



GAZETTE



Chris Tuck at the Kent cross country Championships, Brands Hatch

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From the Editor



The events of the winter 2017/18 are recalled here, in a winter where there has been considerable progress in the ongoing plans to move and relocate the club headquarters to Norman Park. As yet of course no definite decision as to when this would be, although hopefully by next winter construction would be in progress and the club would be moving it's cross country

base temporarily to the Warren, the Metropolitan Police centre in Hayes.

Reflecting on the changes that will come, I too am reflecting on changes in my own role in the club especially as we prepare for the club's 150th anniversary next year. It will be my intention to see the anniversary year out, and then stand down as editor soon after and concentrate on producing the proposed update of the club's history along with others who are interested in this. To do this of course requires that the Gazette is still produced and for that reason it is still important that people can contribute articles and reports in good time so that we can continue to produce this, the club archive.

Thanks to those who do contribute and show appreciation for what we do here. It does make up for any perceived lack of interest or delays in receiving material which in turn can cause delays in production of each issue. Sadly this winter I have decided to stand down as Chair of Communications, a role I carried out for some years, more because of a lack of direction and perhaps training in the role, and that there seemed to be no mentoring available to allow one to grow into the role to fulfill it properly. Maybe it is best that it should be done by someone who is no longer at work with more time available or experience, or perhaps someone who is younger and full of enthusiasm and energy to take a pro-active role on the committee.

Thinking on this maybe the club is really for the young, or the young at heart. Certainly as the many reports of young athletes show this is the area where the club is most dynamic and where its future is. If the club is changing and moving more towards track and field then maybe it is time to move to Norman Park and so it's best to embrace this move, despite doubts and misgivings, for the new clubhouse is the future and the future belongs to the young.

Nevertheless, there should be room for the dissenters to have their say, and whilst we face the opportunities of the future it is hoped that we can remember the past, revere it, and take the best of it with us into the next era of the club's distinguished history.

Your Club President for 2018/19

Paul Byfield

Succeeding two immediate past presidents who have both gained international distinction on the track albeit many years ago, Paul Byfield is another in the mould of distinguished athletes who after retiring from competitive athletics has played a dedicated and committed role in the administration and development of the club. He joined in 1983 and was Young Athletes Captain in 1985; then he competed regularly for several years in the British Athletics League and the Southern League at various events and also at college meetings. After retiring from representative athletics he was made a Vice President in 2001 and later on he served as Chairman of Active Athletics from 2009 to 2011 and since 2013 has held the brief of Chair of Development.

In March he was introduced as the new president by outgoing president Nick Brooks. He has the distinction of being the first black president in the club's long history and will probably be the last to be installed in the club's present headquarters. It was at the club HQ that I was able to talk to him about his life in athletics, and his year as president.

WO. Having been asked to assume the Presidency by Nick Brooks what connection in club terms do you have with him?

PB. To be honest prior to my becoming Chair of Active Athletics in 2009 our paths hadn't really crossed over as such as he is several years older than me and I knew of him anyway as an athlete who had set a number club records at 400m and 800m and an athlete to whom I looked up to and I aspired to be like as an under 17. As well as him there was Julian Spooner one of his peers who had previously held the records at those distances, particularly running 47' for the 400m. Despite this however Nick was just a name in the record books.

We never really competed against each other but we once ran together, the only time we ran on the track in the same race which was the 4 x 400m relay in 1986.

WO. Every year the choice of a new president can defy prediction. Do you think that presidents are chosen to be a complete surprise, or in the course of time will a president be chosen who is the expected one?

PB. Outgoing presidents will always look to people with whom they have an affinity and whom they can see as fulfilling a certain role as president. From Nick's perspective he wanted



President Paul Byfield...the athletes' Barack Obama

someone who was a former athlete, one who knows and understands about athletics and has been involved in the track and field side of the club. That was also the case for Bill Foster in the matter of selecting his successor but like all who have become president it has been such a well kept secret.

When you think about it the new president is picked from the existing pool of Vice Presidents so it's a fairly small group of people anyway. I've been involved in the guessing games over the years but there's always 4 or 5 names that come to the fore, and last year Nick's name was one of those that came out of the pot. Some new presidents seem because of their high profile to be the obvious choice but the element of secrecy is one of the conditions which I'd like to keep.

Continued

WO. Looking at Your family background, were you from an athletic family?

PB. I was from a very sporty family, one of six boys and all of us played sport of some description. My second oldest brother was a cross country runner which some people would find surprising because I hate cross country! Another was a sprinter who as an 18 year old clocked 53 ½ secs for the 400m based just on playing rugby and football and the odd race over the country, my second youngest brother was a good sprinter but I was the only one who joined a club and was a member of Blackheath Harriers. We all also played rugby, basketball, cross country, and soccer at school, my Dad played cricket, which was not something I looked to as a young athlete.

WO. Who were your influences in taking up athletics over some of the other sports you played at school?

PB. I went to Sedgehill School, where Ken Pike was my maths teacher and cross country manager and he was very encouraging, Jim Phelan my art teacher who was also quite encouraging, there was also Clive Morris a Javelin thrower at the club in the 1980s. We had great access to some fine people who were involved in the club at school boy level so it was quite easy process to being a member of Blackheath Harriers.

I was personally inspired by watching Ovett and Coe at the 1980 Olympics which interested me in the sport. My interest in athletics is very broad and I'm interested in the whole sport, not just my own events but all the various disciplines including the achievements of Daley Thompson in that golden age of British athletics.

WO. You've received much encouragement from coaches. Which do you remember as being most influential?

PB. For me the grounding I had with athletics was based on a long term coaching relationship I had with John Powell. Now I know he's not everyone's cup of tea but I had a few good years with him as an athlete and recognise him as having been an influential coach. He was the person who got me interested in club athletics in my early years, after which I made my own decisions.

WO. What in your opinion makes for a really effective coach?

PB. Coach have to listen to athletes, have time for your athletes, think long term what they can do over the next five years to help an athlete improve and develop. Being ready to listen to your athletes, and to understand their strengths and weaknesses. The coach should learn from their mistakes and they've got to be in a position to learn from those mistakes.

WO. You've obviously been highly versatile in track and field. What was your favourite event and what events would you like to have achieved more in?

PB. My main event was the 400m But I would have liked to achieve more in the triple jump and 400m hurdles. I never took these as far as possible and I focused on the 400m would like to have had a crack at the Decathlon, although I competed in its events (Pole Vault, Javelin). I might well have adapted to the decathlon however.

WO. Is it still possible to cross over between the disciplines and gain distinction at a high level?

PB. That's a tricky one. Some athletes can cross over between similar events such as Long Jump to, triple jump, High Jump and between various track distances such as the 200 and 44 metres but only if they are very talented and higher up it's very difficult to cross over. You would need to have a couple of years dealing with the rigours of training, the discipline of training and the performance element. You've got to go out there and compete over a period of time.

WO. Do you think it was easier to do this in the amateur era?

PB. Well, athletes today have more time to focus on and deal with the rigours of other events other events but there tends to be more specialisation now.

WO. You mention somewhere about winning a pair of Dunlop trainers in the 1980s. What improvements have you seen in the design and performance of trainers in the last 30 years?

PB. As far as training shoes, spikes and racing shoes are concerned they are more bespoke to the athlete, the event, and suit the individual athlete's requirements, the athlete's particular needs, build, weight and speed. You could walk into a specialist running shop now say that you'll be running a 10km and weigh 13 stone and there would be a pair just for you or one that could be adapted to your needs. Shoe designers can pin point needs of individual runners, that fits their speed requirements and therefore less injury is sustained.

WO. Is there a point where you sense that you've reached your natural level of competitiveness?

PB. For me I stopped competing in the British League when other things started to take over such as studies, work commitments...I no longer had time to do the training necessary to be competitive and so I stopped training from the age of 27 onwards. I increasingly liked going to the Southern League and doing lots of events just for enjoyment of the sport until having to quit athletics at the age of 32 due to various knee injuries that brought an end to my career...and I think here I can anticipate your next question!

WO. Yes regarding injuries. How much has it been a disappointment to miss out on an extended athletic career)?

PB. Not disappointed, I don't regret the injuries as they were part of competing in athletics the way I did. Most people get injured at some point in their athletic career whether it be minor or career threatening. I was lucky that I did not have any serious injuries until I was 32. I had a hamstring tear as a junior from which I recovered quickly without any loss of fitness.

WO. What comfort do you want to give to athletes going through the experience of seeing their athletic careers cut short?



Retiring President Nick Brooks handing on the seal of office to Paul Byfield (and administering the customary complimentary massage)

Continued

PB. It's a shame that many promising careers in athletics are cut short through injury and an athlete's career at the highest level is relatively short. Athletes must be aware of the possibility of this happening. My advice to those who have injuries is get something else under their belt, because most people's athletic careers go on to their early 30s when they might have to stop. It's difficult for them to accept this but they have to be realistic about it.

WO. What future alternative challenges would you wish to attempt?

PB. To have another crack at doing a marathon row inside 3 hours. My best is 3 hours and 7 minutes. It's a big target. Once my presidential year is over I might consider cycling and taking up martial arts. As long as my body holds up

WO. What about running a marathon?

PB. No marathons!, I've had too many operations, never contemplated it. Once I did some 10kms as a vet and struggled with running even at this distance. Why do non-runners assume that all runners run marathons? The layman's perception is that all runners are marathon runners. Many good runners never run marathons and that is because it requires so much training. I wouldn't do something that I hadn't trained for properly.

WO. You've been Chair of development for a few years now. What have been your most satisfying achievements in this role?

PB. Getting the Parents Council up and running because it was instrumental in fundraising; organising Development Day, recruiting parents to get involved in roles in the club.

WO. In your presidential year what are your main aims and objectives?

PB. As president, one of the biggest things this year concerns the proposed and potential move to Norman Park. I would like to assist in that as much as I can and I am meeting a member of Bromley Council next week for a YDL match to talk about the importance of athletics in the Borough for children, to secure the future of athletics in the borough. The more I do will justify my time as president. We have the facilities to develop and allow athletes to get the most out of their potential.

Also of course I so have an aim to promote inclusiveness in the club for those who think they don't fit in to the establishment which again I feel anticipates your next question!

WO. Being the first black president are you concerned that ethnic minority athletes are limited in their role/status in the club?

PB. You know it's funny sitting here. You look around this room and I am the only black person here but then go to the track the evening during the week and you see lots of black athletes and coaches such as Clem Leon and Jay Galley. There is more diversity there and everyone is coming together in one location, and the aim is to get athletes back into the club as coaches and team managers regardless of their colour, and retain them as athletes beyond the ages of 30 and even 40.

WO. At the AGM you made a humorous reference to Barack Obama. Do you see any similarities between him and yourself? (Use of the phrase Yes We Can)

PB. I identify strongly with Barack Obama and what he stood for although not necessarily him as a person. I like what he stood for which was openness, fairness, democracy and meritocracy, albeit in a much smaller setting but it can be adapted to that setting. I too would like to champion these causes.

But above all these values I would like to promote inclusiveness and that means the encouragement and retention of black athletes to play a positive and fulfilling role in the club.

WO. Well I think that covers everything and many thanks.

W:ilf Orton

The New Vice Presidents for 2018

Outgoing President Nick Brooks has seen fit to create two new vice presidents, both well known as coaches and for whom this award is not before time.

Clem Leon

He has been with Blackheath and Bromley Harriers since 1986, when he started so that he could run long distance and do the London Marathon. He has since then done 20 marathons, 18 London and 2 New York, of which on one of them he raised £10,000 for MacMillan nurses. He has also been an ever present member of the registration team at the Excel Centre (and other venues) working on the chip registration counter and help desk.

Having been convinced by Past President John Robinson to

start track and field and he has competed for the club in the masters in the 40, 50 and 60 plus age group for the Kent League and he also competes both in the UK and abroad with the British Masters for Team GB. In 2008 he emerged as an all round athlete in jumps and sprints winning medals at the Southern Masters. He has won gold at the British master's Championships (Javelin), and set a new record at the Triple Jump at the Southern Counties Vets League in 2010.

That year he made his debut in the Decathlon and in 2011 was

British Masters M55 Decathlon Champion, following up with a further medal in 2012. However he has also competed at the grass routes level, turning up and competing in the Parris Handicap. In recent years he was joint winner in 2012 (closing a 17 point gap to share the shield), outright winner in 2013, and still finishing 3rd in 2014.

He is an athletic coach level 3 at Norman Park on Monday and Wednesdays where he coaches sprinting for young people aged 14 years and upwards.

