

The Belgravian.

The Official Gazette

OF THE

Belgrave Harriers.

Founded 1887.

No. 2.

JULY 1925.

6d.

Headquarters—

St. JOHN'S, HALL, RIDGWAY,
WIMBLEDON HILL.

Training Quarters—

Summer :

BATTERSEA PARK TRACK.

Winter :

"RISING SUN,"

ESBURY BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1.

President—

R. W. RICKETTS.

Gen. Hon. Secretary—

F. G. THOMSON,
24, LUPUS STREET, S.W.1.

Hon. Treasurer—

J R. MCKAY,

10, ATHELDENE ROAD, S.W.18.

Assist. Hon. Secretary—

W. L. BAYLISS,

50, STRATHVILLE ROAD, S.W.18.

Walking Hon. Secretary—

O. HORWOOD,

2, MENDIP PLACE, S.W.11.

Running Hon. Secretary—

H. PARKER,

13, HAMILTON ROAD,
THORNTON HEATH.

Social Hon. Secretary—

L. C. SMITH,

44, BRAMFORD ROAD, S.W.18.

FOREWORD.

In making our second appearance we are pleased to state that our previous issue was quite well received and from the general tone of many communications to hand it certainly appears that "The Belgravian" has served a good purpose in keeping in touch and sustaining the interest of several members who might otherwise have dropped out of the Club and its activities.

On the other hand we must candidly admit that the numerical response for support has not so far exceeded expectations. We are by no means dismayed or undaunted however, for we are only urged on to greater efforts to make our Gazette a better and greater success generally.

We have never been afraid of a good deal of spade work to ensure any success. The record of the Club shows that very well as exemplified by our National Road Walking successes after years of hard work and disappointments. Gradual but sustained improvement will always outstay the meteoric success and "flash in the pan" achievements.

It is all a matter of team work, and team work is probably just as much, or even more, desirable and necessary in Club work as it is in racing.

Since we are anxious to be enabled to publish "The Belgravian" monthly, instead of quarterly as at present, we would be pleased to receive the names of any members who are in close touch with others, to act as distributors, in order to facilitate despatch and reduce postage expenses. We can then reconsider the whole matter of costing, but must again impress the fact that we want every member to subscribe to carry us through.

Here is your opportunity for a little team work.

Our request in the last issue for constructive criticism did not fail to receive the attention it deserved and some of the suggestions have been adopted as far as possible. Any further suggestions or matter for publication will be gladly received.

"BEST" POINTS CUP.

Members are reminded that all successes in "open" events should be advised to the Hon. Secretary to enable him to record the points scored for this trophy.

It is not generally known that this Cup was generously presented to the Club in 1924 by our old member R. W. Best, and it is interesting to note that he actually fulfilled the conditions required to now make his Cup one's own property in 1923, after a period of 10 years from the time recording the first year's success.

* * *

Our walkers are reminded that the "Belgrave Cup," the trophy for the long distance Championship, will again be competed for in the London-Brighton walk on September 12th, by courtesy of the Surrey Walking Club.

The present holder is E. A.

Wall who actually finished third in last year's race.

* * *

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

To the Editor,

Sir,

I am very sorry that I was not able to write this letter in time for our last publication.

Owing to a very busy Season I am not able to put in so much time as I should like with you, but I would add there is very little that happens without I know in some way or other.

I must congratulate the members on their activities since we began the new Season.

I have been asked by prominent members of other Clubs, how we account for our leap to fame. My answer was, that it is the officers of the Club who leave no stone unturned for the care and comfort of the members.

It is with pride and admiration I look upon the Club which in turn will be as strong in running as it is in walking. And I look forward to every one of our, close approaching, 400 members to train hard to reach the top of their ambitions. Work hard for the Club and support our Social events.

I wish now to take this opportunity to thank the Officers and members for the splendid help they have given in making the Club such a great success.

Yours Sincerely,

R. W. RICKETTS,
President.

* * *

The Club membership is now on the 375 mark and it is confidently expected that the 400 will be reached by the date of the Annual General Meeting in September.

