

THE 3rd EDITION

(1932)

OF

THE BELGRAVIAN

APRIL.

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(to whom all monetary contributions should be sent).

Our heartiest congratulations to the team which carried our colours so prominently in the London—Brighton Relay Race. Theirs is a performance which will be long remembered; and has brought congratulatory messages from many quarters.

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Congratulations also to F. G. Thomson upon his recent election to the Southern Committee of the A.A.A., where we are sure his hard work for, and experience of, Athletics, will be as much appreciated as it is in our own Club.

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A. L. Fletcher also merits our congratulations upon regaining the Surrey Road Walking Championship. We hope Len will add a National title to his other distinctions before long.

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Our cordial welcome is extended to the following new members this month, and we trust they will enjoy many successes in our colours. They are F. Vaticas, A. J. Mitchell, B. Rainford, F. Haly, J. O. Whitehouse, A. O. Tookey, J. Mansfield, J. Holder and D. Sargent.

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In accordance with the usual policy of the Club, when a trophy has been won on the Club's behalf and there are no individual awards accompanying it, the Committee have sanctioned the award of Club silver medals to the teams responsible for the winning of the "Sir J. Colman" Cup and the "Odling-Smee" Cup.

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We heartily congratulate one of our popular figures, J. Grimwood, upon his recent marriage and wish his wife and himself every happiness.

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Our Hon. Treasurer has long-sleeved, short-sleeved and sleeveless Club vests for sale, price 3/6 each. When writing him (for address see page 1) don't forget to specify the kind you require, and to give your chest measurement. Badges are also available.

The Hon. Treasurer would also be glad to receive outstanding subscriptions; or halfpennies on behalf of the Belgrave Building Fund.

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Club ties are obtainable from A. A. Harley, 39 Roxborough Avenue, Isleworth, Mx. Price 2/6 each, by post 2/9.

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Many of us are aware of the good work accomplished, and the benefits offered by the Hospital Savings Association to its members. If any Belgravians who are not already members of a branch of the organisation at their place of employment, are interested, Mr. C. Poulter (one of the stoutest of Club members), of 49 Stephendale Road, S.W.6, will be glad to supply particulars.

THE NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

The National Cross Country Championship was held over a 10 miles course at Wolverton on March 12th. The weather was fine and the course, consisting of three laps, dry and made for fast running.

A field of 289 faced the starter, and Bailey, of Salford, made the pace a hot one, with Burns and Holden in close attendance. Bailey led until half-way round the finishing field and then Burns came by him with a great burst to win a magnificent race. Jack Flower ran exceptionally well to finish where he did, but Bert Footer was, I think, a little disappointed at his own showing. It has long been one of Bert's ambitions to gain an English vest, and so we trust he will gain his reward next year. The other members of our team, omitting Allum and Robertshaw, both of whom retired through indisposition, packed much too far back for a forward position to be gained, but even so we were the third Southern club to finish and reversed our placings with Enfield A.C. I disregard Aldershot Command, as no one seems to know whether they are a club, unit, regiment or what!

RESULT.

	m. s.		m. s.
1. J. A. Burns .....E.H.	53 22	87. S. H. Warboys...B.H.	
2. G. W. Bailey.....S.H.	53 26	91. C. T. Carter.....B.H.	
3. J. T. Holden.....T.H.	53 41	97. E. A. Duffett.....B.H.	
21. J. E. Flower.....B.H.	56 23	115. W. G. Webb.....B.H.	
22. H. E. Footer.....B.H.	56 24	151. F. R. Webb.....B.H.	

TEAM RESULT.

	pts.		pts.
1. Birchfield H.	66	6. South London H.	270
2. Salford H.	79	7. Wycombe Phoenix	313
3. Aldershot Command	190	10. Belgrave H.	433

29 teams closed in

THE 5 MILES ROAD RUNNING HANDICAP.

