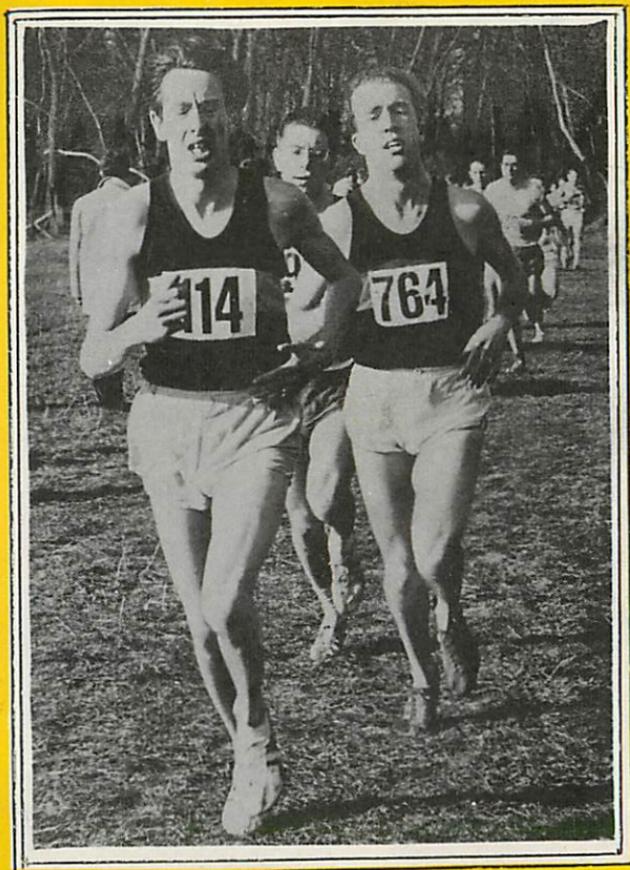


The

BELGRAVIAN



Official Gazette of
Belgrave Harriers

MARCH, 1967



FRONT COVER (R. Linstead)--Tony Fairclough, first Belgravian to finish in the National at Norwich, sets the pace for D. Holt (Hercules) and R. Moore (Longwood).
FRONTISPIECE (E.D. Lacey)--John Thresher leads Ravald (Man. DLC), D. Holt, J. Julian (New Zealand) and T. Briault (Enfield).



THE

BELGRAVIAN

FOUNDED 1887

March 1967

No. 161

President.

F. Jarvis

Gen. Hon. Sec.

A. A. Harley
7, Brickwall Lane,
Ruislip, Midd'x.

Hon. Treasurer.

D. M. Shepherd,
104, Florence Road,
S.W. 19.

Hon. Editors.

C. Shippen
A. Mead
24, Fryston Avenue,
Coulson, Surrey.

EDITORIAL

There has been much talk in recent months of the need for an inter-club competition during the summer season. Many views put forward seem to favour a league system with, we presume, promotion and relegation; or a super-league including the top clubs in the unofficial ranking list - a list insufficiently broad to reflect true team strength.

Whilst we do not agree with the form of the proposals so far presented we fully understand the motives that prompt them. Despite the excellent, conscientious work of our National and Area coaches and the efforts of those many others who endeavour to produce medal-winning Britons, British Athletics is waning. And when compared with many other sports, waning fast.

At a recent symposium on Recreational Planning, representatives of the Sports Council and National Playing Fields Association claimed that participation in Track and Field had shown little increase in recent

years while the progress of many other sports was described as no less than "explosive". It was also revealed that some local authorities are being advised against constructing running tracks - many of which, to date, have been nothing more than "white elephants".

In our view cross-country, long-distance and road-relay running are not suffering to the same degree because they are more closely identified with team participation. But Track and Field is a sport of many activities and here lies its weakness at club level. Furthermore, because of a chaotic summer programme of trophy meetings, inter-club events, various championships "invitation" events (of which there are hundreds) in the midst of which another programme of races is fitted to facilitate selection of our International teams, it is no wonder that team competition in the summer months is little short of farcical. Which is the most important event for the Club to win? Everyone has his own idea and club spirit during this period is at its lowest ebb; yet it is the clubs that form the base of the Athletics Pyramid. It is at club level then that the interest, indeed fervour, for Athletics should be engendered and thus enable the pyramid's apex to be pushed higher.

A NATIONAL A.A.A. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP is urgently needed. All events, except perhaps the walks, marathon and six miles, should be included. All flat races could be relays, except the 3 miles (decided on Cross-country scoring) and all the remaining events have 2 men per team. Field events could be decided on the aggregate best heights or distances of each pair. Similar competitions are held in other countries and the Army A.A. has held their inter-unit Championships on this basis for many years, and with great success.

The Area Associations of the South, Midland and North would need to stage one or, at the most, two eliminating rounds with the three winners going through to the final and the three remaining places being decided, perhaps, on performance scoring tables.

Studded with some quality invitation events such as a "Cup Final" would attract a large following - and if it attracted the bell-ringing, flag-waving, football-type support the "Brighton" knew (and it could) then it would be a certain success. As for venue, well let us say that last August's British Games could have done with such a Championship around which to frame its programme.

It is our belief that this prestige event would persuade clubs to pay more attention to the Cinderella events, create at least one TEAM red-letter day in the summer and be a useful first step in a long overdue re-appraisal of the British Athletics scene.

.....

We may take it that the much-discussed and much-reviled Individual athlete registration scheme is now dead. The A.A.A. have accepted that there are many inherent difficulties in such a scheme as originally planned,-

not least being the interference with Club life and activity and the heavy expense ratio involved - but the fact remains that the A.A.A. needs more finance to carry through its programmes.

It is probable that we shall all be asked to give more financial support to the A.A.A. than in the past; and it is possible that all members may be asked to pay a higher Club subscription permitting a per capita payment to be made to the A.A.A. on behalf of each subscribing first-claim member.

This would be in accord with the A.A.A. and Area Associations' need for more finance; and the Government Department's (from which considerable grant-aid has been forthcoming) suggestion that athletes themselves should provide more money for their Sport than heretofore.

HARRY EVANS

(Born 5.5.1881, died 27.1.1967)

It is with profound regret that we advise the passing of Harry Evans in his sixtieth year of membership; and it is with gratitude that we recall his many years of service to the Club and the Sport. His unflinching good humour, his contempt of the overcoat, his absolute dependability and complete integrity and high degree of competence endeared him to us all. To be disqualified by Harry Evans was to put the issue beyond all doubt; his decisions were accepted without the merest shadow of a protest for everyone accepted that his judgements could not be improved upon. He was without malice or guile. Uprighteousness, integrity and sincerity were to us synonymous with Harry Evans; and we shall miss him tremendously, whilst thankful for those very full years from 1907 to 1967 when Belgrave meant so much to him and he gave so much of himself to us.

It was in 1907 that Harry was approached by a fellow baker and asked to support the Baker's Charity Athletic Meeting at the old Kensal Rise Track by competing in a walking race. Harry agreed, and surprised himself by finishing a close second to the trade champion.

Another baker named Savage, who had been the World's professional champion and whose records made under the name of "Billy Franks" in 1882 still stand, thereupon became interested in Harry and, having a son in Belgrave, he introduced Harry to our club.

Up till this time the Bels had never been a power to be reckoned with in Championships of any kind. It is true that their stationery and Entry Forms showed that once they had been placed third in the South of the Thames Cross Country Championship, but that was their sole team honour. In those days the betting element had invaded the world of Amateur Athletics and became fairly well rooted there. The Authorities were striving to suppress it but despite their efforts it was easily possible to back one's self or one's fancy at any athletic meeting of note. At Stamford Bridge itself there was a spot near the rails in the back straight where, despite both Police and Authorities, a brisk business was done for many years. In most of the prominent clubs there was a betting coterie and many young athletes found teachers willing to supervise their training who expected them to run or hold back as ordered. Now it is undeniable that this canker had eaten deep in the Belgrave Harriers as in many other clubs; and where handicap wins and odds as long as possible are the objective, it naturally follows that the attainment of high team honours is extremely unlikely. The aim is not high enough.

From the outset, Harry fought openly and strenuously against this, and in my opinion, any tribute of thanks we pay him should commence with the acknowledgement of this, as the club's numerous team victories have all been achieved since the days when he showed his fellow clubmen that true sportsmanship demanded that one should give of his utmost in every race.

The Walking Captain of the club at that time was F.W. Coomber, a fine walker and a good sportsman, who quickly realised Harry's potential ability. He taught Harry so thoroughly that in the next club race to be decided the pupil walked away from the teacher. So Harry was urged to enter for the two-mile handicap at the Stamford Bridge Open "Good Friday" meeting. Hot Cross Buns, being a National necessity at that time, Harry had to put in a stretch of 36 hours on them. During this period he had only two short rests. The race commenced only a few hours after he left the Bakery but Harry won the race by 75 yards.

The Belgrave urging and cheering throughout the race was insistent and incessant, and he learned afterwards the Belgs had backed him very heavily. The results recorded later will show that he kept on winning despite the frowns of those who wanted his wins to be accompanied with bets at favourable odds. Harry certainly had no time for the athlete who was not in the game for the love of it and for the glory of winning or fighting to do so.

Shortly after the Good Friday race Harry competed at Herne Hill and was a close third in the very fast time of 13mins.32secs. Next he won a 2 mile Walk at Redhill. Here Tommy Eaton, whom many of you will know as our pre-war masseur was the virtual scratch man together with Alf Pateman. Harry followed with a 2nd prize at the Tottenham Hospital Sports and a first prize at Sutton.

This Sutton race was memorable in as much as Harry was receiving a small start from A.E. Rowlands, the New Zealand Champion, who was over here for the 1908 Olympic Games and who had been recording some very fast times. He was a strong favourite for the race and actually caught Harry, but Harry fought on to gain the victory by a yard.

This race was followed by a second place race at Epsom. During this season Harry had won every Club handicap from the scratch mark. During the Winter Season he won the club 10 miles Championship in 78 minutes.

Following this he walked in the A.A.A. 7 Miles Championship and recorded the fast time of 54 mins.30secs., and in the 2 miles Championship recording 14mins.10secs. He followed this up with a win at 2 miles on the old White City track of 3 laps to the mile. This was a very fast track, certainly faster than Stamford Bridge, but not quite so fast as the present track there.

A second place in the L.A.C. Open Walk at Stamford Bridge came next and this was followed by a first at Clapton. This was undoubtedly one of Harry's finest performances. E.J. Webb, a winner of five A.A.A. Championships gave Harry a short start and caught him with a lap to go. Harry held him and one of the judges ran the whole of the lap in case either broke contact. It was neck and neck all the way with Harry just winning.

By now we have got to the Winter Season of 1909 and here we find Harry winning the first Junior Individual and Team Race promoted by the Road Walking Association. Belgrave lost the team race by one point, but hereafter there was another honour recorded on our letter headings.

This race started at Brentford and the Course mapped out was one passing Gunnersbury Park, crossing Ealing Common, climbing Hanger Hill, dipping down to Alperton and climbing part of the way to Wembley before returning. The road over Hanger Hill was then narrow with a very second-class surface. About two miles of tar-macadam and eight miles of rolled granite were generally to be expected in a ten mile race at this time, and in this race the course was typical. In winning Harry recorded the splendid time of 81mins.37secs. Harry was more than disappointed with the team's position of 2nd as earlier in the day there had been a two mile handicap at Stamford Bridge and several of the team had raced there before participating in the longer race for their club.

Following this, the club arranged a fair number of inter-club races and in these, although Harry was generally first man home, our successes were few as usually only three or four Belgravians turned out.

In the years 1909 to 1911, Harry gained six first class standard medals in the A.A.A. Championships.



Photo: E. D. Lacey

three at seven miles and three at two miles, and did well against the Champions of the day who included G.E. LARNER, E.J. WEBB and H.V.L. ROSS.

Now came a long break in Harry's athletic career. He married, and a growing family, his wife's ill-health and night work kept him out of the sport for some time. This period of inactivity was followed by the 1914-18 World War. Harry was an early volunteer for the forces. He was captured and spent a long while in a German prison camp. On returning to England in 1919 he was talked into training again by Jimmy Belchamber. Although he did not get back the pace that had formerly made him so formidable he soon became a very sound and reliable team man at seven and ten miles. In the Winter seasons of 1919-20 and 1920-21 Belgrave were the winners of most of the seven and ten miles scratch team races. We had seven walkers who could be relied upon to finish well up. Usually we could rely upon at least six of the seven turning up. These seven were Jimmy Belchamber, Harry Evans, Harry Hanger, Bill Hawker, Bob Ricketts, Alec Spendlove and Charlie Wells. Amongst these Harry was at a disadvantage in respect of age, but he was in our scoring four many times. He found pace enough also to win some more prizes at 2 miles on the track, a 1st at Paddington just after the 1920 Olympic Games being especially commendable. In this race the British, Australian and South African Olympic walkers were competing. Harry's handicap mark was by no means a long one. He also won a first prize at Writtle and a second at Hornsey. On the road he was awarded the style prize in the Islington Borough Walk in March 1920.

Twice Harry attempted the 20 Miles R.W.A. Championship but found that this was not his distance. This was before 1914. When he made his post-war come-back he could not be persuaded to try this distance.

As a walking judge Harry had no superior. He had been on the R.W.A. list since early 1921 and officiated at many A.A.A. Championships, the 1948 Olympic Games, and at thousands of races on track and on the road. His worth to the Club as an adviser on style and fair walking was inestimable. As a committee man he served a life-time and held the Presidency of the Club worthily for two years, 1942 and 1943, in addition to being a Life Member.

He was a great believer in breathing exercises and in physical exercise for the development of the stomach muscles, and in his earlier days profited by weight lifting. Harry was acutely aware as a young baker of the high mortality rate in the trade, largely due to chills etc. developed by working at high temperatures during the night and then going out into the early morning cold; and he sought to protect himself by being physically fit. Indirectly this brought him into sport and the Belgrave Harriers, where generations of us have learned to regard him with great affection.

And so we take our leave of one of Belgrave's noblest sons..... R.I.P.

A.A.H. (acknowledging the help of that other great character the late Jimmy Belchamber and his notes of years ago)



CYRIL YESCOMBE

(BORN 9.10.1919, DIED 21.1.1967)

We mourn the passing of Cyril Yescombe, aged 47, and our sincere condolences are extended to Mrs Yescombe, who has helped us so often, and her family.

Cyril joined us in early 1955 and we had come to know him as a great hearted walker who whilst not aspiring to the higher placings, yet gave stability in the middle reaches, and was a source of encouragement to us all.

Cyril competed in the club 10 miles Championship on January 21st and covered the course in 92 minutes. Two or three hours later a heart attack seized him whilst at the wheel of his car on his way home, from which he died almost immediately. We are indeed sorry to have lost such a good Belgravian.

Among his best walking performances were his eleventh place in the RWA 50 Kilometres Championship at Leyland in 1957, in sub-tropical conditions, which gained him his Club Honours Badge; and his 100 miles walk recorded in our current Handbook.

Inspector Cyril Yescombe was very popular indeed amongst his Metropolitan Police colleagues and was one of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Metropolitan Police Walking Club. In recent months he had done valuable work in training the young Police Cadets and his splendid example will have left lasting impressions for the good on a new generation of policeman.

He will be sorely missed by us all. R.I.P.

HON SEC'S NOTES

This year sees the Centenary of Cross-Country Running and no doubt more will be heard of this when the Autumn comes again. It is interesting to read the words of WALTER RYE, the first President of Thames Hare and Hounds. He wrote in 1894:

"At the end of 1867 a few members (of whom the writer was one) of the Thames Rowing Club at Putney conceived the idea of holding some cross-country steeplechase during the winter season with the idea of keeping themselves more or less in condition until rowing began again. As may well be imagined the arrangements of Thames Handicap Steeplechase No 1, as it was called, were primitive in the extreme and indeed the whole affair was treated more as a joke than anything else. The competitors were taken up to the starting place on Wimbledon Common, the edge of the Beverley Brook by the bridge in a bus, and had to dress how they could, and the race was run in the dark over 2½ miles of the roughest and boggiest part of the Common, then very different indeed as to its surface from what it has now become after recent drainage. Still there were a dozen starters out of twenty entries, and the affair being the first cross-country steeplechase (not being at a school) attracted much attention".

In the following winter (1868) it was decided to try paper-chasing and Walter Rye continues:-

"Our first run took place on October 17th 1868 from the 'Kings Head', Roehampton, then as it still is, our headquarters, and the beau ideal in many respects of a paper-chaser's home, being a quaint old wooden built inn, squatted behind a great wych elm, covered with creepers, and in the middle of real open country. We had secured the written leave of Earl Spencer, who then owned Wimbledon Common, to run over it, and still claim to be the only club who can drop paper over the heath, as having the right before there were such things as conservators and their bye-laws; and all existing rights were saved by the Act."

