

The Belgravian.

The Official Gazette

OF THE

Belgrave Harriers.

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Headquarters—

ST. JOHN'S HALL, RIDGWAY,
WIMBLEDON HILL

Training Quarters—

Summer :

BATTERSEA PARK TRACK.

Winter :

"RISING SUN,"
EBURY BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1.

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R. W. RICKETTS.

Gen. Hon. Secretary—

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24, LUPUS STREET, S.W.1.

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Walking Hon. Secretary—

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Hon. Editor—

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"JUNIOR" PROSPECTS.

Our remarks on the Club's prospects in the R.W.A. "Junior" Championship has aroused a little interest among the walkers and many have suggested that these are not so bright as we have anticipated. In support of which suggestion it has been stated that we shall have great difficulty in accounting for, among others, the team of the Herne Hill Harriers, whose representatives are walking so well at present.

This is so, but it is scarcely time yet to judge by the result of the Club's open 7 mile race when the Juniors of that Club were so much superior to our own. No one will contend that any of those on whom we shall depend, at Sheffield next March, are fit at the present time and in consequence we can readily conceive a considerable improvement later in the Season.

There is always danger in getting fit too early for when March comes along there is the possibility of reaction and staleness which has lost the race to other Clubs who had considered their opportunity as outstanding.

All being well, and with the whole hearted support of those qualified, we still maintain that there is an excellent prospect of repeating our win of 1922.

CROSS COUNTRY.

The first Inter-Club race of the Season, with Thames Valley H. and Ashcombe A.C. was anticipated with more than usual interest as it provided the opportunity of obtaining the first insight into the merits of many new additions to our forces and of the expected improvement on the part of those who had been performing with much credit during the past Track Season but whose appearances in last years Cross Country events were not particularly inspiring.

In addition, the move of the Thames Valley H. from Isleworth to Feltham, from which later venue the race was held, was expected to provide a true run race which unfortunately has not always resulted previously over the old course.

Anticipations in this latter respect were not realised, for the distance covered proved much shorter than was expected, with the consequence that some who had been reserving their energies for the full 5 miles found them wasted when sighting the finish a full mile short.

The incidents of the race could not be closely followed but possibly no great change took place among the leaders. Certainly Arthur Clark, who took the lead at the start, was never headed and finished comparatively fresh, a comfortable winner. P. Klophain, whose merits had, to some extent, preceded him, did very well to finish fourth, close behind H. E. Footer, who ran his usual race and was himself but closely beaten by P. V. Bicknell the Thames Valley champion.

Of the others B. G. Button ran remarkably well in his first race

and was eighth man home for the Club and third of those with the Junior qualification. T. W. Tubbs and S. L. King both showed promising form and should be contesting consideration for the Championship teams in the near future, whilst our Captain, W. L. Bayliss, showed a glimpse of his best form in hunting home Micky Pyer.

Altogether we fielded 26, which for the first time exceeded the numbers of the home Club: Scoring 12 a side in the team race there was little doubt as to the result when it was seen that our 12th man finished in the 26th position. Details as follows:

Actual Pos			Time
1	A. Clark ..	..	22.37
3	H. E Footer ..	..	23. 0
4	P. Klophain ..	..	23. 6
6	A. D. Pyer ..	..	23.33
7	W. L. Bayliss ..	..	23.38
13	J. G. Flatt ..	..	25.59
14	K. B. O'Kell ..	..	24. 0
17	B. G. Button ..	..	24. 5
18	W. H. Wilhams ..	..	24.10
24	A. E. Smith ..	..	24.24
25	S. L. King ..	..	24.28
26	T. W. Tubbs ..	..	24.29
27	J. H. Bramble ..	..	24.30
30	W. Rice ..	..	24.49
32	H. W. Smith ..	..	25. 2
38	A. Traquair ..	..	25.24
43	G. Easton ..	..	25.43
46	G. Still ..	..	26. 8
61	R. J. Savage ..	..	26.18
52	A. Calver ..	..	26.21
53	F. Herring ..	..	26.24
55	H. L. Rollins ..	..	26.42
60	T. Pritchard ..	..	27.24
61	A. H. Butt ..	..	27.31
64	C. H. Phillips ..	..	28. 5
66	W. J. Peacock ..	..	28.47

TEAM RACE.

