

THE 8th EDITION
(1928)

OF

THE BELGRAVIAN

OCTOBER, 1928.

President : W. H. HARE.

Gen. Hon. Secretary: W. L. BAYLISS, 71, Ravensbury Road, S.W.18.

Hon. Treasurer : A. E. MACHER, 164, Bedford Hill, S.W.12.

Editor : B. J. T. KNIFTON, 81, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A pleasant task fell to our Hon. Secretary in presenting the following report to about a hundred members, who assembled on September 25th.



OUR PRESIDENT—W. H. HARE, Esq.
Club Hon Sec., 1921-2-3-4.
Club President, 1927-8.
President, South of Thames Cross Country
Association, 1928.

Member of winning Belgrave teams National Road
Walking Championship, 1924-5 and Junior Road
Walking Championship, 1922.
Club 20 miles Champion, 1923.

" In commencing my report of the Club's activities during the past year, I wish to heartily thank the officials and others who have helped me so well.

" It gives me great pleasure to state that the Club is stronger than ever. Since the last A.G.M. we have enrolled 109 new members, against which we have had 25 resignations

" The Club's progress has been excellent and the class of athlete much improved. The various races and championships have been recorded in the Club gazette, but outstanding performances have been the winning of the R W.A. National Walking Championship, the gaining of third place in the South of the Thames C.C. Championship, and the recording of much faster time in the London-Brighton Relay Race.

" Our junior section is making much headway and will have to be catered for during the next twelve months.

" Thanks are due to Mr. W. Griffin, who presented a handsome cup for the Club 3 miles Track Championship, and to Mr. H. Wright, who presented a shield for competition.

" We must congratulate Mr. G. Powell on his efforts in forming a field events section, which, we hope will make a reputation for itself during the next year.

" The winter programme is now being prepared, and I trust will meet with the approval of all members.

" In conclusion, may I say that prospects are bright for the coming season, for both walkers and runners, and may our Club, which is, in the words of our old friend and timekeeper, Harry Wright, second to none in the country, have all the success it deserves."

The Hon. Treasurer's report was no less satisfactory. The balance sheet reflects great credit on the earnest way in which he has set about raising funds. He pointed out that both income and expenditure have increased by 50% over the corresponding items of last year, a difference due directly to greater activity on the part of every section of the Club.

Two alterations to rules were proposed and carried. The first gives a place on the committee to Club vice-captains. The second requires that the votes of two-thirds of the members attending an A.G.M. be gained to secure the election of a proposed life-member.

That happily-chosen quartet, President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Asst. Hon. Sec. were re-elected.

The new sectional Hon. Secs., E. A. Duffett (running), B. J. T. Knifton (walking), and H. L. Rollins (social), are young members from whom much is expected. There was a remarkable demonstration of regret on the part of the meeting that S. L. King should relinquish his office of walkers' secretary. Our President, who was moved to say a few words on the subject, declared that the practically continuous list of numerous successes of our walk-

ers was due to the manner in which S. L. King had carried out the duties of his job.

The new Captains are men of proved worth: W. G. Webb (cross country), E. A. Duffett (track), R. D. McMullen (walking), and G. H. Powell (field events), the latter becoming the first Captain of the new section. Vice-Captains are A. D. Pyer, W. Rice, A. L. Fletcher and A. Traquair respectively.

The important office of starter is held again by Mr. E. Cope, and those of timekeepers by Messrs. H. Wright and C. Cook.

Handicappers, Auditors and Trustees were re-elected, and the new Committee is composed as follows: A. A. Harley, V. J. Peacock, J. B. Carne, T. J. Flower, S. L. King, J. Rathbone, L. E. Fletcher and F. G. Thompson.

ROAD WALKING.

It is of great interest to walkers that the Road Walking Association, in the twenty-first year of its activities has, through its representative, Mr. G. H. Neville (S.W.C.) worked successfully for the inclusion of a road walk in the Olympic Games of the future. The decision was reached at the meeting this year of the International A.A. Federation, which Mr. Neville attended as a delegate of the A.A.A., to which body the R.W.A. is affiliated.

The distance decided upon is 50 kilometres (about 31 miles) and races of this distance will be promoted annually, commencing next year.

The Association has accomplished a great deal for the encouragement of walking during the last year. Ten races, promoted in aid of the funds of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, at different centres throughout the country, produced the surprising entry of 889 competitors, 141 of whom walked in the final race from Windsor to London (27 miles). In undertaking this "go-ahead" scheme the R.W.A. succeeded in the biggest organisation attempted in amateur athletics in this country. We eagerly await further enterprises.

As usual, there were the 7 miles Open Handicap, 10 miles Junior Championship, and 20 miles National Championship, which fill up not a little of our winter programme, and for which we have to thank the governing body.

Finally, the British team for the Dutch walks was sent under the auspices of our association, and with this event ended a year of excellent work for the sport.

THE BRIGHTON WALK.

