

# The Belgravian.

The Official Gazette

OF THE

## Belgrave Harriers.

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6d.

### *Headquarters—*

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

### *Training Quarters—*

#### *Summer :*

BATTERSEA PARK TRACK.

#### *Winter :*

"RISING SUN,"

EBURY BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1.

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R. W. RICKETTS.

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### *Hon. Treasurer—*

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THORNTON HEATH.

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### *Social Hon. Secretary—*

L. C. SMITH,  
44, BRAMFORD ROAD, S.W.18.

### *Hon. Editor—*

W. H. HARE,  
2, SUTHERLAND PLACE, S.W.1.

## FOREWORD.

The New Year has opened brightly enough with our victory in the Surrey County C.C. Championship and this augurs well for the future. The most pleasing feature of that event was the wholehearted support given by all those selected to run and their determined efforts to retain the Trophy in our keeping.

Such good tenacity of purpose may be a good lead for us all during the year.

An opinion has been expressed that at some early future date we shall have seriously to consider the prospect of moving from Wimbledon for our Cross Country runs. Although it was stated, as a reason, that a more bona-fide Cross Country course was the chief requirement it appears that the greater concern at present will be the completion of the new Arterial Road which appears likely to cross our present course by the Robin Hood Gate of Richmond Park.

As to the merits of our existing courses, they may be open to discussion but they have served us well in the past having regard to the talent at our disposal. The policy of training over a fairly light course and of visiting Clubs for a run over more heavy going seems to combine the mixture of speed and stamina that provides

the necessary experience that the majority of our runners require.

The desire that we may at some future time possess our own Headquarters and Club house is of course a different proposition, commendable, but unfortunately an ideal not readily attained. The spirit is willing but the finance comparatively weak

We have, however, brought to fruition many things that but a short time back seemed more unattainable, therefore if we strive sufficiently we may look ahead with hope and a fair measure of confidence that the future will bring its reward.

### BOXING DAY MEETING.

The Annual Boxing Day meeting at Battersea Park Track was quite a successful affair, marred only by the bitterly cold weather.

It may be considered rather unique to have track racing during the Winter Season but this is really the outcome and development of the Boxing Day 120 yards Sprint Handicap that has been held by the Club for so many years, back into the dim and hazy past. The origin of the event is to some extent nebulous, but we do know that in 1896 our present Hon. Sec., F. G. Thomson, finished second, off  $6\frac{1}{2}$  yards, to a J. Cox who made the best of 20 yards start to win in  $12\frac{1}{2}$  secs. The following year our President, R. W. Ricketts, was successful, off the  $8\frac{1}{2}$  yard mark, with no time recorded, whilst in 1898 he won again, this time with an allowance of 2 yards, in  $12\frac{3}{8}$  secs.

Subsequent to the end of the late war, and prior to the opening of the Track in 1923, the race was held on the roads of the Park

and a one mile walk included in the programme. The latter event was dropped in 1922 and 1923, but in the following year the present Three Mile Walk was substituted and was won that year by W. C. Bates who is now better known as a runner and who was successful in a Club 880 Handicap last August. The Two Mile Run was instituted in 1923 and is memorable for the way in which A. E. Smith spread-eagled the field to win off the 280 yard mark in 10 minutes dead, which time stands as fastest up to date. The races of 1924 and 1925 saw K. B. O'Kell winning, the first time from Scratch and on the second occasion with an allowance of 15 yards. How nearly he came to score a treble success will be seen later.

This year's winner of the Sprint, H. J. Coxhead, appears to be a rather versatile performer, for two years ago he was winning a Club 3 mile Road Handicap at Wimbledon and last year was successful in some "open" 880 yard handicaps.

May be in some future year he will endeavour to add the walk to his records, for we have recollection of him being a very promising walker judged by some Sunday Morning Strolls of the past.

Results as follows.

#### 120 YARDS HANDICAP.

##### Heat I.

W. M. Macpherson, 11 yds., 1; C. T. Pollard,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  yds, 2. Yard.,  $13\frac{1}{8}$ .

##### Heat II.

G. R. Duncley,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yds., 1; W. H. Gee, 11 yds., 2.  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

##### Heat III.

H. J. Coxhead,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  yds, 1; A. E. Macher, 23 yds., 2. Inches,  $13\frac{1}{8}$ .

