



THE 1st EDITION

(1929)

OR

THE BELGRAVIAN

DECEMBER, 1928—JANUARY, 1929

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CLUB NOTE.

Our journal not having appeared at an opportune time for Christmas greetings, the Committee take this opportunity of wishing the Club a hearty "Happy New Year"

OUR OPEN WALK

When in November, 1927, we received an entry of 200 for our Open Walk, it appeared that a record had been achieved that might stand for a long while; yet for this year's event our programme showed 254 competitors, only 8 of whom were included in two teams. Thus there were 246 potential starters, comprising 28 teams and 25 individual entrants, and of this huge total 225 faced the starter. As an illustration of the recent growth in popularity of the sport of Road-walking, and in particular of this annual fixture of ours, the following figures are illuminating.—

In 1924 we had 140 Entrants

" 1925 " " 137 "

" 1926 " " 133 "

" 1927 " " 200 "

" 1928 " " 246 "

In each of these years the support accorded to our race was surpassed only by that given to the Road Walking Association in its opening walk of the season and its Championships. This is as it should be. It is obviously the duty of every Club to compete in all the events organized by the bodies to which it is affiliated, and so, although we hope to cater for larger fields year by year, we also hope that the R.W.A. will still outstrip our records. The starters in its race at Bowes Park this year exceeded our number by 6 only. For such whole-hearted support our thanks are due to all walkers in the South of England.

The race for individual honours revealed the fact that in C. W. Hyde the A.A.A. has a champion well worthy of the honour.

He has won each of the three open races at seven miles held in the London district this season; and in doing so, he has defeated huge fields, including most of the fastest walkers in the country. Although winning our race by about 70 yards only, he led throughout, and his superiority was never in doubt. Unfortunately, we were compelled to choose a new course for this year's race on account of road dis-repairs, and thus we cannot estimate his ability by comparing his performance with that of G. R. Goodwin when setting up our course record of 54mins. 9secs., in 1924. The new course was obviously not a full seven miles. The probability is that it was fully 700yds. short.

For team honours the Herne Hill Harriers gave us a rare fight, their third and fourth men just beating our fourth man to dead-heat with us on points.

RESULTS.		m	s
1.	C W. Hyde, Enfield A.C	51	2
2.	A. E. Plumb, North London H	51	19
	L G Sandy, Surrey A.C. ((Individual) ...	51	48
3.	E. F. N. Presland, Hern Hill H	52	25
4.	T. W. Green, Belgrave H.	52	34
10.	J G Scammell	53	48
12.	R. D McMullen	54	4
15.	F. H Elson	54	34
24	J E Field	55	18
25.	E. Saunders	55	20
34	W. G. Dodkin	56	6
36	F. Rickards	56	15
55.	L Storey	57	20
56	A. E. Spendlove	57	25
63.	C. H. Speechley	57	32
78	A W Godfrey	58	38

TEAM PLACINGS		Pts
1.	Belgrave Harriers—4, 10, 12, 15	41
	Herne Hill Harriers—3, 11, 13, 14	41
3.	Highbate Harriers—16, 20, 21, 26	88

TEAM HANDICAP.		m.	s.
1	L.C.C. Trams	201	33
2.	Valentines S.C.	201	50
3.	Surrey W.C.	202	21
6.	Belgrave Harriers "A"	203	51
14.	Belgrave Harriers "B"	208	29

INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP.

	Start	Actual	H'cap
1. F. T. Bazin, S W.C.	6 35	55 26	48 51
2. J. H. Graygross, L.C.C.	8 0	57 7	49 7
3. W. C. Wallis, V.S.C	8 0	57 30	49 30

J. E. Field took the prize for the first Belgrave man home not taking another prize.

INTER CLUB WALK

With the Metropolitan Police Athletic Association,
December 8th.

The excellent team we fielded for this event contrasted extremely with the poor muster at Banstead. Apparently we are too lazy or prejudiced against Club walks away from Wimbledon to give them support.

Our team victory, although on paper not overwhelming, was quite decisive on account of the consistent good form shown by those walkers who go out regularly on Saturdays from St. John's Hall

Although, as usual, Scamell and Elson set the pace at the start, McMullen and Batson (of the Police) soon took the lead, popular "Mac" gradually getting away (he led by 30yds. at half-distance) to win handsomely by 60yds. from Batson.

A short lap of the Common was added to our 'open' course to make up the required distance.

