

AUGUST 1955

The  
**BELGRAVIAN**

The  
**Official Gazette**  
of the  
**Belgrave Harriers**

EDITORIAL

Fellow Members,

This issue marks the completion of the first twelve months of the Belgravian in its new form and whilst the process used does not come up to ordinary printing, the reduced cost, plus the annual charge of 2/-, has enabled us to continue publishing a quarterly magazine. This leads me to the point at issue, namely that your 2/- is again due if you wish to receive the magazine during the next twelve months. A form is enclosed herewith which should be completed and returned with a postal order or cheque for 2/-. Failing this you will not receive the November issue. We are now building up quite a large list of subscribers and I sincerely hope that you will not delay in making your application.

There has been very little response to my appeal for articles, in fact I have not received any information about some of our fixtures, particularly on the track, and they cannot therefore be included in the magazine. Many of you attend major fixtures, Championships and the like and your impressions of some of these events would, I am sure, make interesting reading and also a pleasant change to the more or less stereotype articles which I receive periodically from Club Captains, Sectional Secretaries, etc.

Our major success since our last issue was the retention of the R.W.A. National 20 Miles Title coupled with which we regained the Nijmegen Shield. Next in "Merrett" must surely be Denis Merrett's Southern Counties Hurdles title in a new Championship time and of course a new Club record. In other quarters our members have been making their presence well felt, the Field Events men in particular going from strength to strength.

It is hoped that the loss of Franz Stampfl will not have too adverse an effect on our coaching and that those of our Club Coaches and members who have been taking advantage of his advice and assistance, will retain what he has endeavoured to pass on to them.

This issue should be out in time to remind you that the Club Track Championships are being held at Battersea Park Track on Saturday, 6th August. This is an excellent afternoon's sport and should receive the full support of both competitors and spectators.

Yours sincerely

Editor.

## The R.W.A. 80 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

May 14th 1955 was a great day in our history for not only did Belgrave retain the 80 miles Team Championship, the Blue Riband of Race Walking, but regained the Nijmegen Shield for being the first Club to finish its complete team of eight men. In addition we had the satisfaction of knowing that our organisation of the first R.W.A. Championship entrusted to us was extremely successful and could not be faulted on any major point. Previously we have been diffident about holding such an important event from our headquarters at Wimbledon, but the improved amenities installed during the past year, plus the fullest co-operation of Arthur Whitehead at Lauriston House, the painstaking competence and hard work of Jack Goswell and the rewarding response of so many members to the call for assistance, all combined to make the Championship a great success and a credit alike to the Race Walking Association and the Belgrave Harriers.

The Club's thanks go to all who assisted in the very great piece of teamwork which the promotion of a successful National Championship demands. The greatest praise, of course, goes to Jack Goswell who worked for months before the race perfecting the arrangements, thinking of those little things that might go wrong and making certain they did not. He did a great job and we may be sure he is a great Belgravian. Our gratitude must also be expressed to Arthur Whitehead for his work in advance and on the day, and for the use of the facilities at Lauriston House which are such a great boon. To our former International half miler, Tom Scrimshaw, who did not spare himself in the work he undertook, the K.L.G. Sports Club for valuable services rendered, and to the many, many club members - and what a treat it was to see so many of them - all helping in some way or other the conduct of the Championship. Also we must thank the Deputy Mayor of Wimbledon, Councillor A.L. Reid, J.P. for his interest and for starting the Championship, Mr. F.E. Lawrence, the Wimbledon Divisional Director of the British Red Cross Society and his staff for their great assistance and charm and to our friend Col. Lambert, the Chief Ranger of Wimbledon Common, for his co-operation and provision of a special car park on the common. To everyone who helped - male and female - a very sincere "Thank you" from the Club.

The 80 miles course chosen, comprised (almost) three laps and had the great merit of allowing competitors to see some grass and trees for most of the way, and of left hand turns throughout, with one minor exception, thus giving little traffic difficulty. The good surfaced roads and the rather easy first five miles ensured a fast pace being set which continued throughout the race, notwithstanding the "traking" effect of the long steady climb up Copse Hill and back to the Common.

The two internationals, George Coleman (Highgate) and A. Johnson (Sheffield) were quickly in the lead closely followed by J. Barraclough (Lancs. W.C.) and the fastest 80 miles Championship yet, was on its way. At 5 miles Coleman led in the particularly fast time of 38 mins. 50secs. and the field was well and truly spread out. A check at just over the halfway showed our team narrowly leading with 4th, 9th, 13th and 22nd positions and other close support, with Woodford Green and Met. W.C. next.

At 13½ miles Coleman was still increasing his lead. Johnson seemed unassailable in second position, but Barraclough, 3rd, seemed to be faltering somewhat. Our Eric Hall, in 4th position, was moving beautifully and was seemingly

Team positions at this mark remained much about the same with Belgrave strongly placed, but it was obvious that some changes could be expected in the last third of the race. At 17 miles Eric Hall was walking faster than anyone else in the race, cutting into the lead held by the three men in front of him and eventually claiming third place. Our team position had weakened a little for Hugh McGreechan was having his unaccountable day off which happens to everyone once in a life time and had gone back places, which had not yet been recovered by our other men. Woodford conversely seemed to be warming to their task and gained a few places, whilst Met. W.C. lacked a fourth man and the third position seemed a very open affair.

Ultimately came the finish with the two Internationals Coleman and Johnson, first and second, with our Eric Hall in third position. His time was the amazing one of 2 hrs. 45 mins. 37 secs. in his first 20 miles ever. Throughout he had shown steadiness and ease of action and over the last four miles he was the fastest man in the race. His tactics and knowledge of pace were those of a veteran and apart from rain on his spectacles, he was untroubled throughout. What a future is his! Next for us in 8th position was George Checkley, another grand performance and our scoring team was completed by Bob Newson, trying gallantly even in the last yard to catch and pass the Woodford man a pace ahead, and Bernard Eglinton on leave from Germany. Close behind was George Beecham - a gallant performance this after an interrupted preparation, and Norman Guilmant, thinking of something inside eight hours for the "Brighton" next September. Hugh McGreechan and Captain Harry Shields completed a very worthy Nijmegen Shield winning team of eight.

Meanwhile our "B" Team was also hard at it and had the satisfaction of closing in a team in a worthy position as the result will show below.

