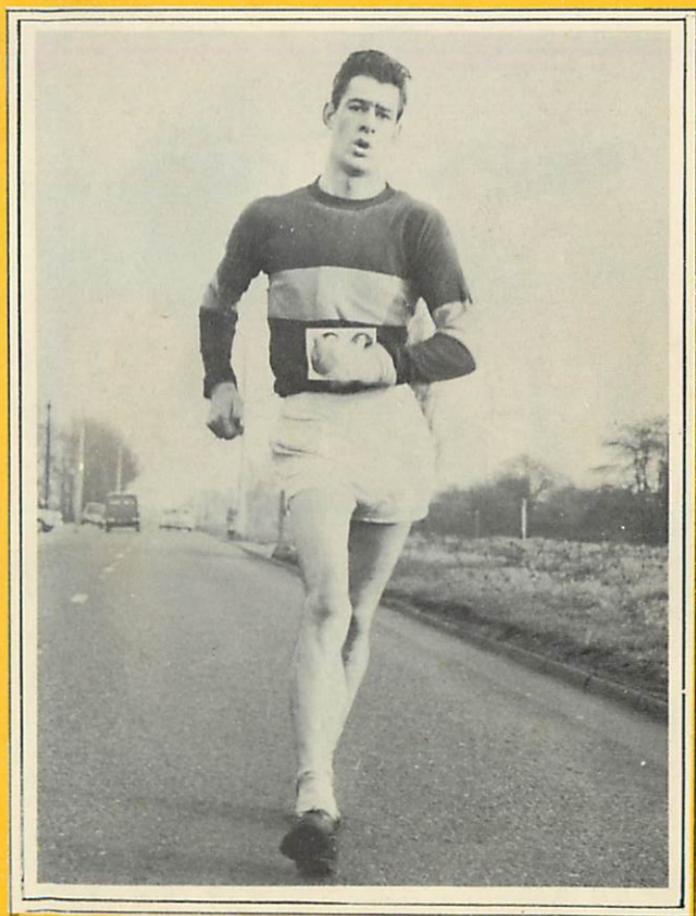


THE
BELGRAVIAN



Official Gazette of
Belgrave Harriers

MAY 1962.



FRONTISPIECE - (by E.D.Lacey) Bill Kerr seen leading an illustrious Portsmouth trio in the Southern. From the left the Pompey boys are: J. Cooke Martin Hyman, and D. Cooke.

* * * * *

COVER PHOTO - (E.D.Lacey) Ray Middleton (here winning the Surrey 10) who, despite being troubled by an injured knee, has been our first man home in the L.C.C. '10', the Vidarians '15' and who also finished 3rd in the A.A.A 7 mile Track Championship.



THE BELGRAVIAN

FOUNDED 1887

MAY 1962

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EDITORIAL

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In scanning through the pages of some old 'Belgravians' we realised that virtually none of those early gazettes carried pictures of the athletes whose names became by-words within the club, and whose performances established Belgrave in the fore-front of athletic clubs. We feel that photographs can play a most important part in a magazine of this nature, one of whose primary objects should be the recording of club history. To this end we hope to make a permanent feature of the full page photos on the inside covers. This will also give us ample opportunity to make full use of the generous contributions made by our fine photographer Eddie Lacey. Incidentally anyone wishing to purchase copies of photographs can obtain them from Eddie at 55 Graham Road, Mitcham Surrey.

In view of our weakness in certain of the "Cinderella" events we wonder how many prospective Prince Charmings there may be in the club. We therefore urge that the club should attach greater significance to those events at

which we do not excel and give them something of a star billing. Let us stage a field event in which everyone can compete and let us see sprinters and middle distance men, particularly the youngsters, having a crack at such events as the javelin or triple jump. Only then shall we discover what potential does exist within the club and only then can we begin to hope to become a great athletic force once again.

HON. SEC'S NOTES

Seventy-five years young this Autumn - that's us! Little is known of our Foundation meeting or of the Club's early days - and if any of our readers have recollections, records, press cuttings or photographs of three-quarters of a century ago, the Hon. Secretary would be glad to have a sight of them.

1887 must have been a busy year for the birth of Athletic clubs for in addition to ourselves, Thames Valley Harriers, Essex Beagles and Queens Park Harriers in the Metropolitan area were also formed that year.

Incidentally, at the T.V.H. 75th Anniversary Dinner held a few weeks ago, their original Hon. Secretary was an honoured guest at the age of 91!

All Belgravians will join with us in wishing our former Chief Coach Frank Simmons, a quick return to normal health after many difficult months of hospital treatment. Frank has done tremendous work for the Club over a long period, and whilst severely critical at times, his loyalty to, and regard for, Belgrave has always been on the highest plane. He is determined to win his present battle and we sincerely hope he will be back with us soon, eager to do everything possible for the Club which means so much to him.

In the elections for Committee of the Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association members of our Club were elected as follows:- 1st Les Cohen; equal 4th Alf Harley; 17th Harry Shields. In addition Frank Jarvis serves as a delegate from Race Walking Association and Bill Lucas represents the Southern Counties C.C. Association. Cohen (A.A.A. Championships Hon. Sec.) and Harley (elected) serve on General Committee of A.A.A.

Your Committee have invited Mrs. Savage to become an Hon. Member of the Club in appreciation of the help she gave to Dick in his work for the Club over fifty years and for the very real assistance she herself has given us over the whole of the period. We are happy to advise that she has accepted our invitation and expressed her desire to carry on helping the Club.

Our congratulations go to Mrs. Wyn Shepherd, wife of our Dave, on the Presidency of the Surrey Womens A.A.A.

We are greatly indebted to our two Vice-Presidents Albert and Gus Macher for a generous donation which will renew the useful life of the Macher shield for another generation. This Shield, awarded for our 10 miles Cross Country Championship, was jointly presented by Albert and Gus and their late father (a former Club President) in a successful endeavour to change the emphasis of cross country running. Until that time, most of the smaller clubs never ran beyond seven miles with the possible exception of an outing in the "Southern" when they could not expect to do well. The introduction of a Club 10 miles Championship changed this outlook and introduced a new mental approach which, with fullness of time, gave us our run of Championship wins and placings; and our host of International cross country runners.

A former Club Captain and Champion over country and on track, Ken O'Kell, has generously promised to defray the cost of an endearing addition to our Headquarters; and your Committee, with Ken's approval, are exploring the possibility of installing two Honours Boards - one to carry the names of Club Presidents since 1887, the other of our Internationals through the years.

Our past President, Frank Webb, will have advised you all of the Club's intention to give full support to the A.A.S.A. Derby Draw, and of the benefits which will derive to Athletics generally and on our Club in particular. We do ask that every member will do his best for the common weal - that if he can sell that extra book he will not hesitate to get in touch with Frank and do so; that he will really exert himself in his own sphere and see that counterfoils and cash (only) go back to Frank Webb at 50 Longford Avenue, Southall before Monday May 14th.

But for additions to our funds of this nature, our standard subscription would need to be between £3.3.0d. and £4.4.0d. per annum, otherwise our activities would be curtailed, Headquarters allowed to deteriorate, and our facilities whittled away. We look to everyone of you to give maximum assistance in this vital matter of finance.

The Club Track and Field Championships will take place at Hurlingham Track on Saturday May 26th - a week before the main County Championships take place - and we expect first class entries and performances. It is unfortunate that Surrey County have for the first time arranged certain Relay Championships and other events on our Championship Day. This we regret, but obviously our full and undivided support from competitors officials and supporters belongs to our own Club Championships.

Tom Carter has the wonderful record of being in all four of our winning English Cross country championship teams in 1935, 1939, 1946 and 1948. With the great improvement and success our younger runners are now showing, under Tom's inspiration and guidance, it is safe to say that our next winning team will include his spirit and example even if he is only looking on approvingly.

A. A. H.

THE CLUB '10'

ARTUR PEKNY REPORTS:-

A field of 28 lined up for the start and after a few ribald remarks to the President (!) they were away to a good start over 10 miles of wet going and a pretty full brook.

At the end of the first lap Barry Sawyer had a slight lead over Davies, Linstead, Walker & Kerr; the latter giving the impression of only coasting. Shippen, Dabbs and Gebbett were also well to the fore at this stage.

Several big gaps opened up during the second and final lap, and when the runners came into sight at the Village. Ron Linstead had built up a useful lead over a limping Barry Sawyer who, in turn, was a comfortable distance ahead of Charlie Walker. David Jones, making a welcome return to the running scene was 9th and John Moore, also fighting his way back, 10th. A gap of nearly 3 minutes separated these 10 from the rest of the field.

An interesting race all round and a well-deserved and popular victory for Ron Linstead.

RESULT:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1.R.Linstead | 58:29 | 9. D.F.Jones | 62:33 | 17.G. Piddington | 69:42 |
| 2.B.Sawyer | 59:11 | 10.J.Moore | :53 | 18.T.Hart | :51 |
| 3.C.Walker | :28 | 11.F.Paget | 65:34 | 19.J.Hilton | 72:06 |
| 4.J.Davies | 60:02 | 12.D.W.Jones | 65:34 | 20.C.Henn | :39 |
| 5.W.Kerr | :19 | 13.E.Short | 66:12 | 21.R.Langheim | 74:00 |
| 6.C.Shippen | 61:02 | 14.L.Bishop | :18 | 22.W.Fairfield | 78:24 |
| 7.E.Gebbett | 62:15 | 15.A.Bishop | :58 | 23.J.Baker | 79:52 |
| 8.C.Dabbs | 62:15 | 16.M.Shingles | 67:08 | 24.C.Manning | 81:10 |

HANDICAP:- 1.R.Linstead (1:15) 2.J.Moore (4:30) 3. J.Davies (1:30)

THE X-CITY. SECTION

Reflections and Forecasts.

So we come to the end of another cross-country and road-relay season. Some of the team (or should I say teams, for we have seldom run the same team twice) will seek their fortunes on the cinders, some on the Macadam and others, no doubt, in the more pleasurable recreations associated with the summer months. But just how did we fare this winter?

Perhaps the kindest way of measuring our performances is to compare them with the corresponding events of 1960/61. This is what we find:-

| | <u>1960/61</u> | <u>1961/62</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Surrey County Road Relay | 5th | 6th |
| Polytechnic Road Relay | 5th | 2nd |
| London to Brighton (Southern) | 3rd | 6th |
| Chelmsford Road Relay | 3rd | 5th |
| South of Thames Junior | 8th | 2nd |
| London County Cross-Country | 3rd | 2nd |
| Surrey County Cross-Country | 3rd | 4th |
| South of Thames Senior | 16th | .2nd |
| Southern Counties Cross-Country | 10th | 6th |
| National Cross-Country | 23rd | 17th |
| T.V.H. Road Relay | 7th | 8th |
| Ilford Road Relay | 4th | 8th |
| London to Brighton (National) | 5th | 13th |

The most significant feature of those results is, of course, the lack of victory in either season, but the total number of positions for season 60/61 is 95, and for the season just ended, 81 which must be considered as an improvement. The last four results undoubtedly spoiled this season's record, and as those are freshest in our minds, we tend to overlook the earlier improvements. I am sure that the many critics who have been so quick to seize upon these recent disappointments will be effectively silenced next October.

Bill Kerr and Barry Sawyer have been most unfortunate with injuries and we did not have them both fully fit for any race. Ken Miller has been completely out of training with severe back trouble, Alan Black with a fractured foot, and Charlie Dabbs is still travelling the long road back to fitness. Other sad losses, both temporary we hope, are Mal Robinson who is now in America and Pat Newell who when settled down to married life, expects to make a come-back.