Perhaps we had the advantage of being "at home" to the Police, who turned out in good numbers. We are grateful for their enthusiastic support. On our side, A. L. Fletcher made a timely first appearance on the road this season, but we were again without T. W. Green, through temporary indisposition

RESULT.

1 R. D McMullen	B	58	16	19 A H Webb	P	63	17
2. W. Batson	P	58	40	20. J. F Towers	...	P	63 19
3. J G Scamell	..	B	58 48	21. J. J Crichton	..	B	63 39
4 S A Holland	..	P	59 26	22. J. Bull	..	P	64 16
5. F. Elson	...	B	59 39	23. S A. Manning		B	64 35
6 J E. Field	.	B	59 48	24 A. W. Godfrey	...	B	65 21
7. E. Saunders	..	B	59 55	25 O. Horwood	.	B	65 22
8. J. Rathbone		P	60 19	26 — Benney	.	P	65 26
9. E J. Toogood	...	P	60 22	27 — Didgood	...	P	65 42
10 S Clark	.	P	60 53	28 J J. Traval	..	P	65 43
11. F Rickards	...	P	60 56	29 — White	.	P	65 47
12 W G. Dodkin	..	B	61 1	30. R. G. Hillier	...	B	67 40
13 A. L Fletcher	..	B	61 19	31 A. H. Field	..	B	67 41
14 L E Storey	.	B	61 37	32 — Bunn	...	P	67 53
15 J B Carne	...	B	61 53	33. — Nash	.	P	68 3
16. C. H. Speechley	..	B	62 5	34. — Farrant	.	P	70 40
17. E. Hughes	..	P	62 18	35 C W. Redgrave.		B	72 23
18 E. D. Allan	..	P	62 38				

SCORES.

Belgrave H —1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 23	136 pts.
M.P.A A —2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24	164 ..

Win for Belgrave H by 28 Points.

CLUB JUNIOR ROAD WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP.

The result of this, the fourth annual race over seven miles for the Horwood Cup, previously held by J. G. Scamell (twice) and A. L. Fletcher, showed few surprises. In a well-fought race, J. E. Field made a good effort in the hope of catching F. Elson, but the latter did not falter. J. Rathbone who, one thinks, should have a place in this championship, looked like making an impression on the leaders at one time, but they were hard nuts to crack!

C. H. Speechley gave his best show since coming back from the States, whilst E. Saunders was the only competitor to find an "off" day. All the others showed remarkable improvement on their figures of the previous Saturday, against the police, over the same course. This rate of progress *must* be maintained until we have the R.W.A. trophy in our possession.

It was very satisfactory that the first six men shared the medals and the prizes in the sealed handicap between them.

	RESULT			Pos in	
	Actual Time	H'cap	Net Time	H'cap	
1. F. Elson	58 45	0 40	58 5	4	
2. J. E. Field	58 58	0 50	58 8	5	
3. J. Rathbone	59 57	0 40	59 17	6	
4. C. H. Speechley	60 5	2 50	57 15	1	
5. J. J. Crichton	60 15	2 50	57 25	2	
6. W. G. Dodkin	60 15	2 10	58 5	3	
7. E. Saunders	60 42	0 55	59 47	7	
8. L. E. Storev	63 11	1 55	61 16	11	
9. S. A. Manning	63 18	2 55	60 23	8	
10. A. W. Godfrey	64 32	3 0	61 32	12	
11. H. J. Fletcher	66 48	6 20	60 28	9	
12. A. H. Field	67 8	6 20	60 48	10	
13. H. H. Norman	68 17	4 50	63 27	13	
14. E. R. Wills	70 8	4 30	65 38	15	
15. A. Martin	70 28	5 15	65 13	14	
C. W. Redgrave		6 20	also started		
W. F. Brookes		5 45	also started		

ANNUAL CROYDON TO BANSTEAD AND BACK RACE.

This race does not find favour with most of our men on account of the length and hilly nature of the 11½ miles course. Strange objections to be found in a Club holding the National Road Walking Championship! However, the tales one hears about "Banstead" are really absurd as, tackled steadily, the walk can be enjoyed even by a novice. Our reputation was saved by those top-class men, F. Rickards and R. D. McMullen. The other four of our team walked up to form and enabled us, much to our relief, to beat the Valentines S.C. for second place in the team contest. The introduction of that Club to the fixture is to be commended, especially as we unfortunately do not give proper support. Such a sporting affair deserves better attention than we have given it.

this year and we owe it to our cordial hosts of the occasion, the Surrey Walking Club, to turn out a representative team, even if some of our boys are mistaken enough to miss one of the best fixtures on our card!