##### Heat IV.

J. C. Clark, 13 yds., 1; J. R. McKay,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  yds., 2. Foot,  $13\frac{3}{8}$ .

*Heat V.*  
G. R. Maryon,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  yds., 1; F. Port,  
 $6\frac{1}{2}$  yds., 2.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yds.,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Final.*

Coxhead, 1; Macpherson, 2; Maryon, 3;  
Clark, 4. Inches all. Time,  $13\frac{1}{5}$  sec.

THREE MILE WALK.

B. J. Knifton, 330 yds.	...	1
A. W. Godfrey, 520 yds.	...	2
A. L. Fletcher, scr.	...	3
J. Parker, 570 yds.	...	4

Won by 10 yds., 5 yds. Time 23.20.

TWO MILE RUN.

W. Rice, 180 yds.	...	1
K. B. O'Kell, scr.	...	2
L. Harris, 360 yds.	...	3
A. E. Field, 360 yds.	...	4

A. E. Smith, 125 yds., 5; B. G. Button,  
220 yds., 6; G. Easton, 270, 7; W. G.  
Dodkin, 105 yds., 8; H. L. Rollins, 400  
yds., 9; H. E. Footer, 35 yds., 10.  
23 Ran.

Won by 10 yds., 5 yds. Time 10.9.

7 MILE

C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Fifteenth race for the H. T. Blackstaffe Shield was held at Wimbledon on January 1st. The unusually early date being necessitated to avoid many later "open" fixtures, and to determine the team to represent the Club in the County Championship

K. B. O'Kell, holder of the Shield for the past two years, may have noted with some concern that the trophy had never previously been won by the same member for three years, although three other members had scored double successes. Thus history was repeated when A. Clark came first home in this years race in very fast time. The field of 24, although an improvement on previous years, is scarcely to be considered good, especially as four of the starters did not complete the distance.

However, the race was interesting enough up to a point for although Clark was generally

voted a "good thing" for first place, the minor placings were decidedly open. H. E. Footer ran best of the others and filled second position for the third successive year, which consistency is deserving of special mention.

W. Rice provided the "turn up" and in finishing fifth showed an improvement of no less than 5 min. 28 secs on his previous year's time which justifiably gained him first place in the handicap by a big margin. Footer deservedly gained second prize with A. E. Smith a close third.

RESULT.

Pos.	Actual Time	Start	Han. Pos. Time Han.
1 A. Clark	43.53	scr.	43.53 12
2 H. E. Footer	44.14	1.45	42.29 2
3 H. S. Cook	44.45	1. 0	43.45 10
4 K. B. O'Kell	45.42	1.30	44.12 13
5 W. Rice	45.57	4.50	41. 7 1
6 P. N. Klophin	46.13	2.55	43.18 8
7 A. E. Smith	46.21	3.50	42.31 3
8 J. G. Flatt	46.48	3.10	43.38 9
9 W. D. Pritchard	46.51	3.45	43. 6 7
10 W. G. Dodkin	47.10	4.30	42.40 4
11 W. L. Bayliss	47.11	4.20	42.51 5
12 W. Williams	47.35	4.40	42.55 6
13 G. Still	49.36	5. 0	44.36 15
14 T. Pritchard	49.55	5.20	44.35 14
15 J. E. Dashper	50.30	6.45	43.45 11
16 J. Field	50.46	6. 0	44.46 16
17 G. Easton	51.29	5.20	46. 9 20
18 L. Harris	51.29	6. 0	45.29 18
19 H. L. Rollins	55. 1	9. 0	46. 1 19
20 A. Harley	55.40	10.15	45.25 17

H. S. Cook not being first claim the third place Medal was awarded to K. B. O'Kell.

SURREY COUNTY.

Seemingly, our prospects for the County Championship were not considered to be very hopeful by the critics, and even among our own members and competitors there were some doleful people who failed to concede that our team as a whole was, at any rate on the Club Championship form, better than that of last year.



Admittedly the opposition was stronger but all things considered we viewed our prospects as brighter than those of the previous year.

