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The 3rd Edition

1936.

THE

# BELGRAVIAN

The  
OFFICIAL GAZETTE  
of the  
BELGRAVE HARRIERS

AUGUST, 1936.

Watkins, 320 Upper Street, Islington, N.1. Clerkenwell 8448.



THE 3rd EDITION  
(1936)  
OF  
**THE BELGRAVIAN.**  
AUGUST, 1936.

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Published by the Committee of the Belgrave Harriers.

(to whom monetary contributions should be sent).

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## THIS AND THAT.

Twelve months ago these columns recorded our indignation at the non-selection of Jim Ginty as a member of the English International team, after he had so clearly demonstrated his claims in the A.A.A. Championships. Now it gives us all the greatest of pleasure to congratulate Jim upon his inclusion in the British Olympic team. We are sure he will acquit himself well, and expect him to reach the final of the Steeplechase, and uphold the prestige of his Country and Club. Our best wishes go with Jim!

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In the midst of our pleasure at this selection, it is unfortunate that we should have to express our disappointment that Fred Bentley, who finished third in the recent R.W.A. 50 kilos. Championship, has not been asked to accompany the team. Many of us think he was entitled to his place in the trio to represent Gt. Britain; and it is certain that his fairness, combined with speed and stamina, would have ensured a creditable performance.

However, we are not prepared to criticise too harshly the selection of the three to travel. Whitlock and Hopkins made clear their claims beyond any shadow of doubt, and T. Lloyd Johnson, although failing on this occasion, has sterling performances to his credit in the past. We wish them the best of luck, and feel certain that England's walkers will be very prominent.

Our great disappointment is that Fred Bentley should be denied the honour of being nominated as first reserve. We are unable to trace the slightest degree of justification for this omission. Our man's previous performances, and placing in the official Olympic trial, cry out for recognition. And that recognition appears to have been granted by everyone except the Selection Committee! To those of us familiar with past and present form at the Olympic distance, the reserve selection came as a tremendous surprise; for both Bentley and Green possessed greater claims for nomination on current form and past experience.

Protests on the journey homewards from Derby were successful in obtaining a slight concession to reasonableness, and it was agreed that Bentley's name should go forward to the International Board as a further reserve.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is our Committee's intention to pursue this matter further, as was done in the case of Ginty last year, in an attempt to gain some slight redress; and to protect the interests of others who in future years may find themselves similarly treated, if no protest is made on this occasion.

Fortunately, Fred Bentley has a big heart and youth on his side, and there is every probability that International honours may come to him later, as they have done to Jim Ginty.

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The Metropolitan Police Walking Club, among whom we have so many loyal members, have shared our disgust at Bentley's rejection (he is Police Champion over the Southend—Barking course), and have given us their whole-hearted support. Whether any satisfaction, or mitigation of this recent action, can be forthcoming is problematical, but it is certain that an investigation, when called for by two large representative bodies such as the M.P.W.C. and ourselves, and backed by an imposing array of incontrovertible facts, must take place and, we trust, ensure future selection is of a more logical character. Only by a strict inquiry, and the *amende honorable*, can the Road Walking Association regain some of the confidence it has recently forfeited.

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And now, heartiest congratulations to our team that won the National Team Championship (which carries with it the handsome "Horlick" Cup), in the R.W.A. 50 kilos. Championship at Derby. This is our third successive win, and the same three men (Fred Bentley, Tommy Green and Fred Rickards) have constituted the team on each occasion, but they have contrived to finish in a different order each time. Well walked!

Our very best wishes for future happiness go to L. F. Bailey, D. E. Brown and B. J. T. Knifton upon the occasion of their respective marriages. The last two named, in particular, have done much for the Club, and to all three we send our congratulations and good wishes.

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In our last issue we had the sad duty of recording the passing of two good friends. Again, we have to announce the loss of another two loyal Belgravians.

Capt. W. H. Ellison, a Vice-President for some years past, and a familiar figure at Wimbledon throughout the winter months, and G. H. Laurie, a regular participant in the London—Brighton Walk, have both passed over.

We feel this added loss acutely, and tender our sincere sympathy to the relatives concerned.

\* \* \* \* \*

The new Club tie, with the badge woven in gold on a claret background, is now available, and application should be made to the Hon. Treasurer. The price is 3/-.

\* \* \* \* \*

Several members are making the trip to see the Olympic Games, and no doubt hundreds will be in attendance at the British Empire v. U.S.A. match at the White City, on August 15th.

\* \* \* \* \*

A note from our Track Captain, Harry Shields, comes as a reminder that light-weight sleeveless Club vests may now be had from the Hon. Treasurer, at 2/6 each. There can now be no possible excuse for members not wearing the Club vest; and those erring souls who have been seen at meetings, hiding themselves beneath the anonymity of a white vest, are invited, to send their chest measurements and half-a-crown to Mr. W. G. Webb at once.

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Our Track Captain, in collaboration with E. Stimpson, also has ideas about the formation of a subscription club to purchase training suits. The price is expected to be in neighbourhood of 15/- to 17/6, and those interested are invited to get into touch with either of the above-named. But get that Club vest first!

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to A. F. Mitchell and F. A. Walker upon their recent Marathon performance—a distance which has been neglected in recent years by our members. Both men qualified for Polytechnic H. standard medals in the Kinnaird Marathon, and followed this up by gaining A.A.A. standard medals on July 11th, and so, by complying with the condition laid down, qualified for their Club Honours Badges. In this latter race, our

two men finished together, their time being just outside 2 hours 52 minutes for the 26 miles 385 yards journey—very fine performances.

\* \* \* \* \*

In this connection we have pleasure in publishing the following letter received:—

Dear Mr Harley,

I should be glad if through the pages of the Magazine you would allow me to express my thanks for the kindness shown by Messrs. Frank Elson and Percy Wright during the Marathon races. Their encouragement was greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. F. MITCHELL.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our last issue of "The Belgravian" was the fiftieth to see the light since I succeeded Ben Knifton as Hon. Editor of our Gazette in April, 1929, and this fact sent me foraging into the first issue I timorously presented to our members. It is interesting to see there recorded the plans for the formation of the Southern Amateur Athletic League, which we now accept as part of the normal Summer programme.

