



FOUNDED 1887

NOVEMBER, 1955.

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

NOVEMBER 1955

No.124

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

There can be no better opening to this issue of the Belgravian than to convey to Harry Shields on your behalf hearty congratulations on his election as President for the current year. Harry's manifold achievements during the past 24 years as a first class runner, walker and administrator, leave no doubt as to his suitability for this office. His expert knowledge and past experience of all the difficulties which are likely to arise in a club of our size, should go a long way towards ensuring yet another successful Club Year.

Following a very successful and reasonably well supported Annual General Meeting we look forward to equal success in our coming commitments across the country, and on the road, field and track. From our influx of new members over the past twelve months, we hope to find some champions of the future. Very adequate arrangements have been made for coaching during the winter both at Battersea and Tooting Bec Tracks and in addition, Franks Simmons is starting a physical training night at Wimbledon on Thursday of each week which includes weight training, and it is hoped that the expense of this special equipment will be fully justified.

Now that our headquarters are completed, the Social Hon. Secretary, Dave Martin Shepherd, has arranged a number of social functions throughout the winter all of which deserve your full support.

Hon. Editor.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members,

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for electing me as your President for the current year. My only regret is that this magazine is not being taken by all our members and consequently my words of appreciation will not reach every member of the Club.



It is indeed a very great honour to be President of such a large and well known organisation and it will be my aim during the months ahead, with the assistance of the other officers and your committee, to maintain, and if possible, surpass the high reputation we have enjoyed for so many years. I know that I shall have your support and I look forward to the combined efforts of every member to make my year of office as President a memorable one.

Yours sincerely

Harry Shields.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at Belgrave Hall on Thursday, 22nd September when about 80 members attended.

The President, Tom Morrell, took the chair and before the proceedings began, a short silence was observed in memory of the late Bill Fish who passed away earlier in the year following a street accident.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed and the Hon. Secretary welcomed Bob Taylor and Stan Davies on their return to the Club, both of whom were in hospital last year. We were also pleased to see Ron Linstead back after a spell in hospital.

A number of apologies for absence were noted and the Hon. Secretary then presented his Annual Report. As the report had been previously circulated to all members, it was agreed that it be taken as read. Having been prepared in the usual meticulous manner by Alf Harley, there were no amendments and it was accordingly adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer then presented the Club Accounts for the year. It was very pleasing to note that expenditure on the General Account was nearly forty pounds down on the previous year and that for the first time for many years, our income exceeded expenditure by twenty eight pounds. Printing costs were up slightly, but this was accounted for by the fact that we had four issues of the Belgravian against one the previous year, the increase in postage also being affected by this. Although the figure for postage looked rather heavy, it had to be borne in mind that hundreds of cards were sent out during the year by Sectional Secretaries and to a large degree it was money well spent. The main saving on the expenditure appeared to be on the social activities which showed a substantial reduction. The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that this could be reduced still further if more support were given to the social functions. On the income side, subscriptions were well up on last year due to the increase in the rates approved at our last meeting. Handicap fees showed that there is still plenty of room for more support, and more entries would be welcomed by the officials. We received a handsome donation from last year's Inter City Meeting at the White City, which was mainly responsible for credit balance.

The Building Fund Account showed a record for the amount to be spent in one year, over £5000 having been spent on alterations, in addition to which the Hon. Treasurer pointed out that there was still a matter of about £1000 outstanding to the contractors. The cost of services, as was anticipated, were nearly double the previous year's figure. On the income side, there was a noticeable decrease in income from investments. This had been a steady source of income for some years, but our investments had all been used up on the improvements to the hall. It was pleasing to note that the whole of the proceeds of Les Cohen's efforts in connection with the Supporters' Club had been devoted to the Building Fund, there having been no need to supplement the General Account as in previous years. The Hon. Treasurer concluded by expressing his thanks to Les Cohen, Tom Morrell and Eric Bishop for their assistance in various matters.

The report was then adopted and the Hon. Secretary read a letter from the Auditors expressing their satisfaction with the excellent manner in which the accounts had been kept. A vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. Treasurer for his work,

The next item was the election of officers and as is customary, the President rose to propose his successor. In

naming HARRY SHIELDS as the Committee's recommendation for the office, the President spoke of Harry's long membership and his outstanding achievements as a member of winning teams in the English Cross Country and Race Walking Championships as well as being the holder of many offices during his club career and recommended him as a worthy candidate for President. Harry was duly elected and before the retiring President left the chair, he thanked the members for the support they had given him.

Harry's first job was to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Tom Morrell for the work he had put in during his year of office, particularly at Belgrave Hall and with the organisation of our meetings at Battersea Park. On the proposition of Arthur Cook, the names of Mrs. Morrell and Miss Morrell were coupled with the resolution which was carried unanimously.

The election of the remaining officers was then proceeded with. Alf Harley was re-elected Hon. Secretary and once again thanked for his hard work. Syd Roberts was duly re-elected as Hon. Treasurer and the President, Harry Shields, on agreeing to continue in office as Assistant Hon. Secretary was duly elected. The remainder of the officers were mainly elected on cries of "no change" with the exception of the Cross Country Section. Here Charlie Smart takes over the office of Hon. Secretary and Charlie Walker as Captain, with Ron Linstead as Junior Captain. Jack Chappell having intimated that it was not his intention to seek re-election as Field Events Hon. Sec. proposed Bill Merryman for the office and this was carried. George Beecham went up a step to become Road Walking Captain, taking over from Harry Shields.

On the recommendation of the Committee, the vice-Presidents were elected en bloc with the additions of Ted Gaworski, Tom Carter and Gordon Doubleday.

The next item was the election of Life Members and the names of Jack Goswell and Dave Martin Shepherd were put forward by the Committee. In proposing Jack Goswell, the Hon. Secretary spoke of the enormous amount of work that Jack had done for the Club during his comparatively short membership and made particular mention of his successful local organisation in connection with the R.W.A. 20 Miles Championship held at our Headquarters last May. The proposition was seconded by Arthur Cook and carried unanimously. Tom Carter in proposing Dave Martin Shepherd, spoke of the immense amount of work that he had done in connection with the social side of the Club and added that he was a member of the first Belgrave Team to win the Southern Junior Cross Country Championship. This proposition was seconded by Syd Roberts and carried unanimously. Both recipients suitably replied.

