

THE 3rd EDITION
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN

MARCH-APRIL 1928.

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SOUTH OF THAMES.

Congratulations!!! At long last! Twenty-four years ago we gained 3rd place in this Championship at Redhill with a score of 158 points. Since then we have striven hard—very hard— but were never successful in gaining a place until this time. We deserved it, you will agree. May I prophesy a win next year to welcome another quarter of a century, and the dawn of a more successful period?

I congratulate the team collectively and individually. Every man ran well—Robertshaw particularly to finish 10th, and had the going been heavier I fancy he would have troubled the leaders. His is the best performance by any member of ours since the war. The next four ran well. But Bayliss (54th) who was 6th for the team, showed something of the form attributed to him, and of which he is capable. He improved 36 places on last year. Of those outside our first six Smith ran well and, like Rice, improved on his position of last year.

			m	s
1.	H Clayton, Reading A C		42	36
2	W J. Harwood, Surrey A C ...	...	42	47
3	F G Stubbs, South London H		43	1
10	A Robertshaw ... ..	...	43	45
15.	H. E Footer		44	3
21.	P. Khlopın		44	21
34.	W G Webb		44	56
41.	A. D Pyer		45	11
54	W. L Bayliss ... ..	...	45	34
64	A E Smith		45	45
88.	W Rice		46	20

TEAM PLACINGS.

				Pts.
1	Reading A C.			61
2.	South London H.			165
3.	Belgrave H.			177

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

The "Southern" was held at the Poplar Training School, Shenfield in ideal weather conditions—the exact opposite of last year's wretched day at Farningham. 343 competitors, constituting 31 teams, started over the 10½ miles course which was in fairly good condition due to the fine week which preceded the race. H. W. Payne, of Woodford Green A.C., won the race by means of a wonderful half-mile burst in the closing stages in which he passed H. Clayton, who eventually finished third, beaten in the run in by J. G. Stubbs, of South London Harriers.

Our team went to Shenfield in the hope of gaining yet another third place this season and for the first time in the Southern but this was denied us. The team scored 422 points, which gained the club tenth position—the same as last year but with a considerable improvement in the number of points scored, despite the fact that we did not enjoy the best of good fortune. This prompts the belief that with average luck, we shall be among the placed teams next year.

Our champion, Arthur Clark, experienced that unaccountable off-day which all sportsmen meet with at least once in their life-time, and could only score as our sixth man.

A. Robertshaw, whose fine performance in the South of the Thames race was still fresh in our minds, was obliged to retire from the race owing to an injury to his back sustained when clambering over a stile. He was well placed at the time of the accident.

Footer, Webb (who, with Robertshaw, has proved himself to be a distinct addition to the club's strength) and Khlopin ran well together and finished 33rd, 37th and 38th respectively. Pyer was next home for us filling 56th position. The remaining two places in the scoring team were filled by W Mitchell, 125th (who was running in his first big race for the club), and A Clark, 133rd, who finished just in front of W. L. Bayliss, 134th. It is interesting to note that no club

having their headquarters in Surrey finished 12 men and so the "Olding-Smee" Cup was awarded to the S.L.H. who recorded the lowest aggregate for 11 men.

RESULT.

		m.	s.
1	H. W Payne, Woodford Green A C	63	38
2	J G Stubbs, S L H	63	44
3	H Clayton, Reading A.C.	63	45
33.	H E. Footer	66	51
37	W. G Webb	66	59
38	P. Khlopin	67	2
56	A. D Pyer	67	43
125	W S Mitchell	70	15
133.	A Clark	70	22
134.	W L Bayliss	70	23
200	A E. Smith	---	---
213	A Jones	---	---
219	J. Rice	---	---
275.	A. Traquair	---	---
			Pts.
1.	S.L.H.	...	109
2	Surrey A.C.	...	141
3	2nd Duke of Cornwall's L.I.	...	269
10.	Belgrave H.	...	422

NATIONAL C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

The same team as did duty in the Southern were entered for the "National" with the exception of Khlopin who was not eligible, the race being open only to runners of British Nationality. I suppose we were like lambs going to the slaughter on the journey to Leamington to run against the "Stagbearers," and we had an early disappointment, for Robertshaw missed the train and so nearly did our treasurer who, waiting until the last minute, just managed to get on board with the help of the Guard as the train was moving out of the station. The weather was anything but kind, for although we arrived at Leamington in a blaze of hot sun, within a few minutes a severe snowstorm broke upon us.