Another London to Brighton Walk is over and we have had to take second place to our friendly rivals, the Surrey W.C. The day was ideal for the seaside, but much too hot for the task of

walking there. Out of a field of 110 about 60 finished, and of the ten Belgravians who left Westminster Bridge at 7 o'clock that morning, only four reached Brighton on foot. Our first man home was Fred Rickards, who thus becomes our long-distance champion for the first time. C. A. Wattan, of whom we hear little and see less, was our second representative, while A. Martin, on his first Brighton attempt, was third for us, so gaining a place in a Club championship for the first time, at an age when most people think of retiring. Our fourth man to finish was Vic Winner. On such a day it was a great performance to finish at all, so we must congratulate all four on their splendid show.

The misfortunes which put our "hopes" out of the race, also revealed how fortunate we are in those members of the team who are apt to be eclipsed by our proved speed-men. Of the latter, Green was out with ankle trouble at about 20 miles. Even to Crawley we were still strong with Rickards, Rathbone, Thomas and Belchamber as our first four. But the heat told its tale and Rickards was the only one of them to keep going. He was 2nd and 3rd at times, but felt the effects badly over the last few miles. G. H. Laurie, and L. E. Fletcher did not complete the course, the latter being in the first forty at thirty miles.

So ended the arduous round of training to which our men applied themselves, and we must express a "hard lines!" to those who could not help but be momentarily disappointed at failing to finish. However, there were no glum faces on the homeward journey: on the contrary, second place in the team event was something to smile about.

Our friends on motor-bikes and those on the 'bus provided welcome assistance and encouragement. The cyclist attendants make their job an annual one, and deserve a special word of commendation.

THE RESULT—INDIVIDUALS.

			h.	m.	s.
1.	W. F Baker (Queen's Park Harriers)	...	8	32	39
9.	F. Rickards (Belgrave Harriers)	...	9	20	52
16.	C. A. Waltam (Belgrave Harriers)	...	9	48	33
26.	A. Martin (Belgrave Harriers)	...	10	10	9
53.	V. A. Winner (Belgrave Harriers)	...	11	59	32

TEAMS.

1.	Surrey Walking Club	...	...	...	15 pts.
2.	Belgrave Harriers	...	...	...	31 "
3.	L.C.C. Trams S. & A.A.	...	...	...	32 "

10 teams started.

5 MILES WALK.

For the 5 Miles Walking Handicap with which the season's racing opened, there were 24 starters out of 26 entries. This, although

a very satisfactory commencement, was not the record field for this very popular race. Whereas this year 21 competitors completed the course, I find that in 1923 there were 26 starters out of 27 entrants, and that all of them completed the course. That the Club began that season well is unquestionable, and we ended it by winning the R.W.A. Championship for the first time in the Club's history. Our membership is now larger than ever, the championship is in our possession and so it is up to us to surpass the big fields we had both for training and racing during that very successful season. However, as faster times were returned this year, we have very good reason to expect that the close of the season will find the Club enjoying a better reputation than ever.

The race was keenly contested throughout; the long markers making every effort to keep in front; and it was not until the last mile that the faster men appeared likely to overtake those two very youthful walkers, C. W. Redgrave and H. J. Fletcher. E. Saunders walked a well-judged race to win by a few yards from J. G. Scamell with L. Storey a close third. Here is the full result :

			Allowance		Time		H'cap	
1	E. Saunders	...	...	3 50	...	40 25	...	44 15
2	J. G. Scamell	...	...	1 15	...	40 30	...	41 45
3	L. Storey	...	...	4 0	...	40 33	...	44 33
4	F. H. Elson	...	...	2 35	...	40 45	...	43 20
5	W. G. Dodkin	..	...	4 15	..	41 36	...	45 51
6	C. W. Redgrave	...	...	6 20	...	41 38	...	47 58
7	V. J. Peacock	...	...	3 0	...	41 54	...	44 54
8	B. J. T. Knifton	...	...	2 15	...	41 57	...	44 12
9	J. Rathbone	...	...	1 40	...	42 3	...	43 43
10	H. J. Fletcher	...	...	6 20	...	42 5	...	48 25
11	J. E. Field	...	...	2 35	...	42 15	...	44 50
12	A. H. Field	...	...	6 10	...	42 22	...	48 32
13	J. J. Crichton	...	...	4 0	...	42 45	...	46 45
14	S. A. Manning	...	...	4 0	...	42 46	...	46 46
15	O. Horwood	...	...	4 15	...	43 7	...	47 22
16	R. D. McMullen	...	...	50	...	43 13	...	44 3
17	A. Martin	...	...	5 40	...	43 31	...	49 11
18	C. H. Speechley	...	...	2 50	...	43 54	...	46 44
19	F. Rickards	...	...	50	...	44 22	...	45 12
20	H. Norman	...	...	5 0	...	46 31	...	51 31
21.	W. F. Brooks(not timed in)			about 5 0	...	49 0	...	54 0

By covering the distance in 41m. 45s. J. G. Scamell set up a new Club record for the course, lowering that made by J. Rathbone on October 10th, 1925, by 5 secs. Bravo Scamell! Unfortunately, however, this is not the actual record for this course. That stands to the credit of P. Granville, of Canada, who completed the journey on November 21st, 1925, in 40m. 44s.

