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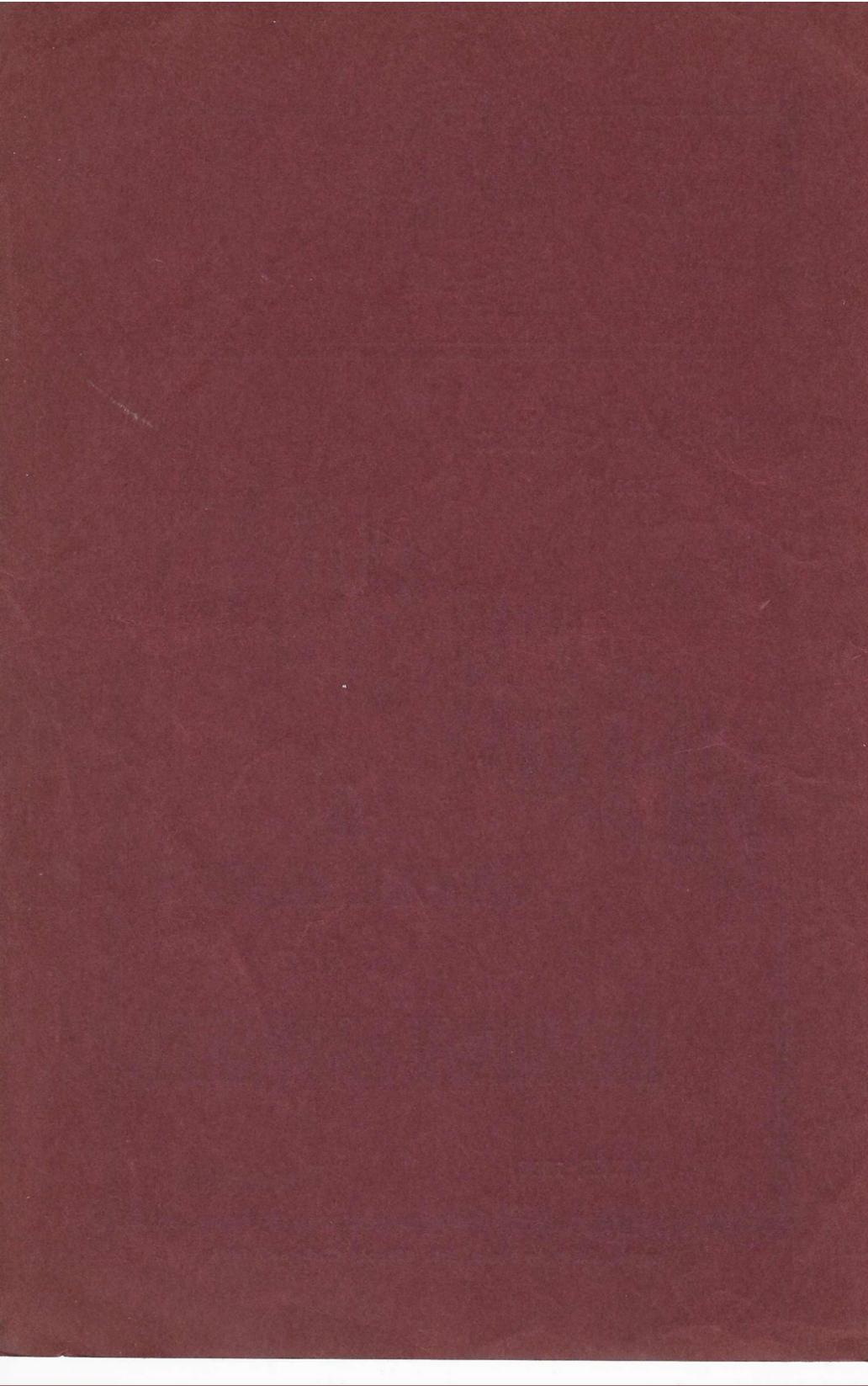
BELGRAVIAN

The
OFFICIAL GAZETTE
of the

BELGRAVE HARRIERS

JUNE, 1923

Price 9s



THE 5th EDITION
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN

JUNE, 1928.

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CLUB NOTES.

Our President has been elected President of the South of the Thames Cross Country Association. Of course, we know that he is equal to any position of honour in the athletic world and we congratulate him on his appointment. Mr Hare has remarked that he is glad to accept the position, as a mark of recognition of our Club's part in the activities of S.T.C.C.A.

Mr. Griffin, our landlord at the "Rising Sun" and a keen Vice-President, has presented to the Club a new trophy, to be held by the winner of our newly-instituted three miles' track championship. This is good service by Mr Griffin, as three miles is a popular distance with our boys.

Jimmy Flatt has made a re-appearance on the track and there are murmurs of pleasure to be heard all round.

