



FOUNDED 1887

MAY 1956

The  
**BELGRAVIAN**

The  
**Official Gazette**  
of the  
**Belgrave Harriers**

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

It is normally my practice to briefly review the Club's activities since the last issue, but as your President, Harry Shields, has contributed an article more or less on these lines, my editorial notes will therefore be brief.

One point however which Harry has not mentioned, are the grand performances which have been put up by one of our newer members Stan Vickers. Sixth in the National 10 miles Road Walking Championship and third in the Southern A.A.A.'s 7 miles Track Championship in his first year of racing are achievements which should certainly gladden our hearts and urge us to be constantly on the look out for new talent whether it be the runners, the field events men or the walkers,

An attractive programme of handicaps has been framed for the summer season and it is hoped that they will receive better support than last year when a number of them had to be cancelled owing to the lack of sufficient entries.

We regret to report the passing of Jim Chalk, one time member of the Club, who for many years now has been a familiar figure both at our Club meetings and on the Brighton Walk. In his younger days he was a walker of considerable merit and for many years has followed Belgrave with keen interest.

As I occupy the dual office of Hon. Editor and Hon. Treasurer, may I remind those who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year that I shall be pleased to receive a remittance from them as early as possible.

Hon. Editor.

THE WINTER SEASON 1956

It now seems an opportune time to look back on the past few months and to reflect on the Club's various activities with a view to amendments, and improvements for the future.

In general I think we should be frank and confess the season has been somewhat disappointing, and although with some highlights, it appears to me we are going through a chrysalis stage of formation and further development. My notes are just thoughts as they occur to me and are not intended in any personal way.

BELGRAVE HALL. The poor use made on Tuesday and Thursday evenings of the wonderful facilities available is indeed a matter for thought and a reflection on our coaching and similar schemes that the opportunity is not taken for classes in weight training, body building, technique improvement and so on.

Your Committee has already provided the framework on which to build and is always receptive to ideas and suggestions for improved impedimenta and equipment providing there is a reasonable guarantee that it will be used. Here is real scope for older and experienced members to transmit their knowledge and to create that intimate club life to which we should aim. The caretaker is always at the hall with tea and refreshments and by a little drive the whole thing can develop into a hive of athletic and social activity.

In visiting other clubs recently I have been most impressed by the use of training facilities not nearly approaching our own. Besides the normal training packs there were weight and physical training classes, each small section under the care of an instructor. These instructors need not be experts, but members who will seek the confidence of the younger men and while guiding and assisting, be prepared to amend and study to suit modern methods. The evening is then rounded off by a cup of tea and a chat before departing for home.

This state of affairs is not brought about by committee meetings, but by devotion of time and energy. Initial criticism and set backs are inevitable but from the small part already taking place there will be a snowball of interest and enthusiasm which will amply reward the pioneers.

**CROSS COUNTRY.** This is going through a difficult period. A great deal of this must be laid squarely at the door of our past Internationals, veterans and older members for not recognising it as a duty to organise our young men, particularly in the junior stages, and initiate them into the comradeship and team ideals which are the true enjoyment of the sport. I look forward to a grand tearing up of Veteran A.C. Membership Cards and by their support and energy develop the undoubted talent which the Club abundantly possesses. Another matter which has a bearing on Club morale, is that we should support prize giving at both Club and Open Championships and give a hand to the various winners. It is most wrong that we should slink away when we have no rewards and it is usually an occasion when we gather and meet members of other clubs.

**WALKING.** This has been fortunate in the help and encouragement of many sterling workers whose enthusiasm has transmitted itself to the whole section. Even here unceasing work must continue in communicating those high ideals zealously created by many grand Belgravians of past years.

In conclusion it is but right that our younger and less experienced members must look to our former Internationals and brilliant performers for help and guidance. The sure way of doing this is by coming to Belgrave Hall at least one night a week and by advice, encouragement and example, demonstrate the path they must follow. There will be discussions, disagreements, and set-backs but providing goodwill exists, nothing but benefit can result.

H.W. Shields.

#### MUSIC HATH CHARMS

A recent innovation in the activities of the Club is a series of gramophone recitals which are being arranged by the Social Committee with the co-operation of Arthur Whitehead. The recitals are held in the Committee Room at Belgrave Hall on Friday evenings at 7pm. No charge is made, ladies are invited and refreshments are provided at reasonable prices. Varied programmes are given each week which include classical music and jazz. The present session is due to finish on 11th May and suggestions for future recitals should be sent to D.Martin Shepherd.

ON THE BEATEN TRACK

Once more we start another track season, hopes and ambitions high. This year the Junior track men have a chance to make a name for themselves. They have two trophy meetings of their own so let us see them turning out in strength and show the Seniors that they are not the only ones who can win trophies.

The Seniors have to defend three trophies this year. Unfortunately two of these fall on the same day, but we can still retain these if everyone turns out.

To those club members not competing, I would say "Come along" Your support is needed to give our members the encouragement they deserve and need. It is always nice to hear a friendly voice from the rails when you are out in the middle.

One last thing - that old set of cries. If you have been sent a card and cannot turn out PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Also please remember that all entries for Club handicaps SHOULD be sent to Bill Lucas a week before the handicap.

Cheerio and happy hunting.

Ron Holtum.

FIELD EVENTS

Since the last issue of the Belgravian we have enrolled some new Field Events members and I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming them to the Club and to the Field Events Section in particular. To Norman Caves, Lawrence Brown, Hugh Batten, Alan Elliott and Peter McLean I send hearty greetings and wish them all every success in the Club.

Again we have been invited to compete in the Sward Trophy, the all Field Events meeting in May. Last year we failed by only half a point to bring the trophy home, the winning team only being decided in the last event and as we have not yet won this trophy I feel that if a special effort is made, we can pull it off, so go to it chaps, see what can be done and let people know that "Belgrave" is still a name to be reckoned with.

In addition we will be competing in the Kinraid, Brockman and other Trophy matches, so I should like to see entries for every event. I know we have the talent to do so.

It would be very nice to see Ted Gaworski and Diok Harris reach 50 feet and over in the weight. I am happy that Mal Ash will be giving us his valuable support this year. Percy Luxon - what about 24 feet this year. With two or three times reaching 23 feet 6 inches last year, there's no reason why you shouldn't find that extra six inches. Alan Law, G. Edwards, K.C. Key, P. Porter among others, turned in some good performances last year and I know that with that little extra effort they will bring honours their way this season.