Other sterling performances over this course are as follows :—

E. S. Sharman (Brighthon Rly A C.)	...	...	...	41-24
R. B. G. Collard (Brighton Rly. A.C.)	...	...	...	42-0
J. Rathbone (Belgrave Harriers)	...	...	...	42-15
R. D. McMullen (Belgrave Harriers)	...	...	...	42-13
E. A. Wall (Belgrave Harriers)	...	...	...	42-20
R. D. McMullen (Belgrave Harriers)	...	...	...	42-18
E. G. Cooper (Belgrave Harriers)	...	...	...	42-32
H. F. King (Belgrave Harriers) when almost a beginner				42-38
H. F. King (Belgrave Harriers) ...	...	...	...	42-23

Surely we should resolve to have a Belgrave record-holder for a Belgrave course. This record of Granville's is one that any walker should be proud to lower; but, as good as it is, I am convinced that A. L. Fletcher could set up a better one. He did the course in 42m. 39s. in 1925. This was 18 months before his fine fight against T. W. Green in the Junior Championship and 2 years prior to his win in the inter-counties 3 miles race. He has improved more than 2 minutes since then. Perhaps he will make the attempt in next year's race.

J.B.B.

NOTES.

In a match between the Stock Exchange A.C. and the Police, F. Rickards beat the field by about seven minutes and J. Rathbone was third, over a distance of 15 miles. We were glad to see by this that they have both recovered from any ill-effects of the Brighton race.

Three of our members turned out in an open 7 mile walk at Greenwich on September 22nd, but as a team were not very successful. Harold King was not "on form," having done nothing since the Club 2 miles championship, and so could get no nearer than 8th and V. J. Peacock was 10th. C. W. Redgrave, a very promising youngster, finished round about the thirties in a field of 59; quite a useful performance for his first open road walk.

I hear that McMullen has been to the Tailtean Games and was 2nd in the 3,000 metres walk. Apparently England is not large enough hunting ground for Mac. What a collection of walkers we shall have in a few years if they all last as long as he.

On October 27th the R.W.A. are promoting their annual 7 miles walk from the headquarters of the Southgate and Wood Green A.A. at Bounds Green, N. Besides the individual and team handicaps, there is a scratch team race for which a cup is given. This cup is now in the keeping of the Surrey A.C., but as Bill Griffin thinks he can keep it brighter than they, all our fast men should keep this date in mind. A social and dance will be held after the race.

A fortnight after is the first 7 miles open race of the Enfield A.C., for which we shall send a team.

Entry forms for these two races should be sent in good time to B. J. KNIFTON, 81 St. Dunstan's Road, W 6.

RUNNING.

I should just like to draw the attention of our members to the following forthcoming events:—

On October 20th we have an Inter-Club race with our old friends and rivals, namely, Thames Valley Harriers and Ashcombe, from the headquarters of the former at Feltham. This is where everyone has a chance to score for his Club as these events are, as far as possible, all-to-score affairs. We had a very good muster this time, and I trust we shall turn out in even greater numbers this time. Cheap return tickets can be had at the booking offices (Clapham Junction 1/2, Barnes 9d.).

November 3rd sees us journeying to Edgware to the Highgate Harriers' abode. Here we can expect an enjoyable run, followed by a tea and concert at a nominal charge.

We have another Inter-Club race with Thames Valley and Ashcombe, over a 5 mile course, on November 10th, this time from our own headquarters. In conjunction with this race there will be a sealed Handicap for our own members, and in addition to the usual three for the handicap, there will a prize for the first Belgrave novice home.

I hope you will support this event as readily as you have the 3 mile Road Race, for which we received a very fine entry. In passing I should like to thank everybody for their entries, especially those who entered not with the idea of competing, but just to help the prize fund along.

The first important open team race is the South of Thames Junior on November 17th, venue not yet fixed. In case the word Junior is misleading I should like to say that all up to 90 are eligible, except those who have previously been in the winning team of this event, or who have scored in a placed team in Senior Championships. Our prospects of winning this race are very promising, and we shall enter as many teams as possible.

A special word to Junior members. On December 2nd there is the Surrey County Youths' race. This fixture is for runners under the age of 18 on day of race, and is over a 3 miles course. Our team won this event in 1924, so here is a great chance for our Juniors to regain the title for our Club. Will all who are qualified to compete kindly advise me, as soon as possible.

E. A. DUFFETT, 106 Cherry Orchard Road, East Croydon.

A GRAND FINALE TO THE TRACK SEASON.

The performance of our team in gaining first prize in an open scratch race at Horsham is worthy of special mention, as it may

quite easily prove the forerunner of many similar successes on the track next season. The race was run in four stages of a quarter of a mile, our team running in the following order: H. Titherley, J. A. Jones, A. J. Ford and last but certainly not least, J. Cooper Clark.

Titherley gained a lead over Cushing (Poly H) in the first stage which Jones, though running very well, was unable to hold. Ford handed over practically level with his man, and J. Cooper Clark, running easily and well within himself, broke the tape twelve yards ahead of the Brighton County Harriers representative, with Poly H. third. The time accomplished (3m. 32 2-5s. easing up) on an uneven grass track, without any previous baton-changing practice, which means so much in relay racing, leads one to hope that next year we may be giving Achilles A.C. a good run in the A.A.A. championships, particularly if Rinkel and Lowe retire from the track, as has been frequently rumoured in the press.

The Club by virtue of this performance become holders for one year of a handsome trophy presented by the Horsham Chamber of Trade.