Now for the faces who are going to appear, or re-appear, in our future teams. Gerry North. This is a name that I hope will inspire all of our runners to great efforts, to increase their training, to improve their team spirit and to give them the determination to provide this great runner with the support he deserves. Gerry is the first ready-made runner to have joined Belgrave since the war, and is already very popular with the team. He and Bill Kerr will provide the spear-head that has been missing for so long, and with our great depth behind them, there is no reason why we should not enjoy a positive glut of medals!

The end of the season coincided with the return to fitness of a previous 5½' winner - John Moore. John is determined to make a successful come-back and hopes to do some road racing this summer for the first time in order to continue his progress. He is at his best on the country and I expect to see him in the fore front of our supporting runners next season.

It would indeed be a joy to see Pat Newell return and gain support of the North/Kerr calibre. How about it Pat? Talking of Pat reminds me of a runner of very similar style who is blessed with tremendous natural ability Laurie O'Hara. Although he has run for some time as a means of keeping fit primarily for football, his racing experience is negligible. The form he showed in the Ilford, 5½' and Brighton indicate that he has a potential of considerable proportions. If he decides to devote himself to realising his potential he should certainly become one of our leading athletes.

Any support provided for our front runners must have a young core to provide for future seasons and it is to this group of youngsters that I now turn. John Thresher (22) Chris Steer (19) Cyril Forey (20) Tony Fairclough (19) Alan Black (22) are all runners of great promise. John has already proved himself and shows grit and determination when the going is toughest; Chris I consider to be one of our best prospects; Cyril, blessed with so much natural ability, could well become another Ray Tooby; Tony on his day could beat them all; whilst Alan is at the moment the most experienced of this young nucleus. Our leading youths will be moving up to the Junior ranks next season so it will not be long before our Senior teams will be having a very young look about them!

Cont'd. on P.17

BELS. SECOND IN STH. OF THAMES SENIOR

PACKING NOT FORWARD ENOUGH AT MAIDENHEAD

The few supporters who journeyed to this Berkshire beauty spot were well rewarded by a glimpse - somewhat rare these days - of Belgrave's team packing as it used to be. It was a grand sight to see the claret and gold vests massing at the finish and the only regret was that we met Reading A.C. on "their day" which robbed us of first place in the team race.

On paper we had the strongest team of the day but through injury Barry Sawyer was forced to withdraw and for various reasons best known only to themselves others who had been carded failed to appear and we could start only 9 runners which precluded us from winning the Cup for the lowest score for a full team of twelve. Don Maclean in inimitable fashion appeared immediately after the start - it is a pity he cannot find a jalopy which could do the distance in a little faster time, we could then depend upon him reaching the starting line with at least a minute or two to spare!

Bill Kerr and John Davies got away well and after the first half mile were contesting the lead whilst our other runners were all well-placed. The field disappeared along muddy tracks and over ploughed fields to be seen again in the far distance slowly wending their way up a tough climb which took them onto a ridge high above the surrounding country. The next appearance was at $\frac{3}{4}$ miles where a particularly rugged piece of plough had to be traversed. John Thresher was our leading runner in 18th place with Bill Kerr 20th Ron Linstead 21st John Davies 24th and Clive Shippen not far away 30th. Our 6th scoring man was Ken Miller in 48th position. Ken was suffering agonies with a back injury but managed to keep going very pluckily. Again the field climbed the long slope to the ridge, but were too far away to be distinguished and we had to be content to wait till the finish to see whether the positions had been maintained. We were not to be disappointed. The close packing of our leading runners had served them in good stead and little or no change took place except that John Thresher found the distance a little too much and had to concede a few places. The final total of 167 points gave us second place to Reading who scored 100 points.

What a different picture it might have been with Barry Sawyer, Pat Newell, Mike Heck and Brian Johnston in the team!

W.E.L.

RESULT

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1.H.Foarde (Brighton) | 41:51 | 26.J.Thresher | 44:27 | 1. Reading A.C. — 100 pts |
| 2.M.Baker (Horsham) | 42:12 | 29.C.Shippen | 44:34 | (3,4,11,12,16,54) |
| 3.M.Boyant (Reading) | 42:28 | 49.K.Miller | 45:30 | 2. Belgrave H. — 167 pts |
| 20.R.Linstead (Belgrave) | 44:13 | 59.E.Gebbett | 45:56 | (20,21,22,26,29,49) |
| 21.J.Davies " | 44:14 | 96.C.Dabbs | 47:11 | 3. Brighton A.C. — 191 pts |
| 22.W.Kerr " | 44:15 | 108.J.Moore | 47:47 | (1,6,34,39,43,68) |

February 24th v.T.V.H. v. Walton — Wimbledon

Our last inter-club match of the winter saw us lose our unbeaten home record, for both TVH (109 pts) and Walton (203 pts) finished in front of ourselves, who totalled 206 - 10 a side scoring. Leading our lads in was Clive Shippen who ran well to finish 5th, 22 secs. down on the winners. In coming 7th John Davies set up a club record by going slightly off-course on Wimbledon Common for the second time this winter, whilst leading. A pity you couldn't have done the hat-trick John! Close behind were John Thresher and Mr. Erratic himself.

In what was for us a not too encouraging afternoon's sport, Chris Steer stood out. Only 18 years of age, he was 15th out of 46 finishers and beat in such men as Phil Vivian, Ken Honney and Geoff Winchester.

RESULT

| | | Ron Linstead. | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| 1. E. Ellis (TVH) | 29:47 | 9. C. Walker (Bels) | 30:30 |
| 5. C. Shippen (Bels) | 30:09 | 11. D. F. Jones (Bels) | 30:34 |
| 7. J. Davies (Bels) | 30:22 | 15. C. Steer (Bels) | 30:54 |
| 8. J. Thresher (Bels) | 30:28 | 35. P. Matthews (Bels) | 33:56 |

Teams:- (10 to score)

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. T.V.H. (1,2,3,4,10,12,16,19,20,22) | 109 points |
| 2. Walton A.C. (6,13,14,17,18,21,24,29,30,31) | 203 points |
| 3. Belgrave H. (5,7,8,9,11,15,35,37,39,40) | 206 points. |

In the Civil Service cross country championships, held on Wednesday February 21st, Charlie Walker qualified for the Civil Service team for the third time by finishing 5th. Ken Venton also competed and was placed 15th.

RESULT: 1. M. Price 31:59; 2. D. Meadows 32:32 3. D. Fudge 32:43 4. P. Mellor 33:01 equal 5. C. Walker, B. Lillcrap, J. Lindsell 33:17.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES C.C. CHAMPS.

ALF HARLEY REVIEWS THE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CAVERSHAM PARK, READING.

On the rail journey to Reading, passing through Taplow my mind went back to 1934 when our first-ever Southern Championships was won. On that occasion, this year's President Arthur Penny finished second, Arthur Allum was 8th and Bert Footer 13th. Close behind were Jack Flower 15th, and Tom Carter 16th; Alf Taylor 27th, completed our scoring team, passing man after man including team-mates, in the last half mile. Close support was given by Micky Walker (33) Bill Rice (40) Albert Shaw (43) and Cecil Penny (70) who had been brought into the team at the last moment.

Our winning score was 81 points to the 97 of Surrey A.C. and 111 of Wycombe Phoenix H & A.C., and our joy was great at being first of the 26 competing clubs.

Before the Senior event that year, the Junior Championship had been decided and in this race Harry Shields finished fourth, supported by Dave Shepherd (none other than our present Track Hon. Sec.) 20th, E.G.Saunders (38) and G. Chantler (51). We were placed fourth of the 28 supporting teams.

A fortnight later, with the 'National' Championship at Hemley Park our Club was placed for the first time. Birchfield were the winners with 88 points, Salford H. second with 112 points, and we were third, with one point more; our six men scoring in 36 positions and Arthur Penny and Bert Footer receiving International selection for the second time.

So much for the past - now for the present. The Youths' Race over 3 miles was the first race to be held and we had high hopes of being prominent and so we were! But our third position of the 33 teams closing in disappointed our lads, which is a measure of the high standard they have set themselves. With such an outlook, how can they be denied premier places soon? Of our lads, David Cocks was first home in 13th position, Ken Redwood 22nd, Jackie Hampshire, suffering from vaccination effects, 41st and the team was completed by Peter Edwards in 96th position. In winning a set of team medals our team did well, but we had this feeling that had the luck been with us, we could have halved our score and won the event.

In the Senior race we knew we should give a good account of ourselves without getting into the first three placed teams. Portsmouth with six scoring men in 32 positions won from Woodford Green (6 in 41), and South London H. (6 in 82). Our position was sixth of the 46 teams competing with our sixth man in 131st position - a result which certainly did not disgrace us.

Bill Kerr was our star man. Early on he took up a position in the twenties, and as the race progressed, so did Bill, eventually running home 15th. Our Captain Clive Shippen gained places over the last lap to be our second man home, passing Barry Sawyer, still suffering from the injury which had kept him out of the South of Thames race three weeks earlier. Experience in the shape of Charlie Walker, was our fourth scorer in the 84th position, closely followed by Ron Linstead (88th) and Eric Gebbett (131st). So we totalled 450 points. We must aim at trimming a third off this as a prelude to a set of place medals.

Of our non-scoring runners, it was pleasing to see John Moore out again. Charlie Dabbs is fighting his way back and should be among the scorers next time. John Thresher was not at his best following an injury, and injury kept John Davis out of the team. Joe Dooley and Don MacLean completed our runners. Mac, not for the first time, tried to give the whole field a four minutes start and did well to finish where he did.

The third race of the day, the Junior over six miles, now took place. In this Championship our prospects were not bright, and we eventually finished 21st of the 32 teams closing in. Chris Steer led our men home in 57th place, closely followed by Tony Fairclough. Eric Penny 127th and an under-trained Cyril Forey 178th completed our team. We shall do much better in this Championship in future years.

Taking the three Championships together, of the Clubs who finished teams in all three races, probably only South London Harriers and Thames Valley Harriers could show a superior record to us on aggregate - and with this we must be well content.

I started off with a little history. May I conclude with a little more? In 1928 in the Senior Championship our first man home was Bert Footer in 33rd position. In 1934, the year of our first win as recounted in earlier paragraphs, our seventh man was 33rd. Our improvement in the next few years can be even more dramatic.

A. A. H.

Results overleaf.

We congratulate Eric and Mavis Hall on their recent addition to the family.

