clubmate, Weatherill. Ferris and Saunders come next..... Payne is 12th.....Sid Warboys is still 16th and going strong. Bert's position is likewise unchanged at 34th, but a "Footer finish" will remedy that! Allum is with Bert, followed by Ernie, 39, and Flower, 41.....Mitchell, our sixth man, is 54th; Bill Rice finds the hill a very severe test; Webb and Smith are also feeling the strain; Arthur Penny is having a "bad time" and has

dropped back to about 150; Bayliss and Chorley are still sticking it gamely in the rear.

The race is over! Tomlin is the individual winner, S.L.H. the team champions, with Wycombe Phoenix 2nd, and Belgrave 3rd. Well done the Bels! Jolly well run, you fellows! This is the first time in history that we have been placed in the "Southern"—our nearest effort being 7th in 1904.

A point that strikes me on looking at the figures is the number of places our boys picked up in the last mile. Notably Bert, with a gain of 13, Mitchell 5, Rice 11, Webb 8, and Chorley 12. Another noticeable feature was the promptness with which the detailed results were made known; only 26 minutes elapsing between the time Tomlin passed the finishing post and the distribution—at 1d. a time—of sheets giving the placings of the scoring men of the first dozen teams.

We have all had tea at a pastrycook's in North Street, where Harry Parker distinguished himself by his efforts to hustle a service which was not adequate to lusty Belgravian appetites. We have strolled, at a leisurely pace, round the town; bought our Brighton Rock; said good-bye to our week-ending friends and we are now returning to London in a satisfied mood and a first-class carriage.

I have one regret—I have not seen the sea!

S.D.

1. S. A. Tomlin (Highgate H.)	56 47	38. J. E. Flower	59 41
2. J. A. Broadley (Hampstead H.)	56 55	49. W. S. Mitchell	60 18
3. B. C. V. Oddie (S.L.H.)	57 10	78. W. A. Rice	61 7
13. S. H. Warboys	58 28	106. W. G. Webb	
21. H. E. Footer	58 59	132. A. E. Smith	
31. A. Allum	59 26	146. A. Penny	
37. E. A. Duffett	59 39	154. W. L. Bayliss	
		182. S. R. Chorley	

TEAM PLACINGS.

1. South London H.	121	7. Polytechnic H.	288
2. Wycombe Phoenix H....	146	8. Hampstead H.	306
3. Belgrave H.	189	9. Surrey A.C.	338
4. Aldershot Command A.C.	201	10. Reading A.C.	400
5. Highgate H.	251	11. Herne Hill H.	558
6. Woodford Green A.C....	265	12. Blackheath H.	607

THE M.P.A.A. VISIT.

On February 22nd we entertained the Police team at Wimbledon. About twenty-five members of the Force turned out, whereas our numbers were fewer than usual, and only just over a dozen of our men were present. The course used was the old seven mile Club course and we placed the first six men home, headed by Len Fletcher. T. J. Caffrey, the Woodford Green walker, was the first M.P.A.A. man to finish, in the seventh position. With ten aside to score, we placed our men in the first 22,

scoring 84 points; but the Police placed their ten in eighteen and scored 130 points. This showed our weakness to be in the middle section of the final placings; in fact, between positions 8 and 20 we placed only one man. However, our first six positions placed defeat out of the question. Final positions are appended, and many "Belgrave" names may be seen in the Police team.

RESULT.

		m. s.				m. s.	
1.	A. L. Fletcher ...	B	54 24	19.	E. S. Phipps ...	P	62 1
2.	H. F. King ...	B	55 26	20.	D. Roberts ...	P	62 2
3.	F. H. Elson ...	B	56 37	21.	R. F. Elson ...	B	62 5
4.	J. E. Field ...	B	56 39	22.	A. H. East ...	B	62 44
5.	R. D. McMullen ...	B	57 15	23.	G. Adams ...	P	63 4
6.	J. G. Scamell ...	B	57 22	24.	J. E. Nash ...	P	63 31
7.	T. J. Caffrey ...	P	57 31	25.	A. H. Field ...	B	63 59
8.	P. Khlopin ...	B	57 34	26.	J. Lovatt ...	P	64 25
9.	J. Rathbone ...	P	58 18	27.	C. Sprunt ...	P	65 6
10.	E. Toogood ...	P	58 21	28.	B. J. Knifton ...	B	65 50
11.	F. Rickards ...	B	58 45	29.	J. E. Bunn ...	P	66 4
12.	J. B. Carne ...	B	59 53	30.	A. G. White ...	P	66 48
13.	E. O. Allen ...	P	60 0	31.	A. Bull ...	P	67 40
14.	S. Clark ...	P	60 14	32.	D. McDonald ...	P	68 45
15.	E. E. Hughes ...	P	60 20	33.	J. Towers ...	P	68 55
16.	J. C. Bidgood ...	P	60 24	34.	D. Haig ...	P	68 55
17.	E. Denny ...	P	60 33	35.	D. Fox ...	P	69 0
18.	A. E. Rayner ...	P	61 15	36.	J. Haggart ...	B	70 0

TEAM PLACINGS.