Nick Brooks

Jay Galley

He started running in junior school, initially as a sprinter. As he got older he graduated to longer distances, discovering a talent for winning local and school cross country events. As a teenager he left the sport to take up boxing which he did for a number of years.

In 1983 he returned to athletics running middle distance and doing very well winning medals at regional, southern, and national levels running for Herne Hill Harriers from 5000 metres to Marathon.

In 2003 with young children who had taken to the sport he took up coaching to help with their progression that quickly grew into a passion, gaining level 1 and level 2 club coach

awards and in 2007 he gained a UKA level 3 performance coaching licence, progressing to coaching in a local school, then joined Blackheath & Bromley coaching his daughters, his training group soon grew and is currently 32. Jay has had some fantastic results with athletes winning medals at county, southern, national and English schools and was awarded Bromley coach of the year in 2013.

He spends most of his time volunteering for the club when not coaching, travelling with the young athletes' teams on domestic and foreign competitions taking care of them as if they were his own (those who have travelled will know what I mean). He also takes the pictures at competitions for our club website and for the last

10 years he has managed the Bromley teams for the London Youth Games and the Mini Marathon.

Jay coaches because "I believe I have something to give back to athletics with over forty years' experience of running, vision and enthusiasm. I see myself as a facilitator, and will go as far as an athlete wants, if they want to go all the way. I feel I'm in the best club to give them that support with the network and experience we have."

For him athletics is all about personal achievement and "helps overcome personal fears and gives self discipline, confidence, improved health, well being and fellowship".

Nick Brooks

Senior Men's...

Winter Season Report 2017/18

Many performances characterised the entire season as teams were made available at almost everything entered, the seniors competed with bloody minded determination and a willingness to get stuck in regardless of the weather, opposition or logistical problems. The senior men keep on running.

The Winter Season was kicked off with the traditional curtain raiser the Will Bolton Memorial Relays, featuring some unusually cold and wet weather to set the tone for the rest of the season. The senior men produced four complete teams and one incomplete one that busted a bit of rust after the summer and set matters up nicely for the longer contests ahead.

The first big challenge emerged a mere week later in the shape of the Southern 6 Stage Relays in the conveniently local location of Crystal Palace Park. After trips to more distant locations in previous years, the team managers were hopeful of a big turnout and they were not disappointed as an impressive 24 men answered the call, giving Blackheath its best representation in years through three complete teams, one vets team and one incomplete team. The A team, led by the third fastest leg of the day from Phil Sesemann, ran strongly throughout and managed 15th to comfortably qualify for the National 6 Stage Relays. They were backed up by the B team in 49th and the C team in 69th out of the 88 complete teams, blooding everyone nicely for the cross country season.



The lead group setting off with the hope of victory in the Ranelagh Mob Match.

This did not emerge immediately, however, as a select group of athletes towed the line for the National 6 Stage Road Relays at its spiritual home of Sutton Park in the first test of the season against the country's best teams. Sesemann improved from Crystal Palace to win the opening leg in the second fastest time of the day, but it was not possible to maintain this and the team wound up 38th out of 82 complete teams.

The pace of the season really picked up after this with the first Kent League the following weekend at Stanhill Farm. 15 Heathens ran, and, in a trend that was to continue throughout the season, the 4 to score and 12 to score teams were both fourth in the team standings. A crack team of four then took on gale force winds in the shadow of HMP Wormwood Scrubs at the Southern XC Relays to place 21st out of 44 complete teams in this fledgling event. Focus returned to the Kent League the following week at the always gruelling Somerhill School in

Tonbridge. 16 club men fought rolling hills in high temperatures to deliver two more fourth place finishes in the different scoring categories.

The following weekend the focus changed to the final national competition of the year in the shape of the National Cross Country Relays in Mansfield. Will Fuller got the team off to a strong start in 15th followed by each of the team managers to produce another finish in the 30s, 33rd out of a mammoth 179 complete teams, as two other club members stewarding youngsters ran as an incomplete team.

Focus returned to domestic matters the following weekend on the third leg of the Kent League at Footscray Meadows with an ultra-consistent fourth in both the four and 12 to score categories once again, backed up by another high turnout of 14. The team was divided by a fixture clash the following week, however, as some took on the first mob match against Orion

Harriers in Chingford whilst the others headed to Parliament Hill for the London XC Championships. Blackheath were sadly unable to win the away match in darkest Essex and injuries and illnesses deprived the team of a full scoring complement in North London. This was not to be repeated the following week at the South of the Thames 5 mile XC in Beckenham as a scoring quartet snuck into the top half in 19th out of 40 teams to round off the calendar year.

Scarcely had the fireworks stopped ringing out when the first major test of the year began in the form of the Kent XC Championships. On a bitterly cold day at Brands Hatch 12 men battled the winds on the exposed course for yet another fourth place finish in the six to score category.

After the disappointment of defeat to Beckenham in the mob match in our own backyard, a hardy few braved a near-logistical nightmare and driving rain to take on the best of the South of England in the SEAA XC Championships. On the gruelling 15km course the scoring six defied all of the problems in the build up to come 17th out of 55 teams.

A day of reckoning was to arrive at the next race: the final Kent League at Sparrows Den. Blackheath consigned the long run of fourth places to the past with a win in the four to score category and third in the 12, giving us third overall in the former and



The leading senior athletes...enough for a footie team.

fourth in the latter, to cap off a good few months charging through the garden of England.

The team was brought back down to earth with another mob match defeat to Ranelagh in Richmond, but, with the National XC on the horizon, the climax of the season was on everyone's mind. This was evidenced by a strong turnout as 21 Heathens decked themselves in mud amongst the staggering 2328 finishers in the senior men's race at Parliament Hill to collectively deliver a fine performance to cap the main cross country season in style. Fine runs from Ross Braden and Will Ruiz led the scoring six home in 25th out of 162 teams.

Possibly because of the fine collective effort in the National the final mob match was under resourced against South London Harriers and they retained the trophy despite coming to Hayes.

The end of the cross country season didn't mean the end of the winter team's challenge,

however, as the regional and national 12 stage relays loomed in the run-up to Easter. The biggest challenge was getting 12 men to commit to two races away from home within three weeks of each other. A desperate scramble created a team for the Southern qualifying of the mass relay, but the beast from the east made the whole effort moot. Fortunately, Blackheath were invited to the National Road Relays anyway and responded with its best performance in years. Consistently strong runs from each of the 12 gave a strong finishing position of 32nd. This final performance summed up the entire season as we got a team out at almost everything we entered, all characterised by bloody minded determination and a willingness to get stuck in regardless of the weather, opposition or logistical problems. Long may it continue!

Dan Kennedy

Senior Women 2017/2018

Kent XC League

It was a difficult year this year trying to get the numbers to compete for the senior women but as always somehow we managed to always have a minimum of 6 to score for every race and although overall was not as successful as previous years we still held our own and produced a strong field. After the final events as a team we came 3rd in the 3 to score and 3rd in the 6th to score. Jane Bradshaw had a fantastic season and ran in every race therefore being rewarded with a silver in the V45 category and a very impressive 10th in the masters.

Event 1 – Stanhill Farm

A fantastic start with Jo Hickmanne-Dunne in an outstanding 1st place.

Jo Hickmanne-Dunne 1st, Amy Leach 12th, Lucy Elms (Debut run 15th, sadly a non counter as waiting for the membership to complete) Jane Bradshaw 22nd, Sara Elmqvist 35th – 3 to score: Jennifer Neal 59th Donelle Yapp 103rd – 6 to score.

3rd in 3 to score and 4th in 6 to score.

Event 2 – Somerhill Park

Niamh Bridson-Hubbard 3rd-Lucy Elms (15th as a non-scorer) Amy Leach 19th, Yasmin Austridge 24th – 3 to score: Jane Bradshaw 35th, Sara Elmqvist 43rd, Genevieve Allen 48th, – 6 to score Jenny Tomei 87th, Donelle Yapp 88th, Edwina Cheng 112th (debut race).

4th in 3 to score and 3rd in 6 to score.



The senior seven sisters at Sparrows Den for the Kent League.

Event 3 – Danson Park

Elaine Rayner 2nd, Amy Leach 6th, Lucy Elms 15th – 3 to score: Jane Bradshaw 29th, Sara Elmqvist 32nd, Jennifer Neal 44th – 6 to score: Edwina Cheng 105th.

2nd in 3 to score and 2nd in 6 to score.

Event 4

No Senior women team competed.

Event 5 – Sparrows Den

Carlotta Weitzel 6th, Amy Leach 7th, Yasmin Austridge 9th – 3 to score: Jane Bradshaw 24th, Jennie Butler 39th, Jennifer Neal 54th – 6 to score: Edwina Cheng 75th.

SEAA Road Relays – Crystal Palace 24th September 2017

We had 2 full teams at Crystal Palace and a reserve. The club certainly held their own with our A Team coming in an impressive 13th place which was amazing. In leg order the A Team consisted of: Carolyn Plateau-Johnson 12.59;

Elaine Rayner 13.21; Amy Leach 14.30; Niamh Bridson-Hubbard 12.58.

The B team also ran very strongly coming in 71s. The team consisted of: Lorna Clowes 15.32; Jane Bradshaw 14.57; Yasmin Austridge no time recorded Carlotta Weitzel no time recorded Donelle Yapp 17.06.

National Road 4/6 Road Relays - Sutton Coldfield

The senior ladies very nearly had two teams. After managing 2 teams at Crystal Palace, things were looking promising for our future with more under 20's now being able to run as senior women and other faster women making themselves available. Our A team come in a very credible 18th out of 86 teams.

Jo Hickmanne-Dunne led us off giving us a flying start in a very impressive time of 15.03, handing over to Niamh Bridson-Hubbard who kept the momentum going with a more than respectable 15.36.

(Not bad for somebody feeling under par!). Niamh then passed to Amy Leach who put in a gutsy run, 17.04 despite also not feeling her best who then finally passed to Jessica Keene who kept the consistency going with a very impressive 15.24 to help us finish 18.

Our B team also had some excellent runs with Yasmin Austridge on our first leg, who also would have been just at home in our A team put in a very decent time of 16.33, who passed to Jenny Neal (me) who actually due to lack of fitness was only ever supposed to run



Edwina Cheng in her debut race in the Kent League.

as a reserve. However, I put myself out there and scraped by in 19.24. I then passed over to Jane Bradshaw who did herself proud and ran 17.52 for our last leg. Unfortunately we did not have a 4th runner for the B Team.

Kent XC Champs – Brands Hatch 6th January 2018

Both Amber Reed and Kate Curran ran in this but unfortunately, we could not muster up a full team. Both ran very strongly with Amber running a time of 35.03 and Kate running 35.38 for a distance of 8.45 kilometers (5.25 miles)

National XC Parliament Hill – 24th February 2018

Sadly again a low turn out from the SW. Amber Reed and Lorna Clowes flew the flag for Blackheath and Bromley though having excellent runs. Distance was 8k (4.97 miles). Amber Reed 241st in 36.26, Lorna Clowes 260th in 36.45 There were 1100 runners so they both did superbly.

London Marathon

Congratulations to all that ran the hottest London Marathon on record that a lot of people did not manage to complete. We had a few ladies running this year and some were debut marathon distance runs.

Jennifer Neal 3:41:50; Jane Bradshaw 3:57:39; Zoe Kingsmell 4:09:13; Tracey Ashenden 4:17:55; Isobel Harrington 5:34:10.



Jane Bradshaw ever present all season being awarded a silver medal in the V45 category.

Finally a fantastic well done to all those that won Club Championship Awards:

5 mile xc Yasmin Austridge 7.5 mile xc Jane Bradshaw 10 mile xc Amy Leach.

A special mention also to Jane Bradshaw who ran all 9 events in the Bennett Cup and Amy Leach who I believe was first lady home in most of the Bennett Cup races.

Thank you to all the senior ladies and vets for your input over the last season. Everybody counts and has been fun being team manager.

Jennifer Neal

The Under 20s Over The Country

2017-2018

Always considered one thing or another, whether the most mature of the young athletes or mature and strong enough to run with the 'adults' the Under 20s are a category unto themselves in the summer. They do however come under the umbrella of Paul Austridge who covers all forms of young athlete, but can be as versatile and independent as the circumstances allow. Their presence in different levels does of course provide encouraging signs for the future of the club and the anticipation of a healthy reservoir of talent to draw on in coming years.

