

THE 10th EDITION
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN

OCTOBER 1927.

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A FOREWORD.

Our magazine should be a complete record of the Club's undertakings, and a chronicle of the attainments of its individual members. All will agree that these activities are too many to be covered by a quarterly issue of the "Belgravian," therefore we present the first number of a monthly publication.

Hereafter no walker need miss a club project because it concerns the runners. No follower need feel "out of it" because of his inability to attend a race. The "Belgravian" shall tell them all about the runners and all about the race.

Your support will ensure a "live" Gazette, and a real expression of the Club's opinion and outlook.

B.J.T.K.

OUR LATE PRESIDENT.

Presidents and members come and go, as years roll on, but the Club will never have the member who could put more heart and soul into the welfare of the Belgrave Harriers, than did our late President.

The Club has not always been in the prosperous position that it is to-day. Not many years ago a small room in Floor Street, Chelsea, was the meeting place of

four members who at that time represented the active section of the Harriers. Bob had little support to encourage him, but he stuck to his job rather than take the easy course of joining another Club.

For three years he held the one mile walking championship of the London County Council. His active interest in walking was stimulated by this success, and in the latter part of his career, he decided to render his unflagging services to that branch of sport.

An opportunity came to him when during the war, on his transfer from Peterborough to Erith, he formed a Walking Section at the latter place. His typical enterprise was well rewarded, for this nucleus developed into our present very strong walking section.

As an athlete his first success of any importance was a 440 yards Handicap at the Oval, which he won in very fast time. On another occasion he captured both the 100 yards and 300 yards Handicaps at Southend on the day of the annual Regatta Sports. His many prizes suggest that our favourite was a fast man over distances from 100 to 880 yards. So too at walking, for he once had a "bag" of 30 prizes and medals in a single season.

During the winter he once took up Boxing, and proved that he was a good allrounder by adding 1st prize in an open competition at Latchmere Baths to his athletic record.

As a team manager he was magnificent. Without his zeal and untiring efforts in getting our team together, we should not have won the National Road Walking Championship.

During the past four years he was an official Handicapper, appointed by the A.A.A. and R.W.A. In this capacity he concentrated on Walking Handicaps, and during the winter season made all handicaps free of any charge, travelling to Denmark Hill almost every week, in connection with the work.

These, my friends, are a few reminiscences of our great friend, and it is up to us all to continue the goodwill and fellowship, and carry on the good work so ably founded and fostered by our late President.

W.J.P.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

At Pepy's House, on September 27th, we held a conference of great importance to the welfare of the Club. Our Chairman voiced the regret of us all at the loss of our President and we stood for a while in reverent silence.

Business commenced with the report of the Hon. Secretary, who indicated that in spite of lack of success in some undertakings, the Club had a big balance of achievement on the right side.

The Hon. Treasurer went through his Balance Sheet with us. It shows a judicious expenditure for 1926-27, and reflects credit on the Chancellors of our Exchequer.

Three Proposed Amendments to Rules were carried. They were (1) to limit the number of Vice-Presidents to 16, so that they might not as a body on the Committee out-vote interests equally important as theirs, (2) to permit section-Captains as the representatives of active athletes, to be Committee members, (3) to limit the number of new life-members to 2 per year, and so secure that the honour is conferred only on those who have earned it. The meeting was quick to see the advantages of these alterations, and they were carried without undue delay after a discussion that was short and to the point.

Now came the first legitimate opportunity since the last Annual General Meeting, of expressing our appreciations and dissatisfactions.

Mr. Hare was unanimously elected President. He has shown us service as Secretary and as Handicapper. Always, he has been the servant of the Club and with our hearty support he shall prove a worthy leader. Fifteen of our Vice-Presidents were re-elected to office. A new Vice-President is Mrs. R. W. Ricketts, who has rendered services to the Club over a long period.

Mr. Thomson resigned. During the past year he has put in some very hard work for the Club. We thank him, and are confident that on the Committee his experience will still be at our disposal. In such few words as these

must our toilers be dismissed. Their reward must be in the satisfaction which service brings.