Belgrave H.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 21, 22	84 pts.
Metropolitan Police A.A.—7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	130 pts.
*	*	*	*

In the Police Ten Miles Championship held earlier in the month three of our members, Messrs. Rathbone, Rickards and Bidgood, finished in the first six, and the last-named won the handicap.

THE R.W.A. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.

Maybe that it was but idle fancy, or possibly the long run of successes in the past few months had blunted the edge of enthusiasm for March 1st, the day of the R.W.A. "Junior" Championship, found me somewhat more apathetic than usual, a state of mind not improved by a journey to Enfield in solitary state.

However, once at the venue, one sensed a different atmosphere, especially in the dressing-room, where the pungent smell of "speed oil" immediately aroused me to be up and doing. Our team, when found, and a slight misunderstanding rectified, quickly raised some enthusiasm. Certainly, on paper, our chances appeared outstanding and quite equal to those of 1922, the year of our last victory. So, in spite of a number of regretted absentees that prevented us starting a "B" team, everything appeared satisfactory.

Up to a point. The course had been mapped out over one large lap of 10 miles and, in consequence, being without a conveyance,

one saw a surging mass of walkers some 300 yards from the start and was then hopelessly left.

Eventually, by tracing the course the reverse way, the 8th mile point was reached and here the leaders were seen for the first time.

Who is that coming along in front? A group of three, it seemed. Yes; and who is that just leading? A cheery little individual we know so well; F. H. Elson. A pleasant smile, widened for our benefit, and he is gone, closely followed by Amies of Enfield and D. Gum of Essex Beagles (I nearly said G.L. and Coke). Then began the anxious moment. How are the team placed? The next competitor was Turtle, Herne Hill H.; then came Bonnett, Ashcombe; Vidofsky, Derby, and then another tonic, E. Saunders, of ours. A hasty "Where am I?" and away he went. Then came Caffrey, Woodford Green, followed by A. Bye, Enfield, our J. E. Field and the Enfield man, Marler. This made Enfield and ourselves 3 each in the first 11. Another Derby man, then 2 from Sheffield, another Midlander from Birmingham, and then, Oh Heavens! another Enfield man. Surely they, with 4 in 16, were going to do the trick. But we live; here comes (following a Leicester man) our versatile performer, S. L. King, 18th. Excellent; the score is 36 to 38 in our favour, and no other team near. A wait—where is our 5th man? Where is Paul Khlopin? No signs. The 5th Enfield man has already gone.

We run, always with an eye to a conveyance; but no, our luck is not in. Panting and hot, we reach the 9th mile, but again no, the anticipated "lift" has gone. "What has happened?" "How are we placed?" "Oh, we are all right; 4 in 16." "But what of Enfield?" Nothing is known. "Who is leading?" "Amies, with Elson second." There goes 2 points and our lead wiped out. "Where is Saunders?" "7th." Right. Field? "11th." Hell! Enfield's third has passed ours and we are 2 points down. Where is King? Where is No. 92, Enfield's 4th man?

It is too late. The end is approaching and being helplessly left, nothing can be done. There is, however, an immense faith in the capabilities of our 4 to stay home and not to concede any ground, and, moreover, in S. L. King to make up some placings.

We continue our walk towards the finish. "Where is No. 92?" is the burning question, but no one seems to know. The finishing point is reached and hastily we check some more unofficial figures and still no signs of the important number. The dressing-room, and we are volunteered the information that "Enfield has won." No, we cannot believe that yet. More enquiries and eventually the official placings are unearthed. We are there—33 points to 38. King has made up the necessary and beaten Enfield's 4th. The

fatal No. 92 has fallen back and has been supplanted by what was Enfield's 5th man at 8 miles.

Thus after a lapse of 8 years we again become possessors of the "Garnet Cup" and now gain the title of Junior Champions, in addition to National Champions, for the first time.

It has been a truly wonderful season and all credit is due to our winning team for a very fine performance. F. Elson made a very gallant effort to gain the individual title, but the local man probably judged his effort at the right point, in which respect knowledge of the course undoubtedly helped.

Saunders has justified our faith in his capabilities and J. E. Field has redeemed what has been for him a somewhat disappointing season. Of S. L. King, well, we always knew he would do it and he doubtless would have been as delighted with the result even had he not scored. His participation therefore is doubly satisfactory and some slight return for his services as Hon. Secretary of our Walking Section in the Season 1927-28.

In congratulating our team, we must tender sympathy to Paul, who had been expected to finish close up to the leaders. He was unfortunate to incur the displeasure of one of the Walking Judges early in the race. Comment thereon is, of course, impossible. It is obviously a matter of fact, not of rule. Bearing on this subject, however, an interesting article by a Northern writer appeared in a Sheffield paper that I was fortunate to secure on the occasion of our visit for the National Cross-country Championship. In this he writes: "You may remember that I tipped Belgrave in this column a fortnight ago, and my reason for this is that Belgrave seem to have fewer disqualifications than other Clubs. They are a team that adopt a similar style, and that one attractive to see. But if my admiration was for Belgrave, my sympathy went to Enfield."

