

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.

President—

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Gen. Hon. Secretary—

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FOREWORD.

It is admitted that this issue has been produced rather later than it had originally been intended, due chiefly to difficulties which must unfortunately arise in Amateur efforts.

Further, those who were at the Annual General Meeting will know that there existed a doubt as to the value of “The Belgravian” in its present form as a quarterly publication. It is rightly felt that it does not quite attain the full measure of success, apart from matters of finance, that would otherwise be achieved with a monthly edition.

Unfortunately, however, it is the matter of finance that must be considered. The whole of the amount originally voted by the Committee to carry on the Gazette for four quarterly issues was swallowed up at the second number. Consequently we have two pressing problems to solve, either we must keep our losses down to the minimum at the cost of impaired interest, or we must publish more often with the prospect of greater cost. The solution of the problems and the remedy is in the hands of every member. It is just a matter of continued support. With the purpose of making a determined effort to place “The Belgravian” on a sound basis, we are sending a form which you are

invited to fill up and return. From this we may better judge the feeling of all members and to what extent they are prepared to give support.

Therefore, to be brief, if you are of the opinion that the *Gazette* does not serve any good purpose send along and say so, otherwise send along something a little more helpful.

* * *

To answer many queries, the following are the times and places recorded by our members in the Surrey Walking Club's Brighton Walk, on September 12th.

Actual Position		Time
6	J. Rathbone	8 57 46
10	S. A. Manning	9 6 49
11	E. A. Wall	9 8 50
14	W. H. Hare	9 10 50
23	J. K. Chalk	9 31 32
24	O. Horwood	9 31 42
27	R. E. Wills	9 37 43
30	J. N. Thomas	9 40 45
35	G. Tomkins	9 52 51
50	G. H. Laurie	10 16 4

TEAM RACE.

1	Surrey Walking Club	16 Pts.
2	Belgrave Harriers	18
3	Queens Park H.	24

* * *

The Surrey County C.C. Championship will be decided at Epsom Downs on Saturday, Dec. 5th.

After the race a tea will be provided at the Kings Head Hotel at an inclusive charge of 1/6. In this we are joining with Croydon H., Epsom H. and Mitcham A.C. After tea there will be a dance and concert, and during the evening the Inter-Club Relay Shield will be presented to the Belgrave Harriers. We hope to be well represented, and anyone wishing to support this Social gathering should hand in their names to the Hon. Sec. for arrangements to be made accordingly.

CLUB EVENTS.

The first races of the Season were held at Wimbledon on Oct. 10th, when the usual 3 mile Road Run and 5 mile Walking Handicaps were decided.

The entry for the Run was quite satisfactory, 36 being handicapped; of these, however, nine declined the engagement, whilst some, who were obviously out for an airing only, did not attempt to complete the course.

The race went to the long markers, of whom A. M. Martin proved best, closely pressed by J. Pritchard who still manages to improve, with A. Traquair, who was quite a novice, third. It seemed at one point that Pritchard would win, for with a mile to go he had caught Martin, to whom he gave a minute start. Perhaps the effort proved too much, for although running side by side until 60 yards from home he was unable to withstand Martin's sprint, which landed him a comfortable winner. Although his win was not so easy as would appear from the times returned, for Pritchard eased considerably at the finish.

It seems but a very short time since Martin was winning the Club's 100 yds. Boys Handicap at Earlsfield, when making a "R. W. Ricketts Cup" his own property for a second win in that event. On present form he should be close up for the County 3 mile Youths' race next January. Incidentally, we need a few more members (under 18) to complete a team for that event.

The chief places in the Walk were fought out by that redoubtable pair, J. Rathbone and E. Wall, who were receiving the same time allowance from Scratch.

A. Martin, Senr. held his lead for the greater part of the journey, so that at one time it appeared likely that he would complete a notable double event of which his son had already gained the first half. However, Wall and Rathbone, disputing every yard, closed on him some half mile from home to finish first and second in rather fast time, whilst in the latter stages W. J. Fish proved speedy enough to gain third place.

RESULT 3 MILE RUN.

