

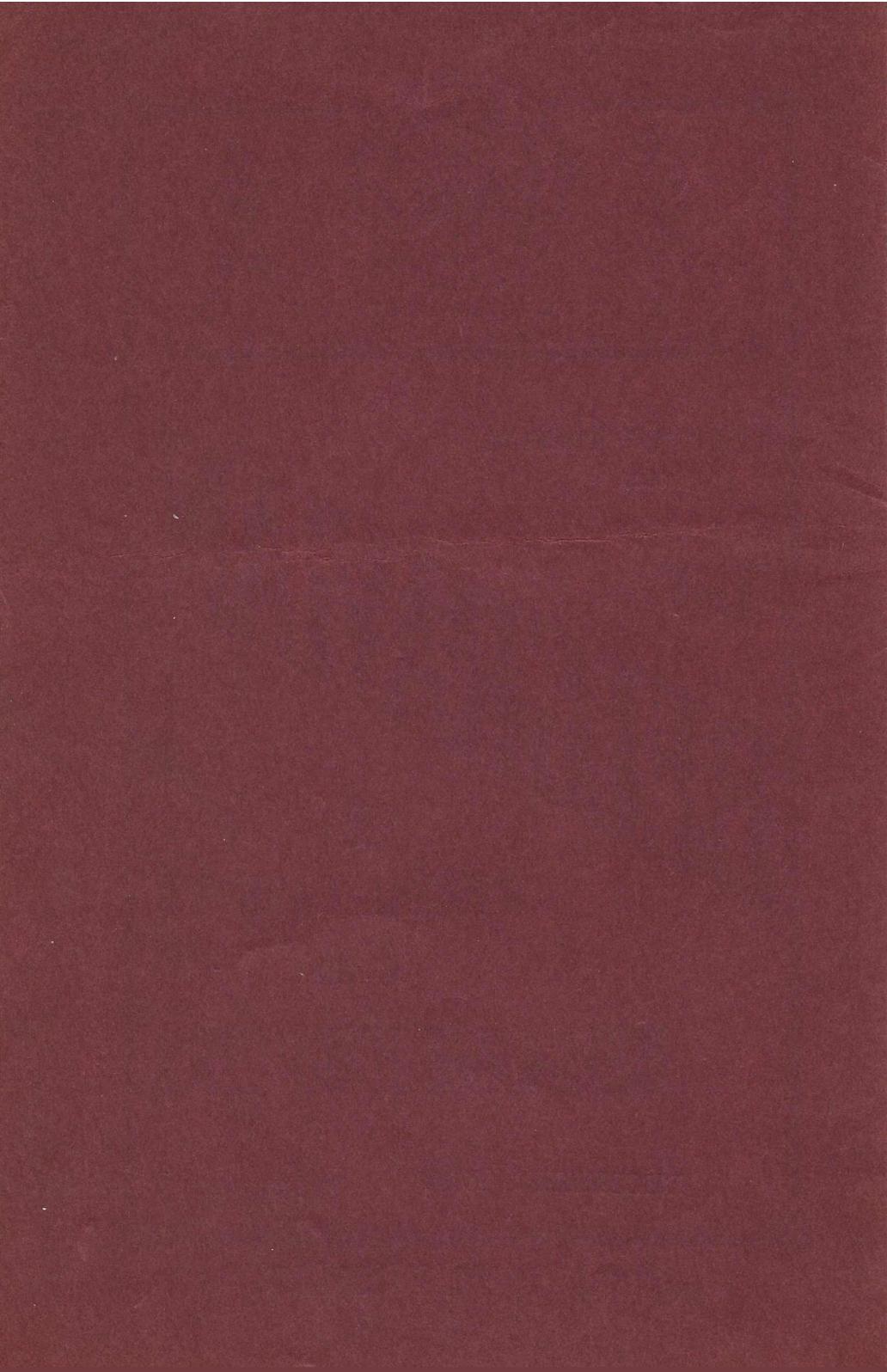


The 10th Edition
1929

THE
BELGRAVIAN
The
OFFICIAL GAZETTE
of the
BELGRAVE HARRIERS

DECEMBER, 1929.

Price 4s



THE 10th EDITION
(1929)
OF
THE BELGRAVIAN
DECEMBER

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THE LATE W. GRIFFIN.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. W. Griffin, who passed away on Wednesday, November 27th, after a long and painful illness at the early age of 42 years. Mr. Griffin was our host at the "Rising Sun," Ebury Bridge Road, S.W. 1., and was perhaps better known to the road-walking and cross-country members. It was in 1921 that we first went to the "Rising Sun," and ever since that time Mr. Griffin had always taken a very keen interest in all the Club's affairs. Only last year he presented us with a splendid cup for the Club's 3 miles track running championship. For some years past he had been a Vice-President and Trustee and in many other ways was a splendid helper to the Club. He will be sadly missed by many. We are sure all "The Belgrave" will sympathise with Mrs. Griffin in her sad bereavement.