Some measure of sympathy must be accorded Woodford Green A.C. in that they managed to pick the wrong team and had the mortification of seeing a walker nominated as reserve beating all but one of their first selection. But of course it's all part of the game and showed that championships may be won or lost other than in the actual walking of them.

Belgrave had every reason for satisfaction, a Championship retained, The Nijmegen Shield regained, and outstanding first effort at 20 by Eric Hall which even now staggers in retrospect, and a championship brilliantly organised and staged for the R.W.A. by our Club, thanks to the outstanding work of the few before the day and the great assistance of the many on the day.

Our pride in the performance of the team is well justified and in view of the youth of many of its members, we look forward to continuing success. Certainly we hope Eric Hall will soon be the first Belgrave member to win the 20 miles Championship. We have had a number of placed men - Tommy Green on three occasions - but never a winner.

Here's a target for next year; to beat our 1938 winning team score of 23 points (Bentley 2, Sutton 4, Bidgood 8 Rickards 9)! And here's a record to be proud of. Since we were first placed in this Championship in 1932, we have won or been placed in the first three teams in 24 of the 27 Championships.

A.A.H.

RESULT

1. G. Coleman H.H.	2. 40. 08	56. A.Readman	3. 13. 22
3. E. Hall	2. 45. 37	64. C.Yescoombe	3. 16. 11
7. G. Checkley	2. 52. 07	80. W.True	3. 20. 00
17. R. Newson	2. 58. 49	97. G.Doubleday	3. 27. 09
18. E. Eglington	2. 58. 54	103. L.Demmon	3. 29. 33
21. G. Beecham	2. 59. 49	104. C.McLennan	3. 29. 44
25. N. Guilment	3. 2. 58	115. S.Spencer	3. 33. 37
30. H. McGreechan	3. 4. 22	116. H. Stallard	3. 33. 45
41. H. Shields	3. 7. 55		

TEAM. Belgrave H. (3.7.17.18) 45 points

R. Woodford Green 56 points. S. Sheffield U.H. 67 points

## LONDON to BRIGHTON RELAY - APRIL 16TH

Always a gal day for our supporters and blessed this year by very pleasant weather, fairly warm and sunny with hardly any breeze.

It was by no means our best performance in this race, but this particular performance will always occupy a special place in Belgrave's "Brighton" history. The first four teams have always received medals in this race and we first made the grade in 1932 when our team was third. This year for the twenty first consecutive race we still figure in the list of teams for place medals.

At the first stroke of ten, the runners were sent on their way from Old Palace Yard. The bulk of our supporters had, by then, assembled on the Common at Mitcham and only Walker and Brown had so far failed to report. The team was not quite as planned as Jumbo Masters still had an injured leg, so Charlie Smart was moved and Eric Gebbett brought into the team. Soon Brown and the everlate Walker were present and the coaches sent on their way still waiting for news.

Peter Baghall was running our first stage and was seen by our car driving supporters to be running well and was never out of touch with the race. He was in the lead for the first mile with Dunkley of Shaftesbury, but then Wood of Sheffield went past and opened up the field in the course of his record breaking run. Peter's time was a new Club best performance and he sent Charlie Smart away 5th, 50 seconds behind the leaders. Charlie seemed to enjoy this leg and although only doing the seventh fastest time, he brought us up to fourth only a couple of yards behind Sheffield. Shaftesbury dropped from second to fifth and we were 37 seconds behind the leaders, S.L.H. who were never headed from this point. Charlie's time was a Belgrave best and indeed a minute faster than our 1932 time. Cameron, T.V.H. broke the course record with 24.59 and brought his club from 13th to 6th.

Mitcham to Purley was Walker's leg and Hedley of Sheffield passed Charles to put us 5th again. Though his time did not appear impressive, our only man to beat it in post war years has been Jack Brown. At the change over S.L.H. were 75 seconds ahead of us and Jack Brown's course record of 28.21 had been beaten by Ellis, T.V.H. 28.20 who went through to 2nd, and by Llewellyn of Walton, 28.17 who took his club up seven places to 6th.

Cliff Roffey running in his first Brighton for us was next and though running well, was passed by Hames, Essex who established a new course record of 25mins. The Poly made

great efforts and were catching S.L.H. on this leg and the next, but could not measure up from Lowfield Heath onwards. With T.V.H. just in front and Herne Hill and Birchfield close behind us, our visions of medals again were fading slightly. The journey through Redhill to the "Prince Albert" was Colin Collis's leg. He ran very well to do the fourth fastest time of the day and take us up one place to fifth.

Dave Baulch running the next leg, also did a Club best time beating by 10 seconds the three year old time of Bruce, which was a course record in those days. Dave took half a minute off the Essex man in front but South London were still moving away from us. The toughest leg in the race from Hand-cross Village was set aside for our best performer, Jack Brown. He again gave of his very best and improved his October time by half a minute to do 34.05, less than 40 seconds slower than D.A.G.'s record. He passed P. West of Essex to bring us into 4th place but Maynard, H.H.H. and Ingles T.V.H. were closing the gap behind us. The eighth leg was run by Bedford who was only too pleased to run wherever the selectors decided and though he lost places to Norris and Clark he still gave a sterling performance and established a new club best by 10 seconds. Essex had dropped back a bit further and although Gebbett, our next man, took 20 seconds off T.V.H., he lost ground on the others in front of us. However he maintained our position and sent off Jon Burr, still sixth. Jon ran above his recent form (for which we were grateful) and set about catching T.V.H. and H.H.H. which, to the great delight of our supporters in coaches, did so just as we were passing him. His time, the third best ever was a new club record for this stage.

Len Bishop ran last and seemed determined that those behind him should remain so and he put up the fastest time of the day with a time only Brown has beaten for us. The Poly went back into 2nd place on this last leg having been passed by Sheffield on the one before and we maintained our fourth place.

A fine display of intestinal fortitude by all, everyone of whom gave of his very best. We just lack sufficient numbers of real class performers.

#### RESULT.

1. S.L.H.	4hrs. 29m. 19s.	4. Belgrave	4hrs. 34m. 15s
2. Poly	4 33 15	5. T.V.H.	4 35 25
3. Sheffield	4 33 29	6. H.H.H.	4 36 15.
	m. yds.		m. yds.
1. 4 558	Bagnall 21.07 CR.	7. 6 1888	Brown 34.05 CR
2. 5 138	Smart 25.34 CR.	8. 6 206	Bedford 30.13 CR
3. 5 1416	Walker 29.17	9. 4 82	Gebbett 21.21
4. 5 186	Roffey 26.07	10. 4 356	Burr 20.37 CR
5. 4 918	Collis 22.35	11. 3 1166	Bishop 17.36
6. 5 320	Baulch 25.43 CR		

CR. = Club Record.