If any member is interested or inclined towards Field Events, please write to me or Percy Luxon (Capt) or Ted Gaworski (Vice Capt.) for any details you may require as I feel if we all pull together we can make this our most successful season.

Bill Merryman.

LONG DISTANCE ROAD RUNNING

The 1956 season opened with the Wigmore 15 on March 24th, details of which are reported later in this issue. There does not seem to be such a clash of fixtures in May this year as there has been in the past few seasons, so I look forward to

full teams for every race. In between times, let us all get out training together at Belgrave Hall on Tuesday evenings. I can assure you it is great fun and will really get you fit

Socially, the Section held a "Sausage and Mash" supper at Belgrave Hall and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Although the section has been rather quiet during the past three months, your Road Captain went on a lone trip to the far north east on the last day of 1955 for the Morpeth-Newcastle classic and finished 16th in q hr. 12mins. 42 secs.

All the best for the coming season.

Your Road Captain.

#### COACHING

Last year we had to say good bye to Franz Stampfl whose assistance we have had for the past few years, he having taken an appointment in Australia. Most of the Club Coaches had been working with him during this time and have benefitted from his help and enthusiasm.

Frank Simmons particularly, worked in close co-operation with him and will be carrying on in the coming season with the added benefit of the course he took at Loughborough last year. George Isaac also attended at Loughborough.

From now onwards the Club Coaches will be in regular attendance at the various tracks. All members are urged to get into contact with them, either direct or through the Section Captains and this particularly applies to new members who will find their planned training schedules and experience in all fields of our sport of considerable benefit to them.

Walkers will be at Battersea Park under Don Brown. Charlie Smart, with the accent on people who are particularly interested in the 3 and 6 miles events, will be operating at Hurlingham. Colin Collis will be at Tooting Bec on the usual training days. Our home track being Battersea Park, the majority of the coaches will be there on Sunday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Micky Pyer makes a speciality of looking after our very young members up to the time they are old enough to compete in Youths' events. He can give them good grounding in all running and Field Events. Frank Simmons will concentrate mainly on sprints and relay and George Isaac the middle distances. This year, Stan Davies who has been a member of our Cross Country teams and has run the middle distances on the track, will be an additional coach for the milers and half milers.

I shall be looking after the jumping events and hurdles. Although Ted Gaworski is himself still an active competitor, he will be only too glad to take any shot putters and discus men in hand. He and Percy Porter, also active, will be able to give tips to any budding hammer throwers.

From the above it will be seen that we can cover all events, but if there are any Club members whose active days are over I should be only too glad to hear from them if they would like to become a coach as we can always do with more.

All enquiries regarding coaching should be made to T.C. Jones, y, Broomwood Road, London, S.W.11.

Charlie Jones.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' MEDAL COMPETITION

The Boys' and Youths' Medal Competition which has now been in being for two years, will once again be held this year, when I hope it will receive a little better support. With the very small amount of competition for our very young members, there should be a great demand for a competition of this sort and I am looking forward to some big entries this year. By the time you receive this magazine, the first event will probably have been held, but as there are still five more and the medals are awarded for the best aggregate in four events, there is plenty of time for you to join in.

Just to refresh your memories, the events are 100 yards, 880 yards, High Jump, Long Jump, Weight Put and Javelin. The boys events are arranged on handicap according to age, and the youths, who must be over 15 and under 17 years of age, are all off scratch. If you would like any further information, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

I would like to see more boys at Battersea Park on Sunday mornings. For those who are particularly interested, tuition and coaching are now being given in hurdling, although this event will not, as yet, come in the competition.

All enquiries should be addressed to A.D. Pyer, 57, Victoria Rise, S.W.4.

Micky Pyer.

NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year the Race Course at Warwick was selected as the venue for the Championships which were held on March 3rd.

The Course, despite the heavy rain in the morning, proved to be extremely fast, consisting mainly of grass land with one water jump.

In the first event of the day, the Youths' Race, which was run over three miles, Charlie Dabbs once again showed very promising form by finishing 7th. This position out of such a huge field must be considered a really excellent performance and we hope to see Charlie continuing this fine form for many seasons. Unfortunately we had to wait until 184th position for our next scorer which meant that the team could finish no higher than 34th.

The Senior Race run over a distance of 9 miles, was the next event. After being the leading Belgrave runner for a considerable distance, Peter Bagnall was passed in the last lap by Jack Brown who ran extremely well to finish 52nd. Charlie Walker suffering from the effects of a cold, hung on well to finish three places behind Peter in 63rd position, with Dave Baulch, 72nd showing some of his previous form. Behind Dave we had a rather large gap, but nevertheless the team were well backed up by Eric Gebbett and Eddie Short. The team showed up well by finishing 7th out of 50 clubs who actually closed in a team. "Jumbo" Masters never looked at all happy during the early part of the race, but we were most surprised to find that he did not appear at the end of the second lap. Apparently he had trouble with his shoes after going through the water jump. It would be a good thing if more of our runners ensured that their footwear was really secure before starting these long distance cross country events, as so much depends on all members finishing.

Lastly came the Junior Race which was run over 2 laps of the same course, a distance of six miles. George Flanagan

running his usual consistent race finished in 40th position, closely followed by Gerry Lines who was 47th. With G. Stevens running very well to finish 88th and Dave Hooper 134th, the team can be said to have done very well to finish 13th out of 44 teams who closed in.

The runners were well supported by Club Officials and spectators, but special mention must be made of Arthur Whitehead and his travelling hospital-cum-cookhouse. Arthur's Dormobile is becoming a well known haven of refreshment during and at the end of many distance races.

Results: Senior - J. Brown 52, P. Bagnall 60, C. Walker 63,  
D. Baulch 72, E. Gebbett 143, E. Short 161,  
C. Roffey 177, B. Trower 255.

Team Position - 7th.

Junior - G. Flanagan 40, G. Lines 47, G. Stevens 88,  
D. Hooper 134, W. Couzens 162, P. Pepe 219,  
Team position - 13th.