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This month we must congratulate J. E. Flower upon winning the South of the Thames Association's Junior (Surrey) race. He is the first winner of this event we have ever had—and a worthy one at that. We are expecting big things of Jack in the future and are not likely to suffer disappointment.

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Our readers will be pleased to know that B. W. Hayman, one of the young school of sprinters, is now convalescent in Devonshire after undergoing many severe operations and passing through a very critical time.

* * * * *

Arthur Penny was recently invited to form one of Mr. E. J. Holt's team to compete against the Cambridge University team at Cambridge. It is gratifying to know that Arthur's consistent running has been noticed by Mr. Holt, who is the A.A.A. Championship Secretary.

At the December meeting of the Committee, W H Hare was elected a Trustee in succession to the late Mr W Griffin, whose untimely death is reported elsewhere.

* * * * *

There is an unfortunate happening to be reported in connection with our Open Walk. Belgrave "B" team were announced as the winners of the team handicap and awarded the prizes, but it transpired some days later that a mistake had been made and that Surrey W.C. were the winners with our team second. A mistake of a minute was made in the subtraction of C H. Speechley's handicap allowance from his net time and despite several checks by experienced recording judges, this error eluded their efforts. With large fields, such as the Open Walks now attract, it becomes a very difficult task to work out a complete result accurately and expeditiously. There is always the human element to be allowed for and until a simplified system of scoring or method of working out the result is devised, there is always the possibility of a mistake occurring. Immediate steps were taken to arrange an exchange of prizes, and by the time this is read all matters will have been adjusted satisfactorily.

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H F King, I Cedar, S. Ingram, W. G Hazael-Harrison, E. A Jeffries and S. Wright figure on the list of new members this month. H F King is the well-known walker who has many sterling performances to his credit in the past and should strengthen our teams when he is duly qualified. We extend a hearty welcome to all the above and wish them every success in our colours. We also welcome Capt Ellison as an Hon Member. He has been helpful in the past and, no doubt, will be even more so in the future.

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Members are requested to send along their outstanding *Gazette* subscriptions. It may only be a shilling or so, but it will be realised that if 300 members each owe 1/-, the total amount outstanding is £15.

A much better plan is to pay in advance with the annual subscription and so simplify matters, allowing the Editor to devote himself to the improvement of the *Belgravian*, instead of worrying for amounts owing with which to pay the printer. YOUR co-operation will be appreciated.

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Literary contributions are also invited. "Variety is the spice of life" we are told, and if the same few writers are forced to carry on month after month, monotony and a stereotyped *Gazette* are bound to follow. The remedy is in your hands. Please exercise it.

We take this opportunity of wishing all our readers A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMASTIDE followed by A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Very shortly we shall be bidding "Good-bye" to 1929, and a retrospective glance shows that we have had our most successful year in the Club's history. The South of the Thames Championship has been won for the first time, the National Road Walking Championship retained and many minor successes of varying importance recorded. In addition, the membership has increased considerably and the Club attained a higher position than ever before in the athletic world. Our great hope is that 1930, will surpass even 1929, wonderful though it has been, and that a year hence we may be able to look back with even greater pride and satisfaction than we do this year

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, AT WIMBLEDON

On this date the second of the inter-club races with Ashcombe A.C and T.V.H. was held over our home course, with a 5 mile sealed handicap for the Bels.

It was a bright, nippy afternoon and the field of nearly 100 was straining on the leash at the start—albeit one or two were not aware that Mr Gordon had said "Go!" till the others had gone.

Allum, Cohen, Webb and Footer were quickly away, accompanied by Dewberry and Wills, while Jim Tosh was using his long legs to advantage and was with the leaders till Gravelly Hill was reached, when he realised it was not a half-mile handicap and dropped back. Bill Webb was the first to cross the Rubicon, but Cohen took the lead along the Horse Ride, followed by Jack Flower, Allum, Webb and Bert Footer. Cohen gave place to Flower for a time, but made the pace up the steep hill to the flagstaff, Flower passing him again near the top. Duffett and Warboys were coming up steadily.