RESULTS:- Senior 9 miles.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. M. R. Batty (Thurrook H) | 49:26 | 1. Portsmouth A.C. | 102 points |
| 15. W. Kerr (Belgrave H.) | 51:07 | 2. Woodford Green A.C. | 158 Points |
| 56. C. Snippen " | 53:06 | 3. South London H. | 294 points |
| 76. B. Sawyer " | 53:44 | 4. Thames Valley H. | 379 points |
| 84. C. W. Walker " | 54:04 | 5. Polytechnic H. | 402 points |
| 88. R. Linstead " | 54:13 | 6. Belgrave H. | 450 points |
| 131. E. Gebbett " | - | 7. Reading A.C. | 534 points |
| 157. J. Moore " | - | 8. Welwyn A.C. | 570 points |
| 162. C. S. Dabbs " | - | 9. St. Albans A.C. | 624 points |
| 236. J. Thresher " | - | 10. 1st Para. Brigade. | 690 points |
| 285. J. Dooley " | - | | |
| 315. D. MacLean " | - | | 46 teams closed in. |

JUNIOR - 6 miles

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. T. F. K. Johnson (Portsmouth) | 33:24 | 1. Thames Valley H. | 44 points |
| 57. C. Steer (Belgrave H.) | - | 2. Mitcham A.C. | 85 points |
| 62. A. Fairclough " | - | 3. Reading A.C. | 97 points |
| 127. E. Penny " | - | 21. Belgrave H. | 424 points |
| 178. C. Forey " | - | | 32 teams closed in. |
| 183. L. Rudd " | - | | |

YOUTHS - 3 miles.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. M. Gregory (Walton A.C.) | 17:46 | 1. Hercules A.C. | 91 points |
| 12. D. Cocks (Belgrave H.) | 18:15 | 2. Ruislip-Northwood A.C. | 97 points |
| 22. K. Redwood " | 18:28 | 3. Belgrave H. | 171 points |
| 41. J. Hampshire " | 18:47 | 4. Eastleigh A.C. | 196 points |
| 96. P. Edwards " | - | 5. Guildford A.C. | 210 points |
| 117. A. Morrison " | - | 6. Welwyn A.C. | 230 points |
| 146. H. Satchell " | - | | 33 teams closed in. |

From 'THE BELGRAVIAN' 25 years ago

THE SOUTHERN 1937:..... at halfway our chances of winning the title from Surrey A.C., not to mention a possible individual winner, appeared very bright and all we could do was to wait until the runners had been out in the country again.

Then followed a long suspense. Suddenly the runners were sighted, but in the wrong direction. The funnel was reversed, but again they disappeared. It was soon evident that the trail had been lost. Meanwhile, an observer from round the course had reported that the "Bels" had 6 in 12. Then there was a shout and everybody dashed to a barbed wire fence to see the field come straggling uphill over a cabbage field, running from all directions. It was immediately decided to call the race off.

It transpired that the high wind had blown the trail away, but, surely, for a Championship Race, something more definite and not subject to the mercy of the elements as is a paper trail is necessary. Or shall each runner be provided with a map and compass? However, the sad fact remains that the entire field ran about twelve miles over very tough country for nothing; and as for many of the runners the "Southern" is their only 10 miles race, it must have been a very galling reward for their winter's training. No less mortifying was the lot of those clubs who had hoped to have earned a high position in the finishing list. For our own part we feel that Fate has robbed us of what appeared to be a potentially phenomenal win - first two men home, two in the next three positions and the other two scoring men inside the dozen. All of our men had gained ground, including Pat and Jim, who at a short distance from the finish, had increased their lead to 100 yards. Our complete team of twelve would have closed in by the time that the 60th man was home - surely a performance of which even the wildest optimist would never have dreamed.

In the annals of the sport the event will go down as "Race Postponed", but to those who were there (whilst hoping that a similar fate will never befall a race again), I think that it will go down as a moral victory for the Bels.

It was decided some days later to re-run the Senior race on Easter Saturday, at Dartford. In view of the strenuous programme facing our men, some having Service and International engagements in addition to the normal fixture list, and the unsuitability of the date, we decided not to compete. Our feelings were shared by most other clubs and eventually only 32 individuals comprising four teams (as against 33 teams originally entered) competed in the re-run race - a truly farcical state of affairs. It is to be hoped that suitable reference is made in the records as to the conditions size of field etc., of the re-run race, as there can be no credit in a success of this kind, and it is only fair that future generations shall be reminded that no serious "Southern" Senior Championship was decided in 1937.

JACK W. BROWN

SPOTLIGHT



Jack Brown has been the most consistently successful Belgrave runner of the post-war years. He has always had more than one string to his athletic bow, and, although he declared a preference for track miling, his performances on track, road, and country have been equally meritorious. Yet he has remained something of a quiet man, gained more self-knowledge, and enjoyed more personal satisfaction than he has publicity. We feel, however, that his retirement from the competitive scene merits a few verbal handshakes and also that there are certain facets of his career and personal philosophy that could serve as an inspiration to athletes, young and not so young alike.

The mid 1920s were not the most pleasant years that this country has known and Jack William Brown was born in 1925, a year before the General Strike. Patience and resilience were essential in these years and it is probably more than mere coincidence that these two qualities were so much in evidence throughout his career. Furthermore of course, war broke out at a crucial period in Jack's young life and possibly it is to these unsettled times, that we must attribute his comparative late start as a serious athlete. In fact, although he won the Southern Junior 880 yds. in 1944, his best performance for the mile in 1948 was only 4:30 and he admits to having only started training thoroughly and conscientiously in 1950. When Jack did eventually get down to hard training, he brought to each work-out great concentration and intense determination, attributes which were usually obscured to the casual spectator by the flowing relaxation of his naturally athletic style.

Jack's rise in the athletic world could hardly be described as meteoric but above all it was relentlessly consistent and from season to season persistence could be seen paying dividends. Progress in the mile for instance was quite gradual. In each of his first two years of training he sliced some 5 secs. off his best performance, being a 4:18 miler at the age of 26.

It took him a further 3 years to reach his best performance for the distance of 4:11.8. In competition, too, Jack had often to wait patiently for the victor's laurels. From 1949 to 1952 he finished second (1950 3rd) in the Kent County mile and it was not until 1953 that he won the title. Can you imagine the satisfaction in that victory? Also in 1953 he won the Civil Service mile title in a photo finish with Len Eyre, the Northern Champion, after finishing second on no less than four previous occasions. Can you envisage the faith Jack must have had in his own abilities and training methods? He had set his sights high and he was going to reap the just rewards of diligent and intelligent training. In fact in 1953 and 1955 he gained international honours by running for the Great Britain 'B' 4 x 1 mile relay team in matches against France, and Germany. In addition, for four consecutive years, '51 - '54 he reached the A.A.A mile final - his best finishing position being 5th in 1952.

If we now consider, just to quote one example, that the Club 10 mile Cross Country Trophy, the Macher Shield, graced the sideboard of the Brown household for 8 consecutive years (1950 - 1957) it will be seen that our Spotlight falls not only on a greyhound of the track but on a man who could combat the heavy going of the horse rides, the terrors of the Brook and the general "blood and guts" conditions of the country. It is one of his greatest unfulfilled ambitions that he never actually represented Great Britain in any cross country International. In 1957, his best season, he finished 10th in the Southern, 11th in the National and was selected as reserve for the International. This fine form, however, was completely overshadowed by his magnificent performances on the road during the first four months of 1957. During this period he ran five road races and in each of them broke the course record. Dividends were now being paid in full! Those long years of sheer hard work were paying off. His star was now in the ascendant, he went from success to success. It was at this time that Denis O'Gorman was also enjoying an unbeaten run of success on the road and enthusiasts eagerly awaited the clash between the pocket-sized Irishman and our own 'Brown Bomber'. They met in the 1957 Mitham '15'. For all but the last 400 yds. Jack followed hard upon O'Gorman's heels and his finishing burst carried him to a clear and



Jack (left) pips Len Eyre for the Civil Service mile title in 1953.

that we have not heard the last of him, and he has agreed to write certain articles for us on his theories on athletics. We are certain that if his writings spring from the knowledge that he has gained in the only way possible from athletics, that is the hard way, they will serve as an inspiration and help to any aspiring athlete, no less we hope than do these details of his wonderful career in athletics.

convincing victory and a record which has resisted all subsequent assaults. This race in the eyes of many Belgians was the peak of Jack's athletic achievements and certainly established him as one of the foremost road runners in the country. Without a doubt he would soon be collecting marathon titles and he might even achieve his real ambition of a place in an Olympic, European or Empire championship team! But there other things in life besides athletics and Jack, a Civil Servant by profession, had a career to pursue and he was posted for three years to that comparative athletic backwater and world trouble spot, Cyprus.

Who in fact knows what this interlude cost him? Admittedly he competed when and where he could and on his return he quickly showed that the old ability still remained by winning the Club 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ (strangely enough this was his first ever run in the race) but much of the old incentive had gone and the beginning of this current winter season saw his departure from competitive athletics. He assures us

T.V.H. Relay (Cranford):

MARCH 3rd

A rather mixed bag of performances gave our five 'A' team runners a poor 8th place in this road relay of 5 x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles. On the first stage John Thresher ran with his usual tenacity, and although not yet back to fitness after the injury he sustained at Maidenhead, handed over to Clive Shippen in close contact with the main bunch.

Clive showed fine form in gaining five places and handed over to Ron Linstead in 8th position, about 100 yds. behind the 3rd team (Walton). Ron had a tremendous tussle with Haith (T.V.H) but the Valley star was in great form and took his club ahead of us. However, Ron gained three further places and showing all of his old fire and determination brought us to the change-over in 6th position.

A below-form Barry Sawyer ran Stage 4 for us, and lost considerable ground on the teams ahead, but his recent injury came thro' this test satisfactorily and this was a welcome consolation.

That ever-present member of our team Charlie Walker, set off on the last stage in 8th place and it was fully expected he would take us to 5th, however, Chas. unfortunately had a domestic burden on his mind that day and could do no better than hold his place.

Thus Belgrave had to be content with 8th place, four and three-quarter minutes behind the winners, Portsmouth.

RESULT:-

| | 'A' | 'B' | 'C' |
|--------------------|--------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Portsmouth A.C. | 105:57 | Thresher 22:05 | Moore 22:48 |
| 2. Windsor & Eton | 107:57 | Shippen 21:47 | Gebbett 22:27 |
| 3. St. Albans A.C. | 108:08 | Linstead 21:41 | Maclean 22:44 |
| 4. T.V.H. | 108:50 | Sawyer 22:40 | Short 24:09 |
| 8. Belgrave H. | 110:44 | Walker 22:31 | |

Day's fastest

1. Hogan (Poly) 20:32 2. Eldon (Winds) 20:35 3. Tulloch (Ports) 20:50

Pat Newell and Wendy Shingles were married at Fulham on March 31st. We offer them both our congratulations, but must say we didn't realise Wendy was so desperate to make our "Brighton" team!

Brian Morris scored an excellent win in the 600 yards event at the A.A.A. indoor championships. His time of 1:16.3 was .9sec. better than the runner-up N. Futter of Q.P.H.

QUIZ No. 1

1. Which Belgrave athlete has twice gained National team-winners medals at both cross-country and walking?
2. Who was Belgrave's first Olympic gold medallist, and in which event and year did he score his triumph?
3. What time must a marathon runner do to average,
 - (a) 5 minute miles all the way?
 - (b) 6 minute miles all the way?
4. Who is the Belgravian who was an International three times over before he was 21?
5. Who won a Club Track Championship on seven consecutive occasions?
6. In which year did Belgrave win the A.A.A. 4 x 110 yds relay championship and who constituted the team?
7. Which Belgravian represented Great Britain in an Olympic Games, yet never won a Club Championship?
8. Who is the first recorded Belgravian in the A.A.A. Championships?
9. Who was the Belgrave man that led an English team to victory in the International cross-country championships?
10. Who was our first field-event A.A.A. Champion?

Answers on page 23

WHY NOT A RAMBLE ?

RON LINSTEAD SUGGESTS A RETURN TO THIS OLD BELGRAVE CUSTOM

Bored on Sundays? Had an extra hard race on Saturday? Fed up with training? Then the best remedy for you is a Sunday ramble through the country-



side which is in such easy reach. What better tonic is there than 10 hours or so in the freshest of air, getting the City 'fug' out of your lungs? Places like Boxhill or Dorking are just over half an hour's journey from Clapham Junction, and the cost is only about 6/-d. In addition British Railways run frequent excursions to the South Coast and a resort like Littlehampton can be reached in 1½ hours for 12/-d. These rambles can be most enjoyable. They produce a spirit of comradeship, provide a refreshing break from the week's training routine

and give ample opportunity to discuss a wide variety of topics. A short break (say from noon to 2p.m.) is usually made to acquire liquid refreshment which is all some of us go for!