#### SURREY TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Motspur Park, June 4th 1955.

By Olympian.

Both the Senior and Junior Events, with some exclusions such as the Relays, Steeplechase and 440 yards Hurdles, were held on the above date under good weather conditions.

The Belgrave entry for the Senior Championships was but moderate for a club of our size and for the Juniors, very poor indeed, only six members putting in an appearance.

Our best performances were as follows:-

Ted Gaworski.	1st Putting the Shot.	44' 6"	New County record.
	County Standards in Hammer and Discus.		
Eric Hall	1st 2 Miles Walk.	15mins. 5.6secs.	
Basil Walden	2nd 100 yards.	10secs.	
Dennis Merrett.	2nd 220 yards.	22secs. (Same as winner)	
	3rd 100 yards	10.1secs.	
W. Ash	2nd Pole Vault	12'. (equal with winner)	
Denis Fleming	3rd Javelin.	170' 11"	
Erian Shepherd	2nd 2 Miles Walk	15mins. 27.6secs.	
	(2nd Claim).		

I think the biggest surprise was the defeat of Dennis Merrett by Basil Walden in the 100 yards for Dennis has been showing good form this season. It should, however, be said that Basil was the holder of this title and always seems to produce his best in these championships. Unfortunately each came up against a better man on the day, to wit, Fortyn of Hercules A.C.

Ted Gaworski seemed to have taken on too large a programme with three field events and in consequence his discus throwing late in the afternoon suffered badly.

Pete Casselton although qualifying for the final of the Senior 440 yards with a second in his heat in 58.1 secs. could not show an improvement in the final. Nevertheless he is young enough to be a great asset to the club over this distance and in 880 yards events.

We had four starters in the three miles but none could get near the leaders. Dave Baulch was not up to the form he has shown recently in road races and failed to qualify for the standard he attained last year.

We had no representatives in the finals of either the 880 yards or the mile and it would seem that our middle distance runners are now the weak link in our club and are leaving point scoring to the sprinters and the Field Events competitors. Eric Hall continued with his run of successes with an easy win in the 2 miles walk for which, incidentally, there were only four competitors; of which Bert East was one - surely our walkers could support this event in greater strength. Erian Shepherd, our second claim member, was a good second to Eric.

Our successful members are to be congratulated on excellent performances and it is indeed a good sign to see one of our athletes putting in such good work in the Pole Vault which to Belgrave has been a Cinderella event since the pre-war days of Dodds. On the other hand it is a poor outlook that not one of our Juniors secured a place or even a County Standard, and apart from the Seniors I have mentioned, there were no County Standards awarded to any of our athletes.

PARIS ▼ LONDON 1955 - 25 KILOMETRES ROAD WALK  
22nd May 1955.

This race was the first of what is hoped will be a series of Inter-City Walks between the newly formed Union of London Walking Clubs and Continental Cities and following his fine walk in the Regents Park "15", Eric Hall was selected as one of the team.

The party consisting of the team, plus Manager

"Timber" Woodcock, Charlie Churcher (Chairman of the R.W.A. Southern Committee), Colin Young of Essex Beagles, Alf Pink, late of Belgrave and Bob Harris, London Vidarians, left Victoria at 9.30am on 21st May. After an uneventful journey including a smooth crossing and a pleasant train journey on the other side, we arrived in Paris at 5pm. We were welcomed by a member of the French R.W.A. and escorted to our quarters. Imagine eleven of us with kit on the crowded Metro in the rush hour! Give me the Waterloo and City any time - anyone like the smell of garlick!?

Our quarters were somewhat of a mystery, being a hostel for all visiting sportsmen some 10 km. from the centre of Paris. We had a room apiece and were very comfortable. After a meal we wandered round the area and to our amazement found three tracks in the grounds. The party turned in about 9.30pm as we were to have an early breakfast.

The race, which was held from St. Cloud Stadium, on the opposite side of Paris, started at 9am., so after a perilous taxi ride across Paris, we got under way. The course consisted of 10 track laps (3,333 metres), then six road laps and finish with a last lap ontrack. The French team were Chaylat, Conbard of Helsinki and Berne fame, Lesage and Hubert known over here for his "Brightons" and 24 hour jaunts, Maggi who was third in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 metres and Phillipson, a Gendarme and unknown quantity. Now to the race itself.

A fast start on the track and the field was led by Coleman through a reputed 7.37 mile! After the 10 laps we moved out on to the road with George leading from Bryan Hawkins and myself, Bob Goodall, McFarlane, and Don Thompson with the French team. At this stage it looked too easy but we were soon disillusioned. Just as we settled down on the road, so we hit the cobbles, 440 yards of them on each lap. The order was unchanged until 1½ laps of the road were completed when Mac went into third place and the two leading Frenchmen went up with Bob. After three and a half laps Conbard passed me and Mac passed Brian. Don Thompson was still trying to sort the rest of the Frenchmen out. By now the early pace was beginning to tell and the heat was unpleasant plus the effect of the cobbled roads. After 4½ laps, 12 miles, George began to drop and Mac took over followed by Brian, George, then a gap, two Frenchmen, Bob, myself Don and the rest. On the last lap, Chaylat passed Conbard and George to take 4th and Conbard and I also went by George.

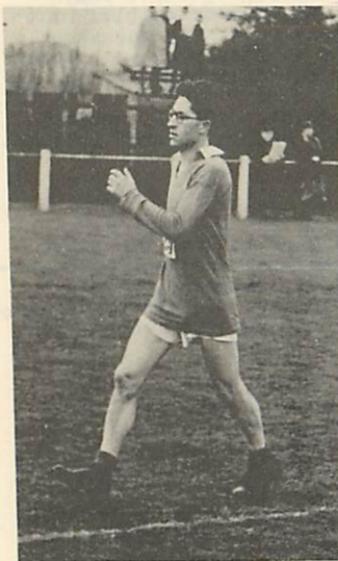
Mac walked a good steady race to win in the excellent time of 2 hrs. 8mins. 41secs., followed by Brian, in 2hrs. 4mins. 58secs, Chaylat 2.6.36, Conbard 2.6.49, Hall 2.7.14, Goodall same time, George Coleman 2.7.36m Thompson 2.8.32, Maggi 2.9.52 and then Phillipson appeared very tired but game, He was 70 yards in front of Hubert and Lesage who set about him. In the home straight they caught him and battled to the line, Lesage getting the verdict with Hubert 11th and Phillipson, after a grand effort, unluckily last, all were credited with 2.14.18.