STARTED
Surrey W.C., 22, Belgrave H., 6, Valentines S.C., 8

	RESULTS	Times		Total	
		Out	Home	min	secs
1. H W. Kemp ..	SWC ..			94	20
2. — Amer ..	S W.C.			97	25
3. F Rickards ..	BH	51 2	46 39 3/5	97	41 3/5
5. R D. McMullen ..	..	50 31	49 9 1/5	99	40 1/5
15. B. J. T. Knifton ..	..	57 29	48 20 3/5	105	49 2/5
18. S A Manning ..	..	56 9	50 28 2/5	106	37 2/5
21. J B. Carne ...	..	56 52	51 22 3/6	108	14 3/5
26. O Horwood ..	..	57 32	52 49 1/5	110	21 1/5

The winner's time is about two minutes better than R Goodwin's previous record for the course.

WALKING NOTES

Entries for the Cambridge H 7 miles Road Handicap on the 19th inst should reach the walking secretary not later than Friday, the 11th inst, so that teams may be made up.

In the Surrey W C's Open Croydon to Godstone and back walk on Boxing Day, we were not so strongly represented as we had hoped, but all the members of our team walked splendidly, and we were second in the team race, 6 points behind the promoting Club.

The trying weather conditions tested the stamina of the walkers, many of whom were exhausted over the last few miles. R D. McMullen again made his mark. He has now been, at different times, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in this annual race. Jack Carne's was a gallant performance.

ORDER OF FINISH

1. A. McSweeney	Highgate H	2 44 37
2. R D McMullen ..	Belgrave H.	2 49 34
7. J B Carne	..	2 52 2
12. O Horwood	..	2 55 35
14. S A Manning	..	2 55 59

65 started

TEAMS

1. Surrey W C.—2, 3, 5	10 Pts.
2. Belgrave H —1, 6, 9	16 ..
North London H—10, 12, 16 ..	38 ..

Several new members of this section, S. Ring, A. Scott, F. H. Elson and H. H. Norman, have been well up in recent novices' walks

Although numerically we are stronger than most Clubs there is room for a great many more walkers in our ranks. Members should bear this in mind when they come across "likely" youths.

BOXING DAY.

Despite continuous rain, fields were quite good for the three races at our annual gathering, and spectators were there in force.

Inches only decided between the finalists in the sprint. Not all who entered this race carried their intentions further, so that a casual observer might have wondered why heats were not made up on the day from those present only. The competitors did not run in strings and the fact that several cross-country runners were competing (with the two miles to follow), gave the race an old-time atmosphere, when most men on the Belgrave programme competed in all the events, sprints, distance *and* walk!

In the two miles run Jack Flower, on scratch, soon showed his intention of getting through the big field. Bill Rice, when the scratch man caught him, displayed a similar ambition and they were still together on the last lap. George Still was well placed at this time and, knowing the necessity, he speeded-up well for an "old 'un." Rice began to get the better of his argument with Flower and then overtook the leaders in style to win by a good margin from Flower. A. Traquair made good use of his mark to get third. There was special applause for G. Still, who was close behind, ran well for a veteran. Ken O'Kell, our ex-champion from Stoke, came to revive old acquaintance and turned out in this event.

- Walking in excellent style, C. W. Redgrave won the walk by a distance from A. W. Godfrey (who was second when last this Boxing Day race was held). Len Fletcher (scr) was in good form, and walked fourth.

RESULTS

120yds. Handicap—W. B. Haymond (8yds.), 1; G. R. Maryon (5½yds.), 2, J. S. Williams (8yds.), 3. Time 12 1-5 secs.

Two Miles Handicap—W. Rice (25yds.), 1; J. E. Flower (scr.), 2; A. Traquair (325yds.), 3. Won by 15yds., 8yds. between 2nd and 3rd. Time 10mins 0 1-5 secs

Three Miles Walk—C. W. Redgrave (760yds). 1. A. W. Godfrey (500yds.), 2, A. H. Field (750yds), 3. Won by 50yds; 50yds between 2nd and 3rd Time 22 mins 31 secs.

CROSS COUNTRY.

The Club 7 Mile C. C. Championship for the "Blackstaffe Shield," presented to the Club in 1910 by the old Olypian Sculling Champion, Mr. H. T. Blackstaffe, Club President 1909—1912, was decided over a new course at Wimbledon on December 22nd, and incidentally, by the exigencies of our fixture list, for the second time in 1928.

That a strange fate has decreed that no member shall hold this trophy for more than two seasons was again evident when A.

