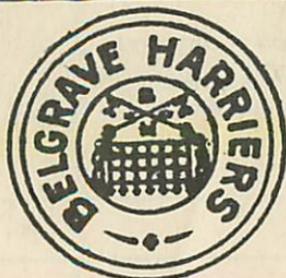


these sports writers



AUGUST 1956

FOUNDED 1887

The
BELGRAVIAN

The
Official Gazette
of the
Belgrave Harriers

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

Two years ago, in order to resume publication of The Belgravian after a lapse of nearly twelve months, I accepted the office of Editor as a temporary measure in addition to the quite heavy responsibilities of Hon. Treasurer. From the support which it has received, it is obvious that there is a demand for a Club Magazine, but I feel that in a club of our size, with a membership of close on 700, it should not be necessary for one member to be shouldered with the burden of two major offices, and I have therefore intimated to the Committee that I wish to give up the office of Editor. I sincerely hope that some enthusiastic member will come forward and offer to take over this office in order that the magazine can be continued.

Owing to the excessive cost of printing, it is not practicable from a financial point of view to publish a printed magazine and I think I should point out that with the present photo-type process, the "copy" has to be typed in the same form as which it is reproduced. It is therefore necessary either for the Editor to have the use of a typewriter, or to have an assistant Editor who can help in this direction.

May I express the hope that before the next issue is due to go to the press, someone will already have offered their services and that the magazine will continue.

As this is the fourth issue of the current year, the annual subscription of 2/- for the year 1956-57 should be due with the next issue, but pending a decision as to the future of the Magazine, subscriptions should not be forwarded to me until asked for.

Hon. Editor

E. MUSSELBROOK

It is with regret that we record the death of our Life Member, Vice President and one time Cross Country Captain, Ernie Musselbrook and our sympathies are extended to his widow and family.

Ernie captained our team over the country just over 40 years ago and was a great man on team work, as occasional letters in the columns of the Belgravian have evidenced. We had not seen a great deal of him in recent years for he lived a fair distance from our club headquarters and had considerable interests in St. John's Ambulance work and Trade Union matters which claimed much of his time.

We were very happy to receive from him a few years ago a handsome cup for our Junior Mile Championship and we were

particularly pleased that he was able to present it personally on the first occasion for which it was competed.

Our links with the pre - World War I Belgravians continue to lessen, as indeed they must, and we mourn the passing of yet another grand stalwart of his day.

R. I. P.

A. A. Harley

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my year of Presidency is fast approaching its end, may I take this opportunity of thanking all Club officials for their help and support during the past few months. It would be invidious of me to name particular individuals, each according to the time at his disposal and ability. Sufficient to say, in any analysis, we must consider the Club as a whole. In this we may be reasonably pleased. I have every reason to know in my travels to various meetings of the envy other clubs have for our comradeship and esprit de corp. This does not mean we have no weaknesses, indeed to many of us they are far too evident, and it is on this matter that I ask all members to give serious thought so that they may be remedied at the coming Annual General Meeting. That is the opportunity for all members to exercise their democratic rights and make certain that the people you think will benefit and improve the well being of the Club, are elected to the various offices and to the Committee.

Believe me, the existing Captains, Secretaries and so on are of sufficient generous a disposition not to be offended where change is needed and are usually among the foremost to realise the importance of it. In particular I think we should give earnest consideration to improvement in our Junior organisation. This is a department of our club which will amply repay the time and energy spent on it in the way of seeing our young people grow into respected and responsible members of the community.

In conclusion may I ask for a revival of acknowledging our fellow members. The handshake, which I note in some quarters is rather frowned on, has much to commend itself as an expression of regard. In any case a cheery smile and a word has a marvellous value particularly with our less pushing types of members.

Harry Shields.

YOUR CLUB

Do you ever stop and think of YOUR CLUB, its standing, its reputation, its history and traditions, its sportsmanship, its high place in the scheme of Amateur Athletics in this country?

Last Saturday (as I write) Belgrave won the R.W.A. 50 Kilometres National Championship in the most convincing fashion and one of our walkers covered the distance in one of the fastest times ever recorded - a performance which cannot fail to bring him into the field of Olympic selections. At the same time our Marathon runners were placing third team in the Southern Championship and no fewer than seven of our members beat three hours for this classic distance - a stupendous athletic achievement. Our Track and Field Team during the same afternoon in the premier inter-club competition of the season - the Kinnaird Trophy contest - and without having any of the luck that was going, finished fourth among the pick of the clubs participating.

In a 2 miles Invitation Walk we had second and fourth places. Just an afternoon of Belgrave activity.

It may truly be said that on the broad canvas of amateur athletics, Belgrave presents the masterpiece. If athletics were sub-divided under the headings of

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Cross Country and Road Relays | (b) Long Distance Running |
| (c) Track athletics | (d) Field Events |
| (e) Track Walking | (f) Road Walking |

Belgrave would score heavily in every section and if a gigantic inter-club contest could be held embracing all the standard championship events coming under the heading of Amateur Athletics throughout the year, say three a side competing in each event, by what tremendous margin would we win?

In addition to the current athletic strength that Belgrave can show, we add for full measure our past performances, our comradeship and sportsmanship, our team spirit which is evidenced in the rebuilding of our headquarters, etc. and the promise of all that the future holds.

The above has not been written in any spirit of boastfulness or vainglory, but merely that we should see things in their true perspective. Lately we have been given to a degree of self criticism, which can be a very helpful thing, but we must avoid becoming morbidly introspective. Our strength can be in knowing our weaknesses. All amateur organisations have their faults, their falls from grace, their inefficiencies, their errors of judgment. It is our task to try and ensure that we have rather less imperfections than do others and this is the task not of the few but of the many. As we set about this task together, as we assuredly shall, let us not be blind to our present heights. Let us accept our high standard proudly, but humbly - never complacently - and let us strive for greater things. Let everyone of us realise that he has a contribution to make whether he be 8 or 80 and let us not be hesitant, capricious, over cautious, self-sufficient or unwilling to help. Let us aim for perfection for our club knowing that we shall never attain it but also knowing there is fun and satisfaction in the striving for it.

A.A.H.