Fifteen names were nominated for the Committee only ten of which could be elected and whilst some difficulty must have been experienced in making a selection we can be sure that the successful members will do their utmost to further the Club's interests.

Honours Badges awarded during the past year were then presented and also the trophy for the National 10 miles Walk.

The meeting was then opened for discussion on any points. The question of Club handicaps was raised and it was stated that until the existing handicaps received a little better support it was not possible to increase the number.

The meeting closed at approximately 9pm.
G. S. Doubleday.

".....WHO RUNS MAY READ"

A stranger reading the last issue of the Belgravian would have imagined we were really a Walking Club who did a little running and Field Events as a side line. Of the 19½ pages, approximately 9½ were devoted to walking, 1½ pages to field events and 4¼ to running, the rest being taken up by miscellaneous items.

It is no use for runners to blame the bias of the Hon. Editor or Jack Goswell's verbosity. Broadly speaking Syd publishes what he receives and his problem seems to be on finding sufficient material rather than deciding what to cut. Let him have some running news - after all we are Belgrave HARRIERS, a word which implies running.

What's that! nothing to write about? Just because we are no longer National Cross Country Champions are we to sink in solemn silence for the rest of our days? Some of the most informative and entertaining magazines are those of clubs which have very little success in big races. Wherever the team was placed, it is interesting to know what "Bert" said when his shorts got caught in the wire netting - what "Joe" looked like after he had fallen over in the "plough" - the sign "Bill" made when someone suggested he wasn't running fast enough (all names fictitious)

Come on runners! Get to your marks - get set-
WRITE.

Colin Collis.

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING

Fine weather favoured the Club's Championship Meeting held at Battersea Park Track on August 6th and a number of record performances were witnessed, perhaps the most outstanding one being that of our Junior Member who won the Javelin with a new best championship performance of 166ft.3ins.

The first track event was the newly instituted 6 miles and at the crack of the gun, 12 runners were off to a fast start with Eric Gebbett showing the way at the end of the first mile in 4.59. followed by Bagnall, Smart, Baulch and Hitchcock. This order was maintained for four miles when Bagnall and Smart took over. However Baulch who had been steadily overhauling the leaders, came through with one lap to go and running very strongly, broke the tape about 50 yards ahead of Bagnall and Smart who had a great battle for second place which Bagnall won, with Gebbett finishing 4th.

Whilst the run was in progress, P. Luxon was putting up a new best championship performance in the long jump with a leap of 23ft. 1in, beating Skelley's old standing record of 1938. Ash who finished 2nd was only 3 inches short of the record.

A new holder was also produced in the Senior 100 yards, the finalists being Mayers, Walden, Butler, Merrett, Key and Holtum., Merrett eventually winning from Mayers with Walden third. Merrett completed the double by winning the 220 yards in a new championship time of 22.3secs. again beating Mayers and Walden. The Junior 100 yards winner also scored a double, Ryan winning from Walker in the short sprint and then in the 220 yards scoring over Key and Walker in 23.5secs. In the boys 100 yards Banks had an easy win over Mallins and Draper in 12.4secs.

The 880 yards Senior was very poorly supported, only six runners faced the starter. Ray Tooby set the pace for the first lap but coming down the back straight with 300 yards to go, Davidson and Walker both passed Tooby and these two

fought it out until the final 100 yards when Walker went away to win with Davidson and Tooby 2nd and 3rd respectively. The Junior half mile was much more exciting and Stevens scored from Payne with Tupper third.

M.C. Ash, a new member and a great asset to the Club, won the 120 yards hurdles with Brian Coleman 2nd and H. Khan 3rd. The two miles walk resulted in a very fine win for the most improved walker of the season, Eric Hall with E. Smith 2nd and G. Beecham 3rd.

The next running event was the 440 yards and in the absence of the holder I. Marshall, our new Army member, Morris won from Kemp and Coleman in a new championship best of 50.3s. This was followed by the Junior which was won by Coxall in 52.8s just outside the record. Harris was 2nd and Taylor 3rd.

The mile, which is usually considered the race of the day, did not come up to that category this year. The race started at a fair pace and at one time it seemed that an upset on form was going to happen when, with one lap to go, Hallowell was running so strongly, it gave Jack Brown the holder, some anxious moments and it was only in the last 100 yards that Jack came away to win in 4m. 23s. Davis who also finished strongly, filled third place.

The Junior mile followed and it was unfortunate that at the first bend, Stevens who had previously won the half, had the misfortune to fall and it was obvious that although he caught up with the runners, he had taken too much out of himself. The race resulted in a win for Dabbs with Flanagan 2nd and Boreham 3rd. The winner's time of 4.39 was a long way behind Ray Tooby's record of 4.28.

The field events men certainly excelled themselves. In practically all the events new best performances were put up. As previously stated they started with the long jump. Then Ted Gaworski improved on his weight performance by putting 44' 5" an increase of 1' 7". Harris 2nd with 42' 10" equalled the previous best and Ian Law was third with 39' 4". Ted then proceeded to improve on the discus with a throw of 133' 9", Harris again being 2nd with Luxon 3rd. The high jump produced a new holder in Mal Ash who cleared 6feet, as also did E. Bare, last year's winner. It is interesting to note that E. Bare was recently called to another "Bar", but not the high jump one, or the "saloon" P. Luxon was third with 5' 9". G. Edwards as previously stated won the javelin with Liggins 2nd and Powell 3rd.

On the whole it was a most satisfactory Championship day but it would greatly help in the smooth running of the programme if members would enter BEFORE the day so that we get a programme with the correct names on. This would save a lot of time and trouble for the officials.

F.R.W.

THE POLYTECHNIC MARATHON

At 3.30pm on Saturday 18th June, seven members of the Long Distance Running Section set out on what was to be the best performance yet from this section.

Despite blazing sunshine and a head win which must have made a difference of 3 or 4 minutes in the times, all seven completed the course and I am still convinced that Arthur Penstone would prefer to be able to say that instead of reporting that only 6 finished.