Running in senior races

Yet again the U20s find themselves having to compete outside their own category in some events and, as seniors in waiting often have to step up to the full level. In the National road relays there was no U20 race at this Championship so it was great to see First year U20 Lewis Mills making the senior mens first team, considering he was still running as an U17 last year. In fact looking at our senior first team, most of them have come through the junior ranks and it's encouraging to see the team made up of relative youngsters (all in their 20's). GB international Will Fuller ran the relays as an U17 only 4 years ago and was 9th fastest on his leg this year. Birmingham University legend / XC captain Will Ruiz raced at Sutton Park as a U17 only 6 years ago. GB international Phil Sesemann

and lead off man for the seniors also competed at these relays for BB as an U20, only 7 years ago and Phil recorded the second fastest time of the day this year, a fantastic statistic (and run!). In the seniors ladies teams we also had U20's racing, encouraging for the future and in a few short years we may well see our current crop of youngsters racing in our senior teams.

At Somerhill in the second Race of the Kent League season Blackheath had no representatives in the U20 races as our U20's chose to race in the longer senior races. Jess Keene extended her run of great form winning her first senior Kent league race looking comfortable all the way around the 5k circuit. Kelsey Fuss looked good finishing 19th as did Sam Leighton in 40th and Joanna Clowes in 42nd.

In the senior men's race Richard Webb used his study break from Cardiff University well finishing high up in 12th, Charlie Davis excelled at the senior distance of 10k and crossed the line in solid 20th. Thomas Desborough was a great 37th and fellow U20 James Crawley was a good 67th and Scott Bulmer in 182th completed the U20 squad.

Medal winners

When the athletes did compete at U20 level they showed their ability as at the National cross country relays. The U20 women enjoyed medal success winning a fine team silver with their B team finishing a good

14th. The A string were led by Birmingham University student Jess Keene (4th fastest leg), Katie Anne McDonald on leg 2 (fastest leg of the day) and Cambridge University student Niamh Bridson Hubbard (4th fastest leg).

At the Kent xc champs the U20 women also secured team silver medals with all three of our girls tightly bunched with Jess Keene in 5th, Lottie Weitzel 6th, and Lucy Elms in 7th and the U20 men matched the girls also winning team silver for their efforts. Lewis Mills brought the team home in 5th, with Charlie Davis 12th, Joss Barber 13th and Oscar Hussey 14th.

The U20 women were unable to field a scoring team last year at the Nat xc champs but well and truly made up for it this year as they combined to win a fantastic team bronze. Strong runs from newly crowned senior England International Jess Keene in 13th, Niamh Bridson Hubbard in 17th, Yasmin Austridge in 30th, Amy Leach 79th and Lucy Elms in her first National, 93rd secured the 3rd place finish.

Another piece of silverware was secured in Kent League at Danson Park (Race 4); U20 Lewis Mills had a great race coming 2nd and adding this to his previous Kent league series placings of 1st, 2nd and 3rd, rightly secured him firmly at the top of the individual league, collecting a handsome trophy for his efforts. Oscar Hussey is a regular at the Kent league

and his great form helped him to secure 3rd in the table and collect the bronze trophy. The U20 men's team were 3rd overall for the season.

Home from university

The performances and potential of U20 teams have in the past been undermined by the fact that many team members are at university with the consequent demands on time that this places on them. Yet there seems to have been an encouraging trend in the students still being available and wanting to compete for the club. Students in the past were criticised for not forging enough links with their campuses by going home at the weekend, but these days they are providing a real presence when needed in a variety of competitions.

In the National cross country relays Charlie Davis who despite being a fresher at Birmingham University ran a superb leg consolidating 12th. It was great to have Marco Arcuri back in the fold as he made the long trip down from Durham University to lead off the incomplete B team posting a very quick time. It certainly is a comfort to Paul Austridge to see these 'uni' boys all fit and well and putting in some terrific performances.

Richard Webb as mentioned already used his study break from Cardiff University well finishing high up in 12th, in a Kent League match. In the National cross country relays two of the medal winning team

came down their respective universities, from Birmingham University (Jess Keene,) and Cambridge University (Niamh Bridson Hubbard), both taking time out from their studies and other activities.

Finally it was great to have Marco Arcuri back in the fold as he made the long trip down from Durham University to lead off the incomplete B team in the National cross country relays posting a very quick time.

Individual efforts

As always there have been some fine individual and team efforts. In the National cross country relays the U20 men were the most successful male age group of the day combining well to record a fantastic 12th place finish. Joss Barber, running the 10th fastest leg of the day, got the team off to a great start. Lewis Mills continued the great work recording his fastest time at Mansfield, passing over to Charlie Davis, who ran a superb leg consolidating 12th.

There were also some fine examples in the Kent League. At Stanhill in October our U20's also had a successful day with a team win for the boys and an individual win for Genny Allen in the girls' race. Lewis Mills showed good form placing 2nd, with Oscar Hussey 4th and Finlay Brannan on his first winter outing in 5th. At Foots Cray in November with only two BBHAC competitors in both the mens and womens U20's race, we had no scoring team

but that took nothing away from great victories by Lewis Mills and Lottie Weitzel. Lewis was well backed up by Oscar Hussey having another great run in 2nd and Lucy Elms placed high up in 4th in the women's race.

Finally the U20 men gave us one of the best individual club performances of the National Cross Country Championships when Charlie Davis powered around the 10k course with relative ease, finishing a fantastic 11th, his highest National finish. Charlie showed great promise as a year 7 boy by winning the Kent Schools, but has been dogged by injury, illness and other distractions but University life clearly suits as he has found his running feet again. Charlie's form can never be predicted as he reminded us that he was 12th in the Kent XC champs in January and 11th in the Nationals in February, being 1st Kent athlete home! Oscar Hussey continued his fine winter form placing 127th and good to have former winter boys team captain Marco Arcuri back with the team and finishing 153rd. Lewis Mills negotiated the first hill really well but was then caught up as two athletes in front fell, ripping off Lewis' spike and sock. Despite trying to continue Lewis had no alternative but to pull out, a real shame as I'm sure Lewis would have had a great run. With only three finishers no team score was recorded.

Paul Austridge (ed. Wilf Orton)

Young athletes Kent League Cross Country 2017/18

Race 1: Stanhill 14 October 2017

Summer has been extended and glorious sunshine welcomed the opening fixture of the 2017 winter Kent league cross country series. The recent weather has helped the Stanhill farm paths to become dry, hard and dusty, a far cry from our normal muddy courses. However, the conditions and relatively flat course did create an opportunity for some fast running and Blackheath and Bromley HAC were in the thick of the action gaining 3 individual wins, 7 placed in the top three and 3 team wins.

First victory of the day came in the form of the U13 boys squad who comfortably won the 3 to score team race. A great effort from Ben Campbell had him rewarded with a fine 3rd, backed up by a solid 6th from George Shaw and another gutsy run from Jamie Sears in 8th. Multi eventer Ollie Robertson put in a great shift placing a terrific 10th and Max Gregson did very well to finish 13th despite suffering with a calf injury. We have great strength in depth with Jake Anthony in 34th, Arthur Starvis on his cross country debut in 45th and Josh Buddle Smith in 61st. Another making his first competitive appearance for the club was Ted Marston finishing 68th and also great to see George Catton making his club debut in 79th.

The U13 girls placed third as a team made up by a real gutsy run from Hannah Clark in 8th, Lily Meers just behind in 9th

and biathlete Amelia Middleton in 14th.

The U15 boys had ten running and the team placed 5th in a very competitive age group. A great run from Sam Reardon pushing hard on the second lap placing 7th. Freddy Georgiou was a solid 19th with Justin Strover not far behind in 23rd. Another young athlete making his debut was Jean Sammut and an impressive start to his club career saw him a fine 33rd. Will Andrews finished strong in 40th, Bailey Marks one place back in 41st, Jake Leng in 48th and Harvey Blanden next up in 49th. Nick Paddington was 59th and Alex Sibley 64th.

The U15 girls had the biggest squad of the day and were the most successful, comfortably winning the team race and having three athletes in the top 5, very impressive. Morgan Squibb looked dominant winning and great to see Ellie Dolby and Jess Neal back to their best in 2nd and 5th place respectively.

The U17 boys had great numbers running and were unlucky not to beat arch rivals Tonbridge AC in the club race finishing just two points behind them. Triathlete Michael Eagling showed good form powering his way to 7th backed up by great runs from Matthew Francis in 9th and gutsy Peter Guy in 10th. Callum Myatt ran another great race placing 12th, Ben Gardiner was 16th and pleasing to see Joe Georgiadis running again and finishing well in 21st. Charlie Andrews ran a good 23rd,

Angus Harrington was 24th and on his BBHAC debut Theo Wood did well crossing the line in 40th. Also great to have Seb Large back in the team and brought the squad home in 60th.

The U17 girls had a brilliant day winning the team race with fine runs from Millie Smith in 3rd, Lily Tappenden in 4th and Jess Sellar in 11th. Great to see Gracie Horton in 20th and Charlotte Faries in 27th both regulars at training and now competing.

BBHAC final victory of the day came in the senior women race and it was fantastic to see Jo Hickman-Dunne win in some style in her BBHAC cross country debut.

Many thanks go to Sally Smith and Jenny Leng who kindly helped out with the race recording in the finishing funnel, after a cry for help from the league organisers.

Race 2: Somerhill, Tonbridge 28 October 2017

The magnificent buildings and grounds of Somerhill school, Tonbridge were once again the backdrop for the 2nd fixture of the Kent league cross country series and the perfectly and precisely marked out course witnessed some great racing.

The girl's reign supreme, now sitting at the top of the league in all the age groups that they contest. The boy's numbers are huge and their collected efforts leave them second in the U13 and 17 age-groups and 4th in

the U15's behind a very strong Tonbridge AC.

The U13 girls got proceedings off to a winning start with Ellie Dolby dominating and winning comfortably by 14 seconds. Daniella Harper had a superb run finishing 4th and young Lily Meers had her best run to date crossing the line in an impressive 6th to help win the team race. Strong back up from Mayaan Radus in 9th then three in a row with Amelia Middleton 16th, Amarisa Sibley 17th and Olivia Berry 18th. Ella Smith was 20th, Heidi Forsyth 24th, Kelsey Pullin 29th, Hannah Clark 39th, Isabella Louth 41st and Amelie Willars 57th completed the strong squad.

Sam Reardon and Tom Brash then led the BBHAC U13 boy's contingent home with strong runs in 4th and 6th respectively. Ben Campbell continues to impress finishing in a great 12th helping to secure second team position. Tom Penlington was a strong 16th, Max Gregson 20th, Matt Smith 22nd and making a fantastic debut was 11-year-old Jamie Sears looking comfortable finishing 28th. Great back up from Oliver Robertson 31st, Will Andrews 36th, Jake Anthony 39th and Adam Parkinson in 42nd. Barnaby Corry in his first cross-country run of the season was 49th, 11 year old Oles Chaban 53rd and Nick Paddington 58th rounded off an impressive number of U13 boys.

The U15 girls were also victorious with Lia Radus winning, coming out on top of the

battle with the Thanet RR girl. Morgan Squibb, (possibly still jet lagged from her USA travels where she competed for Great Britain and finished 5th in the World Biathle (run-swim-run) Championships) did well to finish high up in 5th and Amy Miller had a very strong run finishing 7th to complete the three to score team win. Zoe White continues her great season with a fine 14th place finish, Lily Tappenden 16th, Niamh Milmo 19th, Isabelle Bridge 23rd, Emily Davis 25th and Abigail Leeves 27th completed the strong U15 squad.

Twelve U15 boys toed the line for BB for their 4K race and Rowan Fuss came out on top finishing a great 6th. Peter Guy, despite falling on a tight bend, did well ending up 17th and Ben Gardiner in 23rd completed the three to score result of 4th place. Robert Suckling was 24th and Cameron Swatton was 26th, Keir Lundy 37th, Justin Stroker 38th, Luke Simpson 47th, and a great run from Charles Winton in 53rd. Seb Large was 59th with Ethan Kitteridge 61st and Jake Leng 63rd rounded off the large U15 boys squad.

Only four U17 girls made up the BBHAC squad but they were strong enough to win the team race. A strong performance from Millie Smith, despite losing a shoe in warm up, saw her finish an impressive 3rd. A great run from Grace Scopes placing 7th with Yasmin Austridge 8th and Amy Leach 12th completing the squad results.

The U17 boys finished a good second in the team competition after a great performance from Lewis Mills finishing 4th. Callum Myatt was a strong 13th and Oscar Hussey did superbly finishing 15th despite only just making the start line in time after a horrendous journey from France that left him with only minutes to spare! Charlie Andrews was a solid 22nd and Coleman Corry on his first winter outing this season was 35th and Chris Swinfen completed the squad in 43rd.

Race 3: Foots Cray 11th November 2017

Round three of the Kent league cross country series took place at the seldom used Fooths Cray Meadow and once the exact course was established, it turned out to be quite a fast, relatively interesting and flattish circuit but a great one for the spectators.