The course chosen for the race was certainly a cross country course being both hilly and heavy. The weather

was still unkind, another snowstorm overtaking us during the first lap which completely blotted out the landscape, and there was still another blinding storm just at the finish of the race. Another disappointment was in store when it was found that "our hope" had cracked up in the first lap, and our boys were finding the going heavy and the pace as much as they could manage. They did, however, make a fair show to get 17th of the 27 teams who finished—7 other teams failing to close in.

NATIONAL RESULT.

	Team Position.	Actual Position.
Webb, W G	63	86
Footer, H E	79	105
Pyer, A D '	95	121
Bayliss, W L.	141	—
Smith, A. E	149	—
Jones A G	184	—
Foid, F. G.	250	—

"NEWS OF THE WORLD" BRIGHTON RELAY TRIAL RACE.

Mitcham. 17th March.

We went down to Mitcham full of "Hope" and returned covered in "Glory." For not only had we won the race by 2 minutes 11 seconds, but had beaten the winning time of last year by over 3 minutes! Although none of our team put up exceptionally fast times they were perhaps the most level of any team's.

The final selection of the team will be announced later. The race takes place on Saturday, April 14th.

Position. in Race.	Relay	Name.	Time	Total Times.
7	1	Bruce, H. W. ...	19.54	19.18
5	2	Buckingham, F. L. G.	19.32	39
3	3	Pyer, A. D.	19.25	58.39
3	4	Bayliss, W. L. .. .	20.6	77.44
1	5	Khlopin, P.	19.31	98.28
2	6	Smith, A. E.	19.32	117.53
1	7	Robershaw, A. . .	19.20	137.20
1	8	Webb, W. G.	19.25	156.45
1	9	Footer, H. E.	19.13	175.58
1	10	Duffett, A. E.	19.20	195.18 4/5

SPORTS JOTTINGS.

By "Observer."

I am pleased to see that members are interested in my remarks in last month's issue, judging by the letters I have received.

One writes to say that in his opinion the R.W. Best Points Cup, is a trophy not in keeping with the best principles of amateur sport. He argues that members could go to any small meetings, get placed in various events and so amass a sufficient number of points to win this trophy, whereas a member who concentrates on the larger meetings, say at the Bridge or any such place, is handicapped owing to the greater difficulty in getting up off one's mark, as here the competition is so much stronger. In plain fact it is liable to make a fellow a veritable pot-hunter, especially hungering after any easy thing, not so much because of prizes but solely to secure the points awarded in connection with this Cup. He asserts that this state of affairs is to be much deprecated, and I am inclined to agree with him. I personally would like to see this trophy given for something much better although it could be worked on a similar scale, such as having a small sub-committee to adjudicate on all performances at the end of the season, and then award the Cup to the one who in their opinion is most worthy of it, having of course taken into consideration his number of successes, the class of meeting in which he gained them, times recorded, etc. If any other member has his views on this subject and would like to have them expressed through these channels, a line to me will be sufficient.

A feature of this season's Open Walks has been the peculiar position of W. J. Harris, L.C.C. Trams, in the handicap. He has finished in the 4th place no fewer than four times in six races, a happening which would gladden the hearts of some of our own running handicap wallahs.

T. Clark, a younger brother of our champion, is a member of the Sparkhill Harriers, and has been consistently to the

fore in his club's races in the Birmingham C.C. League, in which they have secured premier honours at the first time of entering.

A query has been raised by a new member who wishes to know what medals are actually awarded by the club during the Cross Country season. He remarks that there appears to be a medal given for the first man home in the big races although no official announcement on this point has been made. Also that when more than one team is entered the first man of the reserve teams is awarded one, here again he says that nothing officially can be learnt, although the Walking Section announce the winner of theirs. He asks if the Committee could give an announcement of these medals, when they are to be awarded, and also if they are annual ones or only given at the committee's discretion.

I understand that George Powell, the Club's strong man in field events, and who incidently was a prominent factor in Surrey gaining third place in last year's Inter-County contest, is contemplating entering for the Decathlon at the forthcoming A.A.A. Championships. This event requires the competitor to be useful at any distance from 100 yards to 1 mile, not to mention the various field events, a very strong job one would say, yet I am confident that George will make a fine attempt to secure honours and wish him every success. He has been practically the only member of our club to indulge in this class of sport, I am sure that if any members are thinking about having a try at, say, the javelin, then friend Powell will be pleased to give them helpful advice.