Clark, winner in 1926-27 and 1927-28, resigned his interest and did not compete. Other notable absentees were J. E. Flower, who was strongly fancied as a likely winner; W. S. Mitchell, who is apparently not keen on testing himself in a Club Championship; A. D. Pyer, nursing an ankle; and K. B. O'Kell, a previous dual winner and now "up north."

No time was lost at the start and at a fast pace Duffett, Allum and Rice made the pace to the village and across the Golf course, followed by Klophin, W. S. Webb and Robertshaw. Down Gravelly Hill and along the Horse-ride to the Flagstaff, thence to the Windmill and the Village, which marked the end of the first lap, the course continued, and at the latter point Duffett and Rice turned together, with Allum but a yard behind.

Then came Klophin, W. S. Webb and Robertshaw. Harley, towards the rear, hesitated to stop or continue and eventually went on, but Phillips had failed to come into sight when a move was made for the finish and was the only one of 26 not timed in.

Meantime Duffett and Allum continued the tussle. Rice faltered and finding the hills a sore test, dropped back and resigned third position to W. S. Webb, who was now running very strongly. Klophin continued to run well, but was being dropped by the leaders; Robertshaw was showing a welcome return to form. T. J. Flower did not appear unduly pressed. Footer was running under difficulties and possibly unwisely but, let it be said, gallantly, whilst Penny did not appear uncomfortable all the way and never seemed likely to justify his "Junior" running.

So to the field at the finish. Duffett and Allum hove into sight, and gave promise of a very close fight for premier honours. Duffett, however, had the necessary finishing speed, and eventually ran out a worthy and popular winner by a margin of a few yards.

The form shown was, on the whole, quite satisfactory and augurs well for the forthcoming "Open" Championships.

Allum's running in particular was very good and this gained him first place in the Sealed Handicap by a comfortable margin.

RESULTS

		Actual Time	Start	H'cap Time	Pos. in H'cap
1.	E. A. Duffett	38 40	0 10	38 30	3
2.	A. Allum	38 45	0 45	38 0	1
3.	W. G. Webb	39 4	0 20	38 44	4 D.H.
4.	W. A. Rice	39 24	0 15	39 9	9
5.	P. N. Klophin	39 34	1 10	38 24	2
6.	A. G. Robertshaw	40 2	1 10	38 52	6
7.	T. J. Flower	40 22	0 10	40 12	17
8.	H. E. Footer	40 25	0 10	40 15	18
9.	A. Penny	40 28	0 35	39 53	16
10.	F. R. Webb	40 29	1 45	38 44	4 D.H.

11.	W. L. Bayliss	..	..	40	39	1	40	38	59	7
12.	S. R. Chorley	..	..	42	20	2	55	39	25	13
13.	A. G. Jones	..	..	42	30	2	40	39	50	15
14.	H. L. Rollins	..	..	42	33	3	20	39	13	11
15.	S. Drake	..	...	42	40	3	35	39	5	8
16.	F. G. Ford	..	...	43	16	4	5	39	11	10
17.	J. A. Jones	..	..	43	39	0	25	43	24	24
18.	N. R. Dewberry	..	..	43	46	2	45	41	1	21
19.	R. J. Hearn	..	..	43	47	4	30	39	17	12
20.	G. Still	..	..	43	48	4	0	39	48	14
21.	R. W. Best	..	...	44	36	4	10	40	26	20
22.	H. W. Swetman	..	...	46	0	5	40	40	20	19
23.	W. Callow	..	..	46	41	4	0	42	41	23
24.	A. A. Harley	..	..	47	9	5	20	41	49	22
25.	A. H. Bulley	..	..	51	2	4	30	46	32	25
26.	C. H. Phillips	..	..	—	—	9	0	—	—	—

INTER-CLUB RUN.

Versus St. George's Services and London Scottish A.C.
Over $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles, on December 8th, 1928.