A.A.H.

3 MILES RUN.

The result of the Road Race held on the 6th inst. at Wimbledon was a very popular one and but for the fact that the first five men found more than "the bit" extra, it would have been a very close handicap indeed, at any rate it was a very interesting race to witness and when our old friend G. Tyrer came in sight (about 600 yards from home) with a nice lead, I thought it was his race, but a very promising young member, S. R. Chorley, finishing the last half-mile very strongly, passed him in the home straight to win a very well-run race. A. Penney ran very well to beat T. Traquair for third place in the last few yards.

After the arrival of "Bert" Footer, who was the first man to beat the old course record, they came in too fast for me to make particular note of them, but H. Cook, who followed Bert home, also had the satisfaction of lowering Bert's newly put-up figures, and now holds the record in the fast time of 15 mins. 0 secs (well done!) Allum, the next home, had had a hard fight with Footer all the way, and he will undoubtedly be a great asset to the Bels. in their team races. Rice, Khlopın, Duffett, Flower (junr.) and Webb, ran very well and finished very strongly.

The special Novice Prize was won by C. R. Strange, who finished 12th. He was a member of our walking section until quite recently. This was his first race and in my opinion he put up a very good performance and promises to develop into a very useful team man.

It was a very good muster of the "boys," 58 having entered the race and 47 starting. I feel sure everyone enjoyed himself on a really glorious day.

T.J.F.

RESULTS.

				Nett time		Allowance		Actual time
1.	S. R. Chorley	...	...	14 9	...	1 40	...	15 49
2.	G. Tyrer	...	...	14 16	...	4 40	...	18 56
3.	A. Penney	...	...	14 25	...	55	...	15 20
4.	A. Traquair	...	...	14 29	...	1 30	...	15 57
5.	W. Callow	...	...	14 31	...	1 40	...	16 11
6.	H. E. Footer	...	...	14 49	...	15	...	15 4
7.	H. Cook	...	...	14 55	...	5	...	15 0
8.	A. Allum	...	...	14 56	...	15	...	15 11
9.	S. Drake	...	...	14 57	...	1 35	...	16 32
10.	W. A. Rice	...	...	14 58	...	7	...	15 5
11.	P. N. K. Khlopin	...	...	15 2	...	30	...	15 32
12.	C. R. Strange	...	...	15 6	...	1 30	...	16 36
13.	E. A. Duffett	...	...	15 10	...	3	...	15 13
14.	J. E. Flower	...	...	15 12	...	Scr.	...	15 12
15.	T. Pritchard	...	...	15 14	..	1 15	...	16 29
16.	W. D. Pritchard	...	...	15 16	...	25	...	15 41
17.	W. G. Webb	...	...	15 18	...	12	...	15 30
18.	L. E. Fletcher	...	...	15 20	...	1 40	...	17 0
19.	J. D. Andrews	...	...	15 25	...	55	...	16 20
20.	A. A. Jones	...	...	15 25	...	1 0	...	16 25
21.	A. Canard	...	...	15 27	...	1 30	...	16 57
22.	A. E. Smith	...	...	15 33	...	15	...	15 48
23.	F. G. Ford	...	...	15 36	...	1 25	...	17 1
24.	C. W. Boud	...	...	15 40	...	1 40	...	17 20
25.	R. Freestone	...	...	15 41	..	1 40	...	17 21
26.	C. T. Hills	...	...	15 50	..	1 50	...	17 40
27.	C. J. Davis	...	...	15 53	...	1 15	..	17 8
28.	T. F. Morrell	...	...	16 1	.	1 25	...	17 26
29.	N. R. Dewberry	...	...	16 6	...	40	...	16 46
30.	D. Sloper	...	...	16 8	...	1 40	...	17 48
31.	S. L. K. King	...	...	16 50	...	1 25	.	18 15
32.	A. Jannaway	...	...	16 51	...	1 50	...	18 41
33.	C. H. Phillips	...	...	17 55	...	2 30	...	20 25
34.	H. S. Bateman	...	...	18 5	...	1 25	...	19 30
35.	A. E. Marshall	...	...	18 10	...	1 30	...	19 40

CROSS COUNTRY.

This particular form of running is very popular and has found much favour amongst the "Bels," indeed the majority of the runners, both young and old, will now be giving their attention to the country with its attendant joys and sorrows.

Most of the big events take place generally well into the New Year, but training however is begun early, so that one would be well advised to treat the early part of the season more or less

as a healthy recreation, rather than a serious racing undertaking. To take things easy at the beginning, to develop staying power gradually and to pay particular attention to style should be one's primary consideration—the rest will follow.

It is a regrettable fact however, that many runners will insist on turning the ordinary Training and Social spin into a race, some start off at a pace justifiable only in championships, while others invariably make the pace hot on the homeward journey.

This should not be encouraged; indeed it should be avoided; there will be time enough to show the pack a clean pair of heels in the championships or in Inter-Club contests, when the joy of being in the fore will be much sweeter.

An even pace maintained throughout the journey with perhaps the opening mile quite easy is far more beneficial; it gives one time to settle down and enables the essential organs, particularly the heart and lungs, to adapt themselves to the extra call. Moreover, starting this way one soon experiences a keen sense of joy, apart from developing a system that will cover the maximum amount of work with the minimum expense of power.