Rye writes on the first championship races thus:-

"It was not till 1870 that the first real championship race was started though this attempt to bring it off in the wilds of Epping Forest proved a great failure, everyone losing his way separately on his own account. Next year a carefully laid out course was chosen from Roehampton, over the Common by Merton and Morden, West Barnes and Crooked Billet Lane, about 11½ miles. The Thames H & H won the first time scoring 35 as against South London H. 58 and the Spartans 94"

Much more of a fascinating nature follows but we must conclude.....

"When the run is over, the tub - lukewarm if it can be had - is in universal request, followed, if possible, by a cold douche by means of a bucketful of water from the hands of a stable-helper. If the run has been extra wet or cold, a steaming glass of port negus may be wisely taken as a precaution, but it is a singular thing that both before and after the meal which terminates the evening, 'ginger beer and gin' is the favourite drink, having probably been found by long experience to best carry off the extra heat of the body caused by a long run."

Our own eighty years of history have been much in mind lately, and a letter published in "Athletics Weekly" and many local newspapers asking for details and relics of our very early days, whilst widely seen and noted by many interested persons has, as yet, added nothing to the sum total of knowledge of our first twenty years or so. Not that this surprises, for a strippling of 20 years in the Clubs earliest Embankment races, would now be awaiting his 100th birthday!

It may be, however, that a second or third generation have preserved details of Belgrave of the late 1800's; and if this is so we should be glad if they could find their way to the Hon. Secretary, and so assist in his researches.

If you know of any such persons please try and obtain their co-operation, for time is all too short.

One reads of the recent discovery of Chaucerian manuscripts, and of lost and unknown works of Leonardo da Vinci coming to light after centuries - and wonders what happened to the Belgrave Harriers Minute Books, 1887-1907!

Thanks to a succession of conscientious Hon. Editors our story from 1920 onwards has been lovingly recorded in the pages of the Belgravian in its sporting results, its comments, its humour, and its exhortations. The historian of the future has bricks in plenty from which to fashion his edifice - lets hope he doesn't drop too many of them!

The Track season will soon be with us once again and below is given a list of the dates for which permits have been granted to us. You are asked to note these dates in your diaries and ensure that the programmes arranged have your full support whether you are an active athlete, an official or an onlooker.

In addition to these dates we shall of course be engaged in the usual multiplicity of fixtures, full details of which will be available in due course:

Saturday, 18th March	-	Tooting Track (Invitation Field Events)
Saturday, 29th April	-	Battersea Park
Monday, 1st May	-	Battersea Park
Wednesday, 10th May	-	Battersea Park
<u>SATURDAY, 3rd JUNE</u>	-	<u>HURLINGHAM PARK (CLUB TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS)</u>
Wednesday, 14th June	-	Battersea Park
Wednesday, 28th June	-	Battersea Park
Wednesday, 5th July	-	Battersea Park (Invitation Inter-Club Walks)
Wednesday, 12th July	-	Battersea Park
Wednesday, 26th July	-	Battersea Park
Wednesday, 9th August	-	Battersea Park

We shall hope for greatly improved track performances this coming Summer, and our Field Event specialists are already fitting themselves to secure their generous quota of points in trophy events.

Remember! our President has requested at least one Trophy during the Summer. It could be the "Brockman", the "Sward", the "Cecil Fry", even an A.A.A. Relay Championship - he won't worry overmuch which it is!

We were delighted to have a visit from Wally Bayliss at Headquarters in December when the 7 Miles Championship was held. Wally is a Past-President - a former Hon. Secretary for eleven years, a former Club Captain and a Life Member - and we hope to see him with increasing regularity in the future.

News comes from Albert Macher that he is progressing after a period of ill-health which prevented him from coming along recently to present the Macher Shield for the 10 Miles Championship, Albert and his brother Gus, belong to that very select band of members who joined the Club prior to World War I - in 1912 to be precise.

Greetings have been received from Edmund Donovan, O.B.E., of New York, who was a very active Club member in 1912, and subsequent years. It is possible that he may be present at our Club Track and Field Championships at Hurlingham in June.

Many members will know that the Amateur Athletic Association has recently entered into an arrangement with a professional football pools organisation whereby Amateur Athletics will receive some monetary benefit, the participating clubs also receive an addition to their funds; and of course the individual subscriber have his chance of winning one of the prizes offered.

We in Belgrave have, of course, enjoyed the fruits of our own scheme

and the work of many dedicated members for over thirty years; and our own freehold Headquarters is a monument to the many Club helpers who have participated in this great Club effort since the 1930's. We now have the task of maintenance and improvement.

A sense of duty and a wish to help the AAA and BAAB in their financial problems prompted your Finance Committee and General Committee to give detailed consideration in all its aspects to the new Atlas Pool; and thought was given to the possible termination of our own scheme and the transfer of interested members - if they so wished - into the newly introduced Pool. However, a conscientious and unbiased appraisal of the merits of the two main money-raising schemes under discussion (and of other subsidiary competitions) and their detailed workings convinced your Committee that we should continue with our own scheme; and intensify our efforts within the Club to ensure the maximum efficiency of our own Belgrave Supporters Scheme.

This decision was agreed unanimously and it is intended to continue our existing scheme at least until the end of the 1968 Football Season. Meantime the situation will be kept under review.

Les Cohen, in addition to his AAA Championship Hon Secretary's duties and hundreds of other official chores, still finds time with the assistance of his wife, to conduct our scheme and has agreed enthusiastically to carry on. To Les and Mary our very great thanks are due and also to those members who have given such loyal support, which has resulted in our unrivalled facilities and activities. There is room for much more support and Les Cohen our Hon Treasurer will be pleased to give further information - addresses are in our Handbook.

We have also decided to give token support to the newly introduced Pool and members who would like to participate in this Pool should contact Frank Webb - another great worker for the Club and its finances.

At the recent AGM of the Southern Counties AAA Les Cohen and Alf Harley were confirmed in office as two of the five Vice-Presidents and Harry Shields was elected to the Committee on the nomination of the South of the Thames C.C. Association. In addition Bill Lucas (Southern Counties C.C. Association) and Frank Jarvis (Race Walkin Association - Southern Area) serve on the Committee as delegates.

A. A. H.

WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to the following members who have joined us since the December issue of THE BELGRAVIAN. We look forward to seeing them in action and hope they will avail themselves of our coaches and facilities.

Stephen J. BROWN	(Surrey)	Richard J. KING	(Surrey)
Victor J. BUTCHER	(Surrey)	John P. KNOWLES	(Surrey)
William CURTIN	(Ireland)	Patrick O'CONNOR	(Eire)
John C. DEVERSON	(Surrey)	Martin H. PERRY	(Surrey)
Raymond GALE	(Surrey)	Robert M. POOLE	(Surrey)
John T. HALL	(Durham)	David SOUTHGATE	(Warwicks)
Lee HARRISON	(Surrey)	Denzil G. WINSBORROW	(St. Vincent)
Michael J. HARVEY	(Surrey)	Frank W. WOODCRAFT	(Surrey)

2nd Claim.- Barry WALLMAN (Cambridge)

Derek Crookes had a recurrence of his stomach trouble recently and had to undergo another operation. We are pleased to say that he is now convalescing, but he is unlikely to do any serious running again.
GOOD NEWS FOOTNOTE: Derek gets married on Easter Saturday.

Congratulations to Chris Ryan on gaining his rugby "blue" for Cambridge.

Mike Reynolds is now an instructor at the Outward Bound Mountain School. In each course there is a fell race and Mike carries our colours each time.



BELGRAVE BOYS TEAM BEFORE THE SURREY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

(Photo: R.Linstead)

LEFT TO RIGHT: Robert Poole, Victor Butcher, Robert Williams, Geoffrey Rosam,
Richard King (rear), Robert Hamilton, John Hamilton, Michael Harvey.

JUNIOR SECTION

We have a large group of Boys meeting for training and competition at Battersea Park track every Sunday morning. Why don't you join us? Every three weeks a field events meeting is organised by Bill Couzens and Dave Ansell in which all the boys take part. Regular events that are most popular are the Shot, Javelin and High Jump. We intend in the coming weeks to put on some races over most distances, including relays. We even have our own Bamboo pole for vaulting, must admit nobody does it very well yet, but it does cause a few laughs.

Welcome to William Curtin who has just joined us. We hear he recently won the London Schools Cross Country Champs. so he will certainly help to strengthen our team.

No less a welcome to Ray Gale who although only a novice, looks promising. He certainly must be keen for he cycles all the way from Bethnal Green, East London to be present at our Sunday morning meetings.

We are sorry to hear that Robert Poole has gone to live in Reading. He wishes to remain a member of Belgrave and will get down to race for us whenever he can. Good for you Bob!

Although we have built up quite a large Boys Section in the Club, we have fallen low in numbers of Youths. We are now canvassing for new members so put the word about and see if there are any friends at school you can introduce into the Club. They don't have to be good, that they will become when they have been in Belgrave for a short time.

REG. HOPKINS

November 26th Under 15 match v Wimbledon College

This was a friendly match against our neighbours and we just managed to beat them by 101 points to 109. The individual winner was M. Geary of the College but the Bels filled second and third places with Robert Poole and John Hamilton. There were 34 boys in the race - more than half of them being Bels. Youngest of these was Ian Gillings who was only eight years old at the time and yet managed to place 27th - a tremendous little runner!

The College gave us a fine tea afterwards and we were waited upon by some of the older boys. This was very much appreciated by all of us and helped make it a most enjoyable afternoon.

January 7th - Richmond Park - SURREY YOUTHS C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

Raymond Mainstone was the first Bel. home in 21st position but couldn't be counted in the scoring team through only having recently joined the Club. However, even if he had scored we would have only improved one team position, so short are we of middle/long distance talent. Our strong boys section should improve this next year.

All praise though to the other members of our team for supporting the way they do, competing over distances many times longer than their specialised events.

RESULT:

1. D. Faircloth (Croydon)	20:11	36. R. Moody (BELGRAVE)	23:42
2. A. Van de Linde (Herne Hill)	20:35	45. P. Gee "	24:08
3. L. Morrish (Wimbledon Coll)	20:50	46. A. Brooks "	24:15
21. R. Mainstone (BELGRAVE)	22:54	51. A. Chandler "	24:24
31. J. Kelly (BELGRAVE)	23:23	68 finished	

Teams: 1. Wimbledon Coll. 27pts, 2. Mitcham AC 32pts, 3. SLH 65pts, 8. BELGRAVE H 110pts.

January 7th - Richmond Park - SURREY JUNIOR C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP

This race ended in a great win for Steve Badgery (Mitcham) over Gordon Pirie's miling protege John Rix (SLH). It must have been quite a bind for our Adrian Major (5th last year) knowing that he was quite capable of giving one or both of these a fright, had he been fitter. Peter Blair-Fish was our second man home, followed closely by the rest of our team but too far back to get near the medals.

RESULT:

1. S. Badgery (Mitcham)	26:20	34. P. Blair-Fish	31:21
2. J. Rix (SLH)	27:09	37. D. Hurd	31:32
3. J. Valentine (Epsom)	27:49	43. P. Smith	32:48
16. A. Major (BELGRAVE H)	29:18	45. J. Martin	33:01

Teams: 1. Mitcham AC 25pts, 2. SLH 36pts, 3. Epsom & Ewell 57pts, 6. BELGRAVE H 104pts

NORTH SURREY LEAGUE

(YOUTHS & BOYS)

FINAL TABLE

1. Mitcham AC	167 pts.
2. BELGRAVE HARRIERS	333 pts.
3. Croydon H	361 pts.
4. Hercules AC	400 pts.
5. Surrey AC	410 pts.
6. Herne Hill H	441 pts.
7. Walton AC	454 pts.

This was an excellent performance by our younger members. Fourth last year and third the year before we did not, at the beginning of the season, expect to better either of these results.

Mitcham retained their title, as expected, and although their winning margin was 166 points against last year's 100, Belgrave gained ground on them. Next year we look to our promising young team for a further closing of the gap.

RESULTS:

RACE No. 1 - Wimbledon Common, October 22nd

1. D. Faircloth (Croydon) 14:18	24. P. Gee (BELGRAVE H) 16:38
2. N. Morrison (Croydon) 14:54	26. R. Hamilton " 16:43
3. K. Lee (Mitcham) 15:21	34. T. Brooks " 17:06
13. J. Kelly (BELGRAVE H) 16:12	37. N. Bondonno " 17:10
20. K. Horstedt " 16:32	46. G. Posum " 18:07
21. J. Hamilton " 16:35	(60 finished - 18 Belgravians)

Team Result:

1. Mitcham AC 30pts	4. Surrey AC 94pts	6. Walton AC 113pts
2. BELGRAVE AC 60pts	5. BELGRAVE H 99pts	7. Herne Hill H 159pts
3. Croydon H 72pts		

RACE No. 2 - (Walton) Esher, December 10th

1. R. Boggis (HHH) 17:06	17. R. Poole (BELGRAVE H) 19:48
2. W. Trowell (Surrey) 17:35	29. A. Chandler " 20:03
3. R. Hayes (Mitcham) 17:40	27. P. Iqbal " 20:36
8. P. Mainstone (BELGRAVE H) 18:16	28. J. Hamilton " 20:48
10. J. Kelly " 18:27	29. R. Hamilton " 20:49
13. T. Brooks " 19:12	(43 finished - 14 Belgravians)

Team Result:

1. Mitcham AC 30pts	4. Herne Hill H 100pts	6. Croydon H 118pts
2. BELGRAVE H 68pts	5. Surrey AC 105pts	7. Hercules AC 127pts
3. Walton AC 100pts		

RACE No. 3 - (Mitcham) Morden Park, December 31st

1. D. Faircloth (Croydon) 15:56	24. R. Moody (BELGRAVE H) 18:55
2. D. Van de Linde (HHH) 16:38	29. A. Chandler " 19:33
3. R. Martin (Walton) 17:08	30. P. Gee " 19:33
12. P. Mainstone (BELGRAVE H) 18:07	31. J. Hamilton " 19:42
14. J. Kelly " 18:13	33. P. Iqbal " 19:56
20. T. Brooks " 18:43	(54 finished - 16 Belgravians)

Team Result:

1. Mitcham AC 30pts	4. Surrey AC 92pts	6. Herne Hill H 120pts
2. Croydon H 60pts	5. Walton AC 107pts	7. Hercules AC 146pts
3. BELGRAVE H 83pts		

FINAL RACE - Croydon H (Lloyd Park), February 25th

We went into the fourth match knowing that the favourites, Mitcham, would retain their title but with a great chance of gaining a best ever 2nd place. Croydon were our main rivals for the runners-up position, already holding the same number of points as ourselves (250), but Surrey (291) were also uncomfortably close.

John Kelly set off at a fiery pace which he was unable to maintain

but, nevertheless, held on well to finish a creditable 9th. Good support by Poole, Curtin and Bacon - all with the makings of future first team men - and the "experienced" backing of Tony Brooks was too much for our main rivals both of whom finished behind us.

RESULT:

1.D.Faircloth (Croydon)	14:38	19.N.Bacon (BELGRAVE H)
2.K.Lee (Mitcham)	15:30	24.T.Brooks "
3.D.Nicholl (HHH)	15:45	26.J.Hamilton "
9.J.Kelly (BELGRAVE H)		28.R.Hamilton "
13.R.Poole "		31.P.Iqbal "
18.W.Curtin "		

Teams:

1.H.H.H.	52pts	4.BELGRAVE H	83pts	6.Surrey AC	119pts
2.Hercules AC	67pts	5.Croydon H	111pts	7.Walton AC	134pts
3.Mitcham AC	71pts				

**THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Photos: A. Mead

Tony Brooks (41) 46th, John Kelly (45) 31st and Richard Moody (46) 36th seen competing in the Youth's Race.

Adrian Major (18) and John Martin (20) were 16th and 45th respectively in the Junior event.

'Overseas' Cup & 'Jack Hampshire' Trophy

January 14th - Wimbledon Common

The Youths C.C. Championship for the 'Overseas Cup' ended in a convincing win for John Kelly who was already the holder. The Boys race held in conjunction was won by Robert Poole in 16:26 which put him in 4th place in the overall race; quite a feat for a 14 year old. This was the first Boys C.C. Championship we have held and was for the 'Jack Hampshire Trophy', a very fine figure of a runner in motion which has been given to the Club by Mrs. Hampshire in memory of her husband who did so much for the younger members of our Club for so many years.

