

November 1954.

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

The response to the invitation to members to subscribe towards the cost of the Belgravian was not as great as I expected, but forms are still coming in and I feel sure that as time goes on, the majority of our members will become subscribers.

This issue marks the beginning of a new Belgrave Year and judging by the enthusiasm displayed by members at the Annual General Meeting, there is every prospect of it proving a very successful one. The unanimous election of Tom Morrell as our new President will add in no small measure to our efforts to maintain our reputation as one of the leading clubs in the country. There is no doubt that Tom is fully deserving of the honour conferred on him and we offer our hearty congratulations to him on attaining his present office. For many years his work as Assistant Hon. Treasurer, in particular in dealing with the supplies of Club vests, etc., has brought him into close contact with almost every member, and his willingness to carry on with this work during his year of Presidency, is a typical example of his enthusiastic and generous disposition.

Another landmark in the history of the Club has been reached in the completion of our rebuilding programme at Belgrave Hall. Much work has been put into this project by members over a long period of years to make Belgrave Hall one of the finest Club Headquarters in the country and it is up to every member to see that every possible care is taken of the new amenities which have been provided.

Our long distance walkers rounded off a successful summer season by very decisively winning both the individual and team titles in the classic race of the year, the London to Brighton Walk, the team event being won in a new record low score of 16 points. Fuller details will be found elsewhere. As this event actually took place in the Club's new year, let us look on it as a good omen for the events which are to come.

Your Editor.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting, held at Belgrave Hall on Monday 20th September, gave members an opportunity to see the progress which is being made with the building programme and the attendance of over 100 was remarkably good.

Harry Evans, the interim President, took the chair and after a few well chosen words, the assembly stood for a few moments as a token of respect to our late President Frank Elson, and a Life Member H. Goodfellow who had passed away since our last meeting. In presenting the Annual Report the Hon. Secretary, Alf

Harley apologised for the omission of a paragraph referring to our second placings in the Brighton "Southern" and "National" Relays and it was unanimously agreed that it should be inserted. The Report, which included a vote of thanks to Ernie Duffett who was not seeking re-election as Running Hon. Secretary, having held that office for many years, was then adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer then gave the financial report, starting by thanking the Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Tom Morrell, Eric Bishop, and A. Pyer for the help they had given him and Also Les Cohen for the work he had put in for the Supporters Club. He then compared the income and expenditure with the previous year pointing out the large decrease of £140 on the cost of printing which was mainly due to the fact that only one issue of the Belgravian had been made, and that, with the new photo-type process. The cost of social events was also considerably reduced and with a little more support for the Annual Dinner this could have been reduced further still. On the income side, subscriptions were down a little but donations from Life Members, Past Presidents, etc. was up. He informed the meeting that there were still a number of members in arrears and hoped they would promptly pay their dues. Handicap fees remained fairly steady but there was plenty of room for improvement by better support to club promotions. A 25% increase in entries would produce a much larger revenue from this source and would make for keener competition. The Inter-City Meeting at the White City last year resulted in our funds benefiting to the extent of £55 and provided a very good reason for our members giving it their support. The final item of income, which for many years has been the biggest, was the donation from the Supporters Club, and was actually less than the total subscriptions.

With the exception of the first payment of £660 towards the rebuilding, there was nothing outstanding about the Building Fund Account, but the Hon. Treasurer pointed out that as the whole of our investments would be utilised on this project, we should be losing a valuable source of income of £140 or more per annum in interest. Before the report was adopted, Eric Bishop, one of our Hon. Auditors, expressed his satisfaction with the accounts.

The meeting then proceeded to elect the officers for the year. Harry Evans proposed Tom Morrell as President. Alf Harley seconded and gave a short review of Tom's services to the Club over 27 years and his election was carried unanimously. It was then proposed, seconded and carried that the names of A. Readman and G.P. Powell be added to the list of Vice-Presidents. The principle officers, Hon. Secretary and Assistant, Hon. Treasurer and Assistant were re-elected and the election of Section Secretaries, Captains, Vice Captains, etc. began. It was agreed to split the office of Running Hon. Secretary Denis Brickwood being elected for Cross Country and Ron. Holtum for the track. A full list of the officers will be included in the new handbook which will probably have reached you by now.

A number of presentations were then made. Harry Evans presented the new Jimmy Bellochamber Trophy (50 kilometres Walk) to the first holder Hugh McGreechan. Ted Gaworski presented a cup to Peter Porter for the best throwing performance of the year (156ft 6in) with the hammer. The President presented a cup, from the Club, to Percy Luxon for the best jumping performance of the year (45ft 5ins. triple jump and 23ft. 2ins. long jump).

The proposed new rules governing the Trustees and powers to borrow were moved by Alf Harley, seconded by Syd Roberts and carried. The Hon. Treasurer then proposed that subscriptions be increased to £1 for seniors, 10/- for juniors, 5/- for boys and 10/- for Hon. members. He outlined the future liabilities of the club which would include repaying money borrowed from the bank to complete our building programme and increased cost of maintaining the hall. The motion was seconded by the Hon. Secretary who gave a brief description of

the new amenities at the hall. A number of members stated that they felt the new rates would still be giving good value and the amendment to the rules was carried unanimously.

It was made apparent from the points raised both in the Hon. Treasurer's report and the facts put forward in proposing the amendment to rules that we must keep the money flowing in. This can be done by being up to date with subscriptions, supporting the subscription list for the "Belgravian", supporting club events, taking tickets in the Supporters Club and making voluntary donations similar to the old "halfpenny in a box" scheme or sixpence a week until our funds are built up again.

Under any other business, a vote of thanks was given to Frank Webb for his work in connection with the disposal of tickets for the White City. Might I end by asking all members to study their handbooks well. Make yourselves acquainted with the Section Officers, keep in touch with them and above all GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT.

G.S.D.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting will need no further enlightenment of the fact that the annual subscriptions have been advanced. Quite a number of conscientious members have already paid their subscriptions for the current year, but at the old rate, and I hope they will at the first opportunity forward to me the balance. To the remainder I would say as I did at the A.G.M. - please pay your subscriptions EARLY. I shall endeavour to be at Wimbledon as often as possible, but it can be handed to Tom Morrell and of course there are such things as postal orders and 2½d stamps. Donations, large and small, will be welcomed from our Past Presidents and Life Members as the more money we can accumulate, the sooner we shall be able to pay off our debt on the Building Fund.

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club Championships, the highlight of the track season were held as usual at Battersea Park on Saturday, August 7th. The meeting opened up with fairly good weather and everyone was keeping their fingers crossed that it would continue throughout the afternoon. Unfortunately the rain arrived just before the childrens' races and somewhat affected the entries, but generally speaking the meeting went off very successfully.