The race was very well organised with Gendarmes on every road crossing. As we went through a market place, there were quite a few people about and the same sort of barracking went on as we have here, except that the language blunted the insults. Mac wore plimsols, as did the Frenchmen and this seems to be the answer to cobbles. The effects of the National 20 were only too apparent in some members of the team towards the end but all voted it a good race.

We returned to the hostel for lunch with the French team and officials via a tour of Paris by taxi. One of

the most memorable experiences of the trip was this ride with a Gendarme and a London "Bobby" tearing through the traffic. At one stage the driver turned right round to get a good look at a London Copper in the middle of a crowded street. More by luck than judgment we got back for lunch which was followed by speeches from the French officials and Timber, then the presentations. Each Frenchman received a plaque to mark the occasion and we were all given a medal. Then after souvenir exchanges and autograph signing we broke up, the Frenchmen to rest whilst we went sightseeing. As if we had not had enough, we walked another 20-25 miles in the afternoon - the mad English!

Eric.



The following contribution is an example of what might well be copied by other members and would certainly add to the interest of the Mag. It comes from an old member, Len Camin who writes as follows:

Just been passed by R.E. Davies Woodford Green, in the home straight. But before you get any ideas Jack Goswell, this was a 1 mile handicap in the London Telecoms Annual Sports at Waddon on May 21st. Ron was scratch, whilst I "Last again Len Camin" (prop man in all the Club Championship events from 100 yards to 1 mile) was off 440 yards on a five lap track. This means I had been passed once already, or does it? Davies's time was 7.16. You can work out what mine would have been for the full stretch (assuming I'd get there at all) yourself. Isn't this walking lark hard work! Still having given the runners the benefit of my services as "Tail end Charlie" in the past, I'm seriously considering doing a similar turn for the walkers

this year on August 6th.

Yours, Len Camin.

#### ROAD RUNNING

As usual the season started with the Mitcham 15 miles on January 8th and as usual team selection for this event was rather difficult owing to the fact that so many of the team had not previously run over the distance and so we were unlucky not to win the team race for the selection proved to be slightly wrong.

At the start we found Gias Walker up with the leaders and we were hoping that he could maintain his position for some of the more experienced road men were not running true to form, but his inexperience told in the end and he felt glad to finish. Meanwhile J. Burr and A. Bedford had moved steadily through the field and were closely followed by Colin Collis who unfortunately was running for the "B" Team and our third man was slightly too far back to make up the points needed to win though he tried hard and only needed to have made one more place to do so.

Positions and times

"A" Team. 5th J. Burr, 1.23.48. 8th A. Bedford 1.24.09, 22nd E. Gebbett 1.26.28, 27th C. Walker 1.27.16, 69th R. Plummer, 1.43.21.  
 "B" Team. 13th C. Collis, 1.24.53, 30th L. Bishop 1.28.14, 52nd E. Bishop 1.32.31, 86th A. Jordan 1.39.21,  
 "C" Team. 22nd L. Rolls 1.38.0., 93rd A. Bishop 1.41.23,  
 98th C. Murray 1.43.44.  
 Team result: 1. Mitcham 27pts. 2. Belgrave 27 pts. 8. Belgrave  
 "B" 76 pts. 17. Belgrave "C" 186 pts.

WIGMORE 15.

March 26th saw the second race of the season with only the true road men out and the best performance of the day in this fairly hard race was that of Colin Collis who was 4th in a time inside the old course record and only lost third place on the track at the finish. A good run by our Captain E. Gebbett and some good backing up by R. Plummer enabled us to finish 2nd to Leeds Harehills in the team race. It was also very pleasing to see the performance of A. Bishop who was some ten minutes faster than he had been in the "Mitcham".

Positions and times: 4th. C. Collis 1.23.57. 10th E. Gebbett, 1.26.55, 20th R. Plummer 1.29.34, 29th A. Bishop 1.31.56  
 70th A. Jordan 1.41.48.

FINCHLEY 20

This was held on April 23rd and was the first of the seasons twenties and in it we saw what the lack of training can do to a runner when our Captain E. Gebbett gradually fell back being passed in turn by R. Plummer, A. Bishop, G. Pearson and J. McDonald who all ran well enough to give us second team place to Walton A.C.

Positions and times: 12th R. Plummer 1.57.23, 22nd A. Bishop 2.1.02, 23rd G. Pearson 2.1.02, 26th J. McDonald 2.2.28, 30th E. Gebbett 2.3.36, 34th E. Bishop 2. 4.20.

SURREY COUNTY 20

The 7th of May found our team split up between the Surrey County 20 miles at Godalming and the Chichester to Portsmouth 16 miles.

In the former we were second in the team race to Walton A.C. and the times recorded on the day suggested that the course was short of the actual distance, but this should not distract us from the very fine performance of Colin Collis in finishing 2nd to K. Harvey of Walton in the very good time of 1hr.47m.44secs. He was ably backed up by E. Gebbett, 7th in 1.52.05 and A. Bishop 17th in 1.59.50 with F. Bradnum 2.9.37.

Going on to the Chichester event we also finished 2nd which we thought rather surprising for we did not consider it to be a particularly good team. R. Plummer was our first man home in 10th position with E. Bishop 16th and J. McDonald 22nd making up the scoring team. Others to finish were A. Penstone 28th and A. Smith 54th.

KENT 20

The Kent 20 which is an Open race was held in conjunction with the County Championship on May 21st. What seems to be the way of most things at present, this proved to be another fast race with the course record being broken and fine

performances by many of the runners. It was very pleasing to see the return to true form of Eric Gebbett in this race, in which, although never in the front against such fine performers as Stan Cox and Geoff Iden, turned in the best performance of his career to finish 6th in a time which would have won him many a race over this course. Aply backed up by A. Bishop and R. Plummer we managed to finish 3rd in the team race.

Positions and times. 6th E. Gebbett 1.55.26, 15th R. Plummer 2.0.07, 17th A. Bishop 2.1.42, E. Bishop 2.5.51. Others to finish were A. Jordan and J. McDonald.