CLUB NOTES.

By the Hon. Sec.

Members are reminded that the duties of the several Secretaries can be lightened if they study their hand-books. For instance, you should not approach Len Smith in the middle of a "Fox Trot," which he is enjoying with his young lady, and ask him for an entry form for the next Club race, or speak to Harry Parker when he is earnestly thinking out a Relay Team and enquire if you still owe for any of last year's dances. Nor should you gather round Oscar on a Tuesday night and ask him if he would mind changing your last prize for something better. It is not "Park Manners."

* * *

Congratulations to the winners at the Gas Co. Sports, also the London Breweries Meeting. It is quite evident that it is better to train on Beer than Gas.

* * *

A Smoking Concert is being arranged to take place early in October by the R.W.A.

At this meeting the films of the Junior and Senior Walking Championships will be shown and the members who were not present at these races will be able to see our performances on the screen. Seated in a comfortable chair with a glass (and something in it) by your side, it is hoped that a good muster of the Belgraves will be present that evening and give a rousing cheer as our teams pass the finish.

* * *

Congratulations to R. D. Mc Mullen on his London Business House Championship, 2 Mile Walk. Also W. D. Pritchard in the London Breweries Association

Half Mile and 1 Mile Running Championships. G. H. Powell third in Hop, Step and Jump and Standard Medal for Javelin throw at the Southern Championships.

* * *

The Club had the honour to win the "Doris" Shield, kindly presented by our President, Mr. R. W. Ricketts, at the Inter-Club Contest. This is the first year of competition for this trophy and it was quite evident that the competitors running for the Club were keen on having "BELGRAVE HARRIERS" inscribed on the first recording tablet. We won by one point.

* * *

Now we want the Inter-Club Relay Race Shield. When you next visit the "Rising Sun" we hope to have these Shields on each side of the "R.W.A." Championship one.

* * *

The Inter-Club Relay Races with the Harrodian A.C., Ashcombe A.C. and ourselves, resulted in a very narrow victory for the Club, L. C. Smith doing yeoman service for the "Bels." Owing to some of our selected members not arriving at Barnes, most of our men had to do a double turn and L. C. Smith had to turn out for 3 events. We hope to renew this fixture next year and increase the margin of victory.

* * *

The Championships will be decided on August 1st at Battersea. We are promised several changes in the Club Champions, several of our promising members think that they have more than an outside chance for their favourite distance. The Editor reminds me that tipping the Club Winners is not in my department, so I

refrain from giving my list of probable winners. See Editor's notes, perhaps he will venture on a few.

NO—NOTHING VENTURE. (ED.)

* * *

Members are asked to send in their entries for the Championship Meeting as early as possible. To aid the Handicappers, entries will not be accepted after July 27th first post.

* * *

Entry forms for the Surrey's Brighton race are ready and in the hands of the Hon. Sec. From information received the "BELS" anticipate putting out a very warm team and we hope to repeat last years victory. A number of attendants will be required to assist our walkers and any member who would like to offer his services on this occasion his help will be gladly accepted. As National Champions we must live up to our prestige, so see to it that the boys have plenty of attention on the road.

* * *

A few more names are wanted for the Belgrave Brighton Stroll on July 25th. The Club Secretary hopes to start, so that will ensure to wavering walkers that the pace will not be fast.

* * *

Relay racing is quite the feature of this Season. Our teams have already scored three wins and the Club is making every effort to foster these events. Several relays have been arranged for the members and if any runner thinks he has been overlooked in making up teams they should mention it to either G. F. Pepper, W. L. Bayliss or H. Parker.

* * *

Our promising novice A. E. Smith was in great form at the

Gas Light and Coke Company's Sports. Did he win the 1½ Miles Handicap? He certainly does not believe in giving the Judges any margin for error.

Unofficial verdict:—Won by a street.

SOCIAL.