It is pleasing and satisfactory, therefore, to know that our walkers have a good reputation up North, both for style and speed.

Whilst not going so far as to say that my sympathy went to Enfield, we must congratulate them on making a very fine effort. Third last year, second this year, their turn will surely come, and although I have recollections of having competed in an Enfield "Open 7" in 1920, I believe it is only in the last 3 or 4 years that a walking section has been actively in being. The second man in their team, A. Bye, who finished 9th in the race, is of course the old Belgravian who left us owing to residential difficulties to join Southgate and Wood Green.

In conclusion, our success is the third since the race was established and this gives us a new record, for no other Club has won on more than two occasions.

The brief details are appended and it is hoped that the record

of previous races is of sufficient interest to justify publication.
W.H.H.

RESULT.

Act. Pos.		m.	s.
1.	H. A. Amies, Enfield A.C.	80	24
2.	F. H. Elson, Belgrave H.	80	39
3.	D. Gum, Essex Beagles	81	0
8.	E. Saunders, Belgrave H.	82	29
11.	J. E. Field	83	17
15.	S. L. King	84	10
41.	J. C. Bidgood	86	51
74.	A. H. East	89	59
88.	A. A. Harley	90	45
94.	C. H. Speechley	91	1
145.	A. H. Field	94	34

TEAM PLACINGS.

(Eliminating Individuals).

	Pts.
1. Belgrave Harriers—2, 7, 10, 14	33
2. Enfield A.C.—1, 8, 9, 20	38
3. Surrey Walking Club—18, 19, 21, 43	101
4. Woodford Green A.C.	103
5. Derby W.C.	116
6. Sheffield Utd. H.	150

29 teams closed in.

* * * * *

OUR "JUNIOR" HISTORY.

Year	Venue	Team	Posn.	Pts.	Team
1909	Brentford	H. Evans (1)	2nd	45	
1910-12		No Record			
1912-13		No Entry			
1914-19		No Contest held			
1920	Blackheath	F. B. Norris (5) C. Warren (16) A. Trew (8) J. K. Chalk (25)	1st	54	
1921	Bowes Park	J. H. Allen (12) W. H. Hare (23) E. L. Reeve (19) F. F. Jackson (24)	3rd	78	
1922	Regents Park	H. F. King (1) J. Miles (16) A. F. P. Spendlove (3) W. H. Hare (18)	1st	38	
1923	Wimbledon	O. Horwood (15) F.F. Jackson (46) C. H. Rogers (45) J. F. Satchell (69)	10th	175	
1924	Uxbridge	O. Horwood (12) J. Rathbone (22) C. H. Rogers (14) C. P. Bain (24)	3rd	72	
1925	Chingford	F. W. Thorn (5) S. A. Manning (15) S. L. King (10) C. H. Rogers (26)	2nd	56	
1926	Lee	F. W. Thorn (22) J. Rathbone (27) S. A. Manning (26) O. Horwood (35)	3rd (D.H.)	110	
1927	Sheffield	A. L. Fletcher (1) J. Rathbone (25) J. G. Scammell (17) S. L. King (26)	4th	69	
1928	Wembley	J. G. Scammell (12) J. E. Field (22) F. H. Elson (17) J. B. Carne (24)	3rd	75	
1929	Birmingham	J. E. Field (9) E. Saunders (13) J. Rathbone (11) F. H. Elson (18)	2nd	51	

In 1920 E. G. Cooper was Individual Winner as member of Surrey A.C.
In 1924 F. W. Thorn was Third (not eligible for team).
In 1927 T. W. Green was Individual Winner (not eligible for team).

THE NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

There existed a considerable element of doubt as to the wisdom of entering a team in the "National" at Sheffield on March 8th, especially in view of the unfortunate experience at Beaconsfield last year, but even had the question not already been settled, there is little doubt but that our place in the "Southern" would have turned the scale.

Once entered, however, difficulties still had to be overcome, for J. E. Flower desired to rest, A. Penny was temporarily disabled, and W. Mitchell was in a similar plight and consequently matters did not appear very satisfactory up to a few days before the race. Eventually we raised 7, and what was lacking in numbers was made up in determination.

What were our prospects? Well, to be frank, so far as chief placings were concerned, nil. But this is not always our chief concern. Progress is not always rapid and if we achieved a best performance to date, then the result would be considered generally satisfactory.

This was done to some purpose, as will be seen. We will pass over the $3\frac{1}{2}$ hour train journey to Sheffield and the incidents that enlivened the time *en route*, also the trip up to the course and the remarks thereon. Comment on the dressing accommodation would not be complimentary, whilst the heated atmosphere of the room, shared with 7 other clubs, was positively overpowering and leaves us speechless.