Our 5 Miles Road Running Handicap was held at Wimbledon on April 2nd. The form shewn in the level race was to be used as an indicator to our Brighton team and so we had a full muster. The only two absentees were Penny and Mains, both of whom were suffering from leg injuries. Arthur Allum took the lead from the start and Jack Flower never got on terms with him again. Allen, of Highgate, who was having a run with our lads, was always up near the leaders, although he was, of course, officially not in the race. There was quite a little bunch of "hopefuls" fighting round about the seventh place and the hills on the return home duly told their tale. On the run home round the triangle, the positions remained unchanged and the result was as follows. The handicap resulted in a popular win for Nick Carter, with H. J. Bignall, our Highgate member, second, and "Nobby" Fletcher third. The result proved that we have a very useful team for the Brighton race and, moreover, have several useful reserves; which, in the case of withdrawals, is a most important factor.

Pos.	Name	Act. Time	Start	H'c'p Time	Pos. in H'c'p
1.	A. Allum	30 36 ...	Scr. ...	30 36 ...	9
2.	J. E. Flower	30 40 ...	0 30 ...	30 10 ...	5
3.	H. E. Footer	30 45 ...	0 15 ...	30 30 ...	6†
4.	C. T. Carter	31 6 ...	1 45 ...	29 21 ...	1
5.	H. J. Bignall	31 9 ...	1 30 ...	29 39 ...	2
6.	S. H. Warboys	31 42 ...	Scr. ...	31 42 ...	15
7.	A. Robershaw	32 6 ...	2 0 ...	30 6 ...	4
8.	E. A. Duffett	32 15 ...	1 45 ...	30 30 ...	6†
9.	W. G. Webb	32 15 ...	1 45 ...	30 30 ...	6†
10.	H. J. Fletcher... ..	32 22 ...	2 30 ...	29 52 ...	3
11.	T. J. Flower	33 8 ...	1 30 ...	31 38 ...	14
12.	W. A. Rice	33 16 ...	1 45 ...	31 31 ...	12
13.	F. R. Webb	33 22 ...	1 45 ...	31 37 ...	13
14.	H. W. Shields... ..	33 28 ...	2 15 ...	31 13 ...	11
15.	A. E. Taylor	33 46 ...	2 45 ...	31 1 ...	10
16.	W. W. S. Mitchell ...	34 34 ...	1 0 ...	33 34 ...	19
17.	F. Walker	35 3 ...	2 30 ...	32 33 ...	17
18.	F. J. Summerfield ...	35 9 ...	2 30 ...	32 39 ...	18
19.	A. H. Traquair	35 50 ...	3 30 ...	32 20 ...	16
20.	W. Hazael-Harrison ...	37 10 ...	3 30 ...	33 40 ...	20
21.	H. Roy	38 47 ...	4 0 ...	34 47 ...	21
22.	S. B. G. Wilson	39 25 ...	4 15 ...	35 10 ...	23
23.	A. H. Godfrey... ..	40 13 ...	4 45 ...	35 28 ...	24
24.	A. A. Deacon	40 13 ...	4 15 ...	35 58 ...	25
25.	C. R. Strange	41 16 ...	3 15 ...	38 1 ...	28
26.	L. E. Fletcher	41 19 ...	4 45 ...	36 34 ...	27
27.	D. Sargent	41 29 ...	5 30 ...	35 59 ...	26
28.	C. E. Poulter	42 27 ...	7 30 ...	34 57 ...	22

† Dead Heat.

ON THE BRIGHTON ROAD—APRIL 16th, 1932.

This date—April 16th, 1932—will remain memorable in Belgravian history as the day when one of the most impressive

achievements by our runners was recorded. To finish third in London to Brighton Relay with the keenest possible competition—it would be impossible to secure a stronger field without going outside the British Isles, if it could be found even then—is something of which we may feel justifiably proud. It was also an honour, of which we are deeply sensible, to be the first Southern club to finish the course. We have, indeed, set ourselves a very high standard to maintain in the future, but we are supremely confident of our ability to live up to, and even surpass, this year's very fine performance.

To come to the details. Our combined Grandstand and Dressing Room, in the shape of a modern double-decked 'bus, arrived at Westminster about 10-30 a.m. and nine team men, three reserves and the full complement of loyal supporters soon took their places, and we were off to the first change-over point at Clapham Common.