Entries were not quite so good as last year, notable non-appearances being from Alan Sexton, Bob Taylor who we regret to say is in hospital and J. Brown. It is also interesting to note that only 12 standards were gained as against 37 last year and one wonders whether the raising the standards since last year had any effect on the number of entries. Full results are appended below:-

SENIORS

100 yards	1. I. Mayers; 2. R. Holtum; 3. J. Smith	10.5s
220 "	1. I. Mayers; 2. A. Picton; 3. R. Holtum	22.8s
120yds Hurd.	1. E. Coleman; 2. P. Briggs; 3. H. Powell	16.8s
440 yards	1. I. Badiali; 2. J. Smith; 3. P. Cornish	53.2s
880 "	1. J. Bromley; 2. I. Badiali; 3. C. Walker	1m. 59.6s
1 mile	1. J. Bromley; 2. J. Masters; 3. C. Roffey	4m. 24.8s
2 mile walk	1. S. James; 2. G. Checkley; 3. L. Demmon	15m. 21.s
Long Jump	1. J. Key 2. W. Chost; 3. K. Key	21ft. 4.1ins.
Shot Put	1. T. Gaworski; 2. I. Law; 3. T. Strang	42ft. 7ins.
Javelin	1. R. Liggins; 2. D. Fleming 3. H. Powell	165ft.
Discus	1. T. Gaworski; 2. A. Law 3. T. Strang	124ft. 5ins
High Jump	1. E. Bare; 2. R. Holtum; 3. S. Day	6ft

JUNIORS

100 yards	1. T.Moxon;	2. J.Stephens;	3. N.Taylor	11.1s.
220 "	1. T.Moxon;	2. N.Taylor;	3. R.Ryan	24s.
440 "	1. J.Stephens;	2. E.Cronk;	3. P.Jones	53.7s
880 "	1. E.Cronk;	2. L.Ashwood;	3. D.Pettican	2m.10s.
1 mile	1. R.Linstead;	2. J.Edgar;	3. D.Pettican	4m.52.8s
High Jump	1. S.Day;	2. K.Kirkham;	3. H.Powell	5ft.3ins

YOUTHS

100 yards	1. C.Ryan;	2. E.Demetriou;	3. H.Davis	11.4s.
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CLUB RECORDS

The following are amendments to figures given previously.

Marathon	R.G.Plummer	June 1954	2hrs. 37m. 20s.
1 mile	J.W.Brown	July 1954	4m. 11.8secs.
880 yards	R.T.Taylor	June 1954	1m. 53.6secs.
120 yards hurdles	G. Jarvis	July 1949	15.9secs.
220 yards	A.D.Sexton	June 1954	21.7secs.
Discus	T. Gaworski	May 1954	148 feet
Hammer	P. Porter	June 1954	156ft.8ins.
Shot put	T. Gaworski	July 1954	45ft. 5ins.
Triple jump	P. Luxon	Sept.1954	45ft. 9ins.
Long jump	P. Luxon	June 1954	28ft.11½ins.
Javelin	W. Patrick	July 1954	192ft. 5ins.
<u>JUNIORS</u>			
Shot put	J.Powell Jones	July 1954	53ft. 1in.
Long jump	J.Key	June 1954	21ft. 8½ins.

A.A.A. RELAYS

On 31st July we took two teams to Birmingham for the AAA. Relay Championships which were being held in conjunction with the Junior Championships. Our main hope was in the 4 x 110 yards relay, whilst we thought we had an outside chance in the 4 x 440 yards. I was quietly confident that we would pull off the short distance relay and my confidence was increased when our team won their heat in 42.9s The 4 x 440 team gave of their best and although they were knocked out in their heat, with a little more luck they would have been in the final.

Meanwhile J. Powell Jones was performing in the Junior Shot put and was leading when the final of the short relay was announced. We had drawn lane No. 4 and our lads were prepared to do or die. At the start Dennis Merrett went away well, held his own and indeed gained a trifle to hand over to Ron Holtum who, although he had a bad cold, ran well to catch Ferguson of Notts. A.C. and the T.V.H. runner. Ron handed over to Basil Walden who put in a terrific challenge to hand over to Ivan Mayers about 1½ yards up. T.V.H. had Downs on the last leg and I thought he might rob us of our first win in this event but with 50 yards to go I saw Ivan's face break into a grin and I knew that it was ours. Ivan came away to win by four clear yards and we had registered our first win in the A.A.A. Team Championships in the creditable time of 42.6secs., the second fastest time by a British Team. After I had recovered my equilibrium, I whispered a quiet word in John Powell-Jones ear and he hurled the shot 53feet 1 inch to end a good day's work and establish a new Junior record. Needless to say we celebrated our win in the proper manner on our return to London. Heartiest congratulations must go to D. Merrett, R. Holtum, B. Walden, and I. Mayers. They worked very hard for a well deserved victory, also to Powell Jones who no doubt, took inspiration from their victory.

WADDILOVE TROPHY

On July 24th we met at Euston and entrained for Birmingham for the Waddilove Trophy and Grenville Cup. I had hoped we would win the first mentioned trophy as on paper we had a good team but owing to injuries and other commitments we were not at full strength. However our lads acquitted themselves quite well and managed to gain fourth place in the competition. The outstanding performances were D.Merrett

who returned 51.4secs for the quarter mile, J. Masters 9mins.28secs 2 miles run in 5th position and R. Holtum who reached the final of the 100 yards. We were accompanied by members of the L.O.A.C. who travelled with our party both ways and John Burr spent a good evening's entertainment with them learning to play cards.

F.S.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' COACHING SCHEME AND MEDAL COMPETITION

This scheme was inaugurated last year for the purpose of giving encouragement, advice and coaching to those of our younger members for whom there is little competition and who have a fundamental aptitude and liking for athletics. In particular, boys between the ages of 12 and 15 can be accepted for special coaching at Batterssea Park on Sunday mornings at 11am. In this connection I should like to see the fathers of some of our boys, as I feel that if they too are interested, the boys will have that extra bit of encouragement to train and improve. So bring your fathers along with you as I would like to meet them.

The future of the club depends largely on the success of this scheme as the boys of today will be our senior runners of tomorrow and with perseverance they can help to build up a section which will be second to none. Where a boy shows special ability over a period of time for a particular event, he will be passed on to Franz Stampfl our most able professional coach - a coach of champions and a champion of coaches. So far as the scheme has gone, it has been a pleasure to coach those who show real interest and I must say that we now have several boys showing promise of great things to come, most of them being school champions. Geoffrey Hall, 12 years, has good prospects as a middle distance runner having style, balance and for one so young, a remarkable sense of pace judgment as could be noticed when he won the boys' 880 yards on April 24th. A. English, 13½, is a natural long jumper and a promising high jumper. Malcolm Draper 13½, has aspirations to being a hurdler, following in his father's footsteps. John Martin, 12 years, is quite a performer in his age group and a tower of strength for his school, virtually winning the points cup on his own. Colin Clair, 13½, the winner of the boys' competition, a lad of forward development for his age, may well prove to be a good all rounder. K. Kirkman, winner of the Youths' competition, shows promise of developing in the jumps and javelin.

To those who did not fare too well in the competition, I say keep at it, for some boys develop later than others. I would like to see more youths giving support to the competitions and I look forward to much better entries next year.