No words of mine can adequately describe the scene of the grand march of competitors from the dressing rooms to the starting point, some half mile away, headed by a Piper, and with each Team Captain carrying a small staff with card bearing the name of the Club. Incidentally, I became promoted Captain before the course was reached, whilst what happened to the Piper I failed to ascertain. Possibly he had enough for one day, for a 3 mile Youth's race preceded the big event. However, once at the starting point, little time was lost. The scene was very animated and inspiring and it seemed that nearly all Sheffield had turned out to witness the race. Certainly it was one of the largest crowds I have seen for a cross-country event.

The course of 10 miles was over parkland, a rough figure 8 in shape, with a small lap of 1 mile and 3 of 3 miles.

Drawn reasonably well and away, Syd Warboys decided to get into the picture and at one point was actually leading the field. Thereafter the runners disappeared round the crest of a hill and came into sight at the end of the first mile, where J. A. Burns (Joe Bink's selected) had a slight lead of Bailey and Platt, both of Sheffield. It was almost impossible to place our team at this point, but Footer was 63rd, Warboys 100th, and the others, whom I could not both place and name, 128, 140, 150, 175.

Again the field went from sight; this time for 2 miles. Thus at the end of 3 miles the first to appear was Holden, of Tipton; Howard, of Kettering; Beman, Birchfield; and Evenson, of Salford. Our Bert was here definitely 62nd, Warboys 85th, Allum 97th, Bill Webb 101st, Ernie Duffett 128th, Frank Webb 137th and Bill Rice 182nd. The team score, ignoring individuals, 610.

We see them again a little more than a mile further on. Beman is now just in front, Howard is still second, Holden third, Harper, the holder, is 5th, Winfield, of Derby, 6th, whilst the first Southerner, Broadley, of Hampstead, is 8th. Webster, of Birchfield, is "on the ground" in distress but quickly rises and goes on. Footer comes along, now 49th, Syd Warboys, 72nd, Arthur Allum, 87th, "W.G." 103rd, "E.A." 110th, Frank 120th, and Bill Rice 185th.

At 6 miles Howard has taken the lead and Harper has dropped to 6th place. Bert is now 31st, our friend Bert Cook is observed 42nd, Warboys 63rd, Allum 77th, Bill Webb 90th, Duffett, 108th, and Frank Webb down to 110. The team score is down to 479, which appears very satisfactory. Once more we check, we do not mind whilst we continue to knock off the points. $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Howard is still leading and, Broadley has moved up into second place, Beman is third, Harper fourth, Footer is 25th, and our others in the same order, 56th, 73rd, 90th, Frank Webb has, however, now passed Duffett, their positions 95th and 104th.

There is little time for more; we have to return to the finishing point for the discs. One last brief effort and at $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles Footer is seen still 25th. Howard is leading by some 30 yards from Harper, who is making a determined effort. With some difficulty we reach our appointed spot, and soon a mighty shout goes up. "Harper." "Harper." But Howard is not yet beaten, and although he has seemingly had a hard race all the way he holds on to a slight lead and makes his way through the funnel, beaming with delight. Broadley is practically carried through, 3rd.

We wait. Cheers, here's Footer. All in, as usual. We clutch his hand, a hasty grasp, and then the disc. Cheers again, 17. Then follow with wonderfully welcome frequency the others. Warboys 36, Allum 47, W. G. Webb 65, F. R. Webb 74, Duffett 81, Rice 133.

Well run all; the team score totals 320. Excellent. We are near the S.L.H. representative and ask, "How have you fared?" 285. Well, we are proud of our 320.

The scores are being checked now. Birchfield are home again with 94 points, Hallamshire are 101, Tipton are third with 166, Sheffield 266, South London H., 285, are fifth and then—Belgrave 6th.

Of 37 Clubs entered only 5 have beaten us. Birchfield, the holders, and Midland Champions; Hallamshire, the Northern Champions; Tipton, second best in the Midlands; Sheffield, second best in the North; and South London H., the Southern Champions. What more could we expect? This is easily our best. Our previous record is, of course, not inspiring, but here now is a performance to live up to, and we hope, to surpass. All credit, then to those who have participated.

Time is short and we have to get back to the train quickly. We make the long journey back in fine spirit and almost expect to find a welcome at the station. Perhaps that will come later. The brief result follows with details of previous performances.

W.H.H.

RESULT.

Act. Pos'n	Team Pos'n		m.	s.
1	...	W. B. Howard (Kettering H.)...	57	42 2-5
2	...	E. Harper (Hallamshire H.) ...	57	48 -
3	...	J. A. Broadley (Hampstead H.) ...	57	54 -
20	...	H. E. Footer (Belgrave H.) ...	59	48 -
42	...	S. H. Warboys (Belgrave H.) ...	61	10 -
	47	A. Allum ..		
	65	W. G. Webb ..		
	74	F. R. Webb ..		
	81	E. A. Duffett ..		
	123	W. A. Rice ..		

TEAM PLACINGS.