With the summer season so near at hand, it is time to consider our chances on the track. I think the Club should make a feature of relay and team racing, as this class of event will do much more to assist in making champions of our men than will the open handicaps in which a man runs just as fast as he needs to off his mark. As far as the South is concerned when one reads of a team race you see any team but Belgrave mentioned, which I personally think is a sorry state of affairs. I am sure we have the men and would back

our lads to give any Southern club a run for their money also the Northerners not even Birchfield excepted. There are plenty of opportunities, with such events as the Kinnaird Trophy and the various open relay and team races for our men to enter. If any member requires information as to when and where he can participate in these events I am sure the genial George Pepper, our track captain, or his deputy, commonly known as Duff, will be only too pleased to supply him with full particulars.

One other suggestion put forward by a member is that the L.C.C Parks Committee should be approached re season tickets for training at Battersea Park. This is worthy of consideration as several members use the track three times a week, and with a season at a nominal charge they would be in pocket as these three-halfpences mount up during the course of a season's training, also I should think it more convenient just to show a ticket than it is when one is fumbling about for 1½d.

It is such ideas as this that are welcome, as it shows that the members are taking an interest in the club's affairs, and who knows, it may be that these are the members who will be the committee men of tomorrow.

AT THE DANCE. 16/3/27.

"I didn't know you had such 'posh' affairs!" was the remark made by those who on this occasion came to a dance of ours for the first time, and it certainly was a satisfying show. The girls liked it too, several with whom I got tête-à-tête, admitted it was seldom they saw so many fellows at a dance. But there was a belle for every beau, and I found more than one for me, so I liked it immensely. I vote we go to Wandsworth Town Hall again, it's a very cosy place.

Mr. R. Murphy, who presented our 10-mile walking shield, looked very well and hearty. He was interested in Tom Jones' contribution to our last issue, but Mr. Murphy can go back only twenty years when, he claims, he was the slowest

walker the Club has had and he boasts that on one occasion he was cautioned¹ and he a London-Brighton man too!

L. Fleming, a new member, was there. He has jumped more than 21-ft., and, like our members Powell and Pollard, he is very enthusiastic. It is up to these men to see that their activities are developed in the club. Oscar, between the dances, told us how at Mitcham they got the ladies to clear a raised stick halfway along the sand pit. It improves their jump. Can't we get our boys up to this trick at Battersea?

I heard Teddy Cope discussing the advantages of beer drinking over tobacco smoking for the very young, when the case of a misguided young member came up. Perhaps it would be better if we expressed our disapproval of the way this youngster goes on (Special Burton—fag—Special Burton—start of training run—half-mile and then stitch—crawl home—fag—Special Burton, etc.), instead of laughing at him for our own fun.

Some members took the opportunity of paying for their gazettes, and if you haven't paid for yours, when you see the Editor or "little fat Macher" standing about twiddling his thumbs, just remember that you'll comfort his heart by dropping a mite. He doesn't like to ask you for it, in case you are cross.

Len. Smith has been the moving spirit in these dances of ours, and we have to thank him for some most enjoyable times.

SPRING FASHIONS.

New Club Vests are now in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer. They are lighter in weight and four sizes are available. All members hoping for summer successes should immediately acquire one of these Price 3/3. (The packet is marked Fast Colours, so don't let the Handicapper know when you buy one).

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ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner will be held on April 28th, at Stanley's Restaurant, Clapham Junction. A good menu will be followed by an excellent musical programme. Tickets 5/- each.

This will be in the evening following our opening meeting in Battersea Park, and the Committed earnestly hope that you will all endeavour to support both of these pleasing fixtures. It provides a splendid opportunity for a grand gathering of our cross-country and track members and their friends. Ladies are particularly welcome, so you can bring them along and shew them the good company you keep on Saturday afternoons, and numerous evenings throughout the year. Your hearty support will be greatly esteemed, and will be appreciated by the officials as some recompense for their endeavours to do their duties to your satisfaction.

l..

A FEW WORDS.

The opening days of April mark the half-time of our season, and I would ask those members still in arrears to settle their accounts with me at once. All have had clearance notices in January, and I appeal to them to help me to meet the most expensive half of the season, with financial confidence.

Failure to clear the books with me may seriously affect members in the Club Championships, as no member six months' in arrears is eligible to compete in these events. In the past we have been rather indulgent in not applying stern measures, but with the increase in our numbers, we feel that, in fairness to those who keep clear financially, we cannot allow any further leniency in competition for our gold medals and Cups.

