



FEBRUARY 1956

FOUNDED 1887

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

It is hoped that by now the extra feeding at Christmas will have been worked off and that with the premier Cross Country and Walking Championships ahead, everyone is now down to very serious training.

Results so far this season, certainly show that we are on the upgrade. Our cross country runners have won the London Championship, one of our youths has won the Surrey title and our walkers are stronger over the shorter distances than they have been for many years. Let us hope that these are signs of a return to our former strength and that 1956 will see us well to the fore in all the leading championships.

I am still very concerned at the lack of interest shown by members in sending me material for the magazine. Every quarter I have to bully-rag Sectional Secretaries and Captains for results of Club Championships and other events. If only they would delegate someone before an event, to write up a few lines and send it direct to me they would save themselves and me a lot of time and worry. As long as it is reasonably legible, I can put it into shape.

Our socials at Belgrave Hall are still not receiving the support they deserve. Much hard work is put in by Dave Shepherd, but if the support does not improve, it will become necessary to dispense with this side of the Club.

A considerable sum of money has been spent in providing the necessary apparatus for weight training. This is held at Belgrave Hall on Thursday evenings under the supervision of Frank Simmons who is hoping that more members will take advantage of this valuable form of training.

Hon. Editor.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with profound regret that we have to record the passing of Past President R. Murphy after a long illness bravely born, at the age of 69 years.

Dick's membership went back to the days before World War I and his loyalty and help to the Club during difficult days, should never be forgotten. He has himself told us that he was one of the slowest walkers ever to turn out in the

Club name, but he gladly gave his support to our teams and the Club. Mrs. Murphy helped also by making masses of toffee which was sold to members for the benefit of Club funds in the days of our financial stringency.

It was in 1916 that Dick presented the shield which will ever carry his name and which originated as the award for a walking championship on the road at six miles. A year later the distance was increased to nine miles and in 1924 the championship was standardised at 10 miles.

Each year, until illness prevented him, Dick made a point of coming along on the day of the competition for his shield, and we were always happy to enjoy his smiling, cheery face. The death of his great friend Jimmy Bellchamber came as a profound shock to Dick Murphy, as to all of us, and it is a solemn thought that we shall not see these two great friends and Belgravians, so often in one another's company, again.

Our sincere condolences go to Mrs. Murphy and to his son and daughter.

R. I. P.

A.A. Harley

BELGRAVE GALLERY - H.W. ("Harry") SHIELDS

We have had numerous requests for a revival of the series of pen portraits of prominent Belgravians, and I believe it to be beyond dispute that our President for the current year has the strongest possible claim to be recognised in this way.

It has been a particular pride of the Club that the honour of Presidency should go only to those who have long served the Club faithfully, consistently and well and we are confident that this outline of his achievements as a runner, racewalker and administrator - inadequate though it may seem to those who know him well - will leave no one in doubt that as a Belgravian, Harry Shields stands second to no one.

A Life Member since 1944 and a Vice President since 1933, Harry joined the Club in September 1931 at the age of 18. His qualities were quickly recognised and he became a Committee man a year later, an office which he has now held uninterruptedly for 23 years. In 1933 he became Assistant Editor of the "Belgravian", an office he held for four years. In 1935 he was elected Vice Captain for Track Events, duties which he carried out so well that a year later he became Captain, an office which he held (except for the year 1939) continuously for thirteen years. Proof for his capacity for work can be seen in the fact that from 1940 - 1945 he added to his track duties the office of Running Hon. Secretary, which had been temporarily vacated by Ernest Puffett, absent on Constabulary War duties.

In 1951 he became Assistant Hon. Secretary to the Club, an office which is no sinecure in a club as large as Belgrave, and one which he continues to fill with energy and quiet skill. His post war conversion from running to walking gave him small respite from administrative work, and

in 1952 he became Road Walking Vice-Captain, with promotion a year later to full captaincy, a post which he relinquished only on his election as President this year.

How he has found the time to train up to the high standard of athletic performance which he has achieved in both running and walking is likely to remain a mystery, and we must be content to let the record speak for itself. One achievement unparalleled in the Club - and indeed in this country, if not in the world - is the winning of two National Cross Country team championship medals and two National (50 K. Metres) Road Walking team championship medals. In addition to the numerous successes detailed below, he is also now a member of the Centurions Club having walked the 104 miles from London to Brighton and back in less than 24 hours. (his time was actually 21hrs. 6mins. 25 secs). He has twice successfully competed in the Nijmegen 4 days Marches and in 1954 won the London Transport 25 miles Championship.