A special word of thanks to the coaches who assisted in the scheme. To Franz Stampfl for his explanation of basic fundamentals of field events and advice on primary instruction. To George Isaacs for taking over the youths middle distance runners. To Cecil Brodie and Frank Simmons for sprint starts. To Charlie Jones for coaching in hurdling and to Jack Chappel for obtaining the shots and javelin. My apologies to the lads who were medal winners in the competitions that the medals were not available on Championship day

The following results show that 9 youths and 11 boys took part in the competitions. This is about 25% of the eligible members of the club, so it is obvious that a large number of you are not taking advantage of the facilities offered. It is up to you to turn up on Sunday mornings during the winter and get yourselves fit for the next season when I look forward to much better entries. Remember, if you are not quite sure which branch of athletics you are fitted for, these competitions are designed to bring out the best in you.

A.D.Pyer

SCORE SHEET - BOYS

	Age	88yds	Shot	L.J.	H.J.	100yds.	Jav.	Total best 4 events
1.C.Clair	13½	1	5	6	6	4	6	23pts
2.E.Demetrious	15	5	4	5	-	6	5	21
3.D.Mitchell	15	4	-	4	4	5	-	17
4.J.Martin	12	2	3	3	2	1	1	10
5.A.English	13½	-	-	1	5	2	-	8
6.M.Draper	13½	-	2	2	1	3	-	8
7.G.Hall	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
8.M.Plumb	15	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
9.J.Hart	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
10.B.Embleton	15	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
11.M.Lewis	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

SCORE SHEET - YOUTHS

1.K.Kirkham	-	-	6	6	4	6	22
2.P.Buckingham	4	6	-	-	-	5	15
3.D.Willis	5	-	2	-	3	-	10
4.B.Pritchard	6	-	3	-	-	-	9
5.R.Thomas	-	-	4	-	5	-	9
6.N.Taylor	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
7.K.Walker	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
8.T.Upperdine	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
9.R.Tupper	-	-	-	-	2	-	2

NIJMEGEN MARCHES - 27TH - 30TH JULY 1954

Belgrave were well represented in the Marches with five members in the Police team (Bob Readman, Syd Spencer, Len Demmon, Charlie McLennan and Don Fotheringham) and myself in the R.W.A. Team.

Although at the time of writing, a couple of months have passed, I am still filled with awe and amazement at the wonderful organisation which made it possible for approximately 10,000 people young, old, military and civilian of all nationalities to be housed and made to feel as a huge family in a great concourse of good fellowship. I am sure these reactions must have been similarly experienced by our Police members. The enthusiastic way in which the whole of the surrounding population co-operate to make these walks a success and create the comradeship which is the keynote of this vast international assembly is something never to be forgotten.

For general information there were about 600 British in the 10,000 taking part this year, consisting mainly of Army and RAF units with two teams from the Metropolitan Police and one womens' and two mens' teams from the R.W.A., one consisting of S.W.C. and Stook Exchange members. Walks are graduated from 30 K.M. to 55 K.M. and the courses are roughly similar with detours to make up the varying distances. The Police do 50 K.M. and walk in semi-uniform while the R.W.A. teams do 55 K.M. per day for four days. Walks must start between set times and finish between certain limits which is arranged so that the total distance must be done inside 11 hours.

In common with England it was pouring with rain when we arrived in Nijmegen, 11 o'clock at night, and taken by bus to our allotted digs where we were warmly welcomed by our Dutch hosts. The next day was spent in sightseeing and watching the arrival of the various units, the parachute detachments dropped from planes on to the river banks. In the evening we assembled and marched to the stadium where a magnificent and colourful march past and physical culture display was arranged. For most, to some degree this was marred by the rain but certain of our Police colleagues protecting a Policewoman under his cape seemed to think it had compensations.

Each day of the walks was broadly similar. Up at 3o'clock

in the morning, wash, breakfast and wander through the town for 4 o'clock start. Cover about 25 K.M. to first break of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour at a village cafe for sandwiches and drinks. March another 18 K.M. for a similar break and then on to finish. These are the bare elements to which must be added the natural interest of the country, the greetings of the teams, the cheers of the people, the village bands the flags and bunting, the obvious sincerity with which we and our troops were greeted and the wonderful colour and sound as girls, troops, etc. went along in their national colours and uniforms singing. We were soon known as the mad English on account of our many weird tastes for drinks and the distances we covered without stopping. Coupled with all this were the solemn memories of our paratroops as one crosses the great tributaries of the Rhine at Nijmegen and Arnhem.

Needless to say each day we were the first civilian teams to finish, which enabled us to get a couple of hours sleep before dinner and the sightseeing in the evening. The events of the last day are nearly indescribable. The last five miles of route is lined many deep with people who carry bunches of flowers. The streets are decorated with flags and bunting while bands are playing all along the route. All traffic is stopped. To meet this enthusiasm everyone stops about 10 K.M. out, brightens up, puts on full uniforms, etc. unfurls their National flags and does their best, whatever their feet may feel like, to march as someone proud of themselves. I felt grand to be British and I feel that our troops lived up to the high esteem with which we are obviously held by the Dutch people. Needless to say both ourselves and the Police teams finished up looking like flower gardens.

I hope the picture I have tried to give might encourage others to go next year so that we might even get a Belgrave team together, but although I found it a great experience I must add a word of warning. Do not attempt the Marches without you are a good stroller, perfectly fit and assured in your ability to do 34 miles at $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour for 4 days. Without this the Marches can become a sheer misery as they are on a team basis and the R.W.A. has a wonderful record that no man in any team sponsored by them has ever dropped out.

In conclusion a word of praise must be given for the grand leadership and organisation of the R.W.A. President, Alf McSweeney who by his untiring efforts and judge of pace made the walks so enjoyable.

H.W. Shields.

OUR OPEN 20 MILES ROAD RUN

Highlights of our third Annual Open 20 miles road running race were the thrilling finish when Geoff Iden raced past Bob Pape in the run in on the South Side retaining his title by three seconds, the very close team race in which the holders Victoria Park Harriers managed to beat Walton A.C. by a single point and the excellent performance of our long distance captain Eric Gebbett, who finished 8th in a strong field of exactly 100 competitors.

The Mayor of Wimbledon, Councillor A. Withall, to whom we are deeply indebted for his keen interest in the race, started the runners off and Ford of Shaftesbury took the lead passing the five miles point closely followed by Pape and Goodsell in 27m. 51s. Geoff Iden, Harry Dennis and Waller of Coventry were 13 seconds back and our second claim member Byford - later to retire - followed in 28m. 37s. At this stage another second claim member, Jack Braughton, was just ahead of a large group of runners checked in at 29m. 10s. which included Eric Gebbett, Len Adams, Ken Stimpson, Bert Jordan, and about another dozen runner.

At Copse Hill Ford was forced to give way to Pape who hung on to the lead for the remainder of the race passing the 10 miles mark in 55mins. 51secs. and the 15 in 1hr. 24m. 15s. Pete Goodsell hung on to him for most of the second lap but Pape opened up a gap of nearly half a minute up Copse Hill. Iden was now moving up and was only one second behind Goodsell at 15 miles. Waller was also running magnificently, only to lose a considerable amount of ground in the last three or four miles.