"Nick" Carter had been entrusted with the first stage, and that our trust was not misplaced was soon evident. Our man was in the first flight right from the stroke of eleven from Big Ben, which started the race. In fact, passing over Chelsea Bridge, Carter was forcing the pace, oblivious of the distinguished company in which he was running. However, Nick has never stood on ceremony, and at the conclusion of his stage of 4 miles 176 yards, we were delighted to find him handing over fourth, a few yards in the rear of R. R. Sutherland, the well-known Birchfield Harrier.

Carter, with the three men who had preceded him, had broken the course record for this stretch. A good start! The leaders at this point were:—

			m.	s.
1.	Highgate H.	...	21	3
2.	South London H.	...	21	8
3.	Birchfield H.	...	21	9
4.	Belgrave H.	...	21	22

Jack Flower was our representative over the next section, extending to Mitcham, a distance of 5 miles 176 yards. He overtook the Highgate and S.L.H. runners and these Clubs were destined not to trouble us again throughout the race, but he had to yield places to Tipton H., whose International, J. T. Holden, broke the existing record, and to Cwmbran H., the Welsh Champions. Aldershot Command A.C. were on our heels at this point and the position were now:—

			m.	s.
1.	Tipton H.	...	47	14
2.	Birchfield H.	...	47	36
3.	Cwmbran H.	...	47	58
4.	Belgrave H.	...	48	9
5.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	48	10

Jack had acquitted himself well, now our colours were carried on by Alec Robertshaw, over the 5 miles 856 yards stretch to

Purley Knoll. Positions altered a little here and the Army runner turned his one second deficit into a one second lead, so pushing us back one place, but this was of little moment, for was not our International, Arthur Allum, going next?

			h.	m.	s.
1.	Birchfield H.	...	1	16	37
2.	Cwmbran H.	...	1	17	11
3.	Tipton H.	...	1	17	49
4.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	1	18	1
5.	Belgrave H.	...	1	18	2

Alec's sterling run was followed by a similar effort from Arthur Allum, who, it will be remembered, injured his ankle in last year's race, when overhauling the leaders and had to limp in. Arthur's stretch extended to "The Feathers," Merstham, and by the time this point was reached we were again in front of the Army team. Salford H. had now come up through the agency of a record-breaking run by H. Platt, whilst Cwmbran had fallen back. Allum caught the International, T. Kay, of Tipton, only to have to let him go again in the last few yards, but now we were fourth again and within three seconds of the third position. Well run, Arthur!

			h.	m.	s.
1.	Birchfield H.	...	1	46	8
2.	Salford H.	...	1	47	17
3.	Tipton H.	...	1	47	59
4.	Belgrave H.	...	1	48	2

The fifth stage (6 miles 342 yards) finishing at "The Chequers," Horley, as usual, attracted many of the best-known athletes in the country, for it is rightly regarded by the Clubs as being of the utmost importance. Our choice was Syd Warboys, and he was passed by Corporal Wilson, of the Command, who is one of the fastest men in the country. Syd had served us well and so at the conclusion of the fifth stage (26 miles 1032 yards, approximately half-way) we were in fifth position, and well within striking distance of the leaders.

			h.	m.	s.
1.	Salford H.	...	2	17	34
2.	Birchfield H.	...	2	18	12
3.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	2	18	50
4.	Tipton H.	...	2	19	7
5.	Belgrave H.	...	2	20	0

We now called upon Jack Fletcher, one of our younger school of runners, and he more than justified his inclusion in the team. He quickly drew further away from the Polytechnic H. representative, and passed the Tipton Harrier who appeared to be having muscle trouble. On strode "Nobby," gaining a few seconds on the Army runner in front of him, and so on to "The George," at Crawley, where Ernie Duffett, our popular Running Hon. Secretary, was waiting to carry on with the good work.