From St. George's Headquarters at Hill Farm, Mitcham, the Clubs turned out as follows: St. George's 8, London Scottish 6, and Belgrave H. 12, so 6 a side scored. A fast start saw Lawton, the Grenadier Guardsman who was running for St. George's, and Tebbutt of S.L.H., who was representing the London Scottish, well in the lead, followed by Pyer and Bayliss. After 2 miles had been covered Duffett joined the leaders, while Bayliss had dropped a few places. The same positions were maintained to the finish. Lawton drawing away from Tebbutt to win by about 30yds. with Duffett, who had gone ahead of Pyer, the same distance away third. Our boys, as usual, packed well, and so enabled the Club to gain another victory. The feature of the race was vested in a fellow-Guardsman of Lawton's, who ran although not counting, and finished only a few yards behind his comrade. Times and positions are as under:—

RESULTS

1.	W. Lawton	St Georges	...	..	...	..	..	25	40
2.	A. W. V. Tebbutt	Lon Scots	...	..	..	..	..	25	55
3.	E. A. Duffett	Belgrave	..	..	..	..	..	26	10
4.	A. D. Pyer	Belgrave	..	..	..	..	..	26	28
5.	P. Khlopin	Belgrave	..	..	..	..	..	26	35
6.	F. Marston	St. Georges	..	..	..	..	..	26	40
7.	W. L. Bayliss	Belgrave	...	..	..	..	..	26	55
8.	F. Tame	St. Georges	...	..	..	..	..	27	15
9.	E. W. Warren	St. Georges	...	...	..	..	..	27	18
10.	A. G. Jones	Belgrave	...	...	..	..	...	27	38
11.	H. T. DAVIS	St Georges	...	...	...	...	...	28	0
12.	S. Drake	Belgrave	...	...	..	..	..	28	5
13.	C. W. Tame	St. Georges	...	..	...	...	..	28	15
14.	D. A. Sloper	Belgrave	..	..	..	..	...	28	25
15.	S. J. Richmond	Lon. Scots	...	...	...	...	...	28	38
16.	S. R. Chorley	Belgrave	...	...	...	...	...	28	40
17.	A. Traquair	Belgrave	...	..	...	..	..	28	45

18.	H. Cucheson	Lon. Scots	..	..	..	..	29	40
19.	R L Tizzard	St. Georges	..	...	..	..	29	46
20.	F G Ford	Belgrave	..	...	..	..	29	47
21*	P. Freestone	Belgrave	...	..	..	..	30	30
22	R Hewlett	St Georges	..	..	..	..	30	32
23.	W Player	St Georges	..	..	..	..	30	45
24.	L Hoare	Lon Scots	..	..	..	..	30	55
25	A Huston	Lon Scots	..	..	..	..	30	55
26	L Fox	Lon Scots	..	..	..	..	---	---

TEAM SCORES.

Belgrave H.—3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12 ..	..	..	..	..	..	41	Pts.
St Georges—1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 ..	..	..	..	..	..	48	"
London Scots—2, 15, 18, 24, 25, 26	..	..	..	..	..	110	"

**"A" TEAM RACE WITH ROYAL AIR FORCE,
KENLEY, AT KENLEY.**

On Saturday, December 24th, our "A" team's fixture with the Royal Air Force turned out to be a most exciting struggle, and not an easy race, as we were led to expect.

The race was held in a very isolated spot, and to make matters worse, the majority of our boys ran in spikes, although two-thirds of the way was on stony ground.

Thanks mainly to J. E. Flower and W. Mitchell gaining the first two places for us, we just managed to win by one point, although the Air Force boys finished their scoring five in the first eight places; our five finished in ten.

The race itself was very interesting. At the start W. Mitchell and J. E. Flower soon worked their way to the front, accompanied by Corporal Whale, and then gradually drew further and further away from the rest of the field, and in a close finish, our boys just got the better of the airman.

C. Strange's was an improved performance and, as you will see by the result, it was a good job for us he found his best form that day.

I take this opportunity of thanking T. Curley for his help in getting the results and sending them to the Press; it was not a very thankful job on such a day. I also would like to thank the Royal Air Force for a jolly good tea which they placed before us, including sassage and mash, and I hope we will be able to give them as good a time when we have our return fixture with them at Wimbledon.

RESULT.

1. J. E. Flower	... B	25	20	9. H. L. Rollins	. B	27	52
2 W W. S Mitchell	B	25	23	C R. Strange	... B	27	52
3. Cpl Whale	R A F.	25	24	11. A/c Chadwick	R A.F.	28	15
4 A/c Cheshire	R.A.F.	26	3	12. R Hearn	. B	28	48
5 T J. Flower	.. B	26	30	T F. Morrell	. B	28	48
6. A/c Green	R A.F.	26	33	14 J A. Jones	B	30	42
A/c Ongley	R.A.F.	26	33	15 A/c Mould	R.A.F.	31	3
8 A/c Town	R.A.F.	27	44	16 A/c. Garner	R A.F.	32	14

		TEAM SCORES.			
Belgrave H.—1, 2, 5, 9, 10	27 Pts.
R.A.F.—3, 4, 6, 7, 8	28 ..