Here, however, Bert demonstrated his climbing abilities and jumped into the lead, which he held to the end and finally increased by his well-known "finsh" to about 170yds. Jack Flower, Cohen and Arthur Allum came next, and Duffett and Warboys were both bent on getting 5th place. Penny, who was first home at Hounslow, was not running.

A C Canard, one of the most promising of our younger members, ran a particularly good race, largely under the wing of Joe Flower, from whom he succeeded in wresting 9th place—a performance which gave him the handicap prize by a margin of nearly half a minute. W. H. Eastman with 4-15 start was second in the handicap, and Sid Chorley received the third "present for a good boy."

In the team race, as anticipated, the Bels. had it all their own way with nine in the first ten and a score of 371 against T.V.H.'s

731 and Ashcombe's 810, 20 a side being the scoring number. Cohen (3rd) and Nutt (11th) received small prizes for the first men home of the visiting clubs.

A dwindling band of optimists stayed behind at St. John's Hall after the others had gone, in order hear the handicap result—a matter which appeared to be causing the handicap officials much mental stress and anxiety. We feared that someone had cast a "scale of dragon" instead of "eye of newt" into the witches' cauldron and spoilt the brew, but it came out all right eventually, and we can say, like Hecate,

"O well done! I commend your pains,
And everyone shall share i' the gains"

—which appear herewith:—

S.D.

Pos'n	Name	Club	RESULTS			Pos'n in	
			Act'l Time	Start	H'cp Time	H'cp	
1	H E Footer	Belgrave	28 50	0 5	28 45	5	
2	J E Flower	"	29 22	0 5	29 17	10	
3	L J Cohen	Ashcombe	29 32	—	—	—	
4	A Allum	Belgrave	29 34	0 20	29 15	8	
5	E A Duffett	"	30 8	Scr	30 8	18 †	
6	S H Warboys	"	30 8	0 5	30 3	16	
7	W G Webb	"	30 18	0 10	30 8	18 †	
8	N R Dewberry	"	30 34	1 50	28 44	4	
9	A C Canard	"	30 37	3 5	27 32	1	
10.	T J Flower	"	30 42	0 5	30 37	25	
14	S R Chorley	"	30 52	2 25	28 27	3	
15	F R Webb	"	30 59	1 20	29 39	11	
—	H E Wills	"	31 5	0 5	31 0	32	
16	W A Rice	"	31 14	0 40	30 54	29	
—	F Tame	"	31 37	0 40	30 57	30	
20.	T F Morrell	"	31 44	2 50	28 54	6	
28.	W H Eastman	"	32 15	4 15	28 0	2	
30	J E. Tosh	"	32 21	2 40	29 41	12	
35	A E Miller	"	32 46	3 30	29 16	9	
36	S Drake	"	32 47	2 20	30 27	24	
39	H. L Rollins	"	32 50	2 40	30 10	20	
42	T Pritchard	"	33 6	2 15	30 51	28	
44.	A J Flower	"	33 22	3 10	30 12	21 †	
45	W L Bayliss	"	33 23	0 50	32 33	37	
47	W H G Jacobs	"	33 25	3 30	29 55	14 †	
53.	D A Sloper	...	33 55	4 0	29 55	14 †	
55	R J Evans	"	34 3	3 45	30 18	23	
56.	S S Shepherd	"	34 7	4 0	30 7	17	
58	T Cotton	"	34 12	4 0	30 12	21 †	
62	A R Godfrey	"	34 47	4 0	30 47	27	
63	J. Marsh	Ashcombe	34 49	3 0	31 49	34	
65	R Freestone	Belgrave	34 59	4 0	30 59	31	
68	C W Law	"	35 8	5 15	29 53	13	
70	L E Fletcher	"	35 20	—	—	—	
72	A. T Webb	"	35 24	4 15	31 9	33	
75	G Still	"	35 41	5 0	30 41	26	
78	W G Millett	"	36 10	4 0	32 10	35	
80	C H. Phillips	"	36 25	7 25	29 0	7	
85	J Mackie	"	36 58	2 50	34 8	38	
86	H Goodfellow	"	38 47	6 20	32 27	36	

TEAM SCORES (20 a side counting)

Belgrave H—1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20, 28, 30, 35, 36, 39, 42, 44	371 pts.
Thames Valley—11, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, 41, 43, 46, 49, 54, 64, 69, 73	731 pts.
Ashcombe A C—3, 12, 13, 19, 22, 26, 33, 37, 38, 40, 48, 50, 52, 57, 59 60, 61, 63, 66	810 pts.

THE ENFIELD OPEN WALK.

On November 9th, at Enfield, we supplied 17 entrants of the 160 starters and met with a good measure of success.