The new Secretary is a wise choice; we have the right man, whilst his assistant, H. Parker, who as running Hon. Sec. has taken on a job to which nobody could do better justice, is a whole-hearted worker.

Our heroes of the Brighton Walk received their mementos amid the deafening plaudits of the Club.

After an interval for refreshments, some very bright suggestions were made, and recommended to the Committee for consideration. Further remarks are invited on the subject of a series of winter Whist Drives, which seemed to find favour with many. The meeting dispersed at a late hour, with everyone sharing the pleasant impression that concord and fellowship were very much abroad.

B.J.T.K.

A REVIEW OF SEASON 1926-27.

The Cross Country season, from point of view of racing, was fairly successful. The Club retained the Surrey County Championship which was run over the Surbiton country. The race will be decided over the same course in 1928, when it is hoped that we shall for the third time take home the Pickett Cup. In other team championship races, our performances were of the usual mediocrity.

It is worthy of mention that our members, A. Clark (Warwick), H. E. Footer and K. B. O'Kell (Surrey) gained their County Colours in the Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships, and H. E. Footer is to be congratulated on winning the Territorial Cross Country Championship.

Our Brighton relay failure was a disappointment to the Club, but we hope that a greatly strengthened team will enable us to do much better next year.

During the summer bad weather on the whole detracted from the success of our meetings, and in the later days the loss of our President was a sad blow.

However, we began well with the experiment of holding an open meeting without the help of a "gate." Fine weather and a good entry of nearly 300 contributed to a success which demands repetition of the meeting. It was

gratifying to find the large gathering of supporters and prominent officials from other Clubs congratulating the Belgrave on its enterprise.

The summer evening meetings were not supported by members as they should have been. Absentees would do well to take advantage in experience which these gatherings will offer next summer.

Despite the drenching rain, the match with the Ashcombe A.C. and Thames V.H. gave us a good evening's sport as well as a good win. Cooper Clark won an exciting race in the 440 yards match, and on his further successful performance in the Club Championship we have a worthy successor to our past Club champions. The Inter-Club contests with the Croydon H., Epsom H. and Mitcham A.C. were held after two attempts had been made to hold a meeting at Mitcham. Both were abandoned through bad weather and the result of three meetings instead of four proved us the shield winners for the third time.

A feature of the Summer Season was the number of members gaining County Colours

We have a bright outlook for next summer with A. Clark, J. Cooper Clark, E. A. Duffett, W. Rice, M. Odell, G. R. Maryon, F. L. G. Buckingham and perhaps K. B. O'Kell to take the Club colours to the fore.

Bright spots and black patches, brilliant individual performances but poor team work, characterised the activities of the walkers.

The winter season started well, H. F. King, T. W. Green and B. J. T. Knifton showing up prominently in the open handicaps. Full of hope, we went to Sheffield for the Junior. The locals had something to think about when Green and Fletcher came round the last corner side by side in faultless style. The race was a great one to watch, our first pair going away from the field of over 200, and deserving all the good things said about them at the finish. We were not strong enough to capture the team championship, but the Sheffielders were worthy winners.

The Senior was not a happy event for us. Green's good performance (4th) stood out once again. It is expresse generally that our team must mean business next year. Get together and train together as far as possible. But that is for *next* year.

We had an interest in the A.A.A. two miles Walk Championship, when our hope A. L. Fletcher finished second to that fine walker, A. G. Pope, after a great struggle in the last lap. We still thought our man could beat Pope, and our confidence was justified at the Inter-Counties meeting. This race was over 3 miles in persistent rain, and Fletcher feeling quite fit and well, went away on the last lap to win by about 25 yards. He gained and richly deserved the greatest applause of the whole meeting. The public are good judges of walking.

The climax of the season came with our glorious win in the Surrey Club's Brighton Race.

A well-earned vote of thanks has been passed to all those officials and friends who have given their time and energy in helping towards the success of the club meetings.