R.W.A. 50 KILOMETRES CHAMPIONSHIP - 16-6-56

BELGRAVE HARRIERS FIRST

The attention of a certain member who sent in a contribution on the decline and fall of the Belgrave Harriers Walking Section, is particularly drawn to the above caption if only to remind him that we are not a club of "Also rans"

A more unpleasant spell of weather for a race of over 30 miles could hardly be possible than that which the walkers had for the R.W.A. 50 Kilometres Championship held over a three lap course at Enfield. But as was the case with the Polytechnic Marathon on the same day, the rain appears to have given the competitors extra speed with the result that the winner, Brian Thompson of the Met. W.C. set up a new record for the race, beating Harold Whitlock's 1936 time by just on six minutes. This however should not overshadow the excellent performance put up by our Eric Hall who, competing in his first race of this distance, finished second in the time of 4 hours 31mins. 41secs. and put up the fastest time ever by a Belgravian over 50 Kilos., an achievement which, we hope, will give him a place in the Olympic team to go to Melbourne. Added to this our walkers literally swamped the field in the team race finishing with a score of 17 points, a record low score for this championship, the next nearest club being 53 points.

Whilst everyone concerned felt that we had a very good chance of winning the team championship, the programme entry did not lead one to believe that we should have things quite so much our own way, but the further the race went, the more obvious it became that we were going to come out on top.

At the start Don Thompson of the Met. W.C. set off at a great pace accompanied by Johnson of Sheffield and Hutchison, also Met., and at the first 10 k.metre stage these three were in the lead with Eric Hall and George Checkley lying 5th and 6th respectively, 27 seconds behind the leaders. A trio of Hugh McGreechan, Bob Newson and Norman Guilmant were at this time some three minutes behind with George Beecham, Harry Shields and Cyril Yescombe completing the team a further 2 minutes back.

At the 20 k.metres Hutchison and Johnson had gone into the lead at a very fast pace closely followed by Thompson and with Hawkins of the Met. in 4th place we began to wonder what was going to happen. However Hawkins and Hutchison retired soon after this and the Met. team disappeared from the picture. Apart from this very little change had taken place in the positions, but all of our lads seemed to be walking very strongly and our points totalled 34.

By the time the 30 k.metre stage was reached, Don Thompson had begun to draw away from Johnson and with the retirement of Hawkins and Hutchinson, Eric Hall and George had moved up to 5th and 6th places. Ron West (a second claim member) had also put on a spurt to move up to third place, but later suffered disqualification. By this time Bob Newson and Norman Guilmant had started to move up and a check of positions showed that we had four in the first scoring eight with a total of 22 points, a remarkable improvement in 10 k.metres, in fact all our eight walkers passed the timekeepers before the fourth man of any other club. Shortly after this, Hugh McGreechan who had lost a lot of ground, retired. This was not to be wondered at as owing to duty he had only had a couple of hours sleep. With the disqualification of Ron West our positions improved still further and it appeared that apart from any serious mishaps, our position was almost unbeatable.

By the time the 40 k.metres was reached, Eric had gone up into third place, but was still nearly two minutes behind Johnson, whilst Don Thompson was still well ahead over 7 minutes in front of Eric. George Checkley was hanging on grimly to his 5th place and Bob Newson and Norman Guilmant had both moved up two places and our team score was getting still smaller. Over the last 10 k.metres, Eric put on a terrific spurt, overtaking Johnson and reducing the distance from the leader. However despite his magnificent effort, the gap was too big to close in the distance remaining to be covered and Eric had to be content with second place. Norman made up yet another place and our final scoring positions were 2, 3, 5 and 7, a performance which will take a lot of beating. In addition to losing Hugh, George Beecham was also obliged to retire, but our other two walkers, Harry Shields and Cyril Yescombe, gained 1st and 2nd Class standards respectively.

Despite the filthy weather, there was a good muster of club supporters and if our clothes were damped, at least our spirits were not. By his grand performance, Eric becomes this year's holder of the Jimmy Bellchamber Cup.

Positions and times:

1. D. Thompson	Met. W.C.	4. 24. 39	
2. E. Hall		4. 31. 41	
5. G. Checkley		4. 38. 28.	
8. N. Guilmant		4. 47. 23	
11. R. Newson		4. 51. 25	
17. H. Shields.	4. 57. 23.	55. C. Yescombe	5.27.54

NATIONAL LONDON TO BRIGHTON RELAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH 1956

In finishing fifth in the classic event, Belgrave surprised not only themselves and their most ardent supporters but also their closest rivals. There is something about this event which brings out the best in our lads. It has been clearly demonstrated in the past when we have triumphed over clubs considered to have greater chances than ourselves, and this year's performance was no exception. The team are to be congratulated on a magnificent effort and our sympathies must be with them in missing a set of medals by one place, despite accomplishing the fastest time ever over the full Westminster to Brighton course. The result gives that fillip to Club prestige badly needed at this time and even encourages us to think that next October we may even lead the field with the help of Davies, Hollowell and Newell, to mention names which readily come to mind.

It is difficult to single out any one member of this team who so greatly exceeded our expectations, but special mention must be made of Dave Baulch who became the first member to beat 30 minutes on the six miles from Handcross to Hickstead. It is obvious that our success hinges on the times recorded on the long seventh and eighth stages and it is interesting to note that in this race we were less than a minute slower than the fastest club over these legs, whereas in earlier races we have lost as much as four minutes in that crucial 15 miles.

Now to the story of the race itself. Pete Bagnall set out from Old Palace Yard, Westminster, on the first stroke of ten by Big Ben. Just before Chelsea Bridge, Ian Boyd running for Herne Hill, jumped the field and began to draw away. This spread the pack but Bagnall running strongly, fought gallantly with Tipton, Birchfield, Sheffield and South London. Towards Cedars Road, Pete appeared to have a bad time and dropped back to eighth but in the final run in he drew on his resources to finish 6th.

Archie Bedford then took over but it was soon apparent that he was not fit enough to hold the opposition and slowly lost ground and places. At Mitcham we were back to 12th over a minute behind Tipton who had gone to the front. Charlie Walker should have made capital out of his position for the field were spread out ahead of him and although passing Poly. and Manchester, he was caught by Birchfield and Essex Beagles and in the end handed over 12th, 2min. 19 secs, behind Herne Hill who had gone into the lead.