Well run, Nobby! You'll be breaking records over this course for us before long!

					h. m. s.
1.	Salford H.	...	...	2	44 28
2.	Birchfield H.	...	...	2	44 40
3.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	...	2	46 25
4.	Belgrave H.	...	...	2	47 23

Duffett was soon off on the 4 miles 704 yards stage, finishing at "The Red Lion," Handcross, and he maintained our position, cutting well into the Club Record for this stretch in the process.

Positions now were:—

					h. m. s.
1.	Birchfield H.	...	...	3	8 25
2.	Salford H.	...	...	3	10 22
3.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	...	3	10 31
4.	Belgrave H.	...	...	3	11 52

It was now Arthur Penny's turn. Unfortunately, an injured leg has denied us Arthur's services during the cross-country season, but now it is well again and he helped to consolidate our position. Well done Arthur!

					h. m. s.
1.	Birchfield H.	...	...	3	39 47
2.	Salford H.	...	...	3	40 35
3.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	...	3	41 56
4.	Belgrave H.	...	...	3	43 17

And next—Vice-Captain H. E. Footer. We have come to expect big things from this little fellow and on this occasion he surpassed himself. By virtue of a really wonderful run, Bert brought us up to third position. What excitement now prevailed!

					h. m. s.
1.	Birchfield H.	...	...	4	8 7
2.	Salford H.	...	...	4	8 8
3.	Belgrave H.	...	...	4	11 12
4.	Aldershot Com. A.C.	...	...	4	11 34

Could we hold our lead and show our supremacy among Southern clubs? The answer, appropriately enough, depended upon our Captain, W. G. Webb, and he soon showed that the answer to the question was an emphatic "Yes." Bill will probably remember this run all his life, for he rose to the occasion, as we had confidently anticipated, and played a true Captain's part in leading our team to their best performance yet. We are proud of our Captain and have no doubt he is equally proud of his team! Actually, Bill increased our lead over Aldershot Command A.C. by over 6 seconds!

Meanwhile, as the above positions at the end of the various stages indicate, an exciting struggle for first place had been taking place between Birchfield H. and Salford H., with the Manchester club eventually taking first place on the last stage.

Here is the full result:—

	h. m. s.		h. m. s.
1. Salford H.	4 39 52	12. R. Navy and	
2. Birchfield H.	4 40 48	R.M. Club...	4 51 24
3. Belgrave H.	4 44 0	13. Cwmbran H.	4 51 59
4. Aldershot Com. A.C.	4 44 28	14. Slough H.	4 52 8
6. Surrey A.C.	4 45 33	15. Tipton H.	4 52 55
7. South London H. ...	4 45 29	16. Ilford A.C.	4 53 48
5. Highgate H.	4 47 49	17. Herne Hill H.	4 55 7
8. Wycombe P.H.	4 48 2	18. Brighton and	
9. Hallamshire H.	4 48 7	County H....	4 55 35
10. Polytechnic H.	4 48 18	19. Horsham Blue S'r H.	4 57 10
11. Sheffield United H....	4 48 25	20. Queen's Park H.....	5 1 36

Our supporters shouted themselves hoarse as the race neared its end. Throughout the race they were busy encouraging our men, and exchanging banter with the members of other clubs. Many of our party must have run well over five miles at different times during the progress of the race!

In short, our 'bus once again proved a huge success. We always arrived at the change-over points long before the runners, and there was never the slightest suggestion of any interference with the race by our conveyance. In fact, we were able to be of assistance to several runners of other Clubs, who otherwise would have experienced difficulties. It was our privilege to extend the hospitality of our dressing accommodation to Laurie Pool, the South London Harriers' captain, who had missed his 'bus. Two Polytechnic Harriers were also given "lifts" and we were also glad to be of service to several other athletes.

To resume after this digression.

At the Tea and Distribution of Awards by the Mayor of Brighton, which followed the race, Joe Binks spoke of some of outstanding performances of the race. The announcement that two men only had ever beaten 28 minutes for the ninth stage, and that one of them was H. E. Footer, whose time that day had been 27 min. 55 sec., was drowned in cheers, which testified to Bert's popularity among athletes. A little later Bill Webb had the honour of leading our team up for their medals, amidst hearty applause.