BBHAC U15 boys and girls dominated the individual and team races, comfortably winning both. Oliver Bright, fresh from last weekends fast National cross country relay leg, looked controlled and strong throughout the 4.1k lap, pulling away near the finish to record his 2nd Kent league victory and earned himself an automatic Kent vest, in the up coming inter counties. Tom Brash had another great run gaining one extra place higher than the last Kent league, placing 6th and Pablo Seema Roca, in only his second competitive club run crossed the line in an impressive 10th, helping the boys secure the 'three to

Continued

score' victory. Justin Strover backed the team up well with a strong run in 17th, with Will Andrews having another good run in 23rd. Harvey Blanden had his best of the season so far placing 30th just in front Jean Sammut in 31st. Bailey Marks finished in 38th but gave it a real go going off hard, but just faded slightly towards the end of the race. The U15 boys victory now places them 3 match points behind joint leaders Tonbridge AC and Medway and Maidstone AC.

Morgan Squibb made it a hat trick of wins leading home a very strong U15 girls squad of 13 girls, who had six of them placed in the top eight, a very impressive statistic. Amy Miller ran superbly over the country finishing 3rd just in front of in form Ellie Dolby and Jess Neal in 4th and 5th respectively. Zoe White looked strong finishing 7th and Olivia Berry continues her great Kent league campaign crossing the line in 8th. This great team result, a third win in a row must surely be enough to see them crowned Kent Champions at the final fixture on 25th November.

The U13 boys squad of nine collectively were a fantastic second behind a strong Invicta East Kent AC team. George Shaw had a brilliant run finishing 5th as did Max Gregson just behind in 6th. Ben Campbell worked hard placing 12th with Oliver Robertson not far behind in 14th. Sam Stuart motored towards the finish with a pleasing 20th. Oles Chaban continues his

comeback placing well in 32nd just in front of Jake Anthony, sporting a plaster cast on his broken wrist in 33rd, (it takes a lot to stop our youngsters running). Good to see Josh Buddle Smith racing and finishing well in 57th just ahead of Ted Marston who crossed the line in 58th in a big field of 78.

Lily Meers led home the U13 girls charge in 6th place and Hannah Clark in 9th and Amaris Sibley in 16th completed the scoring three, coming 3rd team overall and currently lying third in the league.

Ben Gardiner was first home for BBHAC in the U17 boys in their 5.3k circuit, placing 17th with Callum Myatt breathing down his neck in 18th and Charlie Andrews 22nd, completing the 5th place team score. Cameron Swatton finished well in 24th, Theo Wood 26th, Robert Suckling 40th and Seb Large in 53rd completed our squad. Despite our 5th place result we are still a good 3rd in the league with one fixture remaining.

Our U17 girls were 3rd team on the day with Kelsi Cornish running well finishing 4th, Lily Tappenden 8th and Jess Sellar 16th. With only the Danson Park fixture left, in two weeks time, it is still all to play for as we are currently placed 2nd, just two match points behind Tonbridge AC.

Race 4: Danson Park 25th November 2017

BBHAC young athletes wrapped up the Kent league cross country season at a cold but bright Danson Park, Bexley, running the last of the four fixtures. Many prizes, individual and team were on offer, (including our own "Club Champs") and our athletes finished the day in at least the top three in all team races across the ages and had six athletes in the top three individually.

Morgan Squibb was our stand out athlete, winning all four fixtures convincingly, ultimately leading her U15 girl team mates to win team gold. Ellie Dolby continued her fine season with another very strong 2nd place, winning Ellie the bronze individual trophy. To complete an impressive BBHAC 1, 2, 3 on the day Jess Neal powered home underlining her current fantastic form. Jess' consistent series, in great company, saw her finish a very creditable fourth in the individual table. A very impressive set of results. Such is the U15 girls depth and strength that we filled seven of the top ten spots with great run from Amy Miller in 5th and Zoe White in 8th. Olivia Berry was 9th on the day and having run all four races finished high up the individual table in 5th place. Three more girls completed the full house and had great final league positions with Kelsey Pullin 11th, Niamh Milmo 17th and Ruby Dunkley in 12th.

The U13 boys team finished the day in second place and that secured second team place for the season. Ben Campbell had a terrific run placing a fine 4th, Max Gregson was a great 8th (5th individual overall), Jamie Sears had another determined run placing 12th. Multi eventer Oliver Robertson continues to impress over the country finishing 15th (7th individual overall) and Arthur Starvis had his best run of the season in 24th, as did Oles Chaban in 26th. Jake Anthony, despite a broken wrist and sore heels finished in 38th but his consistency was rewarded with a high 15th in the individual table. Ted Marston has also raced all four and his 57th placing was his highest of the season and his 34th individual placing was well earned.

The U13 girls team ended the season as 3rd Kent club team and the scoring trio were Hannah Clark in 11th (7th individual overall), Cameron Kelly Gordon

13th and Isabella Louth 16th (11th individual overall). Amelie Willars ran all four races and finished 15th in the league table as did walker Abigail Smith, finishing 20th overall.

Lottie Weitzel finished the season in 2nd place overall having won two of the four U20 races.

The U15 boys had a great day finishing as 2nd team but unfortunately this was only good enough for 3rd team overall. Tom Brash had a brilliant run crossing the line in 4th. Justin Strover ran well finishing 15th, just in front of Jake Leng running well in 16th. Three of our U15's have had great seasons completing a full house of runs, ensuring they finished well up the individual table. Will Andrews was rewarded with a fantastic 6th and Bailey Marks and Harvey Blanden in their first competitive season ended up in a fine 9th and 11th place respectively. Pablo Seema Roca

was having a great run but had no choice other than to pull out late on, a real shame for him but Pablo will have plenty more opportunities to shine.

The U17 girls team finished 2nd on the day and overall for the season. Lily Tappenden was a strong 5th but picked up the bronze individual trophy for her season long effort. Kelsi Cornish was a great 7th and Charlotte Faries finished her Kent League series with her best performance to date and was deserving of her 16th place finish in the overall league.

The U17 boys were 4th on the day but managed to hold onto 3rd place for the season. A great run from Callum Myatt in 13th (10th individual over), Ben Gardiner 19th (12th overall), and Michael Eagling 22nd completed the scoring three. Theo Wood finished his league season in 25th, his highest placing and pushed his final individual

CATEGORY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
U13 girls	Hannah Clark	Cameron Kelly Gordon	Isabell Louth
U13 boys	Ben Campbell	Max Gregson	Jamie Sears
U15 girls	Morgan Squibb	Ellie Dolby	Jess Neal
U15 boys	Tom Brash	Justin Strover	Jake Leng
U17 women	Lily Tappenden	Kelsi Cornish	Charlotte Faries
U17 men	Callum Myatt	Ben Gardiner	Michael Eagling

Continued



A trio of Under 15s having won 2nd place at Danson Park

placing up to a creditable 21st. Pleasing to see Joe Georgiadis back running after a series of set backs and he will be pleased with his finish and can now continue to build towards the post Christmas championship races. Charlie Andrews has been having a great season and it was a shame he had to pull out with just a lap to go, but with no lasting damage Charlie can push forward and also prepare for the up coming races.

Within the final Kent League we incorporated our own “Club Championships” and so all our athletes placing BBHAC 1, 2 and 3 were presented with club Gold, Silver and Bronze medals by either coach Andy Frankish or (returning home for a whistle stop visit) everyone’s favourite Marco Arcuri.

Paul Austridge

Young Athletes Relay Event

2017/18

SEAA road Relays Crystal Palace September 24th 2017

Crystal Palace National Sports Centre played host to this winters South of England road relays and with the former iconic stadium looking tired and run down, it was unfortunate that the poor results service seemed to match.

Nearly a week later and the full results are still not available but what we do know is that BBHAC youngsters turned out in great numbers and produced some fine results.

The U15 girls dominated their age group fielding six full teams with the A team winning out right, the B team coming a fantastic 3rd, the C team 13th, D team 30th, E team 36th and the F team 41st, Great numbers. The U17 girls were equally impressive winning, while the B team came 9th. The U13 girls had four teams racing and the A team finished 12th, the B team 30th, C team 33rd and the D team 44th.

The boys numbers weren't as large but the U13 boys led the attack and were a creditable 4th place behind three very strong southern teams. With the boys teams made up of 4 runners all running 3k it was great to see only 7 seconds separated the BB boys times. Max Gregson led off in style, handing over to Jamie Sears who kept up the pace handing to George Shaw who ran BB's quickest leg before Ben Campbell ran well bringing the team home in 4th, just outside the medals.

We were one U13 boy short of making a full B team but this didn't stop the three boys all posting quality runs led out by Oliver Robertson, passing to Oles Chaban and finally to Arthur Starvis making his road relay debut.

The U15 boys were able to put out one complete team and first off was Tom Brash who went off hard passing to Sam Reardon who ran the quickest BB leg. This left Freddy Georgiou to power around the 3K course before handing to Alex Sibley on leg 4 who brought the team home in 25th place.

The U17 boys had six running, making up one and half teams. The A team had Peter Guy on leg 1 passing to Callum Myatt on 2. A slight mishap on the change over saw Ben Gardiner add a few seconds to his time but he got around well setting Matt Francis up nicely for a strong run on leg 4 running the fastest BB 4.5k leg and crossing the line in a fine 12th. Charlie Andrews had a great leg leading out our B team and passed over to debutant Carlos Ohler who had an equally good run.

National Road Relays 7th October 2017

On a lovely autumn day, Sutton Park, Birmingham again hosted the National road relay championships and once again BBHAC young athletes turned up in great numbers and were rewarded with some great team and individual results.

All age groups U13, U15 and U17 boys and girls, each complete a tough 3.8k lap in teams of three.

This year Blackheath and Bromley U15 girls went one better than last year's silver, totally dominating their race from start to finish. Ava White led off in style recording the 3rd fastest time overall, handing over to Naomi Toft, running the 5th quickest leg and final passing to Morgan Squibb to bring the team home for a superb gold. A great team effort and a well deserved victory. The U15g B team also ran brilliantly and the trio of Annie Thomas, Ellie Dolby and Zakia Mossi were well worthy of a fantastic 6th place and 1st B team home, by a long way. The U15 girls are by far our largest group and we had 14 girls running, making up 4 full teams and one incomplete team.

BBHAC U17 girls also combined well to secure a fabulous bronze after three very strong legs from Sophie Hoare on 1, Eloise O'Shaughnessy on 2 and Yasmin Marghini bringing the team home on 3rd leg.

The U13 boys had two complete teams and the A team ran superb legs culminating in a solid 10th place of the 67 complete teams racing. George Shaw, in his first National led off well handing to Ben Campbell who ran a strong leg and passed over to young Jamie Sears who powered his way around the undulating course crossing the line in 10th. The U13 boys B

Continued

team finished 51st and were all making their National road relay debuts and had Oliver Robertson on leg 1, young Oles Chaban on 2 and Jake Anthony on 3.

The U13 girls made up two complete teams and one incomplete team and recorded a 29th and 54th place finish.

The U17 boys and U15 boys teams both suffered time loss at the busy hand over points. A combination of muffled speakers and large numbers meant two of our boys missed their change over and were held back by officials who hadn't seen the incoming runner cross the line. A harsh learning experience but one they will learn from. However, the U17 had two good teams racing and Angus Harrington and Callum Myatt led both teams off (with Callum

running quicker than his last year's 'quick leg') passing on to Peter Guy and Charlie Andrews on leg 2, (Peter running one of the fastest leg 2 of the day). Matthew Francis ran a rapid leg and brought the A team home in a creditable 17th and Ben Gardiner had a strong run crossing the line for the B team in 35th (7th B team).

The U15 boys also had two complete teams competing with the A team made up of Sam Reardon, Freddy Georgiou and Tom Brash finishing 35th and the B team, fielding two new boys making their full BBHAC championship debuts and a regular at the National road relays. Debutant Bailey Marks Belaon on leg 1, regular Nick Paddington on 2 and debutant Harvey Blandon on 3 all enjoyed the experience finishing in 68th in by far the biggest field of the day.

Birmingham is a long way to go, just to run for 15 minutes but all our athletes happily travel, but the task is made so much easier by the fantastic parents, grandparent and family friends we have, who are happy to give up their day to support our youngsters. Special thanks go to Paul and Laura Shaw (George's parents) who borrowed the school minibus and brought $\frac{3}{4}$ of the boys team up to Birmingham. Thanks also to the continued efforts Dave Cordell puts into our club, not least by loading the tent and accessories in his van, unloading, putting up and then 6hrs later doing it all in reverse. (This year more than one club enjoyed the BB tent!). Thanks also to all the parents, coaches and team managers who all help the day run smoothly.