Charlie Dabbs, just out of the cradle as far as this race is concerned, the A.A.A. having just given their permission for the inclusion of youths, set about the opposition in great style and soon we were up to 11th. Not content with this he took us up two more places and finished 9th only just outside the Club best ever. Colin Collis on that difficult switchback leg through Redhill, ran a great stage in a time beaten only by Palmer of St. Albans.

Len Bishop was on the 6th leg and although he has been a steady performer for some years, he rose above himself and took us up to 6th place, but we still made no impression on the leaders. Jack Brown set off on the long leg to Handcross in steady fashion and soon picked up the 16 seconds we were in arrears of Birchfield. Jack's performance was undoubtedly one of his best and at Handcross we were 5th. Dave Baulch was again on the 8th stage and had obviously benefitted from his previous run over this leg. Although not achieving the distinction of gaining further places, he did set up a new Club record for the leg.

When George Flanagan set out on the ninth stage Herne Hill were again in the lead, 3mins, 14secs, ahead of us. In his first big race of this type he rose to the occasion and accomplished the third best time of the day. It was on this leg that S.L.H. went into a winning lead. We had closed the gap to 2mins.49secs. but the task of making this up on the last two stages was then impossible although there was always a hope we might be fourth. Eric Gebbett climbed Dale Hill in grand style and although gaining 22 secs., on T.V.H. could not make up ground on the three leading clubs.

George Davidson, also a first timer, had little or nothing to make his effort worthwhile for we were over a minute behind the nearest club, however he was anxious to prove his team selection and his time of 17.40 was the fastest of the day. To summarise in a few words - A GRAND EFFORT BY ALL.

1. S.L.H.	4h. 29m. 33s.	4. T.V.H.	4h. 32m.33s.
2. Herne Hill	4 30 38	5. Belgrave	4 33 11
3. Sheffield	4 30 48		

"Olympian"

R.W.A. 20 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

As holders of the Association's Championship shield and the Nijmegen Shield, we travelled hopefully to Sheffield on May 18th. We were compelled however to yield the trophy to Sheffield United Harriers, unbeatable over the distance on this day, but we were happy indeed to finish our complete team of eight before any other club and so retain the Nijmegen Shield.

At the start of the race the Sheffield red and white vests were quickly to the fore and it never seemed likely that they would be displaced. Roland Hardy soon showed that he was in excellent form and just went on increasing his lead throughout to win the race over a very fast course in a best Championship time. Albert Johnson who was with our Eric Hall at the halfway mark, walked a surprisingly fast second half to finish in front of Bob Goodall of Woodford. He was followed by Don Thompson, Met. and L. Allen, Sheffield.

Our first man home was Eric Hall scoring 6th. He was at the ten miles mark in just outside 80 minutes, but for the next four or five miles was far from happy. He recovered to finish well, in good time, and retain the Club trophy awarded in connection with this race. Bob Newson walked a very sound 20 miles indeed and came through beautifully in the second half of the race. George Checkley, our third man to finish, will not regard this as one of his best races. It certainly did not come up to his performances in the Middlesex Championship and our own Club 20 but the long rail journey and change of routine may have upset him. Fourth man was George Beecham who always rises to the occasion. Thus we had our four men home in 22 scoring positions. Although Met.'s fourth man was in 24th position, their slightly superior earlier positions enabled them to push us out of second place by four points. Woodford Green had scored 3, 7 and 16 and all depended on their fourth man as to whether we should take third team medals. Eventually he came along 36th, just a little too far back and Woodford found themselves 4th with 64 points.

Of our second four, McGreechan showed that he is on the way back to his old form and Norman Guilmant gave clear indication that the longer distance events will find him a worthy contender. Cyril Yescombe was perhaps a trifle disrespectful to our President by showing him the way home but we were

very happy to have our eight men in 47 scoring positions. Fred Rolfe, walking as an individual, enjoyed a race without team cares and grateful words of thanks and honourable mention go to Jack Goswell, Stan Vickers and Bill True who did what they could at the roadside for our walkers.

We congratulate Sheffield on winning the Senior R.W.A. title in the same year as their club won the English Cross Country Championship an honour which they share with us as the only two clubs in the country to achieve the double. On the journey home, much could be written, but perhaps it would be better if it were not. Suffice it to say that Belgrave were in very high spirits, that Stan and Jack gave a double act, provoked and assisted by others reminiscent of the Crazy Gang at their craziest - and was Jack's face red!

A.A.H.

DONCASTER TO SHEFFIELD MARATHON

On Easter Monday the Road Running Section recorded their first success of the year when a team of three runners consisting of A. Bishop, R. Plummer and W. Wortley finished third in the Doncaster Marathon, to Leeds and Hull.

An outstanding performance was achieved by R. Plummer who finished 5th in 2hours 39 mins. 52 secs. This is all the more meritorious when allowance is made for the severity of the course, which is some four minutes slower than that from Windsor to Chiswick. He was ably backed up by A. Bishop 15th and W. Wortley 26th. Wortley was unlucky in having to stop just after 25 miles to remove his socks which were troubling him. This probably spoilt his chance of beating 3 hours.

Team Race:	1. Leeds Harehills	14 points
	3. Belgrave Harriers	46 points

MAIDENHEAD 10 - EASTER MONDAY

There was what I feel tempted to describe as a typical Belgrave turnout for this race, a full entry of eight runners on the programme, three of whom actually ran. To make matters worse, Dave Baulch who was not nominated was there and rarin' to go. He was allowed to enter on the spot but was not qualified to take any award. What a pity it is people can't make up their minds in good time about which races they wish to compete in and then, unless from some unavoidable cause, run in them. Conditions were perfect and at the end of the first lap of four miles, Dave was in a group of four runners 20 yards behind Eldon the young Windsor runner, who was leading. Charlie was a few yards and places behind Dave with Colin Collis 15th, Freddie Bradnum 40th and Con Abberton, running as an individual about two thirds of the way down the 100 strong field.

Heywood scored a runaway victory from Barrett of Ealing with Eldon taking third place inside Stan Cox's record of 54.19. Dave Baulch finished 4th, 9 secs outside the previous record. With Charlie Walker 9th and Colin Collis 11th we would have walked away with the team award, but as it was we were 2nd to Ealing Freddie being our third man in 38th position.