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Our time in this race was 4 hrs. 44 mins. It is interesting to note that, apart from this year, this time has only been beaten twice previously over the present course, i.e., by Birchfield H. and Hallamshire H. in 1928. Our time this year would have won the race in 1929, 1930 and last year! Of course, weather conditions affect the times recorded, but this year's conditions were far from perfect.

Another interesting point is the even running, the soundness, of our men, with each individual pulling his weight. This is shown by the fact that we were never farther back than fifth,

never farther forward than third! We did not rely upon record-breakers to make up for the ground lost by others. This is a sign of strength and indicative of the team spirit which is carrying us to success. We heartily congratulate our team upon their showing, and also thank our reserves who trained on. It is a further sign of strength that if we had been forced through unforeseen circumstances to introduce reserves into our team, it is very doubtful whether we should have been weakened, such is the high standard of our men over a large number. If it were possible to have a 100 miles relay with 20 men a side, Belgrave would take some beating!

And now, what of the future? Can we improve five minutes and lead the field home? Is it possible? To a Club such as ours, which has risen from 17th position in 1927 to third in 1932, it is not a possibility—it is a certainty!

This year, a week before the race, we read in the Press that our team had deteriorated, that we should not be in the first bunch. If this is true, and we were able to finish third, we may expect to be winners when the Press forecast is a little more hopeful!

Below you will find a table giving the times of our men over the various stages and it will be noticed that in every instance a new Club Record was created. Ten new Club Records on ten stages! This is a testimony in itself to the ability of the team.

Relay	Distance		Previous Club Record		Name	Time
	mls.	yds.	m.	s.		
1 ... 4	176	...	21	54 (J. E. Flower, 1931)	C. T. Carter ...	21 22
2 ... 5	176	...	27	47 (T. J. Flower, 1930)	J. E. Flower ...	26 47
3 ... 5	856	...	30	08 (A. E. Smith, 1928)	A. Robertshaw	29 53
4 ... 5	1232	...	30	26 (A. Allum, 1930)	A. Allum ...	30 00
5 ... 6	325	...	32	02 (S. H. Warboys, 1930)	S. H. Warboys...	31 58
6 ... 5	176	...	27	33 (T. J. Flower, 1931)	H. J. Fletcher...	27 23
7 ... 4	704	...	25	43 (H. E. Footer, 1931)	E. A. Duffett ...	24 29
8 ... 6	218	...	31	39 (A. W. Penny, 1930)	A. W. Penny ...	31 25
9 ... 5	486	...	28	42 (H. E. Footer, 1930)	H. E. Footer ...	27 55
10 ... 6	904	...	33	27 (E. A. Duffett, 1928)	W. G. Webb ...	32 48

And so we look forward to the day when a representative of the Club, which had its origin in Westminster and ran its earliest races along the Embankment over the ground now included in the first stage of the Relay, has the pleasure of handing the Lord Mayor's message to the Mayor of Brighton. The day will surely come when the Claret and Gold will be pre-eminent. Will it be in 1933?

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Our 'bus started on the return journey from Brighton at 6-30 p.m. and it was soon evident that our fellows were pleased with the day's performance.

And how they killed Cock Robin, observed silver linings and traversed long, long trails, and how ——. Eventually London was reached and all made their way home, registering a mental

vow that if they could not be in the team next year, they would certainly be on the road to cheer our men on—on to victory or something very near it.

WITH THE WALKERS.

We welcome to the walking ranks this month A. O. Tookey and A. J. Mitchell. Tookey is a first-claim Polytechnic Harrier, their Walking Captain, and Mitchell is a keen young novice who should do well.

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Len Fletcher regained his individual title in the Surrey Road Walking Championship, held over a 10 miles course on Mitcham Common; but the team title eluded us once again. We have never yet been able to secure this championship, but must make a determined effort next year, when our team will be considerably strengthened.

RESULT.

	m. s.		m. s.
1. A. L. Fletcher	76 28	16. A. H. Field	84 53
13. D. E. Brown	83 56	17. W. Holman	84 55
15. C. E. Churcher	84 27	30. J. G. Coleman	90 26

TEAM RESULT.

