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THE

BELGRAVIAN

The
OFFICIAL GAZETTE
of the

BELGRAVE HARRIERS

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER

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THE 5th EDITION

(1933)

OF

THE BELGRAVIAN

SEPT.—OCT.

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Published by the Committee of the Belgrave Harriers.

The commencement of the new season 1933—34 finds the Club, once again, in a very strong position, both numerically and financially.

We are to be congratulated on retaining the valuable services of so many of our officials and other workers, who, together with the high standard of performances attained by our members, have brought our Club to the front rank of athletics in this country.

At present we have the nucleus of teams, both walking and running, capable of winning the highest honours in their class of sport. All that is needed is the studied preparation and careful attention to detail that is so necessary to acquire that extra "plus a little something some of the others haven't got." H. E. Footer and A. W. Penny proved this last season, and A. Allum did so the year before; and by sheer grit and determination earned their International colours.

The improved standard of cross-country running of the Belgravians during the past few years has surpassed the wildest hopes of even the most sanguine of their supporters, and doubtless will continue to improve until the National Championship is in their possession. Nevertheless, our Club does not concern itself only with its fastest athletes and its aim is to foster good sportsmanship and to obtain an excellent all-round average of performances. An afternoon spent over the "country" is an ideal way of keeping fit and a very enjoyable one. However, it is hoped that all active members are desirous of improving their speed, and none should be content with mediocrity, when capable

of better results. It is not even necessary to be amongst the first few in order to reach that acme of self-satisfaction which a faster personal time in a race gives one. The last man home in the team is just as important as the first.

Our Walking Section still continues to be amongst the foremost in the country, and there is no likelihood of any deterioration in the near future. Our Walking officials are extremely enthusiastic, and our walkers are not likely to slacken off but should always be well to the fore, as in years past. The forthcoming open road walks will reward the efforts of both the first-class men and those whose training has brought them superior to their handicaps allowances. Then, with the open championships in view, there is plenty of scope for our keen walkers.

In conclusion, I should like to remind members to keep up the Club spirit, which has made our membership such a friendly one and to remember that to be a real sportsman is a better ideal than to be a champion.

J. R. MCKAY, *President.*

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The Club must consider itself very fortunate to have a man such as J. R. McKay in the Presidential Chair this year. "Jock" has been a keen, conscientious worker on the Club's behalf for many years, competing as a sprinter in our teams, acting as Hon. Treasurer for four years, and as Auditor and Committeeman for many years past. He has done a vast amount of valuable work over many years, without obtruding himself, and we all hope that his year of office will find the Club soaring even higher than it has done before. That our President will use every effort in his power to ensure this is certain. He has already shown himself to be very capable in the Chair at our meetings, and it is certain that we shall have cause for self-congratulation upon having elected an excellent successor in a long list of worthy Presidents.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The A.G.M. was duly held at the "Rising Sun" on September 26th, when the Hon. Secretary's report of the Club's continued progress, and Hon. Treasurer's very satisfactory statement of financial affairs, bearing in mind general conditions, were adopted by the Meeting. E. A. Duffett and H. E. Footer, upon the recommendation of the Committee, were unanimously elected Life Members, and the Meeting then proceeded to elect the officials for the ensuing year. Our retiring President, J. B. Belchamber, nominated J. R. McKay as his successor, and he was installed in office and proceeded with the business of election. The names of the officials for 1933-34 will be found in the Handbook and

Winter Fixture List now in the hands of all members, and so will not be given in full here.

Some suggestions were advanced under the heading of "Other Business" which will receive consideration, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. J. Fish and Mr. W. Redgrave for their assistance during the year.

A vote of thanks to the Chair concluded the Meeting.

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Subscriptions are now due. Please remit at once.

TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING.

Saturday, 5th August, 1933.

Every year the Belgrave Championship Meeting produces either its record or its "sensation." This year no Club record was broken, but I think there was the usual "sensation." A tall schoolboy from Buckingham Gate School won the 100 yards championship for boys under 15, from G. Crilly, and then walked away with the 75 yards handicap in extraordinarily fast time. I didn't know anything about him at the time and I was amazed at his beautiful style and the elegant ease of his stride to the tape. Afterwards I was told quite a lot about him, and his holding of the All-England schoolboy record of 10 9-10 sec. for the hundred. The sensation's name is F. J. Skelly and I imagine that five or six years ahead his name will be seen on the A.A.A. honours list.

The next championship to change hands was the half-mile. A change was inevitable since Tom Scrimshaw, the holder, was away, and in the absence of Jim Tosh, who was busy elsewhere getting married, Kench was left as favourite. On paper it looked as though Kench would have an easy victory, but it happened that the opposition proved strong enough to force him to do the third fastest time ever recorded in this event. At 200 yards White was leading, followed closely by Kench and Littler. A yard or two behind were Shields and Goodman. Michael (who won the title in 1931) was next, obviously letting the others do the fast stuff to start with. Tame, Walker and Frank Webb evidently approved of his strategy, and were running just behind him. Three hundred yards from the tape, Michael made his effort and we saw him quickly jump to front. Nearing the dressing-room he was leading by three yards. Needless to say, it was Kench who was chasing him, and although Michael kept up his sprint, Kench, who looked desperate and had lost something of his usual grace, fought to get level with him, did so, tried to get away, and succeeded. Actually, Kench won by several yards, but it meant some terrific work for him, and quite a lot of credit must be given to Michael for his courageous effort against

so fine and determined a runner as the new champion. This half-mile was a race in the best sense of the word.

A new holder was also produced in the next championship event to be decided—the 100 yards Senior. Morgan, the holder, did not turn out, and bearded old stagers like myself rather hoped that Odell would regain the title he lost last year. However, it was not to be. Odell could only finish third, and another fine sprinter, Stroud, won the title in quite good time. A newcomer, E. Kealey, was second.

Eleven runners beat the standard in the mile championship as against 13 in 1932. This year's race was remarkable for the fact that the leading positions remained practically unchanged throughout the race. Allum led from start to finish, but was never more than three yards ahead. At the start, C. W. Tame tried to dispute the leadership, but the second man for over a thousand yards was Shaw. It was a good race, as is obvious seeing that Allum did the second fastest time ever recorded in this event, but it was not so exciting from the spectator's point of view as the mile usually is at this meeting.