Also an account of the National Cross-country Championship at Beaconsfield, when we started eight men, and finished only four. The heroes of this intensely hot day were: W. G. Webb (87th), A. W. Penny (120th), W. L. Bayliss (122nd) and F. G. Ford (197th). We also recorded in this issue the winning of an open team track race—the second occasion ever to do so, at that time; and concluded the Gazette with words that have not yet lost their point, as follows:—

*"To conclude, constructive criticism, helpful suggestions, in fact, anything which tends to improve our magazine and raise it to a higher level, will be gratefully received. The publication of a Club magazine calls for more team work than the winning of a championship, and your help will be welcomed as a personal favour by THE HON. EDITOR."*

Please note, this still holds good!

## OUR WIMBLEDON HEADQUARTERS.

As we go to press, arrangements have almost been completed for the acquisition of the lease of St. John's Hall, Wimbledon. The Committee have given this matter their most careful consideration, and it has been decided to take advantage of the opportunity which has presented itself; and so we can be sure of quarters within easy reach of our Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park training grounds for at least another twenty years.

It is hoped to add to the amenities of the Hall—which has, of course, been impossible in the past—and generally equip it so that we shall have a first-class athletic and social centre for years to come. Our Committee are likely to have some late nights planning any alterations and developments that may be decided upon, and the co-operation of all members will be needed to ensure that Belgrave Hall (or whatever we decide to call our headquarters) is the success it deserves to be.

And so the present needs of the Club have, to some extent, at least, been satisfied, and pleasingly enough, satisfied *now*, so that those who have worked and contributed to our Building Fund can share some of the benefits that ownership of our own quarters can offer, rather than that posterity alone should benefit.

The need for our Building Fund is, of course, more important now than ever before. The initial cost, possible alterations, equipment and maintenance have to be met, and additionally, we shall still strive to raise enough money to ensure quarters—eventually—in perpetuity for the Club. This has always been one of our aims, and remains so; even while we consider and cater for immediate needs.

We are sure that this announcement will give general pleasure to those who have enjoyed past Winter seasons at Wimbledon; and we hope that more than ever will be present on our opening day and subsequent Saturdays throughout the season. Details of the early Winter fixtures will be given in the Annual General Meeting notice, when it is circulated.

## THE R.W.A. 20 MILES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

The “Senior” Championship was held on May 9th at Leicester, and we set off from London feeling that we were sure of our usual placing, and had a good chance of upsetting the Surrey Walking Club’s series of wins.

We knew that on current form our complete team of eight were not so good as those of our rivals, but from positions 1—5, as shown in our Club Championship, we thought we were slightly superior. Unfortunately, our margin of safety was insufficient.

Charlie Churcher had the misfortune to suffer disqualification early on; and Tommy Green, although prominent in the first half of the race, was troubled by cramp in the tops of the legs towards the end, and gradually dropped back.

Meanwhile, Fred Rickards and Fred Bentley were giving us their usual sound performances, and Jack Bidgood, after a quiet start, began to peg back places. With the slowing of Green, our need for a fourth man became apparent, and here Bob Readman

came into prominence and completed our team. This was his first "National 20," and reflects the greatest credit on him. Next year he should knock several minutes off his time and step into the very front rank of 20-mile walkers.

With the withdrawal of Churcher and the indisposition of Green, our hopes of winning had long since gone, but we still seemed set for second place. In the last few yards, however, Lloyd Johnson managed to pass Fred Rickards and so took his club into second position, and relegated us to third place, one point separating us.

Of our non-scoring "A" team men, Green gained a first-class standard medal, and Harley and Urry second-class medals.

Our "B" team acquitted themselves well in finishing 12th of the 17 teams to close in. This is very creditable, and we expect further improvement from them next year. B. H. Clark, S. Gould and G. H. Boddington of this team gained second-class standard awards.

The Surrey Walking Club were responsible for a very fine show in scoring their fourth successive win, and we proffer our heartiest congratulations. They, too, had their misfortunes in the disqualification of Archibald and the falling-back of Galloway, but superior reserve strength enabled them to survive.

As pointed out earlier, our margin of safety was not so good, and we must concentrate on this next year. The result is appended.

#### RESULT.

Pos.	Name	h.	m.	s.
1.	H. A. Hake (S.W.C.) ... ..	2	47	23
2.	H. H. Whitlock (Met. W.C.) ... ..	2	48	11
3.	S. E. Fletcher (Derby S.C.) ... ..	2	49	53
5.	F. Rickards (Bel. H. "A") ... ..	2	51	43
8.	F. E. Bentley do. ... ..	2	54	5
17.	J. C. Bidgood do. ... ..	2	58	43
27.	A. Readman do. ... ..	3	2	29
28.	T. W. Green do. ... ..	3	3	45
50.	A. A. Harley do. ... ..	3	11	4
52.	W. Urry do. ... ..	3	11	48
55.	B. H. Clark (Bel. H. "B") ... ..	3	12	37
64.	S. Gould do. ... ..	3	14	3
65.	G. H. Boddington do. ... ..	3	14	29
73.	F. H. Elson do. ... ..	3	17	1
83.	L. R. Spooner (Bel. H. "I") ... ..	3	18	8
104.	C. H. Speechley (Bel. H. "B")... ..	3	24	15
107.	W. H. Snell do. ... ..	3	26	11

126 finished.

#### TEAM PLACINGS.

1.	Surrey Walking Club ... ..	35	pts.
2.	Leicester W.C. ... ..	52	pts.
3.	Belgrave Harriers ... ..	53	pts.
12.	Belgrave Harriers ("B")... ..	241	pts.

17 teams closed in.