1. Surrey W.C.	18 pts.
2. London Vidarians W.C.	41 ,,
3. Belgrave H.	42 ,,

Brown did well to be our second man home and Holman seems to gain a little more speed at each outing.

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On the same afternoon several of our walkers were interested in the Middlesex Championship held at Enfield.

A most exciting struggle for third place ensued between the Polytechnic Harriers and four of our members walking as Cadogan A.C. representatives. The second Poly. man, A. A. Webb, beat the second Cadogan walker, C. W. Redgrave, in the last stride of the race and thus secured the third medals for his team. Had Charlie been able to beat his rival by inches, instead of the other way round, the result for third place would have been an equal number of points each, and our members would have taken the awards on lowest time aggregate. Charlie Speechley was a member of the Polytechnic Harriers' scoring team.

RESULT.

	m. s.		m. s.
1. C. W. Hyde (En. A.C.)	79 6	18. R. F. Elson	85 46
10. E. Saunders	82 56	19. C. H. Speechley.....	86 0
14. C. W. Redgrave	84 12	31. J. G. Scamell	88 53
15 A. A. Harley.....	84 30	41. E. A. Jackman	92 3

TEAM RESULT.

1. Enfield A.C. (1, 2, 3, 4)	10 pts.
2. Metropolitan W.C. (8, 9, 11, 12)	40 ,,
3. Polytechnic H. (7, 13, 16, 9)	55 ,,
4. Cadogan A.C. (10, 14, 15, 18)	57 ,,

It is very good to see Tommy Green back in his old form again. In February he was confined to bed for a fortnight with a severe attack of influenza, but that he has now shaken off the after-effects is evident by his very fine walking in the "Bishop of Birmingham's Cup" race, when he was placed second to H. Taylor, of Derby W.C.; and in "The Leicester Mercury" race, when he won from his old rival, T. Lloyd-Johnson. Both races were at 20 miles, and we anticipate a good performance from Tommy in the "National" on May 7th.

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All members have now received their fixture cards and it will be seen that an excellent programme has been arranged for the walkers—in fact, there is not another Club in the country which provides its walkers with the same opportunities for competition.

In order to relieve the monotony of the customary two miles handicaps, it has been decided to include one handicap at three miles and one at four miles in this season's fixtures, and these will take place on June 29th and May 18th respectively.

There will be two miles handicaps on May 7th, June 1st, June 15th, July 13th and August 17th, and the Club Championship on July 30th.

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We have received an invitation to participate in a Two Miles team walk, included in the Polytechnic H. Marathon Meeting, to be held at Stamford Bridge on May 28th. This has been accepted and we hope to turn out our strongest representation.

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All entries for Club handicaps, enquiries for information, etc., to A. A. HARLEY, 39 Roxborough Avenue, Isleworth, Mx.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

The last event of the Winter Season, namely, the London to Brighton Relay, having come and gone, leaving behind it pleasant memories for many of us, we look forward with great interest to our first track meeting. This will be held at Battersea Park Track on May 7th, at 3 p.m., and our visitors will be the London Athletic Club, a very famous body, who include in their ranks runners of International class. The events in the match will be : 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 1 mile, Long Jump and Javelin.

We hope to have Tom Scrimshaw and Jim Tosh assisting us, also our Southern Long Jump champion, J. W. Clemens. A. Kench, our youthful mile champion, is also likely to make his first appearance this season, and we are looking forward to great things from him.

In addition to the match we shall have the honour of staging the S.A.A.L. 3 miles Team race, in which many famous runners will be competing. We hope to have a stronger team than last

year and trust we shall make a good start in the league table.

Club Handicaps will also be held at the following distances : 100 yards, 220 yards, 880 yards, 1 mile, 2 miles Walk and Long Jump. A 1 Mile Scratch Open event for Unattached Novices only will be held, and if members know of anyone wishing to compete, will they please send names to me at once. Please note there is NO entry fee and medals will be awarded. Entries for this meeting should be in my hands by April 30th latest, and please note that no late entries will be accepted. New members entering a Club event for the first time will be well advised to fill in an A.A.A. form, so that the Handicapper can treat you at your true value.