Belgrave H	158 Pts
Thames Valley H.	220
Ashcombe A. C ..	337

SURREY "JUNIOR."

It would be difficult to imagine more unfavourable weather conditions than those that prevailed on the day of the South of Thame,

"Junior" at Surbiton on November 13th. Fortunately however the rain eased just before the actual start of the race but the ground was in a very heavy condition and made a severe tax on the stamina of those competing.

With last years winning team barred, by the conditions of the race, from competing again it was scarcely expected that our team would be very well placed. Therefore in finishing seventh we are by no means disappointed. J. G. Flatt had the honour of being first man home for the Club, followed by H. W. Smith, W L Bayliss and W D Pritchard all of whom were, we fear, rather "at sea" in the heavy going. Of our 24 entered, constituting 3 teams, 18 started and finished as follows:

PLACINGS & TIMES.

Actual Pos.			Time
13	J G Flatt	..	30 28
21	H W Smith	..	30 58
25	W L Bayliss	..	31 3
35	W D. Pritchard	..	31 20
38	W H Williams	..	31 26
45	W. Rice	..	31 44
48	T Pritchard		31 54
51	T W Tubbs		31 59
54	S. L King	..	32 2
58	B G Bntton	..	32 6
60	G. F Easton	..	32 8
71	A Traquair		32 31
90	F Herring		33 52
94	L Calver	..	34 16
95	W G Hedger		34 17
97	A H Butt		34 50
—	H L Rollins	..	—
—	C H Phillips	..	—

* * *

YOUTHS' RACE.

The Surrey County Youths (under 18) team race on November 20th, found us in difficulties in fielding a team. Eventually however, by borrowing a walker, W J. East, we were able to run 5 and

they ran well enough to secure 3rd place. T. F. Morrell was first of ours home and being of a sturdy build promises to do well later on

RESULT

Actual Pos.		Time
8	T F. Morrell	18 47
25	C. A. Hills	20 0
26	W. J. East	20 4
29	F. Herring	20 20
32	J. White	20 33

TEAM PLACINGS			Pts
1	Mitcham A C	...	21
2	Epsom H	..	37½
3	Belgrave H.	..	57

* * *

THE "OPEN" WALK.

The Belgrave Seventh Annual "Open" 7 mile walk Team and Individual handicaps, was held over the usual course at Wimbledon on November 27th.

The race attracted an entry of 133 individuals and 19 teams which may be considered very satisfactory to all concerned. Of our own members 19 entered and all but one were timed in. The pleasure feature of the race was the rather unexpected victory of H. F King who in winning the actual race in 56min. 4secs repeated his success of 1923 prior to his sojourn to the Gold Coast of Africa. B. Knifton, in his second "open" competition, secured second prize in the handicap whilst our "A" team scoring four, H. F. King, J. B. Carne, W. J. Fish and A. Martin secured the third team awards.

Those who have experienced the long wait for the detailed result of the various team handicaps and other "open" races will agree that much credit is due to those who acted as scoring judges on this occasion for their excellent and speedy services. Details as follows:

RESULT.

Actual Pos	Actual Time	Start	H T.	H P
1 H. F King	56 4	0.45	55 19	15
7 A. L Fletcher	57 40	1.30	56 10	26
15 J. B. Carne	58 50	3. 0	55 50	21
21 R D McMullen	59 59	0.50	59 9	78
27 J G Scammell	60 59	2 0	58 59	75
31 B Knifton	61. 9	7.30	53 39	2
32 W. H Hare	61 10	2.45	58 25	66
38 J Rathbone	61 47	3. 0	58 47	73
44 W J Fish	62 10	6.30	55 50	22
48 J Field	62 33	5.20	57 3	37
53 A H. East	63 3	4.30	58 33	68
60 C J Bolt	63 43	5.30	58 13	61
73 R E Wills	64 35	6 0	58 35	69
74 A W Godfrey	64 37	7 0	57.37	47
84 C R Briggs	66 17	8.30	57 47	50
85 E Saunders	66 22	6 0	60 22	89
91 A Martin	67 11	11.15	55 56	24
99 V Winner	69 37	7.30	62 7	96
— W. Fuller	— 13.30	—	—	—

* * *

CLUB HANDICAP & TEAM RACE.