We are pleased to be able to report that the financial result of the series of Dances held during the past season was most encouraging, a very satisfactory sum being added to the Club funds.

We take this opportunity of thanking all members and friends who so kindly supported and sincerely hope to receive their continued support and co-operation during the coming season.

As it may be of interest to some to have a list of next seasons Dances before them, they are as follows:—

BATTERSEA TOWN HALL,
(GRAND HALL).

Friday, 11th September, 1925.

Friday, 23rd April, 1926.

LATCHMERE BATHS, (LARGE HALL).

Saturday, 24th October, 1925.

," 21st November, 1925.

," 16th January, 1926.

," 27th February, 1926.

," 27th March 1926.

Please book these dates.

As the conditions and regulations for the letting of the Latchmere Baths do not permit of any money being taken at doors, you are advised to obtain your tickets before the day and so avoid disappointment. To ensure receiving a supply of tickets for each of our functions, send your name at once to:—L. C. Smith, 44, Bramford Road, S.W.18, who will be pleased to supply any particulars and to accept offers of help by sale of tickets.

OUR WALKING CHAMPIONS.

It will no doubt be a surprise to many of our young members to know that Colin McLellan, the famous Scottish Walking Champion, is a member of the Belgrave Harriers.

He joined the Club soon after the Great War began, when stationed with the Scots Guards in London. At that time he was known as a good walker having met our old Champion Billy Hehir and giving him some very good races; in fact walking him to a yard in a 2 mile level race. Colin was the first member to win the Murphy Shield for the 6 mile Road Walking Championship. Soon after this he went the other side to play in the Greater Game and went through several big battles and the next we heard was that he was wounded and back in England. I am pleased to say he made a very good recovery and when the War finished he went back to Scotland with a very heavy heart, for his stay in London was all too short.

He was back with us in a few months, helping us to try and win the National 20 mile Road Walking Championship at Wembley. We did not succeed, but it was the foundation of our later success and so Colin can look back and say his journey from Glasgow to London was not in vain. It was about this time that Colin began to make good and his successes are too numerous to mention. He has won all the Championships in Scotland for Walking but one, up to date, since the War and has practically won all the Handicaps he has competed in from scratch.

One of his finest achievements was when he won the 7 mile Championship of Scotland a few

months ago when he surprised the Athletic World by smashing the Scottish records. This was a wonderful performance when one comes to consider that Colin is in the Veteran stage, no doubt he has improved with age and when a man gets fit there is no knowing what he will do. About a month after winning the Championship, a special 4 mile Walking Handicap was framed with Colin at scratch and here again he put up fresh figures beating records for each mile from 1 to 4, which goes to prove that the times in the 7 mile was no fluke.

In a letter he sent me a few days ago he told me that he had trained seriously for 7 months to try and put up new records before he retired. I am sure it is the wish of all the members that he will not retire but go on beating records and I hope that we shall have the pleasure of seeing him competing in the 7 mile Walking Championship in London in the near future.—R.W.R.

* * *

We congratulate our 20 mile Champion, F. Rickard, who successfully defended his title of "National Police Champion" in the Barking—Southend Walk. Although the route taken was longer than that of last year, his time was eleven minutes faster and this gained him first place in the sealed handicap from the scratch mark.

* * *

A Club contest with the Garratt Walking Club has been arranged for July 22nd at Mitcham, distance 5 miles. All members wishing to walk are requested to hand in their names to the Club Sec. by July 17th.

THE NATIONAL.

On May 9th we made a merry party of about 24 walkers and supporters who travelled to Derby for the National Walking Championship.

Included in the party was "our host" of The Rising Sun who carried the Shield with the express purpose of assuring himself that he brought it home again—He did—He shared the confidence of all that we were "on a good thing"—yet how nearly we came "unstuck" is history.