On May 14th we have a renewal of our enjoyable meeting at Drayton Green Track, West Ealing, with the Ealing H., Slough H. and Ashcombe A.C. The match will consist of scratch and team events, and our team men will be advised in due course. Anyone who wishes to witness a real sporty contest will do well to come along on this afternoon.

On May 21st we have two S.A.A.L. fixtures to be held at Stamford Bridge, in connection with the L.A.C. meeting there. These will be the 4 x 440 yards and 4 x 880 yards contests and we hope to field two very formidable teams in each.

May 18th. To-day we have the first of the Inter-Club Relay Shield contests between Croydon H., Mitcham A.C., Epsom H. and ourselves, to be held at Battersea park at 7 p.m. The Shield events are : 4 x 100 yards, 4 x 300 yards, 4 x 880 yards, 1 mile Team race (4 to run, 3 to score). We had great difficulty in retaining possession of this Shield last year and expect our members to make sure of our supremacy by turning out in these events. I know we have members who are eager to run, but you must realise that the opposition, although not so strong in the distance races, is worthy of the best we have at our disposal. In addition to the above we are holding the following Club handicaps : 220 yards (under 19), 4 miles Walk and Javelin Throw. Please note our new Field Events Handicapper is K. B. O'Kell, to whom entries and monies should be given. If Ken gets to work with some of his charts I can see a Chartered Accountant having to be called in to decide the results. At any rate, you can rest assured you have a man who will give his whole interest to the job on hand, and bar any unknowns upsetting the book, the handicaps should work our remarkably well.

On May 28th we have the Kinnaird Trophy meeting at Stamford Bridge, and we hope to see our boys well to the fore. We realise that up against opposition such as the Achilles, who, you must remember, are a specially fine trained body of athletes, it is extremely difficult for a club such as ours to make headway, but we are gradually developing class performers and trust that one day we shall be able to make a decent fight of it. At present

a point or two has to satisfy us, but there again the events, which would appeal to us "civilian" clubs are not put on, such as a Walk and Javelin Throw, and we are continually striving against men who have been trained at the Universities to specialize in certain events.

At this meeting will also be held the S.A.A.L. 4 x 220 yards Relay, and if our team repeat their performance of last year, then we shall be well satisfied. We have always looked upon ourselves as being rather weak in the sprinting line, but with men like Basford, Read, Jarvis, Wilcock, not forgetting our veteran Morrie Odell, we are likely to shew some improvement in this department.

We certainly started the season very well at Gravesend (even if the S.L.H. did "slip up" over their teams (we have memories of a similar happening at Chislehurst; ask Bert Footer!), and we are sorry that Bruce Hayman, who did the "double" there, is leaving us in the near future. His family is moving down to the West Country and although Bruce will still remain a member, we shall not be able to call on his services very often. However, we wish him all the very best and trust he will shake the locals up down that way.

Our membership continues to increase and with old and new members pulling together, we should very soon be in a position that will prove beyond doubt our claim to be the Premier Club in the South. All entries and enquiries to

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CONCERNING "OUR BERT."

A well-known A.A.A. Official was recently judging the Annual Cross-Country Championship organised for attendants of Mental Hospitals. The race was held in the grounds surrounding Claybury Mental Hospital, Essex.

After the race he was surprised to find "Our Bert" Footer walking in the grounds and he became suspicious when Bert asked for the result of the race.

The official was then reminded that at the same race two years ago at Bexley Heath, he had the following experience:—

He was leaving for tea and it was snowing hard, when a man walking in the grounds stated that he was from the press. With his usual courtesy, the official started giving the enquirer the details he required. However, the Chairman of the Committee asked the man to go and have tea. When the official stated the man had said he was from the press, he was told, "Oh, that's all right; the man is an inmate of the Asylum!"

Well, with that in his mind, the official wondered whether "Our Bert" had been found out at last.

After a few questions he was relieved to find that "Our Bert" had only come down to cheer the Tooting Bec boys into third place.