An investigation is going forward into the possibility of entering teams in the Middlesex championships. It is proposed to form a new Club, restricted to members with Middlesex qualifications, who shall still remain first-claim Belgrave H. The idea affects a large number of members. A. A. Harley is the ring-leader of the movement and he will be pleased to have names in support of the project.

Club championships will be held on the Saturday before Bank Holiday, August 4th, so arrange to be at Battersea on that day.

SUNDAY OUTING TO BOX HILL, JULY 15th.

In answer to suggestions by various members, the above outing has been arranged, and the Committee hope that a good number of members and friends will support yet another new venture of our Social Section. It affords a good opportunity for a gathering

of the members and their lady friends for a few happy hours in very pleasant surroundings.

The party will catch the 11-48 a.m. tram from Clapham Junction (S.W. Rly.) to Box Hill Station, which is at the foot of Box Hill, and quite an easy walk for even a poor walker. Then we shall go to the top of the hill and enjoy ourselves as we please until 4-30 p.m., when Tea will be enjoyed at the Fort Tea Gardens, which place embodies every up-to-date accommodation for such parties. Should the weather be in a nasty temper after getting us there, we have the use of a small hall and piano, and can make the best of it.

The return will be made by the 7-30 p.m. train from Box Hill.

All members desirous of joining the party should give numbers of friends likely to come to our Hon Treasurer or Secretary as early as possible, that we may have some idea of the size of the party.

Tea with lettuce, watercress, jam, cakes, etc., 1/6 per head

Return fares · Clapham Junction, 2/3; Earlsfield, 2/-.

Times of trains · Vauxhall, 11-43; Clapham Junction, 11-48; Earlsfield, 11-51; Wimbledon, 11-55.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS !

Five of our Club stalwarts, in three thrilling and exciting hours, won a title which gives distinction to the Club name wherever athletes are gathered. Our chances of winning the National R.W.A. Championship were not apparent until the latter part of the race, and after there had been several changes in the early stages. Derby W.C. at 3 miles held the first three individual places and between our first and second men at this point there were about half a dozen members of the Birmingham W.C. When the field settled down, T. W. Green was one of a bunch of 7 leaders including Todd, of Surrey A.C., and E. G. Cooper, H. F. King, R. D. McMullen were some distance behind, walking together with Holland, Batson and Sandy. Derby and Birmingham were still scoring much better than either Belgrave or Surrey A.C., who made up the third and fourth placings. The two latter teams were racing very closely together and there was a bare point between them.

At half distance Derby (20 pts.) and Birmingham (26 pts.) still led, with Belgrave and Surrey A.C. thirty points behind! Birmingham had eight men in the first twenty! Calamity overtook Surrey A.C. Todd was ruled out, and when McMullen began to

walk faster, the rest of his little group tried to keep with him. Mac was going strongly and so the others were soon spread out at intervals along the road behind him. The Surrey men were in distress and of them only Batson recovered from the fast pace which our man had set. At 13 miles Tommy Green began to fall away from the leaders. On his best day he would have been able to stay in the front, but on this occasion his stamina failed him. Nevertheless he lasted out despite a bad time, knowing that the team expected something from him.

Mac gained on the leaders over the last five miles. He was a dozen yards behind the third man at 19 miles, but he was so spent that he could not manage another place. It was a wonderful effort for his team.

F. Rickards, with a sang-froid of his own, walked with good judgment over the first 15 miles. He was never in a hurry to this point, and was very strong. Over the last stretch he made a desperate effort to get close up.

George Cooper was our fourth man home. What topsy-turvy performance he shows; on one day he leads them in, and on another provides the tail. He made no bones about his form, however, but set his mind on his share of the victory.

The fast pace over the first ten miles began to tell on H. F. King and at fifteen he was finding the going difficult. He was our fifth man, and proved to be a very tired "sticker." Can't you imagine his anxious voice, "How many more?"

Jack Rathbone's sound performance was eclipsed by the team win, but in the result his big effort speaks for itself. J. N. Thomas saw it through, in spite of his more advanced years.

The opposition was very strong and only by the splendid efforts which our men made, was it possible to win. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the training which they put in, to do justice to the Club's reputation.

	RESULT.	H.	M.	S.
1.	L. Stewart, London Vidarians W C.	2	50	20 3/5
2.	T. Lloyd Johnson, Leicester W C. . .	2	50	39
4.	R. D. McMullen, Belgrave H.	2	58	8
7.	F. Rickards, " "	2	59	34
14.	E. G. Cooper " "	3	3	1
16.	T. W. Green, " "	3	3	47
21.	H. F. King, " "	3	5	22
32.	J. Rathbone, " "	3	8	39
99.	J. N. Thomas, " "	3	32	26

TEAM RESULT.