Youths - C. Dabbs 7th, J. Radford 184, J. Frost 233,  
T. Gowar 270, D. Taylor 325.  
Team position - 34th.

Len Bishop.

#### NATIONAL 10 MILES ROAD WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP

At Regents Park on 10th March, the 10 Miles Championship was held once again.

We started three teams and although our "A" Team was on paper, the strongest for some years, it was doubtful whether we, or in fact any other club, would be able to upset Sheffield's run of success. We had great hopes however, of a placing with Stan Vickers, and Eric Hall, Kent and Surrey Champions, Syd James and in the Surrey, George Checkley 5th in the Middlesex and Bob McMullen back from Canada and showing something like his old form, together with George Beecham, young Terry Clark and Ted Smith.

236 lined up for the start and Vickers and Hall were seen to be well placed shortly afterwards behind Hardy, Coleman, Hawkins, Poole and others. On the return from the Inner Circle, after about a mile, it was seen that we had lost McMullen. Sheffield were showing overwhelmingly in the first 25 but we had four or five well up and were in a position for a place with Woodford, Met and Highgate.

Hardy led Coleman, Hawkins and Evans, and Allen in the first Outer Circle lap. At the first check at about four miles Stan Vickers was going well in 8th position about a minute behind the leader. Eric Hall was two placed behind but by this time we had suffered a further loss in Checkley. Syd James was further back than we expected, with Ted Smith making up our team in 33rd position. Our other teams were walking quite well and it was pleasing to see a new member, Tony Luck (not yet qualified for our teams) in the first 50. A quick check of scores showed Sheffield 28 points, Highgate 42, Met. 58 and ourselves 76 having dropped behind Met. owing to losing Checkley.

On the second lap we hoped for Syd James and Ted Smith to move up but at the 6 miles check it was seen that our chances were fading as they had both dropped, being 31st and 40th. Stan Vickers was however, walking magnificently in top class company having now moved up to 7th position, less than two minutes

behind Hardy with Eric Hall holding his 9th place. Our team placing was 5th, Woodford having overtaken us. Tony Luck had moved up steadily and young Norman Milsom was showing good form and our President was having his usual battle with the speed merchants.

The finish this time was in the Broad Walk and not as in 1950 on the Outer Circle Road. It was Hardy's race, but Coleman had walked away from Hawkins and was only half a minute down. We anxiously awaited the first Belgravian who proved to be Stan Vickers in 6th position having moved up another place on this lap. He finished strongly and had put up a grand performance in his first National. Eric Hall looking rather tired had held his 9th place but Syd James and Ted Smith had dropped still further, Tony Luck had split them, finishing 39th. Norman Milsom had just held of Doub to be the first of our "B" Team. Bert East and Logan had a dust up for 173rd position followed by our second claim member Tubby Gittins.

Sheffield proved themselves once again unbeatable. There were only three points in it between Higgate and Met. for 2nd and 3rd place and we retained our 5th place behind Woodford. Congratulations to Sheffield once again and also for equalling our own performance in winning in the same year one of the National Walk titles and the National Cross Country Championship. We have, however, accomplished this feat on two occasions.

Results:	1. R. Hardy	74.31	47. E. Smith	85.28
	6. S. Vickers	78.07	56. G. Beecham	86.07
	9. E. Hall	79.25	94. N. Milsom	88.22
	35. S. James	83.07	85. G. Doubleday	88.28
	39. A. Luck	83.40	89. D. Fotheringham	88.46
	43. T. Clark	84.46	105. C. Yeawombe	90.05.

Stan Vickers, by his first Belgrave placing in this race, becomes this year's holder of the Frank Thomson Cup.

Charlie Jones.

#### PAARLAUF - XMAS EVE - 1955

This event attracted an entry of eleven teams. With the exception of second claim members Bill Bird and Jim Edgar, the pairings were made by a draw. Dispensing with the usual method of starting, Arthur Whitehead and Arthur Penstone had rigged up a small explosive charge inside a dustbin and the explosion which started the race brought memorise of the war when the Common was an exercise ground for the Army.

The end of the first lap saw George Stace and Len Bishop were leading with several other teams within striking distance. This pair however, could not maintain their position and soon a terrific battle was taking place with Eric Gebbet paired that Alan Black and Bill Bird paired with Jim Edgar. This duel ended suddenly after the fourth lap when Gebbett and Black drew away to a comfortable lead having run their rivals into the ground. Eric and Alan Bishop who were fourth at the start, moved up to 2nd place having run an extremely well judged race. The positions of the other pairs changed very little throughout the event.

The event record of 6 miles, 145 yards was well beaten with Gebbett and Black covering 6 miles 473 yards and the following four teams also getting inside the old figures. After the race competitors and officials went to Arthur Whitehead's place where hot punch and mince pies had been laid on. This part of the afternoon's proceedings was enjoyed by everyone and rounded off a most pleasant event.

Ron Linstead.

BOXING DAY HANDICAP MEETING

This traditional fixture was held at Battersea Park Track in the morning as usual. It was on the wet and windy side and the track was muddy.

When the heats for the 120 yards sprint were over, the walkers lined up for their three miles. The limit man, Charlie Speechley, led the way off and at about half way one lap covered the field. With two laps to go, Stan Vickers (50 secs.) who improves every time out, was in the lead hotly pursued by the scratch man E.Hall. They were well away from the field and Hall's superior speed took him first past the post with Vickers two seconds behind. G. Doubleday (2.35) managed to keep Bob Newson away for third place. The winner's time was 22 mins. 56 secs. and it was pleasing to see our President a proud competitor.

The sprint final was a very close affair, D. Garter, (5 yards) was just ahead of A. Law (7 yds), both being timed at 12.2secs. J. Kemp (4½yds) held off the scratch man D. Merrett for third place.

In the two miles run S. Boreham (380 yards) was a comfortable winner in 9mins. 12secs. There was a terrific tussle for the placings, G. Davidson (150 yds) putting in a well judged finish to beat E. Paterson (200 yds.) by one second. The scratch man Jack Brown was unable to get to grips with the field and was timed in at 9mins. 39.2secs in fifteenth position.

We cannot keep our Field Events men out of the picture these days and they were busy putting the weight. R.Harris (scratch) won with a very good out of season putt of 44ft. 3ins. R. Glenn (10ft) beating our other scratch man E. Gaworski by a few inches, their distances being 42ft 9ins. and 42ft 5ins respectively. This auger well for the next summer.