The above photograph was taken last January, on a ramble which started from Faygate, Sussex and shows Barry Sawyer, Ron 'Ozog' Langheim, Derek Crookes Mike Shingles, Chris Steer, and Bob Taylor.

WALKING NEWS

The 'Olympic' Cup :

WIMBLEDON - Saturday 20th January.

Unfortunately we are painfully short of Juniors for this event and open competition generally, but nevertheless, Gerry Cameron walked well to win this trophy for the 2nd year running. Brian Buschman in his first year shows promise and he walked well after being down with 'flu in the preceding week.

We certainly need more juniors to make this a good championship for such a fine trophy, which was handed to the club by "Tommy Green".
 RESULT:- 1. G. P. Cameron 44:53 2. B. Buschman 48:10.

MIDDLETON WINS CLUB '10'

WIMBLEDON - Saturday 27th January.

A good field contested this annual championship which again incorporated a match with our friends of the Police. After a brisk start it looked like a battle between Ray Middleton and George Williams for the individual championship, but from just before half-way, Ray opened up a 16 sec. lead and continued to increase this to 1 min. 17 secs. at the finish to annex this Trophy for the first time. George Williams was not fully fit but walked well to take second place with John Knifton capturing third place by easing out Bob Barnes shortly after half-way with Belderson finishing fifth in a good time of 85:40. It was encouraging to see Gerry Cameron finish so well in this his first try-out over 10 miles and also to have Bernard Eglinton back home again after three years abroad and pushing the lads once more. We were unfortunately without the previous holder Eric Hall who was unable to travel down from Manchester. After a good afternoon's sport we won the match against the Police 148 points to 203 (13 a side).

"Evergreen" Joe Wilson popped up yet again to win the Club Handicap from Will Belderson with Bob Barnes third. Our thanks are due to the officials judges and helpers who once again on a cold day enabled us to hold another Championship.

RESULT:-

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1. R. C. Middleton | B.H. | 78:37 | 15. B. Eglinton | B.H. | 94:15 |
| 2. G. Williams | B.H. | 80:20 | 16. C. MacLennan | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 94:39 |
| 3. J. Knifton | B.H. | 82:35 | 17. J. Wilson | B.H. | 94:40 |
| 4. R. Barnes | B.H. | 84:18 | 18. D. Fotheringham | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 95:21 |
| 5. W. Belderson | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 85:40 | 19. G. Beecham | B.H. | 95:21 |
| 6. A. MacFarlane | " | 85:50 | 20. D. Melia | M.P.A.A. | 95:57 |
| 7. D. Bartliff | " | 87:08 | 21. A. East | B.H. | 96:36 |
| 8. K. Bailey | B.H. | 88:56 | 22. J. Hodgson | M.P.A.A. | 97:24 |
| 9. H. McGreechan | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 91:08 | 23. H. W. Shields | B.H. | 101:43 |
| 10. J. Keown | B.H. | 91:10 | 24. B. Stevenson | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 103:11 |
| 11. C. Yescombe | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 91:57 | 25. A. Clarke | M.P.A.A. | 103:31 |
| 12. G. Cameron | B.H. | 92:08 | 26. F. Denny | M.P.A.A.&B.H. | 106:10 |
| 13. J. Morris | B.H. | 92:11 | 27. P. Wilson | B.H. | 106:12 |
| 14. E. Levitt | M.P.A.A. | 92:38 | | | |

31 started

MATCH RESULT (scoring 13 a side)

1. BELGRAVE HARRIERS 148 points 2. M.P.A.A 203 points.

* * * * *

REGENTS PARK - 27th January. STOCK EXCHANGE 7 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. P. Marlow 55:23 2. R. C. Hall 55:25.

* * * * *

REGENTS PARK - Saturday 3rd February.

S.R.W.A. TEN MILES "GARNET" ROAD WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP

This is the walkers' equivalent of the cross-countryman's South of Thames 'Junior' and attracted a goodish field. Things were looking decidedly hopeful in the team championship until John Knifton who was walking alongside Bob Barnes came under the judges ban and this put us out of the first three team positions. Shortly afterwards Bob Barnes lost a few places but finished our first man home in 9th place followed by the ever-improving Will Belderson, 14th in 84:13. Gerry Cameron produced a surprise packet when in only his second 10 mile race he came through to finish our third man home, 32nd in 88:27 with Cyril Yescombe not far away in 38th position. Some of our

new Police lads, Peter Maidment, Brian Buschman, Brenden Carroll were experiencing the first 10 mile championship and acquitted themselves well.

RESULT;

| | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1.K. Easlea (Enfield) | 79:11 | 49. C.MacLennan (B.H.'B') | 93:24 |
| 2.P.Selby (S.W.C.'A') | 79:14 | 56. J. Wilson (B.H.'A') | 93:50 |
| 3.P.Marlow (Southend) | 80:56 | 83. B.Stevenson " | 98:47 |
| 9.R.Barnes (B.H.'A') | 82:52 | 95. P.Wilson (B.H.'B') | 102:29 |
| 14.W.Belderson " | 84:13 | 99. P.Maidment " | 103:36 |
| 32.G.Cameron " | 88:27 | 100. B.Buschman " | 103:50 |
| 38.C.Yescombe " | 89:18 | 105. B.Carroll " | 106:41 |
| 44.D.Fotherington (B.H.'A') | 92:15 | 110. F.Denny " | 109:08 |
| <u>TEAMS</u> - 1. Woodford Green 49 pts. | | 5.Belgrave 'A' | 84 pts. |
| 2. Surrey W.C.'A' 54 pts | | 15.Belgrave 'B' | 265 pts. |

BATTERSEA PARK - 10th February.FOURTH ANNUAL LONDON COUNTY TEN MILES RACE WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP

We had 20 lads out of a total of 76 starters and three teams out of the competing nine. A grand effort from all concerned enabled us to retain the team championship so completing a hat-trick of championship successes. This year the L.C.C. put up a fine team trophy and we were pleased to be the first team to have our names engraved upon it. Ray Middleton again walked well to finish 5th in 79:37 which is a good time for this flat park circuit and he was backed up by Ray Hall - 10th, Bob Barnes - 13th and John Knifton - 15th. Also in close attendance were Will Belderson and Ken Bailey with Gerry Cameron again giving us a pleasant surprise by finishing first of the 'B' team in 23rd place. In fact our 'B' team finished 5th in the team race and all in all Belgrave had a most successful afternoon's sport.

RESULT

| | | | |
|--|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| 1.R.A.Clark (Poly) | 75:07 | 30.J.Keown (B.H.'B') | 87:57 |
| 2.D.Thompson (M.W.C.) | 76:17 | 31.J.Morris " | 87:57 |
| 5.R.Middleton (B.H.'A') | 79:37 | 37.G.Beecham " | 89:16 |
| 10.R.Hall " | 81:37 | 38.H.McGre echan (B.H.'A') | 89:34 |
| 13.R.Barnes " | 82:35 | 40.C.Yescombe (B.H.'B') | 90:40 |
| 15.J.Knifton " | 83:20 | 46.D.Fotheringham " | 92:29 |
| 18.W.Belderson " | 84:53 | 49.J.Wilson " | 93:17 |
| 19.K.Bailey " | 84:57 | 54.B.Stevenson (B.H.'C') | 95:14 |
| 23.G.Cameron (B.H.'B') | 86:38 | 57.A.East " | 96:12 |
| 24.D.Bartliff (B.H.'A') | 86:44 | 64.P.Wilson " | 99:31 |
| <u>Teams</u> 1. Belgrave H.'A' 36 pts. | | 3. Cambridge 60 pts | |
| 2. Polytechnic 41 pts | | 5. Belgrave 'B' 84 pts. | |

BANSTEAD - 17th February.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles Walk Match v.Surrey Walking Club.

Lacking some of our faster men, we lost the team match in this race because of the solid packing of S.W.C. in the middle places. On the outward journey Ray Hall and John Knifton led the field with Paul Nihill (S.W.C) in close attendance. After the turn at Banstead Ray Hall took the lead from John Knifton, but in the later stages Nihill came through strongly and finished a worthy winner while John managed to snatch second place by a few yards, but Ray Hall in third place showing a four-minute improvement on his previous fastest time won the handicap race. Don Bartliff walked a good race with a well-sustained effort over the return journey. Ken Bailey seemed to be doing a steady training spin, while the extra miles suited Bernard Eglinton who shows steady improvement on each outing since his return from abroad. Joe Wilson made a strong effort to beat the handicapper once again, but this was not to be his day.

RESULT;

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. P.Nihill (S.W.C) | 96:36 |
| 2. J.Knifton (B.H.) | 97:12 |
| 3. R.C.Hall " | 97:18 |

MATCH RESULT;

1. Surrey Walking Club 74 points
2. Belgrave Harriers 136 points.



THE COUNTY '10'

Saturday 24th February.

We were primarily interested in the Surrey Championship which was held at the Canons, Mitcham. The title holder Eric Hall was not defending his title and Ray Middleton walked extremely well to finish first in the individual championship in 77:26. Ray was in very fine form and he managed to pull back Paul Nihill who was leading at one stage, and then went on to beat him by 1:41. Ray Hall (4th) John Knifton (5th) W.Belderson (7th) backed extremely well and we managed to retain the County Team Championship by the narrow margin of 2 points from Surrey W.C. Our 'B' team of Keown, Morris, Beecham, and Stevenson walked exceedingly well and only lost 3rd team position by 2 points. Will Belderson was awarded the Sir J.Coleman Cup. Unfortunately, George Williams was affected by the cold, never appeared to settle down and was disqualified in the first mile.

RESULT.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. R. Middleton (Belgrave) | 77:26 | 4. R.Hall (Belgrave) | 81:53 |
| 2. P. Nihill (Surrey) | 79:07 | 5. J.Knifton " | 83:03 |
| 3. P. Selby (Surrey) | 80:24 | 7. W.Belderson " | 84:29 |

Teams:- 1. Belgrave Harriers 17 pts. 2. Surrey W.C. 19 pts.

Over the Enfield course in the Middlesex Championships we were not to prove quite so successful. Arthur Thomson of Metropolitan led from start to finish and beat his team mate Don Thompson by nearly 2 mins. in 76:54. Our first man home was Bob Barnes (9th in 84:01) followed by Cameron (19th in 89:22 and Potheringham (21st in 93:19).

In the Kent Championship, Ken Bailey walked a very fine race to finish 7th over a course which, the winning time of 74:26 by Bob Clark would indicate, is not quite a full 10.

Battersea Park, Saturday 3rd March, Southern Counties 7 mile Track Championship

This race at one stage threatened to produce something of a sensation. By the two-mile stage, two County Champions of the previous week came under the Judges' ban, Arthur Thomson (Midx) and our own Ray Middleton (Surrey), while others who were disqualified included Godbeer, (Cambridge). It was not surprising therefore the times were a little slower than last year. George Williams took the lead at 2 miles in 14:47 and was leading Clark by 11 secs. at 3 miles. In the next mile, however, Clark cut down this lead and was 1 sec. ahead of the Belgravian at 6 miles. Then in the last three laps the Poly man opened up considerably to finish in 53:05, some 20 secs. ahead of George. Will Belderson recorded his best time ever (58:00) to finish 11th whilst Don Bartliff finished 20th in 59:05 and gained his 7 mile star for the first time. G. Beecham (23rd in 60:43), J. Keown (27th in 61:11), and J. Morris (28th in 61:11) were our other finishers.