He remains an active member of the Walking Section and must surely be an inspiration to every member of the Club. The walkers who have contributed to these notes, like to think of him as an object lesson to those older runners who have passed their peak and are seeking a satisfactory outlet for their competitive energies!

Administrative Offices

Committee: 1932-1955 Ass. Editor: 1933-36
Track Vice Capt.: 1935 Captain: 1936-38, 1940-49
Running Hon. Sec.: 1940-45. Ass. Gen. Hon. Sec.: 1951-55
Road Walking Vice Capt.: 1952. Captain: 1953-55
Vice President: Since 1953.
President: 1955.

Athletic successes

South of Thames C.C.C.	1st Team 1933 3rd Team 1932	Middx. C.C. 1st Team 1934 Middx. County Team 1935
London to Brighton Relay.	1st Team 1934, 1935, 1936. 2nd Team 1937 3rd Team 1933	
Club Junior 5 Miles C.C. Championship.	1st 1934.	
Club 880 yards Championship.	2nd 1934.	
English C.C. Championship.	1st Team 1935. 1939. 3rd Team 1934	
Southern Counties C.C. Championship	2nd Team 1936.	
Brighton Walk.	1st Team 1950. 1954 2nd Team 1955 3rd Team 1951	
R.W.A. 50 K. Metres Championship.	1st Team 1950. 1954. 2nd Team 1955.	

He took part in all the major Club Track races between 1931 and 1949 and has been a member of many winning relay and team races. Since changing over to walking in 1949 he has been a regular scoring member of our teams in distance races. A fine athlete and a great Clubman; in short a real Belgravian.

THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

A very successful and enjoyable evening was held at the Express Rooms, Clapham Junction on November 19th when approximately 160 Club members and friends, together with a few selected guests, were present. Whilst most members agreed that it did not come up to the standard of the last three years, it was pleasing to know that the function was supported to the extent of all the tickets being sold.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation, by Harry Shields, of silver plaques to those of the Past Presidents who were able to attend. Amongst these it was pleasing to see Ernie Duffett, who owing to his engagement with a works' sports club, has very little time to spare and his visits to the club are few and far between.

We publish below a photograph of Tom Morrell, last year's President, receiving his plaque from Harry Shields.

THE COMING TRACK SEASON

Once again you have elected me to the very difficult task of Track Captain. In the past I know I have annoyed some of you by my uncomprising attitude, but I would be false to you if I did not do the job you have given me in the way which I see it.

The majority of Club Honours Badges last year were won by sprinters and field events members. I am naturally pleased about this as it shows our strength in these two spheres of our sport, but I am looking forward to some of our middle and long distance runners attaining theirs this year.

Most of our matches were won mainly by the assistance of our field events performers and sprinters. We can remedy this if the middle distance runners really make up their minds to do so. We have been in the background too long in the longer races. I shall continue the practice adopted last year in the selection of teams. All will have to gain their places and will be given the chance to represent the club as far as possible. Let us take an example from the walking members of the club and really compete as a team, so that we, like them can enjoy the fruits of victory. Disappointments are inevitable but if we strive as a team and lose, then at least we can hold our heads high in defeat, give credit to the victors, and make up our minds to win the next time.

Let us go forward as true Belgravians, ever aiming at the highest pinnacles of sportsmanship.

F. Simmons.

FIELD EVENTS

At the commencement of my duties as Field Events Hon. Secretary, I would particularly like to thank Jack Chappell and Ron Holtum and many others for their good wishes.

On looking at our record for the last two seasons we have gone from strength to strength, thanks to the many really good performances of the section members and if we can keep up the good work and train hard for the coming season, it is possible for us to become the strongest Field Events Club in the country.

As a matter of interest, as stated in our previous issue, we have purchased some weights for weight training. Frank Simmons is holding a class on Thursday evenings in Belgrave Hall and he is worthy of support in this type of training, so go along lads and I am sure it will be worth while.

Incidentally, if any runner or walker would like to join the ranks of the field events men, they will be very welcome. It is a really good section.

That's all for now.

Bill Merryman.