The race had attracted a record entry which included all the strongest Walking Clubs in the Country. It was apparent early in the race that they were out for blood and at the end of 5 miles Sheffield United H. were leading us with 67 points to 70, with Surrey Walking Club third. From this stage however we got down to business and steadily knocked down the points (no, not pints—not yet) and hereafter up to 15 miles we were well away. Then we struck trouble, for McMullen who was then third man for the team, developed a sore foot and dropped back whilst the Surrey Walking Club were gaining rapidly.

Fortunately, perhaps, one of our "A" team who had been strolling along admiring the scenery was rudely awakened as to his immediate responsibilities and he contrived to ease the situation. It is a debatable point as to whether we were behind at 18 mile, but anyway we stayed on to win by a single point.

It would perhaps be unwise to give anyone special credit for our victory for it is the whole team that matters, but F. Rickards and E. G. Cooper did remarkably well to finish 4th and 5th, and although

not given a place in the "A" team, our worthy President, R. Ricketts, by finishing in front of the fourth man of the Surrey Club, made the vital point difference in the scores.

We wonder if his secret concoction, carefully guarded and with very minute instructions to its custodian, had any bearing on the result?

We would testify to the wonderful sporting people of Derby who thronged the course in their thousands, and every village along the route turned out in force.

No one could complain of their lack of consideration and attention, in fact it was embarrassing to have to refuse the profusion of refreshments pressed on one.

Speechley, for one, enjoyed himself immensely. Notoriously a hungry individual, he seriously contemplated going round again for another helping. This was his first '20' and after that experience we are sure it will not be the last.

Incidentally we started 14 (8 in "A" team and 6 in "B" team) and everyone finished, which is our best yet.

Pos.	RESULT.	H. M. S.
1	F. Poyton, Derby W.C.	2 48 17
2	T. Johnson, Leicester H.	2 54 31
3	G. R. Goodwin, Surrey W.C.	2 56 15
4	F. Rickards, Belgrave "A"	2 56 35
5	E. G. Cooper	2 57 22
13	E. A. Wall	3 3 23
14	W. H. Hare	3 3 24
17	R. W. Ricketts	3 5 19
23	R. D. McMullen	3 7 9
25	J. Miles	3 8 1
40	E. L. Reeve	3 12 47
42	J. B. Belchamber	3 12 56
43	J. Rathbone	3 13 4
84	C. H. Speechley	3 22 43
85	R. E. Wills	3 23 22
91	J. K. Chalk	3 25 10
93	J. N. Thomas	3 25 50

TEAM PLACINGS.
(19 Competed). Eliminating Individual Competitors.

1	Belgrave H.	2, 3, 11, 12	28 points
2	Surrey W.C.	1, 5, 6, 17	29
3	Queens Park	4, 7, 8, 50	69 "

OUR STROLL.

On Saturday, 25th July, the Belgrave Harriers will stroll to Brighton under the conductorship of the walking captain. Hitherto only two of such strolls have been promoted by the Club, but it is now intended that this social event should become one of our confirmed annual habits, in company with the Club dinner, the winning of the R.W.A. team championship and of the team race in the Brighton walk.

Of the first Belgrave stroll over this course little that is absolutely authentic is now known. The conductor during the first part of the journey was W. Mathewson, but, becoming sleepy at Crawley, he was made comfortable on the platform of the railway station there, and he rejoined the party upon its arrival at Brighton. Who acted as conductor thereafter is not known, but from the vague stories still told by our older members, it would appear that most of the credit for the successful termination of the stroll must be allotted to a 6 lb. plum pudding carried down à la Dick Whittington by Georgie Still. This, although rejected fastidiously, nay, contumeliously during the early stages of the journey, eventually came into its kingdom, or empire rather, and was "cut" in a very different fashion.

The second stroll was conducted by our President, Bob Ricketts, and was a decided success. As this took place only two years ago it is still fresh in our memories and we need not recapitulate its details. For the benefit of a few doubters, however, we would affirm in passing that it is a well-established historical fact that the Post Coxall did climb a brick-wall

near Brighton to steal a dog's drinking water. This, however, was not the occasion upon which were composed those oft-recited lines:—

"It was slimy and it stunk,
But of all the drinks I've drunk,
I'm gratefullest for one at
Preston Park!"