The race was held from the headquarters of the Surrey A.C. at Tolworth, over a two lap course which afforded a very fair test for the runners and provided ample opportunity for spectators and supporters to follow the race. Leaving the starting field, out into the country for the first lap, H. E. Footer was lying second and seemed likely enough to justify the hope of a place in the individual race, but for some reason, and we suspect the too sudden move up into the front rank, he soon after dropped right back to the latter twenties, which was disconcerting to those watching. H. Cook, however, was running well up and in the first six with O'Kell and Pyer in close support. Flatt, Smith Rice and Andrews were in a bunch, packing well, but rather too far back.

With the aid of some able Staff work, if the term may be permitted, it was found that at 3 miles our team was well in arrears. South London H. were well up, with their scoring six totaling 89 points. Surrey A.C. had three in the first eight but having to go well back for their others totalled some 115, whilst our placings were 3, 12, 13, 19, 32 and 33 and with a score of 112, disappointing.

However, something was to come and moving up in the next  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles we had reduced our score to 83. In the meantime our opponents had also closed up and with still some half mile to go we were 8 points in arrears of South London with Surrey A.C. close up third.

From this point it was all Belgrave and South London. Cook although pressed hard held on to his position. Footer made a gallant effort and passing 3 S.L.H. men made up 6 points on the leaders. O'Kell beat 2 others but being himself passed by H. S. Price, whom Footer was racing, made up 2 points and wiped out the deficiency. Pyer came next and held his position. Flatt reversed 20th and 21st position with the sixth man of South London, again in our favour, and put us 2 points ahead whilst Andrews came with a rush at the finish to increase the lead.

Thus we came out winners of our second Cross Country Championship by a margin of 5 points. Close it is true, but better than last time when we had but 2 points to spare.

Of our other members, W. Rice again ran well and was perhaps unlucky to lose a County medal by a matter of four seconds. A. E. Smith, of last years scoring six was below form and was eight for the Club whilst the other participant of the 1926 victory, H. W. Bruce, has forsaken training.

#### RESULT.

Act. Pos.		Time
1	H. A. Johnston, H.H.H.	32.24
2	W. T. Dear, S.A.C.	32.40
3	H. Bignall, Redhill	32.46
4	H. C. Cook, Bel. H.	32.59
8	H. E. Footer	33.20
10	K. B. O'Kell	33.21
16	A. D. Pyer	33.43
23	J. G. Flatt	33.59
27	J. D. Andrews	34.10
29	W. Rice	34.14
37	A. E. Smith	34.36
42	W. Dodkin	34.49
53	W. H. Williams	35.15
61	W. L. Bayliss	35.30
67	B. G. Button	35.57
68	W. D. Pritchard	36. 0
74	G. Still	36. 7

TEAM PLACINGS.  
(Eliminating Individuals).

1	Belgrave H.	...	76
2	South London H.	...	81
3	Surrey A.C.	...	90

### HORWOOD CUP RACE.

*By Oscar.*

An atmosphere of mystery filled the Club room just before the start of the 7 mile Junior Walking Championship and on looking round it was discovered that the "Big Four" were missing. They were at Tolworth doing service for the runners and watching them win the County Championship. A further look round eventually resulted in finding the "Little Four" who were to carry out the duties of the race

Around the Cup were several parties discussing how and when to win and lose it. The conditions of the Cup (open to those holding the R.W.A. definition of a Junior) seemed to be the main topic but it appears to have many loop holes for some to fall in and out and for others to fall in and stop. The donor of the Cup intended it to encourage Juniors, having considered that the Seniors have their share of trophies, but the Cup, being the property of the Club, it is at the discretion of the Committee to improve or frame better rulings, and suggestions from members, handed to the right quarter, will receive due consideration.

The judges then appeared, which put at rest many disturbed minds and it is an honour for the Club that Messrs. Webb, Lomax and May of the R.W.A. should officiate. Some remarked "Now we shall have to walk," which was true, but probably superfluous.

All being ready, our Sergt.

Major having been promoted to higher duties and the Acting S.M. having no fault to find on the line up at the start, Mr. J. F. Bennison gave the word to go.