The furlong championship was not run in heats, so few having entered. Stroud did the first double of the day by winning this race in addition to the hundred. A past holder, G. Basford, was second.

In the absence of A. L. Fletcher, the two miles walk was more open than usual. The favourite, H. F. King, quickly took the lead with D. E. Brown. King won the title in 1921 and 1923 and we thought that this name might be engraved three times on the "Sawyer" Cup, until we noticed that he was not moving with his usual correct action. He gave one the impression of his not being quite fit and he paid the penalty in consequence, for in dropping back and attempting to get up again, he "lifted" and had to retire. After King's departure, Brown walked serenely on and won in the third fastest time for this race. One of the competitors greatly impressed the spectators by his immaculate style, and I myself thought that he was one of the best stylists among walkers that the Bels. have produced. I refer to R. Martin, who finished fifth. (Since I wrote the above Martin has finished second of the Belgrave team in the Surrey Walking Club's Annual London to Brighton race). Another feature worth mentioning is that every competitor was a well-known walker; one glance at the programme revealing the strength of walking in the Belgrave Harriers.

The second double of the day went to Kench, who won the quarter. Like the senior furlong, it was run in one heat. T. C. Jones, Stower and Kench were running in that order at 100 yards, and Michael, who had made a very bad start, was trying desperately to get up with them. He did eventually catch and pass

Jones and Stower, but in essaying to get up to Kench he was gallantly attempting the impossible. As stated, Kench won the event, and for the second time that afternoon Michael was second to him. Jones was third, and three others, Stower, Jenkins and Ford, beat standard time. To the great regret of many, especially the bearded old stagers previously referred to, Maryon just failed to beat 56 seconds. I heard that Kench had been doing very fast times for the quarter prior to this meeting.

The last championship event of the meeting was the junior furlong for members under 18, and it was the only championship which didn't change hands, for J. Crilly retained his title with perfect ease. W. A. Fox, a past holder of the "Chandler" Cup for boys under 15 and joint record holder, was second. He had no chance, however, of getting anywhere near Crilly. Although Crilly had such an easy run, he was only one-twentieth of a second outside the record for the event! A. J. Ford's great record of 1927 could therefore have been beaten had there been anyone to push Crilly.

In addition to the championship events, there were two Club handicaps; 75 yards and three-lap steeplechase, both successful and interesting events.

L.E.F.

RESULT.

CHAMPIONSHIPS.

100 Yards (Senior)—Heat 1: B. L. Bone 1, E. Kealey 2; 10 4-5 sec. Heat 2: F. Stroud 1, M. E. Odell 2; 10 3-5 sec. Final: F. Stroud 1, E. Kealey 2, M. E. Odell 3; 10½ sec.

220 Yards (Senior)—F. Stroud 1, G. Basford 2, J. S. Williams 3; 23 1-10 sec.

440 Yards—A. Kench 1, R. G. Michael 2, T. C. Jones 3; 52 4-5 sec. Standard Medals: F. Stower, H. Jenkins, F. G. Ford.

880 Yards—A. Kench 1, R. G. Michael 2, F. H. C. White 3; 2 min. 1 sec. Standard Medals: H. W. Shields, R. Littler, F. Walker.

1 Mile—A. Allum 1, A. Shaw 2, A. W. Penny 3; 4 min. 33 2-5 sec. Standard Medals: W. A. Rice, F. R. Webb, C. W. Tame, T. Cotton, C. T. Carter, S. T. Ring, F. Walker, C. Mains.

2 Miles Walk—D. E. Brown 1, H. G. Churcher 2, C. W. Redgrave 3; 14 min. 35 sec. First Class Standard Medal H. S. Latter. Second Class Standard Medals: R. Martin, A. A. Harley, C. E. Churcher, J. Cade, F. W. Thorn, A. H. Field.

220 Yards (under 18)—J. Crilly 1, W. A. Fox 2, E. Jones 3; 23 4-5 sec.

100 Yards (under 15)—F. J. Skelly 1, G. Crilly 2; 11½ sec.

HANDICAPS.

75 Yards—Heat Winners: First Heat, G. Weston, 6yds., 74-5 sec.; Second Heat, J. Smith, 9yds., 8 1-10 sec.; Third Heat, H. E. Jackman, 12yds., 8 1-10 sec.; Fourth Heat, F. J. Skelly, 12 yds., 7½ sec. Final: F. J. Skelly 1, H. E. Jackman 2, G. Weston 3; 7½ sec.

3 Lap Steeplechase—T. F. Morrell, 125yds., 1; C. H. E. Penny 105 yds., 2; A. R. Shaw, 45yds., 3; 4 mins. 31 secs.

At the conclusion of the track season we had two matches *v.* Metropolitan Police A.A. Both fixtures were full of interest, the M.P.A.A. winning on both occasions. Our men were always prominent in the track events, but the strength of the M.P.A.A. in Field Events turned the scale in their favour.

THE BRIGHTON WALK.

Describing how Belgrave gained their sixth team win in the Fifteenth Annual Race promoted by the Surrey Walking Club; of how Tommy Green fought the twin demons RECORD and TIME over the whole of the course; now leading handsomely, now falling back, eventually to capitulate to the enemy by a bare thirteen seconds; of the splendid manner in which R. Martin strode to Brighton for the first time, within six months of first donning walking shoes; of several other very fine performances; together with an appreciation of the work of our cyclist attendants; some account of the journey home, and sundry other matters of interest and importance.

Came the dawn! No, not yet, that came later! 4 a.m.—and the race, which is a prelude to THE RACE, is on. I refer to the race to the station by starlight, beating the dawn by an appreciable margin; the journey Citywards, in the unusual company of market salesmen off to sell, and charwomen on their way to char, and a host of other good people who do a day's work before you and I break our fast. Yes; the second Saturday in September is here once again, borne on Time's inexorable wings, and at 7 a.m. the annual Brighton Walk is due to start.

We have thirteen entrants, and all arrive at the Gt. Smith Street Baths in plenty of time. At seven o'clock the race starts, and at 7-30 a.m. our bus, loaded with supporters, also moves in the direction of Brighton. Another day of sport on the Brighton Road has begun; to add to the store of memories of past Walks and Relays; and the associations which bind together our Club activities and the fifty-two miles of road between London and Brighton.