New and junior members particularly would do well to remember the importance of training gradually and not over-doing it, also not to expose themselves to the bleakness of our winters too lightly clad. Sweaters in some form or other should be worn on training spins.

In training and social runs packs will be formed so far as practicable to suit all runners, and members should attach themselves to the one most suited to their style of running, observing always the importance of keeping behind the appointed pacemaker, particularly when they are the guests of other Clubs.

Running in a pack is much easier than running alone, it helps to foster that team spirit which has brought the Club to its present high standard and, moreover, an organised pack rather than a trail of exhausted, dishevelled beings, is the outward sign of a happy and organised Club.

W. G. WEBB, *C.C. Capt.*

RACING NOTES

By "Tipster."

Yet another flat racing season has passed and given place to the best of all winter sports—cross country running and road walking. The student of form will once again attempt the difficult task of forecasting the winners of the championships and handicaps, most likely without success.

RUNNING. The longer distance track championships seem to have developed into "Flower" shows and no doubt these two brothers, with Duffett, Footer and W. G. Webb will be well

in the running for the premier place when the championships are decided. Close finishes should characterise all this season's races and there is a distinct possibility that one or more of our new members may be concerned. Allum, a newcomer who has met with some success on the track, may spring a surprise, and M. A. Gray, S. Penney and Carnighan should also give our team additional strength. W. Mitchell, who has won a number of road races during the summer, should prove his worth in the South of the Thames Junior Race and Surrey Championship. A. Robertshaw, if he runs as he did at Epsom last year, is another man who should cause the leaders considerable discomfort.

Now for the handicaps. A number of runners who receive fairly long starts should win prizes this winter. Among the most likely ones are F. G. Ford (now happily recovered from his motorcycle accident), S. R. Chorley, S. Drake, W. Callow, A. A. Harley and A. W. Jannaway. A. Traquair, A. Robertshaw and H. L. Rollins must also be considered.

R. Hearn appears to be the most likely candidate from the Duke of York's stable, which produced more than its share of winners during the summer.

WALKING. The walking championships should be fought out between Tommy Green, Harold King, R. D. McMullen and J. G. Scammell, with George Cooper very likely again finding his best form in the 20 miles championship. F. H. Elson and B. Knifton should show further improvement, as should also J. E. Field if he conserves his strength and energy for racing. Here we have an example of a man who is keenness personified, but is compelled to take things easy if he is to give of his best when racing comes along. The handicaps appear to be very open, but A. G. Tilly, F. H. Elson, L. Storey, R. G. Hillier and C. W. Redgrave are probable place winners.

In conclusion, my six to follow in handicaps for the season must be:—

**F. G. Ford
R. Hearn
A. Allum

*A. G. Tilly
S. R. Chorley
T. Pritchard

PLEASE NOTE.

The Strolling Section is in full swing, as you may discover any Sunday morning. Our strollers have already been mistaken for members of a "soccer" and then a "rugger" team. If we can muster more than fifteen—who knows?—we may appear to be what we are. Meeting place, south side of Putney Bridge, 10-15 a.m.

Organised field events training takes place on alternate Sunday mornings at Battersea Park. The numbers for javelin and putting

the weight are very promising under the guidance of G. H. Powell, who will be pleased to have enquiries from those interested. His address is 47 Wandle Road, Wandsworth Common, S W.18.

Mr. F. G. Thomson, with A. A. Harley as his assistant, has been appointed by the committee to send weekly reports of Club matters to local newspapers.

SPORTS JOTTINGS

By "Observer."

I notice that at the monthly committee meeting of the Surrey County A.A.A., Caterham A.C. reported that they were unable to hold the County Junior C.C. race from their headquarters owing to lack of dressing accommodation. It was decided to approach the Ranelagh Harriers with a view to running this race from their headquarters on December 1st. Might I ask what about St. John's Hall? Here there is ample dressing accommodation, as witness our Open Walk in which there is over a hundred competitors; in fact, I make bold to say that I consider our headquarters to be superior to those of any Club around London. Surely we have on the Surrey Committee someone who could press the claims of our Club to stage this race. Other Clubs have their share of races, the South of Thames Junior, for instance, seems to have become one of Surrey A.C.'s own fixtures. This race was held over Wimbledon Common in 1925, not from our headquarters, but from a hall near where Ashcombe's course commences. True it ended in chaos owing to various reasons, Footer included, that being however another story. My point is that our own Club could stage and house an event of this description and also see it carried through satisfactorily. We have men on these various committees who should advance our claims, but apparently they are not interested. This fact was also noticeable during the track season; even the Javelin Championship, with one of our members the most prominent performer in the country, was allocated to a minor Club, and so we could go on down the list. What does it mean? That our officials shirk the responsibility of staging these events, or that they are just not interested? It certainly seems a pity that while a Club like Mitcham A.C. is always willing to help, the Belgrave Harriers remain coldly aloof.