RESULT:

Youths			
1.J.Kelly	15:52	4.P.Iqbal	17:19
2.R.Moody	16:17	5.R.King	20:43
3.P.Gee.....	16:24	6.R.Hopkins (Jnr).....	20:48
4.T.Brooks.....	16:45	7.M.Harvey.....	20:53
5.M.Perry.....	16:54	8.M.Kane	20:57
6.A.Chandler.....	17:10	9.I.Gillings	21:03
Boys		10.R.Wells	21:28
1.R.Poole	16:26	11.J.Beaumont	22:54
2.J.Hamilton	16:33	12.J.Deverson	23:40
3.R.Hamilton	17:02	13.I.McNally	25:19
		14.C.Saul	25:44
		15.C.Savage	26:23

Junior '5'

January 21st - Wimbledon - ADRIAN MAJOR RETAINS HIS TITLE

Although nowhere near his best, due to an ankle injury that drastically cut his training down for a couple of months, Adrian Major had no difficulty in retaining the Junior '5'. Happily, he seems to be over this set-back now and all is set for a great season on the track. Youth John Kelly was 2nd after running the entire race on his own, followed home three-quarters of a minute later by Phil Smith who ran extremely well to beat Derek Hurd.

RESULT:			
1.A.Major.....	30:33	5.A.Chandler.....	36:44
2.J.Kelly.....	33:49	6.J.Martin	37:06
3.P.Smith	34:26	7.D.McMillan.....	43:58
4.D.Hurd.....	35:20		

February 14th Return Match v. Wimbledon College

This resulted in a win for the college, gaining their revenge for our win in the first encounter. M.Geary of the College was again the winner with Nigel Bacon (BELS) 2nd. The ground on this day was very wet indeed and knowing how muddy it can get on the common we were pleased that all the boys managed to finish

RESULT:

1.M.Geary (W.Coll).....	14:04	R.Williams.....	15:45
2.N.Bacon (BELGRAVE H).....	14:17	R.Wells.....	16:05
3.S.Murphy (W.Coll).....	14:22	R.Hopkins.....	17:16
5.G.Rosum (BELGRAVE H).....	14:40	S.Pallent.....	19:45
6.V.Butcher	14:46	M.Flatman	20:17
9.R.King	14:52	T.Cooper.....	24:34
14.C.Bond	15:32	A.Gilfrin.....	27:30

February 14th - Cranford - v. Thames Valley H.

We had only two representatives in the match against TVH at Cranford on February 14th; Tony Brooks (8th) and Nigel Bacon (9th). It was a pity we didn't have a full turn out, for TVH have a strong batch of Juniors and Youths and would have provided useful experience for our youngsters.

The Youth Club Records published a few issues back showed Adrian Major as the holder of the best 3 mile time - 15:17. In actual fact John Bicourt clocked 15:12 whilst a youth in our Club '3'.

Y & J NATIONAL

COSTESSEY, NORWICH---March 4th

Our Juniors and Youths did not enjoy the success of our Seniors but, nevertheless, put all they had into their running. Our leading performer was Adrian Major who, still not fully fit after persistent ankle trouble, forged through the field on the second lap to finish 52nd in the Junior event.

John Kelly led the Youths home, with the team hitting exactly 1,000 points--19 fewer than their Junior friends---but this essentially track team look all set to reap the benefit of their winter's work this coming summer.

A word of encouragement to both teams. Tony Fairclough ran in the National Junior for the first time in 1962 and finished 272nd! Trevor Hart did likewise in 1961 and finished 310th! Look AT THEM NOW.

JUNIOR RESULT

1. M. Tagg (Norfolk Gaz.).....29:40	278. D. Hurd.....(BELGRAVE)
2. C. Moxsom (Woodford G).....30:04	337. J. Martin..... "
3. F. Briscoe (Leigh).....30:20	352. D. McMillan..... "
52. A. Major (BELGRAVE).....32:18	(383 started)

Teams

1. Sale H. 134 pts.	2. Norfolk Gaz. 259 pts.	3. T.V.H. 279 pts.	44 BELGRAVE H. 1,019pts
(51 teams closed in)			

YOUTH RESULT

1. A. Simmons (Luton).....14:28	245. T. Brooks.....(BELGRAVE)
2. I. Stewart (Birchfield).....14:33	277. R. Moody..... "
3. D. Bedford (Shaftesbury).....14:35	284. P. Gee..... "
194. J. Kelly (BELGRAVE HARRIERS).....	354. A. Chandler..... "
	(438 started)

TEAMS

1. Waterloo 157 pts.	2. Windsor & Eton 172 pts.	3. Mitcham 198 pts.	51. BELGRAVE 1,000pt
(63 teams closed in)			

BOXING DAY MEETING - 1966

2 Miles

1. W. Laws 600y 8:41	14. B. Merry 500y 9:29
2. R. Mainstone 440y 8:50	15. A. Mead 550y 9:34
3. R. Moody 550y 8:57	16. G. Biscoe 400y 9:36
4. P. O' Connor 380y 9:08	17. D. Baines 420y 9:40
5. J. Kelly 450y 9:13	18. J. Hamilton 560y 9:41
6. T. Hart 130y 9:14	19. E. Penny 320y 9:42
7. J. Martin 620y 9:18	20. D. Gordon 480y 9:47
8. A. Chandler 600y 9:19	=21. Gerry North Scr. 9:54
9. R. James 380y 9:23	=21. L. O'Hara Scr. 9:54
10. C. Keavey 400y 9:24	23. J. Hampshire 350y 10:00
11. R. Glover 300y 9:25	24. L. Bishop 400y 10:05
12. A. Fairclough 110y 9:25	25. J. Davies 200y 10:07
13. P. Newell 170y 9:27	26. D. McMillan 720y 10:16

120yds

1. J. Williams 28y 11.9	4. J. Knowles 16y 12.4
2. J. Hamilton 14y 12.3	5. R. Hamilton 14y 12.5
3. P. Gee 7y 12.4	6. R. Laidler 11y 12.8

3 Miles Walk

1. C. MacLennan (6:30) 29:02	5. R. Middleton (Scr) 29:59
2. R. Barnes (0:30) 29:22	6. T. Cook (3:15) 30:26
3. C. Gittens (7:05) 29:24	7. P. Wilson (6:55) 30:29
4. A. East (6:15) 29:52	8. D. Mayo (2:45) 30:31

Shot

A dozen entries for the shot putt handicap was just enough to make three prizes available, the first being won by new member J. Knowles who improved each putt to reach an actual distance of 23'9" not bad for a youth putting the 16lb weight. Alan Mead took second place with an inspired performance and his very best ever, closely followed by Tony Brooks. The furthest putt was by Colin Clair with 35'2½".

1. J. Knowles (20') 43'9"	7. P. Smith (16') 38'1½"
2. A. Mead (16') 42'3"	8. B. King (8'6") 37'3½"
3. A. Brooks (16') 42'1½"	9. A. Black (11') 36'8½"
4. R. King (20') 41'8"	10. C. Clair (1'6") 36'8½"
5. P. Cornelius (10') 39'4½"	11. C. Keavey (15') 36'3½"
6. W. Couzens (4'6") 39'1½"	12. J. Martin (3') 34'3"

THE
SWAN HOTEL.

SALOON BARS

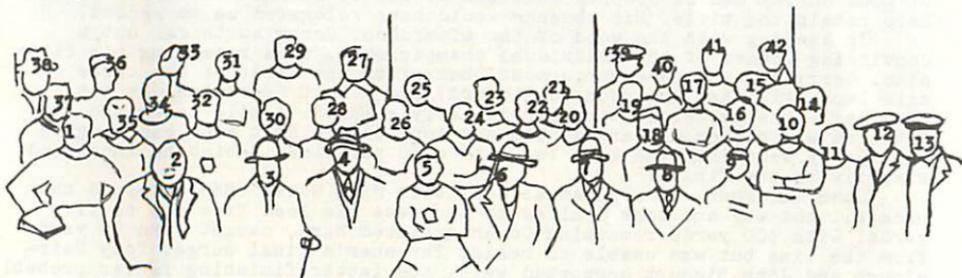
TRUMAN
HANBURY
BUXTON & CO

LES STOUT.



Harry Hare reminisces ~

This Club photograph was taken in the early days of 1921 on the occasion of the 7 mile C.C. Championship for the "H.T. BLACKSTAFFE" Shield. This was the ninth contest. First competed for in 1910 with a lapse during part of the 1914-18 War. The winner was J.F. Gray, with H. Parker second and R. Savage third.



1 F. FORD	12 A. E. MACHER	23 C. P. SEXTON	34 R. W. RICKETS
2 "THE HOST"	13 H. GOODFELLOW	24 -	35 J. W. GILBERT
3 C. COOK	14 G. STILL	25 J. P. SATCHELL	36 C. C. HARRIS
4 E. GORDON	15 -	26 -	37 J. K. CHALK
5 C. C. ARNOLD	16 R. J. SAVAGE	27 -	38 -
6 A. P. W. MACHER	17 J. F. GRAY	28 W. D. PRITCHARD	39 "THE POTMAN"
7 H. WRIGHT	18 H. PARKER	29 -	40 J. J. CRIGHTON
8 H. FEAEN	19 A. L. PORTER	30 J. PRITCHARD	41 W. H. HARE
9 BOY (?SON OF)	20 J. W. MACHER	31 A. E. CHOWLEY	42 E. G. COOPER
10 J. B. BELCHAMBER	21 C. H. SPEECHLEY	32 -	
11 -	22 -	33 -	

As can readily be seen, the group is in the foreground of "The Swan Hotel", Ridgway, which was "Winter Headquarters". At this period, part of the premises was fitted up as a Skittle Alley of the old type; nine pins and bowls of heavy wood, flat and rounded in the form of old Dutch cheeses. Along the sides of the narrow alley, plain wooden seating provided the dressing facilities. At the end it opened out to a small room where the pins were set up. This provided further accommodation which on busy days would overflow into the adjoining Saloon bar (closed of course for normal business).

A sash-corded window looked out onto a small open yard beyond which was a small wash house or old coach house. Here the Potman would set up a couple of zinc hip baths topped up with a few pints of hot water. So it was a case of up with the bottom sash, hop out and dash across for the after-run or walk wash down. Needless perhaps to mention that on a busy or wet afternoon the density of the water rose and the temperature fell at depressingly rapid rates.

My most lasting impression of this era was a 10 mile, time started handicap walk. As a comparative new member and novice, and favoured with a generous allowance, I entered the last 3 mile lap with only the fear of the unknown pack of fast backmarkers after skin, and won, literally by a "street and a half". With unchecked haste home, I was through the window and (with the absence of runners on an away fixture) into the luxury of near constant hot water. This I thought was sufficient reward. I was however to receive the unusual Club pot, a small hot-water jug E.P.N.S. - Happy days.

It may be wondered "Why did we leave this home with the "Beer and Skittles?" Why? That would be another story. A moving story, very.

The Club has purchased a glass fibre vaulting pole at considerable cost. Our pole-vaulters now have every incentive to reach the heights of which they dream. If they succeed then it will be money well spent.

TIP FOR THE TOP! Our spies tell us that a certain dark-horse Irishman is amongst us showing all the signs for beating the "book"---and his name is not O'Hara either!

BELS RETAIN SURREY TITLE

Richmond Park - January 7th

Although we were successful in beating off some strong Hercules and Mitcham opposition our retention was in no small way due to Derek Fernee, our second-claim member from Polytechnic. The only championships in which he can represent us are those of Surrey County, and with our being short of good Surrey men he stepped into the breach to be our fifth scorer and help retain the title. His absence would have relegated us to second.

In keeping with the mood of the afternoon, Gerry North ran out a convincing winner of the individual championship, thus retaining his title also. Gerry set the pace throughout, but after the first of the three 2½ mile laps still had Robinson (Guildford) and R.Holt (Hercules) at his shoulder - the latter looking particularly relaxed. A mile later though, Robinson was shaken off and it was not long before Holt also had to give way. Gerry went into the last lap with a 50 yard lead, which he increased steadily to the finish.

John Thresher, in a personal duel with Mick Gowan (HHH), forced the pace all the way and took 6 miles to increase his lead from one to five yards! With 300 yards remaining Gowan sprinted hard, caught John 50 yards from the line but was unable to resist Thresher's final surge. Tony Fairclough and John Bicourt supported well, the latter finishing faster probably than anyone and beating team-mate Fernee on the line (perhaps he was just practising for the Southern!).

RESULT:

1. Gerry North (BELS) 38:04	12. A. Fairclough 40:48	56. C. Walker 43:49
2. R. Holt (Hercules) 38:38	17. J. Bicourt 41:12	75. P. Hilliar 45:20
3. R. Robinson (G'frd) 39:25	18. D. Fernee 41:12	78. R. Glover 45:42
4. J. Thresher (BELS) 39:33	31. A. Black 42:22	88. E. Penny 46:38
5. M. Gowan (HHH) 39:34	34. C. Steer 42:59	102. J. Hampshire* 47:59
6. J. Roberts (SLH) 39:46	51. H. Satchell 43:38	* Individual

<u>Teams:</u>	1. BELGRAVE H (1,4,12,17,18,31)..... 83 pts
	2. Hercules AC(2,7,14,21,24,30)..... 98 pts
	3. Mitcham AC (8,10,11,19,32,38)..... 118 pts
4. S.L.H. 164 pts,	5. Ranelagh H 171 pts, 6. Wimbledon A.C. 246 pts.

OTHER COUNTIES

MIDDLESEX. Trevor Hart was only 17 seconds away from another County vest when he all but mastered the treacherous conditions at Cockfosters. His 11th placing was an excellent effort considering the County team placed 5th at Leicester. Laurie O'Hara was very unhappy with the going and his 20th position, although creditable, belied his true form. John Dear finished 36th and Bill Kerr 41st, but Cadogan could not close in a team.

WARWICKSHIRE. Geoff North, now free of injury but still not fully fit, showed up quite well at Sutton Coldfield where he placed 6th behind a Coventry quartet and Herriott. Mel Thorpe also appeared and placed 24th, 2mins 31secs. behind Geoff. Unfortunately, further illness prevented Geoff from competing at Leicester.

HERTFORDSHIRE. Gerry Williams gained selection for the County team and finished an excellent 58th at Leicester, ahead of such runners as Hyman, Heatley and Bullivant.

THE INTER-COUNTIES

Besides Gerry Williams's effort at Leicester we had, of course, our two leading Surrey men Gerry North and John Thresher picking up nothing less than team winner's medals; with Gerry taking the individual bronze and leading Surrey to victory just as he did Lancashire in 1960 and 1962. The Surrey team were terrific, finishing 6 in 23 and 9 in 97. John was third scoring man in 16th place, 45 seconds behind Gerry.

<u>RESULT:</u>	1. R. Taylor (Coventry) 32:34	16. J. Thresher (BELS) 33:45
	2. R. Hill (Bolton) 32:48	58. G. Williams (BELS) 34:30
	3. Gerry North (BELS) 33:00	

PHOTOS (Opposite page) by R. Linstead (top) and E.D. Lacey (bottom).

TOP: At 2½ miles Gerry North (12) leads Roger Robinson of Guildford; while John Thresher (17), in fourth place, fights Mick Gowan (HHH) in the Surrey Championship.

BOTTOM: Thresher battles it out with Peter Hall in the Inter-Counties at Leicester, with Surrey team-mate John Roberts "sitting-in".



O'HARA Gets His REVENGE!

Club 10 miles Championship - Wimbledon, January 21st

It was as though Laurie O'Hara had had this race on his mind for 12 months. In a race which is perhaps a little over-distance for him, he shot straight to the front and set a fast pace 30 yards clear of the field - displaying a courage and determination that made one wonder whether last year's inches defeat was still on his mind. Within striking distance was his victor on that occasion, Tony Fairclough, closely accompanied by an equally determined Trevor Hart. Both these runners narrowly missed representing their counties in the inter-county event at Leicester the same day and on current form were thought to have the edge on Laurie. All praise then to O'Hara for his courageous front running. For three of the four laps the gap remained the same with Hart striving to shake off his fellow pursuer, but on the final circuit Fairclough moved away and provided O'Hara with company for the first time. Such reserves suggested that Tony would retain the "Macher" Shield, but to beat this man O'Hara you have to draw his sting before the finish and Tony just couldn't shake him off - the last 150 yards settled it. Laurie was a deserved winner and a worthy champion and both runners should be congratulated for making this contest so exciting on two consecutive occasions.



Photos: C. Skippen

LEFT: Hart leads Fairclough in the chase for O'Hara.