	Pts.		Pts.
1. Birchfield H.	94	7. Salford H.	332
2. Hallamshire H.	101	8. Derby Cty. A. & C.C....	354
3. Tipton H.	166	9. Wycombe Phoenix H....	362
4. Sheffield Utd. H.	266	10. Bury A.C.	391
5. South London H.	285	11. Surrey A.C.	402
6. Belgrave H.	320	12. Saltwell H.	406

PREVIOUS RECORDS.

1920	Windsor		A. L. Porter (128) J. W. Macher (207) O. Horwood (198) A. E. Macher (224)
1921	Doncaster	No Entry	
1922	Hereford	No Entry	
1923	Beaconsfield	23rd 912	J. G. Flatt (91) R. J. Savage (105) . J. J. Crichton (142) A. E. Smith (178) J. Pritchard (192) R. E. Willis (205)
1924	Doncaster	No Entry	
1925	Hereford		H. E. Footer (Individual) 0
1926	Wolverton		H. E. Footer (42) J. G. Flatt (136) (Individual Entries)
1927	Crewe		H. E. Footer (Individual) (56)
1928	Leamington	17th 711	W. G. Webb (63) H. E. Footer (79) A. D. Pyer (95) W. L. Bayliss (141) A. E. Smith (149) A. G. Jones (184)
1929	Beaconsfield		W. G. Webb (87) A. W. Penny (120) W. L. Bayliss (122) F. G. Ford (197)

THE R.W.A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

The R.W.A. 20 miles Championship has not always been a National affair, for it was not until 1912 that the race, previously known as the Southern Road Walking Championship, was thrown open to all. The first race of the series was held in 1908 at Ruislip, when H. L. V. Ross was the winner, and it is interesting to note that he won on no fewer than five subsequent occasions, his last win being as recently as 1920, twelve years after his first success. Even two years later than that, he was still good enough to be placed third. Ross was not alone in enjoying so lengthy a period of prominence in the walking world, for B. C. Brown, who was second in 1908, was still capable of getting 7th in the 1925 Championship, and a number of similar cases could be quoted.

Until 1914, Surrey Walking Club appeared to have the monopoly of winning the team event, for except in 1911, when they were beaten by the narrow margin of 2 points, they won every race. Belgrave teams or individuals were certainly not placed during this period, but whether they competed or not I am unable to say.

The first race subsequent to the Great War was in 1920, and in this and the following year the team placings were Herne Hill Harriers 1st, Surrey A.C. 2nd, and Surrey Walking Club 3rd, but still no Belgrave in the first three.

In 1922 it was decided to hold the championship in Richmond Park, and evidently the Belgrave thought that since this was more or less on their own training ground, they would show what they were capable of, and as a result of this effort and no doubt inspired by "Bob" Ricketts, they finished third in the team event with Surrey W.C. once more securing premier honours. Naturally, we were not content with this, so the next year, 1923, at Leicester, in what was then a record field of 126, they made a still greater effort and, finishing their scoring four in 17, dead-heated for second place, the team on this occasion consisting of E. L. Reeve 8th, A. P. Spendlove 11th, W. J. Hawker 14th, and J. Belchamber 17th. None of these men are active walkers now, but E. G. Cooper, who is still one of our mainstays, was the 6th man to finish, but he had not then joined us.

Windsor Park was the venue of the next race, and here we made our debut as National Champions. The race was very exciting, for at seven miles we were fifth with 85 points, but at half distance we had knocked off 21 points and were fourth. In the next five miles our team walked into second place, being led by Surrey W. Club, who were a dozen points ahead. During the last mile or two, Allen and Harry Hare, after much persuasion from the "Bels." supporters, gained a number of places, and at the finish we had secured a 9 point advantage and so won our

first Championship. No members of the team which had been placed the year before at Leicester were in this scoring four, so it was all the more creditable to gain such a fine victory with a new team, which consisted of R. D. McMullen 6th, J. H. Allen 7th, W. H. Hare 11th, and J. Miles 14th. Eliminating individuals, their places were 5, 6, 9 and 12, totalling 32 points. George Cooper was walking as an individual Belgrave and was fourth. Other of our clubmates to finish well up were E. A. Wall 16th, J. Rathbone 23rd, J. B. Belchamber 28th, and W. J. Hawker 29th, thus we had as many as nine men in the first 29. It was indeed a very fine performance.

A record entry was received for the 1925 race and we had to travel to Derby to defend our title, and with the assistance of our old friend Bob Ricketts, a "B" team man, who managed to beat Surrey Walking Club's fourth man, we just scraped home with a score of 28 to their 29 points. Harry Hare was the only one of the previous winning team to score again on this occasion. Further details of the race will be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Owing to the Coal Dispute, no Championship race was held in 1926, and this omission seemed to lose our twenty-milers their winnings ways, for in 1927 we could get no nearer than fourth. Tommy Green, walking as an individual, was fourth and Harold King, in his maiden effort over 20 miles finished 7th, two very fine performances. Our other men all seemed to have an "off" day and were well back, but we came away determined to regain our lost laurels at the next opportunity.