A glance at the programme gave us cause for optimism and "on paper" our chances of again winning the team race were outstanding. In fact, it is doubtful if we have ever nominated a stronger team than that which did duty for us on this occasion, made up as follows: F. E. Bentley, J. C. Bidgood, A. H. Field, T. W. Green, W. H. Holman, P. Khlopin, R. Martin, F. Rickards. We might almost take leave to doubt whether *any* club has ever been in the proud position of calling upon a team the equal of this, judging on past form. Our second team consisted of: L. G. Allen, F. W. Chandler, J. G. Coleman, G. H.

Laurie, and C. A. Wattam, the last-named once again making the journey from his Lincolnshire home to try conclusions with the Brighton road.

At the first stopping point on the road, "The Swan and Sugar Loaf," at South Croydon, about $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles, our 'bus load of supporters were all smiles, for we had three men in the first group of four. They were Green, Bentley and Rickards of our Club, and Whitlock of the Metropolitan W.C.

Bidgood, Martin and Field were all well-placed and responded to our salutations with cheery smiles.

On to Hooley, and "The Feathers," Merstham, and now the gaps between the men were becoming greater; and it was obvious that Tommy Green had designs upon the record. Our other stalwarts remained prominent, but at Redhill we had a minor shock, for here Fred Bentley retired with cramped legs. We were, of course, a little disappointed at this, although our team chances remained first-class, for we had expected a tip-top performance from Fred, following upon his excellent first-time showing of last year. However, that it is only delayed is certain. Experience is difficult to acquire but, once gained, should certainly take him near to eight hours for the full journey.

At the G.P.O., Redhill ($20\frac{1}{4}$ miles) Green's time was 3 hrs. 1 min. 17 secs., 3 minutes *inside* Ludlow's time of last year when the record was created; and everything was very rosy!

Between Redhill and Crawley—up Red Hill proper; across Earlswood Common, with its rises and falls, to "The Chequers," Horley; then the comparatively level, straight road to Crawley; lined with its teashops (the majority of which seem to claim to be the authentic half-way house to Brighton!)—proved to be a testing time for some of our men. Between these points Green faltered, almost imperceptibly, it's true; and Fred Rickards, in the third position, encountered the first spasm of his "bad-time" which was eventually to result in his retirement. Fred slowed, while Lloyd Johnson overhauled him, then recovered slightly and widened the gap between the two. Half-a-mile later, Johnson had a thirty yards lead from our man; but at Crawley Fred had not only gone into third place again, but now held a good lead over his rival, and what was perhaps more important, was again his inimitable, smiling, self. Our other men, Bidgood, Martin, Field, Holman, were walking at a very even pace and showed no signs of distress.

The times taken at "The George," Crawley, showed that Tommy Green was now 2 min. 37 sec. faster than his 1930 time at this point, when he would have undoubtedly beaten eight hours, but for a torrential storm in the closing stages. Good!

So on to Handcross, down the hill to "The Queen's Head," Bolney. Along came the news that that Rickards had stopped

—that he had started again—that he had retired. A little later Fred came along in a car, so confirming the last report, and we extend our condolences to him that September 9th was not his day. Green reached this point in 5 hrs. 50 mins. 12 secs., a few seconds slower than his 1930 effort but still over $3\frac{1}{2}$ mins. better than Ludlow's time of last year, when the record was created. However, it was evident that Tommy was not so happy as he would have wished, although he was walking at a remarkable pace, and a long way ahead of the second man, H. H. Whitlock.

After climbing Dale Hill, Tommy was but a few seconds ahead of Ludlow's last year's time. He was informed of this and announced his intention of doing his utmost, but those of us who remembered Ludlow's phenomenal last ten miles in the 1932 race, knew that Tommy would have to do something exceptional if the honour of a new record was to be his. With three miles to go the chances were even more remote, and it would have required something miraculous to get on terms with the existing figures.

And so Tommy finished, a bare 13 seconds outside record! We congratulate him on a really fine performance. The fact that he failed to create a new record must not blind us to the merit of his walking, as would appear to be the case in the contemporary Press; or obscure the significance of one of the best distance walks ever done. It is very easy for all of us to be wise after the event, but it would seem that a minute or so slower before Redhill might well have placed the record in Tommy's grasp. Thirteen seconds in fifty-two miles seem ridiculous, but we all know their importance in the last mile.

Some of the daily papers, with their customary regard for imaginative sensationalism rather than the prosaic truth, would have it that Green was misled and one, I believe, actually said that Green was told he had 15 minutes in which to do the last mile. To anyone with the slightest knowledge of the facts as presented in the foregoing remarks, such a story is ludicrous and one can only assume that Ignorance and Fatuity hatched out such a tale.

This was Tommy's fourth win, thus equalling W. F. Baker's record, although Green's times are immeasurably superior to anything recorded by Baker, wonderful walker though he was.

And now for a tribute to our second man to finish, R. Martin. About last April he first decided to give walking a trial, and before long he was a Belgrave member, sponsored by old friends in Macdonald and Rathbone. In the intervening period Martin has enjoyed some track successes, has finished fifth in the Club 2 miles Championship, and now has finished sixth in his first "Brighton" in excellent time. It is not so much, however, the actual merit of the performance, which, of course, is very

high, that impresses; but more the manner in which it was done. Martin walked at a beautifully even pace throughout and many a walker of ten years or more experience would envy his judgment. Moreover, he seemed to be one of the best trained men in the event, finished without showing any fatigue, and deservedly won the prize for the first Service athlete to finish. We may be certain that before Martin lays aside the shoes he so recently took up, he should figure in many victorious Belgrave teams at varying distances; and enjoy many individual triumphs.

Our third man to finish, Jack Bidgood, 7th, continued the improvement he showed in the Senior Championship and walked splendidly to record his fastest time. But for stomach trouble in the closing stages he would have done even better, and I have a shrewd suspicion that he can show us even faster walking at all distances than he has done hitherto, and will assuredly contribute his full share to the Club's successes in future years.

A. H. Field completed our team, and if anyone knows of a Club possessing a more conscientious and dependable walker, even in the face of adverse circumstances, I should be glad to hear of that Club and individual. He displayed excellent judgment during the whole course of the race, and has a record in team races this year which anyone might envy, and which proclaims him as one of the best team workers our Club has ever possessed—and that is indeed a high compliment in a club such as ours, that has always had a vast number of loyal workers, and keen athletes who placed Belgrave before self.