I understand that this season's Cross Country fixture list will include a few matches for our "A" team men. The latter are those who are unable to secure a place in the teams for the bigger races, and also our Junior members who should gain useful experience from the contests arranged. If those who are eligible will get together with the promising newcomers and train steadily during the early part of the season, the nucleus of a fine team

should be formed for the South of the Thames Junior. We won this event in 1925 and were placed last year, so it's up to our boys to see that they pull it off this time, and so gladden our President's heart. On one point I am sure: that it will not be for want of trying.

I see that in our genial friend's letter from Stoke, with its several little home truths, that he considers I am a lady! Perish the thought. I should hate to be considered "one of those." He also mentions vicious remarks. I certainly most humbly beg anyone's pardon if such should have been considered the case. I simply state a few facts in a language I am sure you all understand, Paul Khlopin excepted; although I think he is rapidly becoming quite proficient, judging by his "Aw Hell." If there is, of course, anyone who disapproves of what I say, then he has ample room in which to express himself, by sending a letter to the Editor who, I am sure, will give it prominence in our recently opened Correspondence pages.

Now that the Summer is over (for information as to when this season occurred I should advise your writing, say, *John Bull*, as some of my friends are still awaiting this so-called Summer), or to put it better, now that the dark evenings are here and you are, owing to climatic conditions, confined indoors, perhaps the following short biographies will make interesting reading—

A Robertshaw, another of the Club's heroes over the country, ran exceptionally well last season, which incidentally was his first, as prior to this he had competed with success on the cycling track. He settled down to the running game at once, having a steady stride and stamina in abundance, due no doubt to his riding in 25's. Was first man home for the Club in the South of Thames Senior, and I hope to see him lead the whole field home in this year's race.

J. A. Jones, one of our recent newcomers from Kensington, is a most versatile runner. Shines especially over the half and has competed with great success at distances from 220yds. up to 5 miles! Has a fine easy motion, and a remarkable turn of speed at the finish of a race. Runs well over the country and will be a strong contender for a place in the Brighton Relay team.

G. H. Powell, the Club's field event champion; I use this word advisedly, for although the Club has not as yet held any Championships for field events, I am sure they will do so in the future. Owing to the interest which George has aroused among them, several members have, I understand, purchased their own javelins, and are under his able tuition becoming quite proficient at the sport. George, who is the Surrey County, and ex-Southern Counties champion, at the recent Ponders End Sports threw a distance of 183ft. 1in, which is a British Native record.

A GOOD START.

A typical autumn day favoured the opening of our winter season on Saturday, September 29th, at Wimbledon. On arrival at St. John's Hall, we were cheered by the discovery of re-decorations and alterations which will add to our comfort during the next few months. More pleasing still was the large attendance of old and new members, all eager to start the season with early training. It will greatly help the Club if such enthusiasm endures during the less inviting months to come, as that is the proof of a cross-country runner. The actual numbers of active members were 57 runners and 25 walkers. Several others were present who were obviously past it, either through Anno Domini or Avoir-dupois, though some of the active seemed to suffer from the latter complaint.

Two packs were formed. The fast pack, ably led by our new captain, W. G. Webb, covered five miles at a steady pace, while the slower pack, under W. Rice, ran about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. I say ran, but I saw a few who seemed to qualify for our other section. Still, gently does it.

After training, a merry party of 65, including many of the fairer sex, enjoyed a good tea, and in fairness to the caterers I must say that they did not supply subject for chaff at the table.

After tea and a little rest to let it settle, dancing was commenced and, with constantly increasing numbers, we finished up a good afternoon and evening, over 100 strong.

Especially pleasing to us is the increasing number of ladies supporting our socials, and it is incumbent upon a number of our members to learn dancing and provide more partners, or we shall soon be outnumbered.

After such a good start, we hope to continue these happy, homely affairs more often than during last season. A.E.M.

L I F E !

(A True Story).

Autumn in 1918! Not one of your English autumns, with rain and fog, but a real Russian full-blooded affair, with snow and frost setting up new records daily.

Feeling rather footsore and hungry, I plodded on the 30 mile trail between Konetzgorje and Beresniki, hoping to either enlist the White Russian forces or to find some sort of work. For, owing to the Revolution and subsequent civil war, I was thrown on my own resources at the age of 14, some 1,300 miles from my father's place. Of resources I had a few worthless roubles in my pocket, some slight knowledge derived from a few years' study in a seminary, and plenty of optimism.

I got to Beresniki at about 8 in the evening. It was a dark town or rather large village, full of strange talk and stranger oaths. Parties of workmen going home, soldiers, sledges and smoke from thousands of chimneys.

Rather awed by the babel of voices in the main street, I turned off, selected a kind looking house, and knocked at the door. The housewife came out. Now to her, in this issue of the *Belgravian*, want to make a full apology. For to her I told a tale of fearful woe, lying shamelessly, as only a student can Sick father, mother with a horde of hungry children (I forget how many I said), myself the eldest (this part was true) and the only bread-winner.

"My poor boy," she cried, "come right in and warm yourself."

In I went into a large typically Russian room, lit by a hanging paraffin lamp. Round the table sat a party of workmen who lodged there, having tea.

My tale evoked general sympathy and I was bid to have a meal. Of this I was sadly in need, as I had walked all that day on only a few scones.

I was questioned about my intentions and laughed at when I talked about "joining up."

"You are far too small," said my landlord "Now, I know the foreman in charge of trench digging and I will try and get you a job."