Eric, running with the Flowers twins and Ted Hefford of Woodford Green was showing excellent form and judgment and at 15 miles was well ahead of the next club runner. Len Adams however, running his first 20, was still moving very well and Ken Stimpson, running his first long distance race, was surprising everyone by his excellent showing and was still more than a minute ahead of Dennis Brickwood at 15. Dennis had, however, been hanging back, feeling that he lacked sufficient training, and moved up in the last few miles of the race. Wal Wortley showed a most welcome return to form and it was pleasing to see our late member Mick Porter, now of Manchester, in such good shape. We did however, suffer a severe misfortune when Bert Jordan retired with tendon trouble after 15 miles. Bert has been running really well this year and might well have assisted our team which was also without the support of Bob Plummer and Geoff Pearson. It was not quite clear what happened to Steve Charlton who, after a very restrained start, put in a terrific burst and then retired hurt.

In the team race Goodsell was well backed by Ken Honney who finished 4th and Addington, but the Flowers at 6th and 7th just gained the victory for Victoria Park. Our own team was third and it gave us particular pleasure to see them placed in this, our own event.

Held in conjunction with the Open race this year was our first Club 20 Miles Championship and the shield presented by Lady Fell in recognition of the close association of the race with Lauriston House, was won by Eric Gebbett, a first class effort for a young runner, in his first season of road racing. Len Adams was second with Denis Brickwood third. Ken Stimpson and Wortley gained Club standard medals.

Positions and times were:			
1. G.L.Iden	1h. 54m. 9s.	26. K.G.Stimpson	2. 11. 27
8. E.J.Bebbett	2 1 8	27. W.Wortley	2. 13. 18
14. L.A.Adams	2 3 31	43. J.McDonald	2. 22. 49
22. D.A.Brickwood	2 9 3		

Anon.

WITH THE WALKERS

"BELGRAVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS"

With no apologies I start my notes with the above heading. by a combination of grand team work and individual effort, the lads have earned that title. For the first time since 1938 we hold the R.W.A. 20 miles and 50 kilometres Team Championships and during the summer have annexed every team award in distance events, finishing a grand and glorious season by winning the London - Brighton Walk with a record low score of 16 points.

To Norman Guilmant our heartiest congratulations on winning the Manchester - Blackpool, 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a new record time and the London - Brighton Walk in 8hrs. 20. 44s, a time worth more than it seems in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

To Hugh McGreechan we send the same greetings for a grand all round season capped by a splendid win in the Hastings - Brighton and a fourth in the London - Brighton, only just missing selection for the European Games. Also to George Checkley for his superb

Dover-Ganterbury and back win in a new record time for the 28 miles under atrocious weather conditions and his excellent first Brighton.

These are only a few of the highlights which I am sure everyone - walkers and supporters - would not have missed for anything and what is more, enjoyed every minute of it. More anon of the races, but I hope and trust that the season just finished will inspire our younger members to follow, and equal, all that has been attained. Team work is the secret, without this we could not have attained such heights; hard work and success go hand in hand. The good fellowship, the helping hand and the leg pulling we have enjoyed are ample compensations for the trials and tribulations that come along. So I say, turn up on Tuesdays and Saturdays and enjoy training with the pack. Meet your fellow clubmen and I am sure you will capture the same feeling of TEAM SPIRIT besides helping yourself to attain your own goal of a first class walker and a stylist.

We have had a good attendance at Battersea Park during the summer and now that we have the finest athletic quarters of any London athletic club let us all take a share in its blessings. The Garnet Championship and the National 10 will be won by training early and consistently together around Wimbledon this winter and once we start let us keep together and the enjoyment will be great. So all short distance men, come along on Tuesdays and Saturdays and prove that you can be equal to the distance men, they will be there to help you along. We also look to Don Brown who has fully earned a hearty vote of thanks for his work at Battersea during the summer. May he continue and benefit the lads during the winter at Wimbledon.

At our A.G.M. the Road and Track Captains and Vice-Captains, with the exception of Eric Hall, were re-elected. Eric is a little uncertain of his business movements and Bill True was elected in his stead. All they need is your support during the next few months.

By the time you are reading these notes we hope to have a winter strolling programme in full swing and we welcome each and everyone of you to join in. Your own counties will all be visited in turn to even out the travelling, so do come along and enjoy them, long and short ones, they are good - strolls, I mean. Besides strengthening up, they even further the education, if that is possible with some of us. Even I have learnt, by kind permission of H.M. Stationery Office, types and species of rhubarb and by the end of the winter I hope to be an authority on trees considering the lectures I receive. So do come along and join in, your comments and suggestions will be welcome.

Since our last issue we welcome new lads to our fold; Ian Boss, Harold Burton, Dennis Ives, Patrick Maloney, Gordon Smith and Harry Stallard, also the return of Alf Joels who has resumed his membership. To all we say, may you enjoy your athletic career and cherish the day you joined our ranks. We still need to enrol more youngsters and I look forward to a good field for our "Olympic Cup" this year.

Our 35th Open Walk will be held on 27th November and I appeal to everybody for help on this day. Those of you who are fortunate enough to possess cars can give invaluable assistance to enable judges and pointsmen to move round the course and I would be glad if all those who are willing to assist would let me know as soon as possible. For this great event, our PRIZE FUND is now open. It was started on the night of the Club Dinner by a very worthy member, and I welcome donations, large and small, to help us maintain our high standard of prizes. May I have many letters of acknowledgement to write, it will be a welcome task.

Bernard Eglinton was unfortunately sent abroad just a week before the Brighton Walk. We shall miss you Bernard. It was bad luck

having to go a week before the Brighton after having scored in most of our team wins and I know you had set your heart on a 1st Class. We look forward to having you again with us on the road and until then we say "All the best". May I through these notes say a very sincere "thank you" to both distance and track men for your help and co-operation during the past year - a year of pleasant memories. I'm always emptying your pockets, I'm called all manner of names, but nevertheless I do appreciate your support and co-operation and so I say "My thanks to you all"

Jack.

INTER-CLUB TRACK CONTEST AT BATTERSEA PARK

This popular mid-week feature in the track programme was held on 14th June. Thirteen London Clubs entered a team and there were 85 starters in the four races, an excellent turn out for an evening meeting.

Again we must congratulate Metropolitan W.C. on winning the team event with 158 points to Highgate's 156 and Belgrave 139. No club finished their eight starters, but as we lost McGreechan in the 5 miles and Bob Phillips in the 2, we were severely handicapped. George Checkley was 2nd in the 5 miles, Syd James 2nd in 4 miles, George Beecham 5th in 4 miles, up and coming Ray Middleton 4th and George Oliver 6th in the 3 miles and Len Demmon 4th in the 2 miles. This made up our total and we congratulate them on a fine effort.

NATIONAL 50 KILOS CHAMPIONSHIP - JUNE 17TH

This championship was held from Sheffield Wednesday F.C. ground at Hillsborough and this year there were four Swedish competitors. We were out to annex the team title to go with our 20 miles title to make the double and right well did we do it. We started and finished a full team of eight, plus one individual out of a field of 61 finishers.