Before the race we knew that Colin Collis and Eric Gebbett had strong claims on the Tommy Lalande Trophy, awarded to the first newcomer to finish and that our team could at least be placed in the Southern Championship, but at the final reckoning we had first and second places in the Lalande Trophy, winning team in the Southern and third team in the Open race, 7 points behind the winners. We also gained three A.A.A. Standards, two Southern Standards and five medals for men inside the first fifty.

A special word of praise for Alan Bishop. From a mediocre half miler (he won't mind me saying that) to 29th in the Poly Marathon in such a short space of time is no mean feat. We expected great things from Colin and Eric but even they exceeded our expectations. Bob Plummer after scaring the daylights out of us up to ten miles, really showed us a thing or two from twelve onwards. Jim MacDonald and Bert Jordan, although not at their best, plugged away with typical courage. I was amazed when Mac told me after the race that this was his 8th Poly Marathon, for he still can approach this grind with the excitement and eagerness of a newcomer. And last, but by no means least, Arthur Penstone, who has had more than his fair share of setbacks and illnesses lately. To finish at all, after we had persuaded him to carry on at 20 miles, gives the best illustration of the spirit that exists in the distance running section.

As I have said the race started in perfect weather and at 3½ miles things had sorted themselves out with a leading group of 12, then Colin 14th and another group of 12 or so led by our second claim member Jack Braughton, with Eric 24th. Through the cool wooded country of Buckinghamshire, the pace quickened somewhat and at 5 miles the positions were practically the same. Collis passed in 29mins., Gebbett 29.35 Bishop and McDonald 30.53, Jordan 31.15, Plummer 32.55 and Penstone 33.10. At 10 miles Colin was noticeably pegging back the stragglers of the leading bunch, whilst Eric was running easily with Fowle, Ash, Meckler, Braughton & Co. Alan, Mac, and Bob were also piling on the pressure. Colin's time at this stage was 57 mins. with Eric half a minute behind.

Between 10 and 15 miles Braughton had pulled away to within 3 minutes of the leaders and Colin, still running powerfully, had caught the tail enders of this group. The second bunch had by this time begun to split up, also with Eric, Ash, Fowle and Meckler moving away. It was at this stage of the race that Bob Plummer shook us rigid, so much so in fact that I had put his 15 miles time down to Alan Bishop before realising it. In about 3 miles Bob had eased his way through the field and was now our third scoring man, in front of Alan.

At 20 miles Colin was lying 2nd to Hames (TVH) in the fight for the Lalande Trophy and five minutes down, but what is five minutes with six miles to go, for over that final gruelling stretch Colin not only caught Hames, but pulled right through to finish 7th, six minutes in front of him. Eric, Fowle, Meckler and Ash were still battling it out together, although it seemed that Eric had at last got the measure of the South African. Our chances in the team races were also very rosy at this stage with Bob and Alan gaining more valuable points the further they went.

The last six miles saw Colin underline what many onlookers considered the best performance of the day. Eric finally shook off Meckler, caught Hames, thus making sure of second place in the Lalande Trophy and made Messrs. Dennis, Ash and Fowle fight all the way for their 8th, 9th and 10th places, whilst Bob and Alan assured us of at least third place in the

Team race. Alan in fact finished two places in front of Leeds 4th man and only three team places behind Blackheath's 4th man. In all a wonderful performance by everyone of our men and in my humble opinion one of the best shows in recent years by a Belgrave team, and that included all sections. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Final placings:

7.	C.Collis	2h. 37.01s	Lalande Trophy, AAA Standard, Club record
11.	E.Gebbett	2. 39.34	2nd Lalande Trophy, AAA Standard
20.	R.Plummer	2. 41.52	AAA. Standard
29.	A.Bishop	2. 47.32	Southern Standard
39.	J.McDonald	2. 54.34	- do -
65.	A.Jordan	3. 1.43	
80.	A.Pemstone	3. 7.36.	

Open Team Race:

1. Blackheath	45pts.	2. Leeds	48pts.	3. Belgrave	52pts.
Southern Championship.					
1. Belgrave	23pts.	2. Blackheath	26pts.	3. Victoria P.	31pts

Len Marchant.

FIELD EVENTS

We have now come to the end of another summer season and I must say that this has been one of the best as far as Field Events goes in the history of the Club.



G.M. EDWARDS

Junior Javelin thrower.

The field events Captain, Percy Luxon, has been well supported in all our fixtures and has had the added assistance of Mal Ash in the highjump, hurdles and pole vault. We also have some very promising juniors, particularly in G.M. Edwards of whom an action photograph is here produced. He attained A.A.A. Standard and thus qualified for Junior Honours Badge.

I was pleased to see Alan Law getting back to form after suffering from a strained back and I hope J. Powell Jones will be with us next year. A.A.A. Standards were obtained by Mal Ash and Ron Harris and Dennis Merrett's Southern Hurdles win was very encouraging.

There are a number of youngsters due to come out of the Services before next summer when I am sure we shall again have a strong team. I hope that all

concerned will keep up their training during the winter and support Frank Simmons who is always willing to give advice and encouragement.

Bill Merryman has now taken over office of Hon. Secretary for the Section and I am sure he will do his best to keep you all up to scratch and well advised of all fixtures. Likewise I am sure you will all give him the same support you have always given me. Bill's address will be found in the Winter Fixture List and Handbook.

With all good wishes for the future

Jack Chappell.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPSJune 24th & 25th 1955

Chiswick Stadium was the venue for this meeting and for the first time the heats for distances from 440 yards to one mile, together with the finals of the Hammer and Javelin were held on the Friday evening prior to the Championship proper. This meant that the Saturday programme was less congested than usual with great benefit to both athletes and officials.

The meeting generally was of a high standard and some excellent competition was seen, especially in the three miles with Sanjo and Norris running the whole distance together and finishing only inches apart in the wonderful time of 13 mins. 29.8 secs. which at that time was only 3.4secs outside the world record held by Kutz of the U.S.S.R. It must be many years since there was no Belgrave entry in this race.

The Saturday events opened with the Discus in which Harris was third and Gaworski fourth with throws of 131ft 1 inch and 129ft 5 inches respectively. The first track event was the heats of the 100 yards in which both Holtum and Mayers qualified for the final, won later by Ivan with Ron third.