138 Starters. All our men finished

	Pts.
1. Belgrave H. 2, 5, 12, 14	33.
2. Sheffield United H. 6, 11, 16, 20...	53.
3. Birmingham W.C. 1, 8, 9, 39	57.

KINNAIRD TROPHY COMPETITION.

The fact that we entered the arena with the giants of athletics this year for the first time, was due largely to the agitation set up by E. A. Duffett. He and others wanted to give our fellows a chance to show what they could do, and they do not get that chance in handicap races. Especially the opportunity should have been taken by our long jumpers, who, because they are few, do not find themselves so liberally catered for.

There were nine Clubs in all competing. The competition consists of nine events, in eight of which we had fourteen of our men entered by the committee. M. E. Odell and T. C. Bates ran in the two heats of 100 yards, and were beaten by Rinkel and Gill respectively; the former by less than a couple of yards, and Bates was well up amongst the runners in his heat. Both performances were creditable and inferior only to those of the Poly and Achilles teams.

The mile in 14m. 19 3-5s. was faster than E. A. Duffett and W. Rice are used to, and they were unable to keep with the leaders. Duffett finished in under 4m. 45s. There should be no better way of convincing these young men that they can and must move faster, than running them in a race of this type. They can improve their class if they set about it.

W. G. Webb ran well within himself in the three miles, but dropped out in the last lap on account of his distance behind the winner. However, had he completed this lap he would have done 15m. 45s., which is more deserving of congratulation than derision.

The rest of the team let us down, but our officials and runners have learnt something in this venture which should give us a better chance next year.

A special Junior (under 19) relay was included in the afternoon's sport. We are exceptionally strong in this department, and if our youngsters are looked after, they should make a bright future for us on the track. Distances were 880, 220, 220 and 440 yards.

T. H. Scrimshaw ran a very cool and confident half mile, taking the lead early in the first lap, but he had to finish second to

a very strong young runner. E. J. Jones helped to cut down the lead which had been gained. L. W. White, taking over, was "full of beans," and making his rivals look like loiterers, he earned himself a cheer. Well done White! you have "dash." A. J. Ford was not pressed in the quarter, and finished first without difficulty. In the final Scrimshaw made use of his experience gained in his heat by following the best man round, eventually to finish closer than in the heat. Both ran a rattling good half. Jones managed to gain more on the leader than he had in the heat, and White tore off to take the lead and get almost out of sight of the second man. Ford was not having an "easy" this time, and so he made our long lead even longer. It was a joyous race with our chaps fairly licking the opposition, and looking sorry there was no more to do. Time 3m. 52 1-5s.

In the open 100 yards handicap T. J. Purdy managed to win his heat fairly comfortably in 10s. off $8\frac{1}{2}$ yards, but he could not get up in the second round. M. E. Odell just scraped home in his heat in 10 1-5s off $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards. In his heat of the second round he was the only back marker and, although he made a good effort, he did not qualify for the final.

The 880 yards open handicap provided the exciting discovery that J. Cooper Clark ought to be good for beating 2 mins. in the half. In the third heat he came away in amazing fashion, not with a burst, but just striding in an effortless way to win very easily. He outclassed his field!

In a previous heat J. E. Flower, leading for more than half-distance, suddenly slowed down, but J. A. Jones, with a fine effort, managed to sprint into the final.

Result of 880 yards open handicap. 1, J. Cooper Clark (48 yds), 1m 52s

In the walk, J. E. Field scored an easy victory as F. Elson did not get quite close enough to push him. We had a fine turn-out in this race.

Result of walk—

1. J. E. Field, Belgrave H. (355 yds) ... 13m. 57s.
3. F. Elson, Belgrave H. (290 yds.) ... 13m 59s.

As last year, M. E. Odell was selected to run in the Rest of London team versus the Poly in the 8 x 220 yards relay.

CLUB EVENING MEETING

On May 23rd a 220 yds scratch race was included in the programme with a view to seeing what we could produce for the

sprints in relay events. The first heat provided the best race, as the second was a W.O. and the final was a foregone conclusion. M. E. Odell won with ease in 23 4-5s. The enterprise deserved a much better entry, and the sprinters missed an opportunity of seeing what they could do at the furlong. If there is no enthusiasm for a 220, the Club cannot expect fair representation at the distance.

Charlie Cook, at 65 years of age, won the veterans 100 in brilliant style. Some of these old 'uns are artful dodgers and R. Williams was only inches behind.

In the first heat of the junior 100 yards handicap, A. J. Ford (scratch) was only inches from the winner in 10 4-5s.

There were 30 runners in the 880 yards, which went to the long markers. A number of entrants, notably back markers, did not compete, but saved themselves for the mile. In the 220 yds. handicap A. J. Barr did fastest time and won the final quite comfortably. The best running was probably that of T. J. Purdy and J. A. Jones in the heats and A. A. Lander in the final.