With a long climb out of Sheffield, the lads set about consolidating their positions. At 5 kilos. Hugh McGreechan was 4th with the leading bunch, Norman Guilmant, George Checkley, George Beecham, Harry Shields and Bernard Eglinton, in that order, not far behind. At 15 kilometres, Mac was in the lead in 8m.7s. with a whole bunch in close attendance, the other lads all going strongly, and at that time lying second in the team race with 43 points to Poly's 26, with Woodford 56, but our 5th and 6th men were in 17th and 18th positions respectively, packing for later stages as it turned out to be. After 20 K.M. Mac relinquished the lead and at 25 K.m. was 4th. Hereabouts, Norman had a bad bout of sickness and it says much for the way he came back and went right through the field again to finish a very creditable 14th to be our 2nd man home after being our 6th at one time. From 25 K.m. our lads all went through, making positions where others were dropping away and it was then we could see our second championship coming along. Looked after and urged on by a grand bunch of supporters - Bob Newson, Len Demmon, Billy True - they consolidated their positions and the scoring four of Mac, Norman, Bernard and Harry were ably backed up by George Checkley, George Beecham, Joe Wilson, Gordon Doubleday and Fred Rolfe, finishing positions being 6th, 14th, 17th, 19th, 26th, 30th, 37th, 44th and 45th. With the elimination of the four Swedes from the individual positions, the result was:-

Belgrave - 3.7.9.11.	30 points
Poly H. - 2.6.14.18	40 "
Woodford - 4.12.13.21	50 "

A grand day followed by a late reception in Sheffield for the Swedish visitors and then the midnight train back to town. No one slept - that was not allowed - on a pleasant journey home to arrive at Kings Cross at 5am and wend our various ways home by various means. A day worth remembering, even at the loss of a pair of trousers.

Owing to the visit of foreign royalty we were minus most of our Police members for this annual match from Tooting Bec Track over 6 miles. Syd James walked well within himself to be the first man home in 47m. 41s. with R.E. Green 2nd and Len Demmon 3rd in 49m. 23s. H. Shields 9th, G. Doubleday 11th, W. True 15th, D. Fotheringham 17th, D. Logan 20th, J. Wilson 21st, W. Ferguson 24th, A. East 26th, C. Speechley 27th and C. Gittens 28th, completed our team and scoring 10 a side we lost to Surrey Walking Club by 88 points to 122. In a 6 a side match between Belgrave and the Police, we won by a score of 42 points to 51.

7 MILES TRACK HANDICAP - JUNE 30TH

The field for this event was not as great as anticipated particularly as it was intended as a try out for a possible Club Championship next year, but once again our Police members were unable to be present owing to other commitments. Syd James walked well to be first in 54m. 49s. and with 40secs. allowance, won the handicap. Len Demmon was 2nd with George Beecham 3rd. There were 13 starters and our handicapper, Bill True, with a time of 66m.57s (all.7.15) was second in the handicap with Pot Hunter Harry Shields 3rd.

BIRMINGHAM OUTER CIRCLE 25 MILES - JULY 10TH

Hugh McGreechan, Bernard Eglinton, George Checkley and Harry Shields - just a bare team - plus myself as general factotum, travelled up to Birmingham for this popular event. The field was not so large as in previous years but the traffic was just as bad. After leaving Aston Villa Football ground, A. Johnson of Sheffield, went straight into the lead closely followed by Mac who stopped just behind him the whole way, never being more than 300 yards in arrears, and at the finish, a lap of the football pitch at Aston Villa, Mac had made ground to finish only 16 seconds behind in 3hrs. 42m. 3s. and 5mins. 19 secs in front of Bailey of the Poly. Johnson and Bailey had already been picked to go to Berne so one can see how unlucky Mac was to miss the trip, Bailey having pipped him in the last 6 miles of the 50 kilometres three weeks before.

To illustrate how well he walked, after giving him a drink and sponge at 17 miles, telling him how the other lads were getting on and that he was a cert for the individual handicap, I waited for the others to come along and never caught up with him again. Bernard also had an excellent race to finish 5th in 3h.54m54s. his best time to date, a grand steady effort. George had a bad attack of tummy trouble and frightened the life out of me when I found he had disappeared for a while, but back he came to carry on and finish 9th in 4hrs. Harry had walked a steady race and although not on top of his form, finished 18th in 4h.4m.30s. The team race was always safe, at 8 miles we were 2.6.7.13; 17 miles 2.4.6.10; and at the finish 2,5,8,11, a total of 26 points, with Poly 2nd 41 points and Leicester 3rd 54 points. Mac duly obliged by winning the handicap with 15 minutes allowance and Bernard was 3rd with 25 minutes, so with 2nd in the scratch race and first team awards they collected quite a load. A fine effort which was duly celebrated on the train. It is interesting to note that in 1952 we were 3rd, 1953, 2nd and this year 1st. How's that for progress.

DOVER - CANTERBURY and BACK - JULY 17TH

What a day, a howling gale, lashing rain the whole time the race was on and everybody agreed the worst day for some time to race in, making it even a finer performance on George Checkley's part to lead the whole way and smash the course record by over 9 minutes - 4h. 9m.42s. for 28 miles on a day like that, phew!! Norman, Harry and I had travelled in Alan (The Baron) Robin's car

and the others had come down by coach - Bernard, Fred Rolfe, Doub and Percy Wilson. How thankful were the wife and I to be able to take advantage of Alan's car for looking after the lads and we all thank him most heartily for his help on such a dreadful day. From the start George cut out the pace and despite all entreaties about the homeward journey, carried on in the lead. Norman and Harry did not have a good race at all, perhaps the scrambled start had a lot to do with it as we arrived as they were getting ready to start, but with Norman plugging away and Bernard only a little behind, the team race was safe and we were able to concentrate on getting George home first now he was so near to the finish. After one stop on the homeward journey when he gave up all his lead he got going again to finish very strongly from J. Hubbard 2nd in 4.13.38 and Vic Stone 3rd in 4.15.10. At one time they were both within 200 yards of George but his strength over the windswept Barham Downs told its tale and he gradually got away. Norman finished 5th in 4.19.39, Bernard 8th, 4.24.58, Fred Rolfe 14th, 4.37.08, Harry 16th 4.38.29, Gordon 26th 4.55.46 and Percy 29th 4.59.42. Team result, three to score Belgrave 1.3.5. - 9 points, Woodford 17, Essex Beagles 27. George smashed the handicap time standard of 4h.10m with a time of 4h.9.42 and an allowance of 22 mins. This was George's score - Cup and prize for first man at turn; Cup and prize for whole distance; Individual handicap prize and shield and team prize. How he got home with them we don't know, but he deserved them for a grand effort.

HASTINGS TO BRIGHTON - AUGUST 14TH

This race saw the return to the Club of one of our war time members, Alf Joels and although he did not complete the distance it was obvious that with some training he can be an added strength to our distance men.