Ted Gaworski won the weight with a first class putt of 45ft. 8 inches, John Powell Jones was third with 43 feet 7 inches and Harris fifth with 43 feet 1 inch. Surely we must have the best team of weight putters in the country.

The finals of the 440 yards, 880 yards and one mile had no interest whatsoever for Belgrave supporters. In the first two events we had no entries at all and in the latter none of our runners qualified for the final.

Eric Hall was the next Belgravian to show his paces and finished fifth in the two miles walk in 15 minutes, 16.6secs. I think a further ten miles might have seen a different result.

It seems incredible that we cannot produce a Junior Sprint relay team and in this event we had to be content to watch Ilford A.C. win comfortably. It should however be noted that Wimbledon College A.C. (a schools team) managed to reach the final and finished fifth.

Our spirits were revived by Ash winning the Pole Vault with 12 feet. Ash had been fourth in the high jump earlier in the afternoon with a jump of 5 feet 11 inches - this lad is truly a great asset to Belgrave.

Merrett, Holtum and Mayers all qualified for the semi-final of the 220 yards and Merret and Mayers went on to the final in which Dennis was third and Ivan fifth.

Percy Luxon was below his usual form, but nevertheless was fifth in the long jump with 22 feet 2½ inches and sixth in the Hop, Step and Jump with 44 feet 3½ inches.

In all, those members who did compete performed well, but how sad it is to see many events not graced by our claret and gold. There is no doubt whatsoever that our strength lies purely in the sprinters and field events, whereas those distances on which we built our name have no class performers at all. In conclusion it must be said that the handful of spectators present enjoyed a grand afternoon's sport, but the meeting was not patronised as much as it deserved.

Olympian.

A. A. A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

The highlights of this year's Championships, held on 15th and 16th July, as far as Belgrave was concerned, was the excellent running of Ron Holtum to be the first Belgrave Harrier to reach the final of the 100 yards, for as long as most of us can remember, and Dennis Merrett's third place in the 220 yards Hurdles. If Ron could have produced his form of Friday afternoon when he qualified for the semi-final with even time in his heat, we might have had a winner, but conditions change from day to day and running in the opposite direction, may have made all the difference. Ron nevertheless earns our heartiest congratulations for finishing fourth amongst excellent company. Dennis Merrett was most unluckily to come up against two hurdlers (Vine and Shaw) at the peak of their form and although his time of 24.7 secs. was a little slower than his Southern Championship record made a few weeks earlier, his performance was nevertheless of a very high standard. The first and second men were both inside the previous British allcomers record by a good margin. I feel sure we shall see even greater races from Dennis in the years to come.

Ash deserves our praise for qualifying for the competition proper in both high jump and pole vault. In the former he finished 6th with 5 feet 10 inches, although it should be recorded that he cleared 6 feet in the qualifying stages. He also finished third in his heat in the 120 yards hurdles, with a time of 15.5 secs. but this did not gain him a place in the final. However, this time is one rarely, if ever surpassed by a Belgravian and we can obviously hope for better things in the future.

Ivan Mayers reached the semi-final of the 220 yards in which he ran extremely well and Ted Gaworski gave his usual polished performances in the Shot and Discus, although not reaching the coveted placed positions.

In other events, the least said about them the better, although our new lad Morris was unlucky not to reach the semi-final of the 440 yards. Surely there is someone amongst our members who could set his mind on reaching the standard required to enter either the three or six miles. These events have, in former years, been the main attraction for Belgrave supporters but this year we had but one entry (Jack Brown in the mile) in the championships from 880 yards upwards, including the steeplechase, and he was forced to withdraw through injury. Whilst our sprinters and field events competitors go from strength to strength, our middle distance runners are on the decline. Many of our members concentrate on these distances and are to be seen regularly training for long periods, but the results do not appear to justify the effort. Can this mean that the methods of training are wrong, or is this just a phase in which the material available is not up to standard.

Once again we were all most disappointed to see Belgrave's colours missing from the Junior sprint relay. This might prove a bad omen for the future, for if we cannot turn out four juniors for this championship, where do we obtain the replacements for Merrett, Mayers, and Holtum when their work is done.

The time has come to take stock of our position and every effort must be made by officials, coaches and athletes alike to ensure that Belgrave's position in the athletic world is maintained. Runners and field events men must work harder than ever to keep pace with the improvements in the general standard.

TRACK SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

At the Annual General Meeting we were reminded quite frequently by a number of people that "they were not getting any younger". This of course we all know, but how many of you think much about the officers of the Club or of how long some of them have held a particular office, or gone from one office to another without complaining. It is a fallacy to think that these people would not like to take a rest or at least to get rid of some of the work they are doing for YOU and hand it over to someone else for a change. You have a year to think about it, so please let us have some new (if possible) younger members doing some of the jobs.

It is easy to criticize, but when people are wanted for a job of any kind, the same critics are very backward in coming forward. On our Club register we have over 600 members, young and old, but at the Annual General Meeting we had just over 10% of this number present. This is all wrong. What has happened to our club spirit, both at home and away. As far as the track season was concerned, we had our best year for a long time, but let us not kid ourselves. This was mainly due to some fine performances by our field events men, what we need is more good track men to TURN UP and back them up. Incidentally good wishes to Bill Merryman in his new job and thanks to Jack Chappell for the work he has done in the past.

Next season we will have quite a number of men back from the Services, some of whom were Junior champions. This should strengthen our track teams if everyone plays his part and take us to greater heights than last year.

Thank you all for your help in the past and your confidence in me for the future. I look forward to a winter and summer when we shall hear more and more of "UP THE BELLS".

Ron Holtum.

OPEN 20 MILES ROAD RUN

Colin Collis
finishing

Considering the vast number of Club members who were dispersed over the course or who congregated on the Common at Wimbledon on the occasion of the 20 Miles Open-Road Run on 20th August, it is very discouraging to find that no one appears to have had the time or inclination to write up a description of a race which is undoubtedly one of the best organised events in the road running calendar. The work of Arthur Whitehead and his band of helpers is alone surely deserving of some mention in our magazine, and equally so is the performance of Colin Collis in finishing in third place. However in the absence of any "copy" being submitted the Editor has taken it on himself to give such information concerning the event as he is able to recollect.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wimbledon were present at the start and, in fact remained throughout the afternoon, the Mayor presenting the awards at the end.