Only seven "Bels." started at Leicester in 1928, a very poor show compared with foregoing years, but if we lacked quantity, we had quality, as the result showed. MacMullen was our "star" turn on this occasion. for after walking with fine judgment he finished up in fourth place, while Rickards, after making a great effort in the last five miles was 7th with E. G. Cooper 14th and Tommy Green, who had been with the leaders for thirteen miles, 16th; their united efforts giving the club their third win, this time with twenty points to spare. H. F. King and J. Rathbone both walked well to finish 21st and 32nd respectively.

Last year's Championship was held at Hayes (Kent), and early in the race we lost Cooper through disqualification, and F. Rickards, another of the 1928 winning team, who had barely recovered from a serious illness, was compelled to drop out at half distance. Fortunately we had good men to fill the breach, and as is usual with the Belgrave they made up a lot of ground over the last few miles, so with Tommy Green finishing 6th, the evergreen McMullen 11th, J. Rathbone 15th, and Ben Knifton, 19th, we recorded our fourth success in the last five races.

From the foregoing it will be seen that although we were not prominent until 1922 we have since then won premier honours

four times and been 2nd, 3rd and 4th on the other three occasions, but we have been unable to get any individuals nearer than fourth, although we have had four men in this position, these being E. G. Cooper in 1924, F. Rickards in 1925, T. W. Green in 1927, and R. D. McMullen in 1928.

Next month we have again to defend our title and we feel confident that with such men as the four just mentioned, who are still far from being spent forces, together with other proved men such as Harold King, J. Rathbone, B. J. Knifton and S. A. Manning, plus the "young school," which includes such promising men as J. C. Bidgood, F. H. Elson, E. Saunders, J. E. Field and P. Khlopin, we can hold our own against all-comers.

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FORTHCOMING WALKING FIXTURES.

April 19—Club 20 Miles Championship.

„ 26—2 Miles Handicap.

May 10—R.W.A. National Championship at Derby.

„ 14—Evening Meeting. 2 Miles Handicap.

SOME DERBY BRIGHT(S) HOPES.

Now that it has been decided to hold this year's National Championship at Derby, it may not be out of place to remind the old members, and at the same time for the encouragement of the younger members, recapitulate the glorious victory achieved by the Club in 1925 at Derby.

Two of our members who took part in the race are lost to us, viz., W. Griffin and the then President, Bob Ricketts; the former by his vocal encouragement, and Bob by his wonderful walking over the last mile.

Derby is a great place to hold a race of this description. It has fine wide roads and the course, which is a ten miles one, is splendidly situated amidst some fine scenery. Another great factor towards the success of the race is that the best-known man in Derby is at the head of the arrangements. Put Jack Britton in charge and you can rest assured that the best of things will be forthcoming. Will our members ever forget the Ford car that Jack kindly lent us to follow the race? If ever a car did yeoman service that one did, and it had a lot to do with the Club retaining the title of Walking Champions. At one part of the race I counted ten occupants, and also viewed the exit of Bill Griffin over the back of the car in his excitement of urging on some of our men.

The team that won in 1925 was : Rickards (2), Cooper (3), Wall (11), Hare (12). These figures are arrived at after eliminating the individual walkers. Actually Rickards finished fourth in the race. The team did not actually come into position until after fourteen miles had been covered, and McMullen was then well placed but

developing foot trouble, he fell back considerably. Still we were well-placed, but the Surrey W.C. had also come along and were challenging us for first place. As the race progressed, so did the excitement grow. Every man was looked after and given vocal assistance—some of them something a little stronger.

The finish in the Market Place was a great sight, thousands of people watching the walkers finish. A bandstand had been erected in the centre and the Town Band obliged with a programme of popular music to liven up the competitors. F. Poynton of the Derby W.C. was the first man home and, of course, that delighted the residents, followed by Goodwin of the S.W.C. First blood to the S.W.C. Our four men were soon in and on a count up of our points and taking into consideration the possibilities of the S.W.C. position, it was made out that a probable result would be a dead heat. A hasty consultation, and it was decided to send the car down the road and find our fifth man. That car did some fast work! The man we wanted turned out to be our Bob. He was strolling along admiring the scenery, and with a mysterious bottle under his arm. The position was hastily explained to him, and that he had to pass a Surrey man before reaching the winning post. A speedy wash and brush up with a generous drink out of the aforesaid bottle, he started off to do or die. Helped along by members (in the car), the Surrey man was viewed in the distance, and Bob, despite the placing of him in the "B" team, going all out, passed his man, and we won by 1 point. It was a near thing.

Bob did many good performances for his Club, but of all of them, I think this one must take precedence over all the rest.

I am reminded of several other items of interest in this race. As I have mentioned, they do things in great style in Derby. We had two armoured cars to clear the road for the start, and they acted as pilots over the course. We also had 150 Boy Scouts on duty acting as guides and directing the walkers, and also as food attendants. That is another thing they do well, the feeding arrangements are of the best. I remember Speechley praising the refreshments, and when he is satisfied, nothing more need be said. I did hear that he wanted to do another lap to get some more of the Derby good cheer.