Pos.		Start m. s.	H'cap Time	Actual Time
1	A. Martin	3 0	14 27	17 27
2	J. Pritchard	2 0	14 39	16 39
3	A. Traquair	2 15	14 45	17 0
4	S. Petherick	2 25	14 53	17 18
5	W. Williams	1 20	14 54	16 14
6	A. E. Smith	0 33	14 56	15 29
7	F. Buckingham	scr.	15 10	15 10
8	S. L. King	1 40	15 13	16 53
9	G. Easton	1 25	15 15	16 40
10	J. G. Flatt	0 50	15 16	16 6
11	A. G. Jones	0 55	15 33	16 28
12	G. Tyrer	4 0	15 35	19 35
13	J. Heath	2 0	15 40	17 40
14	A. Borrett	0 50	15 51	16 41
15	R. J. Savage	1 20	15 58	17 18
16	J. Harris	0 36	15 59	16 35
17	H. W. Smith	0 33	16 0	16 23
18	T. Pritchard	1 15	16 10	17 25
19	G. Still	2 5	16 14	18 19
20	F. Fairchild	0 55	16 50	17 45
21	J. J. Crichton	1 35	16 51	18 26
22	W. J. East	2 10	—	—

RESULT 5 MILES WALKING HANDICAP.

Pos.		Start m. s.	H'cap Time	Actual Time
1	J. Rathbone	0 50	41 0	41 50
2	E. A. Wall	0 50	41 30	42 20
3	W. J. Fish	4 0	42 0	46 0
4	F. W. Thorn	0 30	42 30	43 0
5	A. Martin	6 30	42 35	49 05
6	H. E. Wills	2 10	42 47	44 57
7	O. Horwood	1 25	43 25	44 50
8	J. N. Thomas	3 15	43 50	47 5
9	A. H. East	1 30	44 0	45 30
10	J. B. Carne	1 30	44 37	46 7
11	C. H. Rogers	1 35	44 40	40 20
12	H. Evans	2 50	44 47	47 37
13	E. G. Cooper	0 35	45 45	46 20
14	G. W. Crowe	4 30	45 47	50 17
15	E. Green	3 0	46 20	49 20
16	A. Marsh	6 30	46 45	53 15

CROSS-COUNTRY.

The first Inter-Club Team race with Ashcombe A.C. and Thames Valley H. was held on October 31st from the quarters of the first named club at Sheen.

The event was wonderfully well supported, so that it was decided to score 14 a side. This gave better opportunities for men to run out and score for their club. The course was over a distance of 5 miles of fairly easy going in Richmond Park. At half distance it seemed certain that, bar accidents, we would win, for at this point we had 12 men in the first 30 placings. Here P. V. Bicknell of T.V.H. was head of the field, with A. D. Pyer, who is showing a very welcome return to form, some 50 yards behind followed by C. R. Browning of Ashcombe and then a bunch of six Belgravians of whom H. E. Footer and A. E. Smith were most prominent.

Very little change took place among the leaders in the latter stages and eventually we came out very comfortable winners of the team race by 100 points.

It was pleasing to find some of the older members taking a new lease of life over country and, what is more, performing very creditably. R. W. Best and J. F. Offen both ran well enough to finish in the scoring placings.

We had always hoped that H. W. Bruce would be an asset to our Team, and by his performance in this race (with no training) it is quite certain that he is going to trouble the best before long.

The actual positions and times of all those that finished are appended:

Pos.		Time.
		m. s.
1	P. V. Bicknell, T.V.H.	28 18
2	A. D. Pyer, Bel. H.	28 26
3	C. R. Browning, Ash. A.C.	28 32
4	H. E. Footer, Bel. H.	28 40
5	A. E. Smith,	28 46
6	K. B. O'Kell	29 28
8	F. Buckingham,	29 55
9	H. W. Bruce,	29 57
10	W. L. Bayliss,	29 58
18	W. D. Pritchard,	30 25
25	R. W. Best,	31 4
26	W. H. Williams,	31 6
27	A. G. Jones,	31 10
28	J. F. Offen,	31 13
30	R. J. Savage,	31 21
36	G. Easton,	31 58
38	M. Hasler,	32 3
40	S. Petherick,	32 13
43	W. Rice,	32 21
46	A. Traquair,	32 43
47	J. Pritchard,	32 44
53	H. W. Smith,	33 21
54	G. Still,	33 22
55	V. Clark,	33 23
61	T. Pritchard,	34 27
67	G. Tyrer,	35 37

TEAM RACE.