A good field lined up for the start on a very hot afternoon and were sent on their way by the Mayor. In view of the weather, it was not surprising that a large

proportion of them did not finish. Geof Iden once again managed to wear down his rivals and finished an easy winner. Colin Collis ran an exceptionally well judged race, edging his way through the field to be the first Club man to get a place in this event and of course winning the Lady Fell Trophy. The remainder of our runners did exceptionally well and although returning the same score as Walton A.C., took second place to Victoria Park Harriers, as our third man was home before Walton's.

Result and placings of our runners

1. G. Iden	1. 57. 14	33. G. Pearson	2. 22. 05
3. C. Collis	2. 00. 58	52. L. Rolls	2. 38. 43
14. R. Plummer	2. 08. 55		
20. E. Gebbett	2. 12. 35		
30. K. Stimpson	2. 16. 43		
Teams:			
1. Victoria Park H.	18 points		
2. Belgrave Harriers	27 "		
3. Walton A.C.	27 "		

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' MEDAL COMPETITIONS

Firstly we apologise to Colin Clair, the winner of the Boys' Shot put, for an incorrect result in the last issue, the distance should have been 35 ft. 6ins. and not 26 ft. 10ins. which was his figure for last year.

In the boys' Long Jump on 15th June, P. Brownbridge with an allowance of 3 ft. and an actual jump of 15 ft. 1in. proved the winner and was the second best actual distance of the four who competed. In the Youths' Section, D. E. Mitchell was the winner with 17 ft. 3½ ins. out of five competing.

The High Jump was held on 4th July and the winner of the boys' section was D. Groves with 4 ft. 5ins. plus an allowance of 2ins. Of the four youths, D. Mitchell was again winner with 4 ft. 7ins.

Four boys turned out for the 100 yards on 20th July. P. Brownbridge with 12 yards start, won in 12secs. Five youths contested their race and once again D. Mitchell was first in 11.8secs.

On Championship Day, the last of the series, the Javelin was held. C. Clair was winner in the boys' section with 115 ft. 2ins. plus an allowance of 5 feet. He was last year's winner and has improved nearly 17 feet. P. Atkins won the youths' event with 105 feet 2ins. a little below his usual form.

The competition concluded as follows:

<u>BOYS</u>		<u>YOUTHS</u>	
1. P. Brownbridge	20pts	1. D. Mitchell	23 pts.
2. M. Draper	19pts	2. B. Banks	19 pts.
3. C. Clair	17pts	3. D. Crookes	15 pts.

It was unfortunate for Colin Clair that he had to miss the high jump as he was playing cricket for his school. Malcolm Draper is to be commended on competing in all events and deserved his second place.

Among the boys attending Battersea Park for coaching, the following have gained awards in schools events: C. Clair 4 firsts; P. Hamblin 2nd and 3rd; T. Hart 3 firsts; D. Groves 1 first; A. Hankers 1 first, 1 second, 1 third, B. McCarthy the same, J. Hampshire 2 firsts, J. Templeton 3 firsts; Malcolm Draper 1 second, 1 third; R. Davis 2 firsts, 1 third. These figures are very encouraging and show that the coaching is having its effect and building these boys up as our teams of the future.

M. Pyer.

BROCKMAN TROPHY - 9TH JULY

There was keen competition in the Brockman Trophy Meeting organised by Herne Hill Harriers at Croydon. Eventually we tied with Herne Hill for first place with 68 points each, out of the eight teams which competed.

A fine all round performance was put up by Percy Luxon who won the Long Jump with a fine leap of 23ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in, was second in the Hop, Step and Jump with 45ft. 3 ins. and third in the High Jump with 5ft. 8ins. Another outstanding field performance was that of T. Gaworski who won both the shot put and the discus, the latter with a new record for the meeting and a new club record of 147ft. 10ins. Percy Porter was second in the hammer throw and R. Liggins third in the Javelin. Our sprinters were on form. Ivan Mayers was 2nd and Dennis Merrett 3rd in the 100 yards and Ivan also 2nd in the 220. B.H.Morris ran a fine race in the 440 yards to finish third to two internationals and Pete Bagnall filled the same place in the steeple chase.

The Southern Counties 4 x 110 yards relay was decided at the same meeting and we finished a close second to Essex Beagles.

BEVERLEY BAXTER TROPHY MEETING

Records galore is, I think, an apt description for the Bel's efforts in the Beverley Baxter Trophy Meeting at Southgate on July 2nd, for track and meeting records were broken in no less than seven events.

I. Mayers first and R. Holtum second, both returned the same time of 10 secs. in the 100 yards for a meeting record. Ian went on to win the 280 yards in a meeting record of 22.5secs.

Although saying the three miles was not his distance, Jack Brown ran a splendid race to break the track record with a time of 14mins. 20.8s. Evergreen and always popular Charlie Smart finished 5th in 14.52.

Alan Picton made a welcome return to the track and was well pleased to finish 3rd in the 440 yards final in 50.3s. George Davidson although faced with tough opposition, ran well to finish 6th in the half mile, whilst Peter Bagnall lacking the necessary fast finish, recorded 4th in the mile in 4m.20s. But surely the plum of records must go to Mal Ash who, after winning his heat in the 120 yards hurdles in 16secs. went on to win the final only five minutes afterwards in the same time, for as officials said, it saved time putting the hurdles out twice.

Our boys in the field events were also out for records, Percy Luxon making a new track record in the long jump with a leap of 22ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. while Ken Key finished third in 22ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Mal Ash was in great form over the high jump, clearing 6ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in for a track record, whilst all rounder Percy Luxon obliged with 5ft. 8ins. for third place. Not in the records, but scoring valuable points, were Discus - R.Harris, 121ft.10ins, third. Shot put - R. Harris 3rd with 41ft. 9ins. and J. Powell Jones only half an inch away.

The match resulted in a win for the Bels with 73 points to Southgate (holders) 53 points. A further record, not recorded in the match, was that of P.Porter who threw the hammer 164 feet in an invitation event, winning both the scratch and handicap sections.