Paul Austridge



A tightly contested leg in the SEAA relays at Crystal Palace

National Cross Country Relays Mansfield 4th November 2017

The National cross country relays were once again held in Berry Hill Park, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, on the superb course that offers everything needed for a great Championships - tough hills, woodlands, mud, grass, fast sections and all this easily accessed by the large numbers of spectators in attendance.

Dave Cordell temporarily came out of retirement to transport the tent up North before securing prime location just down the hill from the start. Fortunately a few of our keen members were also on site early and able to help put the tent up. Many thanks to Dave and all who helped with the tent.

At these Championships we are restricted to only three teams per age group. This probably affects our U15 girls most, due to the large number of U15 athletes we have but this makes competition for the team slots harder but ultimately increases standards as was proved by their unprecedented results. The A team were emphatic winners and the B team were equally impressive coming a very strong 2nd while the C team placed a very creditable 15th. Incredible results. The A team of Ava White, Morgan Squibb and Naomi Toft and the B team of Zakia Mossi, Annie Thomas and Ellie Dolby unsurprisingly all feature high up in the fastest times posted on the day.

The U13 girls teams placed 13th and 32nd.

Twenty one BBHAC boys descended on Mansfield from various locations across the country including Birmingham, Durham, West London, South London and Hayes!

The U17 boys were best represented and the A team finished a high 16th. They were led out by Peter Guy running hard in his usual fashion, handing over to Callum Myatt who negotiated the tough 3k course well, before handing over to Matthew Francis who stormed around the course being rewarded with the 6th fastest time of the day. A great team effort. The B team saw Ben Gardiner continue his fine form on leg 1, finishing high up the field passing to Charlie Andrews who kept the pressure on leaving Cameron Swatton to bring the team home crossing the line in 41st.

Theo Wood and Carlos Ohler had strong runs for the C team but unfortunately we had no third leg runner to complete the team.

The U13 boys finished a creditable 30th with Ben Campbell running a great opening leg passing to Max Gregson who held his own on U13 2k lap, handing to Jamie Sears who ran a good leg for his first run in these championships. Oliver Robertson was our only B team runner but his performance puts him among the U13's best.

Tom Brash ran hard and fast on leg one in the U15 boys race passing to Will Andrews, who ran well posting a time 25 seconds quicker than last year. Will handed to Oliver Bright making his full club debut and Oliver made light work of the course powering around in the second fastest time of the day, with the team finishing 33rd. Bailey Marks and Harvey Blanden both ran well but without a third runner were unable to complete a team.

A great championship and great venue but still at least three hours away on a good journey. So many thanks must go to all the parents who made the huge effort to get our athletes to Berry Hill in plenty of time to prepare and warm up. Special thanks to Sarah Gardiner who had a people carrier full, coach Nigel Stickings, Paul Brash (who even managed a leg in the senior team) and Dan Marks (who also managed a leg in the senior team) who took over 6 hours negotiating Friday traffic!

It was also fabulous to have club President Nick Brooks there supporting all of our athletes and many thanks to Nick's mum for bringing him up (to Mansfield)! Great also to have immediate Past President Bill Foster at the club tent, in his capacity as a club ambassador and the endurance coach at Loughborough University.

Paul Austridge

National Cross Country Championships

24th February 2018

Parliament Hill, North West London played host to this year's National cross country Championships and once again the iconic course lived up to its tough reputation causing difficulties for most of the thousands who dared to run!

Twelve months previously Blackheath and Bromley HAC young athletes arguably had their best National XC Championship in Nottingham 2017 and so this year's Hampstead Heath Championship was always going to be a great challenge.

With large numbers of BB's competing we were bound to have athletes in the thick of the action and with many making their BBHAC debuts let alone their Nationals debuts, the results were excellent.

Individually our athletes were solid but collectively we were impressive, especially our girls as they secured team bronze in three age groups.

Blackheath and Bromley athletes are currently having their, not so fair share of injuries and illness but this made no impact on the 68 BB youngsters who did toe the start line.

The U13 girls had five finish in the top 100 in a field of over 460. Lara Mannes has raced several times at Parliament Hill and this advantage showed as she placed an impressive 13th in her National debut. Imogen Hadley also on her National debut was



Gritty determination in the U15 boys race at the Nationals

strong in 34th with Hanna Clark high up in 56th. Biancamaria Polloni made her National debut a great one placing 80th and Amelia Middleton had one of her best races of the winter finishing inside the top 100 in 98th. Great to see Lily Meers on the come back trail after injury, finishing well in 134th. Cameron Kelly Gordon was 181st, Jade Adbelmoumene was 227th, Isabella Louth 303rd, Amelie Willars 310th and completing the strong squad was Natalia O'Doherty-Veru in 344th. The team won a great bronze, not quite managing the fine gold from last year.

Max Gregson led the U13 boys home, making the top 100 in a great 84th. Next up were three boys making their National debuts, George Shaw was a great 119th, Jamie Sears 142nd and Sam Stuart 310th. Encouraging to see Matt Smith fast improving, having recovered from a nasty ankle injury, racing hard at the end with team mate Jake Anthony, who lost his right spike but carried on regardless,

placing 337th and 338th and clocking the same time. Next home was Archie Whitehead making both his club and National debut, in at the deep end and finishing well in 384th. Ted Marston in his first year of club running was 421st and another double debutant Zach Mathews-Mansour starting his career at the sharp end just behind Ted in 424th, interestingly in front of a further 146 U13 boys as 570 completed the 3k hilly course. Alessio Tutt made a great start to his BBHAC career only to frustratingly lose a shoe early on, having no option but to reluctantly pull out. The team were 17th out of 56 complete teams.

Our U15 girls had great numbers running and were out in force with fourteen girls attempting their challenging 4k course. Naomi Toft led the charge placing a strong 31st, Ellie Dolby next up in a solid 57th backed up by Zoe White in 84th and Jess Neal in 88th. With four to score a great bronze was secured, with 50 completed

teams finishing. Bethany Panton continued her fine season with a 149th finish, Sabrina Mannes was 227th, Holly Sutton Trot 265th and Emily Davis 282nd. Ella Smith ran well crossing the line in 295th just ahead of Kelsey Pullin in 299th. Abigail Leeves finished in 307th, Niamh Milmo was 330th and Ella Deighton making her club and National debut a good 364th in a big field of 464 running Anwen Thomas was moving well near the front of the pack but unfortunately had to pull up during the race.

Oliver Bright had a fantastic run in the U15 boys 4.5k race finishing tantalisingly close to the medals, placing 4th but the highest individual placed BBHAC athlete on the day, a great run by our schools international athlete. Of the ten U15 boys racing for BBHAC, seven were making their National debuts, while three of those were also making their club debut. Joel Rooney making his double debut ran brilliantly, closing in a fine 58th. Freddy Georgiou in his first National placed 215th, and Pablo Seema- Roca inside the top 300 in 294th. Remarkably we had two more boys both inside the top 300 as Jake Leng and Will Andrews battled in out down the home straight with the final result reading Jake 298th and Will 299th. Jacob Wibe on his double debut crossed the line in 350th and Bailey Marks - Bealon 408th with training buddy Harvey Blanden just behind in 412th. Eden Abdelmoumene made his club debut but no official results were recorded.

The team were 14th on the day out of 52 completed teams.

The BBHAC U17 girls were reigning champions from 2017 but came away with 6th this year in a very competed age group. Sophie Hoare had a great run finishing high up in 22nd with Millie Smith well inside the top 100 finishing 71st. Eloise O'Shaughnessy was 102nd and a great run from Jess Sellar saw her 124th and Charlotte Faries in her National debut 230th.

BBHAC U17 boys had a great turn out with nine boys contesting the tough 6k course. First home for BB was Mathew Francis in a very solid 31st, next up was Peter Guy in 132nd and Theo Wood, in his 1st National 143rd. Great to see Prince Reid in his first cross country outing for the club this winter, finish 202nd. Harry Fisher on his BBHAC debut had a good run placing 209th and Carlos Ohler just behind in 220th. Pleasing to

see Charlie Andrews back running after a enforced lay off due to injury, finishing well in 283rd and same goes for Joe Georgiadis who is steadily running himself fit again after an injury break. Ifetobi Salako began his BBHAC career at the highest level finishing the National in 353rd. The team were 17th out of 36 teams.

Many thanks go to Mick Keene and past president Dave Cordell for pitching the tent in the small hours securing what must have been the best team tent spot on the course. Many thanks also to Mike Peel for taking all the great photos already up on our website bandbhac.org.uk

Not only did we have loads of athletes running we also had plenty of parents, grandparents, siblings and past presidents all dotted around the course supporting our athletes, thank you.

Paul Austridge



The Nationals...a tough 6k course which lived up to its reputation

Kent County Cross Country Championships

6th January 2018

Blackheath and Bromley HAC young athletes got 2018 off to a winning start, collecting an impressive medal haul at a very cold Brands Hatch, in the Kent County Cross Country Championships. Over 50 BB's youngsters braved the bitter cold, but dry conditions and finished the day winning two team trophies, two individual golds, one individual bronze and winning team medals in all but one age group.

Our most successful age group was the U15's where we secured comfortable individual victories in both the boys and girls races. Morgan Squibb looked superb winning her 4.1k race with a 14 second cushion over second place and Oliver Bright won the boys 4.4k race with a more modest 5 second gap.

The U15 girls squad have been strong all winter and so winning the team trophy was no surprise. Following Morgan home was Ellie Dolby in a fine 4th place with Zoe White also having a great race, finishing 5th. Showing our strength in depth Jess Neal was a strong 8th, Bethany Panton an impressive 10th and then in close proximity were Ellie Osmond 13th, Olivia Berry 14th, Kelsey Pullin 15th, followed by Ruby Dunkley 20th and Emily Davis 24th.

In the boys race Oliver Bright went two places better than in his only other previous Kent Championships, winning his first Kent County title. Oliver led a big BB squad home and

their collective efforts were good enough to secure team bronze. An impressive run from Pablo Seema Roca in 14th, Sam Reardon, only just back to training, a solid 18th and a fast finishing Freddy Georgiou in 24th completed the scoring four. Jake Leng was a good 31st, Bailey Marks in his first County Championship was 39th, Will Andrews 42nd, Jean Sammut 47th and Nick Paddington 50th.

The U13 boys have a full strength squad but were up against other strong clubs. Towards the end of an exciting race it was clear the team title was being fought between two clubs, as Invicta East Kent AC and BBHAC held all the top 6 places, three a piece Two Invicta lads were pulling clear and BB's young George Shaw pushed on trying to break Invicta's monopoly but the Invicta lads were

too strong and crossed the line in 1st, 2nd and 3rd. George's great effort guaranteed him 4th place just ahead of Max Gregson and Ben Campbell finishing strongly in 5th and 6th. So with Invicta 1,2,3 and BB,4, 5, 6 the fourth runner was all important and how pleased were we to see sprint hurdler Oliver Robertson sprinting for the line, crossing in an impressive 12th place. We had yet to see the fourth Invicta athlete but the BB boys kept coming in, with Jamie Sears having a great run in 25th and Sam Stuart having a strong race placing 34th. Ted Marston looked strong finishing 39th and Jake Anthony did well to finish 57th despite having very sore heels. Oles Chaban was 70th and great to have Matt Smith back in the team after a couple of major set backs and he can now build on this with confidence going forward. In



Individually our athletes have been solid but collectively they were impressive



Cross country championship courses provide authentic challenges for those who dare to run but much encouragement too

the excitement of the race no one had seen the all important fourth Invicta lad cross the line, so a tense wait until the official results were announced. Blackheath U13 boys team had won and comfortably by over 20 points. This just goes to show what strength in depth means and Blackheath boy's U13 squad were more than worthy winners, a fantastic gold effort.

Nine U13 girls toed the line for their 3k race and it was Lily Meers first BB home in a fine 5th place, with Hanna Clark in a strong 9th and Amelia Middleton just behind in a great 10th, completing the three to score team that would later collect their team silver medals. Cameron Kelly Gordon had a fine run in 16th place, Isabella

Louth was a strong 27th, Amelie Willars 31st, Gabby Buddle Smith 33rd, Katie Brash, 36th and Sian Smith 43rd.

U17 boys age group is very competitive and the BB boys will be delighted with their team silver medals especially as we only had a squad of four running on the day. With four to score in U17 race all our boys efforts were rewarded with County silver medals. Matthew Francis led the BB charge placing a fantastic 3rd and also picking up the individual bronze to add to his team medal. Peter Guy ran in his normal determined fashion and placed an impressive 8th whilst Callum Myatt looked good finishing 12th and Theo Wood running in his first County Championship placed 32nd and

made a massive contribution to the teams effort, helping secure silver.

