



"Perfer et Obdura"

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

110th/111th SEASON: 1979-80

President:

B. G. STONE

48 Finucane Drive, Orpington, Kent
Telephone: Orpington 25358

Secretary :

D. W. AMNER

"Homestead", Cudham Lane North, Cudham, Kent
(Tel. Farnborough 55301)

Treasurer :

P. E. SHEPHEARD

9 Mapleton Close, Hayesford Park, Bromley, Kent
(Tel. 01-464 9445)

Editor:

G. B. CROWDER

103 Eden Way, Beckenham, Kent
01-650 8608

Assistant Editor (Winter):

P. G. STENNING

79 Daneby Road, London, S.E.6
01-698 6546

Assistant Editor (Summer):

J. C. W. FRIEND

45 Courtlands Avenue, Hayes, Kent
01-462 3614

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear 'Heathens,

The start of another year in the Club's long life is always exciting, and this year could prove to be even more exciting than usual. As we move into 1980, starting the 12th decade of our history, we are faced with that greatest of all athletic festivals, the Olympic Games. In our midst, we have members who, if they can raise their performance a little more, will surely represent Great Britain in Moscow.

If they can achieve such success, it can only benefit the Club, for the coverage of the Games by the news media, and the build-up thereto, will bring forth dozens of budding athletes wanting to join a club, and we will get our share, I am sure.

Some will quickly fall away, disenchanted by failure; but if we are fortunate enough to recruit two or three good athletes who persevere and win, then it will benefit our chances of improving our standing in the athletic world. We are already the Greatest Club in the World, and the hard work by my predecessors and the officials they have worked with in recent years has led us to success in the Southern League, and subsequent promotion to Division 5 of the British League by way of a special promotion match. Much of the credit for victory in the promotion match was due to our field event athletes, and runners were thin on the ground.

We have runners, lots of runners, but such is the present day athletic calendar that we can be represented at three, four or even five events on one day. Whilst this may afford individual members best performances, prizes, trophies etc., it may not always be of benefit to the club's team at the main event of the day, and we can finish among the also rans.

I believe that nothing succeeds like success, and the track team have had a moderate success. I want that success to continue, but not only on the track! I would like at least one major race title from the cross-country section, starting perhaps with the South of the Thames Junior, or even the Kent. I would like to see our name at the front end of a major road relay result, or perhaps a marathon team result. I would like to see us move to Division 4 of the British League.

I think we have the athletes to succeed. All we lack at present is the ability to assemble them for the right race at the right time. Let us therefore, before going off to a "fun run" or a "pot hunt", ask if we will be required by "The Club", so that our Captains turn out their strongest teams. Run in Championships and matches so that your form can be judged one against the other, and we can field our best each week.

Let me make my slogan "Give a year to the club", and let's see if supporting our Captains will bring the results we seek. I would like to hear Mike Winch bragging of our cross-country successes, just as I want our joggers to brag about our field event athletes. I would like to

move away from sectionalising the club. We are all 'Heathens, and I want all of us to support the Club in every way we can. Even if you are not an athlete, you may be able to help as an official, or assist an official already established in a post.

Success needs planning and organization — so "Give a year to the club" — I am determined we will succeed.

BRIAN G. STONE

Brian Garry Stone was born in 1935 and attended Brockley County Grammar School. From his first year there he became interested in athletics and joined Blackheath Harriers in 1951. His first race for the club was in the Kent Cross Country Championships in 1952 when he finished third in the Youths' Race. He followed this by 6th place in the Southern Youths'. He went on to win the Southern Youths' in 1953 and the LAC Schools Mile in 1954.

National Service between 1955 and 1957 curtailed his activities but he completed several seasons' running until a domestic move to Maidstone forced him into an early "retirement". He returned to cross country running in 1964 and became vice captain in 1964 and captain 1966-68.

He has held several administrative posts: Assistant Secretary (entertainments), Secretary and Assistant Secretary (wine committee). He is also a Director of BHHQ Ltd. He was made a Vice President in 1974. He is married and lives in Orpington.

He is a Customs Officer and his hobbies are, in alphabetical order, aircraft, Blackheath Harriers, swimming, and travel abroad.

EDITORIAL

A feature of the main cross-country handicap races in which the incoming editor has regularly participated in recent years has been the consistent encouragement he has received from the retiring editor. Only now has it become apparent where this policy was leading.

Over the years in a variety of ways Blackheath Harriers has owed much to Tony Oldfield, not least for the way in which over the past 12 months he has once again made the Gazette a regular feature of club life. Your new editor, having overcome the shock of being ignored by the new President at the A.G.M., guarantees that so far as he and the printer are concerned there is no reason why this should not continue to be the case. We will publish everything that is fit to print relevant to the many aspects of club life, provided that it arrives on time. It will help if it is typed or written legibly and double-spaced on one side of the paper only, and without errors of grammar, sense, spelling or punctuation. Do not, however, send in 2 reports, as with this year, Westeham Stroll. We reserve the right to cut anything verbose or libellous.

Keep the contributions flowing so that the Gazette may fulfil its proper function of informing members fully of all our activities.

Editor

CLUB OFFICERS 1979-80

President: B. G. Stone; Vice-Presidents: A. W. Frankish (1979), M. J. Mahoney (1979), P. E. Shepherd (1979); Hon. Secretary: D. W. Amner; Hon. Treasurer: P. E. Shephard; Hon. Ass. Sec. Cross Country: J. K. Young; Hon. Ass. Sec. Track: M. Carroll; Hon. Ass. Sec. Road: T. M. Mallott; Junior Team Captain: J. V. Powell; Hon. Ass. Sec. Officials: S. P. Spooner; Hon. Ass. Sec. Membership: M. L. Peel; Hon. Ass. Sec. Minutes: J. R. Baldwin; Hon. Ass. Sec. Press: J. V. Powell; Hon. Ass. Sec. Trophies: C. R. Haines; Hon. Sec. Wine Committee: (position vacant); Hon. Ass. Sec. Wine Committee: P. C. Hannell; Hon. Ass. Treasurer: J. S. Irvine; Winter Captain: T. Soutar; Winter Vice Captains: R. Wright, W. Hill; Vice Captain Road: D. Hopgood; Summer Captain: A. W.