TROPHY CONTEST AT AYLESBURY

Two coaches of Belgrave Harriers and supporters set out on August Bank Holiday from Clapham Junction expecting to see a good days sport. The Hazel Trophy Competition did not start until 5pm. so that the seniors were able to sit back and watch the Junior competition.

In the Junior 100 Clive Ryan and Ken Walker both qualified for the final in which Clive gained 3rd position. T. Tupper and J. Stevens reached the final of the 880 yards but just lacked that something to give them a fast finish. In the 880 it was pleasing to see Johnny Key back in action, but unfortunately he was unplaced in the final. The mile was not an event for gaining points for us because H. Boreham and B. Beagley failed to gain a position in the first three.

In the invitation 300 yards, Denis Merrett was our only representative, but after a very fast 200 yards, he slowed up and Wrighton proved himself the stronger and won in a time of 31.4s. The 440 yards proved to be a race of successes for Belgrave in that Brian Morris won in the time of 50.9s. with Frank Kemp 3rd in 52. We also had a victory in the 100 yards in which Ivan Mayers and Denis Merrett finished 1st and 2nd.

We missed Ray Tooby - who failed to make an appearance - in the 880 yards, but George Davidson carried our colours and came 5th. Jon Burr did not run with his usual zest and did not gain a point. The relay was a very exciting affair. Chas. Walker ran the first leg (880) and handed the baton to Frank Kemp just in front of T.V.H. Although very tired, Frank ran a fine race finishing level with T.V.H. Segal of the Valley went away with terrific speed but soon tired and Brian Morris passed him like a bomb and finished comfortably ahead of Poly who narrowly beat T.V.H. A very good contest resulted in us finishing second to Poly. I might add that the female supporters deserve a pat on the back for their vocal support.

MATCH v WALTON A.C.

Something of the pre-war spirit prevailed during this meeting which was held on 13th August, when a team ably led by Bob Taylor, vice Track Captain, beat the home club by 66 points to 53.

"Take on all comers" Basil Walden, was the chief point scorer, for after winning the 100 yards in 10.7s and following Alan Sexton home in the 220 yards, he made a four point landing in the long jump to record 15ft. 8ins. for fourth place and followed this with an amble round in the 880 yards for 4th.

The usual sterling performance came from Ted Gaworski who won the weight with 52ft. 9ins and the discus with 131ft. 1 in., and from Bob Harris who was second in both events. Percy Luxon added valuable points by winning the long jump with a leap of 21ft. 3½ins., threw the javelin 140ft. 10ins. and managed a second spot in the high jump with 5ft. 4ins and 3rd in the 100.

Brian Morris arrived from Brighton just in time to win the 440 yards in 52.5s. without warming up. H. Khan was 2nd in this. Dave Hooper ran a well judged race to finish 2nd in the three miles with George Stace 3rd. Llewellyn of Walton won the mile in 4.24.2, closely followed by Davidson and Roffey.

Alan Sexton, despite having had a skinful for dinner, was cajoled into running 220 yards which he won with comparative ease in 23.7s Nice to see you back on the track Alan.

Tom Carter, acting gentleman, provided tea for all in his usual forthright manner, during which we saw him talk his way out of a punch on the nose from a boxer looking type. We all withdrew gracefully after replacing the borrowed tea, sugar and milk.

"Fair observer"

MATCH v SURREY AT TOOTING BEC.

This evening meeting held on 10th August, was one of very few events, fewer athletes and officials, due I understand to a second match being held at Battersea Park.

Of those present, Denis Merritt won the 100 yards in 10.4s. Peter Bagnall ran a "blinder" to finish 3rd in the 440 yards. Brian Barry of the promoting club won the mile in 4m. 11s. with Cliff Roffey 3rd and Geoff Goode 4th.

The relay proved a very convincing win for our very scratch team of Denis Merritt, Ian Forrester, Percy Luxon and Mal Ash. The long jump held by candlelight, proved a win for Percy Luxon with 21ft. 9ins. and I understand Mal Ash surprised himself by jumping 19ft. 4ins.

It seems we lost the match through lack of juniors although Stevens and Bowman ran in the 880 yards, but were unplaced.

T. F. M.

CLUB MEETING - BATTERSEA PARK

The main events of this meeting on 20th July were the three miles Track Championship and the Hop, step and jump Championship. The first named resulted in a win for Jack Brown in 14mins. 32s. with P. Bagnall 2nd in 14.45 and C. Roffey 3rd in 14.55. Nine competitors gained first class standards and two second class.

The Hop, step and jump does not yet seem to have gained much popularity as there were only two competitors. Percy Luxon retained his title with a jump of 42feet 5½ inches.

The remainder of the meeting should have been taken up by Club handicaps, but owing to lack of support for certain events, they were reduced to the 440 yards and two miles walk. In the 440 yards J. Heathfield finished 1st in 50.5s. with G. Davidson 2nd and J. Banks 3rd.

The two miles walk included a match with Surrey Walking Club which resulted in a win for our walkers. Eric Hall led the field home in 15m. 19s. with E. Smith 2nd and G. Beecham 3rd. The handicap was won by Stan Vickers off 2.40. with Denis Ives 2nd and George Beecham 3rd.

CORONATION CUP - CARSHALTON

In this, the last track match of the season, the outstanding feature was the absence of track men, despite which, with the aid of the field events men, who scored 23 points out

of our total of 38, we won the trophy from Walton A.C. by one point. R. Harris won the weight, M. Ash the high jump, P. Luxon the long jump and our junior G. Edwards was second in the javelin. Denis Merrett was second in the 100 yards.

J.C.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1955

A very sound representation from Belgrave took part in this year's marches which were supported by the record number of 11,554 competitors from twelve countries. This number was made up of civilian and military units, male and female, who walked as groups, or individuals, distances graded according to age, sex, and in the case of military units, equipment carried, the distances varying from 30 to 55 kilometres.

The spectacle of this huge concourse traversing lanes and by-ways dressed in their military uniforms and national costumes is a sight never to be forgotten, whilst the general spirit of happiness, comradeship and hospitality is the keynote of the whole proceedings.