By the time this will be in print, we shall have competed in both the Poly and the A.A.A. Marathon in which we hope to continue our good performances so far achieved. It was very pleasing this season to see plenty of new faces on the roads and to hear that they were all taking their training seriously even though it sometimes meant training alone due to their different approach to this training. But it all seems to add up to one thing - the best season the Long Distance Section has had for many years. With continued training I am sure we can do better still.

Road Captain.

#### BRIGHTON A.C. SEA FRONT RELAY - MARCH 26TH

This was Boat Race Day and we split our forces sending a team to Cranford for the T.V.H. Relay in which they finished 5th and another team to Brighton.

The Brighton course is a simple one starting near Palace Pier, at the finishing point of another famous Relay mentioned elsewhere. The runners go eastwards along the Prom. to Black Rock, up on to the top road and back along the sea front road to the pier again.

S.L.H. opened with Ashworth and a new course record, Burr running quite well for 4th place. Peter Bagnall was passed by Sando who also put up a new course record, but Jon also passed two himself and finished 3rd. Archie Bedford ran his usual "guttty" race and passed the Aylesford man putting Jack Brown off second 50 seconds behind Laurie Reed S.L.H. junior. Jack continued his fine running of this road season and finished only 10 yards behind Reed and in so doing beat the old course record by 15 seconds. Walker then conceded 30 seconds to Peter Pirie and Roffey finishing, had little chance of catching Morgan of S.L.H.

#### ILFORD YOUTHS ROAD RELAY - APRIL 2ND

This Annual event consisting of five stages, was held at Chigwell Row, each lap consisting of 1 7/8 miles. This race was instituted in 1949 and we last won in 1951. D.McLean, our ex-Schoolboy Champion, is the course record holder with a time of 8m. 59s. Of the 17 competing teams, our "A" team finished 6th and our "B" Team 9th. Outstanding lap times were G.Flanagan 9.34 and A.Mole 9.43.

#### JACK GOSWELL'S QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION

My thanks to those who have answered the appeal for more "Copy". Our Editor is ready to welcome your articles and it does help to lighten the load.

Since writing in March for our last issue, the lads have done well and our colours have been well to the fore. Eric Hall has held on to his pinnacle of pride of place and rightly so. His third in the Regents Park "15" in a time good enough to have won in some years, earned him a place in the team for Paris, which race is described elsewhere. His other achievements have been:

- 1st Surrey County 7 Miles Track Championship.
- 1st Inter-Club match at Steyning - course record
- 3rd National 20 Miles at Wimbledon
- 1st Surrey County 2 miles Track Championship.

What a grand record. May it inspire others to do likewise. The secret of Eric's success is conscientious training, only this can produce the right results. We should like to see more of you at Battersea on Tuesdays and at the Hall when the track training closes.

In these pages you will have read an account of the National 20 miles Championship held from our headquarters, which was written by a better scribe than myself, but I should like, through this magazine, to thank all of you who in some way helped to make it the success it was. Your co-operation and ready assistance was a credit to the Club and I am sure that Belgrave will always be remembered in the Walking Fraternity for a splendid effort in staging the 1955 R.W.A. 20 Miles Championship. "MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU".

These words of thanks also apply to our Club 20 Miles. By splendid co-operation we were able to transport judges, officials etc. round the course and a good field including our Police friends and visitors, were ably looked after and refreshed during the race, coupled with which it was quite a good rehearsal for the big event three weeks hence.

We hail a new 20 Miles Club Champion in George Checkley who stunned us all after his recent form, by taking the lead at the start and tenaciously holding on to the end despite a grand challenge from the holder, Hugh McGreechan. Good luck George, after being placed in previous years, you have at last got your name on the shield. A word of consolation to Mac - hard luck, neither of you deserved to lose. Also a welcome home to Bernard Eglinton who "wangled" leave for both this and the "National".

Having retained our National 20 title and regained the Nijmegen Shield, we looked forward to the next big race, the 50 Kilos, with eager anticipation, but alas, owing to the unfortunate loss of Hugh McGreechan (Flat foot), we were relegated to 2nd place.

During the period between writing these notes and the publication of the magazine, we shall have contested some more of our long distance titles and it is hoped with the same success as last year. The BIG event of the year, the "Brighton" is still however some weeks away but I am ready to take names for the coach and can assure you of a splendid day out. Come along and cheer the lads, I know they will respond to your support.

The Track Championships, including the Two Miles Walk is about to be held. An additional attraction this year is the Style award presented by Don Brown. Who will be the first to win it? I know a number are down to fast schedules and look forward to a good field. Denis Ives is still coming along well but we certainly need some new blood for our Surrey Teams. I

I am sure some of our members who don't shine too well at running would find no end of enjoyment in walking and even progress to first class performers if only they would try it out for a while. We have some first class examples of runner turned walker in the club including our Captain Harry Shields. Why not give it a trial, I am sure you will enjoy every minute of it.

Finally I would like to convey the best wishes of all members to Hugh McGreechan and his wife who were married on 25th June and spent their Honeymoon at Babbacombe. "Nursed" to sleep amongst the rocks. Best wishes Celia and Hugh.

J.G.

#### REGENTS PARK OPEN 15 - APRIL 2ND

We entered and started three teams and had high hopes of seeing some of our lads do well. The first six Londoners were to be selected for a visit to Paris and competition was very keen with Syd James, Eric Hall, Bob Newson, George Checkley and George Beecham all in the field. As usual there was a fast start. Trouble began when George Beecham who was short of training owing to throat trouble, "blew up". Then George Checkley began to go back, but Eric, who was walking a grand, well timed race, moved through to eventually finish 3rd. Syd up to the last lap, held 8th to 8th place and then cracked. He still says he is not a 15 miler, but steady training over the distance would make it a lot easier than a couple of spins and a good hiding. Think it over Syd. Bob Newson walked a grand race and finished 11th, trained and pushed by Hugh, 12th. In the Team Race, three to score, Woodford gained a narrow win by 24 points to our 26. Eric also took 2nd in the handicap off 10 minutes and Bob Newson was 5th. Percy Wright who had come up for the day, was ruled out in the first lap and our Captain Harry Shields, in the last lap.