Frankish; Track Vice Captains: J. Wilkinson, R. Harradine; Hon. Editor: G. B. Crowder; Hon. Ass. Editors: P. Stenning, J. C. W. Friend; Hon. Archivist: R. H. Thompson; Hon. Cross Country Handicapper: D. Hopgood; Hon. Track Handicapper (Track): J. Wilkinson; Hon. Track Handicapper (Field): J. E. Day; Hon. Auditors: J. V. F. Bennett, I. K. Young; General Committee: R. E. Green, G. K. Brooks, J. Hills, A. Bicknell, M. J. Hudson, D. O'Connor, K. R. Daniel, R. J. Coles and R. H. Savery.

Past Presidents—S. C. Wooderson (1947 and Centenary), G. H. Wilkinson (1948), W. R. J. Clarke (1949), S. A. Field (1953), C. A. Wiard (1954), W. H. M. Vercoe (1957), V. W. W. Beardon (1959), J. R. D. Cockburn (1961), L. E. Hammill (1963), R. H. Thompson (1966), A. J. Brent (1967), D. G. Child (1968), G. F. Brooks (1971), P. J. G. Balgent (1972), R. A. Morley (1973), A. A. Oldfield (1974), A. E. Ball (1975), J. R. Baldwin (1976), R. E. D. Taylor (1977), T. T. Sullivan (1978)

Vice-Presidents—J. H. Kitton (1927), R. W. Pattison (1929), C. L. Mobbs (1935), J. D. Rogers (1936), A. G. V. Allen (1938), C. E. Stevens (1949), E. J. J. Reed (1949), R. H. Gollan (1949), C. E. Clowser (1950), L. Pendered (1953), N. W. Page (1954), D. J. Tingey (1956), G. Waller (1956), L. G. Towers (1957), P. E. Sims (1958), H. R. Howard (1959), D. J. Mobbs (1959), B. G. Parrott (1959), L. G. Toms (1959), A. A. Tweedy (1959), L. E. Piper (1960), G. H. Smith (1960), N. Dudley (1961), J. W. Orr (1961), J. H. Scott-Wilson (1961), J. E. Lindblom (1962), L. G. King (1962), M. A. Walker (1962), A. Nye (1963), P. H. Francis (1964), D. F. E. Hogg (1964), K. J. Johnson (1964), J. B. Herring (1965), A. W. Wood (1965), G. Monshall (1966), A. J. Weeks-Pearson (1967), W. S. Norton (1967), A. V. Hayday (1968), T. F. W. Mountford (1968), I. F. Smith (1968), E. Doorbar (1969), R. J. Edmonds (1969), R. Richardson (1969), D. H. Hopgood (1970), J. M. Ross (1971), D. L. Gregory (1972), J. Lissaman (1972), G. R. Last (1974), B. G. Stone (1974), F. J. Dyter (1975), J. E. Day (1973), G. L. Demar (1973), B. M. Shapcott (1973), C. R. Haines (1975), G. Hickey (1975), G. Botley (1976), I. C. Wilson (1976), F. C. Rogers (1976), J. C. W. Friend (1977), F. G. W. Dudman (1978), S. F. H. Glynn (1978), M. L. Peel (1978).

AWARDS 1978/9

Merit Award: M. Carroll and D. Cocker; Lindsay Salver: R. Coles; Jack Sims Salver: R. Coles; Ponsford Trophy: R. Ebbutt and R. Harradine; Hornell Trophy: T. Llewellyn; Browning Trophy: I. Holder.

Saturday, 20th October, 1979

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF B.H.H.Q. LIMITED AND BLACKHEATH HARRIERS

As PP L. E. Hammill rose to open the proceedings a train passed. The noise gave reassurance that all was normal at the Club. But not quite normal! For PP A. E. Ball, as B.H.H.Q. Limited Honorary Secretary, was to report that at last the extension was completed. That, as the Chairman was quick to point out, is not, of course, the end of the story, for ahead lies the burden of repayment together with increased costs for insurance and rates. Sombre thoughts of the future, however, were not allowed to dampen the rejoicing, and loud applause followed the tribute to PP G. F. Brooks and VP G. Hickey for their exceptional efforts during the construction of the extension.

B.H.H.Q. Ltd. had thoughtfully attached to their accounts an analysis of the costs of building. This showed that total expenditure amounted to almost £28,500 of which more than half had already been met: over £6,000 by way of grant from the Sports Council with some hundreds more expected; in excess of £4,000 in donations from the Club and a further £3,000 in individual donations; and waiver of repayment of £860 of debentures by their holders. The balance, apart from the debenture issue, was found through a loan of £3,000 from the Southern Counties A.A.A. repayable over 5 years at 5% interest and an interest-free loan of £2,000 from a member who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Chairman had further good news in reporting a very recent approach from someone who wishes to rent the cottage for business purposes. The necessary planning permission for this change of user is being sought. Success would not only bring useful income but would also avoid the likely deterioration if the cottage was left unoccupied.

In response to the Chairman's invitation for comments or questions VP C. R. Haines acknowledged the great amount of work that had been undertaken in the Clubhouse during the past year but lamented the disappearance of a room with a view, or more precisely a loo with a view. But VP B. G. Stone retorted that wives could now pass by with heads held high. B. Pearce complained of the inadequate lighting in the clubroom with which the Chairman concurred and immediately brought the meeting to an end.

After a short break the Club A.G.M. was opened by the President. The Hon. Secretary, D. W. Amner, presenting his report, noted that membership remained above 700 and exhorted all members to aim to make it 800 in the coming year. In his review of the Club's activities – which appears elsewhere in this Gazette – he lamented that during the past few years the Club had been going through an unsuccessful period over the country and the last season had been no exception. By contrast the track season had been a morale booster culminating in qualification for the British National League next year. He paid tribute to the work of John Powell with the younger members and noted the successful innovation of the Young Athletes Management Committee in which Club officials were joined by some of the parents of younger members. Another innovation was the switching of the Inter-Schools Race to a mid-week date which had led to increased participation although securing enough officials had been a problem.