To all—foster the team spirit. It is team work that keeps the Club together and wins its laurels. 1927-28 is a year of great hopes. Let us give our President the opportunity of congratulating the Club on its further successes when he addresses us from the Chair in September next.

F.G.T.

THE S.W.C. LONDON-BRIGHTON WALK.

A worse day for the walk we have never seen. "Depressions" rather than "impressions" ought to express our recollections.

A large crowd watched the start in a heavy downpour. After a brisk half-mile Giani was in the first dozen. Manning led our men with Green and Rathbone walking very easily in the middle of the field and our 4 others following.

A crowd of rain-drenched cyclists waiting at Streatham were surprised to see the leaders so soon, and the hot pace caused our critics to think they could not last. Fast times were returned at this point, our men keeping their order, but coming nearer the front of the field.

Green, on his first attempt, did not exert himself until beyond Croydon, and then a fast, steady pace took him ahead of Manning and Horton (S.W.C.) who were almost side by side. Evidently the weather overcame the stout courage of the latter, for he retired soon after. The beating of wind and rain against the walkers made havoc, especially among the lean ones. Booker (S.W.C.) and several others were missed at this time through cold.

At Merstham, Green had walked up to 11th place, and at Redhill the judges, in the Post Office out of the pelting rain, recorded him 6th. Horley saw him 3rd, with Holt (2nd) nearly seven minutes ahead and Giani (1st) still another 7 minutes in front. Not until after reaching Hand Cross did Green overtake Holt, but at Albourne he had left the latter 9 minutes behind! Giani's fast work early on had, however, made his victory secure, and Green, walking quite as fast now as the winner, finished 2nd, eleven minutes behind. Well walked both!

The excitement of the team race must have produced heart-failure among weaker men. Rathbone hot on the track of Manning passed him at Merstham. At Crawley our hopes and doubts made us feverish. S.W.C. lead us by one point! Rathbone came to the rescue, walking into 7th place and reversing the score, while Manning, in difficulty for the first time, held on grimly. At Dale Hill, Green (2nd), Rathbone (now 6th) and Manning (12th), still lead by a point from S.W.C., and finished in these positions, much to the relief and delight of Belgravians. Our members, Waltam, Laurie and Thomas walked well, beating 10½ hours, whilst Winner who found the slippery

— road difficult was inside 11 hours. What a day! Continuous rain soaked us for seven hours; food and equipment all clammy and everything wet. After Bolney the sun shone, and we, poor playthings of the weather, began to Steam. Still our enthusiasm, like the weather, was unrestrained. After hot sea water baths in Brills we felt O.K. Then came the mending of broken feet and filling of empty stomachs. On reflection, and considering that we won the team race, it was for us a delightful day.

H.P.

OPENING RUN AND WALK.

McMullen and Knifton caught S. L. King at about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and in the next mile they passed in turn Briggs, Tilley, Hawkes and S. S. Fletcher. MacMullen who had been delayed 60 yards through enforced attention to his shorts began to feel the effect of his effort and dropped away. Fish, walking strongly was the next ahead of Knifton who did not overtake him until the four miles point had been reached. By this time it was clear that the long markers would score.

Peacock was expected to be well up, but he appeared (like most of us) tired towards the finish. As he was fairly fit his effort of a week before in the "twenty" was perhaps responsible for this.

Martin was fighting fit and won comfortably. Elson, a new member, made good use of his start to finish fifth.

5 MILES WALKING HANDICAP.

		Start.	Handicap.	Nett.
1.	A. Martin	...	7.20	40.57
2.	V. J. Peacock	...	3.40	41.54
3.	A. E. Saunders	...	5.20	42.01
4.	B. J. Knifton	...	2.05	42.39
5.	F. Elson	...	5.40	43.08
6.	J. N. Thomas	...	5.45	43.23
7.	R. R. McMullen	...	1.55	43.39
8.	W. J. Fish	...	4.25	43.58
9.	W. J. Hawker	...	4.25	45.19
10.	J. Rathbone	...	50	45.46
11.	A. G. Tilly	...	4.45	45.55
12.	S. L. King	...	2.15	46.00
13.	C. R. Briggs	...	5.30	46.58
14.	I. S. Fletcher	...	6.50	49.46