Times:	4. D. Baulch 54.28.	9. C. Walker	55.47
	11. C. Collis 56.14	38. F. Bradnum	61.35
		C. Abberton 63.5.	

FIELD EVENTS

As the "Sward" Trophy Competition is already being covered in a separate article, I would like to add briefly as Sectional Hon. Secretary, my congratulations to our first winning team in this competition. Good show lads and thanks for the excellent team spirit shown by all competing.

In our fixtures against Poly. Met. Police and Herne Hill we were well to the fore, winning most of the events. It has been pleasing to see George Edwards throwing the javelin in his first year as a Senior. Ron Liggins, Dick Harris, John Jones, Tom Strang, Roy Glen, Denis Childs and many others are showing the true team spirit and keeping Belgrave to the front. Hard training with the right spirit will always bring good performances.

In the North v South Match we had two representatives. Percy Luxon won the Long Jump with 22 feet 11 inches and Mal Ash was second in the High Jump. Percy Porter deserves special mention for setting a new club record in the hammer throw at Eton Manor with 166 feet 9ins. As the majority of results will be found elsewhere under other headings, I need not repeat them here, but I would like to mention that Charlie Jones put in a great deal of time and work on the handicaps for June 11th receiving quite a number of entries before the day and it was a pity that more support was not given to the events on the evening in question.

Finally I would like to mention our two Junior High Jumpers, Alan Elliott and John Fisher who are showing great promise and I look forward to some good performances from them in the future.

W. Merryman.

SWARD TROPHY - MAY 12TH

For the first time in the Club's history we have won the "Sward" Trophy for the field events competition held at Chiswick and did so with a convincing score of 45 points followed by L.A.C. 35 points and Achilles 30 points.



Ron Harris putting the Shot.

Our heartiest congratulations go to all, competitors and officials alike, who have participated in this great team effort. It has been particularly gratifying indeed to see the improvement in numbers and quality among our field events men and this grand performance does really call for superlatives. If Bill Merryman's boys go on like this - and we're quite sure they will - we may very soon expect two or three A.A.A. Champions and International performers in our ranks; a dozen or so County Champions and winners of A.A.A. Standard medals tied up neatly in tens! Seriously with our number of interested athletes, the experience, coaching, competition and assistance we can give, then with a sense of

purpose, competent administration and evergrowing enthusiasm, there need be no limits to Belgrave Achievement.

Now for some "Sword" details. Mal Ash gave us third place in the 120 yards hurdles and Dennis Merrett was a comfortable winner of the 220 hurdles. The 440 yards hurdles was the only event in which we did not score points.

Eddie Short did excellently to take fourth place in the steeplechase in a good class field. Percy Luxon was 2nd in the Long Jump and Ash with a 6 foot jump was third in the high. Norman Caves gave us a second place in the Hop, Step and Jump. Mal Ash helped our score along with a win in the Pole Vault with 12 feet, Harris was second in the weight, Ted Gaworski third in the Discus, Ron Liggins 6th in the Javelin, Percy Porter 5th in the Hammer - and the Sword Trophy was ours.

Some invitation track events were included in the programme and our colours were prominent. We won the sprint relay, were second in the Medley relay and third in the two miles team race with Jack Brown finishing 3rd in 9mins. 16.8secs. In the Invitation Mile, John Davies was 6th in 4mins. 12 secs. an excellent performance, and as stated previously Stan Vickers was 2nd and Ted Smith 4th in a two miles walk.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE TRACK

We opened up the Track Season with a very encouraging win over Oxford A.C. and Polytechnic Harriers, on 21st April. Ron Holtum secured 2nd place in both 100 yards and 220 yards. This was followed by a win with Morris in the 440 yards in the time of 50.8secs. Our rapidly improving miler, J. Davies gave us another first place in the mile and Tooby and Baulch finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 2 miles.

The field events men as usual, scored a good proportion of the points, Luxon and Ash being 2nd and 3rd in the Long Jump, Ash and Luxon 1st and 2nd in the High Jump, Harris and Gaworski 1st and 2nd in the Shot Put and discus, Liggins and Edwards 1st and 3rd in the Javelin and Jones and Caves 1st and 2nd in the Hop, Step and Jump.

The match resulted in a win for the Bels. by 70 points to Poly's 48 and Oxford 11. In a Junior match of six events we again won with 23 points to Poly's 22 and Oxford's 18. C. Ryan was first in the 100 yards and 2nd in the 220. Coxall took 2nd place in the 440 and Dabbs won the mile in 4.42. Chamberlain was 2nd in the Long Jump with 19ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches only losing by $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch.

On May 2nd a few of our athletes were engaged at the Leyton Flood Light meeting and it was pleasing to have Ivan Meyers running so well over the 100 yards in really first class company to finish 4th in 10.1secs. Denis Merrett was 3rd in the 220 yards hurdles and Harris (47'3") and Gaworski (45'1") were 2nd and 3rd in the shot.

A few days later R. Harris again put the shot 47ft. 3 inches when representing A.A.A. v Oxford University and we look forward to even better efforts later in the year.

GORDON STEWART TROPHY

Another trophy for the Club sideboard - even if it was a narrow win. Hearty congratulations to our juniors on doing so well. Our score of 30 points was just sufficient to beat Ealing Harriers with 29, who were followed by Shaftesbury with 15 and Maidenhead with 4. In a junior match our Juniors

also scored 30 points beating Shaftesbury by a margin of 13 points.

Our successes were - Seniors: 100 yards, R. Holtum 10.8. 220 yards C. Jones 23.8. 2 miles J. Brown, 9.29.6. Juniors: 100 yards D. Hemings 10.6., 1 mile C. Dabbs 4.37.6. Mile Medley Relay 3.53.4.

On 9th May we had a match v Lensbury A.C. and Lloyds Bank at Lower Sydenham. Charlie Jones was in great form winning both sprints. In the 440 yards Dudley Gordon finished 2nd; John Davis won the 880 yards with George Davidson fourth. The two miles was won by Dave Faulch with Don Stroud 2nd and Dave Hooper 3rd. R. Glen was second in the shot. The last event of the evening saw our sprinters Gordon, Glen, Stephens and Jones set up a new ground record for the 4 x 110 yards.