#### Times and placings

1.G.Coleman HH.	1.59.25	50. N. Guilmant	2.19.55
3.E.Hall	2. 1.31	65. G. Doubleday	2.23.13
11.R.Newson	2. 7.50	71. W. True	2.24.37
12.H.McGreechan	2. 7.56	84. C. Yescombe	2.28.14
31.S. James	2.15.21	109. S. Spencer	2.33.37
32.L.Demmon	2.15.35		
36.G.Checkley	2.16.56		

#### COLCHESTER-IPSWICH - APRIL 9TH

For this popular outing we combined as usual with the Police in a coach from Scotland Yard. This is always a good club crowd and a fine day out. Two teams started and there was a steady pace for the first 10 miles when the front pack broke up and George Checkley who was lacking training, began to fall back. Bob Newson and Hugh McGreechan held their positions right through and Bob certainly earns credit for finishing 4th in 2hrs. 36mins. 53secs. Mac was 5th in 2.37.29 and Len Demmon 10th in 2.44.45. In the team race, three to score, we tied with Woodford Green at 19 points each, but as their third man was 9th, they took the first team awards. This was Len's best distance walk and he showed great promise for the future. Norman Guilmant had made yet another long journey in his long term training policy for the "Brighton" and finished 12th with Harry Shields 14th. George Checkley went back to 18th losing 14 minutes on Bob Newson from 10 miles onwards. Syd Spencer walked his usual steady race. Bob Newson deservedly won the handicap off 16.30 and we had quite an enjoyable journey home.

GROYDON TO GODSTONE AND BACK - APRIL 16TH

Owing to the fact that there were five Saturdays in April, we were able to put our Club Championship back one week and enter two teams in this popular event organised by our friends Surrey W.C.

It is a hard course going out and unfortunately we lost George Checkley very early. Hugh McGreechan was well up all the way followed by Bob Newson with Beecham and Norman a little way back. After a bad spell on the homeward journey, Mac recovered and beat George Coleman near home for 5th place. Bob who was very tired, lost a few places and finished 18th and Norman, 17th, had brought George Beecham along after a bad spell to finish 18th. These four totalled 52 points to Woodford who scored 47, so once again they just pipped us. Harry after a not very good day, finished 27th with evergreen Bob Readman 42nd, Bill True 49th, Syd Spencer 63rd and Cyril Yescombe 66th. Since this event Cyril has shown considerable improvement and looks like being an asset to the team next year.

CLUB 20 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - APRIL 23RD

A grand crowd of supporters with cars helped to make a good day for the big field comprising our club members battling for the Rickett's Shield, our Police friends and a couple or so visitors. Our thanks are particularly due to Mr. and Mrs. Skinner who provided sponges, etc. at one spot, Mrs. Newson and Mrs. Goswell at the bottom of Copse Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Kniffton, Marlene and Celia around the course. It's a long while to stop in one place but it was appreciated by all the lads who heartily endorse the vote of thanks.

George Checkley cut out a fast pace, dogged by Hugh McGreechan and although Hugh challenged strongly all the way, George tenaciously held on to win in 2hrs. 54mins.22secs. with Mac 2.54.54, a splendid effort.

After the last few weeks, it was certainly a surprise, as only a fortnight before George had dropped 14 mins. on Mac in 8 miles. Third was Bernard, on leave as already mentioned, who only failed by 37 secs. to beat 3 hours. 4th only 23 seconds behind was Bob Newson, definitely showing good improvement over distances and quite capable of fulfilling Jack Bidgood's prophecy when he said at the finish "A couple of years and the Championship is yours". 5th was Norman in 3.3.52, 6th Harry in 3.12.32. George Beecham after battling with Bernard earlier on had sickness near the end of the 2nd lap and retired. Len Demmon trailed the Captain home in 3.13.13 with Bob Readman and Bill True just behind, followed by Cyril Yescombe continuing to show improvement. Quite a good effort for a first 20. The handicap awards went to the first three in the championship in the same order and so ended a grand afternoon's sport.

Match Result: Police 61 points. Belgrave 75 points.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY 20 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP - APRIL 30TH

At the moment most of our distance men have a Middlesex qualification and our team consisted of George, Bob Newson, Hugh McGreechan, Len Demmon, Bob Readman, Fred Rolfe and Cyril Yescombe, and of course Harry Shields. A strong Metropolitan W.C. led by Thompson, won the team title with 19 points, but we were a worthy second with 33. George Checkley confirmed his previous week's success finishing 5th with Hugh 6th, Bob 10th and Harry 12th.

The same day Eric Hall received an invitation to take part in a 15 miles match at Steyning and had a grand day out. Eric led all the way and finished in 2hrs. 7mins.55s. which was an unofficial course record. We have an invitation to take part in this match next year which should make a good fixture.

#### R.W.A. 50 KILOMETRES - JUNE 11TH

As the Championship was being held at Coventry, the rail strike played havoc with the arrangements and we have to thank Ben Knifton for giving up the day to transport four of our lads there by car and enable us to move around the course to look after them. Eight of us went by coach from Westminster starting at 7am. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile past Kings Cross the coach broke down and we had to wait for another one, eventually arriving at Coventry at 11.30am for an 11.45am start. The lads in the coach however had commenced their preparation and the race was off at 12 noon.

Mainly due to the strike, there were only 79 started and the team entry was poor. It was a very fast start with two Swedes well to the fore, but for 10 kms. George Checkley held 2nd place. George Beecham was well up, too far in fact and eventually paid the penalty. Norman was well up for the Kilos with Bob walking well under control and Harry doing the same. Len Demmon, off night work and Cyril Yescombe were further back. Pace began to tell and positions changed. George and Norman both came back a little after 10 kms. and George Beecham was going further back. Bob Newson ran into a bad spell during the third lap and both he and George Beecham were passed by Harry. Halfway round this lap we heard George Beecham had stopped and dashed back to him and had to transport him to the dressing room. Mac who was walking just behind George Checkley, 5th and 6th positions was unfortunately ruled out at 22 miles for "walking flat footed". The other lads finished well. George Checkley passed Vic Stone in torrential rain to finish 7th, Norman was 10th, Harry 20th closely followed by Bob Newson who had recovered over the last lap to finish 22nd. What a grand last lap after having had such a bad time. The loss of Mac increased our score considerably and we finished 2nd to Poly with 35 points to their 25. Although our lads made up a considerable number of places over the last few miles they only succeeded in passing walkers who were not scoring in the team race. Congratulations to George Checkley on winning the Jimmy Bellohamber Cup.

We had a fast coach journey home arriving back in London in sufficient time to enable all to complete their various journies despite the railway strike.

Our 2 miles Handicaps have produced the following results:.