A. E. Smith ran steadily past the opposition in the 3 miles handicap. At 2 miles he was second to G. Tyrer, a veteran with 4 minutes start, whom he caught at $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Hereafter he ran unchallenged to win by 25 yards. The time of the winner and Duffett, was equalled by Buckingham in October, 1925, and has been beaten only by A. E. Elliott (S.A.C.), who accomplished 15 minutes 9 seconds in November, 1924. Pyers effort of 15 minutes 15 seconds in 1923 was another good performance.

Results show that the number of speed men in the Club has increased since 1925. In that year, only two men could beat 16 minutes when this annual fixture was held, whereas this time five accomplished the feat.

THREE MILES' RUNNING HANDICAP.

		Start.	Handicap	Nett
1	A E Smith ..	25	14 45	15 10
2	W. D. Pritchard ..	30	14 50	15 20
3	G. T. Davis ..	1.20	15 03	16 23
4	T. Pritchard ..	1.15	15.09	16 24
5	E. A. Duffett ..	Scr.	15 10	15 10
6	W. L. Bayliss ..	25	15 15	15 40
7	J. White ..	1 20	15 29	16 49
8	W. G. Webb ..	25	15 30	15 55
9	A. Harley ..	1 30	15.31	17 01
10	S. Drake ..	1 30	15 33	17 03
11	T. F. Merrell ..	1.25	15 36	17 01
12	B. C. Button ..	40	15 41	16 21
13	A. Jannaway ..	1.30	15 42	17.12
14	H. E. Foote ..	10	15 57	16 07
15	G. Tyrer ..	4 20	15 59	20 19
16	C. W. Boud ..	1 40	16 24	18 04
17	A. H. East ..	1 40	17 34	19.14
18	T. H. Scrimshaw ..	1 50	17 35	19 25
19	P. R. Hedger ..	1 40	17 36	19 16

INTER-CLUB C.C. RACE WITH ASHCOMBE A.C. AND THAMES VALLEY H.

The first race of the series took place from our Headquarters on Saturday, October 22nd. There was not the number of absentees one might have expected; we are getting used to the rain. A field of 74 (comprising—"Ashes" 20, "Valley" 23 and Bels." 31), faced our President for the start.

The course was the usual "5," starting at the top of Lanviston Road, across the golf links, past Cæsers Well to the Horse Ride and then left across Beverley Brook to the Robin Hood Gate. Up, and round Spankers Hill to return over the same course.

Little need be said of the actual race, as Duffett, always

up with the leaders, came away when he liked, to win by 20 seconds. The team race was always ours, and scoring 12 aside, our team finished in the first 20 places scoring 127 points against 282 by the Valley and 340 by Ashcombe

Several of our "Juniors" ran well, including Button, Tom Pritchard, Davis, Field and others. A new member, Robertshaw, is promising and will do much better. We were pleased to see Button with us as he will soon be off to Australia. We wish him luck

The sealed handicap for members represents Arthur Clark, who had gone home for the week-end. at scratch. It was pleasing to see Bayliss amongst the prizes; quite a long time has passed since he was mentioned. Our Secretary is a good team man, and generally sacrifices his own chances in helping and encouraging others along.