After supper I was put to sleep on a lot of straw in a row with some dozen workmen. Few times since have I slept better!

True to his promise the good man took me to the foreman, to whom I told my story, in which by this time I began to believe not a little bit myself. Touched to the roots of his beard, this despot told me to report to work next morning, giving me a letter to the warehouse. In this place I was given a pick and a shovel, together with a threat of retribution to follow should I lose them. Next morning I turned out.

Trench digging! Those of you who are old enough think of France and Belgium and mud. Not so here. Roughly, the procedure was this. First we had to burn a huge log fire along the proposed line of the trench. After a few hours of this we had to dig like the devil, lest the ground froze harder than ever! The idea was to build a chain of small fortresses along the river bank, to check the supposed Bolshevik advance in the spring, after the ice-break. This never came, but we worked on.

Lord, how I used to work those days! Throwing clay well above my head was bad enough, but the real tit-bit was sand-bag filling. These we had to carry along a plank to the walls of the blockhouse.

Now, I suppose I wasn't very strong for a lad of 14, as for the life of me I could not lift a filled bag to my shoulder. So I evolved

an original plan. Grasping the bag around the middle, I used to carry it along like a load of hay—pressed to my stomach!

However, real fun began after knocking off. Food was scarce those days and I had to forage for myself. Owing to cheapness of Russian roubles, cigarettes used to be the coin of exchange, besides the time-honoured bartering system.

For cigarettes, and of these I used to hoard a large store, got by fair and foul means, I used to buy my food. From mess cooks whose integrity I fear was not above reproach, I used to get tins of bully-beef, maconochie, biscuits, etc.

Though of food I had plenty, I used nearly to freeze to death working in my thin college clothes, with the temperature at zero. Now, at my lodging house, lived a youngster of about 18, on whose fine fur coat I cast many an envious glance. One evening, during my bartering expedition, for 100 cigarettes or so, I got a pair of army boots and puttees. Now, these were apparently of no earthly use to me, but I had my ideas. Home I went, my trophies slung carelessly over my shoulder.

Christmas was near. My fur-coated friend wanted to go home for the holidays. But going home he meant to look a swell. About the latter he had rather original ideas, for army boots and puttees were his acme of smartness. Of this I took rather unfair advantage, for although he was 18, mentally he was no match for me. The end of it was that he went off home in new boots, leaving his coat with me! I sincerely hope he got home all right, for 40 miles of snow trail in army boots and scanty clothes is no joke, even for a grown-up. But I meant to be warm.

P.N.K.

(To be continued, subject to the Editor's permission and your patience)

SAFETY FIRST.

For evening training spins all members will be well-advised to wear white clothing, as this will minimise the danger of being run down by motor traffic. Dark clothing has had fatal results to some athletes.

AN APPRECIATION.

With the beginning of a new season and the duties that its activities will entail, we should like to offer a few words of thanks to all those members and friends who have so kindly helped us in the many unobtrusive duties which are necessary.

In particular our thanks are offered to Mr. W. Redgrave for ably controlling the sale of programmes at our many fixtures. With his name we must couple that of Mr. W. Fish. He and his helpers are responsible for the placing of the little cards which show you your mark round the track at Battersea. Mr. F. G.

Thomson has been a regular press agent and to him we owe the pleasure of reading certain of the Club notices which have appeared in local papers.

Such work, carried out so effectively is often taken as a matter of course, and therefore is apt to miss the appreciation it so much deserves.

RANDOM REMARKS.

By "Half-Circle."

"Can we not add to our staff of journalists? is a question asked in our last issue. Just sleep on it. I did, and the vanity which crept into my ambitious soul set the pulses throbbing. I slept again. "Who would not be a real live journalist and (oh, dreamy heights!) a contributor to that mighty organ of the press, the *Belgravian*?" Hysterics disturbed my slumber!

I have never written anything—at least anything that the whole world can read if it cares. So must I, on that account, inform our Editor that as far as I am concerned, he is unlucky? No! Here is an opportunity, possibly the only opportunity of a life-time, to enter the realms of the pen. True, no remuneration is given, but none is asked, and how can monetary reward compare with the honour of writing for the journal of journals?

And yet I pause in this intention, my courage faints, and in a little voice I plead; forgive me if my efforts do not bear professional stamp; be kind if my construction is sometimes shaky, and always bear with a novice who wishes to add to the success of "our Mag."

It is best for you and me, reader, that I make my *début* under a *nom-de-plume* I purpose my best with verses, anecdotes, jokes and "things we should like to know;" may our Mag. live through the ordeal.

I have recollection of a relative of mine who was a big man on the *Star*. I believe it was outside Victoria Station that he had his pitch. I did hear that he afterwards became a free-lance—*Star*, *News* or *Standard*. With such talent in the family I may take heart.

(With acknowledgment to A. D. Pyer, who, I believe, introduced verse into the Mag.)

To novices and those who have never tried a cross-country run; to cotton-wool sprinters, half-milers and the like; to cold catching football-spectating club-members; and to fire-hugging winter book-worms, I dedicate these few lines.

I tell you, lad, there is no fun
Like a jolly steady cross-country run,
For we travel o'er fields and heath so green,
Fairer than any you have seen.