The scratch team race, contrary to the usual custom, was decided on the aggregate times of the first four men of a team to finish, and Enfield A C, the home club, succeeded in beating us by 23secs. If the more usual and simpler system of scoring had been in operation, we should have won by 33pts to 49pts. Our fourth man finished 13th—the fourth Enfield man, 21st—and we had five men home before the fourth Enfield man had finished the course. There were six Belgrave walkers in the first twenty-four competitors—a proportion which demonstrates our all-round strength and good team work.

We won the handicap team race by over two minutes through the efforts of Messrs. Bidgood, Khlopin, Saunders and Speechley. Bidgood, with the aid of 8 mins. allowance, gained second prize in the individual handicap, whilst Khlopin was fourth, with 6mins. allowance. These two men are rapidly proving themselves to be great acquisitions to our teams and it is hoped that they will long remain so.

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS

	m	s		m	s.
4 A L Fletcher (A)	54	51	63 C W Redgrave (B)	61	27
7 F H Elson (A)	56	40	66 R G Hillier (B)	61	35
11 J G Scamell (A)	57	20	68 A H Field (B)	61	42
13 E Saunders (A)	57	44	82 H J Fletcher (B)	62	38
29 P Khlopin (A)	58	16	88 E Stringer (B)	63	2
24 B J Knifton (A)	59	6	96 A A Harley (B)	63	37
41 J C Bidgood (A)	59	56	123 H E Larman (B)	66	2
42 C H Speechley (A)	59	57	133 S T Ring (Ind)	67	42
46 S L King (B)	60	8			

TEAM PLACINGS

Scratch Race—	m	s.
1—Enfield A C (1, 10, 17, 21)	226	12
2—Belgrave H (4, 7, 11, 13)	226	35
3—Metropolitan W C (6, 12, 32, 57)	234	14
Handicap Race—		
1—Belgrave H (Bidgood, 51-56; Khlopin, 52-16; Saunders, 53-4; Speechley, 53-58)	211	14
2—Woodford Green A C	213	31
3—Metropolitan W C	214	34

THE SOUTH OF THE THAMES JUNIOR RACE

We were very hopeful of repeating last year's win in this event and although our anticipations were not realized, we derived much satisfaction from having the individual winner, Jack Flower, the first Belgrave man to ever win this race, and in having our team in the next best position to winning—second.

But first a description of the weather must be given. It had rained in torrents throughout the previous night and showed no signs of abatement during the morning. As we approached Epsom, however, a heavy fall of snow took place and upon arrival at the Racecourse we found that it had assumed a real Christmas card aspect.

The race eventually started and the runners were soon lost to view in the mist which shrouded the Downs. Twenty-four minutes later Jack Flower and H M Craske (S.L.H.) were seen approaching together and Jack managed to beat his rival by a few inches. About forty others were timed in and then there was a long interval. After a quarter of an hour a large pack approached and runners seemed to come from all directions towards the winning post. It afterwards transpired that these runners, numbering about sixty, had lost all trace of the early runners (who apparently only ran about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) and had decided to keep together and so reduce the risk of any competitors being lost on the now rapidly darkening downs. One of our most respected members, "Dug" Sloper, knocked at a cottage door to enquire "the way to the jolly old Grandstand, don't you know," whilst others stopped a car in an endeavour to find the way back.

Only the fact that about five clubs had closed in teams in the first forty runners prevented the race from being a complete fiasco. No result was announced at the time, but at a Committee meeting held later in the week it was decided to allow the result to stand. Doubtless the congested fixture list and difficulty in arranging a further race at short notice influenced the Committee in their decision, but if it had been re-run it is very doubtful if there would have been any material alterations in the team (or individual) placings.

Our team scored as follows: 1, J. E. Flower, 24min. 41sec.; 5, S. H. Warboys, 25min. 3sec.; 17, T. J. Flower, 25min. 41sec.; 26, A. C. Canard, 26min. 3sec.

We should have all have been very disappointed if Jack Flower had not won and the race proved that our confidence in him was not misplaced. Sid Warboys also did well, and will do even better when the longer distance events are decided. Joe Flower scored as expected and Canard gives every promise of developing into a real "good 'un."

Our other thirteen competitors took part in the "social run" and "postman's knock," and instead of medals brought back only

vivid impressions of distressing conditions. However, their time will come

	TEAM	RESULT	
1—	South London H	(2, 3, 4, 14)	23 pts
2—	Belgrave H	(1, 5, 17, 26)	49 pts.
3—	Mitcham A C	(12, 18, 20, 35)	74 pts

OUR OPEN SEVEN MILES WALK

As usual, this event, held this year on November 30th, attracted a very large entry, attracting no fewer than 205 individual entries, comprising 23 teams. Despite the adverse conditions, 186 walkers started at the signal from our President. The course was longer than the one used last year and was in excess of the stipulated seven miles.