WHITHER BELGRAVE! - By "Olympian"

The unheard of has happened - Belgrave's amazing run of success in the London to Brighton Relay has ended and we have finished outside the first four for the first time since 1932. We may complacently say that in finishing 6th we were not disgraced, but for those who were present and witnessed our downfall it must have been apparent that our performance was not one of which to be unduly proud.

The lessons from this race are obvious. Firstly we must develop two class performers to hold their own on those long stages between Lowfield Heath and Hickstead and secondly it is wishful thinking to expect us to succeed again in this race until our middle distance runners reach a higher standard. Looking back over the track season, we have missed the Belgrave colours in all the leading races from one mile upwards solely because we have no one up to present day standard at those distances. All the teams that beat us on this occasion have a

neuclus of good one, three and six milers who are capable of turning defeat to victory almost by their own efforts. Take for example Herne Hill who were eighteenth at the end of the first leg, yet were in the lead before Redhill was reached through two excellent runs on the 2nd and 3rd legs. Similarly T.V.H. who were 13th at Purley, were up to third at Merstham only five miles further on, by the amazing performance of Ken Norris. Except for Essex Beagles, every club who ultimately beat us to Brighton, were well behind us on the first leg but unfortunately we were unable to turn our initial advantage to good account. Can our lack of good middle distance runners be due to the lack of material, or faulty training? I feel that it is definitely the latter - a greater basis of speed running must be employed and the methods of the world's successful exponents studied and used as an example. It is obvious that a lengthy transition period must elapse before we can hope to see the results, but in a year or two the improvement should be apparent. There is nothing unusual about the training of Iharos, Chataway, Zatopek, Pirie, Norris Hewson and the rest - these men are quite normal individuals - everyone can adopt the same technique but the work involved must be built up over a number of years. In our club there must be some members who could rise to star positions whilst the remainder would benefit inestimably even though not reaching the heights of fame. Who will take the lead? Can we look to Baulch, Flanagan, Dabbs, Hooper, Biscoe, Newell and Hallowell to mention but a few to instil the enthusiasm, or are we to continue in the same groove until the might of Belgrave wanes like the Roman Empire of old.

It has been noticeable in the past how the rise of one or two men in a club produces a general improvement in the standard. We ourselves have benefitted through Footer, Carter and Penney. Birchfield have had their days, S.L.H. are now riding high with Pirie and Driver at the top and now St. Albans City are appearing with O'Gorman and Thorpe as the examples. Let us get back before we drop from the picture like many other clubs - the writing is on the wall!

LONDON TO BRIGHTON ROAD RUN

On 24th September three of our distance runners, W. Wortley, A. Bishop and J. McDonald, just sufficient for a team, set off on the long run to Brighton. Bill Wortley, the fastest of the three, ran in fifth position in a field of 40 for the first 20 miles. Bishop and McDonald ran together, but unfortunately the latter was obliged to stop owing to leg stiffness and Alan went on to catch Wortley at 38 miles. However, McDonald was not to be daunted and after taking a short rest, restarted and not only completed the course, but took the team into 2nd place, losing by only 1 point to Black-Heath Harriers. Had it not been for this unfortunate break, we would undoubtedly have won. In the last few miles, Wortley again drew away from Bishop to finish 11th in 6hrs. 46mins. 34 secs. 11½ minutes in front of Bishop who was 12th. Mac's time was 7hrs. 28mins. 28secs.

CROSS COUNTRY - GENERAL NOTES

Your Cross Country Hon. Secretary would like to remind members, particularly those who are in the Forces, at Universities, or temporarily absent from London, that in addition to the winter training facilities referred to in the Handbook, we also have use of the Duke of York's Headquarters,

at Sloane Square for training on Wednesday evenings from 6pm. to 9.30pm. This, being in central London, should be very convenient to all members so next time you are home on leave, I hope to see you.

I would also like to hear from you at any time regarding your current form and if you are training with any particular race in view. Our object is to field the strongest teams possible and this can be done with your co-operation. Occasionally an "away" member will make one of his rare visits to Wimbledon and demonstrate some brilliant cross country form, form that would entitle him to represent the club in some forthcoming championship, but which is found not possible as entries have already closed. This is not only annoying, but disappointing to the runner concerned, so don't forget to let me know if you are especially interested in, and coming home for a particular event.

Charlie Smart.