Individual honours seem to be going round. First Norman's win in the Manchester to Blackpool, then George Checkley's success in the Dover - Canterbury and now it was Mac's turn. Winning by four minutes from Norman Guilmant in the time of 6h. 0m.37s. he returned the second fastest time of the race. The backing of Norman and George Checkley, 2nd and 4th positions respectively, gave us a score of 7 points, which must be practically unbeatable unless some club can finish with the first three positions. George Beecham was 9th, Bernard 10th, Fred Rolfe 14th, J. Wilson 18th, Gordon Doubleday 24th. The performances of our walkers in the earlier distance races ruled out any chance of a place in the handicap, but everyone came home well satisfied and full of confidence for the Brighton Walk. Team placings were: Belgrave 7 points, Essex Beagles 31 points, Surrey W.C. 42 points.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON - SEPTEMBER 11TH

Our confidence for success in the London Brighton Walk was amply justified for not only did we win the team race easily and in a low record score of 16 points, thus becoming the only club to win twice since the war, but also supplied the individual winner in Norman Guilmant.

As stated earlier, we were without Bernard Eglinton, but nevertheless we started two teams, 8 and 4 respectively backed up by a swarm of supporters at Big Ben which increased considerably as we moved towards Brighton. Our lads soon began to show their paces and there was little doubt throughout the race as to the ultimate result. Thompson of Met. W.C. only 21 years of age, set up a terrific pace and by the time Crawley was reached had open up a gap of over 8 minutes. Norman Guilmant however did not appear to be at all disturbed and gradually piling the pace on, in the next 4 miles reduced the lead by 1½ minutes. With a little gentle persuasion he then really started to move and by the time the top of Dale Hill was reached had taken a lead which he was never to lose. Thompson very pluckily kept his position and finished 2½ minutes behind Norman.

Meanwhile the rest of the team were coming through remarkably well and the race developed more into a club affair as to who was going to be in the winning team. This eventually proved to be the four who had been most consistent throughout the summer, viz; Norman 1st, Hugh who had been 4th nearly all the way, in that position, George Checkley on his first Brighton 7th and Harry 9th. eliminating the individuals, their score was reduced to 16 points which looks as though it will stand for a good few years. Our "A" team which also included George Beecham (11th) Fred Rolfe 25th, Doub, 33rd and Joe Wilson 34th, had six men home before any other club had completed their four. George Beecham walked an excellent first Brighton to gain a first class standard and Rolfe, Doub, and Joe Wilson gained 2nd class standards, as also did Alf Joels who was in the "B" Team. Ron Fairman failed to finish the course so our "B" team did not close in.

Final team placings were 1. Belgrave 16 points, Poly H. 45 points, Essex Beagles 75 points. Our thanks are due to the band of attendants on cycles and in cars who looked after our lads and helped them on the way.

FIELD EVENTS

Let me first congratulate the Field Events Section on the good performances during the season and the good feeling shown to one another. Your Captain P. Luxon has had a good season not only for the Club but for his County and he has also represented the AAA. Five honours badges have been won for A.A.A. standards by P. Luxon, P. Porter, R. Liggins, D. Patrick and J. Key, the latter with a Southern Youths Long Jump record of 21 feet 9 ins. & fine performance for a lad.

It was very pleasing to see John Briggs come all the way from Liverpool to compete in the Club Hurdles Championship. Our younger members are progressing very rapidly, in particular Choate, Strang and Windley are all doing well.

I would particularly like to thank Mr. O'Hara and all the field events officials who have given so much help. I must remind all members that arrangements are being made for coaching, under Franz Stampfl, to go on during the winter months and I sincerely hope that you will all take full advantage of it. Details are published in the Handbook and if any further information is required I know Frank Simmons will be pleased to supply it. There is still plenty of room for improvement and the winter is the time to make it and thus help to make next season more successful still than the one just finished.

Jack Chappell.

ROUND THE TRACKS HEATHFIELD TROPHY - June 18th

In this contest at Stompond Lane, Walton, although we proved superior to all other clubs on the track it was one of the rare occasions during the season when the field events men did not add their quota of points which enabled Walton A.C. to win by 4 points. The outstanding race of the day was no doubt the 800 yds in which Bob Taylor came up against Gordon Pirie who he had recently defeated over the same distance. This time however Pirie beat Bob by four yards in the time of 1m. 53s. both runners beating the track record of 1m55s. set up by Bill Nankeville. Bob's time of 1.53.6 was a new club record and a personal best. Another personal best time was that of Len Bishop who returned 4m. 21s. in finishing 3rd in the mile. D. Merrett finished 3rd in both sprint finals and Jock Cameron was 2nd in the 440 yards with C. Walker 4th in the 2 miles. T. Gaworski's 3rd place in the shot was the sole success of the field events men. In the Surrey Medley Relay at the same meeting, Belgrave finished 3rd behind South London and Farnham A.C.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNE 19TH

Our wealth of sprinters was fully demonstrated in the Southern Championships at Croydon when, out of the six competitors to reach the final of the 220 yards, three of them were Belgrave. Alan Sexton was inches behind Groves to finish 2nd although he had won his semi-final in a much faster time of 21.7s. D. Merrett was 4th and I Mayers 5th. Ivan was also 4th in the 100 yards. P. Luxon with a jump of 22 feet 4ins. in the Long Jump gained 2nd place to K. Wilmhurst the international, and T. Gaworski with a throw of 133ft 6 ins. was second to J. Savidge in the discus. Eddie Short was very unlucky in the steeplechase. He was lying second when he twisted his foot at the water jump with two laps to go and had to retire.

KINNAIRD MEETING - June 28th

Our field events men were very much to the fore in the Kinnaird Meeting at the Polytechnic Ground at Chiswick when two of them broke existing club records. P. Luxon cleared 22 feet 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the long jump beating the old record by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. T. Gaworski put the shot 44 feet 3 inches, adding 3 inches to his previous best.

A.E.C. Inter-Club Trophy - July 3rd

This contest between ourselves, Shaftesbury Harriers, Thames Valley Harriers, Southall A.C., Polytechnic Harriers and Finchley A.C. resulted in a win for the club with 55 points. Basil Walden won the 100 and 220 yards, Bob Walton won the 440 yards with Jock Cameron 2nd, I Badiali finished 3rd in the 880 yards and Ray Tooby was second in the three miles. P. Luxon proved his versatility by finishing 4th in this event and winning the long jump with 21ft 8ins.

On the same day in the Viking Trophy 2 miles team race at Weybridge several of our leading distance runners were not available and the trophy was lost to Thames Valley Harriers. The team finished 3rd with C. Roffey in 4th position, J. Masters 5th and E. Short, running with an injured ankle, 11th.

L.C.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the South Western Area Championships held at Tooting Bec on 17th July all four finalists in the 100 yards were Belgrave members and the finishing order was R. Holtum, R. Bartlett, P. Cornish, and D. Gordon, the winner doing 10.5s. Holtum also won the 220 yards in 23secs. Bartlett being 3rd. P. Cornish gained another 3rd place in the 440 yards and Jim Heathfield was second in the 880 yards. Jim Masters ran well in the three miles but did not have sufficient speed at the finish and finished 2nd to J. Butler of Surrey A.C. Charlie Smart was third well ahead of the rest of the field. T. Gaworski and P. Luxon were successful in the shot and long jump respectively. In the junior events J. Pettican won the mile and T. Moxam was 2nd in the 100 yards.