The fast men, as usual, went away from the main pack right from the start and at the half distance Hyde had a good lead from A. H. Pope, with A. A. Cooper third and two of our men, Green and Fletcher, next. Shortly afterwards Hyde was disqualified, leaving Pope in the lead—a position which he maintained to the end. His club-mate, Cooper, was overhauled, however, by T. W. Green, whose speed and fairness of action was commented upon by all. It is surprising to see Tommy walking such fast “sevens” after months of long distance walking, but this only serves to show his amazing versatility. Cooper finished third and Len Fletcher fourth. The scratch team race resulted in an easy win for us, for Woodford Green A.C. had no one to back up their first two men, and Herne Hill H, usually stern rivals, did not do quite so well as usual.

The handicap team race was won by Surrey Walking Club with our “B” team (Messrs. Khlopin, Speechley, Dodkin and Redgrave) second, and Woodford Green A.C. third. Redgrave walked very well in winning his first team prize. R. F. Elson did even better, but was unfortunate on this occasion that he was a member of the “C” team and did not receive sufficient support.

27 “Bels.” competed in this race—a very gratifying entry for it indicates great possibilities ahead. Quantity must be followed by quality.

Paul Khlopin, after getting very near on several occasions, at last succeeded in gaining his first open walking prize (exclusive of team prizes) and was so rewarded for his perseverance. E. Saunders won the prize for being the first member (not gaining any other award) to finish.

To conclude, we had a very good day out, for no less than ten of the twenty-two prizes were won by Belgrave Harriers.

RESULTS				
1	A H Pope (Woodford Green A C)	0 40	55 12	54 32
2	T W Green (A)	0 30	56 1	55 31
3	A A Cooper (Woodford Grn A C)	1 0	56 10	55 10

4	A L Fletcher (A)	0 40	56 18	55 38
13.	J G Scamell (A)	2 20	58 46	56 26
15	F H Elson (A)	2 30	59 4	56 34
17	E Saunders (A)	4 30	59 15	54 45
19	P. Khlopın (B)	5 40	59 39	53 39
28	W G Dodkin (B)	5 30	60 34	55 4
42.	S L King (B)	5 10	61 46	56 36
34	C H Speechley (B)	6 0	61 16	55 16
32	R F Elson (C)	7 10	62 34	55 24
68	C W Redgrave (B)	7 50	63 21	55 31
72	L Storey (B)	4 20	63 27	59 7
75	R G Hillier (B)	7 10	63 47	56 37
78.	A. H Field (B)	7 30	64 1	56 31
84	E Stringer (C)	5 40	64 16	53 36
95	H E Laiman (C)	7 40	64 41	57 1
103	A A Harley (C)	7 10	65 13	58 3
111	B J Knifton (A)	2 50	65 49	62 59
117.	W. J. Fish (C)	7 20	66 2	58 42
118	W Clark (C)	6 30	66 6	59 36
128	H J. Fletcher (C)	7 0	67 10	60 10
129.	S. T Ring (C)	6 50	67 37	60 47
143	D Macdonald (C)	10 30	69 2	58 32
152	S B Ashby (Ind)	6 50	70 7	63 17
163	J N Thomas (C)	8 10	72 57	64 47
164.	E A Jeffries (C)	7 0	73 20	66 20

INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP

1	G Dodkins (Cambridge H)	53 50
2	A T Cawte (Valentines WC)	53 51
3	P Khlopın (Belgrave H)	53 59
4	S E Horton (Surrey WC)	54 14
5	P W Collier (London Vidarians)	54 20
6	A H Pope (Woodford Grn A C)	54 32
7	F Wilbur (Surrey WC)	54 41
8	E Saunders (Belgrave H)	54 45
9	G H Webster (Luton UH)	54 58
10	A Potton (Surrey WC)	55 1
11	W G Dodkin (Belgrave H)	55 4

TEAM RESULTS

Scratch—Belgrave H (A), 34 pts, 2, Herne Hill H, 30 pts, 3. Metropolitan WC, 97 pts

Handicap—1, Surrey W.C, 219m 1s, 2, Belgrave H (B), 219m 50s, 3, Woodford Grn A.C, 221m 16s, 7, Belgrave H (A), 222m 20s, 17, Belgrave H (C), 230m 35s 23 teams competed

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE CLUB.