## THE R.W.A. 50 KILOS. CHAMPIONSHIP.

This Team Championship, carrying with it the "Horlick" Cup, is ours again for the third successive year. From the start at Derby on July 4th, our men were always prominent and there never seemed any possibility of our having to hand over the trophy.

Fred Bentley, in particular, excelled himself, and was with the leaders up to 28 miles, when they managed to drop him, but he carried through and recorded the splendid timing given below. The previous best figures for this Championship were 4 hr. 35 min. 36 sec. by Tommy Green at Croydon in 1930. Fred was over two minutes better than this, and yet was only third.

This truly fine performance of Fred's earned him many congratulations immediately after the race. The disappointment which took away the gloss came later; but we have expressed our views of this on another page.

Our next man to finish was Tommy Green, in fourth position. Tommy took some time to settle down, but towards the end he was his old self. In fact, his time from the 25 miles mark to the finish (just over 6 miles) was faster than that of any other man in the race. Even Whitlock was 17 seconds slower; all of which shows that Tommy is very far from being the spent force some people would like us to believe.

Our team was completed by Fred Rickards in sixth position. One could not help but feel sorry for Fred. He looked as fit as he has ever done. Special training had put him into the pink of condition, and yet on the day of days he had the misfortune to have stomach troubles, which lost him many minutes. But for this, it is certain that Fred would have been right in the front, and qualified for an Olympic position. However, Fred has learned some philosophy in the course of many years' walking, and met misfortune with a smile. A week later he walked Lloyd Johnson to a yard in 25 miles, both men being well inside previous record! Such is the luck of the game.

Our other man to finish was Jack Bidgood. He was always there should any of our first three be forced to retire, and qualified for a first-class standard medal. Well walked, Jack!

Our congratulations go to Harold Whitlock upon his exceptionally fine walking, and to J. Hopkins, who made sure of a place in the Olympic team. We should not be surprised to see them finish first and second at Berlin.

**RESULT.**

Pos.	Name	h. m. s.
1.	H. H. Whitlock (Met. W.C.)	4 30 38
2.	J. Hopkins (Lancs. W.C.)	4 31 1
3.	F. E. Bentley (Bel. H.)	4 33 32
4.	T. W. Green (Bel. H.)	4 36 2
5.	H. A. Hake (S.W.C.)	4 39 41
6.	F. Rickards (Bel. H.)	4 42 33
14.	J. C. Bidgood (Bel. H.)	4 56 46

30 finished.

**TEAM PLACINGS.**

1.	Belgrave H. (3, 4, 6)	13 pts.
2.	Surrey W. C. (5, 8, 9)	22 pts.
3.	Lancashire W.C. (2, 14, 19)	35 pts.
4.	Derbyshire S.C. (7, 15, 17)	39 pts.
5.	Metropolitan W.C. (1, 27, 28)	56 pts.
6.	Leicester W.C. (16, 24, 26)	66 pts.

**THE INTER-CLUB WALKS.**

Our annual programme of scratch walks at 1, 2, 3 and 5 miles once again received good support from the Metropolitan clubs when the events took place at Battersea Park on June 17th. Woodford Green A.C. were unable to accept an invitation this year owing to other arrangements, but next year we hope to welcome them again. The competition was on the usual lines, two men from each club competing in each event where possible (no man walking twice during the evening), and 16 points were allocated to the Club providing the winner, 15 points to the second man's club, and so on downwards. The aggregate of points on the evening gave us a win with 110 points, to the 100 of Surrey Walking Club, and 79 of the Metropolitan W.C.

The first race to be held was the Five Miles Walk, and in this Harold Whitlock (Met. W.C.) gave a splendid exhibition, finishing an easy winner in 38 min. 16 sec. Burt (S.W.C.) was second, Len Fletcher, of ours, third. Our other man, Fred Bentley, found the distance a bit too short for his liking, but did well to finish fifth. The scoring by the clubs was Belgrave and S.W.C. each 26 points, Metropolitan W.C. 25 points.

**RESULT.**

1. H. Whitlock (Met. W.C.), 38m. 16s.; 2. N. Burt (S.W.C.), 39m. 6s.; 3. A. L. Fletcher (B.H.), 39m. 16s.; 4. H. Neilson (Poly.), 39m. 32s., 5. F. E. Bentley (B.H.), 39m. 46s.; 6. W. Archibald (S.W.C.), 40m. 4s

Next came the three miles, and in this we had an excellent race between F. J. Redman (Met. W.C.) and Bill Treacher, our Track vice-captain. Bill was content to remain in second place, preferring caution and second placing, than to risk disqualification and loss of points. Our other walker was Charlie Churcher, who finished fifth; and the best scores in the event were: Belgrave, 27 points; Metropolitan, 26 points; S.W.C., 22 points.

### RESULT.

1, F. Redman (Met. W.C.), 22m. 54s.; 2, W. A. Treacher (B.H.), 22m. 56s.; 3, R. Sims (L.V.), 23m. 13s.; 4, L. Hancock (S.W.C.) 23m. 22s.; 5, C. E. Churcher (B.H.), 23m. 48s.; 6, P. J. Reading (Poly.), 24m. 0s.

This was succeeded by the two miles race, and in this D. Christie-Murray (S.W.C.) set a terrific pace, with Harry Churcher in pursuit. With about 200 yards to go Harry took the lead and finished a good winner in 14 min. 28 sec.

### RESULT.

1, H. G. Churcher (B.H.), 14m. 28s.; 2, D. Christie-Murray (S.W.C.), 14m. 35s.; 3, M. J. Fisher (S.W.C.), 15m. 8s.; 4, W. P. Everard (E.B.), 15m. 24s.; 5, J. Rutland (B.H.), 15m. 26s.; 6, R. C. Pantling (L.V.), 15m. 49s.

Points were scored as follows: Surrey W.C., 29 pts.; Belgrave 28 pts.; Essex Beagles, 19 pts.