Finally a word of thanks to the Club Officials who disengaged themselves from their festivities to help at the meeting.

Doub.

SURREY COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

"Shot of ordnance off. Exeunt, carrying bodies". The concluding words of "Hamlet" are only too suitable for the occasion. The damp, miserable, foggy weather was an outward sign of what Belgravians were feeling as they left the forbidding barrack buildings of Caterham Guards Depot on the first Saturday in January.

The programme showed ten Belgrave names for the Junior race, but nine of these were "ghosts". Only Dave Hooper showed up in Belgrave colours at the start. The course was heavy and this combined with the fact that he had no team to support him accounts for the fact that Dave could not improve on the previous year's performance and was 29th.

The Club had nine starters in the Senior Race, compared with 15 last year. Chas. Walker, Jack Braughton, and Archie Bedford were among the non-starters and of those who were running only two were in full training.

Half way round the first lap, Bagnall, Paterson, Short, Masters and Baulch were all between 20th and 30th in that order and Gebbett and Trower were in the next dozen. Had they all pulled through in Belgrave style all would have been well, but the reverse happened. At the end of the first lap (2½ miles), Bagnall

had dropped 9 places, Baulch 8 and Peterson 6 and Short who had maintained 24th position was our first man. Masters was 26th and Gebbett had moved up to 30th, just behind Bagnall.

At the half way stage Short had improved to 22nd Bagnall and Gebbett were still 28th and 30th, Paterson and Baulch had dropped and Trower was now in front of the latter in 36th position. Where was "Jumbo"? Along he came now 40th and obviously suffering from his calf injury. The end of lap two saw little change except that Masters was dropping badly and appeared unlikely to finish. He pulled out soon afterwards. It was now becoming obvious that the team had "had it" but one bright feature was the running of I. Edmunds. He had been back in the seventies early on but each time we saw him he was further up and was now 48th.

Half way round the last lap it was noticed that even Pete Bagnall's stamina is not sufficient to run such a race on the small amount of training he has been able to manage. He was staggering along in 33rd place and Paterson, 39th was another patently unfit. Edmunds was now fast closing on the latter who was running with Baulch.

So to the finish with Bagnall and Paterson still losing ground, but the rest holding on.

Pete Bagnall was very ill after the race but the warmth of the NAAFI, and several cups of tea and Horlicks, as supplied to many Olympic teams, put him on his feet again and he was able to drive his motor cycle home in his usual "safe" way. By the way, don't let it be known, but we were placed 6th behind Herne Hill, South London, Walton, Surrey A.C. and Sutton and Cheam.

C.N.S.

#### MITCHAM 15

Although we knew there would be some non-starters we hoped to have a fairly strong team for this event which was held on a cold and rather windy 14th January, when Eric Gebbett arrived with a cold, Jack Brown failed to arrive at all and our hopes rapidly dwindled.

A record field of over 200 started and at the end of the first lap of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles Eric was seen to be just behind the leaders despite his pre-race assurance that he "was not going to go with them". Next came Eric Bishop closely followed by Alan and somewhere in the forties Eddie Short and Brian Trower side by side. Bob Plummer was about 100th followed by Wally Wortley and Charlie Manning.

At  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles the field had sorted itself out and Eric Gebbett was found to be in 13th position, running with two others and showing no signs of the ill effects of his cold. Eddie Short 28th, looked fairly happy and so did Eric and Alan Bishop who were now 32nd and 45th respectively. Between them was Brian Trower who shouted out that he was going to retire, but the reception given to his remark made him decide to finish the course.

At the finish Eric Gebbett had shaken off one of his adversaries, but Joyce of Epsom and Ewell deprived him of 12th place on the run in. Next we saw Eddie Short who was almost walking owing to cramp. This cost him five or six places, but he still managed 27th position. Eric Bishop was next in 31st position and Bob Plummer 35th. Our "A" Team was placed 6th out of 35 teams with a total of 68 points.

The winner was O'Gorman of St. Albans in a very good time and Mitcham won the team race by one point from Herne Hill.

YOUTHS 3½ MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

In the Youths Cross Country Championship held at Wimbledon on 21st January, Charlie Dabbs, the Surrey Youth Champion won easily finishing 1½ minutes in front of T. Gower, a time which only Langridge of South London has beaten over this course. Alan Black who finished third was unfortunate in going off the course at the half way stage and lost some 200 yards as a result. It is rather surprising that of all the young members we are taking into the Club, only five turned out for this race. Is it lack of encouragement by the coaches and older members? Last but by no means least was 14 years old John Meakin, a potential winner of this event in a couple of years time.

R. Linstead

SENIOR 10 MILES CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

On the customary last Saturday in January, Jack Brown, for the seventh year in succession, won the ten miles Championship. He was accompanied over the first five miles by Pat Newell, followed by Walker, Bagnall, Short and Gebbett, but at this stage Short retired. At seven miles Jack Brown began to pull away and eventuall won by 100 yards. The handicap was won by S. Boreham with J. Szkucik 2nd and P. Newell 3rd.

Result: 1. J. Brown	53.57	11. P. Hitchcock	58.20
2. P. Newell	54.17	12. G. Stace	58.20
3. C. Walker	54.52	13. D. Abbott	58.47
4. P. Bagnall	55.15	14. G. Biscoe	59. 5
5. G. Davidson	56. 7	15. J. Burr	59.26
6. E. Gebbett	56.17	16. A. Bruce	59.39
7. B. Trower	57.11	17. I. Edmunds	59.41
8. C. Roffey	57.32	18. W. Bird	60.16
9. E. Bishop	57.50	19. H. Boreham	60.17
10. G. Goode	58. 5	20. D. Jones	60.35

SOUTH OF THAMES 7½ MILES SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

P.G. NEWELL

Having turned out an invincible 12 men last year in this race it was to be expected that we should not do quite so well this year. The event was held on 4th February and on paper we had quite a useful team capable of being placed. Alas however, what is fast becoming habit, we did not field our best team, neither did we field a full team of 12 men. I am quite sure we start races feeling fed up over things like this. We cannot shoot the selectors but we can give a broadside to the lads who do not reply to cards and those that plainly let us down.