For the first time since 1922 a 5 mile handicap has been included in our fixture list and this was decided in conjunction with the second Inter-Club race with Ashcombe and Thames Valley at Wimbledon, on December 4th. The course was laid from the Common side, over the Golf Course to Cæsars Well, down Gravell Hill and thence through the wood down to Beverley Brook, crossing the bridge and into Richmond Park by Robin Hood Gate. Then making a circuit of Spankers Hill Wood and home by the same route. A field of 74 started of whom we mustered 30.

A. Clark raced away at the start and at Beverley Brook was already making the handicapper feel nervous, for so early in the race he had set up a good lead, being followed by H. Cook, Bicknell of Thames Valley and Browning of Ashcombe Footer

and Klophoin being in close attendance. Little change took place among the leaders on the return journey except that H. E. Footer improved his position and eventually finished second to Clark, some 56 seconds behind. The handicap proved a comparatively close affair in which G. Still came out best, 4 seconds in front of the scratch man, with W. D. Pritchard, a further 2 seconds away, in third place.

The team race (scoring 12 a side) resulted in a further victory for the Club with a score of 157 points, Thames Valley second with 265 and Ashcombe third with 304 points.

RESULT.

Actual Pos	Actual Time	Start	H T. P.H.
1 A. Clark	27.45	scr.	27 45 2
2 H. E. Footer	28 41	0.50	27.51 4
4 H. Cook	28.46	0.20	28.26 11
5 P. Klophoin	29 15	1. 0	28.15 6
12 A. D. Pyer	30. 8	0.50	29 18 19
13 J. G. Flatt	30 9	1.45	28 24 10
14 W. D. Pritchard	30 12	2.25	27 47 3
16 A. E. Smith	30 20	1.20	29. 0 17
17 W. Dodkin	30 21	1.25	28 56 15
19 W. H. Williams	30.26	2.25	28 11 5
20 K. B. O'Kell	30 45	0.40	30 5 2
23 W. L. Bayliss	30 58	2 0	28 58 16
25 B. G. Button	31 1	2.40	28 21 *7
26 G. Still	31.11	3.30	27.41 1
29 H. W. Smith	31 36	2. 5	29.31 *20
31 S. L. King	31.43	3.15	28.28 12
32 T. Pritchard	31 45	3 15	28 30 13
36 G. Easton	32 21	2.50	29 31 *20
37 A. Traquair	32 23	4 0	28 23 9
38 J. Dashper	32.34	3 30	29. 4 18
51 A. H. Butt	33 32	3 15	30 17 25
52 T. W. Tubbs	33.33	3 15	30.18 26
56 H. L. Rollins	34 23	5 30	28 53 14
57 T. F. Morrell	34 34	4 45	29 49 23
58 C. A. Hills	34 36	6 15	28 21 *7
60 A. Calver	35.23	5.30	29.53 24
65 F. H. Hooren	38 40	5 30	33 10 27
66 A. Harley	38.41	5.30	33 11 28
67 C. H. Phillips	39 56	6 15	33 41 29
— A. Simpson	— 5 30	—	—

* Dead Heat.

H. Cook not being first claim was eliminated for Team scoring.

CLUB NOTES.

By the Hon. Sec.

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers. May the New Year bring renewed vigour to all our runners and walkers after the alleged Festive Season.

Boxing Day will see the Club again providing some excellent racing in Battersea Park. The usual handicaps are being given and judging by the way the entries are coming in, the Club will score another success. Will members note that a start will be made at 11 o'clock as some of the officials want to get away in good time to witness the finish of the Godstone Walk.