The Hon. Treasurer, P. E. Shepherd, introducing the Club accounts, pointed out that notwithstanding the increase in subscriptions approved at the Special General Meeting in July, further fund-raising ideas were still needed to swell the Club's income. He thanked all those who were already active in this field through such efforts as: the 100 x 1 mile relay; the 200 Group; the sale of programmes at Crystal Palace; the Winter track meeting; the cross-country relay; the Club lottery. Bearing in mind the more extensive travel that our promotion to the British National League in 1980 may entail it may be noted that the trip to the West Country during the past track season cost the Club some £800 which adds point to the Treasurer's plea for more money-raising ideas – quite apart from the increased costs resulting from the extension, in particular the higher rent that B.H.H.Q. will need to service their debts and the higher rates expected.

On the presentation of the accounts of the 200 Group the possibility was again raised of increasing the membership to 300.

With the ease that comes from long experience VP B. G. Stone, Hon. Secretary of the Wine Committee then presented his accounts. These showed a notable drop in the surplus for the year. The Secretary explained that the Committee did not view the provision of food and drinks as primarily a money-making venture but more as a service to members with spin-offs in other directions which were beneficial to the Club. PP A. E. Ball subsequently

picked up the point about pricing policy but the matter was not pursued, perhaps because the Secretary had already intimated that price increases, particularly for meals, could be expected shortly. He explained that increases in the price of foodstuffs, the nature of which varied from week to week, were less easy to monitor than those of drink which were readily apparent from the invoices with each order. Asked about the considerably larger stocks held at the end of the financial year compared with the previous account and the large sums owing to creditors, the Secretary explained that it was his practice to buy in bulk when good offers were available. Such a purchase had recently been made and resulted in a temporary cash-flow problem: a paradox of liquid assets producing illiquidity! In conclusion the Secretary recalled that he had given notice at the last A.G.M. of his intention of bowing out this year but spoke of the great enjoyment that his seven years in the job had brought him.

Attention was then turned to the consolidated balance sheet that had been produced by the Hon. Auditor, J. V. F. Bennett, in response to requests made at earlier A.G.M.s. Offering his thanks, as one of the persistent instigators, VP Haines confessed that he still did not understand it. Someone charitably suggested that the dimness was due to the aforementioned poor lighting and VP I. F. Smith proclaimed that the document was exactly what was required.

The meeting then turned to the presentation of awards. First came VP L. G. King and PP L. E. Hammill each of whom have completed 50 years of membership. PP Hammill, recalling that he was known as a traditionalist, generously donated £50 (to B.H.H.Q. Ltd., let it be noted) and hoped that he might be starting a tradition. Let us hope that this does not cause a rash of resignations amongst the class of '30.

The next (unexpected) presentation brought the longest applause the writer can recall in the clubhouse, an unmistakable indication of its popularity. The recipient was P.P. Brooks who was presented with a watch inscribed George, thank you for your time' as a token of the Club's gratitude for his unstinting labours in connection with the extension. For similar services VP G. Hickey was presented with a tankard engraved decorator extraordinary". He modestly responded that it was a pleasure to serve the Club. The regular Club awards were then announced. They are listed below. In his comments the President remarked that for one person to win both the Lindsay Salver for Summer activities and the Jack Sims Salver for Winter activities was unique. The double winner, R.J. Coles, was unfortunately absent, having competed for the Club in the afternoon at Southport.

After a short break the meeting resumed for what is essentially the climax of the evening, the elections, and more specifically that – formality though it be – of the President. The outgoing President briefly outlined his successor's Club career, first as active athlete and then in various offices, all, he said, with total commitment: cross-country captain, honorary secretary, honorary secretary of the Wine Committee. By then no-one could have failed to recognise VP B. G. Stone who was duly installed as President for 1979-80 to the Club cry led by PP Hammill (who after 50 years finally got it right).

The President confided that he had always looked forward to this day and now looked forward to a successful year. His aim, he said, would be to move away from sectionalisation – to encourage members not to identify themselves primarily with track, field, country or road but to think first and foremost of being members of the Club. His motto would be "Give a year to the Club". All could help, the non-active by serving as officials or simply by helping the officials.

IPP C. M. Brand proposed the addition of A. W. Frankish, M. J. Mahoney and P. E. Shepherd to the existing Vice Presidents and the election of other officials as detailed elsewhere in the Gazette then followed. There were comparatively few changes but amongst newcomers were G. B. Crowder taking over as Hon. Editor from the

stop-gap PP A. A. Oldfield, and VP D. H. Hopgood with the unenviable task of following PP Brooks as Hon. Cross-country Handicapper. He should come to the task with an open mind for he confessed later that he had not even looked at the results of the afternoon's 5 mile Championship and sealed handicap. A non-election should also be noted. No-one was willing to give a year to the Club in succession to the President as Hon. Sec. of the Wine Committee. But stomachs should not stay empty for long since VP Haines undertook to organise a collective - perhaps he had in mind that phrase from Shakespeare: "Who, moving others, are themselves as Stone". By contrast it was pleasing to observe the willingness of youth to serve as Club Committee members.

With the elections over the meeting moved to other business. VP K. J. Johnson drew attention to the forthcoming retirement of one of the Club's farmer friends, Mr. Pallance, who has been particularly helpful over the Inter-Schools Race. Next J. A. Clear asked that corrections of a number of inaccuracies in the Club History be printed in the Gazette so that members might annotate their own copies. Finally an unidentified voice proclaimed gratitude to the pointsmen.

Penultimate Past President T. T. Sullivan then rose to pay tribute to the dedication of IPP Brand in whose noteworthy year of office, he remarked, the Club extension had been completed, the Club had returned to the British National League and more members had achieved international status than ever before. He recalled the tragedy of the death of Lee Brand and announced that as a memorial both to him and to his father's term of office, and with the support of Curlew Rowing Club, new weightlifting equipment was being obtained for the Club. IPP Brand responding, spoke of the honour it had given him to serve the Club and called upon all members to give to his successor the support they had given him, recalling especially that at the time of his son's death.