In the 2 miles walk there were 17 starters. For the first five laps R. D. McMullen walked fastest in very fair style. He keeps "down" very well. On the last 200 yards F. Elson "shifted some" in a sensational race for the second place, but he was eight or nine yards behind Field. Strange was third. He walked very well.

In the mile run, the canary vest of the petit Footer was seen at intervals to dart farther and farther forward, but J. E. Flower made the most of his mark to set up a commanding lead. J. Harris just beat W. G. Webb for third place. Paul, Footer and Duffett followed in that order.

RESULTS.

220 Yards Scratch Race—Heat 1. M. E. Odell, 1, 2, E. H. Jarvis, 24s Heat 2. 1, B. W. Fleming, 2, G. R. Maryon, 24 1-5s Final. 1, M. E. Odell, 2, G. R. Maryon, 3, E. H. Jarvis, 23 4-5s

100 Yards Veterans' Handicap—Heat 1. W. G. Brown, 10½, 1, W. Bedford, 12½, 2, 11 2-5s. Heat 2. R. Williams, 15½, 1; H. W. East, 11, 2, 11 1-5s. Heat 3. C. Cook, 18, 1, R. W. Best, 10, 2; 11 1-5s. Final. 1, C. Cook, 18; 2, R. Williams, 15½; 3, W. G. Brown, 10½, 11 1-10s.

100 Yards Novices' Scratch Race—Heat 1. J. S. Williams, 1; A. H. Gigg, 2; 11 3-5s. Heat 2. A. Flynn, 1, F. Parkinson, 2, 12s. Final. 1, F. Parkinson, 2, A. H. Gigg, 3, A. Flynn, 11 3-10s.

100 Yards Junior Handicap—Heat 1. J. W. Gilbert, 12 yds, 1; A. J. Ford, scr, 2; J. S. Williams, 6, 3; 10 4-5s. Heat 2. F. H. Scrimshaw, 7, 1, J. Cully, 19, 2; G. L. Rooke, 9, 3, 10 4-5s. Final. 1, J. W. Gilbert, 12, 2, G. L. Rooke, 9, 3, F. H. Scrimshaw, 7; 10 4-5s.

880 Yards Handicap—1, A. A. Harley, 75 yds, 2, L. E. Fletcher, 110; 3, W. Callow, 75; 2m 3 1-5s

2 Miles Walk—1, J E Field, 285 yds ; 2, F H. Elson, 175 ; 3, C R Strange, 410 , 14m 15s

220 Yards Handicap—Heat 1. A J Barr, 22, 23s , heat 2, B W. Fleming, 12, 24 1-5s , heat 3, A A. Lander, 17, 23 1-5 s. ; heat 6, J. A Jones, 16, 23 1-5s Final : 1, A. J. Barr, 22 ; 2, A. A. Lander, 17 ; 3, T. J Purdy, 13 , 23s.

1 Mile Handicap—1, J E Flower, 55 ; 2, J. Harris, 12 ; 3, W. G. Webb, 40 , 4m 45s

High Jump—7, B. W Fleming, 5 ft 3 ins. , 2, W. A Woodfield, 5 ft. 2 ins

INTER-CLUB RELAY RACES.

No. 1 of 1928 Series May 16th.

4 x 100 Yards—1, Belgrave H ; 2, Mitcham A C ; 3, Croydon H , 4, Epsom H Time 44s

4 x 300 Yards—1, Croydon H ; 2, Mitcham A.C ; 3, Belgrave H , 4, Epsom Time 2 21

4 x 880 Yards—1, Belgrave H ; 2, Mitcham A C , 3, Croydon H. ; 4, Epsom H Time 8 38s

1 Mile Team Race—1, Belgrave H , 2, Mitcham H ; Croydon H and Epsom H. deadheat. Time 4-48s

Total Belgrave H. 14pts.; Mitcham A.C. 12 pts; Croydon H 9½pts.; Epsom H 4½pts.

CLUB EVENTS

880 Yards Handicap—1, T. H. Scrimshaw, 65yds., 2, A. A. Harley, 90yds ; 3, J A Jones, 25yds Time 2m. 0s.

2 Miles Walk Handicap—1, C R. Strange, 480yds ; 2, F H Elson, 205yds ; 3, H J Fletcher, 540yds Time 14m. 12s.

Mitcham A.C. had a glorious evening on June 4th for their Charity Sports at the "News of the World" ground, in which was included the second series of the inter-club relays

We had a fairly strong team and won every event

In the 440 yards relay, Odell gave us a good lead over the first 100 yards and the advantage was never lost.