The opening ceremony at the Goffert Stadium, Nijmegen, with its massed bands, march pasts and general gala was in the evening sunshine and a memorable occasion whilst the crowds lining the flower decked streets on the last day was a wonderful experience for all those taking part.

There was a total of 46 walkers from this country including six of our members, viz; George Place, Cyril Yescombe and Syd Spencer in the Police team and Bernard Eglington, Jack Goswell and myself in the R.W.A. team, with Sid James and Ron Kim as attendants.

There are many tales to tell regarding the general feeding arrangements, but the walks passed without incident as far as Belgravians were concerned and credit must be accorded to Jack Goswell for exploding the myth that one must be a racing man to keep pace with the R.W.A. teams. By a commonsense attitude to his feet and choice of shoes, plus reasonable preparation by the way of strolling, he was one of the least troubled members of the teams.

Bernard, who had come across from his R.A.F. Station, created quite a sensation by his command of the Dutch language and the amazement of the pretty Dutch girls in the cafes on which he tried his "wicked uncle" stuff was a delight to see.

The drinks we consumed to enable him to practice his wiles were without number.

The hospitality which was shown by everyone, both in our digs and in our evening strolls, was almost overwhelming, and should anyone wish to participate next year, I shall be pleased to give any information and advice on the preparations they should make.

Harry Shields.

WALKING NOTES

Since the 50 K. Metres we have had a good mixture of road and track walks, but our record over the long distances is a little below last year's performances. The newly instituted 7 miles Track Championship for the Frank Elson Cup resulted in Eric Hall being the first member to have his name engraved thereon.

Eric's time was 56mins. 18s. with Ted Smith 2nd and George Beecham 3rd. Eric and George both started training under Frank Elson at the Duke of York's Headquarters and naturally were both anxious to get their names on the cup as the first holder.

We were unfortunate not to have a team for the Hastings to Brighton and were unable to defend our title. The only starters were Norman Gullmant who finished 4th in 6hrs. 6min. 15secs. and George Beecham 8th in 6.22.48.

Amongst our new members we have two very useful youngsters in Terry Clark, the son of one of our old members and Stan Vickers, both of whom are already showing that they have the makings of champions and it is hoped that they will help to strengthen our "Garnet" Cup team next year.

We have now commenced winter training at the hall and two packs are going out on Tuesday evenings. I hope that every member of the walking section will turn up and really get down to training.

Everything is set for our Annual Open 7 miles Walk and once again may I appeal for donations to the prize Fund and so enable us to maintain the usual high standard of prizes. Donations should be sent to me or to the Hon. Treasurer. It is high time we brought the "Berman" Cup back to the Club, so what about it Walkers!

It is rumoured that the Surrey 10 will be held from our headquarters at Wimbledon so let's have a really good team to make sure of hanging on to the title.

Hugh McGreechan has sent me the following letter of thanks for his wedding present:

Dear Jack,

On behalf of the wife and myself I would like to thank everyone in the Club who contributed to our wedding present. With the money we purchased an "easy chair" which is covered in the Club colours (claret and gold) and a lot of my leisure hours are spent in it and it will always be a reminder of a happy bunch of lads known as "Belgrave"

Yours sincerely

Hugh McGreechan & Celia.

Jack Goswell.

BRIGHTON AND BACK - 1st and 2nd JULY

As I was attending Harry Shields, I know little of the trials of the other three lads, but as you probably know, they all finished the 100 miles. Frank Jarvis decided to leave it at 100 having gained his Centurion's badge, but Harry Shields, Percy Wilson and Bert Stallard continued on for the full distance of 104½ miles. Harry was unfortunate to complete the 100 miles inside 20 hours, only missing it by less than 2½ minutes. That he had some foot trouble is best explained by the fact that it took him just over an hour to finish the last 4½ miles. His foot trouble started fairly early in the night and gradually got worse, following which he developed thigh and knee trouble, but he refused to give up, stopping at intervals for me to burst his blisters, in fact I think I am now a fully qualified Vet - or is

that the right word?. Times of our walkers were: 9th. H. Shields 21hrs. 6mins. 25secs., 17th H. Stallard 22hrs. 16mins. 27secs., 23rd. P. Wilson 23hrs. 7mins. 29secs. 45th (100 miles only) F. Jarvis 23 hrs. 25mins. 22secs.

The walkers and their attendants subsequently attended the Mansion House where the awards were presented by the Lord Mayor of London.

INTER - CLUB CONTEST - 4TH JULY

Thirteen clubs entered the contest this year and in all, 90 walkers competed in the four races, which certainly shows that this meeting retains its popularity for a mid week fixture.

We were unfortunate to suffer a disqualification in the 4 miles when Syd James failed to please the judges. This naturally pulled us back in the scoring, but even so we finished third to Metro. W.C. Eric Hall walked an excellent race in the 2 miles to finish 2nd to R. Goodall in 15 mins. with Ted Smith 3rd in 15.18. George Beecham 8th and H. McGreechan 10th were our scorers in the 5 miles, George Oliver 10th in the 4 miles and R. Newson 6th and L. Demmon 9th in the 3 miles.

Final scores: 1. Met. W.C. 174 pts.
2. Woodford Green 160 pts.
3. Belgrave H. 141 pts.

BIRMINGHAM OUTER CIRCLE 25 MILES

Five of our walkers went to Birmingham on 9th July for this round the City race. We were short of Norman Guilmant who was unfortunately laid up and Harry Shields was still feeling the effects of his Brighton and Back and after 12 miles retired, leaving us a bare four to score and little chance of retaining our team title. George Beecham, competing in this race for the first time, walked an exceptionally fine race to finish 6th in 3hrs. 57mins. 21 secs. and be our first man home. George Cheekley 7th and Hugh McGreechan 9th, looked pretty good packing, but unfortunately our fourth man, Cyril Yescombe, who is quite a newcomer to distance racing, although making a brave effort, could do no better than 27th, which lost us 2nd team place by one point. George Beecham very deservedly won the handicap. Needless to say, my efforts to get the lads to make up a few places, resulted in the usual storm of abuse, but it nearly got them there.