We are now well into the "Country" season and so far have met with varied success. Our first major win came in the London Championship and the matches we have had with neighbouring clubs have been keenly fought out. At the time of writing this, we remain unbeaten. Unfortunately a number of our key men were unable to compete in the Club Seven miles championship as the Civil Service, Banks and Insurance decided to hold their Championships on the same day. As a point of interest we had three members in the first twelve in the Civil Service Championship, viz: Baulch, Stroud and Hallowell. I would also like to congratulate Jack Brown on notching yet another championship win over the country. Whilst I am not going to go through all the individual performances, one which is definitely worthy of mention is that of Charlie Dabbs in winning the Surrey Youths Championship. Here is one of our youngsters who looks like being one of our top rankers of the future.

The training at Sloane Square has become quite popular and everyone seems very keen. All are welcome to come along on Wednesday evenings to train with YOUR TEAM.

Charlie Walker.

OPENING ROAD RUN AT WIMBLEDON

On 24th September a field of 40 lined up for the opening winter fixture on the road over a course of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. First home was Pat Newell, who took the lead on Cambridge Hill and thereafter drew steadily away to win by 13 seconds. Second was Pete Bagnall who used his speed to get past Eric Gebbett a mile from home. Eric came third with Jumbo Masters 4th. A new member, L. Hallowell was fifth and it is a pity he was not qualified to represent us in Championship events. Chas Walker, unpredictable as ever, was 6th just in front of junior George Flanagan whose forward running was a surprise to many. Eric Gebbett was a deserving winner of the handicap with Ron Mitchell and Dave Hooper 2nd and 3rd respectively. The first twelve placings are given below:

1. P. Newell	29.08	7. G. Flanagan	30.13
2. P. Bagnall	29.21	8. C. Roffey	30.50
3. E. Gebbett	29.24	9. C. Smart	30.24
4. J. Masters	29.28	10. J. Burr	30.33
5. R. Hallowell	29.31	11. P. Courtney	30.41
6. C. Walker	29.42	12. E. Bishop	30.44

3 MILES YOUTHS' ROAD RACE

On the same day a Youths' race was held over three laps round the common. Away to a good start, C. Dabbs was soon in the lead followed by T. Tupper with a newcomer M. Simmons, a pupil at Colin Collis's school, in third place. This order was maintained until the end with Dabbs increasing his lead. Tupper won the handicap with Dabbs 2nd and Banks 3rd. Placings and times as follows:

1. C. Dabbs	15.30	6. D. Taylor	17.07
2. T. Tupper	16.22	7. D. Crookes	18.23
3. R. Simmons	16.35	8. R. Wilson	18.58
4. M. O'Keefe	16.53	9. P. Griffiths	19.15
5. B. Banks	16.54		

3 MILES ROAD HANDICAP

A Yacht Handicap over a course of approximately 3 miles was held on 1st October and owing to the very accurate handicapping of Bill Lucas, the biggest part of the field arrived at the tape in mass formation with the result that the recorders were completely overwhelmed and were thus unable to record all the positions. First man away was Arthur Welling, followed by Bill Jones and in quick succession the rest of the field of 54 starters. Before the Windmill was reached it was pretty obvious that as far as Jones was concerned, the handicapper had dropped a "clanger" for Jones was away in front and was never held winning with seconds to spare from W. Couzens, a comparatively new member who is certainly an up and coming youngster. He was followed by Len Rollins who is always popping up. The recording went fairly smoothly until the 18th position after which no one seems quite sure what the order was. Chas Walker is believed to have done the fastest actual time with a fine 14.49 effort which reduced the course record by a considerable margin and was a vast improvement on his form of a week before.

It was pleasing to see so many of the younger members in this race which augurs well for the future.

Leading positions are as follows:

1. W. Jones	13.03(5.50)	7. D. Crookes	14.01(4.0)
2. W. Couzens	13.26(4.0)	8. C. Dabbs	14.04(1.25)
3. L. Rolls	13.46(3.0)	9. J. Heathfield	14.06(2.30)
4. S. Boreham	13.47(2.45)	10. G. Stevens	14.09(2.10)
5. A. Penstone	13.53(3.15)	11. C. Henn	14.10(2.0)
6. L. Bush	13.56(3.20)	12. R. Minahan	14.12(2.40)

"Fair Observer"

SOUTHERN BRIGHTON RELAY - 8TH OCTOBER 1955

After the fast times put up in the three miles road race we were optimistic of our chances in this event, but the optimism was short lived.