RIGHT: Bill Kerr paces "World Sports" star Charlie Walker!

Bill Dance had his first outing since a bout of achilles trouble and performed surprisingly well, but Bicourt, Steer (retired) and Kerr disappointed.

It was a fair reflection on the excellent form they displayed that the handicap awards should go to the first three home; with O'Hara proving a double winner and Hart getting the better of Fairclough on this occasion.

RESULT:

1. L. O'Hara	(1:45)	58:55	14. D. Jones	(9:00)	70:38
2. A. Fairclough	(1:30)	59:00	15. P. King	(12:00)	71:19
3. T. Hart	(2:00)	59:29	16. C. Henn	(12:00)	71:36
4. W. Dance	(2:15)	60:39	17. G. Pearson	(10:00)	73:10
5. J. Bicourt	(2:30)	62:47	18. R. Glover	(8:00)	74:30
6. C. Walker	(6:00)	64:16	19. K. Stimpson	(11:30)	77:05
7. W. Kerr	(3:15)	64:16	20. A. Mead	(17:30)	77:27
8. J. Brown	(4:30)	64:20	21. D. Gordon	(14:00)	78:11
9. D. Brew	(6:45)	64:56	22. E. Pallant	(17:30)	78:23
10. L. Mann	(9:00)	68:14	23. R. Hopkins	(13:00)	79:48
11. G. Biscoe	(10:00)	68:24	24. W. Matthews	(15:00)	81:44
12. R. James	(10:00)	68:34	25. R. Plummer	(16:30)	82:28
13. J. Bromley	(9:00)	70:02	26. J. Macdonald	(14:30)	93:15

(31 Started.)

BELS 3rd in SOUTH of THAMES

Wimbledon Common - January 28th

With Belgrave Harriers acting as hosts for this year's Championship, and Bill Lucas as S.O.T. President hoping to award winner's medals to the Bels., as he did in the Junior race last November, hopes ran very high among home club supporters - particularly as we won convincingly three years ago when the event was last held at Wimbledon - but it was not to be. Although our team were the first to close in, our scorers were not forward enough to clinch the title in a close race. The cards were stacked against us early on when Brian Buxton, running barefooted, retired after hitting an extra rough patch of ground when in the 'teens.

Gerry Williams ran very well, lying between 4th and 7th throughout, and was well supported by John Bicourt. Bill Dance, now free from his achilles trouble, was all out for a trip to Belgium and forged through the field in the later stages. Blackheath and Ranelagh were almost at full strength yet only managed to beat our restricted team by 46 points and 6 points respectively.

RESULT:

1. M. Gowan (HHH)	39:45	66. J. Dear.....(BELS).....	43:38
2. B. Heaver (B'heath)	40:10	86. M. Thorpe..... "	44:09
3. N. Barton (Windsor)	40:19	103. H. Satchell... "	-
7. G. Williams (BELS)	40:49	159. L. Mann..... "	-
15. J. Bicourt	41:20	175. P. Hilliar... "	-
28. G. Dance	42:10	B. Buxton d.n.f.	
51. W. Kerr	42:56	D. Brew d.n.f.	
59. A. Major	43:13		

Teams:	1. Blackheath H.	(2,11,20,25,52,70).....	180 points
	2. Ranelagh H.	(8,16,19,33,68,76).....	220 points
	3. BELGRAVE H.	(7,15,28,51,59,66).....	226 points
	4. Walton	271 pts.	
	5. Reading	323 pts.	
	6. Westbury	327 pts.	
	(310 finished and 33 teams closed in)		



Photo: E. D. Lacey

John Dear (left) and Howard Satchell plough their way through the mud with only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles gone.

This is one page of the Belgravian that will, censor permitting, cover some of the fringe aspects of our sport. We hope to recruit some of the more avantguard writers from within our ranks not just to knock the establishment but to stir the stagnation that is mistakenly referred to as solid and respectable - contributions from any depraved Bel who has something to air gratefully received by this supplement's editor, KILROY.

Daily Dix

SEX & PERFORMANCE WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ?

BY DUNG (SHOCKING - DISGUSTED ETC.) WILSON

AFTER THE BALL WAS OVER

Reliable reports say that several runners looked decidedly jaded at a Kensington party the evening of the "Southern". Quote from Geoff North, watching colleagues staggering out, "These guys just can't take it". Geoff, of course, is not running these days.

HANNUT

All was sweetness and light when it was found that nobody would have to foot the bill for the additional travellers. Pity it wasn't discovered earlier - a lot of bad feeling could have been avoided.

Note: J. Thresher voted the most sociable fellow abroad a broad.

Classified Advertisements

Have you let your Road Running Secretary, CHI 7801 (Day) or Captain, GIB 1675 (Home) know the races you are entering this season? Don't act now - wait until the day, it makes it so much easier for them!!

COMING SOON - Not N. SOLO or the Dynamic Duo - but the Terrific Trio starring in "The Fund Raisers". Further details imminent.

Having rivetted your attention with the headline, I can now reveal the inside story I overheard whilst drinking in the Stadium Bar well away from all that horrid activity of the arena. A couple of N.U.T.S were comparing the times of the 100 yards dash and it was patently obvious that the women's event was 9/10 second slower than the corresponding Men's race. With my natural ear for a story, I waited until they discussed the furlong; with the same difference, the women's time was slower. Meanwhile, back at the Bodleian, I was checking other events. This was the startling revelation. At all distances from 100 yards up men were consistently faster than women. In both the long and high jump, women jumped shorter and lower. THIS HAS GOT TO STOP! What is Mr. D. Howell doing about it? As Labour Minister for Sport he should not allow this discrimination. In today's emancipation and equality, why can't women perform so well?

A competitor (one of nature's gentlemen) having to shield its face to prevent recognition. Why can't it compete on equal terms with the others?



WATCH THIS SPOT

MISSING FROM HOME

BIG GEAR HOIST AT
'SOUTHERN'

By our Crime Reporter

Parliament Hill Fields was the scene of a most audacious raid during the "Southern" C.C.C. when G. North who made an equally successful raid on the title was robbed of his car and contents. The car was subsequently recovered but the gear apparently uninsured, was gone.

It has been suggested that a collection be taken up to reimburse him for his loss.

FOOTNOTE: By Marjory Poops.

Is this the gesture of comradeship that prompted the same authors to help Bob Glover when he was homeless, living in his car parked at a lonely copse somewhere in Surrey?



Quiet, reserved, fond of knitting and staying IN. If you find her please return to:- Charlie Manning c/o WIM.6859

Cas Sandra muses

It has been confirmed that the romance between Howard Satchell and Judy Holt is officially off. A disconsolate Howard told our reporter "At least my running has improved."

* * *

Gordon Biscoe, Road Running Secretary, seems to be forsaking his old haunt the 'Duke's' on Tuesday evenings. Is it the lure of Belgrave Hall or Chris Barber & Co at "The George".

* * *

Chris Steer promises new sensation at next Club Dance. This time he will keep his shirt on.

* * *

Whatever happened to Hugh Barrow.....?

* * *

Advertiser's Announcement

Following the success of other quasi-athletic clubs in the South London area, a well-known West London playboy wishes to announce the formation of

THE NOTTING HILL GATE HARRIERS

Objects - To promote physical stimuli to tired business girls and organise special invitation events with this end (!) in view.

Colours - Moscow red vests with badge consisting of a bottle of LSD and two sugar cubes with the motto 'POUR ENCOURAGES LES AUTRES' (To encourage the other)

Contributions - Entry Fee will be five pounds (Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to C. Steer) which will entitle members to partake of all of the Club's facilities - massage rooms, sauna baths, family planning advice and free entry to all the Club's promotions.

Championships - It is hoped to hold annual championships in beer drinking, dirty song singing and other debauched activities.

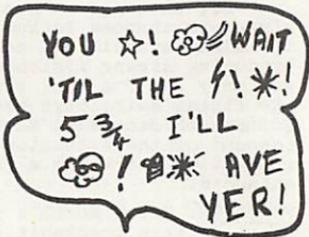
It will be appreciated that this Club will be highly exclusive - only top class athletes and/or lechers will be considered for membership.

Enquiries to: C. Steer, C/o The Salvation Army Hostel, Notting Hill Gate, W.11.

All correspondence will be dealt with in strict confidence and replies will be sent in a plain brown cover.

The above organisation has no connection with any person living or half-dead.

A CONVERSATION PIECE



BETWEEN
JOE McDONALD
AND
ALAN MEAD

GREAT WIN BY GERRY !**. but BELS fail to topple POMPEY**

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS, Parliament Hill Fields, February 11th.

"His best ever", "outstanding", "scintillating", "devastating", "a great champion". These were just a few of the superlatives heard at Parliament Hill when Gerry North won his first Southern Counties C.C. Championship by a margin that would have made an hour-glass more appropriate than a stop-watch! Surging through the quagmires and gliding over the firm stretches this veritable power house of a runner made the opposition look mediocre. So impressive did he look that even when Johnston was at his shoulder half way round the first lap one had no doubt that their company couldn't last. And so it proved to be. In the space of a mile a gap of 50 yards appeared and despite a fall on the second lap Gerry increased this lead to 200 yards. A final circuit of undiminished power doubled the gap and North crossed the line to the applause of a fair sized crowd, who then settled down to await the arrival of the competitors who had been left struggling in the wake of the new Champion.

Belgrave got off to a fine start when the large field raced up the first hill. Bill Dance was first to hit the top, with Gerry and Chris Steer close at hand; Bill and Chris were to pay for their fast beginning, but we still had 8 in 25 and things looked well.

The field soon sorted itself out and it was clear that our hopes depended on forward packing to offset the superior individual performances of the leading Portsmouth men. At 2 miles Thresher was 13th, with O'Hara, Williams, Hart and Bicourt all in the twenties. Fairclough was 35th, not at all happy, but John Dear who ran only because of Alan Black's last minute withdrawal, was running the race of his life in 59th spot. Bill Dance had not yet recovered from his fast start and was already in the sights of Bill Kerr in the eighties. Brian Buxton looked quite distressed and it was unfortunate that our "twelve cup" chances should disappear with his withdrawal early in the second lap.

With only 15 points separating the Portsmouth and Belgrave teams, the battle really hotted up on the second circuit but our rivals got the better of the exchanges - mainly due to that fine team runner, Martin Hyman. Continuously making ground, he rallied his last three scorers, particularly J. Cooke and Plumpton who were not looking too good, and promptly doubled his team's lead.

So, although we went into the last lap with eleven runners in seventy-six, team chances looked bleak. Thresher suffered with a bout of stitch on the final circuit and conceded ten places, but with O'Hara and Fairclough producing strong finishes the loss was offset. With 2 miles to go Tony was only our 7th man, running-along side Pompey's 6th man, Plumpton, but at the finish Fairclough had shot through to 4th scorer (25th) and the Portsmouth man faded to 44th - but even this could not shake Portsmouth's command of the situation and they ran out deserved team winners, with their reputation for being a formidable team with six to score considerably enhanced.

FOOTNOTE: Gerry North's penalty for being such a good winner was to have his Great Britain tracksuit top stolen and then, after the presentation, to find his car and £200 worth of sports goods also stolen.

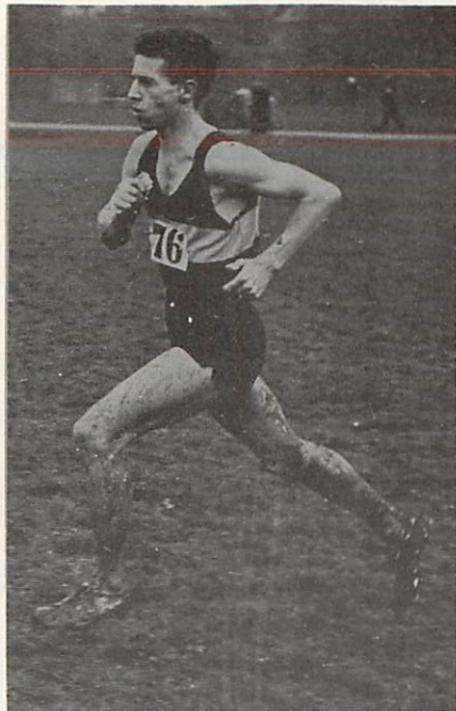
RESULT:

1. Gerry North (BELGRAVE)...	47:35	27. G. Williams.....	51:03
2. T. Johnston (Portsmouth)...	48:43	29. T. Hart	51:06
3. T. Briault (B. Enfield)...	48:55	31. J. Bicourt	51:11
4. B. Tulloh (Portsmouth)...	49:02	65. J. Dear	52:36
5. R. Holt (Hercules).....	49:11	66. W. Kerr	52:37
6. M. Barratt (Ealing).....	49:27	68. G. Dance	52:43
22. L. O'Hara (BELGRAVE).....	50:48	119. C. Steer	54: +
23. J. Thresher.....	50:54	B. Buxton	d.n.f.
25. A. Fairclough.....	50:59		

Teams:

1. Portsmouth AC (2,4,13,15,21,44)	99pts	4. Reading AC	212pts
2. BELGRAVE H (1,22,23,25,27,29)	127pts	5. Windsor & Eton	224pts
3. T.V.H. (9,12,26,39,52,64)	202pts	6. Blackheath H	358pts
		(40 teams closed in.)	

John Bicourt's best 3 mile time last year was 14:24 not as listed in the last edition of the 'mag'.



Photos: R. Linstead.

LEFT: Gerry North storms round the final circuit with a minute's lead.
RIGHT: John Thresher fights to hold off J. Cooke (Portsmouth).



BBBBBBBBBB

Trevor Hart once again produced his usual stolid performance and, on the Parliament Hill course he loves, closed in our scoring six.

3BBBBBBBBBB

PHOTO: R. Linstead.

FIELD EVENTS

RESULTS OF FIELD EVENTS MEETINGS HELD AT BATTERSEA PARK

November 27th

Shot (Boys)

1.J.Smith	28' 5½"
2.R.Hopkins	19' 6½"
3.T.Talkington	19' 6½"
4.K.Savage	18' 4"
5.E.McNally	14' 10"
6.C.Palmer	11' 1½"

(Seniors)

1.W.Couzens	34' 6½"
2.J.Martin	34' 3½"
3.P.Cornelius	29' 2"

(Youth)

1.A.Chandler	28' 1½"
--------------	---------

Javelin (Boys)

1.J.Smith	82' 6½"
2.S.Beadon	69' 2½"
3.E.McNally	63' 8"
4.K.Coulman	63' 1"
5.T.Talkington	60' 3"
6.R.Hopkins	51' 5"
7.K.Savage	43' 5"
8.C.Palmer	42' 3"

(Seniors)

1.P.Cornelius	91' 9½"
2.R.Hopkins	77' 1½"

L.Jump (Boys)

1.K.Coulman	14' 5½"
2.S.Beadon	13' 6"
3.J.Smith	12' 9½"
4.R.Hopkins	12' 8½"
5. Ellis	11' 9½"
6.K.Savage	10' 8"
7.C.Palmer	10' 7½"
8.C.Saul	10' 5"
9.E.McNally	10' 1"
10.P.Savage	9' 5½"
11.C.Savage	8' 5½"
12. Deverson	7' 1½"

Triple Jump (Boys)

1.Ellis	32' 6"
2.S.Beadon	30' 0½"
3.K.Coulman	29' 8"
4.C.Saul	24' 9"
5.Deverson	24' 7"
6.C.Savage	22' 3½"
7.P.Savage	21' 3½"

L.Jump (Youths)

1.A.Bent	20' 1½"
2. Drury	19' 11½"
3.A.Chandler	16' 1"

(Juniors)

1.Kidner	20' 6½"
2.Rosenthal	20' 4½"

(Seniors)

1.Lerwill(QPH)	23' 7½"
2.R.Jones	22' 0½"
3.Humphries	20' 11"
4.R.Bennett	17' 4"
5.Myers	13' 1"

Triple Jump (Youths)

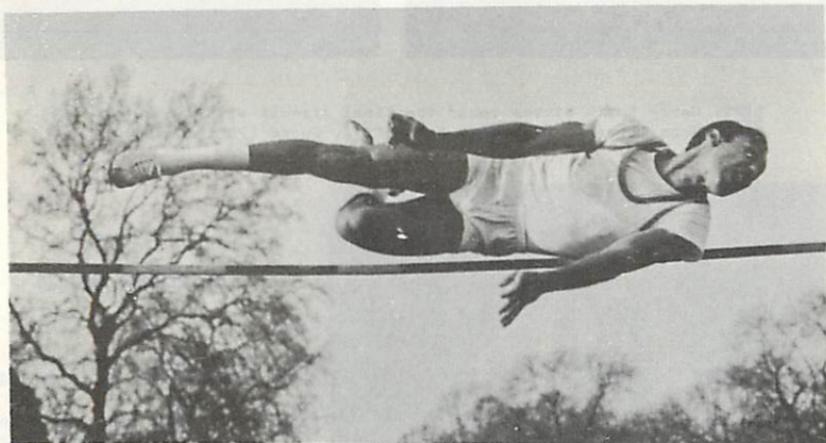
1.Drury	41' 0½"
2.Chaplin	39' 1"

(Juniors)

1.Kidner	43' 3"
2.Rosenthal	41' 3½"

(Seniors)

1.Myers	47' 10½"
2.Ashcroft	46' 3"
3.Lerwill (QPH)	46' 1½"
4.R.Bennett	41' 3½"



New member Denzil Winsborrow (13 foot + Pole Vaulter/6 foot High Jumper) who comes from St.Vincent is seen in action at one of our Sunday morning competitions at Battersea Park.