A. L. Fletcher at once set up a hot pace which showed his confidence for one of the judges who ruled him out last year had his eyes wide open. But there was no faults and throughout the race Fletcher walked in beautiful fast style. Scamell, the holder, tried hard but could not maintain the pace set and did not appear to walk with his usual easy style.

The walking all round was good. Knifton improves every time out, also Godfrey. Rathbone, a much criticised walker, moved in good even style and at one time looked likely to finish close up, but like a few more he requires a little more time. The handicap resulted in a pleasant surprise with a win for McDonald, may this lead to greater things, whilst second and third places were close indeed between Godfrey and the Cup winner.

### RESULT.

Pos.	Actual Time	Start	Han. Time	Han. Pos.
1 A. L. Fletcher	57. 1	scr.	57. 1	3
2 J. Scamell	59. 8	0.40	58.28	10
3 B. J. Knifton	59.45	2.40	57. 5	4
4 J. Rathbone	60.12	0.50	59.22	12
5 J. B. Carne	62. 7	1.10	60.57	14
6 A. W. Godfrey	62.10	5.10	57. 0	2
7 S. L. King	62.23	2. 0	60.23	13
8 J. E. Field	62.38	4.40	57.58	7
9 W. J. Fish	62.55	5.30	57.25	6
10 R. E. Wills	63. 5	5. 5	58. 0	8
11 A. Saunders	63.50	6.35	57.15	5
12 A. H. East	64.39	2.35	62. 4	16
13 W. J. East	65.14	7. 0	58.14	9
14 D. McDonald	66.17	10. 0	56.17	1
15 C. Briggs	68.10	6.30	61.46	15
16 A. Martin	68.44	9.35	59. 9	11
17 F. Herring	71.42	8.20	63.22	17
18 V. A. Winner	72.33	8.10	64.23	18

The following also competed:—

S. A. Manning, A. Tilley, B. C. Barnhouse, H. J. Fletcher.

## INTER-CLUB RACES.

January 22nd, produced an atrocious day for our two Inter-Club fixtures. The walkers being at Croydon for the race with the Surrey W.C. whilst the runners were at home to Mitcham A.C. and the Irish Guards.

Over a course of  $11\frac{3}{4}$  miles to Banstead and back 9 walkers had their enthusiasm sorely tested by snow and ice bound roads but were not dismayed and put up quite a respectable show. The Club received the usual and expected beating but in H. F. King supplied the first man home in very fast time having regard to the conditions prevailing.

The runners, however, over the 7 mile course, added to their team victories with a score of 54 points to the 109 of Mitcham and 158 of the Irish Guards, who had first man home in J. Ingram.

A special word of thanks is due to those who turned out as pointsmen. At any time this job is no joy trip but on such a day it was most uninviting. To add to the troubles, one runner got lost and when all others had dressed and the "lost sheep" still had not returned it was necessary to call for volunteers to form a search party. Ken O'Kell, Bayliss and Button promptly responded and treked over the Common, dismal and damp, in an effort to trace him. No light undertaking especially after having raced 7 miles.

Fortunately nothing serious had happened and eventually the lost one turned up after having been out nearly 3 hours.

## CLUB NOTES.

*By the Hon. Sec.*

The last number of the Belgravian seems to have met with general approval judging by the congratulations received from our members and other well wishers. Some of our members have got the idea that this publication is issued FREE. I would ask all those to look on the front page and then forward the amount to our Hon. Editor and so relieve him from anxiety as to the expence of publishing the Gazette.

\* \* \*

Our Editor from his Uneasy chair has given you all the details to date of the different races that have been held since our last number was issued so there is no need for me to go over these except to congratulate all who have done their utmost to keep the Club colors flying.

\* \* \*

We have to offer congratulations to H. E. Footer and H. S. Cook who have been awarded County Colors for the Cross Country Championship. They will represent Surrey at Chesham on January 29th.

\* \* \*

I have received letters from our members F. Rickards, E. A. Wall and C. H. Speechley. I am pleased to announce that Rickards will start at once training for the National Road Walking Championship and Wall has a feeling that he would like to do some training as soon as the weather improves. He informs me that he has quite recovered from his serious illness but does not want to take any chances during the cold spell.



Members will no doubt be pleased to hear that Mr. T. W. Green has joined our walking section and is a first claim member. He will greatly strengthen our team.