Result: 1. Belgrave. 2. Lensbury. 3. Lloyds.

Our first evening meeting of the season opened with the usual confusion but gradually we saw light and a victory emerged for our team (56 points) over the Met. Police (36 points) and Mitcham A.C. (17 points). Of the events, five were on the field and the contribution of our boys in this section was 27 points to our grand total.

Outstanding recollections of the meeting were a fine sprint double by Ivan Mayers, some grand half miling by J. Davies (1m.57.8) and B. Hallowell (1m.59) and a very good half mile by Charlie Dabbs. A Club mile handicap saw Boreham, Dooley and Reeves take the awards in that order. A team walk of two miles gave Belgrave a win over the Met. Police, scoring 7 a side, by 48 points to 57 and handicap placings were 1. N. Milsum (1min) 14.33.2. 2. Vickers (Scr) 14.39 and 3. Bob Readman (5.15) 14.45.

WHIT SATURDAY AND MONDAY

In the Inter-Counties Championships at the White City three of our members represented Surrey and made their contribution towards Surrey's 13th consecutive victory. They



D. Stewart, V. Mugoza (Yugo), R. Moens (Belgium) E. Hewson and J. Davies in the International 800 metres.

were George Williams 3rd in the two miles walk (14.51.6), Mal Ash 2nd in the High Jump (5' 11") and R.J. Harris 4th in the Shot (48' 5") In addition Stan Vickers represented Kent in the 7 miles Walk and finished 4th in 52.19.4 in one of the finest races at this distance in post war years. Others to be entered by the Inter Counties were P. Porter (Essex) R. Liggins (Northants) and J. Frown (Kent) whilst many others figured in the lists as reserves.

Our greatest thrill however was to note the running of John Davies in the International 800 metres event. He had been invited to turn up as a reserve and found himself stripped off in a field of eight which included Moens of

Belgium, the World's record holder at this distance, Brian Hewson, Britain's own champion, Szentgali of Hungary and the European champion and Gorrie the well known Oxford runner. Our boy was not intimidated by this array of talent and ran most creditably challenging the leaders and finishing 5th in 1m.52.3. which must be the fastest time ever by a Belgrave man at that distance. On the Monday he ran the initial half mile stage in a relay and was inside 1.53, so we may be assured that we have a really first class half miler in our colours. Denis Merrett, to whom we offer congratulations on his recent engagement, ran 3rd in a 200 metres hurdles International race in excellent style.

Before concluding the brief account of the two day White City Festival of sport as seen through Belgravian eyes, we might call to mind the great efforts of our Les Cohen who has done so much for Belgrave and who, as Championships Hon. Secretary of the Counties Athletic Union and Joint Hon. Secretary of the meeting, does such a splendid and efficient job each year, not forgetting a mountain of hard work in promotional and administrative capacities at other times throughout the year. It is good to know that Belgrave, through Les, helps the flow of sport along and at the same time his great and enduring work for the Club continues.

Continuing with the Whitsun holiday, on Whit-Saturday in a Senior match against Ilford and Grafton A.C. Charlie Jones was 2nd in the 100 yards and 3rd in the 220. He should have won the 220 but stopped by mistake at the wrong post. The quarter saw Jan Stephens 2nd and Jim Heathfield, having his first run this season, third. Brian Hallowell won the 880 yards with George Davidson 3rd. We had only one runner in the mile, Steve Foreham, who did his fastest time in finishing 3rd. In the 1½ miles team race, J. Masters was 1st with Len Bishop 4th.

Match result: 1. Ilford. 2. Pels. 3. Grafton.

MATCH v HERNE HILL HARRIERS & R.A.M.C.

On a lovely summer evening on 23rd May we entertained friends as above and gained a victory with 63 points to Herne Hill's 45 and 18 of the R.A.M.C. A junior match with Herne Hill gave us another win by 32 points to 15. The R.A.M.C. were unable to compete in every event, but in winning the 880 yards their runner Baker scored a fine win in 1m.58.5s. closely followed by B. Hallowell and G. Davidson. C. Jones scored a very fine sprint double. Herne Hill's Rowe took the quarter from H. Martin and a very close team event over 2 miles gave Herne Hill a one point win over us, Len Bishop being 2nd to Towel.

Our field events men, as usual were a tower of strength contributing 31 points in five events. It was pleasing to see Ted Fare out again and to have Hugh Powell with us. Our placings were: 1. Bare, 3. Elliott. Long Jump C. Jones 1st. Discus: 1. Harris, 4. Edwards. Javelin 2. Edwards, 3. Liggins. Shot: 1. Harris. 4. Strang.

The 440 yards Club handicap attracted 24 starters - almost a record in recent years - and resulted as follows: 1. Martin (20 yds) 49.5s. 2. Coxall (25yds), 3. S. Boreham (40yds). The usual 2 miles Walk handicap gave a win to a newcomer D. Russell (570yds) in 14m.31s. and he promises to augment our team strength in a very short while. 2nd and 3rd were Joe Coleman (440 yds) and George Oliver (320 yds). Our third placed handicap men seem only to have to put their shoes on to find themselves with a prize.

On May 24th John Davies was selected for the A.A.A. v Cambridge University and on a grass track at Fenner's, won the mile in 14m. 12.6s. Ivan Mayers was also in the team and was placed 3rd in the 100 yards and was a member of the winning Relay team.

At the Universities Athletic Championships held at Manchester on 26th May, J.P. Jones, representing London, won the Shot Put with 44feet 2½ inches. London won the Inter-Varsity competition.

INTER-CLUB RELAYS AT MITCHAM - MAY 28TH

It was with interest that I went to see a revival of the Inter-Club Relay Competition and to visit the scene of valour and intense rivalry of pre-war years. In my opinion this particular form of Inter-Club competition relies not so much on the star performers as on all round level of performances and provides the opportunity for the average club man to gain valuable experience in scratch racing.

It was a disappointing evening with teams only in the 100 yards and 800 yards races. These performed very creditably but it seemed shocking with our wealth of young milers and middle distance men that we could not turn out in the mile or 300 yards events. The travel problem surely could not be blamed for a journey to Mitcham.