W. Holman was responsible for a very creditable performance in finishing 15th in excellent time; and Paul Khlopin again showed his reliability in finishing just outside 9½ hours.

Of our others Allen, Coleman and Chandler fell by the way-side, but gained valuable experience; while Laurie and Wattam completed the course in good style.

Our nearest rivals in the team race were Leicester W.C., who scored 40 pts. to our 23. Our win leaves the "E. Knott Memorial Shield" in our keeping for another year—our third win in the fifth year of competition for this trophy.

Green holds the "Belgrave Cup" for the Club long distance walking championship for the sixth time, with Martin and Bidgood taking the second and third medals.

And now for a few words about that gallant band of fellows, the cyclist attendants. A member of another Club was heard to say, "These Belgrave walkers are always well looked after," and that is in itself a compliment to the efficiency and self-sacrifice of those who assist our men. It is hardly an enviable job to ride slowly with a man mile after mile, attending his wants and forgetting one's own, and it says much for their sportsmanship and willingness to serve others, that many of

COMPARISON OF TIMES.

	Green, 1930	Ludlow, 1932	Green, 1933
Streatham Hill	43 59 ...	44 55 ...	44 54
South Croydon	1 33 21 ...	1 34 30 ...	1 34 52
P.O., Redhill	3 3 11 ...	3 5 9 ...	3 1 17
"Chequers," Horley	3 41 28 ...	3 43 34 ...	3 38 29
"George," Crawley	4 29 17 ...	4 31 44 ...	4 26 40
Handcross	5 11 55 ...	5 14 8 ...	5 9 57
Bolney	5 50 0 ...	5 54 0 ...	5 50 12
Albourne	6 31 5 ...	6 33 41 ...	6 32 3
Dale Hill (top)	7 5 12 ...	7 1 26 ...	7 0 39
Finish	8 2 55 ...	8 1 6 ...	8 1 19

THE ATTEMPT UPON THE 50 MILES AND 8 HOURS WALKING RECORDS.

This event, which had been eagerly awaited by the sporting world, duly took place on Friday, September 29th, and we were very fortunate in being blessed with fine weather. The White City track was in splendid condition; the officials, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude, assembled; fifteen competitors were ready to start; and everything seemed set for a series of new records, but —!

We had made no secret of the fact that this event had been primarily planned for Tommy Green, who has won an Olympic title, created numerous road records throughout the country in a manner the like of which has never been seen before; walked with distinction on the Continent on numerous occasions; and yet lacked the final hall-mark of some records against his name in the official record books. The Amateur Athletic Association, and International Amateur Athletic Federation, insist that all records must be accomplished on a certified track and timed by at least three recognised timekeepers, and generally be in conformity with the standardised conditions relating to record attempts. This is obviously a very wise step, and, in fact, it is difficult to see how the governing bodies could possibly accept road records, having regard to the differences in gradients, surface, wind influence (which is largely "cancelled out" when walking round a track), and the difficulties of accurate measurements. Of course, comparative times over the same course are very valuable; and it is certain that many of the existing track records have been surpassed by road walkers. In fact, as has been frequently pointed out in these columns, Green has often been inside record times, contrasting his road performances with the track records, and even as recently as the Brighton Walk must obviously have been inside the "book" figures.

With all these facts in mind, and with the desire to give Tommy his opportunity to create track records our event on September 29th was organised. We had the certified track; the approved

officials; the willing workers; a perfect day; a splendid field of first-class walkers, but—no luck!

Half-an-hour before the event was due to start, Green confided to me that a fish meal the previous day had caused internal trouble, and that he had been unwell early that morning. He hoped to feel better once the race started, but, as was proved later, this was a vain hope. And so we endured for nearly three hours, the unfortunate spectacle of an obviously unwell Green, merely the shadow of his usual self, trying hard to shake off his sickness and failing to do so, as was inevitable with such a short time available for recovery. We can only sympathise with him on the misfortune which has persistently dogged him in his quest for track records, and trust that next season will give him the fitness, the good fortune and the opportunity to do that which we all know is within his powers.

From the commencement of the race, A. A. Cooper, who had views on the five miles record, led; but seemed to lack the concentrated effort needed if records are to be broken. He was well outside Pope's figures at five miles, but continued for 9½ miles, when he retired an obviously tired man. Perhaps the early start was not conducive to fast short-distance track work, and the lack of suitable opposition must have affected him adversely. However, we can take it for a certainty that Cooper will achieve his ambition, and record fresh figures before many seasons are past.

Meanwhile, Lloyd Johnson and Whitlock were walking at a fast rate, with Green, Richardson, Horton, Rickards and Bentley close together in their rear. At 18 miles Green had to stop for attention, and a short while later retired from the race. At 20 miles Lloyd Johnson retired, and everyone was now speculating upon the possibility of Whitlock coming within record time round about the 25 miles mark. This he failed to do, although walking in exemplary fashion; but by means of a very fast lap, was enabled to record new figures at 4 hours, and for 27 miles. He managed to cover 27 yards more than did Jack Butler, who was present, in 1905; and his 27 miles figures showed an improvement of 1 2-5 sec. Whitlock then carried on, very slowly, and shortly afterwards retired, leaving one of our Club stalwarts, Fred Rickards, in the lead. At 31 miles another Belgrave man, Fred Bentley, took the lead, which he retained to the end. Rickards met trouble after the 30 miles mark, and was frequently off the track for massage, etc., but he very pluckily finished the eight hours. Meanwhile, T. W. Richardson was walking at a fast, even rate, for a long period and at one time it seemed probable that he would be the winner. With about an hour to go, however, he faltered a little, and although recovering later, was not fast enough to catch Bentley. Horton did well to finish third,

although at times it looked extremely doubtful if he would finish at all; but toward the end he seemed to revive considerably.

Of the others, Gum, King, Martin, Field, Etherington, Payne and Rickards all did well to finish this test of strength and endurance. Etherington had attacks of cramp, and Rickards was also in trouble from time to time, as already mentioned, but the remainder seemed to walk easily and steadily throughout, and perhaps none more so than Tommy Payne, who at 52 years of age gave a wonderful exhibition, and entirely worthy of one who achieved such successes in his younger days. He created World's record in the course of 24 hours' race at the old White City track in 1909, which still stand; and it was an exhilarating experience to see him walking with men twenty and thirty years his junior in our race.