In the supporting road events, Gerry Cameron walked very well in the Junior 6 miles, to finish 5th in 51 minutes.

Gosport, Saturday 10th March. Open 7 Miles.

A depleted team travelled to this event and we were particularly missing Ray Middleton, who was at the time undergoing treatment for knee trouble. Consequently we were nowhere in the team Championship, although Bob Barnes walked most creditably, considering the absence of support, to finish 12th in 57:24. Gerry Cameron (24th in 60:06) carried off the third individual handicap and Joe Wilson took first Veterans' prize.

TOP LEFT

Chris Steer, Mike Shingles, Bob Taylor and Barry Sawyer on one of their Sunday rambles.

TOP RIGHT

G.Bradshaw (169) and R. Hudson two of our promising Boys during the Surrey C.C.C.

CENTRE LEFT

Ron Linstead at the three mile mark in the Southern at Reading.

CENTRE

Tony Fairclough

BOTTOM LEFT

Our winning team in the Mitcham '15' - (left to right) Barry Sawyer, 5th, Bill Kerr, 8th, and Chas. Walker 7th.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Gerry North wins the National in front of his home crowd to become only the third man to win both National and Inter-County titles in one season.

NATIONAL '10' LOST 200yds. FROM FINISH!

NEW SOUTHGATE, Saturday 17th March.

It goes almost without saying that Ken Matthews scored his fourth successive win in this National and Inter-County 10 Mile Championship, held from the Standard Telephones Works over a tough 4 - lap course. On this occasion however, he was unusually hard-pressed, for Bob Clark was only 90secs away. From the Belgrave viewpoint however, this was a day of bitter disappointment. Only 200 yards from the finish George Williams was in 5th position and we were virtually assured of carrying off the team Championship. Unfortunately the effort was telling on George and during a bout of sickness, he was disqualified, and this decision apart from ruining our chances of first team placing, also provoked quite a storm of controversy and no inconsiderable amount of coarse comment from some of the more partisan Belgrave supporters. This mishap to George meant that Ray Middleton who finish 6th in 79:18 was in fact our first man home, and was therefore awarded the Frank Thomson Cup. Eric Hall proved as reliable, if not as fit, as ever to finish 14th, with Ray Hall once again revealing his worth by finishing 19th. We had to be content with third team position behind Highgate and Surrey W.C. This was indeed a sore disappointment to us, when it had seemed inevitable that we should regain the National Title. In particular our sympathies were with George Williams, who after walking such a game race became the victim of a somewhat harsh and hasty decision.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. K.J. Matthews (R.Sutton) | 76:10 | 73. G. Beecham (B.H. 'B') | 89:14 |
| 2. R. Clark (Poly) | 77:40 | 74. J. Keown " | 89:15 |
| 3. C. Williams (Ilford) | 78:10 | 80. J. Morris " | 89:57 |
| 6. R. Middleton (B.H.) 'A' | 79:18 | 88. G. Cameron " | 90:30 |
| 14. E. Hall " | 80:51 | 109. D. Eglinton " | 93:53 |
| 19. R. Hall " | 82:02 | 117. C. Yescombe " | 94:52 |
| 49. W. Belderson " | 86:24 | 121. J. Wilson " | 'C' 95:00 |
| 55. R. Barnes " | 86:59 | 124. D. Fotheringham " | 95:27 |
| 56. D. Bertliff " | 87:00 | 169. G. Doubleday " | 100:23 |
| 70. K. Bailey " | 89:07 | 179. P. Wilson " | 102:50 |
| Teams:- 1. Highgate H. 53 pts | | 12. Belgrave 'B' | 263 pts. |
| 2. Surrey W.C. 65 pts | | 24. Belgrave 'C' | 481 pts. |
| 3. Belgrave 'A' 68 pts | | | |

VERY 'TRUE'!

OUR CARTOONIST INTRODUCED YOU TO "THE HANDICAPPER" IN OUR LAST ISSUE. THIS TIME, BILL TRUE TELLS OF THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF THIS HANDICAPPING "LARK"!

To me, one of the most mysterious things in athletics is the fact that all athletes consider themselves better handicappers than the appointed official, yet at any A.G.M. no-one volunteers for the job. Why?

When I agreed to become walking handicapper to ease the burden of work from Sid Roberts, I knew nothing about the job and had no idea of the amount of work required to produce a good handicap. I awaited the result of my first effort with very mixed feelings, but a reasonable result produced congratulations from the prize-winners and cheeky back-chat from the unsuccessful. In those early days I discovered that a good handicap went virtually un-noticed by most of the competitors. One effort, when with some luck I placed 15 men in 23 seconds in a two-mile match v. Surrey Walking Club, was noticed by the grand total of 1 solitary walker. Now handicap results are discussed, marks commented upon and the promise readily given to try to do better next time. I have accumulated an enormous amount of paper showing race results from all parts of the country. I have been forced to make an intensive study of walkers and walking. I have been pointed out to newspaper reporters as someone able to give the 'gen' on all the competitors. I have even received a letter addressed 'To the man who knows most about Race Walking Fame at last!

What I have not found is how to produce the perfect handicap, the perfect system to assess the improving, whilst giving everybody a fair chance, how to give a fair mark to the man who turns up once in two years. But then, that I suppose is a challenge of handicapping and what in fact makes it such a worth while job.

On 18th April, Ray Middleton (Civil Service) won the Inter Services 10 mile Championship in 77:47 with Eric Hall third in 80:43.

LONDON VIDARIANS '15'

MITCHAM 24th March.

On a very cold day, which took its toll of competitors, a field of 60 started on the first fifteen of the season. George Williams who had travelled from Bournemouth was unwise to start after being laid low in bed with 'flu. He tried to set a fast pace and after leading Clark for 4 miles decided to retire owing to extreme cold. Ken Bailey also after being in fourth position gradually dropped back after a few miles. Ray Middleton came through after a steady start to finish second despite knee trouble, and going off-course in the last half-mile.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. R. A. Clark (Poly) | 1:58:12 | 24. J. Morris (Bels) | 2:16:42 |
| 2. R. C. Middleton (Bels) | 2:03:21 | 32. K. Bailey " | 2:18:51 |
| 7. R. C. Hall " | 2:07:13 | 36. J. Wilson " | 2:22:14 |
| 13. W. A. Belderson " | 2:11:27 | 42. D. Fotheringham (Bels) | 2:25:58 |
| 14. D. Bartliff " | 2:11:40 | 50. H. McGreechan " | 2:30:37 |
| 17. R. Barnes " | 2:13:10 | 51. P. Wilson " | 2:30:39 |
| 20. J. F. Keown " | 2:14:07 | 52. H. W. Shields " | 2:32:50 |

INTER-CLUB MATCH (SCORING FOUR A SIDE)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Polytechnic H. 24 points | 2. Belgrave Harriers 30 points. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

A.A.A. 7 mi. track championship:

HURLINGHAM PARK March 31st

Colin Williams (Ilford A.C) won his first A.A.A. title and had the double honour of being awarded the style prize also. Ray Middleton finished a meritorious third behind Williams and Arthur Thomson of Metropolitan. In all fairness, however, we must admit that the redoubtable Matthews was disqualified at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles when leading by 52 secs.

RESULT:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. C. Williams (Ilford) 52:15 | 3. R. Middleton (Belgrave) 53:50:4 |
| 2. A. Thomson (Met) 52:47:2 | 4. J. Edgington (Godiva) 54:12 |
| <u>R.W.A. Open Junior 3 Miles</u> | |
| 1. M. Higgins (Met) 24:12 | 2. G. Cameron (Belgrave) 25:37 |

Cont'd. from P.5

The experienced element has been, and will be for a while yet, provided by Ron Linstead and Charlie Walker. Ron and Chas. supported almost every one of our winter fixtures and can be relied upon to do likewise next year. Excellent support also came from Barry Sawyer, Eric Gebbett and John Davies but it is difficult to accurately assess the future of these three. Barry expects to emigrate to New Zealand in October, Eric is now a family-man living at Leighton Buzzard and John frequently speaks of retirement - it will be a pleasant 'bonus' if they continue their form through next season also.

We are very proud indeed that Ron Linstead should be selected by the Road Runners Club for their four-man team to compete in the Comrades Marathon in South Africa this summer. Ron, I feel sure, will be a worthy representative both athletically and socially.

Elsewhere in this Gazette a spotlight has been thrown upon the career of that fine athlete Jack Brown. This was prepared on hearing of Jack's retirement, but he has since told me that the urge to compete again is very strong. In fact, only a foot injury kept him out of our trials for the Brighton Relay, so it is quite probable that a summer's work will see him back into our team again. It will be a while yet before we can afford to lose men of his calibre.

In the preceding paragraphs I have mentioned as many as 18 names, all of whom, on their day, could be runners of considerable class. I should like to see all 18 runners determined to make next season their best ever, for it might well have to be if they are going to make the teams. Others like David Jones, Don Maclean, Ken Venton and our newly promoted Youths will be endeavouring to reach that "top 12" also, so a few fireworks would not be amiss!

All sportsmen like a long range forecast, so what about next season's positions in the events I mentioned at the beginning? I think the score will read (top to bottom) 3,1,2,2,1,1,3,2,4,6,4,2,5. Who said I was a pessimist?

JUNIOR - SECTION Incorporating Boys & Youths

The Youths have just completed the best season this section has ever known. Their 4th place in the National was a great effort and as we consider them all to be the "sticker" type of lad, a great future seems assured amongst the leading seniors of their day. Only sweat, toil and tears complete with supreme self-confidence and knowledge of oneself will get them there though, and they must therefore lean less heavily upon Tom Carter and use their Junior status to prepare for entry to the Senior ranks. Whilst we do not suggest that Tom should forsake the Juniors altogether, we feel that it might be in their own athletic interests if they were treated a little less as fledglings and taught a little more self-reliance.

THE JUNIOR'S'

JANUARY 27th WIMBLEDON

Held on the same day as the Senior '10', David Cocks scored a narrow victory over Chris Steer - both runners being well ahead of the field. Redwood, Cocks and Morrison (all youths) were the early leaders with the slightly older Steer & Fairclough close by. Cocks broke away on the return journey with Steer trying desperately to close the gap and although Chris had to give best in the end he was fast closing on the winner. Tony Fairclough proved too strong for the other two youths and finished third, a minute behind the winner.

Eric Penny and Philip King were two of several runners that went off course, but fortunately this did not affect the Championship result.

RESULT

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. D. Cocks | 29:07 | 6. E. Penny | 32:41 | 11. J. Jarvis | 36:20 |
| 2. C. Steer | 1:11 | 7. R. Brown | :43 | 12. P. Reynolds | :21 |
| 3. A. Fairclough | 30:08 | 8. E. Churchyard | 33:05 | 13. P. King | 37:32 |
| 4. K. Redwood | :20 | 9. C. Forey | :09 | | |
| 5. A. Morrison | :39 | 9. L. Rudd | :09 | | |

BOYS OPEN RELAY

JANUARY 27th

This annual open event organised by Sutton & Cheam Harriers, was held at Nonsuch Park over the usual $\frac{1}{2}$ mile course, and two teams of Belgrave boys took part.