(Scoring 14.)

1	Belgrave H.	234
2	Thames Valley H.	334
3	Ashcombe A.C.	349

It only remains now to express the hope that we shall continue to receive full support of all members to enable us to do well in the Championships. The "Junior" will be the first and we do want to improve on our Seconds in the past two years. We intend entering four teams, and this will give nearly all those qualified an opportunity to run in open competition.

The "A" team, on whom will rest the responsibility of ending the sequence of minor placings, will be composed of the first eight members as above.

The race is being decided on November 14th from the Headquarters of the Thames Hare and Hounds, "The King's Head," Roehampton.

INTER-CLUB RELAYS.

Probably the innovation of the Inter-Club Relay Races with Croydon H., Epsom H. and Mitcham A.C. have been the most successful series of events that have been arranged throughout the year.

These will now be a regular part of the Track Season fixtures and should continue to prove of great interest.

Briefly, the contests are a series of 4 Relay Races, at 440 yards, 1200 yards, 2 miles and 4 miles. Four men to run from each club, and each series of 4 races to be held on the grounds of each of the four clubs.

A Shield has been subscribed for and this will be the trophy for the winning club each year.

As it has been regretted that we have not been able to report these fixtures during the past season it is thought that the following detail will serve the purpose and prove of value in showing our strength and weakness at the varying distances. It would appear, however, that we have done remarkably well for only 6 points have been dropped in 16 races.

Points were scored as follows—Win, 4 points; Second, 3 points; Third, 2 points; Fourth, 1 point.

We were represented on one or more occasions by the following members at the various distances:

110 yds.—W. C. Baldwin, J. R. Bird, G. R. Dunckley, C. T. Gibbs, J. R. McKay, M. E. Odell, C. T. Pollard, L. C. Smith, J. Wright.

300 yds.—W. C. Baldwin, G. R. Dunckley, F. G. Fairchild, M. E. Odell, C. T. Pollard, F. Port, L. C. Smith, H. W. Smith, J. Wright.

880 yds.—W. L. Bayliss, F. L.

Buckingham, J. Harris, K. B. O'Kell, G. F. Pepper, F. Port, W. D. Pritchard, A. D. Pyer, H. W. Smith.

1 mile:—H. W. Bruce, F. L. Buckingham, J. G. Flatt, H. E. Footer, K. B. O'Kell, H. W. Smith, A. D. Pyer.

SCORES AND ANALYSIS OF
INTER-CLUB RELAYS

AT CROYDON, 23RD MAY.

	Bel.	Croy.	Eps.	Mit.
4 x 110	3	4	1	2
4 x 300	3	2	1	4
4 x 880	3	1	2	4
4 x 1m.	4	3	2	1
	—	—	—	—
	13	10	6	11

AT BATTERSEA, 24TH JUNE.

	Bel.	Croy.	Eps.	Mit.
4 x 110	2	3	1	4
4 x 880	4	1	2	3
	—	—	—	—
	19	14	9	18

AT MITCHAM, 25TH JULY.

	Bel.	Croy.	Eps.	Mit.
4 x 110	4	3	2	1
4 x 300	3	2	1	4
4 x 880	4	2	1	3
4 x 1m.	4	3	1	2
	—	—	—	—
	34	24	14	28

AT EPSOM, 19TH AUGUST.

	Bel.	Croy.	Eps.	Mit.
4 x 110	4	3	1	2
4 x 300	4	3	1	2
4 x 880	4	1	3	2
4 x 1m.	4	2	1	2
	—	—	—	—
	50	34	20	36

AT BATTERSEA, 27TH AUGUST.

	Bel.	Croy.	Eps.	Mit.
4 x 300	4	3	1	2
4 x 1m.	4	1	2	3
	—	—	—	—
Final	58	38	23	41
	—	—	—	—

	4 x 110	4 x 200	4 x 880	4 x 1m.	Tot.
Bel.	13	14	15	16	58
Mit.	9	12	12	8	41
Croy.	13	10	5	10	38
Eps.	5	4	8	6	23

CLUB NOTES.