Pete Ragnall was our first runner and handed over in third place having run quite well. Over stage 2 Charlie Smart was forced to drop back into 8th place, but after all we cannot expect miracles from a man of his age who, if the rest of the club were running up to standard would not be in the team. The third stage was taken by Pat Newell who gained a place to make us 5th behind Essex, Herne Hill, Poly and St. Albans. Archie Redford ran well

over the 4th stage but quite naturally was unable to cope with record runs by Norris and Sando and was relegated to 8th place.



Jon Burr on stage 10.

Jumbo Masters ran the third fastest time of the day on the Redhill stage to improve our position to 8th. At this stage we were 1 min. 35 secs. down on the leaders Herne Hill. Chas. Walker was our next performer and despite being overtaken by Cameron of T.V.H., pulled us up to fifth place. The seventh stage saw marathon specialist Eric Gebbett up against many of the country's leading three and six milers and Eric was forced to drop back into 7th place. Dave Baulch took over from Eric and taking a real bashing, managed to maintain our position.

Cliff Roffey on stage 9, put in his usual consistent effort to record the second fastest time of the day and improve our position to 6th. John Burr on stage 10 was obviously unfit but our position remained 6th. The final stage was taken by Arthur Bruce and was virtually just a formality for there was no one close in front or behind. We were four minutes down on the leaders T.V.H. and our sixth position was the worst we have ever experienced since the inception of the race.

Ron Linstead.

MATCH v HERNE HILL and SURREY A.C.

Our first away fixture on 15th October was held at Addington and was a very satisfactory one for the Club. Pete Bagnall finished second, only four seconds behind the Herne Hill International, Mike Maynard. Our next three in were Chas. Walker, Jack Brown and Archie Bedford who filled 4th, 7th and 9th positions respectively. Charlie Dabbs, still only a youth, took 10th place, a performance which should not pass unnoticed and it is hoped that his amazing improvement will continue over the next few years.

Scoring 6 a side, we scored 45 points to the 53 of Surrey A.C. and 74 of Herne Hill. The 18 a side match with Herne Hill resulted in a win for us by 260 points to 40.

YOUTHS 2½ MILES HANDICAP AT WIMBLEDON

On 29th October a smaller field than usual took part in this race which was won by Terry Tupper who finished 40 yards in front of J. Frost, with B. Banks, who is too young to take part in championships, filling third place.

The handicap was won by J. Frost with 45secs. allowance, T. Gower (1min) was second and B. Banks (20secs) 3rd.

ROCHESTER ROAD RACE

A small team travelled to Rochester on 19th November, the day of the Club Dinner, and succeeded in gaining

3rd place. Knight of Essex Beagles was the individual winner completing the course in record time and finishing in front of Sando. Pete Bagnall was our first man home in 11th position and supported by Masters, Short and L. Bishop, we gained 3rd place in the team event.

YOUTHS MATCH v SUTTON AND CHEAM

This away fixture, held at Cheam on 26th November was a very disappointing one for use as only three of our lads turned up and we were well beaten. The ever increasing cost of fares must be a big handicap to our young members and no doubt has some bearing on the small number. Our first man home was Charlie Dabbs in third place in what must have been his worst performance in recent months. M. Simmons running in his first match for the club was sixth, whilst B. Banks was 9th in a field of 11. The individual winner was B. Linke of Sutton and Cheam and they scored 7 points to our 18.

LONDON COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

This championship was held on 26th November at Parliament Hill and resulted in an exceedingly fine win for the Club our scoring four finishing in the first nine positions in a field of over 100. Pete Bagnall ran an excellent race to finish in fourth place, 20 seconds behind the winner, Maynard of Herne Hill. The remaining strength lay in the excellent packing of Jack Brown, P. Newell and J. Masters who finished 7th, 8th and 9th making a total score of 28 points to Herne Hill's 30, and Hampstead 48.

MATCH v PARACHUTE REGIMENT

A beautiful sun shining with the weather more like a spring day was the setting for a mobile force, strong enough for the operation in numbers and strength for the attack on the barracks of the Paratroop Regiment at Aldershot on 26th November.

The race was got away to a fast start - much too fast for me - over country which varied between sand, woodlands and steep hills. Though the troopers had the individual winner, junior Flanagan was first man home for the club in 2nd place. Part of the race was apparently run through enemy territory during the course of which we collected some casualties. Denis Brickwood wrecked himself on some barbed wire and Arthur Penstone cut his leg badly. How he managed to carry on running for three miles is beyond understanding. The scene in the dressing room afterwards when Arthur was stitched up under the light of a pocket lighter was rather grim. Hard luck Arthur!