Although Mitcham were expected by most Clubs to win this event from the holders (Walton A.C.), it was the Bels who made all the running on the first two of the four stages. Thanks to Bradshaw (7:25) and Bicourt (7:14) we were leading at the start of the 3rd stage. We soon had to give way, however, but still finished a worthy 4th of the 17 teams to finish. The 'B' team were 12th.

Of the 70-odd runners, Bicourt was 3rd fastest and Bradshaw 6th.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|------|
| 1. Mitcham A.C. | 29:08 | S. Bradshaw | 7:25 |
| 2. Raynes Park G.S. | 30:34 | J. Bicourt | 7:14 |
| 3. Walton A.C. (holders) | 30:44 | R. Hudson | 8:15 |
| 4. Belgrave H. 'A' | 31:04 | R. Clarke | 8:10 |

BOYS 6th. IN SURREY Co.

Our newly formed boys' team (reports Jack Hampshire Sen.) did very well to make the first six in this year's championships at Morden Park on February 24th.

Our President and Mrs. Penny were in attendance and were considerably impressed by the keenness and enthusiasm of these boys to emulate the feats of our present Youths team.

Only 12 seconds separated Bicourt and Bradshaw at the finish, so we can expect many "ding-dong" battles between these two in the future. Hayes provided useful support and Hudson, primarily a track man, completed our four.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. R. Sandford (Wandsworth Sch.) | 12:30 | 11. J. Bicourt | 13:22 |
| 2. D. Cope (Mitcham A.C.) | 12:31 | 16. S. Bradshaw | 13:24 |
| 3. R. Horswood (Sutton G.S.) | 12:56 | 37. I. Hayes | - |
| 4. J. Strudwick (Selhurst G.S.) | 12:59 | 62. R. Hudson | - |

Teams:

1. Mitcham - 65pts. 2. Raynes Ek. G.S. 78pts. 3. Selhurst G.S. 82pts. 6. Belgrave H. 130pts

YOUTHS EXCEL IN NATIONAL CHAMPS.

As a prelude to the Senior Championship our youngsters gave us a most heartening display in the Youths event; indeed it was rather unfortunate that some of their more experienced club-mates didn't follow their wonderful example. The field was away quickly and it soon became clear that the Bels meant business for after some three quarters of a mile Cocks,

Hampshire, Morrison and Redwood were all grouped in the first two dozen runners. At this stage, Simmons of Derby had opened up a considerable lead which he gamely maintained right to the finish, although at one stage another Midland youngster, Hammond of Coventry, looked as if he might close the gap. At $\frac{1}{2}$ miles we were still in the Championship hunt when Ken Redwood struck a bad patch and began to lose places. Now there was consternation in the Belgrave camp - it is even reported that Tom Carter stopped talking for once. Then, however, 'Noddy' Edwards, who had been strolling somewhere in the seventies began to make up places at a most alarming rate. He passed Ken and flogged himself until the funnel was reached to complete our scoring four and, as it at first appeared, to provide us with a Championship place. Birchfield were announced as winners, Coventry were placed second and Belgrave third; Tom Carter started talking and there was jubilation amongst our Belgrave supporters. But to our dismay, and to the bitter disappointment of our game youngsters, Sale Harriers handed in their result rather late and their points score managed to push us back to fourth. This was the first occasion that the boys had been out of the medals and in the circumstances it came as something of a bitter pill. We were, however, first Southern Club home and all our lads showed just those qualities that we need in all Belgrave teams. Well done lads!

RESULT:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. J. Simmons (Derby & Co) | 15:47 | 47. A. Morrison (Belgrave) | - |
| 2. J. Hammond (Coventry G.) | 15:53 | 50. P. Edwards | - |
| 3. A. Booth (Longwood) | 16:01 | 70. K. Redwood | " |
| 22. D. Cocks (Belgrave) | 16:33 | 254. H. Satchell | " |
| 30. J. Hampshire | - | | - |

Teams:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Birchfield (9.13.23.24) | 71 points |
| 2. Coventry G. (2.6.37.48.) | 93 points |
| 3. Sale H. (12.14.39.68) | 133 points |
| 4. Belgrave H. (22.30.47.50.) | 149 points |

The Juniors, over the two lap course, did not seem to be particularly inspired by their younger brethren and all seemed to run well below their usual form. Chris Steer finished first for us but after his recent good form was rather disappointing, Eric Penny and Tony Fairclough battled gamely on, whilst Cyril Forey gave us ample proof of his lack of training. The team finished in a very lack-lustre 48th position.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. M.R. Heath (Camb) | 32:12 | 272. A. Fairclough (Bels) | - |
| 2. D. Graham (9th Old Boys) | 32:19 | 300. C. Forey | " |
| 185. C. Steer (Bels) | - | 315. N. L. Rudd | " |
| 248. R. Penny | - | | - |

Teams: 1. North Staffs 82 pts. 2. Derby & Co. 119 pts. 3. TVH. 154 pts.
48. Belgrave H. 1,005 points.

THE MITCHAM RELAYS

MITCHAM COMMON - MARCH 4th

A sensational first stage of 10:14 by David Cocks, which gave Belgrave a full $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes lead over Mitcham, enabled us to score a convincing victory in the first of the two relays.

Alan Morrison gave away a mere second on the next stage, and with Ken Redwood increasing our lead by a further $\frac{1}{2}$ minute on the third leg 'Noddy' Edwards set off on the final stage with a very comfortable lead. Our three teams finished 1st, 3rd and 5th - an excellent effort by all 12 youths.

| | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Belgrave 'A' | 42:31 |
| (D. Cocks 10:14, A. Morrison 10:45, K. Redwood 10:33, P. Edwards 10:59) | |
| 5. Belgrave 'B' | 46:47 |
| (A. Greatrix 11:32, H. Satchell 11:13, J. Simmons 11:33, R. Brown 11:29) | |
| 5. Belgrave 'C' | 49:36 |

Cont'd. on P.21.

GOOD TIMING ?

"Timekeeping's not quite so simple as it looks" said that well-known Belgravian, Archibald Fortescue Tidworthy, as we went out onto the field, "but I expect you'll soon get used to it."

"I feel quite nervous," said Sparrow. "It's the first time that I've done any serious timekeeping, you know Tidders."

"Oh I shouldn't worry too much if I were you," said Tidworthy. "Practice makes perfect, you know, and you'll get plenty of that here. I'm a far better timekeeper now than when I started ten years ago."

"I suppose," said Sparrow, "that at first you tend to gaze at the watch rather than watching the runners."

"Oh its quite a thrill," said Tidworthy, "when you clock a record. I can remember breaking five records in one afternoon. In fact, we might well break the mile again today."

"Oh I don't think that's very likely," said Sparrow. The first race was the 100 yds. Tidworthy returned 10.4. Sparrow and I both returned 10.3. Tidworthy shook his head indulgently.

"Well, we're obliged to take your time as there's two of you in agreement. But you both seem to be committing the usual beginners' mistake. You've started too late. Remember now - go by the pistol flash and not the report. Light travels faster than sound."

"I suppose," countered Sparrow, "that's why we know what you are going to say before you say it." In the furlong Tidworthy returned 23.2. Sparrow and I made it 23.0.

"There you are," snapped Tidworthy, "you're both too fast again."

"Couldn't you possibly be just a little...well...slow?" enquired Sparrow gently.

"Everybody makes mistakes," said Tidworthy philosophically, "but I doubt whether I would have made the same mistake twice. No, you're both catching them too late. Try opening your mouths a little - it's an established medical fact that this minimizes the shock to the nervous system, brought about by the loud report and ensures a wholly more responsive reaction."

"Well, it would be difficult for anyone to catch you with your mouth shut" quipped Sparrow. The following race, the 440 yds. revealed a complete reversal of form. I had 50.1, Sparrow had 50.0 whereas Tidworthy had 49.9 sec. Tidworthy scrutinized the watches in a careful silence. Quite obviously it was he who was now playing for time.

"Your mouth," said Sparrow quickly, "it wasn't open wide enough. Try harder next time, with a bit of luck you may dislocate it."

"Errors do sometimes creep in at the finish as well as the start" replied Tidworthy, quite oblivious of his critics. "Beginners become rather over-anxious you know, and press the button before the runner breaks the tape. Quite an understandable mistake, you know."

"If we had done that," said Sparrow, "wouldn't our times have been faster than yours, and not slower?"

"Yes, so they would." Tidworthy admitted after a moment's consideration.

"What I actually meant to say was that the beginner becomes enthralled by the struggle being enacted before his very eyes, and actually presses the button only after the worsted has been broken."

"You're better than Houdini for getting out of awkward corners!" replied the now exasperated Sparrow.

"Well," said Tidworthy, "I hope we can agree better in the mile. Braithwaite has a splendid chance of breaking the existing record."

"Personally, I think Tidders' chances are much higher" Sparrow said quietly to me. The mile was duly won by Braithwaite who finished impressively to win by some 15 yards. The timekeepers looked intently at their watches.

"4:15.6" I said.

"4:15.7" said Sparrow almost by way of confirmation, "That's a second inside the Club record. Nice running by Braithwaite." We turned to the remaining member of our timing trio. No response. He was standing gazing wide-mouthed at his watch, which lay in his hand like a tea plate.

"Heavens above," said Sparrow, "he really has dislocated his jaw this time."

"You chaps must be mad," said Tidworthy at last. "He's broken the record easily - 3:59.9. Its fantastic. Its world class. What a classic piece of timing, and you muffed it, you duffers!"

Sparrow gently took the 'tea-plate' from the shaking hands of the excited Archibald Fortescue Tidworthy. He pressed the button twice. Nothing.

"It's stopped," he said. "You forgot to wind it up."

Our congratulations are extended to George and Barbara Flanagan on their wedding this Easter Saturday. Bill Couzens was best man.

THE 1962 NATIONAL

March 10th - The spirit of 'National' day has still to return to Belgrave at least, as far as the older runners are concerned. Although the Seniors "improved" on last year's showing by 4 places and 168 points they still amassed a total of 1218 in finishing 17th. But for the ever-readiness of Joe Dooley and Don Maclean to fill gaps whenever called upon we would have been unable to finish a team. Injuries to Kerr, Dabbs and Davies and the absence of our usual spear-head, Pat Newell, did not augur well for our chances before we had even left London.

This year's course was held over the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show ground at Blackpool, and the going was fast and flat. Walker and Shippen both got good starts and after a mile were in the first 100, but they failed to make ground in their usual manner and instead, steadily lost places. Ron Linstead and Barry Sawyer started steadily and moved through the field well, Ron in particular was well into his stride. Eric Gebbett who has been steadily approaching his old form was our 5th man home in 219th place, but we had to go back to a courageous Joe Dooley (426) for our 6th scorer, it was this alone that enabled our old rivals Birchfield to beat us by 2 places; their 6th man being none other than our old friend Len Orton who was well below form in 278th place.

It gave all Belgravians great hope for next year to see the dazzling run of Gerry North. With an injury-free Bill Kerr to compete also, we can expect a considerable improvement. On this occasion, it is not mere wishful thinking to say they would certainly have enabled us to split Woodford and T.V.H. who finished 6th and 7th.

Most of the Belgravian party spent the evening at the "Wintergarden" ballroom where the International teams were introduced to the dancers. Following the traditional meal of 'pie and chips' the special excursion left for London at 12.30a.m. Activities on the homeward journey ranged from solo whist to cricket and all-in wrestling! The journey was considerably prolonged due to numerous delays en route and the tired travellers arrived at Euston just 24 hours after their departure the previous morning.