SURREY YOUTH'S RACE

Over 3 miles Course on December 1st, 1928.

This race was held from the Ranelagh Harriers' headquarters at Putney Heath, the country being rather familiar to us, and the course going out to the Windmill and back. There was a fair field. Mitcham were hot favourites, our team being fancied for a place although it was composed mostly of newcomers to cross-country running. From the start our lads kept well together and were nicely placed on the outward journey. Coming home, however, Canard was the first of our boys, Coleman having had the misfortune to cast a shoe and so to fall back several places. Our next two, Garland and Sanders, were fighting hard to keep their positions and we knew there was a prospect of our team getting placed. But we were disappointed, as on reckoning up the team scores, we were bracketed third with Fitzroy Lodge, who gained the position on a better aggregate time for their four. This should encourage them to better things, and we congratulate them. Our own boys are also to be congratulated on their showing, and we hope that next year they will bring it off. Actual positions and times are as follows —

RESULT.

1	R K. Constantine, Surrey A.C	.	..	..	17 11
10.	A C. Canard Belgrave H				18 34
12	J G Coleman	..	.	...	18 42
14	S Garland	..	..	.	18 50
15.	A L Sanders	..	.	..	18 59
34	T. C. Jones	..	...	...	21 8

TEAM PLACINGS

1	Mitcham A C.—2, 6, 7, 9	.	..	..	24 Pts.
2	Surrey A C.—1, 3, 19, 21	..	..	...	44 ..
2	Fitzroy Lodge—4, 5, 20, 22	..	..	...	51 ..
4	Belgrave H.—10, 12, 14, 15	.	.	...	51 ..

RUNNING.

On Saturday, January 12th, we shall again be at Epsom Downs, this time for the Surrey County 7 mile Championship. We have a fine team to represent us and, given a clean break, we shall win. After the race a tea will be held for the team and supporters who, I hope, will turn up in large numbers. I am sure our boys will welcome their vocal encouragement. On the same day several of our members will be competing

as individuals in the Middlesex Championship. They should figure prominently in this event.

January 19th sees us breaking fresh ground, the fixture being with the Herne Hill Harriers from their headquarters at "The Prince of Wales Hotel," High Road, Mottingham, and I hope that all our boys will support this welcome addition to our fixture list. I understand that they have some very good mud down that way, but it all comes off in the wash, so why worry?

Our Club 10 mile Championship for the Macher Shield (Holder A. Clark) comes next, on January 26th, and here again there will be a Handicap in conjunction. I notice that the starts in this race always err on the liberal side.

February 2nd will see our housing capacity taxed, as on that day there is a social run with Mitcham, Epsom, Croydon and St. George's Services, also a match race over our 5 mile course between the R.A.F., Kenley, and our own Club. Same conditions will apply as before, namely, 8 to run, 5 to score. Team will be selected from those not competing in our teams for the big open races. Grand Social evening will follow, so don't forget to bring your lady friends along.

I am hoping to arrange a fixture for our Juniors to be held from Wimbledon on February 15th, and hope to give full particulars in next month's issue.

W. S. Mitchell gained 4th place in the 11 miles Road Race at Harrow on Boxing Day morning. He beat, among others, G. C. Constable of Surrey A.C. The winner was A. W. Simmons of Dagenham H., next was H. J. Bignell of Highgate H., an Olympic runner, then J. C. Dixon of Queens Park H., an ex-Southern champion. Mitchell would have been 3rd but for going off the course when near the finish. This runner should greatly help our teams in the big open cross country races and should also do well in the Marathon, for which I understand he is training.

E. A. DUFFETT, *Hon. Running Sec.*,
106 Cherry Orchard Road,
E. Croydon.

SOCIAL AT MITCHAM.

Having split our forces we did not muster our usual strength for this fixture, but close upon twenty were present, in spite of the frozen condition of the country. With the combined contingents of Croydon and Epsom, we numbered about sixty, two packs being formed. The "slow" covered five miles and the "fast" seven miles. As usual, the majority of the "Bels." chose the latter.

We found the ploughed land, of which there was a good deal, very hard and dangerous. It was easy to turn one's ankle, but as the pace was kept moderate, we were able to take things carefully.

Mitcham A.C. have well-appointed dressing accommodation, and have built themselves a huge footbath. With a good supply of hot water available we were so comfortable that one or two of our chaps were loth to get out at all, and so we were the last to be taken back to the White Hart Hotel for tea.