The course at West Wickham was well conceived and consisted of one small lap and two identical larger ones giving spectators a good view of the race. Considering the freeze up and subsequent thaw, the going was good although the sheltered paths in the woods were pretty hard. These paths constituted the hilly part of the course and seemed a difficult proposition for the runners wearing long spikes and coach spikes.

Altogether 23 clubs comprising 219 runners started and our position of 11th was reasonable bearing in mind all the circumstances. Our individual positions were G. Lines 53, E. Bishop 63, D. Hooper 69, D. Abbott 74, C. Shippen 97, J. Heathfield 100, E. Edmonds 104, G. Biscoe 120, D. Jones 145.

Even with these runners some of the placings are unrealistic considering the potential ability of some of them. It was good however to see Lines getting back into form and if this is significant, he will surely be making our "A" team comfortably in the near future.

To sum up I think we must be a little reconciled for a while to the ravages of the three "Ls" - Lessons, Love and Loitering and also hope that running tracks of the future will have laps of one mile and uphill straights of at least 300 yards.

Denis Brickwood.

ILFORD ROAD RELAY - MARCH 10TH 1956  
By "Olympian"

This was the 22nd race of its kind over a course which has become familiar to the majority of road running types in the London area and Belgrave were attempting to notch once again their name on the trophy which they have won six times since the inception of the event. They failed to do so through no fault of any of the runners present for these stalwarts strove bravely to gain one of the honours which have in the past come comparatively easily to the club but which this year have completely eluded us. Perhaps the members who were expected to be present and had not the courtesy to inform their officials will have some small feelings of remorse when they are aware that at one stage of the race Belgrave were in the lead by no less than 500 yards but could not maintain such an overwhelming advantage in the later stages when "B" team runners were expected to oppose the might of Essex Beagles, Poly, Herne Hill, Finchley and T.V.H. That we finished fourth under such circumstances speaks well for the determined manner in which the reserves tackled their task.

The race itself was run under good conditions beneath a clear sky, and with sufficient sunshine to make every one feel the joy of living. The course was slightly changed to avoid road works which added approximately 150 yards to the usual distance.

Dave Baulch on the first leg gave us an encouraging start by finishing fourth. Pete Bagnall on the second stage held on to this position behind Eastleigh, St. Albans and Finchley, Eastleigh having surprisingly maintained their lead given to them by their very promising performer Dobson. Jack Brown soon passed this club on the third leg and went right away from the field to give us a lead of 63 seconds. George Davidson ran well on the 4th section and put us even further in front. Poly through an excellent run by Richards, moved up to second followed by Herne Hill. T.V.H. who were expected to win were still recovering from a disastrous run on the first leg but were slowly coming into the picture. On the 5th stage Eric Gebbett ran steadily but Herne Hill had Jack Heywood and Finchley young Salvatt and our lead was whittled down to 37 seconds.

Cliff Roffey was most disappointing on the sixth leg and although keeping the lead was only 9 seconds ahead of Howell of Finchley. Geoff Goode was entrusted, in the absence of more prominent "A" team members, with the 7th stage but had to give way to Finchley, Essex Beagles and Herne Hill who had come into the race through Ron Clark. Colin Colis running with excellent judgment soon set about the three clubs ahead and slowly broke

down the opposition taking us into the lead by 7 seconds over Essex Beagles. Len Bishop also coming into the team as a reserve, had the unenviable task of coping with Douglas of the Beagles and Ralph Dunkley of the Poly and although he drove himself to the last ounce, he was forced to give ground to this pair and to Porter of Finchley and we were once more back to fourth. Speculation ran high as to whether Charlie Walker could pull the fat out of the fire on the last circuit but unfortunately it was one of those days when Charlie becomes a frustrating enigma to his supporters. For the first half of his leg he lost ground at an alarming rate, however by continuous encouragement from Club supporters in cars and on motor scooters, he pulled himself together and began to close rapidly on North of Finchley. It was however a belated effort and no further progress from fourth position was made. Knight incidentally put up the fastest time of the day (17.46) in passing Evans of the Poly and chalked up a win for the Beagles for the second year in succession.

Result: 1. Essex Beagles 3hrs. 13m. 25s.  
4. Belgrave H. 3hrs. 13m. 37s.

Note: Belgrave still hold the course record of 3h 6m.1s. set up in 1954.

Unfortunately through lack of numbers, the "B" team were deprived of a set of medals for the first "B" team to finish. At the end of the seventh stage when we ran out of men, we were well ahead of the other "B" teams and with the help of those who were moved up to the "A" team would without doubt have been easy winners. The best performances of the "B" team were by Lines and Hooper who ran on the 1st and 2nd legs and produced 19.54 and 19.55, faster than two of the "A" team runners.

#### 5½ MILES ROAD RACE - MARCH 24TH



GEORGE FLANAGAN

38 runners faced the starter on an afternoon almost ideal for the road. This race has become by popular consent to be known as the "Brighton Trial" and undoubtedly a number of the participants anxious to gain a place in the National London to Brighton team were suffering with butterflies in the tummy knowing that this was probably their last chance to make the grade.

Charlie Walker took the lead quickly, with Baulch, Bagnall and Flanagan on his heels. Round the first lap of the Common, Flanagan went to the front but was not allowed to keep his nose ahead for long. These four opened up a short gap from George Davidson. When the second lap of the Common was completed, Walker was again leading and Flanagan was beginning to feel the effects of the fast pace. The position of the leaders was maintained down Copse Hill but it was noticeable that Archie Bedford, Charlie Smart and Denis Erickwood, who had all made a steady start, were making progress through the field.

On turning into Cambridge Road, Dave Baulch and Pete Bagnall pulled away slightly from Charlie Walker and these three were then some forty yards ahead of Davidson, Flanagan and Bishop. At the top of the hills however, the picture had completely changed and Charlie by some excellent running had a comfortable

30 yards lead, slowly gaining round the last lap of the Common to come home an easy winner. Baulch stayed ahead of Bagnall, but these three had left the rest of the field well behind. Len Bishop showed a welcome return to form in taking 4th place and George Flanagan who should have a promising future occupied 5th place. Tooby was running far ahead of his Ilford showing but Short showed little or no enthusiasm for his running. Masters, despite the amount of training he puts in (often of the wrong type I fear) was most disappointing and must change his attitude of mind if he hopes to make the progress he showed a year or two ago.