Antepenultimate Past President R. E. D. Taylor rose to thank retiring officials but finding himself at a loss for many such creatures rather than for words promptly sat down again. The meeting thus ended the sooner with some legal drinking time remaining.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT, 20th OCTOBER, 1979.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the 110th Annual Report of the Blackheath Harriers for the year ending 30th September, 1979. Membership of the Club at the end of August was as follows:

Life Members 173, paid up Members 537, unpaid Members 13. During the year up to the end of September there were 70 deletions and 23 resignations. Against this loss though, we had a remarkable 127 elections, so we still stay above the 700 mark. I would like to say a few words here on Membership, in that at this time we are attracting a lot of young people between 10 and 16 but we also lose quite a few, though with our dynamic "young athletes' secretary" not so many of the good ones. My point is that with our membership figures as they are, we should be quite capable of recruiting more Seniors, both dedicated and the not so dedicated. Spread the word, don't keep the good times you have, flitting around in the dark and rain on a Wednesday night to yourselves, recruit a friend, a colleague, a neighbour, a relative, a Father-in-law (he may dislike the Mother-in-law as well) and let's make it 800 members next year or, if too many, we could even start a waiting list!!

Anyway, gentlemen, we are here and still a large number of us, but as always any large body of people will suffer loss through bereavement and it is with a great feeling of sadness that the past year has again seen the loss of a young member as well as more senior statesmen. Let us think of our fellow Heathens who have died this past year:

L. G. Parkes: who took the sprint title in the K.C.

Championships on 5 occasions in the years leading up to the 2nd World War.

R. S. Burley: a powerful sprinter who may have made Olympic status but for the 1st World War.

G. Ross-Bell: joined in 1906 but in 1908 moved to India where he stayed until 1957 when he returned to live in Hampshire, but right up to his death he stayed loyal to Blackheath with his Membership of the Club and 200 Club etc.

J. Robins: who was born in 1887 and retained a keen interest in the Club right up to his death. His sons wrote to say that he passed his pewter tankards to them and that the Gazette was quite often a talking point on family visits.

A. J. Johnson: though never an active member he gave support to the club professionally and socially. His was the guiding hand that made the square baths which were in use until the showers took over; they were sheer luxury to a frozen runner with the water just below boiling from the old coal boiler.

Lee Brand: our President's son who died so young. We all here will remember Lee; for those who do not get to the Club regularly on a Wednesday evening, Lee grew into a tall, well built young man who tried his hand at field events, but made his mark with the Rowing Crew and more friends at Curlew Rowing Club. Success was coming to him also in his career in Hotel Management, so a tragic blow when life was just taking off.

As in my reports of previous years, I like to cover as many aspects of Club activity as possible and in no set order, but here would seem an appropriate place for the Gazette. We have had some difficulties this year in production and have only produced 2 editions but hope to step up to 3 in the coming year. The Gazette is a vital means of communication to all those Members who cannot get down to Hayes, and as mentioned is of keen interest to lots of long standing Members who want to know about the day to day club life. Tony Oldfield has struggled greatly this year and has done a magnificent job in bringing out any Gazettes. The Gazette needs information, stories, results, jokes, overheard comments, news from Members, anything that will interest one or more of members, so please, send to the Editor or myself anything that can be printed.

The cross country season saw the usual enjoyment of all fixtures, but the club is going through a rather unsuccessful period over the Country and 1978/79 was unfortunately no exception. There were, however, some notable individual exceptions, in particular Richard Coles who placed 14th in the Southern and 46th in the National as well as achieving a clean sweep of the domestic C-C Championships. Peter Irvine, a new recruit, also achieved some good individual results, including 13th in the Northern Ireland National Championship, and he is likely to play a prominent part in realising our ambitions in the future.

The season began with the Mob Match against London University, run in an unseasonal heatwave, which resulted in a massive victory for Blackheath with Chris Haines the individual winner. Two weeks later Richard Coles won the first of his domestic Championships, the 5 mile, and 81 others enjoyed the sunshine if not the hills. Richard's time of 27.09 must be one of the fastest recorded on the present 5 mile course and the winning margin of 1.13 was both a pointer of things to come as well as an indication of Richard's current supremacy within the Club.

The South of the Thames Junior race was held locally this year at Sparrows Den but the home advantage did not assist us much and our first team could finish no higher than 6th. Bob Cliff had a good run to finish 14th which is probably a better indication of his talents than some of his later results. The Nicholls Cup Mob Match was held the following week at Coulsdon and although we had thirteen in the first twenty we were over-represented at the back end of the field and SLH were the winners by some 200 points. We made no such mistakes against Orion who had only a dozen or so runners. The individual winner on the latter occasion was Peter Irvine. The Orion

match gave us all the first real taste of winter but it in no way prepared us for the arctic conditions encountered at Mote Park for the County Championships at the beginning of January. The run took place through heavy snow which deterred all but a few doughty souls from even starting. Richard Coles was second in the Senior Championship and the team finished third. The field of 111 finishers must be the smallest for many years and underlined the severity of the conditions. Richard was our only representative in the Kent team and came a very creditable 22nd two weeks later in the Inter-Counties at Luton. Peter Irvine was 60th in the same race representing Gloucester. Richard won the Club 10 miles the week after the Kent and Tim Soutar, the C-C captain, showed that 14th in the Kent was no fluke by coming second.

The Ranelagh mob match was won convincingly by Blackheath with the C-C top brass in good form: the Secretary and past Captain were second equal and the current captain was close behind in 5th place.

The South of the Thames Senior saw Blackheath in 6th position which was as high as anyone might have hoped but the Southern is perhaps best forgotten with only one finisher, Richard Coles, (14th), in the first hundred. The team did partly make amends for this in the National when they were the 9th Southern Club and 27th overall. Richard Coles, finishing his season in fine style, was 46th and Peter Irvine was our second finisher in 164th place. Unfortunately neither our Junior nor our Youth sections had sufficient numbers to finish a team which was a repeat of the position in the Southern. Hopefully in the coming season these two age groups will benefit from the increased vitality of the Young Athletes sections.

The Club also competed in the three Kent League fixtures but did not have a full team in the last of the races and finished seventh in the final League table.