I look forward to greater response to this most enjoyable fixture next year, which I am sure serves a most useful purpose for our newer and less experienced athletes.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNE 2ND

County Track and Field Senior Championships were being held in many parts of the country on this day and Belgrave has several County Champions as a result of the activities on this afternoon.

In the North Brian Hallowell won the Cheshire Mile championship. Down south Brian Morris was successful in Sussex in the 220 yards and 440 yards events, and Stan Vickers accomplished a Kent County best in the two miles walk in 14.27.

Coming back to our home county - Surrey; Ted Gaworski was a double winner in the discus and weight with a new county record for the former at 145ft. 4ins. George Williams won the Surrey walk title closely followed by Eric Hall who had switched to short distance for the day. Minor placings were gained by Jack Brown who was 2nd to Sando in the three miles; Charlie Jones was second to Wilmshurst in the Triple jump.

Our Middlesex men also had their share of the spoils, the most outstanding being J. Davies who won the mile in 4m. 17.8s. on a very dusty and windy track. Percy Luxon gained a brace of thirds in the Long Jump and Triple Jump and Ted Smith was 3rd in the walk. In Essex Percy Porter retained his Hammer title with a record throw. Many others were striving to figure in the final placings and carried the club colours creditably and we trust their day will come in the near future.

SOUTHERN YOUTHS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNE 9TH

The Youths' Championships were held at Enfield Stadium but Belgrave entries were hard to find. In fact of the whole programme, there were only two Belgrave entries and they were both in the 800 yards. Only one started and an upset at

600 yards put him out of the race.

It is only a few years ago that at Belgrave's instigation these Youths' Championships were inaugurated and it was very disappointing that we could not give better support to a meeting for which we should have such parental feeling. Next year it is hoped that the maroon and gold will be more in evidence.

CLUB MEETING - JUNE 11TH

A club evening meeting opened at Battersea Park with the Club 7 Miles Walking Championship and an excellent field lined up. From the start Star Vickers was in the lead and in brilliant style walked away from everyone else eventually lapping (or double lapping) all the rest of the field. Notwithstanding the margin of Stan's win, there were other walkers of great potential in the field. Special mention must be made of Nick Milsum, now in the R.A.F., who finished the course in 59 minutes 6secs. and won the sealed handicap together with his R.W.A. Star for completing seven miles inside the hour.

The Frank Elson Cup was duly presented by Frank's sister and brother to the winner and we were glad they were able to be with us on this occasion.

Times: S. Vickers. 53.36. 1. E. Hall 57.06
3. G. Checkley 57.50.

A club half mile handicap was made distinctly "tasty" by our Pakistan member Haq Khan, who discreetly dropped out with 300 yards to go. But the damage was done. Time was 1 min. 49.4secs. and a very close finish indeed resolved itself as 1. Banks, 2, Gower, 3 Mitchell.

In a 2 miles handicap, again the longer marked men decided not to hang about and be caught and the winner, T. Tupper was timed at 9min. 0.6s. Second was August running in very promising style and 3rd Len Rolls.

Three field events handicaps were carried through and despite reasonably good entries before the day, competition was limited on the evening itself to a few enthusiasts.

HEATHFIELD TROPHY - JUNE 9TH

A record number of clubs took part in this competition with the track in perfect condition. Fast times were assured and many personal bests were achieved. John Davis who just escaped being boxed in the half mile heats, made no mistake in the final when he leapt away at the bell to win in 1m.55.9s. Brian Hallcwell had a personal best when he won the first of the two 1 mile races in 4m. 15s. leading the whole way. Ron Holtum found he was unable to beat Shenton in the 100 yards final and galloping Charlie Jones amazed us by finishing 2nd in the 220yds. Alan Sexton made a welcome return in the 440 and finished second to Wrighton in the final. Jack Erown shock off all opposition except the great Gordon in the three miles dowing an excellent time of 14m. 48s. The result of all these efforts was a win for the Bels. by a clear 10 points.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNE 22ND & 23RD

The Championships were held at Motspur Park and heats of the 440 and 880 yards, the Hammer and Javelin were held



Stan Vickers
winning the 2
miles walk.

on Friday evening. In the hammer, Percy Porter went near to improving on his best performance and finished 5th with a throw of 161ft.3ins. We had no entries in the Javelin.

In the 880 heats George Davidson was 5th in 1.58.5 which gained him a Southern standard. Alan Sexton won his heat in 4.40 in 50.3s but Frank Kemp failed to qualify. The evening ended with the mile heats with the first from each heat for the final, plus the five fastest losers. P. Newell beat Southern Standard but failed to qualify. The last heat gave John Davis a chance to show his paces, but Clark of Aylesbury opened a big gap in the third lap and before John could extricate himself from the rest of the field, Clark was too far away. John's time of 4.14.8 qualified him for the final.

Saturday started with the discus and in this Ted Gaworski gained 4th place with 146ft 8ins and Harris gained a standard. In the 100 yards only Dennis Merrett qualified for the semi-final, winning his heat in 10.6. He was second to Segal in the semi-final and 4th in the final with 10.5.

In the Long Jump Percy Luxon was well below his form to finish 4th with 21ft 9ins. and gained a Southern standard. Mal Ash gained a standard in the heats of the 120yds hurdles qualifying for the final in 15.6 and was 4th in the final.. Alan Sexton had to be content with a Southern Standard in the 440 but I think we can expect a return to his old form before long.

The weight gave our lads a chance to shine and John Jones can be pleased with his 3rd place amongst distinguished company with a put of 46ft. 5ins. Ted Gaworski was 4th with 45ft. 6ins. and Harris gained another standard by beating 43 ft. The mile saw John Davies in the line up but sad to relate he did not benefit from his poor track tactics on Friday and although he made an effort to make up lost ground, Clark had again opened up a lead and John was forced back to 5th place in 4.13.8, the winner eventually being J. Morrison of Cambridge H. in a new Southern record of 4.10.2.

In the Pole Vault, Mal Ash gained 3rd place with 12ft. 9ins. which I believe is his best to date. C.R. Jones put up a good show in the Triple Jump finishing 5th with 43ft. 10ins. The less said about the Junior 4 x 110 relay team the better despite the fact that they had the best lane. The 3 miles race was split into two owing to the large entry, the second half being run for standards only. Jack Brown was our sole competitor in the Championship race and by excellent pace judgment worked his way through the field to take 6th place and become the first Belgrave man ever to beat 14 mins. with 13.59.