On the whole times were poor. With the general trend in athletics over the past few years giving rise to much faster performances, those of Belgrave make no headway and the final result gives little or no justification for any optimism as to the result of the Blue Riband race, which when you read this will already be to hand.

Bill Speaight, a veteran and second claim member was an easy winner of the handicap, with Len Rolls another vet. second and young Gowar, a lad who looks about 20 but is only 16, 3rd. With perseverance and the right type of training he could well be a future champion.

First twelve times are as follows:-

1. C. Walker	28.44	7. R. Hooper	29.50
2. D. Baulch	29.00	8. A. Bedford	30.11
3. P. Bagnall	29.07	9. R. Tooby	30.20
4. L. Bishop	29.30	10. E. Short	30.28
5. G. Flanagan	29.37	11. J. Masters	30.37
6. G. Davidson	29.50	12. G. Goode	30.40

#### WIGMORE HARRIERS OPEN 15 MILES - MARCH 24TH

On the same day as the road run at Wimbledon, a party of road runners competed in the opening road run of the season under good conditions at Parliament Hill.

Our team was weakened once again by the fact that Colin Collis was still unable to run but they performed quite well and finished in 5th position.

Individually we found Eric Gebbett giving one of his usually fine performances to finish 9th in 1hr. 25m. 22secs. after being well up for the first 10 miles. The other scoring men were Bob Plummer in 39th position and Arthur Penstone 41st.

It was good to see Arthur perform so well as with his time he was some seven minutes faster than ever before. Bob Plummer did not probably run quite up to form. Others to complete the course were Freddie Bradnum 53rd, Wally Wortley 61st and Alan Bishop 82. Ivor Edmonds started but was suffering from a rather badly swollen leg and decided to drop out at 9 miles.

A Competitor.

#### WITH THE WALKERS

So far this season our walkers have had a very busy time and have also been giving a good account of themselves. Whilst not always getting up into the first three scratch teams, the majority of them have shown gradual improvement during the course of the season and with the majority of them still being on the young side, there is every reason to look for further improvement as time goes on. A big asset this season has been the assistance of Stan Vickers who is undoubtedly going to be a very

useful member for a long time to come. His achievement in tying for first place in the "Garnet" Cup and winning the Frank Thomson Cup in his first year of racing is something which will take some beating. Added to this he has won the Kent County Championship and the Stock Exchange Championship and looks all set for many more successes in the future.

Our "Garnet" Cup double win was very encouraging as also were the performances of those who were outside the winning team and will have their chance next year.

Our distance men are now down to very serious training and we look forward to some pleasing results during the coming months.

Congratulations must also go to George Checkley, who, after his disappointing disqualification in the R.W.A. National 10, travelled to Eastleigh a few days later and won the National Police 10 Miles Championship against all the usual London opposition.

Although we are getting good support for mid-week training at Wimbledon, there are still some who are not turning up. The only sure way to success, whether it be on track or road, is by getting out together regularly every week.

MATCH v SURREY W.C. and STOCK EXCHANGE  
December 31st

---

The last day of the old year gave us cold weather with bright sunshine for a triangular match again our old friends Surrey W.C. and the Stock Exchange Walkers.

A fast start saw Ron West in the lead round the Common. He was closely followed by Eric Hall and the constantly improving Stan Vickers who had changed from his usual claret and gold to those of the Stock Exchange for the afternoon. Hipkins of the Stock Exchange was also up with the leaders and down Copse Hill the positions remained unchanged with Dicky Green, another 'Change walker, Bob Newson and Tony Clark closely following those out in front.

Although Surrey W.C. had no one up with the 'speed' merchants, they were packing well not far behind and were obviously going to give a good account of themselves.

On reaching the Common for the second time, the leaders were well away from the rest of the field. Eric who had wisely let Ron West do the spade work, now took the lead and piled on the pace, with Vickers and Hipkins holding third and fourth positions. Bob Newson had now moved up and was fighting Dicky Green for another place, whilst Terry Clark and Hall of Surrey W.C. were also engaged in another private battle.

Unfortunately Ron West suffered disqualification going down the slope of Woodhayes Road after leaving the Common and left Eric with a comfortable lead for the rest of the seven miles course. He won in fast time by about 100 yards and was followed home by Stan Vickers. Hipkins took third place after holding off a fighting finish by Bob Newson.

It was good to see Dave McMullen back in circulation once again so soon after his return from the wild open spaces of Canada. We are expecting to see a lot more of you Mac.

The standard of walking was generally good throughout the race and it was agreed by all that a grand afternoon's sport is a fitting climax to 1955. Results were as follows:-

1. E. Hall	55.46	13. D. Fotheringham	61.53
2. S. Vickers	56.18	14. G. Beecham	61.54
3. T. Hipkins	57.05	17. D. McMullen	62.43
4. R. Newson	57.14	20. T. Luck	63.16
6. E. Smith	58.34	21. R. Garwood	63.24
8. T. Clark	59.14	22. G. Doubleday	63.47
12. H. McGreechan	61.14	23. H. Shields	64.31

Belgrave 214 pts  
Belgrave 78 pts

Surrey W.C. 314 pts.  
Stock Exchange 93 pts.

The handicap resulted in a win for Terry Clark with an allowance of 4m.15s with R. Garwood (8.20) wnd and S. Vickers (1m) 3rd. Handicap prizes were also awarded to Surrey W.C. and were won by T. Hipkins, R. Geen, and D. Griggs.

Don Brown.

#### MET. POLICE OPEN 7 MILES - JANUARY 14TH

Following our wholesale scoop of handicap prizes in our own Open in November, it was surprising that we found ourselves again amongst the handicap winners in the popular Met. Police Open at Imber Court on 14th January.

Although we just missed a place in the scratch team event, Eric Hall walked exceedingly well to finish in fourth position behind three really first class walkers in Hawkins, Coleman and Poole on a course which is probably the fastest one in the south. Stan Vickers still continued to show improvement finishing in 11th position. Unfortunately George Checkley was far from fit and was much further back than he should have been. Don Fotheringham walked well to finish inside the hour and work his way into the third handicap team accompanied by Stan Vickers, Eric Hall and Ted Smith.