Maybe you have noticed a change in the style of grammatical presentation in the report up to now. This year I have used near enough verbatim the reports of the individual section secretaries, so I will take this opportunity to thank Ian Young, Andy Frankish and John Powell for their really concise and very informative write ups for this season. The track season this year has been a great morale booster for the club and once again the teams have a sense of purpose and enthusiasm bubbling away. Andy Frankish, this year's Captain, needs our special thanks for his time and effort in organizing people for the matches and also Mike Mahoney who, I am sure, Andy will agree, started the revival the season before. They have done a great job between them. During the indoor season Tim Foulger got his first Senior International Vest and Mike Winch represented Great Britain in the European Indoor Championships as well as every international. April saw the track team in Ostend for their second visit to the Wellington International Relays where a young team finished a creditable 9th of 56 teams. This was a joint trip with Wigmore Ladies who finished 2nd in the Ladies event. The same day a depleted team just managed to hold on to the 50 x 1 Mile Relay Trophy.

The league season opened with a convincing win at Wimbledon Park on May 5th and this was followed two days later by victories for all three teams, Seniors, Juniors and Youths in the Gordon Pirie Trophy meeting. The Kent Championships saw victories for Jim Day in the Pole vault and Tim Foulger in the High jump, whilst in the Surrey Championships Mike Winch won the Shot Putt and Discus. The second league match at Crystal Palace saw disappointment as we finished 4th in a very close match. The first week-end in June saw the whole track team in the West Country and a victory in the League at Yeovil over league leaders North London. The following day saw us 6th in a very close GRE Cup Match, our last defeat of the season. The next three league matches saw wins for us at Crystal Palace, Croydon and Wycombe the latter with a club record score of 146 points. The league season finished with us in 3rd place subject to confirmation. On the same day as the match at High Wycombe Tim Foulger was away in Turin representing

Great Britain in the European Cup Final. The league season ended with a party at the Club House. In between the league fixtures we retained the Mid-week Trophy at Croydon.

A phone call a week later and we had been promoted to second place in the Southern League behind Aldershot, as North London had been disqualified from three of their matches for fielding an ineligible athlete. We were asked to submit our best performances to the British League for possible inclusion in the Qualifying match. After an agonizing wait we were into the Qualifying match along with Ilford who had finished 3rd in the Southern League.

September 8th saw the team and a large band of supporters at Haringey for the Qualifying match. Blackheath lined up with Aldershot, Bridgend, Chelmsford, Derby, Ilford, Leicester and Sparkhill for the two vacant places in Division Five. A tremendous performance by the field events section saw them score 198 points out of a possible 224 points and although the track runners were somewhat disappointing the combined score was enough for an overall win with Aldershot second. We were back in the British League after an absence of seven years. As well as our Internationals Mike Winch, Tim Foulger, Trevor Llewelyn and Nick Brooks all credit to the good club athletes who competed in every match: Richard Coles, John Wilkinson, Glen Brooks, Martin Carroll, Ray Harradine, Martin Athawes and Doug Cocker. The season ended on September 22nd on another high note as Tim Foulger representing Great Britain against Russia won the high jump with an English Native Record of 2.18 metres and more importantly an Olympic Qualifying Standard. We have another success story, with the young athletes section, and John Powell must also earn our thanks for the tremendous amount of work he gets through. John has a really great section going and will undoubtedly produce some superstars and of equal importance, lads who will come on through to Senior level and be staunch and dedicated club members. The culmination of this success came in the National League and S.E. Counties League. However, we got off to a slow start in the Cross-Country season, when turnouts were low and results difficult to obtain. Our first significant 'victory' though, came in the Medway A.C. Road Relays event in March, when our Colts returned Gold Medallists and our Youths Bronze Winners, having overcome some really fierce opposition. Indeed, this seemed to spark off a whole series of victories for 14 year old Robert Farish. He went on to win the Schools Inter-Counties title, take 7th spot in the schools 'National' and win an England Vest to run in the Home International at Inverness where he took 8th place.

With ever-enlarging squads attending the opening 'warm-up' meetings we visited, the Track and Field season opened. The National League, Southern Area, Division 2 into which we had last year been relegated when the League was split up, provided our most important competitive campaign. Indeed, it provided us with most success too, as by winning 4 of our 5 matches, we gained promotion to Division One, having set a new division points record along the way of 276 in one afternoon! We beat promotion rivals, Walton, that day by 150 points: Blackheath 276, Walton 126!!

In the South East Counties League, our 'Colts' struggled at first, but soon found their feet to finish a strong 4th, whilst our 'Boys' went from strength to strength in their competition, eventually clinching the League Championship Trophy at the end of the season. The combined League saw Blackheath runners-up, thanks to a marginal 200 to 199 points win, in a nail-biting last fixture.

The Championships of 1979 also saw great successes for a number of young Blackheathens. Medal winners in the Southern Championships were: Robert Farish - 2nd, 1500m in 4 mins. 13.7 secs, 2nd 3000 m in 8 mins 58.8 secs; Paul Ashen - 2nd, 100 m in 11.4s, 1st, 200 m in 23.1 s; John Hunter - 3rd, High jump with 1.60 m; Paul Austridge - 1st, 80 m Hurdles in 11.9 s. Blackheath were represented by 4 athletes at the 'National Schools'

competition at Nottingham. Here, Paul Ashen and Robert Farish again starred, Robert took 3rd in the 1500 m having qualified with the fastest time, whilst Paul took 2nd in the 100 m; the latter final, however, was not the highlight in this case as Paul equalled the U.K. age best performance with 11.1 s when he won his semi-final.

Overall then, the young athletes' section has progressed well this year. An improvement, that must surely have encouraged our successes in competition, has been the organization of more training opportunities at various venues and times. Also, a certain amount of scouting has been done at a number of schools matches, where not only have we been able to boost our Membership, but also set up invaluable links with the schools themselves for the future. Credit must be given especially here to the enthusiasm and hospitality shown by Langley Park School, from where we have gained some of our most valued athletes.

Finally, concerning our youngsters, it was becoming increasingly clear during the Summer, that it needed more than one or two individuals to manage an ever-multiplying population of under-17's. Therefore, an informal Committee was set up by John Powell and this committee is now known as the 'Young Athletes Management Committee'. Sitting on this Committee are parents of our youngsters, some of our own Committee members including, of course, the President. This Committee is gradually dividing the administrative responsibilities among its members and so far seems to be working quite well with its monthly meetings here at Hayes.