Apart from our Youths this was not a memorable day for our runners, but one of our team will remember it well - Eric Gebbett; not for a 9 mile race but for a seven mile walk! Eric, who lives at Leighton Buzzard, had to alight at Bletchley on the homeward journey; the only scheduled stop of the trip. So a tired Eric set off on foot for home at 5.a.m. with a heavy running bag due South for 7 miles. How would he have felt just minutes later had he known that our train was held up in Leighton Buzzard station for no less than 40 minutes?

RESULT:-

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. G. A. North (Blackpool) | 78. R. Linstead (Belgrave H.) |
| 2. M. B. Tulloh (Portsmouth) | 136.C. Walker " |
| 3. J. P. Anderson (Saltwell) | 162.B. Sawyer " |
| 4. B. Craig (Blackpool) | 197.C.Shippen " |
| 5. M. Batty (Thurrock) | 219.E.Gebbett " |
| 6. D. Cooke (Portsmouth) | 426.J.Dooley " |
| 7. R. Hill (Bolton) | 451.D.Maclean " |
| 8. E. Strong (Bristol) | |
| 9. J. Alder (Morpeth) | 744 Started |

TEAMS:-

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Derby & County A.C.)147 points | 4.Blackpool & F. A.C. | 423 points |
| 2. Portsmouth A.C. 215 points | 5.South London H. | 515 points |
| 3. Bristol A.C. 360 points | 17.Belgrave H. | 1218 points. |

NOTE: The Youths and Juniors result can be found on the Junior Section page.

cont'd. from p.19:

Although not yet moulded into a race-winning combination the Boys' teams, showed that they also will be a force to be reckoned with when they become Youths. Our two teams finished 3rd and 6th of the 9 competing, and Bradshaw and Bicourt in particular seem destined for great things. Roger Hudson has already proved his ability and, although well below form on this occasion, he will no doubt help the other two to form a valuable nucleus for future teams.

Mitcham made ample amends for their Youths' defeat by beating us in similar fashion, and doubled their lead on the last stage where we also had to give way to Crawley A.C.

| | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Mitcham 'A' | 43:28 |
| 3. Belgrave 'A' | 45:30 |
| (R.Hayes 11:47, S.Bradshaw 10:59, J.Bicourt 10:43, R.Hudson 12:01) | |
| 6. Helgrave 'B' | 50:27 |

It is interesting to note that as both relays were run over the same course our boys are already knocking at the door of the Youths team.

THE ILFORD ROAD RELAY

BILL LUCAS REPORTS:-

We have a very good record in this race and during the past few years have contested the leading places with considerable vigour and success. 1962 however, was not to be our year for Bill Kerr, Alan Black, Ken Miller and Charlie Dabbs were all on the injured list and we had to call upon reserves who, although putting everything they had into their running, were not quite fit enough, and had to concede places. The finishing position of eighth was most disappointing.

Eric Gebbett gave us a fairly good start in his inimitable style and brought us into 10th place. Charlie Walker went off second but was far from his best - something on his mind I believe and a leg injury as well, which definitely affected his running - and we were back to twelfth when Ron Linstead set off. Ron turned in our fastest time of the day and brought us well to the fore by gaining six places. At this stage Reading were in the lead with Polytechnic second, and Ponders End third, our deficit being only 50 secs. Clive Shippen took the fourth leg and gained one more place to move us up to fifth. At this point Portsmouth, the eventual winners, had come into the picture only 15 secs. behind Poly, who had now taken the lead. John Thresher held his position on Stage 5 but we were now 1 min. 43secs. behind the new leaders T.V.H. who had taken the lead, thanks to a fine run by Haith. John Davies on leg 6 also held on to fifth place but was a little disappointing. John's capabilities never really come to light in this sort of event and with his basic turn of speed he should be able to do 18 mins, for this lap, but lack of confidence in his own powers seems to be his biggest enemy. The seventh and eighth legs were taken by reserves, and although both John Moore and David Jones flogged themselves to the utmost, they were not really fit enough for this type of competition, and we had to drop back to ninth some 6 mins. behind Portsmouth when Barry Sawyer took over. Barry had been suffering from leg trouble and was still not back to his best. He ran steadily, but could gain no ground on the leaders, nor any places. Don Maclean was in one of his "on form" moods for the last leg and ran well to gain one place - given another quarter of a mile he would have undoubtedly caught the Walton man ahead.

We also fielded a 'B' team but unfortunately could only complete 8 legs. A new member, Laurie O'Hara, excelled himself by running the leg in 18.58. This was particularly good as he was 40 secs. behind the team in front when he took over - not only did he catch this team but also made up another place. Laurie is obviously a fine discovery and could be a great asset to us. Chris Steer also ran very well to record 19.04 in his first Senior relay.

W.E.L.

RESULT:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|
| 1. Portsmouth A.C. | 3:01:02 rec. | 4. Ilford A.C. | 3:07:26 |
| 2. T.V.H. | 3:03:56 | 5. Essex Beagles | 3:07:38 |
| 3. Polytechnic H. | 3:06:48 | 8. Belgrave H. | 3:08:54 |

'A' Team

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Gebbett 18:32 | Linstead 18:19 | Thresher 18:51 | Moore 19:37 |
| Walker 18:39 | Shippen 18:42 | Davies 18:43 | Jones D.F. 19:45 |
| | Sawyer 18:44 | Maclean 18:54 | |

'B' Team

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Fairclough 19:25 | Masters 19:38 | Venton 19:48 | Short 19:48 |
| Steer 19:04 | Penny 20:53 | O'Hara 18:58 | Bruce 19:25 |

Day's Fastest

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. Haith (T.V.H) 17:27 | 2. Hyman (Ports) 17:32 | 3. Herring (B'Hth)/D. Cooke (Port) 17:39 |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|

Bexley: Cont'd. from opposite page:

RESULT:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Portsmouth A.C. 1:48:18 | Walker 18:13 | Steer 18:56 | Thresher 18:37 |
| 2. S.L.H. 1:49:14 | Linstead :22 | Sawyer 18:30 | Maclean 19:07 |
| 3. H.H.H. 1:49:16 | <u>Day's fastest;</u> | | |
| 4. T.V.H. 1:50:14 | 1. Taylor (H.H.H) 17:21 | 3. Card (TVH) 17:31 | |
| 8. Belgrave H. 1:51:45 | 2. Edelen (Chelm) 17:28 | 4. Herring (B'Hth) 17:35 | |

All Junior and Senior athletes interested in obtaining coaching instruction for events up to 880 yds are invited to attend Battersea Park Track on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. where Ron Holtum will be in attendance.

THE WIMBLEDON CUP

WALKER WINS CLUB 'S'

The biggest eye-opener of the day was Gerry North's remarkable time of 27:15. This performance, although unofficial, as Gerry is still second claim - was no less than 41 secs. inside Ranjit Bhatia's course record! How many of our older runners ever dreamt they'd see the approach of 27 mins for this course? But perhaps they've been dreaming of Belgrave-bred athletes in which case they have yet to be surprised, for Charlie Walker's 29:27 was the fastest the rest could produce.

The smallest field for some time set off at the usual fast pace with Gerry North endeavouring to get clear right at the start. Fireworks were expected when Bill Kerr clung to North like a leech for the first one mile lap; and when Kerr actually overtook the National cross-country champion a ding-dong battle was fully expected. However, approaching the two mile mark, the Scotsman retired from the race through feeling the effects of his recent achilles injury; a sad disappointment. But they will meet again - many times we hope.

The most interesting features of the race further back were the forward running of John Thresher, Laurie O'Hara (a novice, competitively) and Chris Steer. A few eyebrows were also raised at the smooth even-paced run "out of the bag" by Arthur Bruce.

With a mile to go Thresher led the Championship field from O'Hara and Walker, but Charlie produced the strongest finish, and thus had his name inscribed on the "Wimbledon" cup for the first time but, it should be added, against one of his slowest times.

As a result of this race the pundits forecast we would be fielding our weakest 'Brighton' team since the war. Only time (and a few more pages) will tell.

A popular winner of the handicap was our "Whitehall man" Chas. Henn, who owed his success on this occasion to leaving his umbrella with the Starter!

RESULT:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. C. Walker | 29:27 | 8. J. Davies | 30:23 | 15. G. Piddington | 33:23 |
| 2. J. Thresher | :36 | 9. C. Steer | :27 | 16. E. Churchard | :34 |
| 3. L. O'Hara | :45 | 10. D. Maclean | 31:30 | 17. C. Henn | :50 |
| 4. E. Gebbett | :59 | 11. C. Forey | :48 | 18. Spieler | 34:21 |
| 5. A. Bruce | 30:07 | 12. E. Short | 32:12 | 19. D. Crookes | :27 |
| 6. J. Moore | :17 | 13. F. Paget | :40 | 20. R. Langheim | 36:24 * |
| 7. C. Shippen | :18 | 14. M. Shingles | :50 | 21. D. Brown | :48 * |

* went off course.

'Music hath charms'.....or

.....IO BELS AT BEXLEY

CAMBRIDGE H. 6 x 3/4 miles relay.

Belgrave were at least notable for one thing on March 24th, lack of Belgravians. Unless we had four ghost teams taking part, it appeared that only ten of our 42 entries were in attendance! Yes, believe it or not, just ten. Thus only two of our six teams started, comprising an 'A' sextet and a 'D' quartet. (Musical instruments would have rounded off the day nicely)

We put the piccolo on the first stage - "Chirpy" Charlie Walker - who put in several extra notes on this occasion to record a sequel to Tchaikovsky's overture with 18:13, in a close 8th place. Ron Linstead struck a similar rhythm which took him three places forward to a fine 18:22; 17 secs. behind the leaders, Portsmouth.

Young, Chris Steer, in the 'A' team for the first time, was unable to keep the tempo going but, nevertheless, broke 19 mins. in his first race over the course - it will not be many seasons before he cracks the magical 18 min. barrier at both Bexley and Ilford.

The 4th movement of this Belgrave composition was played by Barry Sawyer who at last seemed to be rid of the numerous injuries which had recently been chasing themselves up and down each of his legs. On this occasion, however, Barry's legs did the chasing and Haith of T.V.H. was the main sufferer. His time of 18:30 gave John Thresher a send-off in 7th position. John was destined to play his part in something of a minor key but nevertheless, his time of 18:37 enabled us to move up into sixth position just in front of T.V.H.

Unfortunately the course was a little on the hilly side for Don Maclean who waltzed rather than quick-stepped, and we had finally to be content with eighth place some fourteen seconds behind Mitcham's 7th.

This team will undoubtedly be called upon for many encores, as it was made up of six of our most reliable Club-men. We can thank them that Belgrave's name was not completely besmirched.

Cont'd. opposite.

BELS. 13th IN NATIONAL RELAY WORST PERFORMANCE SINCE 1927

Olympian reports:

A dismal tale - in fact the most dismal that has been recorded for any Brighton Relay for over 30 years. Briefly - thirteenth on the first leg and thirteenth, 10 mins. 57 secs. behind, at the end. What happened in between hardly bears relating, for not even a strong following wind could produce good times on any leg except the long stretch beyond Hand Cross which was again taken by Bill Kerr. It was quite a tonic to see him loping along uphill and down dale to record 28:35 which was a new Club record and a time beaten only by Internationals of such class as Kilby (Coventry) Bullivant (Derby) Craig (Blackpool) Freary (Bolton) and Tulloh (Portsmouth). Other bouquets go to Alan Black for a good effort after only 6 weeks' training, Clive Shippen for his fastest time yet up Dale Hill, Laurie O'Hara new to this type of sport (football is his game) for a very steady performance on the tenth and Charlie Walker in his 24th consecutive Brighton for a brave run in difficult circumstances against heavy opposition.