The feature of the 2 miles relay was a fine "half" by Duffett, who wiped off a big deficit and handed over well ahead. N Gunn, of Mitcham A C., ran his usual good race in this event.

In the 1200 yards relay, in which we were placed third at the previous meeting, a really brilliant 300 yards by our stylish youngster, A J. Ford, placed the result beyond all doubt.

The mile team race gave T J. Flower and W. L. Bayliss a chance to score Our four men finished in the first six, the individual winner being W. Rice in 4m 44 4-5s.

In Inter-Club points we now lead with thirty points out of a possible thirty-two

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RESULTS.

4 x 100 Yards—Belgrave H, 1. Odell, Maryon, Len Smith, Purdy ; Croydon, 2 ; Mitcham, 3, Epsom, 4 Time 42 2-5s.

4 x 300 Yards—Belgrave H, 1. Odell, Maryon, Purdy, A. J. Ford ; Croydon, 2, Mitcham, 3, Epsom, 4 Time 2m. 18s.

4 x 880 Yards—Belgrave H, 1 Duffett, Titherley, Wilhams, J. A. Jones, Mitcham, 2 ; Croydon, 3, Epsom, 4. Time 8m. 33s.

Team Race—Belgrave H, 1, Rice, 1 ; Pyer, 2, Bayliss, 4, Flower, 6 Mitcham A C, 2, 3-5-6, 7pts ; Croydon H., 3, 7-10-11, 14 pts. Epsom H, 4, 8-9-12, 29 pts Time 4m. 44 4-5s.

SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Owing to the Territorial Championship, A. D. Pyer was unable to represent us in the Surrey "mile," and as H. E. Footer was unfortunately "crooked," only two of our men started in this race. Both of them—E. A. Duffett and W. Rice—were placed.

M. E. Odell repeated his performance of last year in getting second in both sprints. Len Fletcher, of course, had no serious opposition in the two miles walk and won as he pleased in satisfactory time—14m. 35 2-5s. McMullen walked very strongly towards the finish to gain second place.

Len Smith appeared to be out of training and was placed only third in the 440 yards hurdles championship, of which he was the holder.

We were not represented in the quarter or half mile. In the four miles it seems that we could have gained a place if our runners had entered, as the time was very moderate.

As to the opens, in the one-mile, J. E. Flower (103 yards), in spite of his penalty mark (pulled 15 yards) ran through a fair class field to win just on the tape in 4m. 22 1-5s.

J. A. Jones again showed strong finishing powers to get second in the open half-mile handicap off a middle mark. A. A. Lander showed promising form in winning his heat in the 220 yards handicap, but he failed in the final.

MIDDLESEX CHAMPIONSHIPS.

We won no championships at this meeting, but our representatives did well in the 1 mile graded scratch race and the 2 miles walking championship. J. A. Jones won the former event. He was always lying near the leaders. He was fourth at the bell but with 300 yards to go he took the lead and resisted all efforts to pass him. The time was 4m 46 2-5s., and he did not appear to be at all distressed.

In the walk J. G. Scammell, who was third last year, had trouble in his leg and could only earn a standard medal this time. H. Elson (6th) and V. J. Peacock also earned medals by beating 15m. 40s.

A. J. Ford competed in the 100 Championship (16-18 yrs.) Junior, but he got off badly in the final and was well out of the race. It was a pity they did not put on a "440" for him. In the Junior (under 18) long jump he made amends with a winning leap of 19ft. 0½ins

Paul Klophin was in the 4 miles race, but after a couple of miles he was seen to fling himself on the grass in despair. Never mind Paul, the "Country" will be with us in a little while.

BRITISH GAMES

In the five-mile scratch relay race at the "News of the World" meeting on Whit-Monday we were represented by W. G. Webb, E. A. Duffett, A. D. Pyer, H. E. Footer and W. Rice, who ran in that order. Five teams turned out and Webb finished second for us over the first mile, which was covered in 4m. 36s. Duffett, after lying 3rd and 4th, found plenty of speed with which to finish his run and handed over third. Only about 4 yards covered the first three places then. The time for 2 miles was 9m. 17s. Pyer ran fourth over his section, but the leaders were still close together in 13m. 32 2-5s. Footer ran behind the second man until the last lap. He went ahead then, but the other fellow had longer legs, and Bert had to finish a good third. The first man had got away, and the second was too much "hot stuff" for Bill Rice, who was not yet quite fit, and so we finished third. The performance was not brilliant, but was quite sound.

In the 100 yards scratch race for winners of the novices, medals offered by the promoting Club, T. Bates was second in his heat, but he improved in the final to get a narrow win in 10 4-5s.