December 18th

Shot (Boys)

1.K.Coulman	19' 6"
2.Pulford	18' 9"
3.R.Hopkins	18' 1"
4.E.McNally	16' 3"
5.C.Saul	16' 0½"

(Seniors)

1.W.Couzens	35' 5"
2.B.King	31' 0½"
3.R.Hopkins	21' 2"

L.Jump (Boys)

1.R.Hopkins	13' 5"
2.Pulford	13' 3½"
3.S.Beadon	13' 1½"
4.C.Saul	11' 1½"
5.E.McNally	10' 4½"

(Youths)

1.Etherington(F'ham)	19' 1"
2.S.White	16' 9"

(Seniors)

1. Lerwill(QPH)	24' 0½"
2.L.Moar	20' 0½"

Discus (Seniors)

1.W.Couzens	93' 1½"
2.B.King	86' 10"

Triple Jump (Seniors)

1.D.Smith(TVH)	45' 2"
2.Lerwill(QPH)	44' 11½"
3.Dellow (SLH)	43' 11½"
4.L.Moar	42' 0"

(Boys)

1.S.Beadon	24' 0½"
2.K.Coulman	20' 0½"

January 8thShot (Boys)

1.R.Hopkins	17'6½"
2.C.Saul	14'10"

(Seniors)

1.N.Head	41'1¼"
2.C.Clair	38'8¼"
3.W.Couzens	34'3¼"
4.J.Martin	34'2¼"
5.B.King	30'2¼"
6.R.Hopkins	21'4¼"

Javelin (Boys)

1.R.Hopkins	55'3"
2.C.Saul	54'6½"

(Youths)

1.A.Bent	118'0"
----------	--------

(Seniors)

1.N.Head	178'4"
2.B.King	160'0"
3.C.Clair	137'1"
4.R.Hopkins	73'1¼"

Long Jump (Boys)

1.R.Hopkins	11'8¼"
2.C.Saul	10'6½"

(Youths)

1.S.White	19'5¼"
2.A.Bent	18'5"

(Seniors)

1.Guy (HHH)	20'3"
2.Dellow (SLH)	19'7"
3.Lerwill (QPH)	18'6¼"

* * * * *

January 29thL.Jump (Seniors)

1.Lerwill (QPH)	23'11½"
2.Wall (Twcknhm)	21'10"
3.Howell (HHH)	21'9½"
5.D.Wade (BELS)	20'8"

(Youths)

1.S.White	20'4½"
2.A.Bent	19'8½"
3.Ellis (Wfrd)	15'2"

(Boys)

1.S.Beadon	10'9"
2.Harrison	10'0½"

Shot (Seniors)

1.A.Kerr (Hllgdn)	43'3½"
2.N.Head	42'1"
3.R.Wall (Twckhm)	34'8½"
4.W.Couzens	33'8½"
5.B.King	29'3"
6.A.Mead	25'6½"
7.R.Hopkins	22'4½"
8.P.King	21'4"

(Boys)

1.M.Harvey	26'7"
2.R.Hopkins	18'3"
3.E.McNally	15'1"
4.V.Butcher	15'0½"
5.C.Saul	14'4½"

High Jump (Seniors)

1.D.Winsborrow	5'8"
2.Guy (HHH)	5'6"
3.R.Wall (Twckhm)	5'3"
4.D.Wade	5'3"
5.N.Head	5'0"

(Youths)

1.A.Bent	5'6"
----------	------

(Boys)

1.S.Beadon	4'2"
2.R.Hopkins	3'9"
3.C.Saul	3'3"
E.McNally	3'3"
Bacon	3'3"

Discus (Seniors) 1.A.Kerr (Hllgdn) 138'0", 2.N.Head 128'0", 3.W.Couzens 92'5½", 4.B.King 85'1".

* * * * *

February 19th

The Javelin and Triple Jump were cancelled due to the heavy rain but this did not deter Arnold Bent (Yth) from producing his best ever High Jump leap in competition - 5'9"!

Shot (Boys)

1.R.Gale	26'10"
2.M.Harvey	24'9½"
3.V.Butcher	24'8½"
4.R.Hopkins	18'0½"
5.E.McNally	14'5½"

(Youths)

1.N.Bacon	20'10½"
-----------	---------

(Seniors)

1.J.Martin	33'11"
2.W.Couzens	32'7½"
3.B.King	29'3"
4.A.Mead	24'11"
5.R.Hopkins	22'4"
6.C.Keavy	19'2"

L.Jump (Junior)

1.S.White	19'3"
-----------	-------

H.Jump (Senior)

1.D.Winsborrow	5'7"
----------------	------

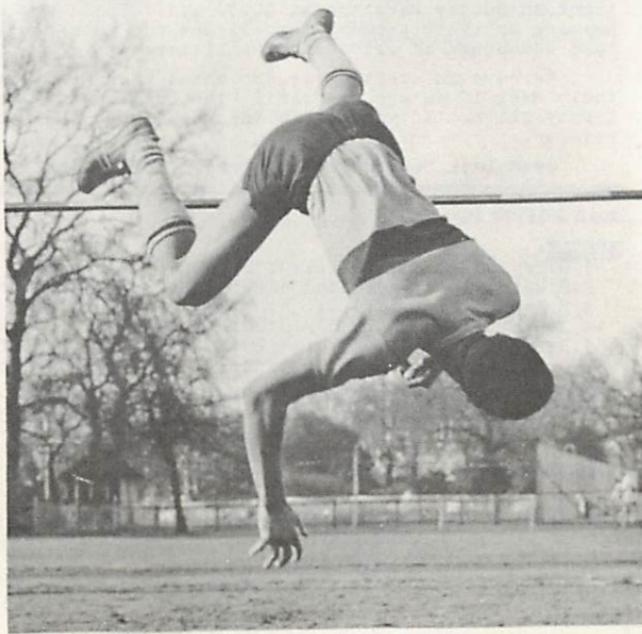
(Youths)

1.A.Bent	5'9"
2.N.Bacon	3'9"

(Boys)

1.R.Hopkins	4'0"
2.M.Harvey	3'9"
3.R.Gale	3'6"
4.V.Butcher	3'6"
5.I.Gillings	2'9"

Arnold Bent (Youth) clears his best ever in competition - 5'9" but has gone higher still in training.



DAVE ANSELL WRITES:

There are always some athletes who continually complain about lack of facilities and to them I would tell this story:-

Snowy Brooks - one of our first class track and field men - wrote for a training schedule a couple of months ago and it was duly worked out for him.

As he is serving in the Royal Navy, on an aircraft carrier, certain alterations had to be made from a normal routine. Firstly he could only train in the open air when there was no flying as I suppose he didn't fancy being sucked into a jet engine or chopped in half by an aircraft's wing during his warm-up jog. Then again he couldn't train on the flight deck in very bad weather (participants in the Boxing Day 2 Miles handicap will understand best what this must be like, only this time he keeps still and the "ground" moves). Jumping was also dodgy, for if you jump up when the beat goes down then a simple hop could send you soaring up in the air and when you come down - Ouch! Any running he could manage would have to be at irregular times and spikes, of course, were out, so all his sprinting has to take place on solid steel in plimsies - not to be recommended.

I thought his weight training would prove to be the only part of his schedule which would follow a normal course, as there is a fully equipped gym below decks. I had made allowances and adaptations for all of these drawbacks except for one thing - the consequence of my ignorance was a letter from him thanking me for the training plans but he was going to have to leave out the various jumping and jump squats in the gym, as he would hit his head on the low ceiling if he attempted them!

Well I don't know how many of you have as much trouble in trying to carry out your training but I can tell you that Snowy has shown the true Belgrave spirit and is somehow training every day and is now in Australia where he hopes to compete in some local meetings. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him Good Luck with his athletics, and if his performances compare with the way he has overcome the lack of facilities for training which he has experienced then I am sure that he will be carrying Belgrave colours to victory on many occasions.

I shouldn't think that anybody has every training facility on their doorstep so we must make our training schedules fit in with what is available. We in Belgrave Harriers have an immediate advantage over other clubs because of the existence of Belgrave Hall. This is ideal for the sprinters and field events men to train from in the winter and we meet there on Saturdays at 2.30 p.m. and of course we are also at Battersea Park track on Sunday mornings at 10.30 a.m. There are usually four coaches passing on their personal experience and know-how to the wise members who take advantage of all these facilities.

We have an exciting season ahead of us and everybody will have to do their best if we are to fulfill the President's desire for a triumph in a Trophy match. If you put in the groundwork then you must surely get the results.

Good Luck for the coming season. DAVE ANSELL.

ROAD RUNNING (Cont'd)RESULT:

1. G. Taylor (Camb H).....	1:18:43	70. W. Kerr (BELGRAVE H)...	1:31:57
2. B. Watson (Bournemouth)	1:20:37	71. A. Bruce "	... 1:32:10
3. P. Lonnén (Bristol)....	1:21:18	76. L. Mann "	... 1:33:04
44. J. Bicourt (BELGRAVE H).	1:28:04	84. R. Plummer "	... 1:34:32
51. D. Brew "	... 1:29:36	116. C. Fairfield "	... 1:47:42
69. C. Walker "	... 1:31:57		127 finished.

Teams: 1. Ranelagh H 32pts, 2. Blackheath H 38pts, 3. Reading AC 40pts, 12. BELGRAVE 'A' 132pts, 20. BELGRAVE 'B' 223pts, (21 teams closed in)

West Ham '8'

1. P. Yates.....(London Univ.).....	42:18	31. J. Dear.....(BELGRAVE)	44:46
2. M. Barratt...(Ealing & Southall)...	42:27	43. C. Walker.....	" 45:36
3. D. Yaffe.....(London Sch. of Econ)	42:33	49. L. Mann.....	" 45:53
6. W. Kerr.....(BELGRAVE).....	43:05	55. A. Morrison.....	" 46:20
11. J. Bicourt... "	43:35		(131 finished)

Teams

1. London Univ. 19pts. 2. Ealing & Southall 33pts. 3. BELGRAVE HARRIERS 36pts.

ROAD RUNNING

December 17th - HOGS BACK 9 MILES.

The usually strong field assembled in almost ideal conditions at Farnham this year for the tough race over the Hog's Back to Guildford. John Bicourt was the first Bel home after having been pushed hard by ever-green Pat Newall making one of his all too infrequent performances. John Dear turned in another good performance, considering the company, to complete our scoring team, it being unfortunate that Gerry Williams arrived too late to be declared. Bill Kerr, still on the come-back trail, ran steadily through the field, no doubt under strict orders from his adviser - Charlie Walker !! - who finished just behind him.

Good support from our 'B' and 'C' team members gave us a strong if not 'classy' turn out.

RESULT:

1.R.Holt (Hercules)	43:51(Rec)	172.D.Jones (BELGRAVE H) ..	52:59
2.M.Tagg (Norfolk)	44:06	174.E.Penny " ..	53:04
3.D.Holt (Hercules)	44:10	180.D.Crookes " ..	53:24
36.J.Bicourt (BELGRAVE H) ..	47:26	191.J.Bromley " ..	54:47
39.G.Williams " ..	47:31	233.G.Piddington " ..	57:34
42.P.Newall " ..	47:40	247.C.Manning " ..	60:16
81.J.Dear " ..	49:26	249.R.Hopkins " ..	61:15
127.W.Kerr " ..	50:52	265 finished.	
128.C.Walker " ..	50:53		

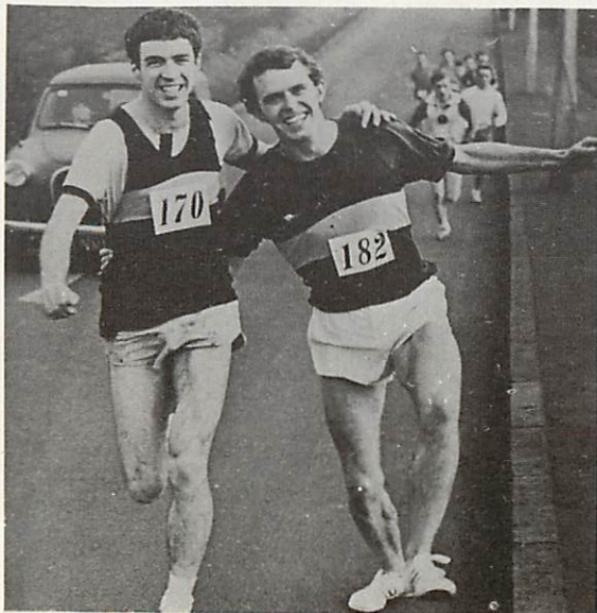
Teams: 1.Reading AC 42pts, 2.Norfolk Gazelles 44pts, 3.Tipton H 44pts, 10.BELGRAVE 'A' 141pts, 41.BELGRAVE 'B' 464pts. 50 teams closed in.

January 14th - MITCHAM 15 MILES

Once again good conditions prevailed when the large field set out on the first of three laps over a new course.

John Bicourt, running for the first time over the distance, put in a very good run to lead our team home after having been 'caught in the act' of dropping out by Chris Steer and Doug Brew who were following behind. However, it was Chris who was forced to retire at 10 miles, leaving Doug to forge on alone to complete a very good run after a long lay-off. Once again Charlie Walker and Bill Kerr did their 'old pals act' with Arthur Bruce making a determined but unsuccessful effort to split them towards the end.

Result on facing page



BBBBBBBBBBBBBB

'Chris Steer (right) and Doug Brew (left) seem to find running in the Mitcham '15' highly amusing. The joke wore a bit thin though for Chris was later forced to retire!

(photo: R. Linstead.)

BBBBBBBBBBBBBB

Postbag :

Dear Mr. Editor,

The original photo of that reproduced on page 35 of the December 'Belgravian' was taken on Easter Saturday, 10th April, 1925, previous to the start of the third contest for the Club's 20 mile Championship.

The complete and corrected names should read:-

Back row -
J.N. THOMAS, R.E. WILLS, C.A. WATTAM, W.H. HARE, J. RATHBONE, J. MILES,
E.L. REEVE, W.J. HAWKER, T. EATON.

Front row -
F. RICKARDS, E.A. WALL, R.W. RICKETTS, E.G. COOPER, R.D. McMULLEN.
(A.P. Spendlove and J.K. Chalk were not in attendance).

F. Rickards, holding the R.W. Ricketts Club Trophy, retained this, with E.G. Cooper second and E.A. Wall third.

R.W. Ricketts (President) displays the R.W.A. 20 Mile National Championship Shield, won by the Club in 1924 for the first time, at Windsor.

Bob was to retain this trophy for the Club, in a unique way, in the next race held at Derby on May 8th. Walking as a member of our 'B' team, he finished in front of the fourth scoring member of the Surrey Walking Club and thereby gave our 'A' team the vital one point by which our victory was won.

The upper photo was, in fact, the start of the fourth Club 10 Mile C.C. Championship for the 'Macher Shield', held on 27th March 1926.

Of the five unidentified runners, M. Hasler is on the inside of H.E. Footer, and C.J. Davis on the inside of J.G. Flatt. The runner in the background is probably L. Hartland, who finished fourth. Of the remaining two, one is O.L. Borrett.

George Still, who finished third, was the veteran of the field and it seems difficult now to realise that 25 years or so previously, at the turn of the century, he was in winning teams of the Southern Counties and National C.C. Championships when he ran as a member of the long defunct UNITY A.C. and later the HIGHGATE HARRIERS.

The report of the South of Thames Junior, of November last, reads "It would be interesting to know....". The short answer would be the 9th February 1929, when the Club won the Championship for the first time, at Gatton Park, Merstham.

Yours sincerely,

W.H. HARE.

Dear Mr. Editor,

May I congratulate you on an excellent December issue of the Belgravian? And may the many future successes in store jostle and fight for inclusion in the pages to come!