Bentley's performance of covering 49 miles 799 yards in the eight hours must rank very high with similar events in the past, and clearly classes him as one of the finest distance walkers living. He is young in years and experience (although it cannot be said that this was apparent in our race), and tremendously keen, and we may be sure that he will carry our colours with distinction for many years, and it may be that in a year or so Fred will be challenging the existing records. In reply to Green's congratulations, Bentley said that he would much rather have finished behind Tommy, and commiserated with him upon his misfortune. Such a spontaneous gesture within a few moments of finishing an eight hours' race, typifies the good spirit and sportsmanship existing between our men.

Martin again did well, especially in view of his very recent entry into the sport; and Field again demonstrated evenness and dependability. Rickards again showed that he is very nearly the best man in the country at 30 miles, but after that cramp and muscular trouble, robbed him of a place. Holman was forced to retire because of stomach trouble; but our entrants were certainly a credit to the Club.

Any description would be incomplete without acknowledging our deep debt of gratitude to the Timekeepers: Messrs. E. C. Barry (A.A.A.), H.J. Rothery (A.A.A.), J. Turner (A.A.A.), C. R. Butcher, and all the other officials who gave their services so readily. It is no easy task to devote oneself for eight hours to such an event and we are indeed grateful for their assistance, without which we could never have carried on.

We were particularly glad that some of our older Club officials, to whom we owe so much, were able to be present. Thus J. B. Belchamber acted as Referee, O. Horwood as Starter and Judge, and H. Evans was among the Judges. We are, perhaps, sometimes inclined to forget their services to the Club in its stormy days, when, but for their hard work, self-sacrifice and constant

recourse to their private pockets, our Club might never have survived. Of course, there were other stalwarts also, many happily still with us, but it was very gratifying to have this trio actively associated with one of the most important events the Club has yet promoted.

The organisation and management of the event, with Mr. F. G. Thomson as Chief Recorder, and Mr. J. R. Barnes Moss as Chief Judge, was carried on without hitch and reflects credit on the Club and its officers.

To conclude, let us wholeheartedly congratulate H. H. Whitlock upon his new records; and F. E. Bentley upon his excellent showing. The result is appended.

		RESULT.		miles	yards
1.	F. E. Bentley (Belgrave H.)	...	...	49	799
2.	T. W. Richardson (Woodford A.C.)	...	...	49	43
3.	S. E. Horton (Surrey W.C.)	...	...	48	1157
4.	D. Gum (Essex Beagles)	...	...	47	905
5.	F. Rickards (Belgrave H.)	...	...	47	106
6.	A. W. King (Hampstead H.)	...	...	47	75
7.	H. L. Etherington (Surrey W.C.)	...	...	46	1228
8.	R. Martin (Belgrave H.)	...	...	46	1058
9.	A. H. Field (Belgrave H.)	...	...	46	667
10.	T. Payne (South Shields H.)	...	...	45	1420

Jack Flower writes on the

3 MILES ROAD HANDICAP.

On October 7th we held our annual road handicap at Wimbledon. The entry was quite good and the weather was ideal for fast running. The time-keepers got the field away in great style and so the race was on.

My intentions were to go about a mile out, but the runners were progressing faster than usual, so I stood at the Village about 880 yards from the finish. Presently A. Smith and A. Beavan appeared. They seemed to be enjoying a nice social run together, neither looked as if they had been running hard and these were followed by D. Sargeant, fighting hard to get with the leaders. Next came A. J. Hewitt, not looking too happy about things; then came A. T. Jordan, running very nicely and strongly, gaining fast on Hewitt.

Over the last 600 yards A. Smith finished very strongly to beat A. Beavan by 4 sec., a fine performance when one sees the time 12 min. 34 sec., the fastest time the race has ever been won in. Sargeant finished 3rd with Jordan only 6 sec. behind.

Our three Internationals were running very fast, but could get no nearer than the twenties; Allum, Penny and Footer finished quite close together in the above order. It is very encouraging to see that we had six men inside the net time of 14 min. 58 sec., which is a performance any Club would be proud to record.

Before concluding I would like to congratulate Arthur Penny

on his great run to beat his friend Dr. Dollfuss' (sorry, Bert Footer's) record for the course by 8 3-5 sec. Well done!

RESULT.

Ps.	Name	H'cap.	Time	Start	Act. Time
1.	A. Smith	...	12 34	4 15	16 49
2.	A. Beaven	...	12 38	4 15	16 53
3.	D. Sargeant	...	12 46	4 30	17 16
4.	A. T. A. Jordan	...	12 52	2 20	15 12
5.	A. J. Hewett	...	12 58	5 0	17 58
6.	W. H. Piggott	...	13 30	5 0	18 30
7.	S. T. Ring	...	13 34	1 30	15 4
8.	F. G. White	...	13 37	3 30	17 7
9.	J. C. Smith	...	13 41	2 45	16 16
10.	G. R. Chantler	...	13 45	2 0	15 45
11.	G. M. Murray	...	13 45	2 45	16 30
12.	F. G. Ford	...	13 49	1 45	15 34
13.	W. F. Goodman	...	13 49	2 45	16 34
14.	A. S. Lindsay	...	13 52	1 45	15 37
15.	E. G. Saunders	...	13 55	1 30	15 25
16.	A. E. Taylor	...	13 55	1 25	15 20
17.	A. W. Jannaway	...	13 58	4 15	18 13
18.	T. Cotton	...	14 4	1 45	15 49
19.	F. A. Walker	...	14 5	1 15	15 20
20.	R. B. Gilson	...	14 5	5 0	19 5
21.	W. A. Rice	...	14 8	0 50	14 58
22.	H. W. Shields	...	14 11	0 45	14 56
23.	A. Allum	...	14 12	0 20	14 32
24.	W. G. Webb	...	14 14	1 15	15 29
25.	C. T. Carter	...	14 14	0 35	14 49
26.	A. W. Penny	...	14 14	Scr.	14 14
27.	C. E. Brockwell	...	14 22	2 30	16 52
28.	H. E. Footer	...	14 37	0 5	14 42
29.	G. Tyrer	...	14 41	6 30	21 11
30.	A. F. Mitchell	...	14 42	1 30	16 12
31.	C. H. E. Penny	...	14 43	1 45	16 28
32.	H. L. Rollins	...	14 52	2 0	16 43
33.	R. G. Michael	...	14 52	1 40	16 32
34.	H. J. Fletcher	...	14 54	1 15	16 9
35.	S. H. Warboys	...	15 4	0 30	15 34
36.	F. R. Webb	...	15 40	1 0	16 40

Alf Miller—the man on the spot—discourses on

THE "BELS" v. EALING HARRIERS.