By the Hon. Sec.

Another Season has been entered upon and already signs of the activity of the members have appeared at the winter headquarters at Wimbledon. We can still do with bigger musters at our Saturday afternoon runs.

* * *

The Assist. Hon. Sec. has been at work and secured cheap return tickets from Vauxhall as well as Clapham Junction. This will save the members a considerable amount during the season.

* * *

The Social Secretary reports that the dances are not so well attended as they were last season. It is up to the members to roll up in larger numbers to the next one and crowd him out.

* * *

Congratulations to the Smiths. Bert on winning the Points Cup and Len on gaining a County Championship. It is remarkable how Bert keeps his form and MARK.

* * *

The boys did not do so well this year in the Brighton Walk as was expected. Wall did not walk up to his previous form and we did miss our Jimmy, who was getting over an attack of influenza. We must really congratulate the members who were outside the team honours as they all improved on last years figures.

* * *

The omnibus that accompanied the walkers was a great success and will be repeated next year. Perhaps two will be required.

While on the subject of Brighton I must mention the all night stroll held last July. What a night!

I think everybody enjoyed that walk (Footer says no). One member invented a new style that night as he wore a pair of shoes on his hands to help save his feet on parts of the journey. And our Jimmy, he was got up in fine style for the 12 o'clock parade on the front.

* * *

The Club is pleased to welcome home our erstwhile Junior Walking Champion Mr. H. F. King who has just returned from the Gold Coast. He will increase the strength of our Senior Team considerably and with the help of the Club champion, who is now going to train seriously, we ought to have no fear for the future. Other clubs are strengthening their teams and the Belgraves must not lack the enthusiasm that is steadily growing in other clubs.

* * *

The ink will hardly be dry writing these notes when we shall have entered on the big races of our fixture card. The Inter-Club race will have been decided by then, with what luck, we cannot say, but we are hoping of the best.

* * *

Will members make a note of purchasing the Sporting Life on Wednesdays for the Club notes and fixtures.

* * *

The fixture cards are being issued in conjunction with this Magazine also the "DEMAND NOTES" by the Hon. Treasurer. Members will greatly assist the Club officials if they would settle up for arrears and handicap fees.

* * *

Sunday morning STROLLS have been resumed under the guidance of Mr. W. H. Hare, starting from Putney Bridge, South

Side, every Sunday morning at 10.30.

For the members who would like occasional RAMBLES on Sunday, the Hon. Sec. will welcome and make arrangements for these and please note that the distance will not exceed 15 miles at a quite moderate pace. Winter walking is most enjoyable and helps to keep you fit.

* * *

The committee have accepted the kind offer of Mr. F. H. Dufford to give some winter coaching to the members who wish to take up sprinting. Arrangements have been made for this tuition and any member who has not been advised and would like to take advantage of this offer will he get into communication with the General Hon. Sec. who will be pleased to give him all particulars.

* * *

Congratulations to our friends the Ashcombe A.C. on the election of their popular Hon. Secretary as President of the Road Walking Association.

* * *

We shall have to have a Belgrave Harrier as President one year. One hears rumours.

* * *

Please to remember the 29th January, 1926. The Annual Dinner has been arranged for that evening at Messrs. Arding and Hobbs, Clapham Junction. We want a big muster for Len Smith's encouragement and from whisperings I hear in the dressing room the concert following the dinner will be a great success. Applications to sing are too numerous to mention but the following will no doubt demand encores—

Mr. G. F. Pepper will sing
"I show them the way to get home"
Mr. H. W. Smith will recite
"The Double Event."
Mr. H. W. Bruce will sing
"Sprucing."
Mr. J. H. Rathbone will play
"The Policemans Holiday."
Mr. W. J. Fish will sing
"Caller Herring."
Mr. J. R. McKay will sing
"Stop your tickling Jock"
(on the bus.)
Mr. F. G. Thomson will sing
"The Hon. Secs. Lament."
* * *

The Club gets many offers of assistance and advice, and the following have been reluctantly declined. Lectures by the following members—

Mr. H. W. Smith, "How to frame a Handicap."
Mr. A. E. Smith, "My methods of training while a novice."
Mr. G. F. Pepper, "How to keep warm while running."
Mr. K. B. O'Kell, "How to keep fit for Boxing Day."