Three teams contested the 1 mile scratch relay (220, 220 and 1320 yards). Nothing was known of J. Cooper Clark's ability in time, else he would have been invited to have been in one of our teams. M. E. Odell and A. J. Ford sent F. L. G. Buckingham off with the others, but after taking the lead he failed badly. Hard luck! We all come a cropper at some time or other.

16 runners competed in the 880 yards open scratch race. C. R. Griffiths of Surrey A. C. was the winner in 2m 3 3-5s., and J. Harris, of our Club, secured third place, about 16 yards away.

F. G. Ford ran the best quarter in the youths (16-18 yrs.) 440 yards open scratch race—53 4-5s. in his heat. He won the final

in time one second slower T. H. Scrimshaw was second in his heat, but this was not good enough to run in the final.

HOW THEY FARED.

A. D. Pyer won the Territorials three miles championship in 16m. 12s, but he achieved 15m 45s. in the London Business Houses race two days later. In the 2 miles walking championship at the latter meeting R. D. McMullen and J. G. Scammell were respectively 2nd and 3rd.

F. Rickards has added to his long list of distinctions the Essex County R.W. long distance championship. The course was a trying one over 33 miles and the winner's time was 5hrs 8m 59s.

At the Civil Service Sports H. Titherley won the 880 yards championship in 2m. 4 3-5s., and was in the winning relay team, whilst W. G. Webb was second to B. C. V. Oddie in the mile championship. V. J. Peacock was third in the 2 miles walk championship.

At the North British and Mercantile Sports on May 19th, J. A. James won the 880 yards open handicap off 65 yards, in 1m. 56 2-5s. He has also to his credit a second off 56 yards at N.U.R. Sports, Wembley, and a second off 53 yards at Tarrants, both $\frac{1}{2}$ mile races.

J. E. Flower was first in the mile off 133 yards at the N.U.R. Wembley meeting. This was followed by a very fast win off 118 yards at Fitzroy Lodge Sports at Battersea on June 6th—time 4m. 16 2-5s! His Tarrants win is recorded elsewhere.

E. H. Jarvis was third off 15 yards in a 300 yards open handicap at Hertford on Whit-Monday.

On May 28th, J. Crichton won an open two miles walking handicap at Guildford and on June 9th, E. Stringer was second in a similar event at Wadham Lodge Sports.

Purdy flattered to deceive at the beginning of the season and has not yet done what his friends have hoped. Hurry up, Purdy!

The season is full of promise. Some shining lights are J. Cooper Clark, Titherley, A. J. Ford, J. A. Jones, M. E. Odell and T. Bates. Sorry if I've missed any.

J. Rathbone, after being in a way to get placed, finished 7th in Police Barking-Southend walk.

SPORTS JOTTINGS

By "Observer."

It has been stated that "that authority," Harry Parker, says we were represented in every team race of note last season. May I be allowed to contradict that statement? We were entered, yes; but did our teams turn out? The answer is "No," and I might add that this is the "fly in the ointment," so far as relay and team racing are concerned. May I make an especial appeal to all members who are selected for these events Turn up, boys. Remember there are others depending on you; and to travel a fair distance and then not get a run; well, I ask you, what would your feelings be in the circumstances. Another vital point is also to arrive at the ground in time for your event; we had an instance of some of our members' slackness in this direction only recently. I should like to add this reminder. When entered for a team race, also enter for an open event; by doing this you ensure yourself having a run in case unforeseen happenings prevent the team running.

A pleasing feature of the recent Middelsex County Meeting was the fine form shown by one of our new boys from Kensington, namely J. A. Jones, who ran a brainy race to win the 1 mile graded scratch event. He was congratulated at the finish by D. G. A. Lowe, the Olympic champion, who, I am sure, recognised a likely opponent to his many titles.

Our old friend Jimmy Flatt is out on the track again, and expresses his intention of getting fit to compete in the 2 mile team races later on. He will also be a great help to our cross country men next season. It is very pleasing to see our old pals getting back into harness once more.

The Board of Handicappers seem to have made a serious mistake in regard to A. J. Smith of North London Harriers, the well-known steeplechaser. Last season he was on the scratch mark, and then in the recent Poly 'chase he received 200 yards start off J. E. Webster, and naturally won easily. It is instances such as this that cause runners to lose faith in the Handicappers and to think that it is not worth while to trouble about correct entry forms. It would appear to be a case of picking names blindly out of a hat.

Judging by the form displayed by one of the members who I commented on in last month's issue, these little potted biographies are a success. My next three are as follows —

J. C. Clark must not be confused with our $\frac{1}{4}$ mile champion, J. Cooper Clark, there being a great difference in their respective

speeds. The first named, who is known as Nobby, is a well built athlete, but does not hold himself together when racing; his head rolls too much, while he is apt to lose his style altogether in his endeavour to "get there." Should improve if he trains conscientiously, and might try a longer distance, say a half, with profitable results.