Another point to bear in mind is that during this season no member's entry will be accepted by the section Hon. Secretaries if he still owes a previous entry fee.

This has been and will be strictly enforced.

We trust that this timely warning will render strict enforcement unnecessary, and thus keep us all in harmony.

A.E.M.

JUNIOR ROAD-WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP.

This race, second only to the National Championship in importance to road-walkers, was held at Wembley Park on March 3rd.

In contrast to the drizzling rain of last year at Sheffield, the 238 starters enjoyed brilliant sunshine as well as a fair course over which some very fit men put up fast times, and in a very strong field our men upheld the honour of the club in splendid style.

Although we had no outstanding speed-man in our team, we had four men in the first 25 throughout the ten miles. Scammel (12th) led them home followed by Elson (17th), who walked his usual strong race. Field was not far behind with Jack Carne on his heels. Jack's return to form enabled us to get 3rd in the Championship, and when we consider the strength of the Sheffield team, formidable from first to last of their men, and our four stalwart friends of the Herne Hill H., to whom we extend hearty congratulations, it was no disgrace to be beaten by them.

No walker of our disappointed. Peacock walked very well indeed.

		m.	s
1.	Piesland, E. F N, Herne Hill H . .	75	58
12.	Scammel, J G, A team ..	78	57
17.	Elson, F. H., A team	79	49
22.	Field, J. E., A team	80	30
24.	Carne, J. B., A team	80	47
32.	Knifton, B. J., A team	81	46
34.	King, S. L., A team	81	49
45.	Hickman, L. G., Individual	82	49
46.	Peacock, V J, B team	82	50
58.	Saunders, E, A team	—	
73.	East, A. H., B team	—	
103.	Rathbone, J., A team	—	
104.	Tilly, A. G., B team	—	
138.	Fish, W J, B team	—	
150.	Martin, A, B team	—	
152.	Thomas, J. N., B team	—	

TEAMS

Belgrave H. (A)	...	...	...	3rd.
Belgrave H (B)	...	...	...	17th.

WALKERS' NOTES:

Once more we have failed to win the R.W.A. "Junior," but we had the satisfaction of providing the 3rd team, thus being placed for the seventh time since the war. Of the scoring four, only one had scored for the club in previous "Juniors," and this seems to have been the case each year. We get new men who walk well up, and some who have shewn no form in previous years, but who have greatly improved, and the members of longer standing, of whom great things are hoped, do not walk up to expectations and so we have to be content with minor placings. Scammell, Elson, Field and Carne are to be congratulated on their fine performance, and most of us were especially pleased to see Jack Carne in the scoring four after so many disappointments in previous "Juniors."

The club 20-Miles Championship is down for decision on April 21st, and we would like all aspirants to our team for the "National" to shew their paces on this occasion. The "National" is on May 12th at Leicester, and some of the men we shall rely on to retrieve our lost honours are Cooper, Green, H. F. King, McMullen, Manning, Rathbone, Reeve and Rickards, all of whom have done some good times in previous championships.

Some of our walkers have now transferred their interests to the track, and they will be catered for with a 2-mile club handicap at our Open Meeting on April 28th.

In the Ashcombe 10 miles open walk at Roehampton on February 18th, we won the handicap team race and tied with Herne Hill H. in the scratch team race.

T. W. Green was 3rd man home with R. D. McMullen 4th. Both Field and Elson put up splendid performances, the former getting 2nd in the handicap with Elson 7th. The rest of our men, it was plainly evident, were not fit.

S.L.K.

The same evening a Social was held at Wimbledon following a run with the Mitcham A.C. A jazz band kindly gave its services gratis and fragments of songs, deliciously rendered, still linger in my memory. Of course it was a jolly evening.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Perhaps you do not know that H. Parker has been appointed an A.A.A. handicapper. He is very secretive about it. Evidently he thinks publicity will be dangerous.

Our old friend and Vice-President, O. Horwood, is Hon. Secretary of the London Olympiads A.C. Mr. Horwood had had some experience of this work as he was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Belgrave and helped to lay the foundation stones of our present club.

Our late Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Thomson, is a representative of the Surrey County A.A.A. on the Amateur Athletic Association. Mr. Thomson is Hon. Treasurer of the County Association and has put in a large amount of very hard work to help bring it to its present high level.