The Two Miles Walk was a sight for sore eyes. Two Belgrave Harriers battling for first place is something we haven't seen for many a day. Stan Vickers eventually got away from our recent acquisition George Williams to win in the excellent time of 14m. 10.2s. It looks as though he will soon be breaking 14 minutes. George was second in 14.15 and the rest of the field, including Brian Hawkins of the Met. were never in the same street.

So ended another Southern Championships

Gratifying in some ways, but definitely disappointing in others. Still we can't always reign supreme although our walkers always try hard to see that we do. What about the runners having a go!

"Olympian".

ROAD RUNNING

Whilst our road runners have been fairly well to the fore, they do not seem anxious to make known their activities and the Editor is therefore only able to publish such information as is sent to him. Apart from the races on Easter Monday, the only report received is on the Finchley 20 which was held on April 21st and was sent in by Eric Bishop. What about it Road Runners - let's hear from you!

FINCHLEY 20

Under the usual warm conditions which prevail for this race, we lined up a team of eight which looked like potential winners and the strongest team to represent us for some time. At the end of 5 miles it was obvious that Colin Collis in 12th position was going to put up a fast time. Eric Gebbett held his place as our second man throughout the race although nearly caught by Bob Plummer between 10 and 15 miles. Colin gradually moved up to 9th, whilst Eric Gebbett, Bob Plummer and Geoff Pearson, who ran the race of his life, finished 14th, 18th and 19th respectively to give us a team victory of 38 points to 40 of T.V.H. and 48 for Walton. W. Wortley and Freddie Bradnum both retired and Alan Bishop dropped back over the last 5 miles which lost him a standard medal. The individual winner was H. Hicks in a record time.

Positions and times:

9. G. Collis	1. 51. 58	26. G. Pearson	1. 58. 37
14. E. Gebbett	1. 54. 57	39. H. Bishop	2. 3. 18
18. R. Plummer	1. 56. 49	59. A. Penstone	2.10. 01

WALKING NOTES

During the past three months since our last issue, we have seen some really memorable performances by our walkers. Despite relinquishing their hold on the R.W.A. Championship, it seems to have been success upon success. We have retained the Nijmegen Shield and regained the 50 Kilometres team title and without a doubt now have two of the finest walkers in the country. Stan Vickers first made his mark in the National 10 since when he is now completely into the front line. In his first full year of track walking he has so far taken the Kent County title, the Southern Counties title, the Club 7 miles Track title and represented his county in the Inter-Counties meeting. By the time you receive this magazine, the A.A.A. Senior Championships will be over. Is it too much to hope that Stan will be holding one of the titles. Our other outstanding walker is, of course, Eric Hall who really beat the book and the rest of the field except one, in the R.W.A. 50 kilometres Championship. Both these walkers, together with George Checkley, have been selected to compete in an "Olympic Trial" and three from one club out of a total of 16 from the whole country, seems a very good proportion. All our good wishes go with these walkers in the next few months and our hopes that we shall have a Belgrave member in the team for down under.

These results, and many others which are mentioned below and elsewhere in the magazine have come about by consistent training, not individually, but as a team. A very enthusiastic

pack is turning up at Battersea Track on Tuesday evenings but there are still a few missing. The best way to train is with your club mates under the supervision of your Club coaches and if everyone will do this we shall go from strength to strength.

Our other distance lads are all well to the fore and have set their eyes on the last few distance races of the season and are determined to finish up by regaining their title in the premier distance race of all - the Brighton Walk. Come along all of you, runners and walkers alike and give them your support on September 8th. A coach has been booked and I would like to know what seats you require. We also want some help for the walkers, cyclists in particular. Please come forward and give your assistance. Unfortunately the Hastings to Brighton Walk clashes with our Club Championships but DON'T FORGET THE BRIGHTON.

We welcome to the Club as new members, David Stevens, E. Froude (2nd claim), Denis Squires and Ray Switzer and hope that they will enjoy our company and turn out regularly at Battersea and at Wimbledon during the winter. Denis Squires made his mark by winning the handicap at his first track meeting and I look forward to rapid progress. George Williams, another Second Claim member, has already added lustre to Belgrave colours by winning the Surrey 2 miles title and being second to Stan Vickers in the Southern two.

Our younger members are showing that they are not to be outdone by setting a new Surrey County record in the one mile Walk, Terry Clark taking first place in 7m. 14s and Nick Milsum 2nd in 7m. 81s. In addition they both qualify for Junior Honours Badges by beating the A.A.A. Standard. Well done Terry and Nick, we shall be needing you as Seniors and hope you will keep up the good work. Unfortunately Nick Milsum is new in the R.A.F. and we hope that it will be possible for him to link up with Terry Clark so that they can train together and perhaps get up to London for the major events during the coming months.

Bernard Eglinton has not been so fortunate this year in getting home from Germany for the major championships, but we hope to see him on the Brighton. Dennis Ives is also in Germany and we hope still keeping fit.

Space is too limited to mention all the good performances during the past three months, but if your name is not in print and you think it ought to be, then accept my apologies.

Good walking and lots more victories.

Jack Goswell.

COLCHESTER - IPSWICH APRIL 14TH

We again supported this fixture in strength by starting two teams and with a good number of supporters we were well represented.

For the first time Metropolitan W.C. sent a strong team for this race and Hawkins, Hutchison and Nigel Thompson battled for the first three placings the whole way, eventually finishing in that order. George Checkley walked a very steady race and once in fourth place, he retained this to the end. George Beecham who took it steady at the start, walked well to finish 6th and Bob Newson over the last four miles, passed Norman Guilman and really got moving to finish 8th. Norman was 9th but as it was only three to score, did not get into the team. With Met. placing the first three, we had to be content with 2nd

place. 45 walkers finished, a fifth of which were Belgrave.