The last event of the programme was the one mile, and with a lead on points, and Don Brown to represent us here, and Wright to back him up, we expected to win the competition. Our expectations were realised for Don left all the opposition far behind in recording 6 min. 53 sec. F. Wildbur (S.W.C.) and A. Rayner (Surrey A.C.) followed him home, with our Percy fourth.

The leading clubs collected points as follows: Belgrave, 29 pts.; Surrey A.C. and Surrey Walking Club, 23pts. each; London Vidarians W.C., 21 pts.

### RESULT.

1, D. E. Brown (B.H.), 6m. 53s.; 2, F. W. Wildbur (S.W.C.), 7m. 14s.; 3, A. Rayner (S.A.C.), 7m. 24s.; 4, P. G. Wright (B.H.), 7m. 25s.; 5, R. L. Young (Met.), 6, R. Crump (L.V.), 7m. 44s.

This race concluded the competition, which enjoyed fine weather, and afforded some excellent sport. There were no disqualifications, and some of the walking reached a very high standard.

The aggregate points and final placings are given below:—

1. Belgrave H. ... ..	110 pts.	5. Surrey A.C. ... ..	38 pts.
2. Surrey W.C. ... ..	100 pts.	6. Essex Beagles ... ..	28 pts.
3. Metropolitan W.C....	79 pts.	6. Polytechnic H. ... ..	28 pts.
4. London Vid. W.C....	68 pts.	8. Valentine's S.C. ... ..	27 pts.

## WITH THE WALKERS.

Congratulations to Harry Churcher upon being placed in the A.A.A. Championship for the first time. A. A. Cooper, Woodford Green A.C.) was an easy winner, but Harry and P. Bernhard, the Latvian, had a stirring struggle for second place. On the last lap they changed position three times, but on entering the straight, the foreigner was able to get away. Harry's time was

recorded as 14 min. 2.8 secs. and is much the fastest he has ever done.

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Early in the season we were successful in the Polytechnic Harriers' Invitation Two Miles team race, comprising the six strongest Clubs in the South. Our scoring men were D. E. Brown, A. L. Fletcher, P. G. Wright and W. A. Treacher.

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On September 5th the annual London—Brighton Walk takes place, and we expect to be strongly represented and regain the team Shield lost last year to Surrey Walking Club.

As usual, any offers to act as volunteer cyclist attendants to our men will be gratefully accepted, and anyone able to do so is asked to get in touch with the Walking Hon. Secretary. A good attendant can help tremendously in a race of this description, and we hope our men will receive plenty of assistance.

Any walker desirous of competing who has not received an entry form from the promoters should also apply to A. A. Harley.

It is expected that we shall again have a conveyance on the road, and those interested and wishing to accompany the race (5/- fare) are asked to send their names in. The Brighton Walk still has a fascination of its own, and we hope that our own competitors, attendants, and supporters will all be numerous.

As usual, the first Belgrave man to finish will win the Club Long-distance Walking Championship and Gold Medal, and hold the "Belgrave" Cup for a year. The second clubman to finish wins a large Club silver medal, and the third man a small silver Club medal.

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On the same day, at Battersea Park, the Club holds its final track meeting of the season, and included in the programme is a two miles team walk v. Highgate H. and Surrey Athletic Club. This should provide some of our walkers, unable to be on the "Brighton" walk as participants, attendants or supporters, with a last opportunity to tear round the track in this 1936 Summer season.

\* \* \* \* \*

We can look back with extreme pleasure at the result of the three major team championship events. We have had first teams in the "Junior" and "50 kilos." and third team in the 20 miles "Senior" Championship—a record of which we can be very proud. It would be very nice to win all three Championship trophies in one season. We have held all three at various times on several occasions; but to win all three between March and July in one season would indeed be a splendid feat. What about it, lads? Anyway, this year's double-first and third is very

creditable to all concerned, and the Club can regard these performances with great pride.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Lewis's 25 Miles round Birmingham Walk, Fred Rickards was beaten by a yard by T. Lloyd Johnson. Fred Bentley, suffering from a badly-blistered toe and missing toenail—a legacy of the previous week's 50 kilos. Championship—he only walked in order to complete the team, and make up the number necessary to arrange cheap fares from London), finished third. All the first three men were inside previous record. Jack Bidgood was placed ninth, but Green suffered disqualification and our team chances disappeared.

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Once again I should like to appeal to all members to bring along their novice friends and introduce them to the Club, and our sport. We are always glad to welcome newcomers. The Club's strength in a few years' time depends largely upon the number of beginners introduced to the sport now. Many a youngster requires only a little persuasion to come along to Wimbledon and try himself out. We have many promising young walkers in our ranks now, but some further new blood would guarantee, even more emphatically, successes in years to come.

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A reminder of the 2 Miles Walk Handicap included in the London Fire Brigade Sports at the White City on August 22nd. There is always a special prize for the club with the largest entry, and this has been ours for years now. So don't forget to send in your entry.

All enquiries and entries to A. A. HARLEY,  
39, Roxburgh Avenue, Isleworth, Mx.

## THE SOUTHERN AMATEUR ATHLETIC LEAGUE.

As this is written we lead the S.A.A.L. Division I, with Blackheath H. two points behind us.

We opened the season well by winning the 3 miles Team Race on May 2nd, and have since been placed second in the 4 x 440 yards Relay (May 16th), the 1 mile Team Race (June 27th) and 4 x 880 yards on July 22nd. Thus we have dropped three points out of a possible 24 points in competition with the leading Metropolitan clubs.

The 4 x 220 yards Relay was declared void owing to a misunderstanding as to the change-overs in the lanes, and will, presumably, be re-run later in the season. The Medley Relay will be held at the Fire Brigade Meeting on August 22nd.

Our lads have certainly shown up well in the events decided to date, and we seem to have an excellent chance of heading the League for the third time, our previous wins being in 1932 and 1934.