Towards the end of the season, Robert Farish was given invitations to the two main meetings at Crystal Palace in front of 20,000 strong crowds. He also took part in an invitation race during a Junior inter-regional match. His achievements at these meetings were exceptional:

1. Rotary Watches International Games
Boys invitation 800 m; 6th 2m 2.2s (P.B.)
2. Coca Cola International
Boys invitation Mile: 2nd, 4m 31.2s (P.B.)
3. Inter-Regional Junior meeting:
Boys invitation 1500m: 1st, 4m 07.7s (P.B.)

In the Coca Cola International he beat arch rival David Bean of Folkestone A.C., and in the Inter-Regional Junior meeting he beat the National Schools 800m champion, Dave Hoinville. There is no known 14 year old athlete Robert has not beaten this year as a result of these races!

Whilst still with John I must also plug the terrific press coverage we have had due to the establishment of firm links with four local papers. Since Christmas, our publicity this year has been fairly extensive. Also, as many local residents may have noticed, we have managed to negotiate some special 'features' on some of our athletes with one or two of these papers, having organized interviews and so on with a number of Blackheathens with the Press. However, the Press Secretary would like to impress upon members that some weeks see very little activity and hence little available information for copy. Therefore, anyone who has any information at any time is requested to send it or telephone it to the Press Secretary by or before the Sunday afternoon previous to the Thursday issue of the papers. In the future 12 months, it is hoped that further links be set up not only with local and national Press, but also - if possible, local radio as well. Meanwhile, many thanks to all those people who have helped in the collation of copy for Press in the past year.

Well, let's get back to earth with our Road season, which has not produced any startling breakthroughs but has provided a great deal of suffering to quite a few Heathens. (Why do they do it?) I must mention Brian Pearce this year, as he slogs away at ultra long runs and rarely gets heard off, so his 7 hours, 36 mins, 44 secs. in the London to Brighton ranks a mention for sheer endurance, but I think may have worn his knees out. Chris Woodcock has taken road running up quite seriously again and appears regularly along with Pete Hannell and Mike Peel who is supposed to be a short distance sprinter

but keeps getting into marathons. Mike's first marathon of 2hrs. 44mins was a personal triumph and upset the Wednesday night group he trains with, so we are all going to have a go in the Harlow this month, so next month should see him training on his own!! or maybe with the Rowing members as it seems they won this year by ½ a length. As usual, the report is getting too long and there are so many more items to cover, and not room to mention every single person by name, who has donated time in making things happen. As in last year's report, I shall list just some of the things that 'Happened' and hope that the word spreads, that we still need involvement, not just of a few, but of as many as possible.

200 Group - This year fully booked up and contributing around £1,200 to Club funds, a steady income that the club depends upon.

Coaching - Charles Elliott was again retained this year and even though he will still give out schedules he has now cut his personalised coaching down to more or less our 'superstars'. R. Lyston has achieved a "Club Coaching Award" and with others has helped fill a gap that was appearing but, of course we can always use coaches full time.

B.H.S.C. - In action right at the start of the season, through to the end, Xmas Fayre, Raffles, Children's Party, Jumble Sale, Catering at races and another fat contribution to the Club. Thank you very much B.H.S.C.

Table Tennis - One or two losses of star players moving away and an upgrade in League status from last year had put the pressure on both teams this year, and they looked like joining the road runners!!

Schools Race - The change of day from a Saturday to a Wednesday made it much easier to attract a large field (91) without so much effort, but of course officials were hard to get. A highly successful afternoon and we hope some of the club atmosphere will linger in the minds of boys and teachers.

Johnson Bowl Race - 26 starters this year with 11 Heathens, with the really lovely Novices' Pewter, introduced by Dickie Green, and you get to keep it! I think the field might be somewhat swollen next year with Heathen Pot hunters.

100 x 1 Mile Relay - This year and for next years also, Marconi Avionics are sponsoring us, and at the 100 x 1 mile Dinner 2 weeks ago their representative Bill Alexander said what a grand effort it had been and he was very impressed with the organization. A great day for all Club Members and families, and we put in two teams!

X country relay - Steve Ovett turned up, but did not run, understandable as the Russian match was on at the Palace, and also his great efforts in the days before. Alfred Marks and Sandra Dickinson started the relay and sixty plus teams took part. This event was sponsored by Rays Footwear and Medhurst Store. Well done, Fred Dudman and all your helpers, and I actually heard athletes saying "What a great meeting!"

Ted Pepper Memorial Race - Won by Barry Watson of England and Cambridge Harriers. Lovely sunny day and a very fast course, run over roads Ted knew well from Wednesday evenings. Big crowd, big field, big prizes. Mike Peel and helpers must be congratulated on an event well executed, I have had enquiries already as to next years date. For the friends of Ted and especially for Margaret, Ted's widow, his children and family, a day to remember. to remember.

Bonfire Night - Once again the best display in the county and plenty of hot soup and rolls. Terrific night for the children except they seemed disappointed when we untied Ken McSweeney and put the real guy up (you could tell, because the Guy could see over the top of his shirt).

New Stewards - Mr. and Mrs. Stan Selby.

Just look as you enter the 1st couple of feet of Heathen Ground. Neat and tidy grass, new paintwork appearing, clubrooms immaculate. We all hope for a long and happy partnership.

The vets as usual seem to have more fixtures than the rest of the club's groups put together, so it must get easier as one gets older, though the athletics seem just as hard. Wally Hill enters the team nearly as fast as Norman Dudley arranges the fixtures so free week ends are becoming non-existent. Barry O'Gorman, Roy Savery have put in some good efforts, but Dave Fiddes hasn't been around or fit this year so Cambridge Harriers tend to take the team prizes in the needle matches. Anyway John Baldwin seems to be ticking again and with some others of useful speed approaching that magic 40 mark some successes should be bagged, if they can be persuaded to enter, this coming year.

Whilst on the "oldies" the Westerham Stroll was again raced and the prize seems to be to get pick of the seating, i.e., near the overlaiden tables, at Lou Piper's. This event occurs at the beginning of my report year so next years has already taken place!! So all those most unlikely people who got around this year will have to wait to see their names in print to prove they did it.