Result:

1. B. Hawkins	Met.WC.	2.31.56	17. H. McGreechan	2.50.09
4. G. Checkley		2.39.12	20. H. Shields	2.51.18
6. G. Beecham		2.43.54	21. F. Rolfe	2.51.24
8. R. Newson		2.44.29	22. C. Yescombe	2.52.25
9. N. Guilmant		2.45.30	45. S. Spencer	3.12.55

CLUB 20 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - APRIL 21ST

Not quite such a large field as usual turned out for the race for the Ricketts Shield but nevertheless it was a very interesting one. George Checkley, the holder of the title was out to retain it, but was challenged by Eric Hall, competing in this race for the first time. There was never much between them until the last lap when Eric moved away to a very convincing win in 2hrs. 52m. 22s. with George 2nd in 2.55.58.

Behind these two an interesting battle was going on for third place between Bob Newson, Hugh McGreechan and Norman Guilmant. The last named tried hard to steal a lead but Bob and Hugh would not let him get away. Over the last 2 miles Bob Newson proved the stronger and went right away to finish 3rd, three minutes in front of Hugh with Norman 5th another minute behind. The President came next in 3.10.47 and he was followed by Fred Rolfe, ever improving Cyril Yescombe on his first 20. George Beecham was obliged to retire with leg trouble.

The handicap held in conjunction was really an excellent effort by Bill True, the handicapper, Cyril Yescombe off 28 minutes, winning by one second from Bob Newson, with Syd Spencer 3rd beating Fred Rolfe by two seconds. Well done Bill. Considering there was a track meeting and the Road Runners were out at Finchley, we had a goodly collection of helpers and supporters and we were very pleased to have the support of so many cars.

On the same day the 5 Miles Junior Championship for the Olympic Cup was held for which there were three competitors. Terry Clark won this trophy in the very good time of 40m.04s. with Trevor Luck 2nd in 41.07 and Nick Milsum 3rd in 41.24. Although it is difficult to get a big field for this race as it coincides with the age for National Service, I hope there will be a few more next year.

COUNTY TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Surrey and Middlesex County sevens were held on 5th May. The Surrey event only attracted a very small field and after a few laps of the four competitors left, three of them were Belgrave. Eric Hall retained his title in 56.5.8 with George Williams 2nd and George Beecham 3rd.

In the Middlesex event at Parliament Hill Ted Smith finished 3rd.

LEICESTER MERCURY - MAY 26TH

Owing to the Police Long Distance Championship from Barking to Southend two days prior to this race, we were only able to send a small team of five to Leicester for the Open 20 and they were ably transported there by Tom Carter who also looked after them round the course. It is said they all enjoyed the day even if none of them could read a map.

Eric Hall walked a good race and after coming through the field over the first ten miles, he eventually took the lead at about 15 miles and held it until about 1½ from home when Johnson of Sheffield came up accompanied by Don Thompson of the Met. and Eric eventually finished 3rd in 2hrs. 51mins. 37secs. a fine performance. George Beecham finished 13th with Norman Guilman 17th and Harry Shields 32nd. Our President tried hard to catch the Woodford man in front of him over the last couple of miles but failed by 20 seconds. This resulted in Woodford scoring the same points as us but their senior placing gave them 3rd place. We badly needed the assistance of Bob Newson and George Checkley, but in the circumstances, the lads did very well.

In the handicap team race we took 2nd place Eric, Norman, George Beecham and Fred Rolfe sharing the prizes. In addition, Eric's performance gained him the individual handicap award so we were all satisfied with our day's outing.

ESSEX BEAGLES OPEN 5 MILES - JUNE 23RD

With the Southern Championships being fought out at Motspur Park we were only able to send a small team to Barking for this event. Nick Milsum who was having his last race before joining the R.A.F. the following Monday, decided to let off steam and clocked his best time for five miles with 39mins. 35secs. and with a generous mark of 6.30. won the handicap. The walkers started off their handicap marks and Nick was the first home. Dave Russell, and two evergreen members Joe Scamell and Charlie Speechley made up the team, which in the circumstances did well to finish fourth.

POLICE BARKING - SOUTHEND WALK MAY 24TH

The regularity with which this well known race is won by a member of the Belgrave Harriers must be well known to all and whilst the championship changed hands this year, it is still in the possession of a Belgrave Harrier. Names like Fred Rickards, Fred Bentley, and Jack Bidgood remind us of the past years, but now it would seem that George Checkley and Hugh McGreechan have taken on the task of keeping a Belgrave name on the trophy. Congratulations to George on getting his name on it for the first time.

Bob Readman, now retired from the Force, was on the road and at the prizegiving was presented with a memento of his past services to the Police Walking Section.

CLUB RECORDS

The following Club Records have been achieved since our last issue.

SENIORS

Discus	T. Gaworski	May 1956	154ft. 10ins.
Hammer	P. Porter	June 1956	166ft. 9ins
Marathon	C. Collis	June 1956	2h. 31m.26s.
1 Mile	B. Hallowell	June 1956	4m.10.6s

SENIORS (Contd)

3 Miles J. Brown June 1956 13mins. 59secs.

JUNIORS

1 mile Walk T. Clark May 1956 7mins. 14secs.

Ted Gawórski's record in the Sward Meeting replaces the mark he set last July. The Junior Walk Record had stood to Jack Rutland for exactly 80 years until Terry Clark won the Surrey Junior Championship in the time given above. Nick Milsum was also inside the old record.

Colin Collis.

LONDON - BUDAPEST MEETING

The Annual Inter-City Meeting this year will be against Budapest at the White City on Wednesday, 10th October under floodlight as usual and tickets are now available. This will be the last big meeting before our team leaves for the Olympic Games and is sure to provide some excellent racing.

Tickets at 3/6d and 5/- can be obtained from
F.R.WEBB, 50, LONGFORD AVENUE, SOUTHALL

Early application is advised and PLEASE SEND THE MONEY with your application.

THE HON. TREASURER HAS THE LAST WORD

By the time you receive this magazine there will be but a few days to the end of the current Club year.

If by any chance you have not yet paid your subscriptions, please do so at once.

Similarly I would remind members that subscriptions for next year are due on 1st September and the earlier you pay, the better I shall like it.

CLUB ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

Express Rooms, Clapham Junction, 17TH NOVEMBER

Tickets are now available and can be obtained from

D. Martin Shepherd

104, Florence Road,

Wimbledon, S.W.19.