The finals were held at the new Hurlingham Track on 11th September with the added attraction of the track being officially opened by Roger Bannister. Track performances were seriously affected by the track being rain sodden. This was obvious from Jack Brown's mile which he won in 4m. 23s. Ron. Holtum did 10.3s in the 100 yards and 22.8s. in the 220 yards to finish second in each. T. Gaworski and P. Luxon continued their string of good performances by winning the Long Jump and Shot Put.

DORIS SHIELD CONTEST

This was held at Alperton Track on August 14th between Thames Valley Harriers, Mitcham A.C. and ourselves. The main feature of this contest was the inability of the club, with the apparent material available, to turn out two competitors for each event. Those who turned up certainly gave of their best but there is no doubt we should have done much better had we been properly represented.

Ron Holtum was 4th in 100 yards and I. Mayers 3rd in the 220, whilst in the 440 yards our two runners were 5th and 6th. Alan Bishop was our only runner in the 880 yards and could not gain a point but we did better in the mile which Cliff Roffey won in 4.24.8. Jim Masters won the two miles in 9m. 46.6s. but again he had no second string to support him. Ted Gaworski won the shot with 43ft. 6ins. and was 2nd in the discus, whilst Percy Luxon won the long jump, was 2nd in the high jump and 3rd in the javelin which was won by Ron Liggins with a throw of 167ft. 3ins.

Final points were Mitcham A.C. 48 points, T.V.H. 45 points and Belgrave 40 points. Mitcham had to thank Brian Hewson for winning the 440 and 880 yards and then running the final half mile in the medley relay to turn a big deficit into a handsome victory. I can well imagine what some of our runners would say if they were asked to turn out in three events, although this should never be necessary if everyone put themselves out to turn up at inter-club matches.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR MATCHES v CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS
SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS AND ISLE OF SHEPPEY A.C.

This meeting was held at Charlton Park and a typical end of the season atmosphere prevailed. Although those athletes present gave of their best, the general attendance was poor. As a result a number of our members had to perform more than should be necessary. Noticeable absentees were amongst our milers and two milers which casts a very poor reflection on a club such as ours whose strength is reputedly mainly in our middle distance runners as emphasised by our road relay performances. Bouquets must however be handed out to our field events men who from four events gained as many points as our track members could produce from ten races and particular mention is due to Ted Gaworski who most definitely earns the title of "Belgrave's best club man" His performances are always of an excellent standard and he rarely misses a match without good reason. In the sprints Mayers pulled off a first string double and Cameron and Badiali were 2nd in the 440 and 880 respectively. Jock also ran in the second string 220 and obtained 3rd place as also did Ian in the second string 440. Eric Bishop was 3rd in the mile and George Stace was similarly placed in the 2 miles event with his best performance to date. In the latter race we had Tom Carter in action and although his speed is not of former years his style is as good as ever. Percy Luxon was able to fit in a second string 100 yards amongst his field events and gained valuable points with a second place. Bare made one of his rare appearances in the high jump with 5ft. 10ins. but in doing so badly injured his leg. Ted Gaworski won both discus and shot and was ably backed up by John Powell Jones who was 3rd in each of these events. Percy Luxon, 2nd in the long jump and 3rd in the high jump, completed our scoring positions and we eventually finished second in the match with 70 points to Cambridge Harriers 86. S.L.H. were third with 52 and Isle of Sheppey 9.

The less said about the Junior match the better. Only five of our lads appeared and we scored only 20 points. Cambridge won with 69, S.L.H. followed closely with 67 and Isle of Sheppey produced 40. Stephens ran well to win the 440 yards. Ashwood was 3rd in the 880. J. Powell Jones who also competed in the senior match, won the

shot put and was 4th in the discus in which Glenn finished 3rd.

It is realised that this meeting was held during the holiday period but surely a club of our size could produce better support than was forthcoming on this occasion especially from our junior ranks. It is bad for our prestige, it is an insult to the organising club and it is unfair to those members who do appear and are called upon to race two or three times. Unfortunately it seems to have become a habit amongst some of our members this year to boycott away matches even though they are within easy reach of town.

MATCH v MET. POLICE, T.V.H. and EALING HARRIERS

This annual meeting held as usual at Imber Court, on 28th August was favoured with good weather and the track was in good condition, but sad to relate the Belgrave team again practically failed to materialise and we finished the afternoon at the bottom of the points scoring. Those members who did put in an appearance, enjoyed a good lighthearted afternoon's sport at a venue which should, and it must admitted usually does, attract a full complement of performers.

The 100 yards was the first event and we had to call on Stephens, one of our juniors and incidentally a glutton for hard work. His fourth place gained a valuable point. The mile which followed was won by Ingles of T.V.H. but Ray Tooby and Don McLean, both putting in a rare appearance, finished 2nd and 3rd. The quarter gave another opportunity for young Stephens to add to our score and this he ably did by securing 3rd place. John Burr, once more in action after a leg injury, finished 3rd in the three miles in one of his best times which augurs well for a good winter season and in this race we also had Alan Bishop, Edmunds and Tom Carter, this having become a weekly effort for Tom - just like old times. The 880 yards saw Roffey our only starter but unfortunately he lacked just sufficient pace at the finish to secure a place. An unusual event, the 120 yards hurdles, gave an opportunity for Coleman to show his paces but either the hurdles were a little too high or he was a shade off form for he left a trail of upset obstacles but nevertheless finished 3rd. The track events were completed by a 8 x 110 yards relay for which we just scraped a team together. We would have performed much more creditably if the distance had been some two miles or so for at least five of the legs. Incidentally we had as a spectator Fred Clay who is in London again and he was pressed into action in borrowed kit to make up this team and showed that with a little hard work he will again be an asset to Belgrave - "Press on Fred!!"

In the field events Ted Gaworski was again a tower of strength and brought off his usual double - what would we do without that man?. He was backed up by Powell Jones who is fast making his mark in senior competition. The event which added to our prestige the most was the two miles walk between Belgrave and the Police in which we filled all the leading positions with Brian Shepherd, Syd James and E. Smith taking the honours, but unfortunately this did not count in the match points or we may have avoided the ignominious last place.

This was our last match of the season and it can hardly be said that we ended in a blaze of glory. Let us hope that the cross country fixtures will be better supported than the track have been otherwise we may as well content ourselves with "training sessions" only. Where do our runners go in the summer?

Roing reporter.

ROAD RUNNINGMITCHAM 15

This was as usual the first race of the year and was held on January 9th. Denis Brickwood running in his usual manner, took Eric Gebbett, who was making his first appearance in long distance running, with him for the first twelve miles when Eric began to tire and Denis ran on to be fairly well placed and followed by Eric who had recovered to finish within standard time.