1. 1st. Denis Ives, improving on every turn out.  
2nd Charlie Speechley, still going strong.  
3rd. Ted Smith. Why don't we see more of you.
2. 1st George Oliver  
2nd Maurice Nye  
3rd Bill True. Clever handicapper.
3. 1st Harry "Pot Hunter" Shields  
2nd Gordon Doubleday  
3rd Eric Hall.

I am hoping that we shall have a party to travel for the Hastings to Brighton on 13th August. Like all our events

this will be another grand day out. We won this race last year with 1, 2, 4. Why not 1, 2, 3, this time. - A party ticket for the round trip, Victoria-Hastings, Brighton-Victoria, costs 14/- and a good tea thrown in, plus a good training spin for the "Brighton" Have you entered?

We welcome a new member in Hugh Reid at present in the Police Training School and hope he will follow in the footsteps of our other Hugh. He is already taking lessons from Don and should benefit from this during the winter months.

The twice postponed Police Barking to Southend Walk is now to be held on 1st September, 10 days before the Brighton. It could be a good training spin for our Police members and we wish them luck.

#### WITH THE TRACK VICE-CAPTAINS

Early season teething troubles have since been superseded by the railway strike which is, as we write, causing the curtailment and cancellation of some of our fixtures. It did not affect us over Whitsun as we had no matches arranged. a course to be recommended, as we could then all (including spectator Simmonds) enjoy the British Games or our little pet pot hunts. While on the subject of the matches missed, the strike stopped our visit to Centymoa at Mottingham and the doubt of raising a full team meant a withdrawal from the Austin Apprentices' meeting at Birmingham.

Our first away match was the Gordon Stewart Trophy at Ealing. A nice day again this year but we did not come home with the trophy. Our stars - sprinters and field events men - were very busy winning the Vancouver Trophy at Woodford while we have a feeling that some others were busy with T.V. sets on that Cup Final Saturday. No one really shone at Ealing though it was a revelation to see Jimmy Heathfield turning out in the 100, 220 and Relay while Mike Lyons managed a 10.3 in his heat of the 100. Bob Taylor's track record for the mile would appear to be secure for a while, but we did see Blagrove of Ealing get inside Ian Marshall's 880 time. It was gratifying to be supported by the Club President on this occasion.

Our next venture was the much discussed match near Aldershot against the 1st Battn. Parachute Regt. A very happy band of runners went down by coach. We were short of Field Event men for the match but Randy Glenn proved to be the ubiquitous member and seemed never to be without some implement in hand. Henry Martin managed to dodge all offers to join the Army and scored a triple win in the 100, 220 and 440. George Davidson ran sensibly to win the 1 mile and some anonymous vocal support spurred Dave Hooper into 2nd place. The two miles was run in pouring rain. John Burr paddled to victory ahead of Eddie Paterson. Support by sprinters and middle distance men alike in the field events kept the result of the match in the balance right up to the end. Very creditable in view of the strength of our so nearly victorious Sward Team that day. We think that everyone who went down enjoyed the match and we know some people are looking forward to further visits to these pine woods.

The dislocation of London traffic services was probably a reason for the small support at Alperton when we met T.V.H. and Finchley. Another reason was the omission of the fixture from the card. Mike Harris sprinted well in both the 100 and 220 and we were pleased to see Percy Porter representing us in the field events. Len Bishop agreed to run in the

440 and did a time which satisfied everyone. In the 880 we were represented by George Davidson who just failed to catch Ken Norris in the straight and Dave Hooper who managed a personal best over the distance. In the 1 mile Virr of T.V.H. struck out early and was followed by Geoff Goode for a couple of laps. On the last lap Jon Burr passed the latter and if he had had a baton might have also caught his rival of the Brighton road.

The last match we can at present write about was another of those very friendly affairs with the Poly down at Chiswick. Jimmy Wood was in fine form and all but sang one of his Brighton songs through the megaphone. The rail strike kept all the Herne Hill team away and a number of our own runners. Ash ran well to win the hurdles and was seen sailing over bars, both with and without a pole. Ted Gaworski won the shot. Mike Lyons, Mike Harris and newcomer Birdseye were our sprinters. The 440 was a triumph for Frank Kemp who won in a personal best of 51.9. The 880 was won by Poly's Australian International Douglas in 2.08 with George Davidson returning 2.1.8. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile instead of 1 mile saw Jon Burr 3rd in 3.13 ahead of Len Bishop 4th. The 2 miles was an all Belgrave affair. Junior George Flanagan ran well and led for 6 laps then Dave Baulch passed him and went on to win in 9.56, quite encouraging after running earlier in the 880. Eddie Short continued his "come back" training to come in 3rd ahead of Charlie Smart. Our sole representative in the Junior events was Archie Boreham who gained 3rd place in his 880.

Jon Burr & R.Taylor.

#### Editor's note.

No one has thought fit to send in any reports or results of our "Home" matches, hence their absence. Any offers as Track Reporter. Surely we should have some record of our Home fixtures.

#### INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Several of our members represented their counties in the Championships at the White City during the Whitsun holiday. Ted Gaworski earned 3rd place for Surrey in the Shot Put with 44' 9". Percy Luxon, Middlesex, was not up to his best form and finished 5th in the Long Jump. P.L. Porter throwing the hammer for Essex was unplaced but gained standard. On the track Dave Merret (Surrey) and I. Mayers (Middlesex) reached the final of the 220 yards but were unplaced. Jack Brown (Kent) qualified for the final of the mile with 4.15.4. and was eventually placed 7th.

#### FIELD EVENTS

As will already have been noted in the foregoing results, our field events men have certainly not been letting the grass grow under their feet. A welcome addition to their numbers is M. Ash who has been giving quite a good account of himself - as Jon Burr remarks - with and without poles. Their most notable success to date is of course their narrow defeat in the Sward Trophy Meeting which they lost in the last event by half a point, the best ever in this competition. Three firsts with Ash, Gaworski and Dennis Merrett and two seconds gave us the majority of our points and I must say that the team spirit here was very evident.

Most of the performances are already mentioned in the preceding paragraphs but in addition P. Luxon and Ted Gaworski were included in Franz Stampfl's team against Oxford and

Cambridge and did very well. At Woodford Peter Porter threw the hammer for a new Club record of 157' 7" and Ted Gaworski put up another Club record in the weight. We had a great success in the newly instituted Vancouver Trophy Meeting, winning with 80 points, 52 of which were scored by Field events men.