#### MATCH v CAMBRIDGE H. - JANUARY 21ST

A small team, having regard to the strength of Cambridge Harriers, travelled to Bexley on 21st January for a race over 10 miles. Cambridge were only able to muster five walkers, one of whom was Ron West, one of our second claim members.

The race resulted in a win for Eric Hall who finished nearly a minute and a half in front of Stan Vickers, the latter being followed home by Ron West.

The match, 5 a side, resulted in a win for us by 19 points to 35.

#### CLUB 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

The Club 10 Miles Championship for the "Murphy" Shield again resulted in a win for Eric Hall. Unfortunately Stan Vickers was committed to the Stock Exchange Championship at Regents Park which he won in no mean style, and was thus prevented from contesting Eric.

Ron West, a second claim member who was walking in the handicap which was held in conjunction, walked an exceptional good race to beat Eric for first place. George Checkley, rapidly coming back to form was a good second, with Syd James 3rd.

Handicap prizes went to the faster men. Bob McMullen with a generous 5 minutes, took first prize, with Ron West 2nd and Ted Smith 3rd.

## Result:

1.* R. West	78.59	12. R. Garwood	89.55
2. E. Hall	79.34	13. H. Shields	92.13
3. G. Checkley	82.00	14. N. Milsum	92.17
4. S. James	82.20	15. W. True	93.14
5. R. McMullen	82.45	16. C. Yescombe	94.03
6. E. Smith	83.07	17. W. Ferguson	95.21
7. G. Beecham	86.57	18. D. Logan	97.29
8. L. Demmon	87.15	20. C. Gittens	99.45
9. H. McGreechan	88.40	21. A. East	102.56
10. D. Fotheringham	89.27	24. P. Wilson	107.05
11. G. Doubleday	89.43		

A match with the Police resulted in a win by 46 points to 88.

#### 10 MILES SOUTHERN ROAD WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP

On 4th February a coach load of "Bels" consisting of twelve walkers and twelve supporters, made the trip to Trowbridge for the "Garnet" Cup Championship.

An otherwise pleasant journey was marred by Stan Vickers continually producing newspaper cuttings and cables purporting to describe his past feats in walking. There was however some justification for this as he had been tipped as the likely winner. We had one stop on the way down when some of the lads bought 'ham sandwiches' - two slices of 1955 bread and one slice of leather. We eventually reached the venue quite safely and were there joined by Terry Clark who had travelled by rule of thumb, and were ready to take on all comers.

Rumour had it, that Trobridge was the coldest place in England and although we expected to find the roads snow bound, they were in fact in quite good condition, and the weather was exceedingly good.

The field was away dead on time, which was a very pleasant change to the usual run of things, despite the fact that the start was about half a mile from the dressing rooms.

A welcome arrival, complete with car, was Bill Payne, one of our running members who is at present living down Swindon way and had run across to Trowbridge to give a hand in whipping up our walkers round the course.

In the early stages Hutchison of Met. W.C. shot away into the lead, but Stan Vickers, accompanied by Evans of Highgate, was soon on his tail, and in fact remained there throughout the race. Ted Smith was not far behind with Len Demmon and Terry Clark moving up to complete the scoring four.

At 3 miles the lads were holding their own and even at this stage it looked as though the team race was in the bag. With 7 miles over, we were scoring 2, 8, 11 and 12, with our 5th man not far behind in case of trouble. Stan still kept on the tail of Hutchison and with our other three still maintaining their positions, the farther they went, the more certain looked the victory. Ted Smith dropped back slightly, but came back again to finish 9th, with Terry 11th and Len Demmon 12th. Excitement reached fever pitch as the two leaders, who had by then dropped Evans, came up the home straight almost neck and neck and but for a slight misunderstanding amongst the officials at the end, Stan would probably have gained sole individual honours, instead of which the race was declared a dead heat. It was soon obvious that

the result of the team race was in no doubt.

This was a day of fine performances in the claret and gold for our fifth man home was Trevor Luck, not yet eligible for the team and therefore walking as an individual. He was closely followed by Fotheringham and it was obvious that we already have the nucleus of our next year's team.

The journey home was a merry one and en route, other "Garnets" were recalled from Harry Evans in 1907 to Syd Roberts and Doub in 1939. Opinions on the merits of the present year's team as compared to 1939 were very varied. The result shows that our walkers are getting down to regular training and are keen to carry the Belgrave colours to the very front once again. They deserved their win and had the pleasure of bringing home the first big win of 1956.

During the journey home, whether it was due to the over-excitement as a result of the victory or the cold, certainly nothing else for we had not then stopped, Bill Trus passed out and we came to a halt miles from anywhere whilst he was resuscitated with fresh air. We then pressed on to Maidenhead where the cup was truly christened with a bottle of champagne and only the production of the cork, which was afterwards 'presented' to Stan Vickers, convinced a certain female member of the party that it wasn't cider.

So ended a good day with Belgrave on top.

George Eric.

Times and placings of our walkers were as follows:

1. S. Vickers	78.52	35. N. Milsum	90.29
R. Hutchison	78.52	37. R. Garwood	91.33
9. E. Smith	83.55	39. W. True	91.58
11. T. Clark	84.53	41. C. Yescombe	92.18
12. L. Demmon	85.00	70. H. Reid	97.54
19. T. Luck	86.51	74. D. Logan	98.53
23. D. Fotheringham	88.15	81. G. Plaice	102.04

#### MATCH v LONDON VIDARIANS - March 17th

For once we had a good day and a good field for our annual match with the London Vidarians, coupled with a few visitors from Woodford Green and the Police.

From a leisurely start, the field sorted itself out into three packs, fast, medium and slow. Noticeable members of the latter pack were Harry Shields and George Beecham, holding a lively discussion on George's latest acquisition in gent's natty waistcoats, a superb creation in green and black satin, but not being worn during the race.

At 5 miles, Eric Hall, George Checkley, Davis of Woodford Green and Bob McMullen led the field with Beecham moving up. Harry was still hanging back, but catching sight of Fred Rolfe and Doub he put on pressure and soon passed them. The effort however was too great for him and his language when offered the wrong drinks on one occasion was certainly not in keeping with his Presidential position.