On November 23rd we had as guests Mitcham A.C., Epsom H., Croydon H., and St. George's Services S.C. The day was one of the worst experienced during November, and that is saying something. Several packs went out, however, the fast pack being led by Bert Footer. Their intention was to cover seven miles, but according to the almost incoherent statements made between gasps at the conclusion, the pack had been taken nearly ten miles. Bert denied this strenuously, but afterwards admitted

that it might have been over seven miles—a couple of hundred yards or so

In the evening we were joined by some of the London Olympiades (who, incidentally, appear to train almost entirely upon cream buns) but our tea party did not reach quite the proportions anticipated, owing to the dreary weather outside.

During the evening we were entertained right well by Rex Lenfesty, the Mitcham comedian, Mr Bennison, the Cook sisters, and Tom Cotton. The last-named, who was making his first appearance at one of our socials, was heartily applauded and is certain to be in demand on future similar occasions. The dance band contributed to the liveliness of the evening, as did also Bert Footer, who was “arrested” and escorted away—only to return in great haste a few seconds later

Our next social at Wimbledon will take place on January 25th, after the 10 miles cross-country championship. The one fixed for February 15th appearing in the fixture list has been cancelled and the earlier date substituted, as it is thought that it will receive more support.

On November 30th, our runners visited Highgate H. at Edgware and, with Herne Hill H. and Polytechnic H., learnt the reason for our hosts' name, “The Gatebearers.” After the run most of our members stayed to tea and the social which followed.

WITH THE WALKERS.

As will be seen elsewhere, the Bels were well represented at the Enfield Open “Seven,” and had the usual system of scoring by points in the scratch team race been adhered to, our “A” team would have completed a double, a thing we have never done before, for although we have frequently supplied the winning teams of the scratch and handicap races with “A” or “B” teams never has one team won two sets of prizes.

J. C Bidgood, who was placed in the “Enfield” was the winner a few days later of a 10 mile handicap held in conjunction with the Police Championship. No doubt the handicapper will give him a loving thought when next he is allotting starts.

After having very fine weather for the two previous “Opens,” we were not very pleased with the rain and wind which was served up on the day of the Greenwich Walk. This race was confined to a 10 mile radius, and this coupled with the fact that it is not a very popular fixture and topped by the bad weather, resulted in a small field of about sixty, only four of whom were Belgraves. Len Fletcher led practically all the way to win from Presland, of Herne Hill, who had won this race in two previous years. Elson was fourth with Khlopin about twelfth and Red-

grave still further back. With three to score we were beaten into second place by Herne Hill H., who finished their three in seven.

The Banstead Walk still fails to attract many of our club-mates, for only nine turned out this year, and scoring six a side we were once again beaten by our friends of the Surrey W.C. Tommy Green headed the field and although he was nearly a minute outside the course record, yet his time is the best ever returned by a Belgrave. Here is the result —

	h	m	s		h	m	s
1 T W Green (B)	1	35	18	11 J C Bidgood (B)	1	43	36
2 H W Kemp (S)	1	36	42	12 S E Horton (S)	1	44	44
3 W Archibald (S)	1	39	59	13 S A Manning (B)	1	45	51
4 W F. Amer (S) ..	1	40	34	14 J. E Field (B)	1	47	11
5 F A Bennett (S) .	1	41	38	15 A Graham (S)	1	49	25
6 P Khlopin (B)	1	42	26	16 F G Cooper (B)	1	49	26
7 B J Knifton (B)	1	42	27	17 F Wilmot (S)	1	49	32
8 R. M. Simmond (S)	1	42	32	18 A H Field (B)	1	49	51
9 F. W. Wildbur (S)	1	42	34	24 G Tucker (B)	1	54	12
10 F W Blackmore (S)	1	42	57				
Surrey W.C.—2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9.						31	pts.
Belgrave H—1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12						17	pts.

(University scoring)

By walking into second place in our Open "Seven" in such good company, T W Green surprised many of us who imagined that distance was Tommy's strong point, but it seems that he is in the first flight at any distance.

It appears that he had rather a bad time with his stomach during the International 100 Kilometres Race at Milan, in which he finished second, but he recovered somewhat towards the end and was rapidly overhauling Brignoli, the winner, but his effort was a little too late. He feels that without this bad luck he could improve upon his performance.

H. F. King, whom we reported last month as "missing," turned up at Wimbledon on the day of our "Open" and mentioned that he has now started training and hopes to be fit soon after Christmas. It will no doubt be news to some of our members to hear that on two previous occasions, i.e., in 1923 and 1926, he returned fastest time in this race. Jack Carne was also a spectator at this race and said that he too had re-commenced training, so we shall soon have one or two more to reckon with.