On page 40, in your description of the South of Thames Junior event you point out that our Bill Lucas as this year's Association President, had felicity of handing five awards to Belgrave runners and ask rhetorically if any other President of the S.T.C.C.A. has had similar pleasure in the past.

Yes, indeed! In 1929 Harry Hare, the first Belgrave President ever of the S.T.C.C.A., handed to his club mates the DEWAR Shield for winning the Championship (for the first time), and the six team winners medals to:- BILL MITCHELL (4), ARTHUR PENNY (7), ARTHUR ALLUM (12), BILL WEBB (16), PAUL KHLOPIN (23) and ALEC ROBERTSHAW (26). In addition Belgrave also won the COLMAN Cup as the first club to finish its complete team of twelve men, and great was the satisfaction when Harry called forward STANLEY DRAKE, our twelfth scoring man, to receive this trophy - also for the first time.

Yours Sincerely,

A.A.HARLEY

P.S. Further research would also indicate that on November 7th 1928 at Epsom Downs, Harry Hare also had the pleasure (in advance of the above mentioned triumphs) of presenting winning medals to another Belgrave team in the Junior race, with two place medals in addition. The team was:- BILL MITCHELL (2), ARTHUR PENNY (3), ARTHUR ALLUM (4), BILL RICE (13). Actual winner of this event was LES COHEN, then running in Ashcombe colours, and the writer was 97th!

A.A.H.

SOCIAL

December 31st

CARNIVAL NIGHT

New Year's Eve at Belgrave Hall saw one of our best ever social nights. We had a new group - Tim Healy's Jazz Band - lined up for the evening's entertainment and they proved to be so popular, joining in with the spirit of things and at one time even marching round the hall playing their instruments for all they were worth, that you can rest assured we will see them again.

The fancy dress competition was disappointing, only a dozen or so making the effort. Those who did bother, though, had really gone to town. - Charlie Manning won the men's competition as an Egyptian mummy (Tutan Khamen/ Tooting Common!) whilst his wife, Jean, took the ladies prize in a topical prisoners garb with the caption "It's in to be out". Bill and June Laws made it another family double by being voted the best "group" in some fabulous Elizabethan gear.

Tim Healy was by now obviously feeling the heat and stripped to the waist, wearing a pith helmet, he led his band into the 'Hokey Cokey' with a very merry Gerry North dancing like a dervish in the centre and looking suspiciously as if he was trying to 'noble' Bob Holt of Hercules (the County Champs were the next week-end). 'Auld Lang Syne' took about twenty minutes with each member of the band taking a solo, and the night finished gloriously on a patriotic note as all Belgravians joined Tim in a doubtful rendering of 'God Save The Queen'. Great stuff!

March 18th - SOCIAL at BELGRAVE HALL. Dancing to the 'FOUR ACES'

April 15th - JUMBLE SALE. Start bringing all your old junk up to the Hall NOW! If you have too much to carry contact TED STIMPSON and we will arrange to pick it up. We made £25 last time with only a handful of people taking the trouble to find some jumble. Think what we could do if every single member helped!

June 3rd - SOCIAL at BELGRAVE HALL. TIM HEALY'S JAZZ BAND.

REMEMBER THE NATIONAL RELAY AT LEICESTER ON APRIL 1st

Our team needs all the support it can get. Get out those "Brighton" rattles, scarves, balloons and any old zany gear from the attic and help give this inaugural race the send-off it deserves.

A special coach will leave the "Granada" Clapham Junction at 7.45 a.m., stopping at Hendon Central en-route. Tickets, only 15/- return, can be obtained from TED STIMPSON (MAL.3893)—first come, first served.

HERE & THERE

"LAURISTON RUNNERS CLUB WIN NATIONAL"—well, it's a headline that's not possible but interesting all the same. Assuming that all users of Arthur's cottage are paid up members of this second-claim "club" then there must have been some pride in achieving National placings of 4th (Hogan), 5th (Johnstone), 8th (R. Holt), 26th (Gowan), 32nd (D. Holt) and 42nd (Fairclough). In some parts of the country of course, runners living in such close proximity would have only one parent club in any case.

Bob Barnes finished 4th in the S.C.A.A.A. 7 miles Track Walk Championship at Battersea Park on March 4th. His time was 53:51.4, 1:40 behind winner Paul Nhill (S.W.C)

Adrian Major finished 32nd in the Junior Inter-Counties race at Derby on March 11th and was second man to finish in the second-placed Surrey team.

Who enjoyed themselves most at the Children's Party at Belgrave Hall in January? Why, Charlie Manning of course, beneath all that crazy foam; although Chris Steer seemed to enjoy the part he played with Pat Mead---or perhaps you weren't watching!

WALKING

It has become increasingly difficult of late to obtain any results, news or information relating to Walking matters. Your Editors are well used to prodding, persuading, cajoling, pleading and even begging for material from some contributors to your Gazette and what success we have, coupled with our own personal knowledge of track, field, cross-country and road-relays, enables a fairly thorough coverage to be made.

Unfortunately it is not possible for us to attend walking fixtures as well, so if the bare result even is unobtainable then we can publish nothing. Such is the case for much that has happened since our last issue.

For many years the walking section kept Belgrave's name to the forefront when their fellow-Belgravians were struggling thro' a lean spell. Now the wheel has turned half circle and, relatively, the roles are reversed---yet Belgrave's walkers are still amongst the most feared and respected of teams and are still enjoying some success. Those halcyon days of the late fifties and early sixties should not be forgotten. Members should be continually reminded of their rightful place in the Walking World---i.e. the TOP. Space is also needed to record our current successes and to give encouragement to those promising walkers who are only too eager to get amongst the medals.

Our General Honorary Secretary has said on many occasions that we should do our utmost to avoid becoming too sectionalised; that members should feel they are party to Club activities in all spheres; that we are first and foremost Belgravians all, that this is best fostered through our social functions and the medium of this Gazette.

Your Editors are not happy with the coverage our walkers are getting and therefore appeal for someone to come forward and provide us with the news we require. He will not be obliged to write reports but, merely, every few weeks or so provide us with results and, if he prefers, only report verbally on the latest happenings in the Walking World. Articles, reminiscences and tit-bits of information are still welcome from any others but, most important; we need that "Walking" reporter. Any offers?

* * * * *

The tragic loss of Cyril Yescombe is a blow to us all. It is men like Cyril that carry a club through it's lean years, and his sense of humour and loyalty to Belgrave will be sadly missed. His concern in the training of Police cadets played a large part in the latter years of his life and one felt sure that on Belgrave's behalf he had one eye open for possible walking potential.

With the loss of Cyril fresh in our minds, and only six days gone, we suffered another loss with the passing away of Harry Evans, our most revered Past-President. No words need be added to our coverage in earlier pages except perhaps, those few that make up that brief, but fitting, epilogue of Edward Nazen Parker:

"Life's race well run,
Life's work well done,
Life's victory won,
Now cometh rest".

* * * * *

Eric Hall, Ray Hall and Ray Middleton have all had bouts of sickness since Christmas but are now recovered and 'rarin' to go for the R.W.A. and Inter-Counties '10' on March 18th. Eric hopes to have a pre-race work-out in the "Ipswich" the previous week. Well settled down South again, he is now training regularly with Ray Hall. They manage to get to Belgrave Hall on some training nights, but the real regular there these days is Pat Duncan who is in attendance every Tuesday and Thursday. How about getting a real "Duncan" pack out those evenings?

Bob Barnes is walking very well these days and could surprise in the National '10' With Gerry Cameron also walking into form the teams could well click at the right time.

We do not see a great deal of Doug Fotheringham and Bert Stevenson these days. Both Inspectors, Police duties seem to have restricted their appearances. Dave King has faded into obscurity, temporarily we hope, but living as far distant as Hull must make it difficult for him. Unfortunately, no new members have yet appeared that can fill these gaps but if Messrs. Hall (E), Hall (R), Middleton, Barnes, Cameron, Duncan and Farley can "bring home the bacon" then our problems will look after themselves.

* * * * *

Bob Barnes was our only walker to show up in the Metropolitan Police Open '71 on January 14th. After a fast start by the 257 competitors Bob soon settled into 10th place and showing good style and determination held on to his niche to record a speedy 53:07---1:56 behind Empire Games Champion Ronnie Wallwork. Illness pushed our team right out of the medals.

HORWOOD CUP

& MATCH v. M.P.W.C. - December 17th

1. R. Barnes (BELGRAVE H)	56:05	13. B. Eglinton (BELGRAVE H)	66:53
2. D. Watts (M.P.W.C.)	57:41	16. B. Stevenson (M.P/BEL)	69:18
3. P. Maidment (L. Vids)	59:02	17. A. East (BELGRAVE H)	70:42
5. G. Cameron (BELGRAVE H)	60:13	18. C. MacLennan (M.P/BEL)	71:00
6. P. Duncan "	60:21	19. G. Doubleday (BELGRAVE H)	71:00
7. J. Baker "	61:59	20. J. Wilson "	72:51
11. D. Fotheringham (M.P/BEL)	63:00	21. P. Wilson "	73:12
12. T. Cook (BELGRAVE H)	65:24		

"HORWOOD" RESULT:

1. G. Cameron 2. J. Baker 3. D. Fotheringham

Handicap Result:

1. T. Cook (6:30) 2. D. Fotheringham (4:05) 3. B. Stevenson (10:20)

Match Result:

1. BELGRAVE H 64 pts 2. M.P.W.C. 72 pts

Medals were not forthcoming for Belgrave in this year's Cambridge '7' at Bexley. Ray Middleton (54:34) was our only man up front, finishing sixth, 2:43 behind winner John Webb.

BOXING DAY TRACK HANDICAP RESULT

1. C. MacLennan (6:30)	29:02	Fastest Times:-	1. R. Barnes.....29:52
2. R. Barnes (0:30)	29:22		2. R. Middleton.....29:54
3. C. Gittens (7:05)	29:24		

THE 'GARNET'

The R.W.A. Southern "Garnet" 10 miles at Battersea Park on February 4th was won by L. Duquemin of the Channel Island club, Sarnia. His time of 77:55 was 5:43 faster than our own Gerry Cameron who finished 7th.

RESULT:-

1. L. Duquemin (Sarnia)	77:55	45. D. Fotheringham.....93:19
2. D. Smyth (Trowbridge)	79:31	51. C. Capener.....95:20
3. J. Moullin (Sarnia)	81:05	58. P. Wilson.....105:02
7. G. Cameron (BELGRAVE)	83:38	(94 started)

G.L.C. '10'

Battersea Park—February 11th

1. P.V. Nihill (S.W.C.).....	74:48	39. J. Baker .....(BELS 'A')	89:44
2. S. Lightman (Met. WC).....	76:13	47. J. Keown " "	91:49
3. W. Sutherland (Highgate).....	77:40	52. T. Cook " 'B'	94:23
4. K. Barnes (BELS 'A').....	78:52	55. S. James " "	95:13
9. R. Middleton (" ").....	81:47	57. D. Fotheringham... " 'A'	95:43
20. R.C. Hall (" ").....	84:47	75. J. Morris..... " "	100:32
25. G. Farley (" ").....	85:58	81. A. East..... " 'B'	102:52

(102 started)

TEAMS:

1. Surrey W.C.....	22pts	3. Highgate H.....	40pts
2. Met. W.C.....	35pts	4. BELGRAVE H.....	52pts
			(13 teams started)

On February 18th, Ray Hall finished 5th in the Surrey W.C. Mitcham-Banstead and back race. He covered the 13 miles in 112:20.

On the same day Bob Barnes appeared for his local Cambridge and Coleridge club, when he finished second to Enfield's Ken Easlea in 80:39 over a 10 miles course at Eastcote.

Congratulations to George and Marlene Beecham on the birth of their daughter in February.

NORTH SURREY LEAGUE

FINAL TABLE

1. BELGRAVE HARRIERS.....	1023 pts
2. Surrey AC	1197 pts
3. Mitcham AC	1226 pts
4. Hercules AC	1324 pts
5. Walton AC	1441 pts
6. Croydon H	1562 pts
7. Herne Hill H	2154 pts

Belgrave retained their League Title by what at first appears to be a comfortable margin; but with one race to go they were placed only 3rd! Last year we went into the last fixture with a lead of 111 pts and increased this to 380 pts. This year we changed a 101 pts deficit into a winning 174 pts margin, thanks to a repeat of last year's excellent turn-out.

Once again, well over twenty different runners scored for us in the four matches and our depth should carry us through to a succession of titles in the coming years. None of our top runners was able to take part in all four fixtures so the individual award went to Fred Stebbings of Croydon.

The first race held at Wimbledon was reported in our last issue. The remaining three fixtures went as follows:-

RACE NO. 2 - WALTON (ESHER), DECEMBER 10th.

Belgrave went into the second match of the series no less than 200 points down on Hercules and 100 odd on Mitcham and Surrey. This had been caused by the first race clashing with the Bristol/Weston Relay where we had sent our strongest eight. Now the battle was on to put things right - but where had all our supporting runners gone? Whilst Gerry North, Williams, Thresher, Fairclough and Bicourt produced great efforts to spearhead our team, the burden of support fell upon runners who would not normally have filled such a role. The missing men (and their were nine or ten who could have occupied the space between 12th and 37th) ensured that Surrey A.C. and Mitcham A.C. remained ahead of us in the overall table.

The Course was at it's muddiest best and, after a comfortable first lap, Gerry North moved well away over the last circuit. Feature of the race was the running of that other Gerry - Gerry Williams. Revelling in the conditions he finished ahead of those seasoned campaigners Thresher and Fairclough; there will be many dust-ups (or mud-ups!) to come.

RESULT:

1. Gerry North (Bels) 29:36.	12. J. Bicourt (Bels) 31:57
2. F. Stebbings (Croydon) 30:00.	37. L. Mann " 34:10
3. M. Gowan (H.H.H.) 30:15.	44. D. Brew " 34:45
4. G. Williams (Bels) 30:23.	46. E. Penny " 34:54
5. J. Thresher (Bels) 30:35.	50. R. Glover " 35:40
6. A. Fairclough (Bels) 30:51.	64. D. Jones " 37:06

Teams:

1. BELGRAVE H. 256pts.	5. Mitcham A.C. 328pts.
2. Walton A.C. 276pts.	6. Hercules A.C. 508pts.
3. Surrey A.C. 296pts.	7. Herne Hill H... .. 535pts.
4. Croydon H. 311pts.	

Walking (Cont'd from p.33)

In the British "Top Ten" ranking lists for 1966 Belgravians failed to make the lists in the 2 miles track, 7 miles track, 10 miles road and 20 Kms. road. When it came to the longer stuff we fared much better.

<u>1 HOUR TRACK:</u>	1. R. Wallwork (Lancs.W.C.).....8m: 600y	
	3. R. Middleton (Belgrave).....7m:1624y	
	9. E.W. Hall (Belgrave).....7m:1034y	
	10. R. Barnes (Belgrave).....7m: 963y	
<u>20 MILES ROAD:</u>	1. R. Middleton (Belgrave).....2:35:55	
<u>50 KMS. ROAD:</u>	1. R. Middleton (Belgrave).....4:23:01	
	9. R.C. Hall' (Belgrave).....4:57:40	

The County results were generally disappointing. Bright spot was Ray Middleton's second place in the Surrey event. Winner was "retired" Olympic medallist Paul Nihill.

RACE NO. 3 - MITCHAM (MORDEN PARK), DECEMBER 31st.

The fight-back continued over the fast grassland course of Morden Park but just to make it more difficult for us, seven of our scoring ten at Walton did not appear, but were fortunately replaced by another seven who found themselves in a similar boat - 7 in 25 and then a long wait to close in. Perhaps the shift system has arrived to stay!

Thresher tuned himself nicely for the county event the following week and O'Hara showed his liking for a fast 5 miles course. Bill Dance produced an excellent run, but broke down with achilles trouble next day so will have his work cut out to regain this form in time for the "Southern".

Our final score was sufficient to push Hercules further behind us but, with one match to come, Surrey and Mitcham are 105pts and 2pts respectively ahead of us. The final race is a week before the "National" so many runners will probably miss out. The League can be won though if all those runners on the fringe of the National team turn out at Lloyd Park.