* * *

With the New Year there will come in its train a very strenuous time for all. Starting with New Year's day when we hold the Club 7 Miles Cross Country Championship for the Blackstaffe Shield. I think to level up this contest, that one member should be handicapped through the agency of 2 mince pies and 2 Tobys'.

This race should act as a pointer for the Surrey County Championship. The running will be taken as a guide to selecting the team to wear our colors at Surbiton. As holders we have a hard task but I see no reason why we should not retain the cup if all members give of their best.

* * *

While the runners are competing at Surbiton the walkers will be deciding who is the best "Junior" in the Club. It is

hoped that some promising talent will be discovered in view of the form that is being shown by other Clubs, and so enhance our chances of again winning the R.W.A. Junior Championship

* * *

On January 22nd, we shall be visiting our old friends the S.W.C. in the Annual Banstead Walk. Walkers are asked to turn out in force for this race. Supporters are also invited, as a very special tea and social is held after the race. Everybody is roped in to sing and a very special turn is provided by the popular EDGAR. Please make arrangements to stay to tea and help sing the choruses.

* * *

The Club Dinner has been arranged for January 14th, at Stanleys Restaurant, Clapham Junction, with our most worthy President in the chair, at 7.30 p.m. Social Sec Len Smith has arranged a capital menu and musical programme. As there is no racing on the next day, only training spins, you can do full justice to all the good things that he is providing.

* * *

The Evergreen George, whose other name is Still, has popped up again to confound the watchers of form. Gallant fellow over anything between 5 and 10 miles. Still, his name maybe, but he is not by a long way. More success to you George

* * *

Our Vice-Captain, Clark is a great acquisition to the Club. It was whispered to me the other day that he does not start running

until after Xmas. If that is so what was he doing in the 5 Miles Handicap?. What a pity that the rules rob us of his services for 14 months. Perhaps one day the Bigwigs will alter that rule and allow some indulgence to meet a case like Arthur Clark's and some other prominent runners who have come under the harsh treatment of this rule.

* * *

I would like to remind members that a good appearance in public goes a long way to impress spectators. Clean vests and shorts, shoes properly cleaned, give the competitors a smartness which to my mind enhances the running or walking of the member. I would ask the members to give more attention to their clothing and when they are again in a team race that they turn out spick and span just as if they were going before the Sergeant Major. It is attention to these, little thought of details, that helps the Club along and also gains more members and supporters.

* * *

I have just received a letter from our old friend Speechley. It is recalled that he sailed in November for the United States to seek fame and fortune. Well he has not yet struck either. He has great hopes of the latter but the former he thinks is a long way off. He cannot find a Walking Club and if he did he says that the roads are in such a condition that racing is practically impossible. He then tried to find a swimming bath and that ended in failure, so he has not been able to enjoy his two favourite pas-

times. In the meantime he is putting on weight. You will remember how well he did himself in the last National Championship and how well he was fed. Now the loss of a meal is a great thing to Charles so he laments missing several on the voyage out to New York. He wishes all his old friends and the walkers especially bright things in the New Year. Members can have his address on application to me.

* * *

This is the "Rising Sun" calling. Uncle Secretary offers congratulations to Knifton on his walking in the Club Open Walk and if he will look in the Laundry cart he might find another 30 Secs, to George Pepper, if he looks behind the Gas Meter he might win a Veterans 220yds, to Bob, if he looks behind the flushing cistern he might find a "Good Handicap," to the Editor, if he looks under his easy chair he might find a "Winner," to Bert Smith, if he looks in his gear box he might find a "First."

* * *

SOCIAL.

Having missed the first two Club dances and hearing that they were not going so well as usual we thought it imperitive to go along to Fulham Town Hall on December 3rd, to see things.

Of course, in a official capacity we quite expected to be greeted on arrival with felicitation and provided with something to warm one to the occasion. But someone quite failed to do the expected so into the motley we proceeded.

Looking around the hall it must be admitted that there were many blank spaces and that the

floor was not so well filled as our Social Hon. Sec. desires. Matters brightened up as the evening progressed and subsequently observing among others Micky and Bert and a well known lady walker shaking their legs in unaccustomed style we suspected that they were demonstrating the International Athletic Federation new definition of walking, but on making a few suggestions on the subject was rather rudely told that they were doing the "Blankety Charleston." This unnerved us for a while so hied we elsewhere for support.