STAGE I - John Davies (21:16, 13th fastest) The first leg was led home by Hammond of Co entry (2nd in this year's National Youths Cross-country) with John lagging 55 seconds behind having lost touch before Chelsea Bridge. I think John will agree that he was well on the way to being beaten before he left the dressing room - confidence in one's ability to win races is a must if success is to be achieved.

STAGE II - John Thresher (25:21, 14th fastest) John could make no impression on the teams ahead and we slipped slowly further behind so that by the time Mitcham was reached Charlie Walker was confronted with a leeway of 2mins. and 13 secs.

STAGE III - Charlie Walker (29:04, 12th fastest) Although losing more ground on the leaders and despite looking a trifle jaded along the Purley Way Charlie made up four places with a well-judged run on what is one of the hardest legs. Already by this time we were revealing our shortage of "big guns".

STAGE IV - Eric Gebbett (25:52, 16th fastest) Eric who had been switched to the fourth stage only a day before the race seemed to lack fire in the early part of his run but came through to finish well. He was forced to give away a place to Mick Firth of S.L.H. who ran second fastest on this particular stage. At the end of this leg we were nearly five minutes adrift - the

leaders at this point being Bristol with Derby second and Portsmouth 3rd. These 3 clubs fought out the lead for the rest of the race.

STAGE V - Barry Sawyer (22:28 17th fastest) Barry who for weeks has been troubled with strained muscles was not at his best and before the end of the Redhill stage was again limping badly.

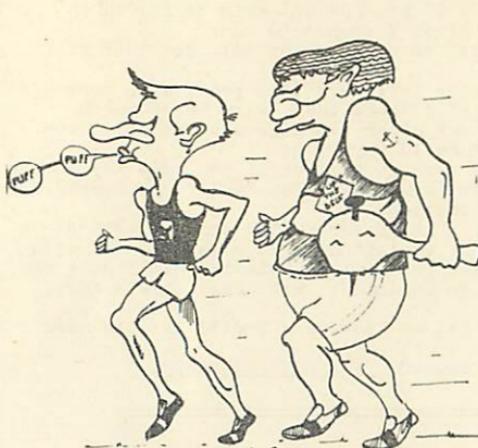
STAGE VI - David Cocks (14:04 13th fastest) "what a position to be in - no-one in sight" is probably the thought that occurred to David who had been allocated the short stage to Horley. He usually finds himself nearer the leaders when running with "Tom's boys" but although not excelling himself he was certainly not disgraced and did sufficient to show that there would be many more places in Belgrave Brighton teams.

STAGE VII - Alan Black (18:27, 7th fastest) Alan, making a welcome return after suffering a cracked ankle bone, was also well out of touch with the team ahead but he soon set about closing the 74 sec. gap between himself and Blackpool and close it he did to gain one place as Gatwick Airport was reached. The 6½ minutes between us and Bristol, still in the lead, had reached formidable proportions.



John Davies (A.5) hands over to John Thresher at Clapham Common, the end of the first relay.

STAGE VIII - Ron Linstead (30:51 15th fastest) Ron could hardly have picked a tougher task than dealing first with Gerry North, who put up the fastest time of the day on this leg, and then Hogan of Polytechnic who both swept past in quick succession. This was certainly not Ron's day but he took us to within striking distance of Birchfield, our old rivals, who had up to this point been well ahead of us.



..... took us to within striking distance of Birchfield....."

STAGE IX - Bill Kerr (28:35 6th fastest) Bill was not in the least dismayed by our plight and set off after the Birchfield runner in great style. He must have been astonished when Shelley of N.Staff appeared on his shoulder having made up 16 secs. in the run down Handcrossa Hill. Shelley soon paid for his exuberance and fell away to the extent of a full minute. Bill, running as well as we know he can, passed the Birchfield man and gradually closed the gap on Richards of Poly. His pace at the end was quite incredible to watch - an excellent performance.

STAGE X - Laurie O'Hara (20:27 14th fastest) Laurie who has only been a member for a few months gave up a chance to play in an important football match to run for us and it was soon obvious that we have in Laurie a real discovery. Steadily he closed the gap on Ralph Dunkley of Poly and failed by only four seconds to make up the 49 sec. deficit with

which he started. With the right training and more racing experience, Laurie could well become one of our leading runners within the next 12 months.

STAGE XI - Clive Shinnen (20:23, 7th fastest) Clive who must know Dale Hill like the back of his hand soon caught and passed the Poly runner and then proceeded to pull right away but the gap ahead was far too great to get within striking distance of the 12th team Mitcham.

STAGE XII - Don Maclean (17:50, 9th fastest) Don looking like a champion devoured the stretch across Preston Park and although naturally tiring at the end held on well to put up one of his best road performances for the Club and to give a pleasant surprise to all the doubting Thomases.

This race has proved that no longer can Belgrave hope to do well with a team devoid of stars. We have always prided ourselves on our strength in depth, but we have come to the end of this particular road and must now build up our reputation on something more than the good average club man. With just two top-class performers we would have taken at least fifth place in this race. Derby and Portsmouth at present seem to be in a class of their own and virtually unassailable, but the circle must turn and it may well be that Belgrave could take their place as of old. This can only be accomplished if everyone trains as they have never trained before with the sole object of putting Belgrave back on the map both on road and country - it can be done!!!

RESULT:-

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Derby & City A.C. | 4:23:42 | 6. Bolton Utd. H. | 4:31:36 |
| 2. Portsmouth A.C. | 4:24:23 | 7. Blackpool & F.A.C. | 4:31:47 |
| 3. Bristol A.C. | 4:25:44 | 8. S.L.H. | 4:32:07 |
| 4. Coventry God. | 4:26:19 | 9. Woodford Green A.C. | 4:32:16 |
| 5. T.V.H. | 4:31:17 | 13. Belgrave H. | 4:34:38 |

Ranjit Bhatia writes again to say that he is gradually regaining his old form. He won his State 5,000 metres final in 15:19:2 and then in the Indian Championships finished 3rd in the 1500 metres final with 4:00:7. Says Ranjit, "These are pretty mediocre times, but I feel glad that I am on the up again" - and so are we.

Mal Robinson, we hear, has been doing plenty of studying, travelling and running in his first year at the University of Southern Louisiana, U.S.A. It is rumoured he has not found time to smoke or drink for six solid weeks! Malcolm got off to a very good start this season by finishing second in his College Championships with 4:10:7, his best ever. Keep at it Mal, we only take back sub-4 min. men from State-side!

A word from your TRACK SECRETARY

The track season is once again with us. We have a very full fixture list and I am sure all members interested in the Track will find enough competition. We do hope that all members will co-operate with us this season, especially when notified of being selected to run in team races. Please do not forget to give good notice if you are not able to fulfill an engagement, so that the reserve can be given a chance to run.

Our Championships this year will be on Saturday 26th May 1962 at Hurlingham Track.

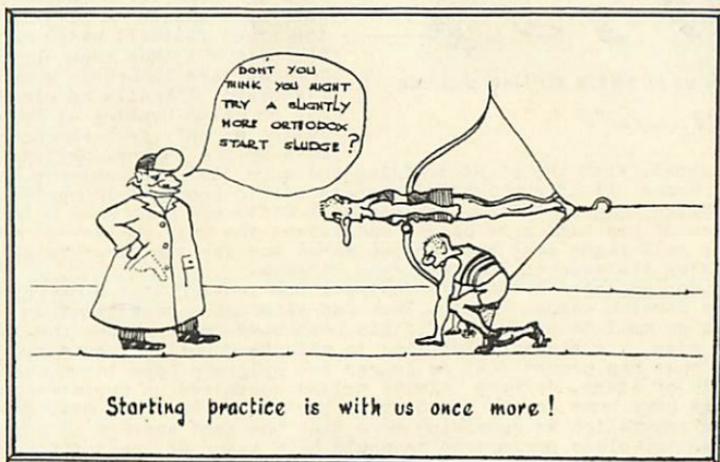
We should like to see more Senior Sprinters this year, also more support from the Field Events. Our two-mile track team, with Gerry North included should do well this year, but our other two-mile runners will have to train hard to give Gerry the support he is worthy of.

The Fixture Cards will soon be circulated, but if you have any doubts about fixtures, get in touch with the Track Captain, Bob Taylor, or myself, and we will do our best to answer your queries.

I am pleased to inform members that we are making arrangements for a Tour in 1963 to Copenhagen, during which we intend to have two matches with Foreign Clubs. For this tour we will join forces with a Ladies Club. Date for tour - last week in August, first week in September 1963, approximate cost, £40.0.0d.

If you are interested, please let me know, and I will let you have more details.

Wishing you all a successful season - DAVE SHEPHERD.



Quiz Answers : (See P.11)

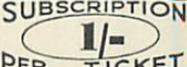
1. Harry W. Shields - National Cross-country Championship. Winning team 1935 & 1939
R.W.A. 50 Kilometres Championship. Winning team 1951 & 1954.
2. Tommy W. Green - 50 Kilometres Walk at Los Angeles in 1932.
3. (a) 2 hrs. 11 mins. 5.6 secs. b) 2 hrs. 37 mins. 18.8 secs.
4. Tommy Scrimshaw - 880 yds and 800 metres, V. France, Italy, Germany in 1931.
5. Maurice O'Dell - 100 yds Championship 1925 - 1931 inclusive.
6. 1954 - team: Dennis Merrett, Ron Holtum, Basil Waldon, Ivan Mayers.
Coach: Frank Simmons
Time: 42.6 secs.
7. W.E. 'Bill' Lucas.
8. W. Curtis - 3rd in 7 miles walk Championship 1889.
9. Jim Ginty in 1937
10. J. H. Dodd - Pole Vault in 1937

In the A.A.A. 10 mile track championship at Hurlingham on Easter Saturday, 21st April, Gerry North (running in Blackpool's colours) was 3rd in 48:38.2 after a tremendous tussle with his cross-country rival Melvin Batty who just edged into second place with 48:38.0. This year's winner was Chelmsford's American star L. 'Buddy' Edelen who recorded 48:31.8.



BACKPIECE - (E.D.Lacey) Ray Hall in action during the Surrey '10' in which he finished 4th. Despite the upset of moving house Ray has consistently proved himself one of the mainstays of our championship teams

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| 2nd Prize £500 | 3rd Prize £250 | 4th Prize £100 |
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3rd Place for Bels.

On Easter Monday, a Belgrave team competed in the Redhill & Reigate '10' (10 miles 1100 yds). The race was won by Roath of Walton (56:11) from Goode of Epsom with Baker of Horsham 3rd. Walker (59:28 9th), Moore (60:49, 13th), and E. Bishop (62:12, 16th) completed our scoring trio and they managed to snatch 3rd place from S.L.H. in what was a desperately close finish. It was very encouraging to see John Moore once again out on the road and approaching something like his old fitness. Also out that day were Norman Stairs, Ray Conway, and Charlie Manning. We congratulate all concerned on a profitable Bank Holiday's running.

The 11th Annual Belgrave 20 MILES OPEN ROAD RACE will be held at Wimbledon Common on Saturday 21st July 1962 at 3.00p.m. It will be held in conjunction with the Surrey 20, and Arthur Penstone will be glad to hear of any offers of help; and you may also rest assured that any donations, however small, will be gratefully received. Please send your donations and offers of help, mentioning whether you can assist with transport.

On Easter Monday, Gerry North broke the course record by 23.4 secs. when winning the Feltham open five miles road race in 24:13.6.