## WITH OUR FIELD EVENTS MEN.

In the Field Events Section of the Southern Amateur Athletic League, our men are well on the way towards repeating last year's win. Despite very keen competition, especially from Croydon H., our representatives have managed to average approximately ten out of eleven points for each event. Only one competition remains to be held, and we lead the league with a 27 points advantage over Croydon H. Scoring is as follows:—

1, Belgrave H., 219 pts.; 2, Croydon H., 192 pts.; 3, Polytechnic H., 163 pts.; 4, Mitcham A.C., 147 pts.; 5, St. George's S.S.C., 119½ pts.; 6, St. Bride's A.C., 107 pts.; 7, Surrey A.C., 96½ pts.; 8, South London H., 93 pts.; 9, Kensington A.C., 84 pts.; 10, Blackheath H., 46 pts.

G. H. Powell and C. A. Melchior were honoured during the season by invitations to represent the A.A.A. The best all-round performance by a Club member was that of J. Dodd who, in the Northern Counties A.A.A. Championship, won both Pole Vault and High Jump, and was third in the Long Jump. Others to show up well have been E. H. Finneron, who won both Surrey and Southern Javelin Championships; and F. J. Skelley, who was beaten by half-an-inch only in the A.A.A. Junior Long Jump Championship.

Both Finneron and Skelley show immense promise at their respective events, and should continue to improve, and may well reach International standard in the course of the next two or three years. K. Robertson is another junior who should do well in the future. We have entered him from time to time in various High Jump competitions, not so much with the idea that he, a schoolboy, should gain points for the Club, but rather that he should gain in experience, and benefit by the "close-up" view of accomplished performers. All this should stand him in good stead when physical maturity comes.

We have enjoyed the support of all those who turned out last year, but next season we hope for even greater interest, and a corresponding increase in performance level. Although our average standard is good, as is shown by S.A.A.L. results, and we have some outstanding individuals, there is still room for improvement. We shall not be satisfied until we have two or three men at each field event, capable of gaining their A.A.A. standard medals.

## THE OUTING.

On Sunday, July 12th, a party of members and friends entrained for Littlehampton. A splendid site on West Beach was found, giving bathing and cricket facilities on the expansive sands, and generally everything promised to be extremely satisfactory, but, unfortunately, the weather frowned on us. A cold, threatening morning gave place later to blinding rain, and the pilgrimage towards town for tea, and the ferry journey across the Arun, were certainly very damp affairs. Tea was taken in a diversity of costumes, and it would be hard to imagine a more bedraggled assembly. But despite the rain on the windows; the trousers and macintoshes drying on the walls, appetites seemed unimpaired and cheerfulness reigned. (A pun unworthy of even a Lindsey, I'm afraid).

In fact, despite the execrable weather, all agreed that it was a worth-while outing, even though the Clerk of the Weather did his worst. Our thanks are due to Alf. Taylor for making the necessary arrangements, and our commiseration that he was not blessed with climatic co-operation.

## MAINLY CONGRATULATORY.

We mention elsewhere Jim Ginty's Olympic selection, which followed on his second placing in the A.A.A. Steeplechase Championship, and his win in the Southern Counties Championship. We all followed these events, now given in reverse order, with the greatest interest, and congratulate him upon these performances.

\* \* \* \* \*

We also congratulate Eddie Pack upon winning the Police 440 yards Championship at Bradford in fifty and seven-tenths seconds. He also ran well in the A.A.A. Championships and qualified for the second round. Pack has many years of running before him, and we should not be surprised to find him in the very first class when he can finish strongly. A few half-miles would help here, no doubt; but, as it is, we believe he gained A.A.A. standard, and so, his Club Honours Badge.

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This is one of our annual grumbles regarding the A.A.A. Championships. A large proportion of the crowd are active athletes themselves, taking a day off from their normal racing, and knowing the value attached to A.A.A. standard. And yet we are never told officially, even though a space is allotted on the programme, the names or numbers of those who have attained standard performance. In our Club this is a qualification for

the Club Honours Badge. Is it too much to expect some enlightenment on this matter of standards immediately following the event? If so, would it not be possible, seeing the number of officials available, to revert to the old practice of firing a gun at the expiry of standard time in the longer track events? When all is said and done, Club athletes such as ourselves have some claim to consideration. We do not go to the White City only to see the much-publicised athletes whose names are the reporters' play. Our interest in athletics is deeper than this, and once again we express the hope that these comments may be the means of causing an improvement to be made when next year's Championships are held.

\* \* \* \* \*

Arthur Penny ran really well in his attempt to gain a place in the Olympic team. In the six mile championship he finished within five seconds of English Native record, and 27 seconds inside previous Championship best; and yet he finished fifth. The Polish runner, Noji, was successful, and Burns, Potts and Eaton earned Olympic selection. Our sympathy is with Arthur. Well as he ran, he found three Englishmen running faster, and so he has to stay at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Club Annual General Meeting will soon be on us (the probable date is the last Tuesday in September, at "The Rising Sun," Ebury Bridge Road, S.W.1; but official notices will be circulated), and we ask all who can do so to attend. It is the members' opportunity to elect those who are to manage their interests during the ensuing year, and to hear the account of stewardship to be rendered for the past twelve months.

Next year is the Club Jubilee Year, and the year when we shall begin to accustom ourselves to our own headquarters.

So note the date, come along and do something towards starting the Club on another successful year.

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Don Brown's win in the Surrey Championship Walk, and second place in the Southern Championship, call for our congratulation. Cooper's brilliance during the last year or so has rather dimmed Don's excellent performances, which some years would have given easy Championship wins.

## A REVIEW OF OUR SUMMER TRACK MATCHES.

### Match v. London A.C. at the White City on May 6th.

The L.A.C. paid us a compliment by turning out a team which included several International runners of repute, and although our team was not so strong as we had hoped for, the match was a very enjoyable one. J. V. Powell, our new A.A.A. champion, was running for the L.A.C. in the 880 yards race, and he beat R. G. Michael, and Fred White, in what was quite good time for the earliness of the season. The L.A.C. gained maximum points in both sprint races, also in the 440 yards. Here they fielded F. F. Wolff, and J. W. Anderson, both of whom have represented their country. A. E. Lee made his debut for us in this event and ran well, although obviously outclassed.