Godfrey, running for the "B" team, ran a good race to beat the third "A" team man home. Times and placings:

15. D. Brickwood	1h. 27m. 08s.	84. L. Bush
36. E. Gebbett	1 29 30	89. A. Jordan
37. R. Plummer	1 29 31	92. L. Rolls
76. E. Godfrey	1 36 05	103. G. Manning
79. W. Wortley	1 37 01	116. K. Cuff
85. J. McDonald		140. E. Lacey

WIGMORE 15

This was held on March 27th and in it we saw R. Plummer, still running as an individual, show us some of his old form to finish 6th and also that Eric Gebbett was going to prove quite a useful addition to the road section. The team, though not the best we could field, finished 4th. Our placings and times were:

6. R. Plummer	1h. 30m. 02s	53. W. Wortley	1.3.30
16. E. Gebbett	1 33 39	65. F. Bradnum	1.44.50
36. A. Jordan	1 39 20		

BRIDGEWATER TO TAUNTON

On April 3rd a small team travelled to Taunton for this annual ten miles road race and John Bromley ran very well to finish 6th in 53m. 49s. on such a hilly course. Our other performances were 37th, E. Gebbett 58.10; 48th. P. Childs 59.10; and Dave Cooper 60.29 which gave us 6th place in the team race.

EASTER MONDAY

This saw us as usual at three different venues on the same afternoon the first being at Maidenhead where, in the local 10 miles we provided the winner in Chas Walker in 54m. 57s and who was fairly well backed up by Stan Gawler 6th in 56.55 and E. Gebbett 18th in 58.20. We thus finished 2nd in the team race to Herve Hill. Our other runner to finish was J. McDonald, 27th in 60.40.

The second venue was at Bognor again for a ten miles road race where we had A. Bedford 3rd in 50m. 29s. and G. Smart 4th in 51.07, but no third runner to complete the team.

The third run was the Doncaster to Sheffield Marathon and in this C. Abberton finished 27th in 2hrs. 50m. 4s. with A. Jordan 32nd in 2.51.7 and W. Wortley 47th in 2.59.4.

FINCHLEY 20 - April 24th

This was the first of the season's twenties and we had a very small turn out as the Surrey 20 was to be held on the following Saturday, but we did see another grand performance by R. Plummer who finished 4th in 1h. 54m. 53s. Our only other runners to finish were A. Penstone 2.11.8.; and S. Charlton, in his first twenty, 2.13.0.

SURREY COUNTY 80 - MAY 1ST

This race was held at Mitcham and we saw Eric Gebbett continue to prove that he is a useful distance runner by finishing 9th in 1hr. 59m. 10s. in his first twenty to lead our team into 2nd place. He was well backed up by A. Jordan, 10th in 2.0.14 and G. Pearson 16th in 2.3.3., all within Southern Standard. C. Manning 23rd also gained Surrey County Standard with a time of 2.14.10. Team positions were as follows:-

1. Walton A.C. 16 points. E. Belgrave H. 29 points.

CHICHESTER TO PORTSMOUTH - MAY 1ST

This race as usual, was blessed by fine weather in fact it was a bit too warm for road running. L. Adams in his first long race put up a good performance to finish 13th. E. Gebbett, feeling a little tired from the previous week, did not run to form and it was not until the last six miles that he showed anything like his normal running. Our placings and times were:

13. L. Adams	1h.36m.5s	49. J. McDonald
27. E. Gebbett	1 40 18	52. A. Smith
28. A. Whitehead	1 41 6	67. J. Baker

We were placed 5th in the team race.

SOUTHERN 80 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - MAY 15TH

The Championship was held at Chislehurst in conjunction with the Kent Open 80 miles and we finished 6th in the team race. R. Plummer as an individual, was again our first man home and we are waiting for the day when he will be eligible to run for the Club. E. Gebbett returned to form to put in another creditable performance but our other runners found the course rather a tough proposition. Placings and times were as follows:

11. R. Plummer	1h.59m.14s	33. W. Wortley	2.8.51
15. E. Gebbett	2 1 10	44. J. McDonald	2.13.48
29. G. Pearson	2 7 13	48. A. Penstone	2.15.47
32. A. Jordan	2 8 6	63. E. Godfrey	2.23.1

WALTON A.C. "15" - JUNE 18TH

R. Plummer had yet another good run to finish 8th in 1hr. 24m. 41s. Our other performances were E. Gebbett 24th, 1.27.40; L. Adams 26th, 1.27.56; S. Charlton 30th, 1.28.28; J. McDonald 44th 1.33.57; A. Whitehead 45th 1.34.07; L. Rolis 1.38.44; A. Smith 66th and J. Baker 68th.

POLY MARATHON - JUNE 26TH

This was held as usual from Windsor to Chiswick and we held our own Marathon Championship in conjunction in which R. Plummer carried off the title in a new championship time of 2 hours 39m. 53s. with A. Jordan 2nd in 2.46.49 and G. Pearson, the holder 3rd in 2.47.29. Others to gain Club standards were J. McDonald, 2.50.59 and C. Abberton 2.54.30.

Placings in the Open race in which we finished 7th team were 24th. R. Plummer; 49th A. Jordan; 52. G. Pearson; 62. J. McDonald; 68. C. Abberton; 105. A. Mitchell and 111. A. Penstone. We also finished 5th in the Southern Counties Championship which was held in conjunction.

We also had teams in the Peterborough Marathon and the Kodak 10 at Whitsun in both of which there were some good performances, especially at Peterborough where C. Abberton, A. Jordan and J. McDonald ran very well.

Summing up the road season, it can be said that we are definitely improving. The most essential thing is to get a full turn out in EVERY race. In addition the great thing for roadwork is training and then more training and I should like to see ALL the road runners out together all through the winter, both on Saturdays and Tuesdays. If this is done I am sure we shall do much better next year.

Road Captain.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Bob Taylor and Stan Davies are both in hospital with chest trouble. Stan says the doctors have told him that it has nothing whatever to do with athletics and that he will be fit for action again in two years time.

Interesting letters have been received from P.V. Martin who is abroad with the Royal Marines and M. Reeves in B.A.O.R. Both are looking forward to their return to the Club.

Jack Chappell, our Field Events Hon. Sec. has been honoured with Vice-Presidency of the E.C.C.U.

E.T. Paterson writes from Barnstaple to say that he has gained 2nd place in the R.A.F. Fighter Command 3000 metres Steeple-chase Championship and in the R.A.F. Championships he finished 4th.

On July 17th in the Welsh Open Marathon R. Plummer finished 2nd in a new best club performance of 2hrs. 37m. 20s.

Ray Middleton was 2nd in the Surrey County One Mile Track Championship.

THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The placing of this report at the very end of the magazine is in no way meant to minimise the importance of this club function but as it was held only just prior to the magazine going to press, it was only just possible to include it and anyway it makes a very fine finale.

This annual function still does not receive the support it deserves, but nevertheless 150 members, guests and friends assembled at the Oxford Street Corner House on September 25th and spent a very enjoyable evening. The dinner was excellent, the speeches were short and the dancing rounded off a very good evening, terminating with Auld Lang Syne and the President, Tom Morrell, being carried shoulder high round the room. He really deserved better support from the club, but as it was he was left in doubt as to his popularity.

Ed.