The cookhouse proved very interesting after the race with plenty to eat. The back to town manoeuvres were well carried out and all agreed it was a good victory with only two wounded.

Tom Carter.

SURREY YOUTHS CHAMPIONSHIP

Our youths travelled to Epsom for this race

on 3rd December in which Charlie Dabbs, running with great determination, was first home in a field of no less than 94. This lad certainly looks like one of our future champions and it is to be hoped that he develops accordingly as he gets older. In the team event we did better than we had expected, finishing in third place. Terry Tupper was our second scorer in 18th position with M. Simmons and A. Mole 24th and 25th respectively.

CLUB 7 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

Whilst quite a good field turned out for the Club 7 miles championship for the Blackstaffe Shield on 3rd December, it was unfortunate that several business house championships were being held the same day which attracted some of our best runners. However this does not lessen the credit due to those who gained championship honours, in a race which was well up to our club standard. Jack Brown is to be congratulated on once again getting his name inscribed on the trophy as also are Eddie Short and George Davidson on their 2nd and 3rd placings. Freddie Bradnum "produced" a very fine effort and won the handicap with G. Stevens 2nd and H. Boreham 3rd. Placings and times are as follows:

1. J. Brown	35.20	15. R. Mitchell	38.43
2. E. Short	35.34	16. D. Jones	39.12
3. G. Davidson	35.54	17. F. Bradnum	39.15
4. E. Gebbrett	36. 3	18. J. Szkuoik	39.40
5. G. Flanagan	36.47	19. H. Boreham	40.02
6. G. Goode	37. 6	20. E. Udall	40.04
7. A. Bruce	37.42	21. S. Charlton	40.06
8. P. Courtney	37.53	22. R. Plummer	40.08
9. C. Shippen	37.56	23. R. Minahan	40.18
10. J. Heathfield	38.13	24. D. McLean	40.58
11. G. Stevens	38.14	25. C. Carter	41.29
12. J. Burr	38.16	26. C. Manning	42.05
13. D. Abbott	38.27	27. F. Mitchell	44.15
14. A. Bishop	38.41	28. R. Bolam	45.52

In conjunction with the championship, a match was held with Blackheath, Herne Hill, Sutton & Cheam and Mitcham A.C. Beyond reporting that we won, no further details are to hand.

ED.

JUNIOR 5 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

Twelve juniors lined up for the contest for the Savage Shield held at Wimbledon on 17th December. There were no surprises and G. Flanagan proved a worthy winner in 29mins. 9secs. followed by G. Dabbs, Surrey Youths Champion, 19 secs. behind. With the large number of youths on the Club register, it is rather surprising that more do not take part in these club races, bearing in mind that for the not so fast runner, there is always a handicap in conjunction. D. Gill (3.30) in 9th position, won the handicap with G. Stevens (1.30) 2nd and D. Pettican (2.15.) 3rd.

Placings and times as follows:

1. G. Flanagan	29.9	7. S. Boreham	31.40
2. C. Dabbs	29.28	8. B. Morris	32.25
3. G. Stevens	30.25	9. D. Gill	32.26
4. D. Hooper	30.41	10. P. Pepe	33.30
5. D. Pettican	31.16	11. W. Couzens	33.57
6. J. Frost	31.31	12. L. Hughes	34.52

WALKING NOTES

CALLING ALL WALKERS!! Sit back and take a slating from your Hon. Editor. Having held the office of Walking Hon. Secretary for some years, I realise only too well how much work your present Hon. Secretary Jack Goswell has to get through, so why leave it to him to provide all the walking news in the Belgravian? Surely some of you, particularly those who are beyond the racing stage, but invariably turn up to the races, could make a few notes during the race and send them straight to me. It is not necessary to take up time getting it type written, because it all has to be typed out again, neither is it necessary to send me details of the result which I always get in the Race Walking Record. Remember that variety is the spice of life and the more members we can get writing articles for the magazine, the more varied and interesting it will be. If you think you are getting a poor write up in this magazine, blame yourselves, as I have had to write such notes as was possible at very short notice.

Once again we have had a very successful Open Walk and should be well pleased that it attracted the largest entry so far this season. It speaks well for the popularity of the event.