The race of the evening was, as last year, the 2 Miles run. The L.A.C. turned out Peter Ward, the recent winner of the A.A.A. 3 Miles championship, and he and Arthur Allum had a fine fight for first place. It was only in the last lap that Ward went in front, and we were all pleased at Arthur's fine running.

The 1 Mile was another good race and here Les Cohen had to admit defeat to a very strong runner in W. S. Karran. He beat Les in the finishing straight, in time which bettered Bill Rice's win the previous year.

The two field events saw us credited with our only win of the evening. This was in the Javelin, in which George Powell threw 151ft. 8in.

The final result was : L.A.C. 36 pts., Belgrave 20 pts.

### Match at Drayton Green Track on May 9th.

This was a six-club match affair between Ealing H., Reading A.C., Ashcombe A.C., Slough A.C., A.E.C. and ourselves.

K. S. Duncan, the Oxford Blue, was running for Reading, and won the 100 yards race, beating Gray, and Wiley, of our own club.

Alby Bird ran away from his field in the 880 yards, and with Frank Webb and L. W. Herbert also scoring, we gained some useful points in this event.

In the 1 Mile race Les Cohen gained first place, with Harry Shields and Art Allum also counting; and so adding to our bag.

The 2 Miles team race was an easy win for our boys, Tom Carter leading Art. Penny and Jack Flower home.

The 1 Mile Medley Relay saw Michael run a fine half-mile stage to give us a lead that was kept throughout.

After an enjoyable afternoon, amid pleasant surroundings, the score board read : Belgrave H. 48 pts., Reading A.C. 23 pts.,

Ealing H. 20 pts., Ashcombe A.C. 9 pts., and Slough A.C. and A.E.C. 1 pt. each.

### **Inter-Club Relay Meeting at Battersea Park on May 20th.**

This was the first of the four Inter-Club meetings to decide the club to hold the Shield for the next 12 months. We made a very good start by scoring maximum point for the four races held on this evening. With F. Stroud, L. Lewis, B. L. Bone and T. D. Wiley, we won the 4 x 100 yards; and then triumphed easily in the 4 x 880 yards, in which Fred White ran a very good half-mile.

We had quite a strong team out for the 4 x 300 yards and it was a great pity that the third Mitcham runner pulled a muscle when they were close on our heels. Even so their fourth man caught the Epsom runner. Croydon eventually finished second to us.

In the 1 Mile team we finished the first four men and so scored minimum points in the team race. Les Cohen once again led our team home and there is no doubt that his presence has done a great deal towards repairing the loss we sustained in so tragic a fashion.

On the same evening we held a 220 yards Handicap for those under 19, and V. D. Wynyard proved the winner with 12 yards start. The scratch man, B. Saunders, ran very well to get second. D. C. Carter just beat G. Crilly for third place, and on the form shown, we have several very promising young runners.

Bill Sutton proved a popular winner of the Javelin Handicap, with S. Jones second, and Joe Coleman, looking more like Teddy Brown every day, snaking third place.

The 2 Miles walking handicap saw Joe Coleman pound his way to victory (he certainly rolls the track in fine style!), with Percy Wright second, and J. E. Rutland third.

The 880 yards handicap was a fast run race, and the winner, A. H. Sampson, is sure to improve still further before the season is over. Another very promising runner in W. J. Ashford was second, with A. E. Lee running well from a back mark to gain third place.

### **Junior Inter-Club Meeting at Croydon on June 2nd.**

This was in the nature of a fiasco. Mitcham had the wrong date on their fixture card, and so did not turn out a team. Epsom also failed to put in an appearance, and Croydon turned out a few youngsters of about 15 years of age. As this fixture is for

those under 19, and we had included in the team some of our best Juniors, they had easy victories in the three events that were decided. D. Stage, in winning the 880 yards race, showed very promising form, and we hope to see more of this lad in our club races.

I think our lads all enjoyed their trip, even if they did arrive home rather late. Their meeting did not start until after 8 p.m., so I trust their parents forgave them!

### Triangular Match at Battersea Park on June 3rd.

On this evening we entertained Leigh-on-Sea Harriers and the Imperial College A.C. to a series of match events, and the latter club turned out F. Dondelinger, the French sprint champion.

Needless to say, he won both sprint events, with his second string runner-up in both races. This was not too good from our point of view as regards point scoring, but we soon pulled up, gaining useful points when Fred White won the 880 yards, and Eddie Pack and Michael came home together in the 440 yards.

Les Cohen and Frank Tame were first and second in the 1 Mile race and we also had first two in the 120 yards Hurdles event.

George Powell and F. Grassau credited us with a couple of wins in the Javelin and Shot Putt respectively, and when the points were finally totalled they were: Belgrave H. 36, Leigh-on-Sea H. 30, Imperial College A.C. 21.

In the Club Handicaps B. Saunders, our Junior sprint champion, won the final of the 100 yards off 7, with T. H. Cannon (7½) 2nd, and H. Morgan (8) 3rd.

The 120 yards Hurdles Handicap, over 3ft. jumps, was won by our new member from Canada, B. Hutchinson. A. A. Deacon gained second place, although L. A. Woodman was rather unlucky inasmuch as he had to run in the final just after he had competed in the 1 Mile race.

In the 1 Mile Handicap the winner proved to be G. Murdoch, a recent recruit from Northern Ireland, and he made good use of his 140 yards start. W. E. Lucas (120) ran well to gain second place, with Alby Bird (80) dashing down the straight in his usual hectic style to secure third prize.