5 Miles' Sealed Handicap, held in conjunction with
Inter-Team Race.

		Actual Time	Start	Handicap Time	Position in Handicap
H L Rollins	.	33 21	6 0	27 21	1
W L Bayliss	.	29 54	2 30	27 24	2
C. Boud	...	34 34	7 0	27.84	3
W Hedger	..	35 27	7 45	27 42	4
C Davis		32 12	4 15	27 57	5
T Pritchard	..	31 43	3 45	27 58	6
A A Harley	.	34 8	6 10	27 58	6
A E Duffett	.	29 19	1 15	28 4	8
A. Field	..	32 36	4 30	28 6	9
P Klophin	...	29 44	1 30	28.14	10
S Drake	..	33 14	5 0	28 14	10
W Dodkin	...	30.59	2 40	28.19	12
A. E. Smith	..	30 4	1 40	28.24	13
W Williams	...	31 6	2.35	28 31	14
A H. Butt	..	32 32	4 0	28 32	15
H E Footer	..	29 39	1.5	28 34	16
S Chooley	..	33 44	4 50	28 54	17
W. G Webb	..	30 55	2.0	28 55	18
A. Jannaway	..	35.28	6.30	28.58	19
B. C Button	..	31 41	2 30	29.11	20
L. E. Fletcher	..	37 11	8 0	29 11	20
F Ford	.	33 55	4.30	29 25	22
W. Callow	..	34.57	5 30	29 27	23
A. H. East	...	35 47	6 15	29 32	24
F Buckingham	..	30 58	1 20	29 38	25
C. Phillips	..	38 4	8 15	29 49	26
G. Still	...	33.34	3.35	29.59	27
G. Tyrer	.	42 35	10 30	32 5	28
A. D. Pyer	..	31 44	—	—	—
A. Robertshaw	...	32 40	—	—	—
R. J. Savage	..	35 55	—	—	—

H.E.P.

WITH THE WALKERS.

Since our last issue, the most outstanding performance was that of our long distance men in the Surrey W. C.'s Brighton Walk, last September. We hope that T. W. Green with the experience of this race will win the "Victory" Cup next year. Thanks are due to the attendants, who had a very trying time.

The first road handicap on 8th October brought twenty-two entries, of which sixteen started, and although racing fitness was not general, only two failed to finish. A Martin was first off and was never headed, while Knifton who returned fastest time could get no nearer than fourth.

In our own "Open," we expect the support of all our active walkers, and hope to be well supported as usual by other clubs, on November 26th.

The Club will support as many Open Races as possible, and all wishing to be entered in teams should send their entry form and fee to the Walking Secretary, so that he receives them not later than the Saturday preceding the day of the race.

All Juniors should note that the 7 Mile Handicap for the O. Horwood Cup with handicap race is down for decision on December 17th.

S.L.K

RUNNING NOTES.

The first important open team race, is the South of Thames Junior, which will be held on November 19th, at Tolworth, over the S.A.C. 5 Miles course.

After winning this event in 1925, we were 7th last year, which is quite good when one remembers that the winning team is barred.

Practically the whole of last year's first team are again available, and there will be one or two additions. We shall enter as many teams as possible.

The South of Thames Championship will be held on February 11th, at a venue to be fixed.

Members are particularly asked to support all the friendly team races and socials, especially the away fixtures. Where these events may be some distance from Headquarters, every endeavour will be made to obtain cheap travelling facilities.

In the team races, it should be remembered that members who are not good enough to score in big events are enabled to count by, as far as possible, an "all-to-score" arrangement.

The special attention of all "Junior" runners is called to the Surrey County Team Race on December 3rd.

This fixture is for juniors in age, being confined to runners under the age of 18 years on day of race, and is over 3 miles. We won this event in 1924, and our turn is about due again. Will all members eligible and who are qualified, advise the Running Hon. Secretary?

H.P.

HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The Cross Country and Road Walking season has commenced in a most hearty fashion. The first two races were well supported, and there are bright prospects for a successful season for both sections.

It is pleasing to note the number of new members one now sees, especially amongst the Runners; I would warn them against racing in training.

Our Open Walk is being held as usual, and there are rumours of a huge entry. Let us hope our Walking Secretary, S. L. King, will beat the record at his first venture.

All Club Notices will be printed in the "Illustrated Sport and Kennel" (every Friday), and the "South London Press" (on Tuesdays). The attention given us by these journals is worthy of your support.

Club Subscriptions for 1927-28 not already paid should be given to Mr. A. E. Masher at once, and members in arrears are invited to send something off their debt. The R. W. Ricketts fund is still open, and continues to progress.

W. L. BAYLISS.