The usual 3 mile walking handicap will be held on Battersea Park track at our Boxing Day meeting, and as it is considered a good way of working off the effects of Christmas fare, we should have a good entry.

Some of the more energetic members will be found further afield, for we always send a team to the Surrey W.C. Godstone Walk, a little jaunt of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and any walker wishing to par-

ticipate in this effort should get into touch with Oscar Horwood, who will tell them more about it.

The only other fixture appearing on our card for December is the walk at Imber Court with the Police, on the 28th. If it is to be a race, we shall require the assistance of all the best men that we can muster, for the Police can call on quite a number of fine walkers, including several from our own club, so keep this date open

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

December 14th sees the last of the Inter-Club races between Ashcombe A.C., Thames Valley H., and ourselves. The run takes place from Ashcombe's headquarters, the Angel, Roehampton.

On the 21st is the first of the Club's Cross-country Championships. This is the 7 miles run for the "Blackstaffe" Shield (holder, E. A. Duffett). A course of 2 laps much the same as last year will be used and there is a Sealed Handicap in conjunction with the race. It is hoped that all members will support this, and so give our new Handicapper a chance of showing what he can do.

On Boxing Day, the 26th, we have our annual track meeting at Battersea Park. Events are as follows:— 120yds. and 2 miles run. The race will start sharp at 11 a.m., as the London Olympiades are using the track immediately after the termination of our meeting, so it will be advisable to be there in good time. Bring your friends along, they are sure of a good morning's sport, the walkers also having an event on the programme. Entries should be sent to me by the 19th latest.

Our first fixture in the New Year is on January 4th, and is a social run with our old friends Epsom H., Croydon H. and Mitcham A.C., from the Grandstand, Epsom Downs. As the Surrey County Championship will be run here a week later, the 11th, this will be a fine opportunity for our boys to test themselves out.

In view of our form in the "Junior" not coming up to expectations I hope and trust that all members will keep in serious training for the later races of the season, in which we hope and ought, in view of our increased strength, to record our best performances to date.

All enquiries to E. A. DUFFETT, *Hon. Running Sec.*,
138 Frant Road, Thornton Heath.

SPORTS JOTTINGS

By "Observer"

There has long been an impression that it is desirable to abolish the inter-county team and relay championships in their present form and, instead, to organise the championships as divisional competitions with a final in London, or to have a competition on Football League lines, with promotions and relegations.

The matter is now under discussion by the various Counties affiliated to the Counties' Athletic Union and their reports will be considered at a meeting of the Union's Council early in the New Year.

It is generally agreed that the annual Inter-County championship meeting is difficult to follow and unattractive to the general public, by reason of its unwieldy programme.

One suggestion put forward is that each county should be divided into geographical divisions, each having its own championships, and then a final in London between the best two teams in each division. While this has much to recommend it, the grouping in the South would be a very ticklish matter. If it was on the lines of the Rugby Union's grouping, you would see Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire fighting for the two places which, considering the strength of these counties, is absurd.

Other suggestions include the following:—

1. To abandon the team and relay principle and work on the "Kinnaird" Trophy lines. This might be all right for those counties possessing outstanding men in the various events, but surely the object of the championship meeting is to determine the champion all-round county. That is why the present system of four men running relay fashion is a true trial of a county's all-round strength; but a meeting on "Kinnaird" Trophy lines would do away with all this, and the county with an extra hot man would triumph over a county possessing four fairly good ones.

2. To insist on a definite standard of performance before an entry for London could be accepted.

As regards this suggestion, I object to the word "London," I would prefer to see it substituted by "an event." There is no doubt that some counties have entered ridiculously weak men in some of the events, especially as regards the field ones. Their one object seems to be that they must be represented in each and every event, and the result is that some very poor performers are seen. This is precisely what the general public objects to, as

each competitor has to have a certain amount of time allotted to him and the event drags on, sometimes for hours, whereas with a definite standard of performance insisted on, you would see fewer and better performers.

3. To abandon the championships and have triangular contests organised by the C.A.U., with all revenue pooled, so that successful meets could finance those not showing a profit

The last paragraph is particularly interesting; it would certainly be an eye-opener to see how many could show a profit, let alone think of financing those who do not. Surely the last few Championship meetings have shewn how difficult it is even for this meeting to pay for itself, without stopping to think of the financial result of a series of small contests. Just think of the profit on the Edmonton one alone, and you will see the futility of this suggestion

4. To have fewer events.

So far as the track events go, it is a little difficult to see which could be deleted, it would seem to be the distance events, such as the 3 miles run and 3 miles walk, which would have to suffer. With regard to field events, the Pole Jump could certainly be deleted, this event being a farce with about 4 competitors competing, but even then I do not think you will have solved the difficulty.