Only two U17 girls racing meant no team prize contested but a great run from Mille Smith placing 7th and Charlotte Faries in 29th. The Kent County Cross Country Championships is a well run event with an excellent results service. Our very own Past President Dave Cordell was race referee and great to have current President Nick Brooks in attendance, supporting all our athletes, along with Past President Mike Peel supporting and taking the great photos we see on our website.

Paul Austridge

English Schools Cross Country Championships

17th March 2018

This years English Schools' Cross Country Championships was held within the historic estate of Temple Newsam, Leeds, West Yorkshire, against the backdrop of the magnificent Tudor - Jacobean mansion, in grounds landscaped by Capability Brown in the 18th century.

With the weather taking another turn for the worse it was looking likely that the Championships may have been called off but then a refreshing message appeared on the English schools website

"The weather forecast is brrr... with strong cold winds bringing maybe only about 20mm of snow...perhaps...no more. This is normal cross country weather in England and the Championships will go ahead as planned. This is your chance to defy the common perception that kids nowadays are deemed to be 'snowflakes'! Turn up. Run. Get cold. Get muddy. Enjoy getting warm again! This is proper cross country."

A brave and ultimately correct decision. The weather was bitterly cold with snow showers, strong winds and the odd spell of wintery sun but the course was great and well marked out. The tough hilly course wound around the grounds taking in sections that were wet and muddy under foot and finished in the shadow of the imposing Temple Newsam mansion. The course was perfect for spectators who could watch all of the races unfold from the high ground.

All forty-six English Counties select their best eight athletes for the honour of being the best in the Country, so the competition is always fierce and the fields large. An impressive twenty-eight Blackheath and Bromley Harriers were selected for their counties and another seven selected as reserves.

First up were the Inter girls (school years 10 and 11), running a 3.8k route.

Sophie Hoare set off hard and was rewarded with a fantastic 17th followed by Ava White running well in 37th just in front of Lucrezia Polloni having a great run crossing the line in an impressive 39th. Next, followed four Andy Frankish coached girls and good to see Morgan Squibb back running again after a short lay off placing 82nd. Zoe White in her first English schools was a fine 115th with Jess Neal a good 171st. Bethany Panton in her first English schools was 212th and Sabrina Mannes finished in 219th.

The Junior boys (school years 8 and 9) ran over a 4.1k course and Sam Reardon (coach Mick Jones) making his English schools debut was BB's only representative and was a respectable 114th. Tom Brash had also been selected but unfortunately had to withdraw a week before the champs having picked up a leg injury.

The Junior girls were up next running 3.1k and BBHAC were well represented having athletes competing for four different counties. Three Phil Kissi girls all competing for London included Naomi Toft who started well and finished a fantastic 14th, Lara Mannes in her English schools debut had a solid run in 50th followed by Anwen Thomas finishing 64th. Kent's Ellie Dolby in her 2nd ESAA Champs was 69th with Hannah Clark and Lily Meers both a year young making their ESAA debuts placing 122nd and 245th respectively. Zakia Mossi representing Middlesex continued her fine English schools career with a great 79th place finish to add to her track and field 800m bronze win in 2017.

Imogen Hadley completed the age group running for Surrey and finishing 254th.

The Inter boys running 5.2k were next to feature and with no Kent based BB athletes it was down to the Nigel Sticking coached trio of London boys Oliver Bright, Matthew Francis and Peter Guy, along with Middlesex Carlos Ohler to fly the flag.

Oliver, no stranger to the English schools having represented them last year when placing 7th earning him his England vest, went off with the pack and ran superbly considering he is a year young in this age group and finishing high up in 16th. Matthew Francis is in great shape and started well but was hampered by a shoe problem



Yasmin Austridge in her final schools cross country race providing her highest ever finish to gain a top ten finish

only to find out later that he had been badly spiked, ruining a new pair of spikes and drawing blood! Despite this Matthew still finished a respectable 109th. Peter Guy ran in a typically determined fashion placing a very good 131st. Carlos has made great strides having only started his running career a few short months ago and should be pleased with his first English Schools experience, placing 274th.

The senior girls (school years 12-13) ran 4.1k and Yasmin Austridge in her sixth and final schools cross country race produced her highest ever finish battling well for a superb top ten finish placing 9th. Lottie Weitzel continued her great season for Kent crossing the line in 112th while Eloise O'Shaughnessy running for London placed 156th.

Coach David Liston had three athletes running in the senior boys 6.8k race. Lewis Mills racing for Kent was just inside the top 100 in 98th. Then Theo Wood, making his schools debut having only just started racing

competitively this winter finishing 141st with Callum Myatt also making his schools debut just behind in 167th.

Two second claim senior boys also had great runs in the form of Ricky Lutakome placing a solid 54th and Aaron Enser 78th.

Paul Austridge

The Bennett Cup Season

2017/18

This season's Bennett Cup was won by Paul Kerekgyato in commanding fashion, maintaining a leading position in the handicap over the rest of the field. Although this was not a one horse race the eventual winner effectively had a clear run towards winning the Bennett Cup, maintaining good form and strengthening his position over the nearest challengers from one event to the next.



Winner of the Bennett Cup – Paul Kerekgyato

There was an initial challenge from Graeme Hollingdale who was narrowly in the lead over Theo Wood after two events, and which was increased in the Orion Mob match over Paul Kerekgyato who moved up to second place.

This race was Paul's favourite event. Looking back on it event he remarked:

"This was a real eye opener...The course, through Epping Forest had everything; uphill's, downhill's, narrow trails and swamps. The cold, wet day, just added to the enjoyment."

This was despite the various challenges encountered on the course particularly that of losing one's running shoes:

"Heading downhill towards this mud bath gave plenty of time to calculate how to avoid this obstacle. Steve Pairman hit the mud first and lost a shoe. I wasn't going to make the same mistake. Skirting around the outside, the right foot sunk straight in and wasn't going to let go, closely followed by the left."

Unfortunately he did lose his at this point. *"Seconds later I was hopping round in my socks. The big lesson of the day was, embrace the mud and go straight through the middle in future."*

Hoping to break the hour in the race he unfortunately finished further down the field than he would have hoped in 1:01.

Paul however reversed the situation and kept his shoes on in the fourth event swapping a

twelve point deficit for a twelve point lead over Hollingdale, this time in a handicap race where Hollingdale's quality and speed placed him well back in the starters of this a yacht handicap, and despite one of the better times on the day earned him he 3rd fewest points. Paul meanwhile took the lead and never lost it.

He continued to build his lead, despite a continued challenge from Hollingdale whose bid eventually faded, and he fell away from the leaders unable to compete in the last four events. Other runners did attempt to make an impression such as Steve Evenden and Jane Bradshaw, and there was a late burst from Ian Swatton who came from behind to take third place at the end of the season.

Meanwhile Paul moved away from the rest of the field, his lead growing from 12 points to 20, then 30, making it unlikely that he would be caught in the last event and thus effectively clinching the cup with one event to go.

This was of course the closing 5 handicap which despite it being now officially spring was run in wintry conditions with snow on the ground along the course and at which the field numbered only 17 runners. This eliminated one of the two only real challengers Dave Beadle who did not run, but favoured Jane Bradshaw whose spirited performance and fast time earned her second place over the whole season.

However Paul ensured that he would finish in style, with the fastest actual time on the day, and allowing him to extend his lead to 38 points, and with it the Bennett Cup for his trophy cabinet.

His total of 442 points was made up of a consistent range of scores ranging from 38 points to 59, and in two events he picked up awards both in 5 mile events, which for a Bennett Cup winner is unusual as a consistent collection of handicap scores is more conducive to attaining a winning score than one with more highs and inevitably lows as well.

During the course of the season the fastest times for various distances were for 10 miles 1.00.02 for the men, run by Dan Kennedy, and 1.13.42 for the women by Amy Leach; for 7 ½ miles 46.06 Dan Kennedy (men) 56.44 Jane Bradshaw (women); 10km 40.30 Alex Gibbins (men) 53.13 Jane Bradshaw (women); 5 miles 30.20 Charlie Andrews, and 31.05 Yasmine Austridge.

The season included the major cross country club championships which for the men were won by Charlie Andrews in the 5 miles, Alex Gibbins in the 10km, Gareth Evans in the 7 ½ miles and Dan Kennedy in the 10 miles. In the ladies championships the winners were Jasmine Austridge in the 5 mile, Jane Bradshaw in the 10km and 7 ½ miles, and Amy Leach in the 10 miles. It was a particularly memorable season for Jane Bradshaw who was highly

placed in most of the ladies' races as well as finishing runner-up in the competition.

As to the statistics of the competition, 96 athletes took part (79 men and boys and 17 women and girls with 266 total performances. The ages of the runners ranged from the oldest 70 (John Fenwick) to the youngest 14 (Bailey Marks, Harvey Blandon and William Andrews). The biggest turnout of Blackheath Harriers of any event was 54 for the Will Bolton Relays with the smallest being 17 for the both SLH Mob Match and the Closing 5 (run in freak snow conditions).

Of those 97 taking part in at least one race 43 were under 40 years old (43% of competitors). Of these runners 26 were under 20 years old, that is over a quarter of all competitors. However it could be argued that of these most, 18 out of 26, ran in only one or two events so perhaps cross country is still not attractive enough amongst the younger members and even less so in the 20s and 30s. However ironically the age range with most participants was the under 20s.

Of the 96 competitors taking part this season only 2 runners did all 9 events and 56 ¼ miles over six months, with a further 5 completing 8 events and more than half the total sum of runners completed no more than 2.

Looking back on the series Paul made the following observations: firstly the 9 races had a huge impact on his fitness and made a noticeable difference to my times across all distances. *"My parkrun PB dropped to 19:04 and I achieved a Parris Handicap PB of 18:57, all thanks to the Bennett Cup Season."*

Secondly he managed to tie all the runs in with his marathon training for London, *"which meant swapping the longer runs for the Bennett cup matches when required."*

Having first met him earlier this year I was struck by his integrity, his modesty and generosity of spirit. Notwithstanding his own sense of achievement he had took time to pay tribute to others be they so humble.

"Running all nine races was easy compared to the job of the marshals and organisers, who stood in the wind, rain and snow throughout the season, making this all possible. Thank you."

Like Mike Sims before him Paul is a relatively newcomer to the club, having shown promise in the Parris handicap in the preceding summer. It still remains an encouraging challenge for those not yet tainted by the Machiavellian calibrations of the handicap.

Wilf Orton

Ladies Vets Reports

W8

We only entered one event for the Ladies vets this year.

2 December 2017 - Kent Masters - Central Park Dartford

Well we all thought our medal days were over (my 14 year old son commenting this morning: "mum, what's it like to know you will never run pbs again?") but we were stunned and delighted to pick up team silver for the V35 (Jane and Jenny dropping down an age category). In conditions that exactly matched last year - sunny, cold and firm underfoot, All 3 of Dave Lis-ton's training group ran course

pbs. First home for B&B and with a 60 second best of 19.21 was Jane Bradshaw, Very closely followed by Sara Elmqvist in 19.37 and Jenny Neal in 20.29.

To add to this result, the V55s achieved bronze with Anne Cilia, Zoe Kingsmill and Lindsey Alger all finishing well. Topping it off was Maz Tuner's individual bronze medal in the V65 category. With a very strong run from Sally Haffenden and backing from Edwina Cheng, it was a shame we couldn't field a full V45 team but there is always next year.

Well done to all and thank you to the support around the course from the male V50s who warmed down in the cold and cheered us on. Thank you to all the senior ladies and vets for your input over the last season. Everybody counts and it has been fun being Team Manager.

Jennifer Neal

BBHAC Cross Country Male Masters Report 2017/18

Further afield BBHAC members were racing in various other meetings. Niamb Bridson Hubbard and Will Fuller were on International duty running for England in Atapuerca, Northern Spain where Niamb finishing 10th and Will 13th in their respective races.

Another successful season for the male vets. At the **National Mens' Masters** in Log Eaton, Derbyshire in October, very consistent race times from our V65 team of Peter Hamilton (13.17), Rob Brown (13.03) and Paul Ross Davis (13.14) saw them win, (and retain!), the event, coming home 24 seconds ahead of Rotherham Harriers.

The Kent Vets championship in December, took place at Dartford, and saw the M60 team also win. The team consisted of Alan Camp (17.26), Rob Brown (19.49) and Peter Hamilton (20.19), coming home over 2 minutes ahead of the second team. At the same event the V50 team also produced a strong team effort. Tim Nash (33.16) Roger Beswick (34.33) and Nigel Haffenden (35.05) saw the team finish second. Tim was our highest placed athlete in 5th.