\* \* \*

The Surrey County Road Walking Championship will be held on March 26th. A cup presented by Sir Jeremiah Coleman to the S.C.A.A. has been allocated to this race. Now then the walkers you have got to be the first holders of this trophy. Our host the genial William will not mind keeping it clean. It has been suggested to me that William will have to go on our list of officers as the Keeper of the Plate.

\* \* \*

Arrangements have been published for our trip to Sheffield on March 5th, in pursuit of "Junior Championship" honours. Members and friends wishing to support the teams are requested to make early application so as seats can be booked on the Special Train.

\* \* \*

Our President is getting more and more respect showered upon him. The number of dinners that he is now compelled to eat shatters any idea of his taking to serious training again. The committee like Curzon Bros., will have to take extreme measures

\* \* \*

At the time of writing these notes nothing has been settled as to the Club's entry in the News of the World Brighton Relay Race. We shall no doubt have to run in a trial race to secure a place in the actual race. Will all of you bear

this in mind and do a little extra bit of training. The Club should not have been called upon to run in this trial if all the members in the last race had run up to their form.

## ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner was held at Stanleys Restaurant, Clapham Junction on January 14th, with our President, R. W. Ricketts in the chair.

If it may be regretted that the attendance was below that of last year it cannot be disputed that in all other respects the gathering was a great success and a credit to the work of our Social Hon. Sec. and his Sub. Committee.

In proposing the toast of "The Club," the President was able to refer to our recent County success and to a general feeling of satisfaction and optimism among all for our future prospects. Our Assistant Hon. Sec. responded, and whilst speaking of the progress and prospects of many of our active members emphasised the desire for the support of those who, whilst having to a great extent passed their racing careers, could still render much help and to the Club in so many other ways.

Mr. W. Griffin proposed the toast to "The Visitors," replied to jointly by Messrs. W. J. Pepper and J. Binks. Mr. E. Gordon briefly and ably proposed the toast of "The Chairman" which was given feelingly with musical honours and vociferous cheers.

The musical entertainment, in spite of difficulties caused by last moment alterations due to the prevailing complaint, was really excellent and much appreciated.

## GAZETTE FUND.

The Hon. Editor wishes to remind members that "The Belgravian" makes a big demand on the Club funds and can only be continued by the support of all.

To those who have always tendered assistance and support our best thanks and appreciation are recorded. To those who have so far failed to render their share, and to those new members to whom we have not yet appealed, we wish to state that if all who received the Gazette would subscribe to the fund we should be enabled to issue more often than at present and at a reduced figure to that which appears on Page 1.

May we have your assistance? A special acknowledgement of thanks is due to Mr. H. Evans for again presenting a Gigantic Christmas Cake, which, raffled on behalf of The Fund, produced a sum of £1 10s. 6d.

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### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor takes no responsibility for the accuracy of all his replies, nor does he reply by post. If your answer does not appear below, buy the next issue.

#### *A "Long" Sufferer.*

I do not give medical advice, but in your case for ingrowing toe nail I would advise you to have the toe removed. The nail will then not grow. Any licensed slaughter-house man should remove the toe at a small charge.

#### *Dunk.*

Sorry to hear that you experience difficulty in running in our "overcoats." The matter will receive attention, which should take a load off your mind.

#### *Airman.*

Many thanks for offers of lessons in the Charleston. Think however that this is best left alone. Appears dangerous in more than one respect as you probably know.

#### *Belfry.*

Congratulations. Do not consider however that Slide Rules and Logarithm Tables should be supplied to handicappers. I much prefer the "hand-in-the-cap" method personally.

#### *Chef*

Thanks. Have your "Dog Yards" any relation to the "Dog Watches" as known at sea?

#### *Sunlight.*

Thanks for letter. Glad to hear of your re-grading. Have read with pleasure your Horoscope. I should advise you to take care of the dark woman with the red garters who will cross your path. False teeth should not be sent out they should be washed at home.

#### *Blood Mixture.*

Your letter and explanation to hand. Thanks for correcting us. After a consideration I think that Tobys might be taken as a Medicine. My medical adviser suggests that I want a change so try a case on me.

Nunc est Bibendum.