The air is keen, but pure as gold;
Your'e fit and strong as a Spartan of old;
Troubles flee when away, my lad, you go,
Pleasant life—when you feel aglow.

Steady's the gait, no "killing" pace,
No one left behind—not a hopeless chase,
But a sporting run in the care-free air,
Who's the sportsman would not be there?

A bath comes after, steaming hot,
Bread and butter, cakes, and tea from the pot,
Washed and dressed, you will be another man,
Sorry for him who never ran.

Put down that book; come, leave the fire,
London's country calls, and bids you acquire
Taste for beautiful scenes and wholesome fun—
The pleasures of a Belgrave run.

It is on record that a prisoner who escaped from Wandsworth Prison deceived several policemen on point duty by running along in his undervest and short pants. He was, consequently, mistaken for a runner, but this does *not* infer that runners look like convicts

George Cummings, the professional walker, whilst in a certain locality, was obliged to do his training after dusk, owing to the stifling heat at that particular time of the year. On approaching the outskirts of the village during one of his usual spins, he was fired upon by a farmer with a double-barrelled gun. Later enquiries proved that he had been mistaken for a ghost, since he was dressed in white and passed the spot regularly, night after night. No harm was done, however, as the fear-stricken man closed his eyes when taking aim.

"Hullo ' old man, training for a race?"
"No idiot, racing for a train."

The champion local sprinter was challenged to a fifty yards dash by a young builder's labourer, provided the latter should name his own course. The champion accepted and asked where the course might be. He was shown a ladder.

Mrs. Smith was congratulating Mrs. Brown on her son's good performances at the local sports. "They did say he simply burnt up the track," said Mrs. Smith. "So I believe, as I had a look at the sports ground to-day and did see nothing but cinders," replied Mrs. Brown, the dear old soul.

I feel obliged to tell this one, since it was concocted by a very popular Club official.

"Hullo! George old chap, how are things progressing?"

"Oh, not too bad. I'm a manager now"

"Really?"

"Yes! I just manage to get to work at eight o'clock each morning."

THINGS WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW—

If a certain Club member of road-running fame intends to take up dirt-track racing, as he has just acquired a second-hand machine, presumably for practice. Does he consider running with the beast in an effort to start it to be good training?

What is a "Footer Finish?"

Why a sack race specialist failed to obtain a prize in this class of event this year. Possibly he found the sacks a little too large this time.

Who is "Observer?"

Why a certain Club official fails to return borrowed boxes of matches. No criminal intent, I feel sure.

To the Editor. CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

There is one aspect of our Annual General Meeting to which I would like to call particular attention, while it is still fresh in the memory. This is in connection with the election of officers. It will be generally agreed, I am convinced, that almost *two hours* were taken up by these elections. Moreover, many names were submitted without mature consideration and some names were put forward facetiously. When our worthy President asked "Any more nominations?" someone or other usually thought of a name, doubled it, took away the name he first thought of, and proposed it! (Except of course when it happened to be for the election of the President, or the Hon. Secretary, or the Hon Treasurer. There could be no two minds as to who should fill these parts). Various people bobbed up and down to get behind screens while their fates were being decided. Two paper ballots were made and many of the names in the lists were unknown to a large portion of the meeting.

It is vitally important for any organisation that its officers should be elected with care, and I suggest that our rules be amended to allow the inclusion of the following method of voting.

At a date not less than four weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting, each member should be notified as to the date and place of the meeting. This notification should be accompanied by a list of those officers who seek re-election, and further nominations to any office should be invited. These further nominations should

be in the Secretary's hands not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

Ballot papers would then be prepared and circulated, together with the agenda for the meeting. The ballot papers when completed, could either be brought personally to the Meeting or (if the individual cannot be present in person) sent by post to the Secretary, prior to the meeting. All votes would then be counted at the meeting.

Besides the two hours of time saved at the meeting itself, each individual would have time to make any enquiries concerning the people for whom he is voting.

This method of election has worked very smoothly for many years in another Club to which I belong, and I would be glad if you would open your columns to comments on the proposal. I prefer to get other opinions before putting down a definite resolution for the next A.G.M.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

V. J. PEACOCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

In common with many other readers of *The Belgravian*, I have read with interest and appreciation the notes contributed by "Observer," and become more and more intrigued each month as to the identity of this mysterious writer who prefers to remain anonymous. Is he old or young? Dark or fair? Runner or walker? Or is "Observer" a lady as suggested by Ken O'Kell in his breezy letter from Stoke?

From his authoritative writings it is evident that he is well informed and a member of the Committee. The fact that in his short biographies he has not, up to the present, included any walkers suggests that he is (or has been) a runner.

Lastly, it is unlikely that anyone would give his own biography, and so it is useless to look among the names that have already appeared for this modern "Junius."

In conclusion I would suggest that "Observer" is Harry Parker, and await his denial and any remarks other readers may care to make on this subject through the columns of *The Belgravian*.

Yours, etc., H.

Cheap railway tickets can be obtained from Mr. W. Fish : Clapham Junction to Wimbledon, return 6d.; Vauxhall to Wimbledon, return 8d.

Annual subscriptions are now due. The Hon. Treasurer desires payment of these as soon as possible.