P. N. Khlopin, our Russian member, who, in direct contrast to the above mentioned, trains too conscientiously: racing 3 miles or more every time one goes out on the track is too much for anybody, and if Paul would only train on easier lines he would not only find running more enjoyable, but also would notice the difference when it comes to the day of the race: instead of his energy being all expended he would find it is reserved and thus enable him to put up a good show. Paul is, however, one of the Club's stalwarts when it come to cross country running, and figured prominently in the races of last season.

H. E. Footer, sometimes referred to as "the little Belgrave boy," a good performer on track and country, has secured Surrey County honours in this respect. One of the finest tryers who ever laced a shoe, you can always depend on Bert. was once spoken of by one of our most prominent members as being a "Twenty-two carat team man," an opinion I heartily endorse. Runs very consistently and has met with success on the track already this season; will no doubt secure many more honours before the summer is over, as he is a shining light in the "Terriers," although he emphatically denies the repeated rumours that he is contemplating joining the Guards.

THE BRIGHTON STROLL.

This annual walk was arranged this year for June 2nd, and as it afterwards proved, a better date could not have been appointed. Glorious moonlight showed us the way until dawn and then we had brilliant sunshine for the rest of the day. It was indeed a splendid week-end—the best for seven years, as the daily papers eagerly informed us.

Some of the party started from "The Swan and Sugar Loaf," Croydon, at 9-30, the rest following just before 10. Redhill was reached at midnight and a light meal was enjoyed by all.

At 12-30 a.m. we re-started, the next stopping place on the schedule being "The Queen's Head," Bolney, which we expected to reach between 5-30 and 6 a.m.

About ten miles from Bolney I was joined by "Jimmy" Bel-

chamber and listened from here to Brighton (except for an interval for breakfast) to an apparently endless catalogue of the charms, beauties and delights of Sussex. Sussex surpassed every other county in every conceivable way. I was commiserated with for being a Londoner and told that even those counties which have some pretensions to be regarded as picturesque and beautiful were only second-rate counterfeit imitations of Sussex. All of which points to the fact that Jimmy is a native of Sussex. When he gives up handicapping for legitimate fiction, Rudyard Kipling and Sheila Kaye-Smith will have to look to their laurels. Judging from the eulogy which I was fortunate enough to hear, he may even do for Sussex what Thomas Hardy has done for Wessex.

We were so carried away by this talk that we found ourselves in Bolney ahead of time, so Jimmy took us for a walk in the fields until breakfast should be ready.

Breakfast soon vanished and the walk was resumed at 7 a.m. The vanguard reached Brighton at 10-15 a.m., and after a refreshing brine bath, made their way to the front to bask in the sunshine. We were later joined by others who had made the journey by rail and two who alleged that they travelled down by motor-cycle.

We left the front about 7-30 p.m. for the journey home, this time by rail, and so concluded an enjoyable week-end.

A.A.H

WALKERS' NOTES.

The winning of the R.W.A. National Championship has provided a fitting finish to the road walking season and it would not be out of place to review the successes of the past winter. In the most important race, the national Championship, we provided the winning team, in the R.W.A. "Junior" Championship we were third and in the Surrey County Championship our team finished second. Other class scratch races were the Godstone (18½ miles) in which we were 3rd; the inter-club match with Surrey W.C. over their Banstead course, when we dead-heated with them after a long succession of defeats; and our victory over the Metropolitan Police A.A., who have won all their other matches this season.

In team handicaps we have been even more successful, having come out winners on five occasions in "Opens" promoted by the R.W.A., Dagenham Harriers, Ashcombe A.C., Sussex W.C. and our own Club. In the Cambridge Harriers Open, our team

was third, this being no doubt due to the absence of some of our members who were representing the Club in the Banstead Walk. From the foregoing it will be seen that the Belgrave H. have been placed on every occasion on which they have started a team.

This record is the fruit of cultivating the team spirit, which is so necessary for the success of any club or association, and it is to be hoped that it will always be the prominent feature of all our performances.

Of our individuals, R. D. McMullen has had a very successful year, having been 4th in the National Championship; 2nd in the Surrey County 10 miles Championship; 2nd in the London Business Houses 7 mile Championship; 2nd in the Club 20 mile Championship, and 3rd in the Club 10 mile Championship. "Mac" is no chicken, but we hope he will assist us for some years to come.

On July 18th we are holding an inter-club walking competition. Four races will be held at 1 mile, 2 miles, 3 miles and 5 miles. No man may walk in more than one race, and each Club must start two men in each. For this we shall want two Club members for each distance, so will anyone wishing to be considered give his name to me, or one of the selection sub-committee.