On October 14th we had as our visitors the Ealing Harriers, who are now regarded as old friends and sporting rivals.

Contrary to the usual practice of making this race "all to run and score," a team of tea from each club was selected, on an eight to score basis. The weather was nice and bright when the teams lined up and all got well away at the signal given by the Ealing Harriers' President, Mr. Brighton.

The runners, well bunched together, circled the field once and out through the village via the centre path, with Shields, Saunders, Carter and Jordan together in the lead, the Ealing "boys"

well together a little behind them. Coming to the bottom of the Sandy ride, the positions were much the same. This was rather surprising, as the "going" was very fair, and the first half of the race very even paced, which allowed the boys to settle down.

From my position on the straight grass path from the Windmill to the Village, it was very pleasant to see four "Bels" running in very sociable order and well ahead. Following this four—Bill Rice, Carter, Shields and Saunders—came "Young" Jordan, running extraordinarily well, and this lad might well be a champion in the making.

Then we had Thomas and our old friend Edwards, of Ealing, well up, and this was the order of finishing, although Jordan had dropped to seventh place, but regained fifth position with a fine finishing burst. After the race the Ealing Harriers' President expressed his thanks for another fine run and hoped to see us at their quarters, when he hoped they might give us a closer contest.

RESULT.

		h. m. s.			h. m. s.
1.	C. T. Carter.....(B)	31 40	8.	A. S. Lindsey.....(B)	32 35
1.	W. Rice .....(B)	31 40	9.	W. G. Webb .....(B)	32 36
1.	H. Shields .....(B)	31 40	10.	C. Box .....(E)	32 37
1.	E. Saunders .....(B)	31 40	11.	G. R. Chantler .....(B)	32 40
5.	A. Jordan .....(B)	31 53	12.	F. G. Ford .....(B)	32 41
6.	M. E. Thomas .....(E)	32 10	15.	F. R. Webb .....(B)	33 56
7.	L. F. Edwards .....(E)	32 22	17.	A. Smith .....(B)	34 32

TEAM SCORES.

Belgrave H.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11	43 pts.
Ealing H.—6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19	103 pts.

SOCIALLY SPEAKING.

Our Social season commenced with an evening tea and dance at St. John's Hall, Wimbledon, on October 7th. The whole affair was very successful and deserved greater support from our members and their friends. The absentees were certainly doing themselves a bad turn in staying away, and they should carefully note future dates to avoid a recurrence of their bad fortune.

Our first dance was held at The Queensberry Hall, South Kensington, on Saturday, October 21st, and was well attended. I noticed Len Rollins, looking very M.C.-ish, dancing with that air of detached boredom which characterises the really good dancer, as distinct from the plebian, chance-to-luck-and-the-girl's-good-temper enthusiasts, like ourselves. Incidentally, I declare his waves become more natural week by week. I also espied Harry Shields setting a new fashion and carrying a tightly clenched handbag under one arm. Whilst admitting that there may have been special circumstances, I hardly think this is a

fashion likely to catch on among our members. H. E. Footer seemed to have put the cares of captaincy aside for one evening and I understand that on this occasion the moral to be preached was "Don't do as I do, etc."

Several of our champions (past and present) were there, including A. Penny, F. Stroud, T. H. Scrimshaw, J. Tosh, J. Crilly, and the proportion of Club members present was very gratifying. Alf Taylor made his first attempt on the floor, so following the example set recently by one of our most respected members, and generally we had the feeling of being with friends all the time. I've one complaint. I didn't win a spot prize. I take it, Mr. Rice, that this matter will receive your attention, or that of Mr. M. C. Rollins, and amends will be made at the next dance!

Our next event is a Social on November 4th, at Wimbledon. There will be the usual dance in the evening, and I have heard whispers that some of the natural talent, with which the Club abounds, will be in evidence during the evening. Those who remember Castor and Oil making their bow last year will remember how enjoyable this mixture can be, so roll up in your hundreds. Come along to tea and stay on for the dance and fun in the evening. You'll enjoy it much more than carrying the shopping basket, or queuing for an hour or so to see the touching heads and situations before you at the cinema. See you at St. John's Hall, then, on the 4th!

The next dance is at the Queensberry Hall on November 25th. Tickets and information may be had from

W. A. RICE, 36 Ascalon Street, S.W.8.

NOTICE ! ACHTUNG ! AVIS !

Are you aware that every Sunday a party of strollers spend the day in the open air, walking and talking (and when Harry comes, shouting!), and tramping through the countryside? There's a welcome for *you* if you care to come along.

The usual meeting time is 10 a.m., the time of return depends on a variety of circumstances, mainly Footer, but is somewhere in the region of 8—9 p.m. Lunch is carried at first on the back, but later (and not too late, if you don't mind) elsewhere.

Our parties have numbered six, seven and eight; but it is hoped that within the coming month we shall eclipse the last year's record of fifteen, who gathered at No. 1B Platform, Waterloo Station, promptly at 10 a.m. Except one who came later;

Our strolls this season have usually started at Ashted, proceeded to Ranmore Common, and thence in varying directions over the Surrey Downs. Generally speaking, we remain loyal to Ranmore—invariably our feet turn towards Ranmore as though Fate had ordained that there was only one true path for all

believers. Some day we shall go in another direction, and then the sun may fail, and upheavals may be expected! However, it must be admitted that this area contains some of the finest scenery to be found anywhere in England, and the "shandy" is not so bad, either! So we shan't grumble too much on this score.

We have been joined by a few newcomers to these parties, additional to those detailed in our issue of a year ago, while the select, original nucleus remains. Except on October 1st, when the cry went forth, "Where's Harry?" This cry from the heart, like a long-drawn-out sigh, echoed through Ashted Park, was tossed from tree to tree on Mickleham Downs, followed us uphill to Ranmore Common, and trailed us to the valley below. It was borne on the winds, whispered in the woods, shouted on the hill-tops. It was asked when we met; repeated, demanded, requested throughout the day!