The 2 Mile Walking Handicap was won by a long-marker, P. G. Baker, off 850 yards. Joe Coleman, that bloated aristocrat, off

330, was second; and Alf Harley, our genial Hon. Walking Secretary—which, incidentally, is only one of his club jobs—gained third place with 300 yards start.

We also held two Novice races, and although the entries were poor, both winners showed promise of something better in the future.

### **Inter-Club Relay Meeting at Croydon on June 9th.**

This was the second of the series and as usual with these away fixtures, we were forced to run a couple of made-up sprint teams. Tommy Scrimshaw turned out in these and ran very well, and although third place was our lot in each race we were more than satisfied with our men's game efforts.

The 4 x 880 was won in good style by our boys, and Frank Webb ran a very sound "half" to give us a convincing lead.

In the 1 Mile team race Mitcham turned out a stronger team than at the first meeting; but our lads, led home by Les Cohen, proved too strong for their opponents, and actually finished as follows: L. J. Cohen 1st, C. T. Carter 3rd, A. W. Penny 4th, and H. W. Shields 5th.

Thus with Croydon beating Mitcham for first place in the two sprint events, we managed to share points with Mitcham on the evening with 12 each. Croydon scored 10, and Epsom H. 6.

### **Doris Shield Match at Battersea Park on June 24th.**

We were very hopeful of regaining this trophy from the Thames Valley Harriers; but in the first race of the evening, the 100 yards, G. Lester, gave the holders a good start by winning with Tom Wiley second, and W. J. Summers, of Ashcombe A.C., third.

The 440 yards saw Eddie Pack run away from his field, and with A. E. Lee gaining fourth place, we managed to level matters with two events to be decided.

In the 2 Miles Team race Tom Carter led our team home in fine style; although Arthur Penny was hot on his heels. Our team scored 1, 2, 5; as against Ashcombe's 3, 4, 9; and T.V.H. 6, 7, 10.

Thus with one event to go we led the holders by two points, which meant that we had to win the 1 Mile Medley Relay, otherwise a win for Thames Valley would mean us sharing the trophy.

In a very fine race A. D. G. White just led Fred White over the half-mile stage; and then Dick Michael took us in front with a well-run quarter. Tom Wiley kept the lead over the first 220. and then Les Bennett dashed off over the final leg. Lester, of T.V.H., however, overhauled his man in thrilling style, and although Les fought pluckily, he had to admit defeat by a couple of yards.

So, although we did not regain the Shield, we did the next best thing by securing possession for 6 months of the year, with Thames Valley Harriers holding it for the other half.

In the Handicaps, which are open to all three competing clubs, the 100 yards was won by S. Walker, of Ashcombe A.C., off the long mark of 12 yards. F. Simmons, of our own Club, off 11, at last reaped some reward for his many efforts in club races; and Alby Bird, off 8½, showed some of our so-called sprinters how to sprint by securing third place.

Once again that arch-villain of our Walking handicaps, to wit, J. G. Coleman, gained first prize in the 2 Miles Walk; with A. B. Westcott, of T.V.H., 2nd; and Harry Churcher, showing some of the form which was later to gain him a place in the A.A.A. Championship, secured third award.

In the 1 Mile run J. C. Smart, one of our more recent members, made the most of his 160 yards start, and won in fast time. Ken Wood also proved in form by crediting us with second place and, to complete the Belgrave trio, L. A. Woodman strode into third position, and thus fulfilled our predictions made about him earlier in the season.

We also held a Club Long Jump handicap, and F. J. Skelley proved the winner, with Tom Wiley 2nd, and F. W. Pritchard 3rd. All three of these lads are very promising; Skelley, of course, has already proved himself in the A.A.A. Junior championships, but I think that both Wiley and Pritchard are bound to do better, but it is a case of practice, practice, and yet still more practice.

### **Match v. Southgate H. at Broomfield Park on June 27th.**

A small band of Belgrave enthusiasts journeyed to Wood Green on this Saturday afternoon for our match with that very enterprising young club, the Southgate Harriers.

It was a pity that we were not better represented; although our opponents also were far from full strength.

The flat events were on the relay principle, and there were also six field events.

The 4 x 100 yards saw Southgate establish an early lead which they kept throughout.

In the 4 x 880 yards Hugh Jones gave us the lead over the first leg and although K. N. Wood ran very pluckily, he was no match for his more experienced opponent. W. J. Ashford then proceeded to show the locals some running, and he not only cut down the 30 to 40 yards margin but gave us the lead. Frank Tame then went off with W. S. Hodges on his heels, and, as was only to be expected, the latter came by Frank as they neared the finish. This race was certainly quite exciting.

The 4 x 220 yards resulted in a win for Southgate, but all agreed that the luck of the draw was the deciding factor. There was never more than a yard or so between the men all the way round, and on this track with its peculiar bends, the inside lane was worth its weight in gold.

The 1 Mile team race saw Les Cohen beaten by J. W. Moore, who is an ex-English International runner, and the home club won with 8 pts. as against our 13.

In the final flat event it was a question of finding someone who had not run more than twice already that afternoon. In the end we raked in H. M. Quackenbos, who had been high jumping. He ran the first stage in the 4 x 440 yards, and naturally could not be expected to hold his rival, who had previously won the Southgate Junior championship. Our other three men all held their own but could never reduce the gap; and so with the flat events decided our score was nil!

However, a brighter side was shewn in the Field Events and we proved the winners of the Discus Throw, Weight Putt, and Javelin Throw. Bill Sutton, and F. Grassau, our blonde strong man, did fine work in the heavy events; and George Powell, aided by C. A. Melchior, proved too good for their opponents in the Javelin. We narrowly lost the Hop, Step and Jump; and here Tom Wiley did the best individual jump with just over 41 feet. The High and Long Jumps both went to Southgate Harriers; and so the score at the finish was 8 events to 3 in their favour.

I am sure all our boys enjoyed their outing; and we hope that next season will see a continuance of this very pleasant fixture.