I would like to write a few words on our prospects; I lay no claim to forecasting the result, as I can never get anywhere near correct forecast results. We shall have Rickards, Cooper and McMullen still on the active list, and they look good for another hard 20 miles. They are backed up by Green, H. F. King, Knifton, and Rathbone. Green has a good chance for individual, as well as Team honours, and I hope Knifton will soon settle down to serious training. These names look on paper good enough to

win for us our fifth victory. There still remains the arduous task of strict training for this event, and no unfit man can possibly score in this race, as the competition grows keener every year, and it is the knowledge that every man is in the best of condition that encourages team work.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE CLUB.

Our last dance of the season, held at Wandsworth Town Hall, on February 28th, came up to expectations and was a decided success, proving that this hall is by far the most popular of our venues for dances. Efforts will be made to ensure that the whole series of dances next season are held there. Before leaving this subject, I should like to mention in particular the efforts made by a few members who regularly dispose of a large number of tickets, thus lightening considerably the work entailed in these affairs. They are Messrs. Chantler, Cook, McKay, McLean, Poulter, Powell, Redgrave, Rollins and J. S. Williams. I thank them.

Now a little more about the Dinner. The venue, date and price of tickets are displayed on another page. Arrangements are being made for a first-rate concert afterwards and a band is also contemplated. It is difficult to understand the feeling of awe with which a number of members regard the Dinner. Why it should be associated with the Club's liveliest function of the year I really don't know. So now book the date and make it a *real* Belgrave dinner. We want to see the same faces present that the Handicappers dream about; and the lesser lights, to hear what the Club has done during the Winter, and what it intends doing during the Summer. Your presence will assure you of a rattling good time.

W. A. RICE.

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Observer's Jottings are unavoidably held over until next month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

2 Sutherland Place,
S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Ken O'Kell's letters are always welcome reading. If one feels a little dis-spirited they act as a tonic and if everything is O.K. then we feel tempted to give ourselves several more pats on the back and proudly think what a good Club is Belgrave. Not that we have any doubts on the matter, of course!

My object in writing is in reference to his suggestion that Club history should be compiled in serial form in the "Gazette." Although I have myself broached the subject of a history, I am

glad that I am not included in those to whom he has appealed. As a matter of fact, I have endeavoured for some years to gather together some tangible records, but there are sad gaps of many years' duration, and nothing very definite. The undertaking is vastly more extensive than first thought, and I am afraid that any serial effort would be terribly disjointed; the more so as a month must elapse between each contribution. However, that is not for me to decide.

I have at times endeavoured to bring in some historical matter in the few reports of races that I have submitted. That of the last 7 miles Cross-country Championship in the January issue will convey my meaning. Even so, one cannot be quite sure of one's detail, as witness the correction in the placings, in the 1921 race, which information was forwarded to the Editor. However, it served a purpose, for otherwise those concerned would not have troubled to produce the facts.

I trust that I have not trespassed on your valuable space, and would say in conclusion that the "Gazette" is now our history book and that possibly, after all, our greater concern is to make history and not its recording.

Yours sincerely,
W. H. HARE.

THE FIVE MILES ROAD RACE.

Brilliant weather attended the holding of the Club 5 mile Road Race at Wimbledon on the 22nd.

A field, extremely good for this time of the season, of 33 faced the starter, our worthy President, E. Gordon. They went off at a good pace with Warboys showing in front, and at the end of the 2 laps of the Common he was still leading with Footer on his heels followed by Penny, Allum, Rice and J. E. Flower in a bunch. Then came, a few yards behind, T. J. Flower, Duffett and W. G. Webb. These nine had drawn well away from the rest of the field and, as some people thought, our team for the Brighton Relay looked like picking itself, bringing in of course W. S. Mitchell, who was unable to compete owing to foot trouble.

The leading positions were maintained till the finish, Warboys beating Footer by about 15 yards in the splendid time of 29 min. 46 sec.

When one remembers last year's time, namely, 31 min. 27 sec., and then realizes that the first eight this year were inside that, it will be granted that we are justified in our high hopes for the race on April 12th.

The handicap held in conjunction with the run resulted in a win for H. J. Fletcher, whose first race this was as he had previously been a member of our walking section. In finishing tenth in the actual race he displayed fine form and must be considered

a "find." J. D. Andrews was second in the handicap, a reward for steady training, while Sid Warboys gained third place deservedly.

First twelve in the scratch race were: S. H. Warboys 1, H. E. Footer 2, A. W. Penny 3, A. Allum 4, W. A. Rice 5, E. A. Duffett 6, W. G. Webb 7, J. E. Flower 8, T. J. Flower 9, H. J. Fletcher 10, J. D. Andrews 11, F. R. Webb 12.

Complete list of finishers and times, etc., will be published in our next issue.

THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM'S CUP RACE.