Apart from the fact that the dance could have received better support from the members, the affair was quite enjoyable but it is hoped that all will endeavour to ensure that the next fixture at Battersea Town Hall on January 7th, will be a compliment to the work of our Social Hon. Sec.

Tickets on application to the usual source

ANSWERS

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor wishes to inform his numerous readers that he is opening this column to reply to the many thousands of letters he receives asking for advice and information. The Editor takes no responsibility as to the correctness of all his replies and at the same time he will not answer any letters asking for medical advice, settle betting tax disputes, hints on gardening, domestic economy, or matrimonial questions. The space at his disposal is one column so if a reply to your letter does not appear in this issue, buy the next one.

A Private in the Irish Rifles.

Many thanks I can recommend

the Charleston as a good training exercise. No, Spikes must not be worn.

Burstmif.

Always pleased to hear from you. Glad to hear that you are deriving benefit from Cross Country running. Suggest that you now increase the distance of your training spins. Many thanks for offer of car for Boxing Day.

Round.

I should think that 2 relays might suit you next April. Suggest the first and the last.

Blood Mixture.

Sorry, cannot alter the Club's badge. Your suggestion of To(by) or not To(by) is more suitable for your House Club.

North West

Please do not send me mathematical problems. "Shove a penny" is not good training for the leg muscles. Think you ought to be doing 8.59 miles next year.

Disgrunted also ran.

Sorry, cannot agree that running handicapper is B.F. 1st class. Suggest you run faster.

(Many replies held over for next issue)

LOOKING AHEAD.

The date of the "*News of the World*" Brighton Relay Race is reported to have been altered to April 9th, to avoid clashing with the International Cross Country Race at Caerleon Race Course, Wales, on the 2nd.

In all probability we shall be obliged to compete in the trial race, that is being arranged, to qualify for a place among the competing teams, but the full details of this are not yet to hand. We are anxious to strengthen

last years team and there is, at the present time, a bright opportunity for some three new contestants.

It is regretted, but none the less definite, that neither A. Clark or P. Klophin are eligible for inclusion owing to the existent rules for team racing.

The South of Thames C.C. Championship is fixed for February 12th and will be held over a course of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the borders of Reading. It will be remembered that apart from the winning team trophy there is a Cup to be won by the Club with the lowest aggregate score for the whole of the team of 12 competing.

We finished our 12 last year and took third place and wish to go better this time.

TRACK TOPICS.

Already prospects for the Track Season have to be considered and soon the Committee will be drawing up the fixtures for our meetings at Battersea Park. With the continued progress and growth of the Club it appears that there is room for some additional events at our meets.

There has been an opinion expressed that in catering more for the Veterans of the runners that the Veteran walkers have now claims for consideration. This is admitted and doubtless they will be provided for in due course. In the meantime any expression

of opinion as to a suitable date and distance would be helpful.

Much as it would be desired in some quarters for the Club to promote an "open" meeting, it must be admitted that at present the difficulties against this being done are rather too great. For obvious reasons there are but few suitable venues, and of these, the only one that would permit of the necessary "gate" is Stamford Bridge, and that is not available.

It has occurred to the writer, without, however, claiming this as an original suggestion, that the time is now opportune for the Club to cater in some way for athletics generally, and at a time when it may most be needed.

It is found that, although the Track Season is considered to commence on Easter Monday, little opportunity for "open" competition is provided before the latter part of May. Therefore the promotion of two or three open handicaps at our first track meeting on Saturday, April 30th might provide a welcome attraction to Athletes generally and at the same time complete an afternoon's programme which, at the corresponding meeting, in previous years has been, it must be admitted, "rather thin".

It must be conceded, however, that there are difficulties to be overcome, and moreover there is always the possibility that, when the various "open" fixtures for 1927 are announced, April 30th has been allocated for some important events.

In such circumstances it might not be desirable to press the suggestion for adoption.