Outstanding amongst our walkers so far this season is Stan Vickers who is improving so rapidly that in a matter of weeks he has come from the back of the field almost to the front, finishing 9th in the Cambridge Harriers Open in December. Others showing sustained improvement are Eric Hall and Ted Smith and our team for the National 10 should be the best for a number of years.

Congratulations to Eric Hall on once again winning the Civil Service 7 Miles Championship and George Checkley on his 2nd place in the Police 7 miles championship. Also to Ted Smith on winning the London Transport 7 miles.

And now for some information on the results of the winter racing to date.

5 MILES HANDICAP

The road season opened with the usual 5 miles handicap and a match with the Police in conjunction. Unfortunately the police were not very well represented as it was the day of their annual match with the Stock Exchange, however it was an enjoyable afternoon, particularly for our walkers who romped home easy winners. Eric Hall was first home in 39mins. 6 secs. followed by Ted Smith, Syd James and Bob Newson and the match resulted in a win for us by 52 points to 119. D. Fotheringham of 4.30., won the handicap, with E. Hall (Scratch) 2nd and Ted Smith (1min) 3rd. A special prize for the first policeman went to N. Milsum, who incidentally is now a member of the club.

HIGHGATE HARRIERS OPEN 7

We turned out in force for the first open of the season held from the usual venue at Parliament Hill Fields on 22nd October. It was fairly obvious in the early stages, that our walkers were not yet up to form on the road and whilst they all walked reasonably well, with Eric Hall as our first man in 16th position we had to be satisfied with 4th place in the scratch team race. No prizes came our way in the handicaps either, our "A" team being placed 5th.

MATCH v CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS

In the match with Cambridge Harriers at Wimbledon on 5th November Eric Hall was an easy winner with a time of 55mins. 38secs., over a minute in front of Ron West who is making a rapid comeback. It was an exceptionally large field for an inter-club match, no less than 54 facing the starter in Lauriston Road, the Police having also joined in with a much stronger team than the earlier match. Good packing was once again the secret of success, our walkers filling six of the first seven positions. Owing to the small number of Cambridge Harriers, in addition to the triangular match, a straight match with the police was also held and both resulted in a win for us. An interesting point of the match was the initiation of Jack Keown, former runner, into walking and he gave quite a creditable performance finishing in 30th position.

ENFIELD OPEN SEVEN

Ideal weather conditions favoured this race which was held on 18th November. Eric Hall showed that he was really getting down to it and came through well to finish in fourth position. Unfortunately Syd James displeased the judges on the journey home and was ruled out. This rather spoilt our chances of a place in the scratch team race as we had to go back to 29th place with George Beecham for our 4th man and eventually finished 4th.

From the handicap result it certainly looked as if our lads were putting on a bit of pace, particularly Stan Vickers, who after a delayed start had worked himself up into 35th position and assisted Messrs. Hall, Smith and Checkley to 2nd position in the team handicap. It really looked as though everyone was getting themselves in form for our own open a fortnight hence with their eyes steadily fixed on the "Berman" Cup.

Once again we had by far the largest number of competitors from any one club and there is no doubt that our walkers do thoroughly enjoy their sport.

THE CLUB OPEN

Our Walking Hon. Secretary once again gave an excellent illustration of how to organise a big event and it would be very difficult to pinpoint anything which did not go according to plan.

We were once again favoured with good weather. The dreaded fog kept away and recording conditions were reasonably good. As mentioned above, the entry was the biggest one this season and exactly 200 lined up for the start. Our biggest blow was the news that Syd James was not able to race having sustained an injury to his foot, but the race having started none of our walkers were deterred by this loss. Amongst the starters was veteran Charlie Speechley who was a competitor in our first Club Open just after World War I.

A fine day helped considerably with the times the winner's time being half a minute faster than the previous year. There was a very keen race for the first three places between Poole (Worcester), Hutchison (Met) and Hawkins (Met) who eventually finished in that order, whilst Eric Hall, continuing his form finished 5th. The most outstanding performance was that of Stan Vickers who really began to show

what he can do, coming through in excellent style to 16th position and winning the handicap by over a minute. Despite the improvement of all our walkers, Met. W.C. were easy winners of the "Berman" Cup with 24 points, whilst we lost 2nd place to Woodford Green (last year's winners, by only one point.