Our team that had been over to St. George's was already at the table, so it was not long before we were arranging ourselves at the festive board, although, with frequent fresh arrivals it was obvious that there was going to be a shortage of space in the main room. Eventually some of us (I think it must have been the rough section, as the occasion was made a good and proper tea fight, certainly one of the merriest and noisiest that I have attended since school days) settled down in another room.

Having "relieved our feelings" we went down to applaud some of Mitcham A.C.'s promising junior members, who were receiving their prizes for the past summer season. Dancing was then indulged in, and with Len Lenfesty putting over some engaging songs it became a jolly gathering. During the interval we adjourned to the coffee room, and held an impromptu concert of our own, with Wally, of course, at the piano, Billy Williams and the vocal support of all and sundry. After coffee we returned, refreshed, to the dancing room, where we continued the Rugby match. Jack Rice of the Poly, who was M.C., announced fox-trots, but each man was for himself and partner. I had fairly heavy boots, so I stayed on until twelve, by which time most of our boys had retired from the fray. I think everybody had a really good time.

W.A.R.

SOCIAL SECTION.

Our Dance held at Wandsworth Town Hall on November 30th, was very well patronised, and records for the number of people attending must have been broken. Everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, many regrets being passed when the evening began to draw to a close. I wish to thank all members for the whole-hearted support they gave, some doing most valuable work. Preparations are being made for the Annual Dinner. It has been decided to hold this function at Stanley's Restaurant, Laverder Hill, on March 23rd, and further details will appear later in the magazine.

H.L.R.

SPORTS JOTTINGS.

By "Observer."

It would appear that the present general standard of Cross Country running is causing much comment from the powers that be. I see that a general proclamation is being issued giving the "why's and wherefore's" of the alleged decline in Athletics. Many reasons are being advanced but, so far as International races are concerned, I think the same applies here as in other branches of sport. No matter what the game is, there is no denying the fact that slowly and surely foreigners triumph over Britishers. Why? Firstly, because they take their sport so much more seriously than the average Englishman; whereas the majority of our athletes treat running as an enjoyable hobby and a means of keeping fit, the foreigner goes right out and practically lives only for his running. Then, secondly, it is well-known that "broken time" payments are given abroad, whilst our men have to train and race in their spare time and, given some occupations, they get precious little of that. I see that one whose opinion is to be respected mentions dancing, as indulged in at present, as a curse to running: I agree. To remain for many hours in an atmosphere such as you experience in modern dance halls is injurious. But, to return to the alleged general decline in Athletics, I fail to see what the trouble is about; surely our performances in the last Olympic Games speak for themselves. Even our Marathon men, who were composed of well-known Cross Country runners, accomplished a fine performance as a team, having 6 in the first 22. I contend that we have men at home as good as any foreigners, and that if the latter were limited to the facilities for training our men experience, we should come out on top every time.

Our Club champion, Arthur Clark, was out again the other week; he was competing in the London Breweries Championship, which he won, but his time (30-41) makes very poor reading against the Inter-Club race time over the same course (29-20). Even though he has now forsaken the running game, we should expect his football to keep him reasonably fit, but it is surprising how an athlete can decline so much. I understand he has put on a lot of weight and am afraid that, much as we should like to see him out in our teams again, he has now passed. A critic remarked he had had a long innings, but so far as our own Club was concerned his innings was short and sweet, and he is evidently disinclined to have a second one.

Has anyone a spare trophy he doesn't want? I am given to understand that the reason the Club does not hold a 220yds. Championship is that they are in want of a suitable trophy. Such

an event as the above would provide a fine spectacle and if it could be run in strings, then so much the better. The 220yds. level race which was held last year was fairly well supported, considering our lack of sprinters, and I am sure that, with our new members from Kensington and Ashcombe, a Championship over this distance would be a very close race. As I hear that the level race mentioned above has been omitted from this year's fixture lists, the need for a Championship over this distance appears all the more pressing. In the event of a trophy turning up, I'll give H. W. Smith a chance by laying evens on the field. Any takers?

My next three Club members are as follows :—

F. G. Ford, who must not be confused with A. J. Ford, the sprinter. F. G., who was the victim of a motor-cycle smash some time ago, has now happily recovered from his serious injuries, but does not yet display the form it was hoped he would. He is a regular attender during the winter and should, if he puts his mind to it, get into the cross country teams. Somehow he seems to lack that little bit of confidence in himself, but as he is young and there is no doubt that his absence from training affected him, he should yet justify our hopes and become a really class performer.