It will be learnt with regret that our ^{young} (young sprinting) friend, F. G. Ford, met with a rather serious accident when riding his motor bicycle from home to the "News of the World" ground in order to cheer along the Brighton Relay Trial team. He was taken to the West London Hospital and put on the danger list, but we have since heard he is progressing favourably. Let's all wish him a speedy recovery.

Jimmy Flatt is not yet out of hospital, but the latest news is that he is progressing satisfactorily.

We hear that Williams' leg (spiked during a run) is almost better and everyone is pleased to see him out on the track again.

Congratulations to our midget Footer, on again winning the London Territorial Championship on 21st March, repeating his success of last year.

Micky Pyer, who was 2nd last year, was beaten into 3rd place by a Q.P. Harrier, Parry. The running of our men considerably helped their Regiment—the London Irish—to win the team race.

What do you think? Harry Bruce has turned up again, and says he's married! Poor old runner. Can he run a mile in 4.59 and keep it up for 5 miles?

The awards to F. M. Stone were badly recorded in our Jan issue. In addition to the King's Police medal he received a silver watch from the Carnegie Hero Trust, the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal and a grant from the Bow Street Heroes' Fund.

Members will be interested to know that the sum of 5 guineas was given by the club to the Mayor of Westminster's Flood Relief Fund.

We must thank Mrs. Ricketts for having sent along the club mascot. And it was taken down to Epsom Downs on the day of the South of Thames Championship. Whether it brought the team any luck I will leave for you to decide. But we certainly got 3rd place! Let's hope it will turn out to be a lucky mascot.

FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.

I have competed at every indoor meet in and around New York and in each invitation race my entry has been accepted. The New York and Metropolitan championship was won by the national champion in 6 m. 43s. I was eighth. A week before, the same man won a two-mile race in 14m. 2s., and his best this year has been 1 mile in 6 m. 38s. This will give you some idea of the pace on the indoor tracks.

In the New York A.C. games I won the 1-mile invitation walk from a fellow clubmate by 40 yards. The prize was a handsome 18-carat gold medal. During the race the wife was upstairs, stop-watch in hand, yelling "Atta-boy Charlie!" and with the crowd taking up the cry I scored a popular victory.

A week later I competed in the Knights of Columbus games at Madison Square Gardens; 20,000 fans were packed in the building and prices had been doubled. Programmes could not be got at a dollar. With a big penalty, I had a tough go and went full at it. On the last lap (11 laps to the mile), I thought I was about 8th. Some club boys yelled me to fight for it (not elbows) so I did and to my surprise I lost 3rd place by three yards. Had they told me my position I might have done better, for one easily gets fogged on these small tracks.

The popularity of big indoor meets is astounding. 3,000 is quite a poor crowd. New York A.C. had 12,000, so you can guess they yield a profit. We have seen many records go, time and again, and the wife is a regular fan watch-holder too.

No wonder they find sprinters here. All through the winter there are 40, 50, 60 and 70 yards sprints and hurdles at all meets. These mean quick starting.

We shall return to England about June. The country is great but the people are too much one class against another. The Yanks are always ready to suck the last cent out of you. I do not like the conditions of their workshops or their long hours. The mixed tribes of workers are generally filthy in their habits and unemployment is as bad as in England. Although wages are high so is the cost of living. There is no home life among these people, it is all work, graft and autos, but we would not have missed our experience for anything. No one is like you English pals, and I have met many Britishers who say the same, and would return themselves if they had the necessary cash. We have exploded a lot of bunk

about the prosperity of these guys; I have learnt this, what you get you earn. I am looking forward to racing with you again.

CHARLIE SPEECHLEY.

IN CONCLUSION.

The season just drawing to a close has brought us some new performers of distinction. The walkers have been strengthened by F. Elson and J. E. Field, and as this section can hold its own with that of any other in the country we have no anxiety here.

The runners have lately been joined by W. G. Webb and A. Robertshaw and I suggest that the presence of these valuable men gives our team a new impetus of enthusiasm. We have been served for a while by an "old brigade" which has won or failed accordingly to the class of opposition. Now, our goal should be a first class team and we must be continually recruiting new members to this end. We do not want to annex champions, we want to develop them in the club, and we want champions as worthy representatives of our four hundred members. Remember, a triumph in the club name, is a triumph for them all. We are in need of a couple of men, for example to do the "half" in 1m. 58secs. So pack up pot-hunting some of you budding champions—a good club relay team is more precious than your knives and forks. We want to carry "Belgrave" right into the front rank and we can do it if we pull together and make big unselfish efforts.

Don't forget—new members and new performances from the "old."