Well, Gentlemen, I have taken a long time as usual and I know I have omitted lots of items, such as Ian Smith's Courier and John Powell's Young Athletes Reviews (2nd print now available) the inevitable increase in Subs. Debentures still for sale, Alan Brent's election as President for Kent A.A.A. this coming year, to mention just a few.

Anyway, to stay in these grand Headquarters and do the things we do, need time and money and unfortunately it is your time and your money.

The end of the report is close, but I must just comment on three more. George Brooks, and the amount of time he spends on club business and his always cheerful greeting and friendliness. The same for Gordon Hickey, though his usual greeting of "Hullo Ugly" is a bit worrying. Last but not least, our President Colin, a personal friend to myself and many others. He has had a very tough year in many ways, but has put on a brave face when needed, and never faltered.

THANK YOU.

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS AND B.H.H.Q. LTD. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNDS AS AT 31ST AUGUST, 1979

1978		Balances brought forward	Surplus (Deficit) 31.8.79	Balances carried forward
£		£	£	£
	REVENUE RESERVES			
305	B.H.H.Q. Ltd.	305	924	1229
	BLACKHEATH HARRIERS:—			
807	Club	807	858	1665
1953	Wine Committee	1953	157	2110
677	200 Group	677	1181	} 408
	Less: Paid over to Club	(677)	(773)	
3742		3065	2347	5412
	SPECIAL FUNDS AND RESERVES			
2175	Property Reserve			2175
11884	Building Funds			12842
8570	Debenture Capital			8882
—	Long Term Loans			5000
—	Loan Repayment Reserve			800
121	R. F. Cross Fund			121
500	J. Sims Bequest			500
375	Young Athletes Fund			96
689	100 x 1 Mile Relay			837
£28,056				£36,665
	REPRESENTED BY:			
	FIXED ASSETS			
2175	Freehold Land and Buildings, at cost			30,235
20409	Construction in progress			—
22,584				30,235
	CURRENT ASSETS			
1071	Building Societies Deposits		1479	
4209	Cash at Banks and in hand		3134	
	STOCKS:—			
874	Bar and Catering		1973	
1311	Medals and Uniform		965	
222	Debtors and Prepayments		61	
7687			7612	
	Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
1000	Loan — Interest Free		—	
1215	Creditors and Subscriptions in Advance		1182	
2215			1182	
5472				6,430
£28,056				£36,665

NOTE: Special Funds not included in this Statement: E.H. Pepper Memorial Fund £408.02 R.Weeks-Pearson Fund £325.64

Ten- dentious Moments

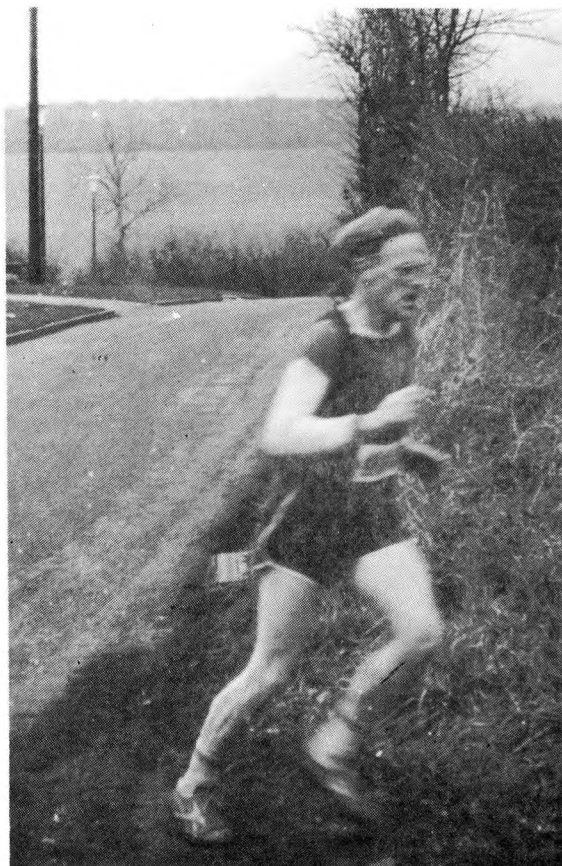
A brief (side-ways) look at the club '10', 12th January, 1980



They're off!! . . . At least some of them are.



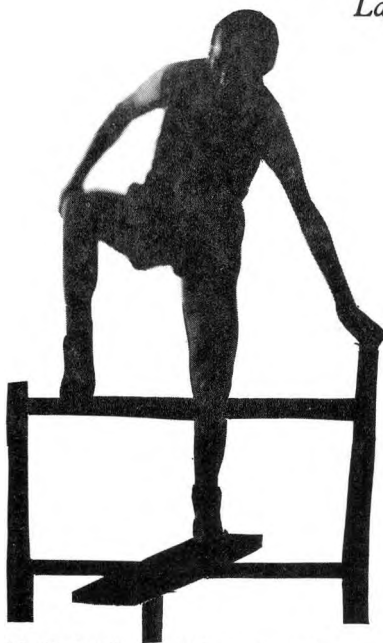
Prior to the start. No thats not a grin, its a grimace — this competitor had to be restrained from 'taking out' the photographer (who wasn't even competing).



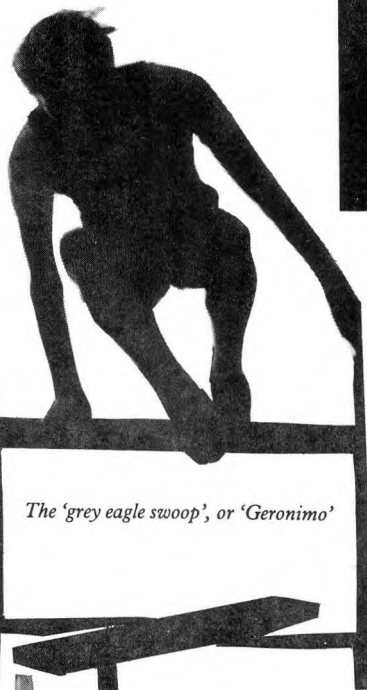
Powering away towards the Wickham Court Farm, almost as though all the problems of being editor of the 'Gazette' were far behind him (certainly his nearest rival was at this point).