When it came to the results, it was certainly a field day for the Club, as the following will show:

Scratch Team Race	3rd
Individual handicap	S. Vickers 1st E. Smith 2nd
Team Handicap	Belgrave "A" 1st Belgrave "B" 3rd

An unusual feature of the race was the small number of disqualifications, of the 200 starters, only 12 failed to finish the course, two at least of which retired voluntarily.

I am quite sure that Jack Goswell would like me to convey his thanks to all those who rendered such valuable assistance and helped to make the race such a success. Particular mention must be made of those who once again generously subscribed to the prize fund and so enabled us to keep up our good standard of prizes, despite the increase in purchase tax which hit us. Our thanks are also due to Arthur Whitehead who again provided accommodation, etc. for our own members, thus easing the crush at the Hall, to those who turned up with cars to help in the transport of judges and to the many recorders, runners, competitors' stewards and last but not by any means least, the ladies who so willingly disposed of the programmes. Such support is great compensation for Jack's hard work.

CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS OPEN

Our walkers journeyed to Eltham for this race on 10th December and once again showed considerable improvement over their previous efforts. Eric Hall walked an exceptionally fine race to finish second to B. Hawkins, for the first time beating R.F. Goodall. Add to this the continued improvement of Stan Vickers who finished in 9th position, plus George Checkley in 10th position and Ted Smith 15th, it is not surprising to find that for the first time for some years, we scored 2nd place in an open team race over 7 miles, only 3 points behind the winners, Woodford Green. Our general clearance of handicap prizes in our own open pretty well ruled out any chance of participation on this occasion, but with the National Championships ahead, our lads have something more than handicap prizes in view.

A Veterans' handicap in conjunction resulted in a win for D. Logan

HORWOOD CUP RACE

Unfortunately the date of this race, 17th December, was also chosen by the Police for their Inter-District Championship, so that our available walkers were considerably reduced in number. The smallest field for many years, nine walkers, lined up for the start and it was fairly obvious from the beginning that Stan Vickers was all set to

get his name engraved on the cup. Although Ted Smith tried very hard to challenge him, he found the pace far too hot and had to be content with 2nd place. Len Demmon, who looks like being charged with desertion from the Police, showed that he is getting back to form by finishing 3rd. Stan's time of 56.37, although only just outside the Club record, was achieved right out on his own, and may conceivably have been much faster had it been an open field.

Veteran Charlie Speechley, obviously doing some secret training, won the handicap off 11 minutes, with Stan Vickers 2nd and D. Logan 3rd.

S.C.R.

CLOTHING SECTION

The assistant Hon. Treasurer, Tom Morrell, 81, Carlton Road, Walton on Thames, would like to remind you that he has large stocks of ties, vests, vest badges, blazer badges, etc. for disposal at almost cost prices.

Whatever section of the club you represent, you should ALWAYS wear a Club vest and badge, or for active and non-active members there are the Club ties and blazer badges. Full details of prices can be found in the Club Handbook and Winter Fixture List.

All goods ordered by post should be accompanied by the cash, plus an allowance for postage.

JUNIOR CLUB RECORDS

There are three recognised junior events for which I have no recorded performance worthy of note as a Club record, viz; Hammer, 200 yards hurdles, 3/4 miles steeplechase. Here is a chance for a young weight putter, sprinter or middle distance runner to try a new event and give us some new figures. Remember you don't know what you can do until you try, and try hard. We have not had a junior track record for three years. The standard is very high but these marks can be beaten.

Known figures to dateTrack

100 yards	F.W.Kemp	July 1950	10.2s
220 "	A.D.Sexton	July 1949	22.1s
440 "	P.J.Casselton	July 1951	51.4s
880 "	F.J.Wright	Aug. 1952	1m.57 ⁴ / ₅ s
1 mile	D.R.Burfitt	July 1946	4m.23.2s
1 mile walk	J.Rutland	May 1936	7m.31s

Field Events

High Jump	S.R.Day	Aug. 1953	5ft. 8ins
Long Jump	J. Key	June 1954	21ft. 9 ¹ / ₂ ins
Triple Jump	C.R.Jones	July 1952	39ft. 8ins
Weight	J.P.Jones	July 1954	53ft. 1in.
Javelin	G. Edwards	July 1955	181ft. 11ins
Discus	J. Grey	July 1949	137ft. 8ins
120 yds	P. Friggs	July 1946	16.6s.
Hurdles			