## Belgrave H. v. Old Tiffinians A.C.

A very sporting and most enjoyable match took place at Kingston on July 3rd, when the above fixture was fulfilled. We took the opportunity of fielding several men who hitherto had not represented the Club in inter-club events, and all did well. Eventually we ran out winners by 54 points to 53—and more even competition could not be hoped for. Those to score "firsts" for us were Wiley (100 yards and Long Jump), Bird (880 yards), Grassau (Shot). Second points were scored on our behalf by Abberton (Mile), Quackenbos (High Jump), Murdoch (880 yards), Sutton (Shot), and single points for third places came from Johns (220 yards and 100 yards), Lucas (Mile), Blyther (High Jump), Taylor (880 yards), F. R. Webb (440 yards). The Old Tiffinians won the Relay.

After the match our boys were entertained to high supper; and so ended a most enjoyable fixture.

## Match v. Polytechnic H. and Victoria Park H. on July 15th.

On this evening we had the Polytechnic Harriers and the Victoria Park Harriers as our opponents in a series of match events.

Our sprinters were rather outclassed in the two sprint races. In fact, scoring for the first four positions, our score with both races decided was 1 point!

In the 880 yards, Alby Bird gave the Surrey County Champion, H. A. Williams, of the Poly., a very good race; and was only just beaten in a shade over 2 mins. This seemed to be rather a bump-affair, but as all the runners were more or less concerned, I hope that in future they will steer a straighter course.

The 440 yards was a fine race between Indian International runner, G. P. Bhalla, who was in the Poly. colours, and Dick Michael, of our own club. They raced neck and neck and it was by the smallest margin that the Indian eventually triumphed. Tommy Scrimshaw turned out in the race with borrowed togs, but could not seem to get going, although by securing 4th place he scored a point, and every little helps!

Les Cohen, as is becoming his habit, won the Mile for us, beating R. Henderson, of the Poly., and R. J. Carpenter, of V.P.H.; with "Nutty" Penny running well to gain fourth place.

In the two Field events which were included for the match, A. Rosser beat F. Grassau and Bill Sutton in the Weight; and F. J. Skelley tied with a Poly man for first place in the Long Jump.

The finals points were: Polytechnic H. 32½, Belgrave H. 21½, Victoria Park H. 16. We thank both these clubs for coming along and providing an enjoyable evening's sport; and also Bert Long of the Poly., who acted a Timekeeper.

Of the Club Handicaps held on this evening, the 100 yards Boys (under 16) was won by a newcomer, C. E. Skilton, off 10. R. Dunsford (7) was second; and the scratch man, S. R. Gardner, ran very well to gain third place.

The 100 yards Veterans resulted in only four runners facing the starter; and that old war-horse, Dick Best, added to his list of "pots" by annexing first prize. H. E. Jackman, another very good helper at our club meetings, was second, just pipping A. V. Chetland, that demon of Belisha crossings.

In the 880 yards, L. A. Woodman proved the winner from the 58 yards mark, with W. J. Ashford (60), 2nd, and A. H. Sampson, off the same mark, 3rd. All these three teams are showing themselves capable of inclusion in our scratch teams; and as stated previously, it is through the medium of our club handicaps that we are able to find out what talent we have available.

The 220 yards resulted in a win for F. W. Pritchard (16), with A. A. Bird (Is there no stopping this man? Evidently not, when he gets going!), off 15 yards, 2nd., and B. Saunders, off 10 yards, 3rd. The latter is without doubt the most promising young sprinter in our ranks at the moment; but it is essential that we discover a few more in order to hold our own in the matches to come.

W. G. True, off 675 yards, won the 2 Miles Walk in easy fashion, with Doug. Earle second, and G. H. Boddington, just holding off Harry Churcher and Bill Treacher, for third position.

Hats off to the Handicapper! Or is it "boos" that I hear? Nevertheless, the High Jump Handicap resulted in a triple dead-heat. L. A. Woodman, F. Grassau and H. M. Quackenbos were the men concerned, all tying at 5ft. 8in., and so it was decided to draw for the three prizes—a procedure which satisfied all concerned.

We also held a 1 Mile run for the Unattached Novices, and the winner, W. Powell, proved to be a lad of some promise. He won in easy fashion, and his time also was quite good. I hope by now he is a member of our club. If not, why not?

## Match v. Herne Hill H. and Blackheath H. at Deptford Park.

On July 22nd we met the above-named clubs and the result was : H.H.H. 19 points, Belgrave 14 points, Blackheath 9 points.

Ten of our points were amassed in the one and two mile events through the events of Cohen, Carter, Shields and Taylor. Our remaining points came from Lee (440 yards), and Quackenbos and Grassau (High Jump). Absentees handicapped our team, and a few points in the sprint events would have helped our score along.

### Junior Match v. Herne Hill H.

Here Herne Hill again had the advantage by 26 points to our 18, but this fixture served to show some of our promising junior talent.

B. Saunders showed the hall-mark of class in the 220 yards, and our other winners were D. C. Carter (100 yards), Wynyard (440 yards), and Beer (Mile). Other point-scorers for us were Bailey (100 yards), Vickers (880 yards), and Barker (220 yards).

In view of the promise of our junior members, and their need for experience and competition in their own class, we shall have to seriously consider an extension of our junior programme next season.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Aug. 19—A Programme of Club Handicaps at Battersea Park.  
Aug. 22—Match v. Metropolitan Police A.C. at Imber Court.  
S.A.A.L. 1 Mile Medley Relay at White City.  
Aug. 26—Inter-club Relays (final instalment!) v. Croydon H., Mitcham A.C. and Epsom H. at Epsom. A strong team and plenty of support wanted here.  
Sept. 5—Battersea Park. Match v. Highgate H. and Surrey. A.C. Also Club 3 miles Championship; and Handicaps 100 yards, 880 yards and Long Jump. This is also the day of the London—Brighton Walk.

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The opening date at Wimbledon, and early Winter fixtures will be advised on Annual General Meeting Notice.