RESULT:

1.R.Holt (Hercules)	25:36	9.G.Dance (Bels)	26:53
2.J.Thresher (Bels)	26:08	12.J.Bicourt (")	27:04
3.D.Smallbone(Mitcham)	26:20	22.W.Kerr (")	27:48
4.M.Murray (Hercules)	26:26	24.T.Hart (")	27:58
5.F.Stebbing (Croydon)	26:31	25.J.Dear (")	28:02
6.L.Presland (Surrey)	26:31	53.C.Steer (")	28:46
7.L.O'Hara (Bels)	26:43	56.H.Satchell (")	28:53
		59.D.Brew (")	29:03

Teams:

1.Surrey AC	203pts	5.Walton AC	385pts
2.BELGRAVE H	266pts	6.Croydon H	394pts
3.Mitcham AC	285pts	7.Herne Hill H	602pts
4.Hercules AC	350pts		

FINAL RACE - CROYDON H.(LLOYD PARK), FEBRUARY 25th

With seven of our National '9' turning out, and no less than a further 20 providing support, Belgrave swept to a match win and an overall league win in devastating fashion. Any hopes Surrey AC had of clinging to their 100 pts lead were soon dashed as the claret and gold phalanx swept to the front providing, at one stage, ten in twenty. It was great to see such team spirit - "National" next week or not, we were going to retain our title and to indicate our confidence our captain did not even bring the trophy along! Gerry North was out for nothing more than a training run but, just to shake up the leading group during the race he put in a half-mile spurt to open up a lead of 100 yards and then eased up to await training companion Bob Holt of Hercules, whereupon they crossed the line together.

RESULT:

1.R.Holt (Hercules)	25:31	11.T.Hart (BELS)	26:40
2.Gerry North (BELS)	25:31	12.J.Bicourt (")	26:41
3.F.Stebbing (Croydon)	25:46	13.L.O'Hara (")	26:45
4.R.Ellis (Croydon)	25:47	20.W.Dance (")	27:03
5.M.Barratt (Walton)	25:51	26.W.Kerr (")	27:45
6.D.Holt (Hercules)	25:55	27.A.Major (")	27:48
8.A.Fairclough (BELS)	26:13	32.J.Dear (")	27:59
10.F.Gilson (BELS)	26:15	39.C.Steer (")	28:15
		115 finished.	

Teams:

1.BELGRAVE H	161pts	5.Mitcham AC	363pts
2.Walton AC	266pts	6.Surrey AC	436pts
3.Hercules AC	294pts	7.Herne Hill H	598pts
4.Croydon H	355pts		

In the Scottish Maryhill "Nigel Bargo" $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles road race on January 7th, Hugh Barrow finished 11th in 22:52. First two home were Ian McCafferty (M'well) 21:58 and Lachie Stewart (V/Leven). 22:15. Albert Smith also took part, finishing 30th in 23:53.

Our International triple-jumper Derek Boosey is now in residence at Nevada University U.S.A. where he expects to be for at least two years. At San Francisco, on February 17th, Derek leapt $47'-11\frac{1}{2}"$ to win an indoor event.

Rangit Bhatia (70:38.6) finished 2nd to Gurdial Singh (68:44.0) in the "Otto Peltzer" 20 Km track race at Delhi on December 23rd.

A COUNTRYMAN'S JOTTINGS

What a National! What a course! What a pace! I cannot recall the premier event of the season ever being run at such a pace. At times, the leading runners appeared to be almost sprinting. It was certainly a track man's course and it was a pity that this venue should have coincided with Gerry North's best year since 1962. After his great win in the "Southern", one is tempted to say "If only the National had been at Parliament Hill" but I somehow feel that March 4th was not Gerry's day, whatever the course.

As for the team, well, they did at least improve marginally on last year's performance.

1966.....4th (447 points).....6 in 134

1967.....4th (443 points).....6 in 114

Once again, Portsmouth AC, the team that has so often stood between us and major honours, were deserved Champions. By a remarkable coincidence they finished 5 in 37, exactly as in 1966, but this time their sixth man (Meadows) was 102nd against the previous year's 173rd. Even with 9 to score Pompey had the edge on us 765/838.

Shock pressure came from Longwood and Reading. The potential of these teams was realised but no-one expected the former to pip us by 24 points nor the latter to force us to a decision on last scoring man. Belgravians you have been warned!---Longwood could take over from Pompey for, without the redoubtable Ibbotson, they still finished 9 in 174.

As last year, certain sections of the Press spoke in terms of a New Zealand team victory at Norwich whereas, of course, they 'lost' 62/34 to the England team.

Whilst I am all for allowing visitors to compete in our domestic racing programme I do have reservations when it comes to the "National". This is a championship where a great deal is at stake and I forecast a furbore of no small magnitude when the team title is decided by a New Zealander's position---particularly if it is their tenth man!

When our Honours Badge qualifications were laid down no account was taken for the "intrusion" of ten foreign internationals. Tony Fairclough's 42nd place was two positions outside an Honours Badge yet only 21 places away from inclusion in the England team. Morally, he is intitled to that badge.

I suppose it was inevitable. To hope to hang on to Mel Thorpe indefinitely when he now lives as distant as Coventry was too good to be true. Perhaps it might have been different if it were not such a struggle to make the team these days. However, Mel has resigned his first-claim membership (retaining second-claim status) and will now probably run against us in the National Road Relay wearing the colours of COVENTRY GODIVA HARRIERS. Mel writes "I thank all those at Belgrave for the happiest four years of my life" It was a pleasure to have you Mel!

Charlie Dabbs, who seems to have been running all my life yet, remarkably, is still only 29 years old has been plagued with injury again this winter. The best medicament for Charlie's injuries, though, is the smell of the "5K". As our bi-annual road race draws nigh his injuries are overcome, his resolution returns and Charles S.Dabbs is all set for another "come-back" Perhaps it's just Spring!

It must have been nearly ten years ago that I saw Trevor Hart storm down the straight at Tooting Bec track to win the Belgrave Youths' 100 yards Championship - in case you are staggered by the man's versatility, it was a lean year for sprinters! For several years after, he was just 'around', and my memory of him then was the runner who enquired of everyone what it was they would be doing that training session and then tagging along with the slowest. Then Trevor grew up - overnight he became a masochist. He could be seen at the Duke of York's track revelling in the pain of repetition running and hanging on to our fast boys for grim death. And after a few months the break came; and then the jutting jaw of Hart was a symbol to be feared by those scrubbers who had had the audacity to beat him in earlier times. Why the sudden transformation? Had Trevor discovered "the truth about Wilson"? Was it a secret training schedule? A special diet? Or a woman? Well, Trevor gets married on September 30th look out for the next instalment of "THE HART SAGA"!!

..... Gerry North's impressive first win of the Southern Cross Country Championship proved to be a very expensive outing. After annihilating his rivals to the tune of a minute, his high spirits fell when he discovered his Great Britain track suit top had been stolen, sank further when he remembered he had left his car keys in the pocket, and were finally devastated when he found his car had been stolen with £200 worth of athletics gear. What a price to pay! Only the car has so far been recovered so if anyone discovers running shoes, quality track suits, vests, etc. being sold cheaply they should advise Gerry, who may be in a position to identify such goods.

Belgrave were hosts this year to the South of Thames Senior Championship and as such were responsible for choosing and marking a course. In an effort to make a partial return to the tougher courses of old we put in a large 5 miles lap to supplement our usual 2½ miles circuit. The larger lap took in the horse-ride along the back of the cemetery and the one that climbs from the farm to the golf course. On the former stretch our equestrian friends showed open hostility towards the use of the horse-rides for races and persistently pulled up flags and threw them into the bushes. On a previous occasion a woman rider endeavoured to block the watersplash bridge claiming it was "for horses only"! One rider asked if the South of Thames field would slow down if requested! Ours are not the only races to be held on the common and we may be paying the penalty of indiscretions by others; either way, feuding of this sort does no-one any good and it might be wise for our course planners to try and keep horse-ride running down to a minimum, if not completely avoided.

SPORTS

When it comes to cross-country runners of the past and present I would just as soon pick, perhaps surprisingly, on one Charlie Walker of Belgrave Harriers who seems to have been running much older as the years go by. This season, big-chested and legs driving, he came shooting up the slopes of as I have done so many times before. "Go on Charlie. We have never shouted as I have done so many times before, but to do so might, I sometimes think, destroy the aura of immortality he has for me.

It is one of the joys of cross-country running that we followers can all look out for our favourite Charlie Walkers in the struggling pack far behind the men who will run for their country at Barry. For me there is Ferdie Gibson of South London Harriers. George Knight of Essex Beagles.

Mike Hryciw, a 9.5sec man for 100yds, provides the sort of problem of pronunciation which phlegmatic White City announcer Bill Lucas must be hoping will not arise when the Americans meet Britain next August, but if a certain 13.8sec high hurdler makes the team and beats his British opponents, there will be an obvious accolade. His name? Marcellous (with a "c" not a "v") Reed.

Way traffic of our top men over there. But for the domestic races have their own attraction more than 15 years. Les Cohen, in his gun-boots, cheerfully shooting at everyone in with the official I associate most in no many very worst weather—and quickly no idea of how bad the rains, snow and ice can sometimes become in Britain for the major races.

Neil Allen

As can be seen from the above cuttings Belgravians were well represented in the March issue of "World Sports". On reading that Neil Allen had shouted to Charlie Walker "Go on Charlie" many times I couldn't help wondering how often our Chas. has shouted back his famous catch phrase "What d'ye think, Neil?" As for that "aura of immortality" well, inviting as it is to crack jokes about it, I think Neil Allen's words were very well chosen and few in the know would dispute his choice of Charlie Walker - a runner whose enthusiasm is as great now as it was in the days when he led them all home.

Who will win the National Road Relay on April 1st? Well, I believe it will be Belgrave if the following team is turned out:-

LONG STAGES: Gerry North, Fairclough, Thresher, Barrow, Hart, Kerr,.

SHORT STAGES: Geoff North, O'Hara, Williams, Bicourt, Dance, Major,.

With Black, Dabbs, Steer, Buxton, Dear and a host of others itching to get in, the lads should really be on their Mettle.

A coach is being run to Leicester. Why not come along and see an exciting contest?

... **Countryman**

"I Was There"

NO.2 - by Ernie Duffett.

When your Editors asked me to write the second of these momentous occasions, my mind fairly 'boggled' at the thought. After serving for 25 years as Running Hon. Sec. of the 'Bels' I was present at so many of our most famous victories.

After consideration I selected our 'National' win at Sheffield in March, 1948, when we regained the title from the holders, Sutton Harriers. We knew we had more strength in depth than our rivals, and so it proved after a most exciting race both for the individual and team prizes.

It was a fine afternoon in Graves Park and many thousands of people who came to see some great racing, paid over £500 for admission.

Sydney Wooderson, the one-time holder of the 880 yards and 1 mile world records, was a firm favourite, but before he eventually won his first 'National' title over the country, he had to contend with one of the severest races of his career.

His challenger was none other than our own Vic Blowfield who was always up with the leaders, and when they came round for the last of the three large laps, Blowfield and Wooderson were together with Shorrocks of Halesowen some 25 yards behind in 3rd place.

With barely half a mile to go, Blowfield went away from his rival and Wooderson was looking very tired, and Vic opened a lead of about 25 yards with only 400 yards of the undulating course to be covered.

Then the large crowd broke onto the course in their excitement, and Blowfield literally had to fight his way through them. In the 'rugged' scrum Wooderson came again and managed to pass Vic and being the faster finisher he came home just four seconds in front of Blowfield.

If the course could have been kept clear it is uncertain whether our man would have been the winner, as Wooderson naturally had the greater speed on the flat.

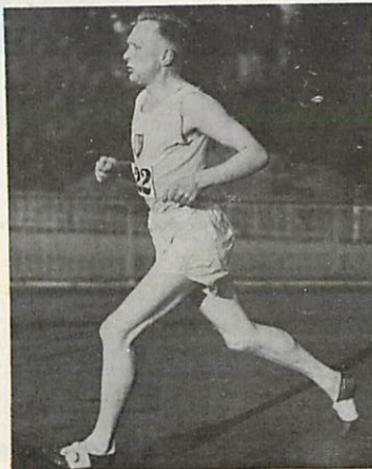
Then came the fight for the team title, and with Len Herbert running one of his finest races to finish in 12th team position, and well backed up by Ted Stimpson in 15th place, we had three men home to Sutton's two. Then they had four home to our three, but Frank Abberton scored 27th to make it four each. But Sutton still had five in before our 5th man (Tom Carter 41st) and then praise be, Tommy Clinton came along in 57th place to complete our scoring six, while Sutton's 6th man finished 65th!

We thus won the title with a total of 154 points to Sutton's 174, and Blackheath Harriers were 3rd with 183 points.

Our other men to finish, with nine to compete and six to score, were Les Stokell 64th, Albert Frost 95th, and finally Dick Tobin 132nd.

It is interesting to note that Denis Brickwood finished in 80th place, and was then running for Mitcham A.C., and it is perhaps sad to reflect that of our team members, only Tom Carter and Ted Stimpson, are still active within the Club in an official capacity.

Correction to our last "I Was There" article. The year in question was 1926 and not as printed.



Tom Carter, who was our fifth scoring man.

(photo: E. D. Lacey)

International Cross Country Race

HANNUT, BELGIUM

February 5th 1967

We were delighted to receive an invitation to compete in the club team race associated with the international event at Hannut for this is one of the plum Continental races and attracts representation from Belgium, France, Germany and Holland in addition to England and Scotland. This was our first foreign cross-country race since pre-war days and the boys rose to the occasion to make sure that thirty years would not go by before the next invitation arrives. In the face of strong opposition and scoring five aside, we won by six points to take the beautiful trophy presented by the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir*.

The weekend began with five runners meeting at Wimbledon and four runners and the team manager assembling at London Bridge to converge by road on Dover for a night sea crossing to Ostend. The two cars disembarked at 5.30 am. on Saturday morning and after a quick run on the motorway we arrived in Brussels just as the restaurants were opening and were able to obtain a first class breakfast to set us up for a sight seeing tour of the Belgian capital. The centre of attraction was a shoe shop where most of the team equipped themselves with a continental version of the Chelsea boot in first class (?) suede which no doubt will be proudly displayed en masse at the next Club Social.

At midday we set off again for the last fifty miles drive to Hannut which was reached at about 7pm and after reporting to the headquarters (a cafe in the centre of the town) of the Hannut Football Club, who are the organisers of this cross country event, we were taken for a steak lunch with wine and all the trimmings. Thoroughly satisfied with our reception we then strolled off to look at the course for the following day's race before again assembling to be allocated our "digs" for the weekend. Everyone was most comfortably housed with local residents and there is no doubt that we received very hospitable treatment.

Saturday evening was spent quietly over a drink or two at the cafe of Roger Gustin the organising secretary and again the kindness and hospitality of the local people was much in evidence, for most of the refreshments consumed, whether coffee or otherwise, were "on the house". As we had had only limited sleep the previous night we were all ready for bed and an early retirement was the order of the day.

A briefing for team managers was called for at 10.30 on Sunday morning for team declarations and distribution of numbers. This was followed by a further inspection and a gentle run over the course by all but the team manager who preferred to view rather than sample. The general consensus of opinion was that the race would be fast for although there was a generous helping of plough the weather had been dry and this would soon bed down to a firm surface.

By midday the town of Hannut was a mass of people attracted to the afternoons programme of racing which comprised seven races in all for various ages and even for the local tennis players, culminating in the international event at 4.15pm. The number of spectators was estimated at 10,000, swelled no doubt by the fact that this was the 25th promotion and was being honoured by the presence of His Majesty King Baudouin, obviously a popular man with his people.

Continental races are generally on short lap courses and this was no exception for the full distance of the big race, which was a little under six miles, was made up of two short laps and six large laps so the spectators who were mainly assembled in the football stadium, where the start and finish were sited, were able to enjoy the racing to the full.

The number of starters in our race was about sixty, made up of international teams from the leading cross-country nations of Europe plus club teams from France, Holland, Germany and Belgium in addition to ourselves. The international race scored three a side and the club race five a side.

Marcel Vandewatynne, one of Belgium's best ever athletes was the starter and in the field was Gaston Roelants, Belgium's current top runner and present Olympic 3000 metres Steeplechase Champion who was the favourite and himself anxious to win to establish a record of four wins in a row and five wins in all to break the existing record which he held jointly with Vandewatynne. It is interesting to record at this point that the latter was in the first five in this race for every year between 1948 and 1963, an extremely good run of performances.

As expected the pace in the early stages of the race was very fast, dictated by Roelants and Scotland's Ian McCafferty who only the previous evening had taken from Roelants his indoor 2 miles European record with a great run at Cosford. Our own boys were not too prominent early on but it was interesting to see John Bicourt just ahead of Gerry North after the first half mile when they were ninth and tenth respectively. Gerry battled on gallantly throughout the whole race and although he never got to grips with the two leaders he slowly worked his way past Jim Alder, Bruce Tulloh, Tim Johnston, Lachie Stewart and the strong foreign opposition to come home a comfortable third which achieved for him the honour of being presented to King Baudouin who showed considerable interest in our own captain.