Although the course consists of laps mainly around football pitches, it is a great place to watch races. This was emphasised in the M40 event where Alex Gibbins had a thrilling race with Julian Rendall of Tonbridge and Ben Hope of Kent AC. Just two seconds separated the three of them, with Alex finishing second to Julian in 29.34.

The vets as always attended the **Club championships and Mob Matches** in numbers. Congratulations to Paul Kerekyato and Ian Swatton who finished 1st and 3rd in the Bennett Cup!

Steve Pairman

Letters to the Editor

Wilf, In response to your email I will try to put something appropriate together on Peter and send to you, probably in the next week or so.

As far as deadlines for publication were concerned, I don't recall any strict requirements, though I think we used to plan on two editions a year. We used to have to badger people quite a lot for input, so I guess nothing has changed in that respect. The main problem was that in those days it was a terribly laborious business going from raw input to the final printed version. Don't forget that this is 50 years ago and long before PCs and desktop publishing software. So it was all cutting and pasting manually with estimates as to how much would fit onto a page after the printers had been through it. There again, because of the modern technology, expectations are now probably much higher in terms of promptness and quality of output. However, from the receiving end, it does not appear that you have any problems – the quality of the product is excellent!

Ian Mackley

Wilf, South of England Cross Country fiasco...

I'm sure you are aware of the issues with the up coming South of England cross country Championships in Brighton, namely to lack of car parking facilities and the reduced train services on the same day.

These once prestigious Championships should be one of the cross country seasons highlights and also act as one of Kent County selection races, however, I fear they may well fall short if the current situation doesn't change.

The SEAA has stated that there will be no car parking anywhere near the course and have made no provision for clubs to gain access to drop off club tents. With the difficulties of getting there (ie. relying on public transport) I'm sorry to say that BBHAC will have no team mangers or club tent at these Championships.

I feel I cannot attend (under these current circumstance) and be responsible for our athletes safety and comfort without the shelter our club tent provides on what could be a cold damp day. This coupled with the fact that many, if not all will then spend many hours travelling back home on public transport, I believe is unacceptable and will make Brighton 2018 a difficult day and not a great experience, (I hope I'm wrong).

We as a club will enter all our athletes who want to run but I must stress that all athletes will need to make their own travel arrangements and that parents will be responsible for their child for the whole day as no BBHAC team mangers will be at Brighton.

With regard to the Kent selection situation the selectors are aware that several clubs are likely not to travel to Brighton and so are making plans for alternative performances to be considered when selecting the Kent National inter counties team.

Any questions or queries please get in touch.

Paul Austridge
BBHAC Boys winter team manger

Norman Park Community Sports and Recreation Facility Business Plans

Update as at March 2018

In recent times there have been significant developments in the ongoing project to move the Club's Headquarters from Bourne Way to Norman Park after it was resolved in 2015 that this would be the way forward. Late in 2016 the steering group managing the project were in conference with an architect about a proposed plan which would deliver a site well equipped to see the club move on into the 21st century, and hopefully generate extra income in forms that the present clubhouse could not.

After this was revised and scaled down the architect together with developers put together another proposal to re-develop the site at Norman Park. There would be certain obstacles to overcome and requirements to fulfil but by the late following winter the prospects of commencing the project were getting brighter. At a meeting of the Trustees on March 5th 2018 the following business plan was proposed

Introduction

One of the key issues in deciding to sell Bourne Way and invest the proceeds in an enhanced sports & recreation facility at Norman Park is to ensure the Club can financially afford to operate and maintain the new facility. We have to ensure we can afford to run the new facilities and generate sufficient funds to cover the substantial periodic maintenance, refurbishment and replacement costs. A detailed business plan and 25 year cash flow forecast

have been prepared to support the proposal and this is outlined below. As negotiations with both the Council, Developer and Purchaser of Bourne Way are ongoing this communication focuses on the major assumptions, approach and conclusions derived from the plan. We will be happy to review the detailed plan with Club members following the meeting with the Architect & Developer on March 15th.

Approach

Moving to a new facility at Norman Park will integrate all the Club's activities into one location and involve merging the Club and Norman Park Track Management's activities. Norman Park Track Management is the company currently running Norman Park on a contract from the Council. It is a company limited by guarantee, i.e. it has no shareholders, and its directors are all club members. It is proposed that it will become a subsidiary of Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC. All figures are based on constant 2018 £'s as it is assumed inflation will impact both costs and revenues equally and an earlier less conservative version of the Business Plan was reviewed and approved by independent consultants on behalf of the Council.)

Annual Income

The business plan is based in taking the financials for the Club (BBHAC), the House & Social Committee (H&S) and Norman Park Track Management (NPTM) for the past 5 years and establishing

a "normalised" income i.e. removing exceptional items of both income and expense. We have consolidated these figures and then identified potential additional costs and savings from one larger facility at Norman Park. We have also built in additional revenue streams from the enhanced facility. Based on this we have derived a forecast annual income and cash flow.

25 Year Cash Flow Projection

As well as maintaining the new facility the Club will also assume responsibility for maintaining the athletics track. The major costs here relate to relining, respraying and replacing the track periodically as well as replacing pole vault and high jump beds plus the shot, discus and hammer cage. Thus we have to ensure that our annual surplus from operating the combined track and sports & recreation facility will cover these periodic costs. We have projected ahead 25 years because this is the life of the track itself. At the end of 25 years we should be in a position to ensure that the track and building are in an "as new" state. (Note: A 25 year projection is just that - a projection - to demonstrate that if everything stays as assumed we are able to cover future cash demands).

Summary of the Business Plan and Cash Flow Forecast

Annual Income

(a) Combining the current annual incomes of BBHAC, H&S and NPTM, less the Council Grant currently received by NPTM, amounts to nearly £20k.

- (b) Additional revenue will derive from
- (i) Greater usage of the bar, catering and kiosk refreshment facilities in the new building. These will be open 5 days per week plus weekends for functions or as needed. This compares to 1 day a week plus occasional weekends for the current clubhouse bar and catering. The plan forecasts net income from these sources will nearly double to just over £30k per annum.
- (ii) New revenue will be generated from letting out various new facilities in the new building. These include physio rooms, the indoor sports hall/track and a number of multi-purpose rooms that can be let for anything from pilates or yoga classes to talks and meetings. For the physio rooms we have an agreement in principle with the Crystal Palace Sports Injury Clinic and have built these figures into the business plan. For the multi purpose rooms we are already in talks with interested parties. Based on these we have calculated the earning potential from these rooms and then conservatively halved it for inclusion in the business plan. We have taken a similarly conservative view on hiring out the indoor sports hall, assuming 10 hours hire a week. Revenue from these sources will generate additional annual income of over £70k.

- (iii) It is also anticipated that we will be able to obtain some donations or sponsorships on naming rights for the new building or individual facilities. Conservatively an additional £5k has been included in the plan.

Additional Costs

- (i) It has conservatively been assumed that there will be few economies in costs resulting from operating the one, new facility at Norman Park compared to operating both the current buildings at Norman Park and Bourne Way.
- (ii) Additional costs amounting to nearly £40k have been included in the business plan to cover additional staffing resulting from longer operating hours and the larger facility, and additional costs for utilities, telephone, cleaning, security and equipment maintenance and replacement.

In so far as the 25 year cash flow forecast is concerned:

Firstly, The following have been built into the 25 year cash flow forecast; secondly the track will need either relining at £10k or completely respraying at £100k every 4 years; thirdly The pole vault and high jump beds, plus the cage for shot etc. will need replacing every 12 to 13 years at a cost of £110k; and finally the track itself will need completely relaying every 25 years at a cost of £260k. This is a conservative assumption as the existing track

has been down for considerably longer than this. (Note: The Council have agreed to relay the track this year at their expense).

In Conclusion

Firstly on the base case, relatively conservative figures, income will cover the periodic track maintenance and replacement costs nearly three times;

Secondly at the end of 50 years the Club would have sufficient funds to buy the equivalent of Bourne Way;

Thirdly If income was only 75% of our conservative projection and the periodic costs were 50% higher we would still have sufficient funds to more than cover these costs;

Fourthly If, in the future, we were able to obtain grants towards major refurbishments such as relaying the track, then an annual income of £25k, only a little more than we are currently earning, would be sufficient to cover future funding.

Fergus Anckorn

10.12.1918 – 22.3.2018

For anyone who read about this man in issue 546/121 in the Summer 2011, this was a story that touches you on all levels and proves that we are not just an athletics club but a true fraternity of highly diverse and talented individuals with some extraordinary stories to tell. This story will encourage and give hope to any who have known despair, and reveals a man who would be stronger than tribulations that beat others down.

This was a most remarkable member of Blackheath Harriers whose story represents the triumph of the human spirit in conditions of complete adversity and despair. He survived death and injury by means which some might attribute to miracle or magic, to pursue a multi faceted life in which the practice of magic would be a not just dominating force but a purpose for living.

He was a life member of the club who joined that Club on 4 October 1954. As a runner he claimed to have run 45,000 miles in the years between 1951 and 1980 which works out at about 30 miles a week. He recalled the names of Alan Brent, Jack Braughton, Sydney Wooderson and Tony Weeks-Pearson. Living in Westerham for many years he mentioned pacing 1948 Olympian Braughton in an event in Westerham on his bike.

He will however be remembered for his wartime experiences, a tale of survival in

extremely trying circumstances and as an accomplished magician. He was a member of the Magic Circle for 81 years and was also an amateur artist. Fergus was born in Sevenoaks on 10 December 1918 and went to Tonbridge School.

In World War Two he was trained as a Gunner and went on to gain several awards and decorations but never achieved officer rank. His posting was to serve in the theatre of war now developing in the Far East in 1942. Via Canada and the USA and many other places he was at sea for three and a half months en route to Singapore. He was on an American Ship about a week prior to the fall of Singapore and apparently it was fatal that there were extremely few English servicemen on Singapore. Thus he and his battalion were left like sacrificial lambs just a few days before the Japanese captured Singapore. 80% of the Allied troops in Singapore were killed.

He was to experience several close escapes. The day after his arrival he was with 9 others in the Docks when they were bombed. 6 managed to get into the shelter. He and three others, for whom there was no room in the shelter, dived into the Sea, passing a sign that said "Danger, Sharks". When they got out of the water after the attack, the shelter had received a direct hit and all 6 inside had been killed. His first escape!

Then while driving a lorry to collect a Gun a day or so later he was bombed and shot at and received some dreadful injuries. He still has a bullet from this attack in his knee. He was also carrying a live shell which exploded and amazingly did him no damage. However, he was left for dead and a fellow soldier took his tags and he was then reported 'missing presumed dead'. He counts himself very lucky to be alive and it seems he was left for dead on more than one occasion. His parents were even informed that he was 'missing presumed dead'. He got engaged just before the War and says that his fiancée turned down 5 offers of marriage while he was away. After the War he met up with the guy who had taken these tags and this ex-colleague really thought he was seeing a ghost and almost died of a heart attack himself.

Over the next few days or maybe weeks he drifted in and out of consciousness but recalls being under fire while being taken to hospital. The Japanese had taken over the Hospital but killed the doctors, nurses and patients before departing. They used bayonets but didn't attack him as he was bleeding so profusely that they either thought he was dead or that they had already seen to him. A further lucky escape. He then recalls the peace and quiet in a Girls School before being taken to a POW camp in which there were 150,000 prisoners. It took him two days crawling on all fours

to find someone he knew. He had very nearly had an arm and a leg removed and had bones protruding through his skin.

Another move took him to Thailand with extreme cold at night and massive heat during the day and dysentery. Many failed to survive the trip. Once there, he became part of the amazing effort to build a railway. Amazing when one considers the language barriers as none of the Japanese spoke English. The only clothing he had for the best part of three and a half years was a loin cloth. In that and still with fearful injuries and disabilities he worked for 18 hours a day. He still has problems with his balance but his right arm and hand was fixed after the War following a chance meeting with the surgeon who had nearly removed it during the War.

He was once badly blistered when a Japanese soldier threw a couple of gallons of creosote over him. His mates washed him in the River and were all killed for their efforts. The prisoners were often put in the firing line by the Japanese and he well remembers the RAF bombing him and the damage done by 5 stray bombs. He was buried by this attack which was followed by incendiaries. Later, in another chance meeting, he met the RAF bomb aimer responsible for another of his lucky escapes. He was one of two people out of 13 to survive this attack.