J. G. Scamell, one of the Club's leading walkers, and quite a hot speed merchant, can also do a good 10 with the best of them. As you all know he recently put up a Club record over our 5 mile course. He also shines on the track and has won many prizes in handicaps. Although living quite a good distance away from the Club headquarters he, like all Belgravians, displays fine enthusiasm and can always be relied upon to put up a good show.

A. H. Traquair, who is distinguished as the brother-in-law of our worthy Hon. Sec. He shines in the wrestling world, and can give a half-Nelson or the "twice-over," whatever that may be, to anyone. Prefers cross-country to track running and was member of our last year's team. Is a steady performer and may spring a surprise in the handicap, held in connection with our 10 mile race.

RACING NOTES

By "Tipster."

The month of January includes two important dates, namely the 12th, when the Counties Championships will be held, and the 26th, when the Club 10 miles Championship and Sealed Handicap will be decided.

Our chances in the Surrey Cross-country Championship appear to be very bright and the race should develop into a keen struggle between South London Harriers and ourselves similar to that which occurred in 1927, when the Bels, gained a narrow 5 points win—a victory which I think we shall repeat on this occasion.

L. H. Weatherhill, of S.L.H., and the Banks Champion, is a likely individual winner, but E. A. Duffett, A. W. Penny, W. Mitchell and H. S. Cook should not be far behind. In fact, from number one to twelve the team is exceptionally strong and the best the Club has ever fielded in this event. At the same time, several of our members will be running as individuals in the Middlesex Championship, and here again Belgrave should be well to the fore with men such as the Webb brothers, Arthur Allum, Alec Robertshaw and Jack and Joe Flower representing the Club.

The 10 miles Championship is very open, but I am inclined to think that E. A. Duffett will win a close race. I should not be surprised to see A. W. Penny gain a place both in the Championship and Handicap, although I think the Handicap will be won by a long marker, as previously predicted in my October article.

The walkers have only one event down for decision this month, the Cambridge H. Open Walk (January 19th), but commence February with the 10 miles Championship—an event I hope to review in the next issue.

HIS LESSON.

It was entirely his own fault. He had not been prepared when the chance came and so it had passed—an opportunity which might never return. If only he had known a month before, if he could have foreseen the future—what a difference it would have made. It was annoying, infuriating, enraging beyond measure. He had wasted his time in cinemas and dance halls when he would have been better employed in other directions. And now he realized his folly—the stupendous mistake he had made—a mistake which meant so much and which could have been so easily avoided.

It was no use crying over spilt milk, he mused philosophically, he must keep a firm upper lip, but he had learnt his lesson.

All these thoughts ran through his head when the sealed handicapper was disclosed. The handicapper, in a moment of mental aberration, had given him 15 seconds more than he was entitled to, and he had been unable to benefit because he lacked training.

A.A.H

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of "The Belgravian"

Dear Sir,

Our Club badge is one of which we are all proud, and no one would deny that the emblems worn by many members in the lapels of their coats are artistic.

It is my impression however, that only very few of those wear the badge would be able, if asked, to give a clear explanation of the devices thereon and what they represent. I therefore write this letter in the hope that someone of our older, or more learned, members, may reply to it with an account of our badge and how it came to be adopted.

In the course of recent literary browsings in search of information, I have discovered that the portcullis is the principal emblem in the arms of the City of Westminster and the cross keys are those of St. Peter, to whom Westminster Abbey is dedicated. As the City of Westminster is the local authority within whose jurisdiction Belgravia (through which we run on Tuesday nights) lies, I assume that this explains the adoption of these signs in our badge, but I should like to be further enlightened about the keys. Do they denote that St. Peter (amongst his other offices) is patron saint of the Belgrave Harriers?

Reverting to the portcullis, a friend suggested to me that possibly I was mistaken in interpreting it as such, and that it was actually an agricultural implement called a "harrow," its inclusion in the badge being a passing reference to "harriers"! Oh fie! Surely our sense of humour is of a higher order than that.

Although the name which I subscribe to this letter is not the one by which I am usually known (*noms de plume* being rather the fashion just now), no one need search among the flowers, or in the cherry orchard, or even among the South Sea Islands, for an explanation; such fruit have been known to flourish in a social atmosphere at St John's Hall.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

"COCOANUT"

The Editor will welcome letters from readers on any subject likely to be of interest to Belgravians

Cheap return tickets between Wimbledon and Vauxhall or Clapham Junction can always be obtained from the landlord at the "Rising Sun," Ebury Bridge Road.