Meanwhile Eric and George Checkley had moved away from the rest of the field at a fast pace but at 12 miles the pressure began to tell on George, which was only to be expected as he had won the Police National 10 the Thursday before. Harry

was still trying to catch George Beecham, probably wanting to learn more about waistcoats. Fred Rolfe walked his fastest 15 and won the handicap. Eric Hall was first man home, three minutes faster than last year, and George Checkley was second, also guilty of walking his fastest 15. Bob Readman, Sid Spencer, Gerry Plaice and Cyril Yescombe were noticed having a steady training spin, probably discussing the advantages or disadvantages of Constabulary duties and civilian life, and Bernard Stevenson had a few behind him this time.

The lazy ones rode round in "Baron" Robins car and gave drinks to all and sundry. We won the match and a good day was had by all.

Bill True.

#### MATCH v SURREY W.C. - FEBRUARY 17TH

This hardy annual match with our Surrey friends over the 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles course to Banstead and back was held on a very cold day. Eric Hall still showing his good form, finished in the grand time of 1hr. 38m. 48secs. and Dave McMullen surprised us with a second placing in 1h. 39m. 28secs. Syd James and Hugh McGreechan finished together in 1h. 44m. and Len Demmon and Trevor Luck certainly walked well. Harry Shields, with an allowance of 12 minutes, won the handicap. With the first four men home, we won the match by 78 points to 132.

#### THE PEWSEY CUP - FEBRUARY 18TH

Three shivering Belgrave specimens, plus Mr. Vickers - Horlicks builds bodies; look what it's done for me - made their way through the snow to Swindon on February 17th for Trowbridge Athletic Club's 7 miles Pewsey Cup Race.

The feature of the day was that Len Demmon, known to all as "Last minute Len" actually arrive half an hour before the train was due to go. This was too much for the rest of the lads who promptly had a whip round and bought him a watch.

There was more trouble when we heard that Ted Smith was going all the way to Swindon and back on a special ticket which only cost 7/-, whereas as the rest of us paid a £1. Ted however explained that he was a shareholder and entitled to such privileges. No wonder the country is in a mess with all these fiddles going on. Now we know why the bank rate went up! After a two hour journey, during which Eric Hall was eating the whole time, we arrived at Swindon 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours before the race was due to start. Eric however thought this was a good thing. He suggested it would give us time for a good warm up before the starter waved his handkerchief. After Mr. "Tony Curtis" Demmon had finished playing the wicked uncle stuff with the Wiltshire young ladies, we decided to pass time by drinking tea in the local snack bar. Ted Smith insisted that we needed music with our "char" so we were cheered up with the aid of a juke box playing "Aint it grand to be blooming well dead", My tiny feet are frozen" and "Who's sorry now".

Arriving at the changing room we were met by Terry Clark looking spick and span in his R.A.F uniform. He's got so many stripes on his arm that we nicknamed him "the walking Zebra".

Now for the race. From the beginning it looked as if Met. W.C. were out to retain the cup. They had brought their well known four down for the event and our only hope of beating them was by one of their team getting "pulled". Ted Smith tried hard to do this by shouting out Don Thompson's number in regular judge's fashion but it didn't work. Hawkins, Poole and Hutcheon set a fast pace from the start with our Eric running well behind them. In next position came yours truly smothered from top to toe in grease. The others were all well up, but after a mile had

gone the Met boys had the edge. Hutchison came back, to our delight. I went up with Eric and of course had to pull him round the rest of the way.

The fast race in the end, was a dead heat between Hawkins and Poole, both returning 52m.30s. Eric and myself walked in together for third place in 53.53. Ted Smith was 9th with 55.47, his fastest time over 7 miles, well done the Railway! Next came Terry Clark in 11th position with 57.24, again a personal best. No complaints today, the Bels. were really trying, and last came Len Dannon, 14th in 58.45.

It was very pleasing indeed to have Bill Payne from Swindon, on the road to urge us on. He really did a first class job. Many thanks Bill. Final team result was a win for Met. W.C. with 17 points and we were second with 23 points. After a very nice tea laid on by Swindon A.C. we bade farewell to our country friends and made for the Station. There five weary Belgravians boarded the homeward bound train. Although a little disappointed in not bringing back the cup, we all voted it a jolly good day.

Stan Vickers.

#### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Surrey County 10 Miles Championship was held from our own headquarters at Wimbledon on 25th February and our thanks are due to all those club members who helped to make it a success

Our friendly rivals, Surrey W.C. were after our blood and when we lost Dave McMullen things were not so well. Eric Hall walked a very good race to win the individual title in 81m. 13secs. almost unchallenged and he was followed in 2nd place by Syd James, just over a minute behind. Syd had Paddy Woods literally on his heels the whole way but did not let this disturb him. Youngsters, and new scoring members of our County team were Nick Milsum and Terry Clark who finished 8th and 10th respectively. Both grand efforts and Ben Clark, an old Belgravian, must have been proud to see his son winning his first County Medal.

These four were ably backed up by Doub, George Beecham and Ron Garwood and we won the team title by 21 points to 26.

Our Middlesex walkers - Cadogan A.C. - gave battle to the might of that County to such good effect that they finished 3rd behind the supplemented strength of Highgate. But for the absence of Bob Newson with a cold, we might have done even better. The forward walking of George Checkley and Ted Smith was most encouraging and George gained his County Colours with a fifth placing

Stan Vickers was the sole Belgravian walker in the Kent County Championship at Hayes and came home with the individual title with a time of 83.49, over a rather long ten miles. Further south, in Hampshire, Norman Guilment took 2nd place in the Championship of that County.

J.G.

#### SOUTHERN COUNTIES A.A.A. 7 MILES TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

Three of our walkers competed in this race which was held on our home ground at Battersea Park on 24th March and the race resulted in a third place for the ever improving Stan Vickers in the excellent time of 55mins. 18.4secs. thus clocking inside A.A.A.s first class standard. Ted Smith found the track a little hard going after the road and returned 59.15s. Trevor Luck, our only other competitor, walked very well to get inside 60 minutes and thus gain his 7 miles in the hour badge. At Imber Court in January he just missed it by one second. Here he just gained it by one second. Jolly good work.

-----  
DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT THE TRACK HANDICAPS THIS SUMMER