And I am still unable to give the answer. There is only one person who can, or, more probably, two, and its doubtful if they feel so disposed. I have heard it said that he was being initiated into the ancient ceremony of "Cutting the Cake"; but I am the last person to listen to idle chatter and scandalmongering, nor would I be a party to any such malicious rumours; and certainly would never dream of repeating any gossip of this nature which should come to my ears. I hope my attitude in this matter is quite clear. I deprecate this enquiry into one's private life, even by one's intimate friends, and I am sure that I have Harry's enthusiastic and earnest support in trying to assure that the sanctity of the individual is not violated. Thank you, Harry.

Another matter for regret is the tendency to mutiny in recent parties. Some headstrong individuals have actually been rash enough to oppose Footer's will; and even told him to go his own way; and given him various other alternatives. Whatever are we coming to when discipline is thrown to the four winds, and control cannot be maintained?

To conclude abruptly, why not have a day out yourself? The "regulars" will be pleased to give any information.

For those who are unable, or not free, to spend a full day in the open, Bill Rice is anxious to arrange some Sunday morning strolls as a supplementary training exercise and a pleasant way to pass the morning. He will be pleased to give details to anyone interested.

WITH THE WALKERS.

We must congratulate Don Brown upon his win in the Club 2 miles Championship in fast time. This road season should find him well to the fore in the open races, and it should not be long

before his growing experience and undoubted ability carry him into championship class.

* * * * *

As described at length elsewhere, the Brighton team race has again been won, and the long-anticipated 50 miles and 8 hours Track Walk taken place. Now we have to prepare for the Open races and match events, and then, in the New Year, for the Club Championships, the "Junior" and two months later, the "Senior."

* * * * *

Generally, our prospects for an even more successful season than last year are quite bright. All last year's men will be available, some undoubtedly showing improved form, and this, with the introduction of some new blood (I am thinking of R. Martin, particularly) should keep us well to the front.

* * * * *

It is always a difficult task to find a new "Junior" team the year following a win, and this year H. G. Churcher, D. E. Brown, A. H. Field, A. A. Harley and J. C. Bidgood are no longer eligible. However, our remaining material has undoubted possibilities, and with conscientious training we should, at least, be among the placings. Among the men we look to to maintain the Club's splendid record in the "Junior" Championship are C. E. Churcher, J. G. Coleman, R. F. Elson, J. A. Grimwade, E. C. Heather, W. Holman, E. A. Jackman, H. Latter, R. Martin, C. H. Speechley, L. Storey, F. W. Thorn, L. Jones, and very probably there will be others making their claims for inclusion.

* * * * *

The Highgate Open 7 miles races will probably have taken place before this issue of our journal is published, but the Enfield A.C. Open 7 miles race will take place on November 11th, and we should be well represented.

* * * * *

Our own Open event is fixed, as usual, for the last Saturday in November, the 25th, and it is hoped that all our active men will rally round as usual, and send their entries in as early as possible.

On this occasion the R.W.A. have allocated the "H. Berman" Cup to our race, and this trophy will go to the Club winning the scratch team race. We have held this cup twice in the past, but Enfield A.C. are the present holders.

This should make our promotion even more interesting than usual, and every Club member should come along as a spectator, if he is not actively engaged in the race, or supporting the Club's running fixtures on that day.

* * * * *

On December 2nd we visit the Surrey Walking Club for our annual tussle over the Croydon to West Wickham and back course. We have been unable to win this inter-club event so far, and we should make a determined effort this year to participate at full strength, and turn the tables.

The following Saturday (December 9th), Eastleigh Town S.C. are promoting a 12 miles Open Walk, and I should be glad to hear from members desirous of making the trip and supporting our "resident" members, Tommy Green and Joe King, in the team race. Cheap fares have been arranged and I shall be pleased to forward particulars to anyone interested.

* * * * *

A few of our members supported the first Open race of the season, held in connection with the Finchley Charter Week Celebrations, more in the spirit of friendliness and goodwill rather than with the idea of showing up prominently. October 7th is much too early in the season for serious racing, even at six miles, and the appended result shows that our representatives were not unduly troubling themselves. Green did well, and Bidgood showed that his recent "Brighton" has had a tonic effect and that we may expect to find him in the early placings this year. Willis made a creditable debut in our name and should develop into a very useful walker.

RESULT.

1.	A. A. Cooper (Woodford Gn. A.C.)	44	8	...	Scr.	...	44	8	
2.	T. W. Green (Belgrave H. "A")	44	16	...	Scr.	...	44	16	
13.	H. G. Churcher (" " "A")	47	47	...	1	10	...	46	37
15.	J. C. Bidgood (" " "A")	48	9	...	4	10	...	43	59
31.	R. F. Elson (" " "A")	50	11	...	4	0	...	46	11
33.	A. A. Harley (" " Ind.)	50	19	...	3	0	...	47	19
37.	E. Saunders (" " Ind.)	50	33	...	2	50	...	47	43
40.	E. A. Jackman (" " "A")	50	57	...	6	0	...	44	57
45.	C. E. Churcher (" " "A")	51	21	...	3	30	...	47	51
54.	J. G. Coleman (" " "A")	52	8	...	4	20	...	47	48
59.	C. H. Speechley (" " "A")	52	27	...	3	20	...	49	7
78.	D. Willis (" " Ind.)	54	13	...	5	40	...	48	33

138 finished.

HANDICAP TEAM RACE.

1.	Poly H.	...	173m. 7s.	5.	Belgrave H.	...	179m. 49s.
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Our first match of the season, *versus* Polytechnic Harriers, over 5 miles, gave us a win by 102 pts. to 231 pts., 12 aside scoring. Len Fletcher led the field of 38 home, and we placed 10 men in the first 12. Our sealed handicap in conjunction was won by A. A. Harley (2 min. 40 sec.) with A. H. Field (2 min. 50 sec.) and L. Jones (4 min. 30 sec.) taking second and third prizes. Full details in our next issue.

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All entries and enquiries to

A. A. HARLEY, 39 Roxburgh Avenue, Isleworth, Mx.

FIELD EVENTS.