I was unaware that these offers had been made and declined. Perhaps these members would condense their matter suitable for publication.—[ED.]

* * *

On December 26th, (Boxing Day) at 11 a.m. we hold our usual holiday fixture at Battersea Park Track. Events—120 yds, 2 mile run, 3 mile walk. All handicaps.

We would like a good entry and a "better turn out" than last year, so get busy and send along your entry any time before Dec. 20th. If you cannot run or walk we would like you to come along and support the meeting.

HANDICAPPING.

Since handicapping is a matter that is constantly before the notice of all, it may prove of considerable interest if some of the general principles can be discussed in these columns and further it may tend to remove many misconceptions that may exist in some minds.

Beyond quoting the general definition of a handicap, i.e. "To impose special disadvantages, or impediments upon, in order to offset advantages and make a better contest." It may not be necessary, perhaps, to explain the differences that arise by handicapping to a Scratch man and time standards. The task of the handicapper (the dictionary here quotes ["hand in the cap"]) from the usage in an ancient kind of sport and method of settling a bargain by arbitration) is to impose those specified special disadvantages with a view to getting the field in any race as closely together as possible at the finish.

The methods adopted by handicappers would not differ in any great respect if any definite rulings existed with logical foundations. The frailty of human assessments, however, will develop varying conceptions of fair and reasonable penalties and mark allotments. Obviously if everyone ran true to form on every outing it would be an easy matter to reassess the marks of every competitor so that shortly every race would produce a series of dead-heats.

Such a Utopian state of affairs, however, exist only in the dreams of handicappers who find to their dismay that very few competitors can be relied upon to show their true running on every occasion.

The consequence is, that men will be beating one another on similar terms whilst again one man will be beaten by another and yet beat one who has previously defeated his victor. This produces various complicated and confusing lines of form which may be dealt with by ignoring one line in favour of the other, or by compromise in taking a middle course. In the first case the handicapper will be considered at fault by at least one party and in the second will most probably be misjudged by both. In these cases we must turn to the race for the justification, or otherwise, of the handicap.

There exists, generally, a view that no one should be "pulled" except when the competitor has been actually placed in a race of a similar distance. Whilst that view is not going to be discussed at great length at this point, it should be recognised that if the principle of the handicap—to give everyone a fair chance—is to be adhered to, this course must necessarily be taken on some occasions.

To come to the methods of various handicappers, it will be found that some may have a tendency to favour the back marker whilst others will reverse that state of affairs. If done with reasonableness it will be found that handicaps will strike a fair balance between the scratch and limit men.

It may be noticed that some handicappers will continue to penalise a man for taking prizes to the extent that eventually the man will find himself on such a mark that he will be asked to give starts to men, who have not been

competing in those particular events, who could, without any doubt, concede him a start. This method may have some merit but it is rather mechanical and somewhat illogical. Again, the methods of allocating a mark to a novice, or one whose form is not clearly defined, varies. Some will take the line of least resistance and allot a mark which is usually termed a "safe one," whilst another, with the desire to be just, will search for some line to form a fair assessment.

Reference to the Club 880 yds. handicap last May 2nd may serve to illustrate some of the points discussed. In this event it was necessary to handicap H. J. Coxhead who had the previous year been unplaced over this distance with an allowance of 60 yds. He had, however, won the 3 mile road handicap and accepting that form at its face value it did appear that 60 again might be too much, even allowing for the great difference in the distances. Therefore a middle course was taken and 50 yards allowed. It was then necessary to estimate a newcomer and comparative novice in J. Harris, with no form to provide a line. Consequently it was only possible to form an opinion, with the final decision that he might be the equal of Coxhead. That the opinion was a shrewd one was proved by the result, for Coxhead won a sensational race by the narrow margin of a few inches from Harris.

Hon. Editor—
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