Upon surveying and considering the above suggestions, I am most impressed by No. 2, and I think that in this direction lays the salvation of the Inter-County Championships.

Some time ago it was suggested that in view of our increasing number of Middlesex members we might form a club composed entirely of these and so enable them to run as a team in the Middlesex cross-country championship. The club could be called, for example, the Ebury Bridge Harriers," their headquarters being the "Rising Sun," or of course any other name which might be deemed suitable, it being impossible for them to use the Club title. A similar club is run, I believe, by Ashcombe A.C., and is called the West London Harriers. This question was, I know, discussed by several members and then it appeared to die a natural death and nothing has been heard since. Now that our Middlesex representatives are still stronger, with the added addition of the Flowers and Warboys, it would seem to be the time for something definite to be done. The longer this question is in abeyance the more chance there is of our members joining Middlesex clubs, so that they can represent a team in the county championship. Warboys, I understand, has already joined the Mary Ward A.C. and will presumably compete for them, so that you have the spectacle of our boys competing against one

another instead of running together as a team. They might, it is true, all run as individuals, and by their respective placings prove that as a team they would have gained premier honours, but there is little sweet in that, whereas by running for a team they have something to strive for. There is no doubt that with the men we have eligible, namely, the two Flowers, Allum, Robertshaw, Bill Webb and perhaps Warboys, we should go very near gaining first place.

This also applies to the walkers, for Frank Elson, E. Saunders and P. Khlopin are all second-claim members of the Metropolitan W.C. and see mlikely to win the Middlesex championship for their second love. Ben Knifton has already won a first-team medal, walking for the Polytechnic Harriers, a club of which Charlie Speechley is also a member. Other Belgrave walkers with Middlesex qualifications are J. G. Scamell, J. C. Bidgood, W. Dodkin, S. L. King, C. W. Redgrave, J. Rathbone, A. A. Harley, R. F. Elson, D. Macdonald, and many others. If it was possible for us to enter a team there is little doubt that we should win the County championship—a feat we have so far failed to perform in the Surrey County Race.

Foremost in my next three potted biographies on Club members, is one who always stood by the Belgraves, although there is no possible doubt that had he so wished he could have secured a better position for himself.—

T. Eaton, the Club's masseur and trainer, who in his day was a fine heel-and-toe performer and accomplished many good performances. Tom has been with us for a number of years now, and I hope he will remain, for many of our younger members have to thank him for much useful advice. He is always in attendance at Wimbledon on Saturdays, and during the evenings at the "Rising Sun," and is guaranteed to rub away all those aches and pains you suffer from when commencing training, for a nominal charge. Also during the summer he is in constant attendance at Battersea Park, where his be-spectacled countenance is known and appreciated by those members who wish to reach the acme of fitness.

A. C. Canard, one of our members just graduated from the junior stage, and one who promises to make a stir among the Seniors during the season. Is of the Footer type, short with plenty of pluck. Runs very consistently and has benefited by his summer training with our champion road performer. Ran well in the recent "Junior" and materially assisted the team in gaining second place. Has years of running before him and will, I think, eventually become a real good man over the country.

E. Saunders, one of the Club's most promising walkers, who continues to improve each season Walks with great determination, a fine asset for road-walking, and is now a regular member of the Club's "A" team. Has had a big hand in the successful transformation of Khlopin from a runner to a walker, and is also a very keen club man

LATE NEWS

The Surrey Youths' Race held on Saturday, December 7th, was declared void owing to the runners losing the trail. It will be re-run on December 14th.

The five miles Novice Walk held on December 7th resulted as follows.—

	m.	s
1—G. Tucker, Belgrave H	46	25
2—L. J. Wells, Surrey W.C	46	34
3—A. A. Harley, Belgrave H.	46	45

BOXING DAY MEETING

at 11 a.m.

BATTERSEA PARK TRACK.

120 Yards Handicap.

2 Miles Handicap.

3 Miles Walk Handicap.

ENTRIES TO

(Closing date, Dec 19th)

E. A. DUFFETT,
Running Hon. Secretary,
138 Frant Road,
Thornton Heath.

O. HORWOOD,
Walking Hon. Secretary,
13 Abbots Avenue,
S. W. 20.