Since our last issue F. Richards has once more won the Essex Long Distance Championship in 5h. 8m. 59s, so his "patent" training methods, known only to a chosen few, seem to be very effective.

A. H. Field and C. W. Redgrave competed in a six miles novices walk promoted by the Surrey W.C. The former led all the way and won by more than one and a half minutes whilst Redgrave finished 8th out of a field of 20. Their performances showed good promise.

Hon. Sec., S. L. KING, 3 Artillery Buildings,
Artillery Row, S.W.1.

BELGRAVE HARRIERS, 2½d. EACH.

What is all this about? It's all about this. Many members, perhaps, do not realize that the benefits and privileges of the *athletic*, *social* and *literary* sections of the Belgrave Harriers cost less than 2½d. per week. Surely this is not exorbitant!

Yet another reminder has had to be sent to those members who have not yet met their liabilities, and I should be pleased to receive ANY AMOUNT, AT ANY TIME, from them. It is equally to help the members, as much as myself, that I ask so

persistently, as after September I shall be "asking for it," but it will be TWICE AS MUCH, in most cases. Therefore, by helping me to clear the accounts, you will also be helping yourselves.

Further to this, and more seriously to you, is the fact that no entry for the coming Championship will be taken from a member in arrears.

Should private trouble be your excuse for delay in paying, it cannot be an excuse for not communicating with me in answer to my various appeals. Still, I am willing to help and advise any who will only approach me, and any confidence will be respected.

Promises I have had in abundance, but would a promise satisfy you after you had won a race. I don't think so! Yet all expect to see the prizes when they are competed for, and few handicaps cover their own costs

All I ask is, PAY or WRITE to me.

A. E. MACHER.

FUTURE FIXTURES.

The inter-club meeting fixed for June 27th has been postponed and on that Wednesday evening there will be team races at distances up to 2 miles (including a walk), between two teams composed of members with Middlesex and Surrey county qualifications respectively. No entry fees, and everybody will score. Support your county and send in your name

At the same meeting Oscar Horwood is putting on a ladies' 1 mile walk handicap for the benefit of members of the London Olympiades A.C. who cannot get up in scratch races.

Inter-club races (3rd series) are to be held at Croydon at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, July 3rd.

A meeting worth attending will be held at Battersea Park on Wednesday, July 18th, at 7 p.m., when inter-club scratch walks will be decided.

We have been invited to send a team to the Printers' Sports at Herne Hill on June 30th, to compete in a two miles team race for the "Jockey" Cup. On the same date another team will be sent to the Ravensbourne meeting for a 3-miles team race. Members wishing to be included in either of these teams should advise the Hon. Sec., Running Section:—

H. PARKER, 3 Artillery Buildings,
Artillery Row, S.W.1.

POINTS FROM ATHLETIC HISTORY.

Organised sports meetings had their origin, as far as we know, not in warm Southern climates with the sun shining on fast times, but nearer home in the damp mists of Ireland. There is evidence that the Tailtin games used to take place in that country as long ago as 3,000 years. These sports were known as the Lughnasad, and were called after a god—Lugaid of the Long Arm—who was traditionally supposed to have first “organised” the “meeting.” Lugaid was evidently of the same calibre as Hercules, and only such a character could have kept order among the barbarous competitors.

Roman games in which men of good birth competed for glory are better known. In these the first professionals, men of Roman lower classes, made their appearance in 5 B.C.—nearly 2,000 years ago. Philosophers of the day held that the new livelihood was bad for both mind and body or any individual who followed it; a belief which has persisted and become so strong in public opinion that pedestrianism has been driven almost out of existence.

In early English days when war was often a hand-to-hand skirmish with spear and axe, it was as training for the soldier that athletics played its part in the national life. But then, alas! there was no “Belgravian” or sporting journal to record the performances for posterity.

When monarchs feared that physical recreation among their subjects would lead to neglect of the practice of archery, some organised sports—e.g., putting the weight—were forbidden by law. Officially then, sport was confined to the nobility. It was recorded that Henry V. was “so swift a runner that he and two of his lords without bow or other engine, would take a wild buck in a large park.” Some sprinter was Henry! And bluff King Hal (the VIIIth) was proficient at throwing the hammer or, as they called it then, “casteing of the barre.”

The scenes familiar at the Bridge and on other grounds were unknown seventy or eighty years ago. The first programme on modern lines was in 1812, when running championships were introduced into the term sports of Sandhurst College. Although the path had been blazed, others were slow to follow until Rugby, Eton and Harrow each held their first Championships in 1840.

The first Oxford and Cambridge match in 1864 assisted progress and the Annual fixtures led to a Harvard *v.* Oxford match at Queen’s Club in 1894. The only International contests until 1896 had been between England, Ireland, Scotland and America, but in that year the first Olympiad was held at Athens.