DOVER - CANTERBURY AND BACK - 23rd JULY

I was obliged, for once, to miss one of our long distance races, as I was on holiday, but without my usual bullying, the lads came home with the bacon. George Beecham, after his fine effort at Birmingham, improved even further to finish 3rd in 4hrs. 23min. 12secs. and was 2nd in the handicap. It's a clever man who can win two handicap prizes running. George Cheekley, suffering from lack of training, was not so well up as we expected, but on the return journey, Norman Guilmant very sportingly dropped back a little and pulled him through, both finishing in the same time of 4hrs. 33mins. 17secs in 8th and 9th positions. Harry Shields, who was beginning to get his leg working again, finished 16th in 4hrs. 51mins. 41secs. The combined efforts of our first three resulted in a score of 16 points which gave us a win over St. Albans' AC. by 2 points, with Polytechnic H. 3rd.

MATCH v SURREY W.C. - Tooting

On 9th August we had our usual match with Surrey W.C. over a six miles course at Tooting Bec. Of a field of 25, Eric Hall was first home in 48mins.14secs. Bob Newson 2nd in 49.41 and E. Hipkins of Surrey 3rd in 50.21. Scoring 12 a side, the match resulted in a win for us by 127 points to 173. A handicap prize given by Surrey Walking Club was won by Les Fairman with an allowance of 4m10s.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON - 10th SEPTEMBER

For this classic of all road races, it was very pleasing to have Bernard Eglinton who flew home from Germany for the occasion. We were without George Checkley, who finished 7th last year, but nevertheless we started a full "A" team plus two individuals and were very hopeful of a successful day.



G. Beecham
at the
start

At Croydon Norman Guilment was 4th, George Beecham, very fit after his holiday 5th, Hugh McGreechan 7th, Harry Shields 30th and Bernard 23rd, with Fred Rolfe, Bert Stallard, Ron Fairman, Joe Wilson and George Oliver coming along behind. They all appeared to be settling down, but it looked fairly obvious that there were only going to be two teams in the team race, ourselves and Poly. At Merstham (20 miles) Poly were in the lead by two points with Harry and Bernard having a juggling contest with Poly's 4th man Sharpe. By the time Crawley was reached, our first three were 4th, 5th and 6th with Harry and Bernard, having passed Sharpe, 12th and 13th and the points were 27 each. Just before Crawley had been reached, two females, trying to drive a "pram", had given Bernard a whack on the arm which upset his balance and eventually became painful. But for this he may have been able to make up for the other piece of bad luck which came later in the race. At Patcham, 48 miles, the battle was still on and although Poly in the meantime had gained a couple of points lead, at this stage it was back to level again with 28 points each. It was shortly after this that the final blow fell. Harry was making further progress having passed Pantling of Vidarians and close on the tail of Ridley, Q.P.H. when news came back that Hugh McGreechan had been disqualified and with that went all our hopes for a team victory. However, despite the disappointment, our lads kept going and made certain of 2nd place, although Poly won by a clear ten points. Most puzzled man of all was Hugh McGreechan, although he wasn't told this time that he was walking flat footed

So another Brighton has passed. Norman Guilment has retained his Club Championship, with George Beecham 2nd and Harry Shields 3rd. George Beecham's time of 8hrs. 40mins.18s. was an improvement of 20 minutes on last year. Don't worry George you'll get that winning team medal yet.

ODDS and ENDS

Hugh McGreechan won the Police Barking to Southend Race for the fourth time. Cyril Yescombe was 10th and won the handicap.

Eric Hall won the Civil Service 2 miles Championship.

CLUB RECORDS

Here is a complete list of Club Senior records to date. A list of Junior records will appear in the next issue of the Belgravian. I should be much obliged if members would inform me of any omissions. If you break a club record, do not be afraid of appearing a "big ead" but write and let me know. My address is: 120, Drakefield Road, S.W.17.

G. Collis.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time, etc.</u>
100 yards	I. Mayers	May 1955	9.9secs.
220 yards	A.D. Sexton	June 1954	21.7secs.
440 yards	A.D. Sexton	May 1953	48.2secs.
880 yards	R.T. Taylor	June 1954	1m.53.6secs.
1 mile	J.W. Brown	July 1953	4m. 11.8secs.
3 miles	W.E. Lucas	July 1950	14m. 11.6secs.
6 miles	J.C. Smart	April 1954	29m. 29.9secs
10 miles	T.C. Carter	April 1936	52m. 40.2secs.
Marathon	G. Collis	June 1955	2hrs.37m.4secs.
2 miles Walk	H.G. Churcher	July 1939	13m.50secs.
5 miles Walk	H.G. Churcher		35.43secs.**
7 miles Walk	H.G. Churcher	August 1949	51m.2.2secs.
High Jump	J. Dodds	July 1936	6ft.3½ins.
Long Jump	P. Luxon	May 1955	23ft.6½ins
Pole Vault	J. Dodds	July 1936	18ft 6ins
Weight	T.J. Gaworski	August 1955	47ft 6½ins
Javelin	W. Patrick	July 1954	198ft 5ins
Discus	T.J. Gaworski	July 1955	147ft 10ins
Hammer	P.L.Porter	July 1955	164ft 4ins
Hop, Step & Jump	P.C. Luxon	July 1954	45ft 9ins
120 yds hurdles	M. Ash	July 1955	15.4secs
220 yds hurdles	D.J. Merrett	June 1955	24.3secs*
2 miles Steeple chase	J. Bromley	May 1953	10m. 19secs.

* Also Southern A.A.A. Record

** Then a world record.

I am keeping John Bromley's Steeplechase time on the books until someone puts up a 3,000 metres time which is superior. Short, Bagnall and Paterson, please oblige.

It will be noted that the post-war boom in athletics shows itself in performances by club members. Apart from Tom Carter's 10 miles time, a track distance for which there is no competition nowadays, only three pre-1949 records still stand and Ash and Bare have come very near these.

REMINDERS

BELGRAVE HARRIERS OPEN WALK. 26th November.

No accommodation for runners at Belgrave Hall, but let us have your support on the road for the walkers. Also Don't forget Jack Goswell's appeal for donations.

The Hon. Treasurer would like to remind you that your subscriptions for the year 1955-56 are due and he would be pleased to receive them as soon as possible.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE - BELGRAVE HALL 31st December