He also did magic tricks with a decent Japanese soldier who was subsequently killed for fraternization. Fergus speaks several languages including Japanese and French which he mostly picked up while in captivity. The camps had no fences so the inmates were free to roam about at night. They met up with Natives who gave them information about the War but they got the feeling that they were being fed false information or being told what they wanted to hear. They gave up on this source of information when told of what they thought was a cock and bull story about an atomic bomb in Hiroshima.

With 4 others he was also taken out to be shot by machine gun. There was no blindfold but there was a last minute reprieve. They then found out the War had ended 3 days earlier. Despite all that he suffered and the humiliations endured Fergus displayed an astonishing attitude to the Japanese; he didn't hate them, but he hated war and had recurring nightmares about the noise of war and of bombing.

After the war he settled down to life back in Kent and he was a Lecturer at West Kent College. He would move later on to Hassocks in Sussex. Joining the club in 1954 he remained a member for over 50 years, eventually becoming a life member, although not so present in later years. He loved hearing about the Club. Having been

told that Tony Weekes-Pearson had recently been given his 50 years membership award and he immediately said: "I've not had one of those"! PP Mike Martineau took the initiative to trace his whereabouts and discovered his move from Westerham to Hassocks. So, with his new address, said Mike "the Club was able to re-establish contact and John Baldwin visited him and made a belated 50 year presentation later on in 2011".

Mike Martineau would continue to keep in touch and invited him to talk at the club during his own year as club president. "His talk was just amazing. He spoke without notes for over an hour and went on for two and a half hours when he spoke to Oxford University. I have never known an hour go so quickly. It was truly mesmerizing and he could have gone on for more."

The talk mentioned of course his skill as a magician and there are books about him, one called "Surviving by Magic" The title of the book refers to the fact that he is a member of the Inner Magic Circle. The other called 'Conjuror on the Kwai' recalls his skill in trying circumstances in a Japanese POW camp. He tells the famous story of obtaining 50 eggs so he could practice a trick for senior Japanese Officers who were visiting his Camp. These were all distributed to his comrades. He was too skilled to need them and used the opportunity to help his mates.

Continued

Of course he made the big time with his celebrated appearance on 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2016. He appeared with winner Richard Jones who performed magic tricks while telling the story about Fergus. He mentioned that the appearance of Fergus at the Final of that Show kicked off almost as a joke as Richard never expected to make that Final. But when he did, Fergus was delighted to fulfill a promise made. He had his own dressing room which was always full of people listening to his stories and watching him perform his magic.

As a member of the Magic Circle for 81 years, he was their youngest ever member and then eventually their oldest. He regularly attended their Monday night gatherings even up to last December and received a standing ovation on one memorable occasion from the Magic Circle in 2017. Scott Penrose from the Magic Circle performed the 'Broken wand' ceremony where the wand belonging to Fergus was broken (you half expected it to then be miraculously repaired!). Scott also pulled out his mobile phone to read some of the Facebook messages about Fergus. The phone immediately burst into flames when opened! In his later years he continued to be active and to break new ground. In response hearing a comedian stating that all drivers over the age of 70 should be banned, he passed the Institute of Advanced Motoring test

aged over 90. He taught special needs and disabled children at Valence School in Westerham and was very disappointed to have to retire from that at age 65. Words frequently used were "remarkable", "friendship" and "kindness". After his wartime experiences, everything to him in life was a wonder. He touched so many people and even at his deathbed the tools of the Magician's trade were at his bedside. He also went to Japan, accompanied by a Son, and made his peace with that Nation.

He finally died on 22nd March 2018. He was a widower and had two children and four grandchildren. His memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Church in Hurstpierpoint on 16th April and attended by over 200 people, family, friends and admirers. It lasted over 90 minutes, including no less than 8 personal tributes and some excellent music and finished with the 'Last Post', delivered by a member of the Household Cavalry. Blackheath Harriers was mentioned in dispatches and the many prizes he had won at Athletics events. Both his son, Simon, and daughter, Deborah, spoke as did two granddaughters, the writer of his autobiography, a member of the Magic Circle and a member of his Masonic Lodge.

Mike Martineau (ed. Wilf Orton)

Peter James George Baigent

1926 – 2017

Ian Mackley, a club member now living in New Zealand writes:

I have prepared this around my more detailed knowledge of Peter's activities in the period 1961 to 1971 when I was an active member of Blackheath Harriers and living in the UK, and more particularly when I worked closely with him on the Gazette between 1966 and 1971. After we left for New Zealand in 1971 we kept in touch regularly, mainly through Christmas messages and the occasional trip home to the UK when we visited him at his home in Sevenoaks.

Peter Baigent joined Blackheath Harriers in November 1946. As an active athlete he was a “good club level” sprinter and was a member of the club track team until the mid-1960s when he retired from competition. He did return to the track on one notable subsequent occasion when, in his Presidential year, he anchored the BH team to victory in a 50 x 1 mile relay. Having retired from competition, Peter then embarked on 50 years of dedication to the management of club affairs and the affairs of the wider local athletics community.

In 1966, he was appointed Assistant Editor of the BH Gazette to its then editor John Lissiman, and a year later he became Editor, a position he held until 1971. In this capacity he was himself assisted by myself for several years and I have distinct

memories of working with Peter on producing the Gazette

During his time as Editor of the BH Gazette in the late-1960s”, when the publication was very much more basic than it is now, I was his Assistant Editor. We used to gather articles, some typed and some handwritten, and they used to be prepared by the publishers (the Bromley & Kentish Times) as “galley proofs”. Peter and I used to stick these galley proofs onto sheets of paper to make up pages and then take them to the publishers for final preparation and printing. Photos were few because of the processes needed to go through to get them in a printable form. We used to meet at Peter's house, usually on a Sunday afternoon to prepare the Gazette content. We used to spend the first few hours chatting and putting the World to rights (Peter was never lacking for conversation!!) and then get down to work late at night and work through until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning!!

Peter was elected a Vice President in 1966 and elevated to the Presidency in 1971. During his year in office Peter took a keen interest in the management of club properties which resulted in him being appointed a Director of BHHQ Ltd in 1971, and he succeeded PP Laurie Hammill as Chairman in 1988. He remained a Director of BHHQ Ltd until he retired from the position in 2010.

He was a trustee of the Jack Sims Memorial Discretionary Trust, a trust established following the untimely death of PP Jack Sims, a generous benefactor of BH, whilst on holiday trekking in Nepal.

He was often to be seen as a timekeeper at track events, and for some years he had a management role in Norman Park Track Management Ltd.

Professionally, Peter was a mechanical engineer and spent most of his working life with the civil service. I was a civil engineer so we had things in common there. For some of this time, he was working at the Ministry of Defence research centre at Fort Halstead near Sevenoaks. He related on one occasion that his advice was sought on an aspect of the design of the TSR2 supersonic fighter/bomber that was eventually scrapped before it even flew, after millions of pounds had been spent on its development. He also visited the missile testing range at Woomera in Australia.

Peter was a kindly man and a “true club man”, always prepared to give his time and expertise in support of BH and its members. He was married three times, and was twice a widower. He is succeeded by his third wife, Joyce. He had no children..He was an ardent and faithful supporter of everything to do with the Club, and his involvement will, I am sure, be missed.

Ian Mackley

Executive Committee 2017/18**President:**

Nick Brooks

Immediate Past President:

Bill Foster

Chairman of Committee:

John Baldwin PP

Hon Secretary:

Vacant

Hon Treasurer:

David Appleton VP

Chairmen of Active Athletics:

Summer – Tim Soutar PP

Winter – Robert Cliff PP

Chair of Finance:

Stephen Hollingdale PP

Chair of Communications:

Wilf Orton VP

Three Ordinary Members:

Adrian Stocks VP

Daniel Ryan

Maz Turner VP

Chair of Development:

Paul Byfield VP

Sponsorship/Fund Raising:

Vacant

House and Social:

David Cordell

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Rob Brown VP

Track & Field Secretary:

Wendy Daniels

Cross Country Secretary:

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Past Presidents**Existing Past Presidents of Blackheath Harriers AC:**

John R Baldwin (1975/76), Colin M Brand (1978/79),

Brian G Stone (1979/80), Ian C Wilson (1981/82),

Derek L Gregory (1986/87), Alan M Pickering (1992/3),

Steve H Cluney (1994/5), David White (1995/6), Mike J Mahoney (1997/98),

Chris R Haines (1998/99), Richard J Coles (1999/2000),

Mike Davies (2000/01), Mike Peel (2001/02), Pat Calnan (2002/03).

Existing Past Presidents of Bromley AC: (to 2003)

Daphne Reed, Joyce Hefher, Junior Field, Paul Jearum, Maureen Miller.

Past Presidents of Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC:

John Robinson (2003/04), Margaret Baldwin (2004/05),

Anne Cilia (2005/06), Ken Daniel (2006/07), Les Roberts (2007/08),

Tim Soutar (2008/09), Alison Brand (2009/10), Richard Coe (2010/11),

Denis Lawrie (2011/12), Steve Hollingdale (2012/13), Robert Cliff (2013/14),

Dick Griffin (2014/15), David Cordell (2015/16), Bill Foster (2016/17).

Vice Presidents**Existing Vice Presidents of Blackheath Harriers AC:**

George H Smith (1960), John E Lindblom (1962), Derek F E Hogg (1964),

Tony V Hayday (1968), Richard J Edmonds (1969), Robert Richardson (1969),

John Lissaman (1972), Barry M Shapcott (1973), Geoff R Last (1974),

Frank C Rogers (1976), Frank J Dyter (1977), Jerry C W Friend (1977),

Andy W Frankish (1979), Peter E Sheppard (1979), Peter C Hannell (1980),

Mike A Winch (1981), Ian K Young (1982), Gordon Brooks (1986),

Simon Parsons (1990), Jim Phelan (1990), Nigel Keogh (1991),

Trevor Llewelyn (1991), Mark I L Watling (1993), Steve J Freemantle (1995),

R Colin Poole (1995), Alan R Stevens (1995), Peter A Long (1996),

Nick Nuttall (1997), John E Turner (1997), Peter Lester (1998),

Garry F P Spencer (1998), Bill Clapham (1999-2013), Mike J Cronin (1999),

David Liston (2000), Roger A Michell (2000), Paul Byfield (2001),

Roger Counter (2002), Len Dalmon (2002), Roy Smith (2002).

Existing Vice President of Bromley AC: David Green.**Vice Presidents of Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC:**

John Blackie (2003 ex BAC), Willem Buttinger (2003 ex BH), Ian Dibbens

(2003 ex BAC), Hilary Gibbs (2003 ex BAC), David Taylor (2003 ex BH),

Simon Tolson (2003 ex BH), Myrtle Augee (2004), Julian Golding (2004),

Helen Godsell (2004), Simon Lloyd (2004), Anthony Pontifex (2004), Brian

Power (2004), Nick Gasson (2005), Brendan McShane (2005), Brian Hartley

(2006), Paul Patten (2006), Kate Pratten (2006), Michael Skinner (2006), Ray

Gibson (2007), Richard Holt (2007), Mark Purser (2007), Rob Brown (2007),

Bob Minting (2007), Costas Karageorghis (2008), Tom Phillips (2008), Terri

Shotton (2008), Andy Tucker (2009), Roy Watkins (2009), Allan Williams

(2009), David Appleton (2010), Peter Lovell (2010), Steve Pairman (2010),

Colin Rowe (2010), Paul Austridge (2011), Con Griffin (2011), Deniz Mehmed

(2011), Wilf Orton (2012), Mick Jones (2013), Mike Sheppard (2013), Dave

McKinlay (2014), Alex Gibbins (2014), Richard Hall (2014), Jane Bradshaw

(2014), Julie Asher-Smith (2014), Marion (Maz) Turner (2015), Sheila Griffin

(2015), Jackie Montgomery (2015), Adrian Stocks (2015), Tim Ayres (2015).

Claire Austridge (2016), Shaunagh Brown (2016), Andy Rayner (2016), Steve

Timmins (2016), Karen Desborough (2017), Chris Hilditch (2017), Mark

Steinle (2017), Nick Corry (2017).

Photographs

The editing team wish to express their thanks for all those who contributed articles and photographs for this issue. We have made every effort to correctly identify all the photographers but sometimes this is not possible. If you took a photograph but haven't been credited please let us know and we will publish the details in the next Gazette.

We wish to thank the following: Incoming President Paul Byfield, Retiring President Nick Brooks, Jennifer Neal, Steve Pairman VP, Dan Kennedy, Paul Austridge VP, Paul Kerekgyato, PP Mike Martineau, Ian Mackley, David Appleton VP.

Thanks for photographs to all who took them..

The next issue of the Gazette is due in March/April 2019 and all material should be sent in by February 2019.