In 1921 a Belgrave team of walkers visited Birmingham and returned with the trophy. This year we entered a team for the second time and again had the satisfaction of bringing the Cup back to London. On this occasion our six entrants finished in the first ten places and our team of four scored 17 pts to the 34 of Derby W.C. and 39 of Birmingham W.C. Harold King (3rd) was our first man to finish, followed by F. Rickards (4th), T. W. Green (6th), Joe King (not yet qualified as a team man, 7th), J. Rathbone (9th) and J. C. Bidgood (10th). The last-named was placed third in the sealed handicap, which was won by F. Rickards.

This win encourages us to think that we shall retain the National title and in addition win the shield for the first team to finish its eight men.

RESULT.

1. H. Edge (Derby W.C.)	2 41 47	4. F. Rickards	2 47 2
2. T. Lloyd Johnson (Lester W.C.)	2 42 10	6. T. W. Green	2 49 59
3. H. F. King	2 43 20	7. J. F. King	2 53 17
		9. J. Rathbone	2 55 25
		10. J. C. Bidgood	2 56 58

TEAM PLACINGS.

1. Belgrave H.—2, 3, 5, 7,	17 pts.
2. Derby W.C.—1, 4, 9, 20	34 pts.
3. Birmingham W.C.—6, 10, 11, 12	39 pts.

On the same day the County Walking Championships took place. The Surrey race was held from the Surrey W.C. quarters and the Club champion, Len Fletcher, won the individual title in the very good time of 78 min. 16 sec. McMullen was sixth, but the backward positions of the next two men prevented the team from gaining a better position than third. The team result is appended:—

1. Surrey Walking C.—2, 6, 7, 9,	24 pts.
2. London Vidarians—4, 5, 8, 19	36 pts.
3. Belgrave H.—1, 3, 16, 17	37 pts.

F. H. Elson (4th) and E. Saunders (10th) were members of the Metropolitan W.C. team that was placed second in the Middlesex championship, and C. H. Speechley was included in the Polytechnic H. team, placed third.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Will all readers concerned kindly note my change of address, as under, and oblige?

April 12th, Brighton Relay Day, and one which we hope will cover Belgrave with glory. We have the best team ever at our command and should be up with the leaders all the way this year.

On the 19th I would like to see as many of the track members as possible out training at Battersea Park in preparation for our match with the London Athletic Club on the following Saturday. The long jumpers and javelin men should also be getting into trim for this meeting.

Our annual Open Meeting, always fixed for the last Saturday in April, has now been discontinued and in its place this year we have arranged a series of match events *versus* the London Athletic Club. A notice giving the list of events is on the back page of this issue, and with regard to these race I should like to mention that with the exception of the team race, the scoring will be on the basis of 4, 3, 2, 1 points for the first four places in each event. Three men will compete for their respective clubs and the team race will be the usual 4 to run, 3 to score. Make a note of the date, the 26th, and turn up and witness a fine sporting match.

For the benefit of Club members we are holding several Handicaps (see notice) and I trust these will be well supported as I am sure our new Handicapper will be delighted with plenty of work even if they don't mean fourpences to him.

Entries close first post on the 21st. I should like to add that I hope our members will avoid that last-minute entry habit and send them along in good time. After all, it only means a penny post-card, and you save several people extra work by obliging in this manner.

The next Club meeting will be on May 14th and includes the usual Inter-Club Relays with Croydon H., Epsom, and Mitcham A.C. There will also be Handicaps at 220yds., 880yds., and the Javelin. In view of the fact that the Committee have now placed a 220 yds. Championship on our record book, I shall expect an increased interest to be taken in races over this distance.

Don't forget "Kinnaird Trophy" day, May 31st, at Stamford Bridge. We are in need of Field Event men, Shot, Putt, Long Jump, Hurdles, High Jump, for this meeting and I shall be glad to hear from anyone who wishes to compete.

Also at this meeting is the Junior (under 19) Relay race. We have proved the victors for the past two years and it is up to our Juniors to see that we make a treble of it this time. All those who are eligible to compete, that is, under 19 years of age on day of race, should get in touch with me with a view to selecting teams. The distances are the usual, 880, 220, 220, 440 yds.

All enquiries to E. A. DUFFETT, *Hon. Running Sec.*,

1 Raymead Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

APRIL 26th

at Battersea Park Track

Belgrave Harriers

v

London Athletic Club

Match Events—

100yds., 440yds., 880yds., 1 mile, 2 miles Team,
Javelin, Long Jump.

Club Handicaps

2 miles walk, 100yds., 300 yds., 880yds.,
1 mile, Long Jump.

1 mile Novice Race (for "News of the World"
medals) Unattached Novices only (entry free).

Entries (1/- each event) to

E. A. DUFFETT,
Hon. Running Secretary,
1 Raymead Avenue,
Thornton Heath.

O. HORWOOD,
Hon. Walking Secretary,
13 Abbott's Avenue,
Wimbledon, S.W.19.

— Followed by —

THE ANNUAL DINNER

at The Chrichton Restaurant,
Clapham Junction

At 7-45 p.m.

Single, 5/6 ; Double (Lady and Gent.) 10/6

Apply early for Tickets to

W. A. RICE, 36, ASCALON STREET, S.W. 8.