At the half-way stage McCafferty raised a cheer from the British supporters by taking a thirty yard lead over Roelants, who at this stage appeared completely shattered, but two laps later a super human effort took him again to the front and he stayed ahead to run in a popular winner with the crowd by a five second margin.

At two miles our runners had established themselves in or about the positions they were to finally occupy and little or no change took place for the remainder of the race. The scoring members other than Gerry who was well ahead were all in the twenties and although this may not appear high in so small a field it should be remembered that the majority of the first twenty-five are established internationals.

It was difficult to diagnose the progress of the race from the team scoring angle in view of the wide diversity of vests but it was pleasing to see the claret and gold standing out well and the Belgian crowd obviously appreciated the forward running of our team. They seemed to be very discerning in the arts of cross-country running.

Although we thought that five in twenty-eight was good enough we had to wait for some time before the final result was announced and we were proved to be the victors. In the international race Belgium, led by Roelants were at their best and were easy winners over Scotland and England.

After the race all the runners assembled at the Town Hall to collect their prizes - everyone in the race gets one. The standard of prizes was very high and they were awarded by choice according to the order of finishing. All our runners were extremely pleased.

On the Sunday evening a banquet with plentiful food and drink was held with the usual speeches and our members came into contact with the local "talent" for the first time. It seemed that most were well satisfied - it is thought that Thresher and Williams will almost certainly wish to return - we all hope the telephone numbers they collected are not changed by 1968.

After the banquet some of the ladies were persuaded to join our party at the local discotheque where the frivolities were continued until 3am. on Monday morning.

A quiet but by no means dispirited team assembled at 8am after only a few hours sleep for the drive back to Ostend for the boat home. Wimbledon was reached late on Monday afternoon with sufficient energy for most to partake of a training session.

On the whole a most satisfactory and successful weekend. Belgrave's name is now established in Belgium and we have made many good friends and created much good will. It is hoped we can return in 1968 but there is a possibility that this race may be discontinued. Perhaps we will get an invitation from another town. If we win the National we are assured of other visits to Europe.

RESULT:

1. BELGRAVE HARRIERS	.....(3,21,25,27,28)	.....	104 pts
2. A.S.P.P. Paris	.....(9,20,23,26,32)	.....	110 pts
3. Bayer 05 Verdingen	.....(18,19,44,49,52)	.....	182 pts

Team:- Gerry North (3), A. Fairclough (21), L.O'Hara (25), J. Bicourt (27), J. Thresher (28), G. Williams (33), T. Hart (39), G. Dance (43), B. Buxton (45).

Olympian

Gerry North fell heavily during the San Sebastian 10,000 metres X-city event last January. The heat overcame Maurice Herriott (24th) but Gerry, also uncomfortably hot, recovered well to finish 12th—1½ minutes down on winner Mammo Wolde of Ethiopia. A crowd of 20,000 were in attendance!

Keith Angus, who ran for us a few years back, visited Lauriston Cottage on Sunday, Feb. 19th with Sheffield team-mate Newble. They were both members of Sheffield University's second placed team in the Imperial College Relay, held the previous day. Keith is showing his best ever form and should do well in the "National".

MINOR FIXTURES.

With so many "major" fixtures in the Winter Calendar these days, and with the North Surrey League occupying a large part of the remaining space, the inter-club mob match is fast fading from its prominence of yesteryear. Apart from SLH, Blackheath and Ranelagh, who have a long tradition of mob match "feuds" and turn out every available able-bodied man, most clubs now use these races as training or social runs. Consequently the home team is always much the stronger. With only three such fixtures in our Winter list many Belgravians chose these occasions to train in the morning and have a "holiday" in the afternoon. Some observers may question whether these races are worth while, but it should be remembered that we have a large number of runners who never make the major races and it is for their sakes that these meetings are arranged.

Our first such match was at Hillingdon's HQ, Ruislip on Dec. 17th, and although we had five of the first six home we were beaten into third place by the home club and Shaftesbury in a close result, scoring 8 a side. The scores were 105/108/112 respectively. Gerry North was the individual winner by almost 2 minutes from John Thresher.

On February 4th, over Polytechnic's course in Richmond Park, a two-sided match was held scoring 12 a side. Being almost on home ground we would normally have had a strong turn-out, but this was also the day of our Club visit to Belgium and our best nine runners were absent; nevertheless twenty Belgravians toed the starting line. Howard Satchell set off as though deputising for Gerry North but paid dearly for the experience and it was left to Chris Steer and John Dear to lead our men home in 3rd and 6th places respectively. Once again the home team ran out winners - 113/187.

The last minor fixture was against TVH at Cranford on February 18th where the Valley scored a 137½/226½ victory. Thirteen Belgravians made the journey but of the first-liners only Bicourt (4th) and Major (6th) and Hart (26th) appeared - the latter obviously having an "easy", rounding up our supporting runners.

Now the Cross-Country season is over this an opportune moment to remind our runners, of all age groups, of Belgrave's unwritten 15th rule: "Unless injured, no Belgravian shall ever retire from a race, once under starter's orders". There should be no need to elaborate on a philosophy that has been in-bred in Belgravian teams for eighty years.

From 'The BELGRAVIAN'

25 YEARS AGO

May, 1941 - "The thanks of all members are due to Les Cohen and his wife for their unflinching zeal and efforts in making the Belgrave Harriers' Supporters' Club such a stupendous success during this last season. They have both done a wonderful job of work and, believe me, the Hon. Treasurer is truly grateful.

What! Never heard of the B.H.S.C.? Well, just ask Les about it when you next see him."

. . . . and 40 YEARS AGO

February, 1927 - "The New Year has opened brightly enough with our victory in the Surrey County C.C. Championship and this augers well for the future.

An opinion has been expressed that at some early future date we shall have seriously to consider the prospect of moving from Wimbledon for our Cross-Country runs. Although it was stated, as a reason, that a more bona-fide Cross-Country course was the chief requirement it appears that the greater concern at present will be the completion of the new Arterial Road which appears likely to cross our present course by the Robin Hood Gate of Richmond Park."

BELS MISS THEIR CHANCE

4th in NATIONAL

COSTESSEY, NORWICH - March 4th

This could have been "our year". A fast, dry flat course, a team running into top form and our main rivals seemingly having difficulty to reproduce their strength of last year. But it was not to be. Despite truly excellent packing of 9 in 140 (in a field of 831) we barely managed to retain our 4th position of last year.

The Tragedy of the race, through Belgrave eyes was the misfortune of Gerry North. The Southern Champion, currently showing his lust form for years, was with the leaders after a mile but then faded. Obviously not feeling his usual self, he fought on with tremendous determination and at 7 miles was still 15th, but with legs wobbling and a strange oblivion taking over only his sixth sense kept him tottering on to the finish as runner after runner swept past. John Thresher caught him 100 yards from the finish and sacrificing 2 or 3 places ushered Gerry to the line where our Captain collapsed for the first time in a long and illustrious career. Although it was only in the last half mile that we slipped from 3rd to 4th, no-one would have blamed Gerry if he had dropped out. It is indicative of the feeling in the team that no one for some time afterwards was concerned with the team result. It was 20 minutes before Gerry was on his feet again and one wonders whether he was in the early stages of illness of whether the considerable shock he suffered after the "Southern" had not cleared from his nervous system. This is the first time that Gerry has finished the "National" to find himself excluded from the International team.

Our team got a good start on the inside of the field when the mass of multi-coloured vests streaked away at exactly 2.30 p.m., but this was offset after 500 yards when a sharp right hand turn meant they were reduced to a walk as they "queued up" to go round the corner! At the mile post we had 3 in 70, with the remainder outside 120 and Bill Kerr trailing around the 200 mark.

The positions after one lap are not usually far off the final score and at this point we had North 8, Thresher 35, Fairclough 58, Hart 97, Williams 119, Bicourt 130, Dance 150, O'Hara 154 and Kerr 160. All except North, Thresher, and Williams were making ground and it looked as though only Portsmouth were out of reach, although we had more than a solitary eye cocked at Longwood H. who had too many vests in the first 100 for our comfort.

Fairclough showed again that the second circuit is always his best by gaining 15 places. Bicourt tried to follow suit but after an early gain of 8 positions lost some ground. Meanwhile Hart ploughed on in his steady, reliable way while O'Hara and Kerr mopped up the rear guard. We had now consolidated to 9 in 149 and with one lap to go we had North 12, Thresher 34, Fairclough 43, Hart 88, Williams 122, Bicourt 132, Kerr 136, O'Hara 137 and Dance 149.

The final circuit was the crucial one. As Gerry suffered, John Thresher was stricken with the most ghastly blisters on both feet and battled his way to the finish with blood soaked shoes. Fortunately incidents like these are exceptions, and there was obviously nothing wrong with the rest of the team as they stormed through to the finish picking up 67 places amongst them, but it was all too late and none knew, of course, what had happened to our two leading men.

Bouquets go to Tony Fairclough who takes the "H. Parker Memorial Bowl" for the first Belgravian to finish, to Laurie O'Hara who came straight from night-work to make the long trip and indeed, to the whole team who, with Geoff North's inclusion must be on the verge of reaping major honours.

RESULT

1. R. Taylor (Coventry).....	44:12	42. A. Fairclough (Bels).....	46:25
2. L. Stewart (V of Leven).....	49	48. G. North.....	34
3. E. Rose (N. Zealand).....	421	50. J. Thresher*.....	36
4. J. Hogan (Foly).....	427	86. T. Hart.	
5. T. Johnston (Portsmouth).....	437	106. W. Kerr.	
6. E. Gray (N. Zealand).....	440	114. L. O'Hara.	
7. R. Fowler (N. Staffs).....	452	127. G. Williams.	
8. R. Holt (Hercules).....	458	128. J. Bicourt.	
9. A. Rushmer (Tipton).....	45:08	140. W. Dance.	
10. N. Wyatt (N. Zealand).....	409	* John was really 49th.	

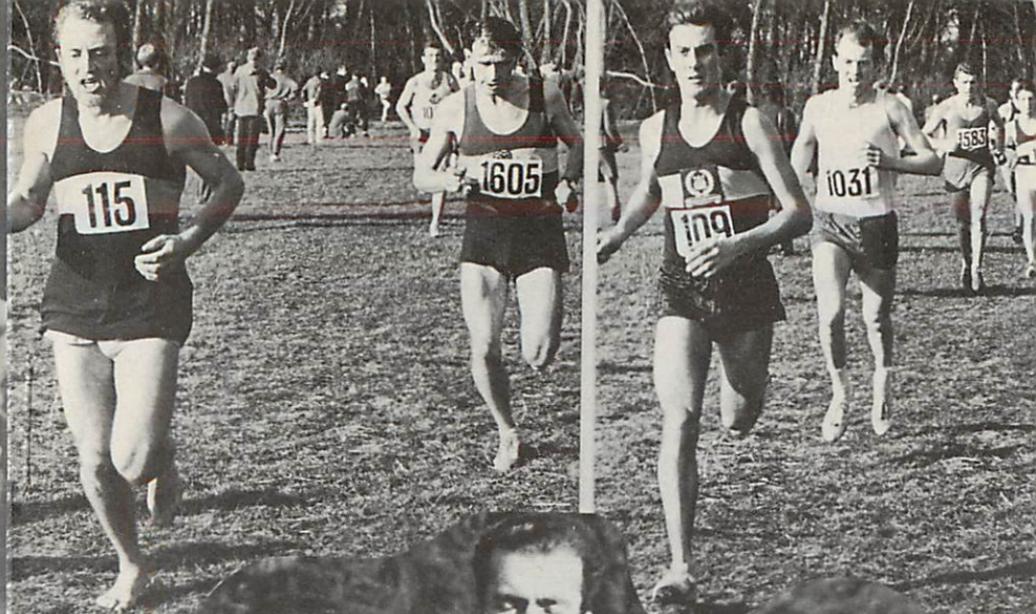
Team result
on back page

BACKPIECE PHOTOS: (by Ron Linstead, top, and Eddie Lacey)

TOP LEFT: Barefooted Hart in the throes of a 9 miles battle with Dai Davies (TVH) who pipped him by one place.

TOP RIGHT: Bicourt leads Ward (Man.DLC), Billings (Sutt.in A) and team-mate O'Hara. John finished one place ahead of Billings and 23 up on Ward.

BOTTOM: A desperate North fights to hold off Bob Holt, Peter Welsh (Empire S'chase gold-medallist) and Mike Turner.



TEAMS

1. Portsmouth AC	(5,21,27,34,37,102)	.....	226	points		
2. Nth Staffs & Stone	(7,16,69,85,87,104)	.....	368	points		
3. Longwood H.	(38,45,49,74,92,121)	.....	419	points		
4. BELGRAVE H.	(42,48,50,83,106,114)	.....	443	points		
5. Reading AC	(31,33,43,44,131,161)	.....	443	points		
6. Tipton H.	(9,22,51,119,139,145)	.....	485	points		
7. Coventry	537 pts.	8. Derby	547 pts.	9. T.V.H.	604 pts.	10. Manchester	DLC 612pts.
11. Blackheath	617 pts.	12. Leicester C.A.T.	660 pts.	13. Hercules	776 pts.	(73 teams closed in) (831 started)	

COMING!

<u>MARCH 25th:</u>	Cranford-----	T.V.H. Road Relay
	Hurlingham-----	A.A.A. 7 miles Walk
	Mitcham-----	London Vids W.C. Open '15'
<u>APRIL 1st</u>	Leicester-----	NATIONAL ROAD RELAY
	Battersea-----	Met W.C. Open 20 Kilos
<u>APRIL 8th</u>	Brighton-----	Front Road Relay
	Brighton-----	Youths Road Race
	Croydon-----	Surrey W.C. 20 miles

STOP PRESS!

Gerry North shook off the effects of his all-out run in the "National" by turning out against the New Zealanders again just 7 days later at Chigwell Row. And he nearly won! Only man to beat him was Kiwi Eddie Gray---by one second! Gray finished sixth in the National the previous week. Gerry must now feel hopeful that the bad luck that hit him immediately after the "Southern" at Parliament Hill, finished it's run at Norwich.

RESULT: 1. E. Gray(N.Z)29:11, 2. Gerry North 29:12, 3. T. Briault (Enfield) 29:28.

Belgrave walkers scored an impressive win in the "Ipswich 10" with the low scoring of 2nd, 3rd and 5th---David Mayo taking the Suffolk Championship into the bargain.

RESULT: 1. K. Easlea (Enfield). 2. R. Middleton. 3. R. Barnes.

BELGRAVE WIN SOUTHAMPTON/BOURNEMOUTH RELAY.

Running in atrocious conditions, of driving rain and sleet, our 'A' team ran out good winners in a time only 48 secs outside their own course record. Our 'B' team also did magnificently to finish sixth.

After being tripped up in the early stages, Tony Fairclough finished sixth on the first stage, 28 secs down on Heaver of Blackheath. Trevor Hart knocked 17 secs off Pettit's lap record for the next stage to move us up to 2nd and a back-in-form Gerry North followed suit by lopping 24 secs off Ellis's record to put us way out in front. Kerr had no difficulty in holding the lead with a very good time, but the sensation on this stage was the running of Chris Steer who absolutely hammered the opposition to move our 'B' team from 16th to 8th with a time only one second slower than Bill's.

Laurie O'Hara had a shock on the penultimate leg when his minute lead was wiped out by new International Bob Holt who sped to a new lap record, 13 seconds better than Gerry's existing mark. Gerry Williams had no difficulty in restoring our position and ran in a comfortable winner. John Bicourt produced a fine stint for the 'B' team to bring them home sixth and was helped in his effort by his determination to beat the time of his 'A' team counterpart---that's the stuff!

RESULT

1. BELGRAVE H. 'A'.....	2:25:07	4. Blackheath H.....	
2. Hercules AC.....	2:25:31	5. Mitcham AC.....	
3. Bristol AC.....	2:25:58	6. BELGRAVE 'B'.....	2:28:32

'A' Team

(6) A. Fairclough.....	25:54
(2) T. Hart.....	17:18 rec
(1) Gerry North.....	27:31 rec
(1) W. Kerr.....	22:02
(2) L. O'Hara.....	25:51
(1) G. Williams.....	26:31

'B' Team

(20) J. Dear.....	26:53
(16) A. Major.....	18:13
(16) W. Dance.....	29:01
(8) C. Steer.....	22:03
(7) A. Buxton.....	26:19
(6) J. Bicourt.....	26:03