For the coming stroll, success is ensured already, as quite a goodly number have signified their intention of making the journey. The party will leave Big Ben punctually at 5 P.M. A stop of 45 minutes will be made at Croydon for tea. Light refreshments will be taken at Red Hill, and a good supper will await us on our arrival at Crawley. Here, also, haversack rations for support during the rest of the journey may be procured.

The pace throughout will be moderate, and the party expect to arrive at Brighton at from 8.30 to 9 A.M.

As many of our runners will participate in the relay races at Mitcham on that Saturday evening Mr. Thomson will form a party of those wishing to join the stroll. He will proceed by 'bus to Loader's Refreshment Rooms, Brighton Road, Red Hill where his party will await the arrival of the strollers. The captain or Hon. Sec. would be pleased to receive the names of all wishing to take part as early as possible.

* * *

FORMS AND FORM.

The A.A.A. have again been "moaning" of the slackness of competitors in filling up the official entry forms.

On enquiry and examination of some of the forms submitted to the Club Handicapper for Club races, the "moan" appears to be

justified if it could be satisfactorily explained that the, almost, voluminous, detail demanded was really necessary.

However, if the present form is necessary, it is as well to fill it completely. The first 4 lines of the form should not require any explanation. Line 5 is merely the repetition of the last race at the distance for which you are entering. Line 6 requires detail of the last handicap race at similar distance in which a prize was won—if any—and line 7 the detail of the last race, irrespective of distance, in which gaining a ‘pot.’

If by chance you read the form through from top to bottom, little mistake can be made as to the requirements. Some general instructions however may not be out of place.

It is not necessary to state in line 6 that your last prize was, say, a marble clock which is not now working. On the other hand if you have never won a prize at all do not be afraid to say so. By doing so you have a very remote chance of getting a “lift.”

It is not necessary to use multi-coloured inks to emphasise the fact of your inability to “get up,” nor is it good form to express compliments to the wonderful intelligence of the Handicapper—He is probably beyond all that—and finally, do not express the candour of a certain walker, who, entering for a running race, wrote in lines 6 and 7, “I have never won a prize for running except in a walking race.” He was probably right, but it was not flattering to that noble body of Judges of Walking.

FIXTURES.

Saturday, July 25th, at Mitcham.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

v

Croydon S.C., Epsom H., Mitcham A.C.

Relay Races :

4 x 110 yds. 4 x 300 yds. 4 x 880 yds.
4 x 1 mile.

**Saturday, August 1st at 3 p.m.
at Battersea Park.**

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS.

100 yds. 440 yds. 880 yds. 1 mile.
2 mile Walk. 220 yds. Junior (under 18)

Handicaps :

75 yds. 880 yds.

Other Events :

220 yds. Low Hurdles.

80 yds. Girls. 100 yds. Boys.

Ladies’ Egg and Spoon Race.

Open Events :

1 mile Scratch Novice Walk.

440 yds. Scratch Novice Run.

Open to any unattached Novice, Business House and Belgrave Harriers excepted.

Wednesday, Aug. 19th, at Epsom.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

v

Croydon S.C., Epsom H., Mitcham A.C.

Relay Races :

4 x 110 yds. 4 x 300 yds. 4 x 880 yds.
4 x 1 mile.

**Thursday, August 27th, at 7 p.m.
at Battersea Park.**

100 yds. Handicap. 440 yds. Handicap.
¾ mile H’dicap. 2 mile Walk H’dicap.

Inter-Club Relay Competition—

4 x 300 yds. 4 x 1 mile.

Entries for all Races must be made on A.A.A. Forms and forwarded with Fee 1/- each event (Ladies, Boys and Girls 6d.), to Mr. W. L. Bayliss, 70, Strathville Road, S.W. 18, at least 7 days prior to the Event.

Hon. Editor—

To whom all communications should

be sent

W. H. HARE,
2, Sutherland Place, S.W.1.