John Powell Jones has had a long spell of illness but I hope that by the time you read this he will be in circulation again.

I have had some interesting letters from members in the Forces including S.R. Day who is lacking training facilities, Brian Windley who is in Berlin and competed in the Brigade Championships (results not yet to hand), H. Powell at Padgate and D. Maddicks at Melksham.

Jack Chappell.

#### BOYS' AND YOUTHS' MEDAL COMPETITION

The first event in the competition this year, the 880 yards, was held at Battersea Park Track on 23rd April. Once again Geoff proved the best in the Boys' Section. With an allowance of 80 yards he won in 2mins. 19secs. against an allowance of 90 yards last year when he won in 2.21.6. However he did not have it all his own way as Phillip Brownbridge off 90 yards, a first year boy, fought it out with him up the straight and was credited with the same time. There were five competitors.

The issue was not quite so keenly contested in the Youths' Section in which J. Frost proved the strongest throughout to finish in 2.13.8. D. Mitchell ran well in his first youth's race and improved on his placing in the Boys' event last year. There were six competitors in this race.

The next event, the Shot Put, was held on 16th May and in spite of incessant pouring rain, six boys turned out and those who had competed last year, showed considerable improvement. Colin Clair, second last year, improved 8' 8" to take first place with a put of 26' 10". M. Draper added 5' 7½" to his last year's effort and M. Laws 3'. These improving distances are very encouraging and show that the boys are taking a keen interest.

In the Youths' Section, only one Competitor, D. Crooks, turned up and after making one put was awarded maximum points in accordance with the rules. This was disappointing and makes one wonder where all our youths go to, or was it because they don't like the rain.

This competition was introduced to provide an opportunity of finding the best in our youngsters and deserves more support than at is receiving.

Congratulations to D. Heming who was third in the Surrey County 440 yards.

M. Pyer.

#### CLUB RECORDS

The following additions and amendments should be made to the list of Club Records. The majority are Field Events which once again emphasises the progress we are making in this branch of athletics.

220 Yards Hurdles	D.J. Merrett	June 1955	24.3secs.
Shot Put	T. Gaworski	do.	46' 5"
Hammer	P. Porter	April 1955	157' 7"
Long Jump	P. Luxon	May 1955	23' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
100 Yards	I. Mayers	do.	9.9secs.
Marathon	C. Collis	June 1955	2.37.4.

C. Collis.

#### FACILITIES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

We wish to bring to the notice of members who have been or are likely to be called up for National Service the facilities which exist for assisting them with their athletic activities whilst serving.

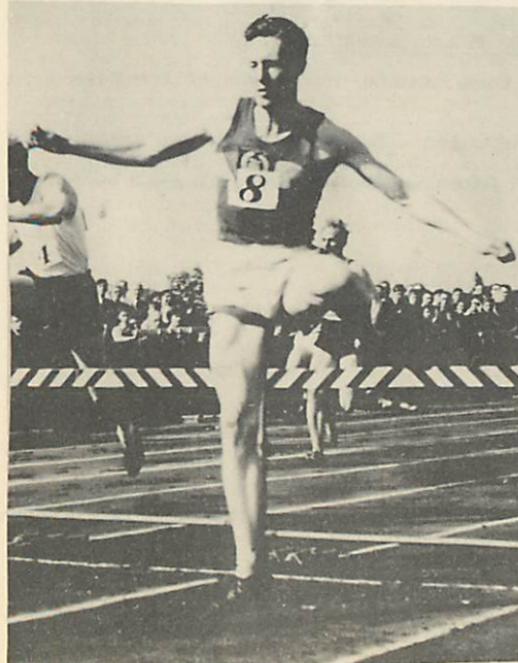
In line with most Government Schemes, it may appear to be a little complicated as the forms in connection with the scheme have to be completed in triplicate for the Navy and Air Force and Quadripleate for the Army.

If you wish to take advantage of the facilities offered, which have the backing of both your Club and the AAA, as soon as you are posted to your unit you should write to your Sectional Secretary or the Gen. Hon. Secretary, Alf Harley for the necessary forms, to whom they must be returned on completion. They will then be forwarded to the A.A.A. and subsequently to the Authority concerned.

Ed.

#### KINNAIRD MEETING

Earlier in the magazine reference was made to the Kinnaird Meeting at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick, on 18th June and as some details, together with a photograph of D. Merrett winning the Southern Counties Hurdles were received just before the magazine was completed, they are published below.



Once again our Field Events men were responsible for most of the points which we gained, scoring 15 out of our total of 20, but nevertheless this does not reflect discredit on the sprinters who were up against the finest in the country. It does seem that our weakest spot is among the middle distance runners who scored 1 point.

Highlight of the meeting for us was Denis Merrett's win in the Southern Counties 220 yards hurdles in a new Championship best of 24.3secs. beating F. Parker of S.L.H. Denis was also 2nd in the 100 yards and our other sprinters Mayers, Walden and Holtum all ran well in their heats of 100 and 220 yards.

Ted Gaworski took 2nd place in the Shot put

with a personal best and Mal Ash was 2nd in the High Jump and 5th in the hurdles. P. Luxon, slightly below form was 6th in the Long Jump and P. Bagnall 6th in the mile.

Our Marathon runners gave an excellent account of themselves and put up one of the best shows for many years. Colin Collis in finishing 7th in 2hrs. 37mins. 4secs. set up a new Club record and both he and Eric Gebbett 11th, gained AAA. Standards. G. Plummer 16th and A. Bishop 21st completed our team which gained 1st place, 7 points behind Blackheath.

G. Edwards won the Junior Javelin with a throw of 174' 4" and looks like being a big asset to the Club.

#### SOCIAL

I have been asked by the Editor to give some notice of the Annual Dinner and Dance. This will be held at the Express Restaurant, Clapham Junction on Saturday, 19th November. The price of tickets will be 16/6d each and the numbers are limited. It will therefore be necessary for you to book your tickets well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Rising prices have made it impossible for us to hold a dinner in the West End, but the Social Committee feel we can have just as good a time at the Express. All we ask is your support.

There is not much I can say with regard to Socials and other functions which we hope to organise during the winter season until later in the year when the Social Committee go into details. Rest assured we shall give full publicity to the programme when it is decided and once again ask for your full support.

Dave.

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER

Your application form for the next issue of the Mag.

Club Track Championships - Battersea Park 6th August

Annual Dinner and Dance - Clapham Junction 19th November.