The Club has just concluded a successful season as far as Field Events are concerned, having regard to the lack of interest evinced generally in the throwing and jumping events. The Committee of the Club has persistently encouraged this branch of Athletics, and it must be said that its efforts have not been without success, although we should be glad to see greater numbers interesting themselves in the field events. They are interesting, a means of attaining physical fitness, keenly competitive, and often very helpful when the Club has a match comprising varying athletic events.

Our two most prominent performers this year have been G. H. Powell (3rd A.A.A. Championship) and J. W. Clemens (2nd Southern Championship). Both have beaten A.A.A. standard and so earned their Club Honours Badges.

It is now possible to announce the winner of the "Harry Wright" Shield, for the season. He is George Powell, and to him go our heartiest congratulations. He is probably the member with the longest experience in the Club and might almost be termed the "Father" of the Field Events Section.

RESULT.

G. H. Powell (Javelin)	178ft. 2in. ...	92.33%
J. W. Clemens (Long Jump)	21ft. 4½in. ...	91.93%
E. H. Jump (High Jump)	5ft. 3in. ...	87.5%
D. D. Ivall (Shot Putt)	35ft. 11½in. ...	83.63%
W. H. Sutton (Discus)	85ft. 2in. ...	62.11%

It will be remembered that the Club Field Events Championship, which carries with it the "Harry Wright" Shield and Club gold medal, is determined on a percentage basis, the actual performance of any club member being expressed as a percentage co-efficient of a series of standards which have been drawn up and agreed upon.

This year's competition has had a very close finish, only .4 per cent. separating the two men!

The institution of the Southern Amateur Athletic League Field Events Competition has done much to focus attention on the sport and afford opportunities of competition. This effect has been even more marked during the past season, now that the events are centralised, and all competitions are held at the Battersea Park Track in connection with the various Club meetings taking place there.

We have been represented in practically every Division I event, and in the final table we take a creditable third position.

1. Blackheath H.	72½	5. Southgate and Wood Green A.C....	52½
2. Polytechnic H.	62½	6. St. George's S.S.C.....	51
3. Belgrave H.	54	7. Croydon H.	42
4. S.L.H.	52½	8. Ashcombe A.C.	7

Next season it is hoped that we shall do even better. W. H. Sutton remains Captain of the section, with R. Nowak as Vice-Captain, and with the assistance of enthusiasts like Clemens, Powell, Holder, Henchoz, Ivall, Kelly, Ellis, and others; and the addition of some newcomers, we may be certain that the Field Events men will contribute their share towards the progress the Club continues to make.

MY MOST THRILLING RACE !

No. 1.—By T. H. SCRIMSHAW.

I have been asked to write an account of my most thrilling race, a task which I find far from easy, in view of the difficulty of deciding which of the many races I have had has thrilled me most. After due consideration I have awarded the laurels to the A.A.A.'s Half-mile Championship of 1931.

This was the first time I had run in these Championships, so naturally I was very dubious about my performance. I arrived at Stamford Bridge with just the usual nervous feeling which one has before a race, and after studying the programme my nervousness increased slightly, for I found that the main opposition in my heat was Johannessen (Norway), Gutteridge, T. J. Flower, Claydon and Booth. Johannessen, about this time, was accredited with doing something like 1 min. 53 sec. for 800 metres, so I thought, all things taken into consideration, I might get sixth in my heat. There is one particular incident which happened in my heat which I should like to mention, because I feel sure if it had not have been for this I would not have been in the final, and I doubt whether I should have got my triple International that year, because the International teams are chosen on the results of the A.A.A.'s Championships. After the first lap, we were round about the finish of the "hundred," and I was very badly placed, being behind three runners running abreast,

and Johannessen and Gutteridge were in front of these three. Johannessen and Gutteridge were beginning to open up a gap from the three in front of me, when Joe Flower, who happened to be the inside runner of these three, let me through, thus enabling me to get on equal terms with Johannessen, who, at the finish, beat me by about 2 yards in 1 min. 56 sec., the fastest heat of the evening. So I went into the final as the fastest loser!

That evening I went to bed early, with the intention of having a good night's rest, but it was about midnight before I slept. About 1 o'clock somebody living opposite me thought it an excellent occasion to have a fire, which meant that my slumber was disturbed until about 6 o'clock next morning. During this time I lay in bed wishing the fireman would go to another fire which I have heard never goes out!

On arrival at the 'Bridge next day I was feeling a nervous wreck. The finalists were Hampson, Peltzer, Townend, Powell, Carr and Johannessen, and, I think, the most classical field I have been in. I drew sixth position, with Hampson fifth and Powell seventh. At the gun I lost all nervousness, but got away very badly. Townend was soon in the lead, followed by Carr and Hampson. At the first bend I was lying last behind Johannessen and Peltzer. It was necessary to have wooden borders on the track, owing to the track having been widened for dirt-track racing, and on going round the bend Johannessen struck the wooden border, stumbled, "spiked" Peltzer, who in turn struck me in the side, but only lightly. For the rest of the first lap I contented myself with following behind Powell, who was lying fourth. Coming into the finishing straight for the bell, I moved up past Powell and Carr and followed behind Townend and Hampson, until half-way down the back straight, Hampson took the lead and I followed him. At the 220 yards mark he started his terrific finishing burst. I tried hard to hold him, but half-way round the last bend I found the gap between us was increasing considerably. Coming into the straight Townend and Peltzer caught me; Townend came up on my left and Peltzer on my right and it was neck and neck fight to the finish, Townend drawing away from us about 5 yards from the tape. I shut my eyes and threw my body forward as much as my condition would allow. I was held in suspense until it was announced that Peltzer was 3rd, therefore making me 4th in my first English championship.

Hampson won this race by what I consider a "street," his time was 1 min. 54 1-5 sec., and I think the accident which involved Johannessen and Peltzer at the start of the race was a considerable handicap to both men. If it had not occurred, I think I would have been back another position.



TRAINING ON WIMBLEDON COMMON.

Reading from left to right : S. T. Ring, H. W. Shields, F. A. Walker, H. E. Footer, A. Robertshaw, A. W. Penny,
E. G. Saunders, W. L. Bayliss, F. G. Ford, H. J. Fletcher, C. W. Law, T. H. Cotton.

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