Putting on the Stile . . .

A study of the techniques of the senior members in the recent veterans 10,000 kilometre inter-club run, whilst negotiating the Layhams Road stile.



The 'Safety first', or 'elder statesman'



The 'grey eagle swoop', or 'Geronimo'



The 'Nureyev'



The 'high trot' or 'stomp'



A 'pre-ver' putting it all behind him

1978: NATIONAL MARATHON RANKINGS

This was based on the results of 47 marathons. Brian Pearce ran in most of them and was joined from time to time by not other members:

337th: Gavin Giles: 2 hrs 40-02; 389th: Peter Crobett: 2 hrs 41-48; 457th: Mike Peel: 2 hrs 44-44; 687th: Steve Chiney: 2 hrs 52-33; 730th: Brian Swift: 2 hrs 54-22; 1040th: Brian Pearce: 3 hrs 07-48; 1156th: Mike Harry-ton: 3 hrs 15-31; 1289th: Philip Hunter: 3 hrs 25-08*; 1295th: John Powell: 3 hrs 25-08*; 1418th: Peter Han-nell: 3 hrs 35-33; 1496th: Steve Robinson: 3 hrs 44-26. * there must be something wrong here: Ed.

Correspondent M.P. expressed the hope that more club members would join in the fun. The Editor, looks forward with pleasure to hearing how many responded to the to this exhortation.

INTER-SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Wednesday, 7th March 1979

A fine spring afternoon saw our traditional schools, race in a mid-week setting for the first time. The venue, Sparrows Den, and the timing had been changed in an attempt to restore this fixture to its former prominence in our calendar. Some 90 runners from ten schools trod the line in some trepidation, as the starter, Alison Brand, received first hand instruction from that official par excellence PP Victor Beardon. Fortunately the gun pointed in the right direction sending the 'hare' Richard Coles off to lead the large field round the course.

The results speak for themselves, a fine win for A. Guibler from The Howard School at Gillingham with our friends at Maidstone Grammar taking the Parish Cup with an extremely low points total. It was especially pleasing to present the RAGS trophy to St. Dunstan's College, the club's connection with the school stretching back a number of years, also to welcome our close neighbours Hayes School for some good running!

Next year's race is on Wednesday 5th March 1980. Take the afternoon off and come down to the Club for another superb fixture.

Team Result:

1. Maidstone Grammar S. 2, 4, 5, 6 = 17 pts. Parrish Cup; 2. Skinners' S. 8, 12, 15, 19 = 54 pts.; 3. St. Dunstan's College 10, 11, 20, 26 = 67 pts. RAGS Trophy; 4. Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar S. 7, 17, 21, 28 = 73 pts.; 5. Alleyn's S. 16, 18, 23, 42 = 99 pts.; 6. The Howard S. 1, 9, 52, 54 = 116 pts.; 7. Ardingly College 14, 24, 39, 48 = 125 pts.; 8. Skinners' S. 'B' 29, 33, 38, 41 = 141 pts. 1st 'B' Team; 9. Eltham College 22, 27, 32, 61 = 142 pts.; 10. Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar S. 'B' 35, 37, 40, 50 = 162 pts.; 11. St. Dunstan's College 'B' 36, 43, 45, 47 = 171 pts.; 12. Hayes S. 30, 31, 57, 68 = 186 pts.; 13. Alleyn's S. 'B' 44, 49, 51, 64 = 208 pts.; 14. St. Dunstan's College 'C' 55, 56, 58, 63 = 232 pts.; 15. Ravenswood S. 46, 59, 71, 77 = 252 pts.; 16. St. Dunstan's College 'D' 66, 69, 72, 81 = 288 pts.; 17. Hayes S. 'B' 70, 73, 75, 76 = 294 pts.; 18. Eltham College 'B' 62, 67, 85, 86 = 300 pts.; 19. Hayes S. 'C' 79, 80, 84, 88 = 331 pts.

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS SCHOOLS' RACE FOR THE PARRISH CUP & RAGS TROPHY: 3½ MILES

Pos'n	Name	School	Time
1	A. Guilder	The Howard	17:21
2	D. Black	Maidstone G.	17:34
3	P. Burton	Roan	17:54
4	I. Fairnington	Maidstone G.	18:30
5	S. Heller	Maidstone G.	18:35
6	I. Head	Maidstone G.	18:36
7	Boorman	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	18:40
8	A. Quye	Skinners'	18:41
9	M. Birkinshaw	The Howard	18:53
10	A. Birknell	St. Dunstan's Coll.	18:59
11	S. Searby	St. Dunstan's Coll.	19:01
12	G. Gallard	Skinners'	19:03
13	D. Hughes	Maidstone G.	19:16

14	Hawes	Ardingly Coll.	19:20
15	P. Haxman	Skinners'	19:21
16	J. Eltham	Alleyn's	19:35
17	Senecal	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	19:39
18	R. Pemberton	Alleyn's	19:42
19	R. Bestley	Skinners'	19:46
20	M. Wilkinson	St. Dunstan's Coll.	19:49
21	Giles	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	19:55
22	Bentley	Eltham Coll.	20:01
23	N. Wahla	Alleyn's	20:03
24	Ridd	Ardingly Coll.	20:05
25	P. Barber	Roan	20:06
26	R. Gwyn	St. Dunstan's Coll.	20:09
27	Mills	Eltham Coll.	20:10
28	White	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	20:11
29	J. Madam	Skinners' 'B'	20:15
30	M. Norris	Hayes	20:21
31	N. Wise	Hayes	20:35
32	Trethewey	Eltham Coll.	20:36
33	J. Sharma	Skinners' 'B'	20:36
34	J. Best	Maidstone G.	20:36
35	Brunning	Chislehurst & Sidcup Gs'B'	20:44
36	A. Smith	St. Dunstan's Coll.'B'	20:47
37	Crickmore	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.'B'	20:48
38	T. Phillips	Skinners' 'B'	20:49
39	Lakin	Ardingly Coll.	20:51
40	English	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.'B'	20:55
41	C. Pilbeam	Skinners' 'B'	20:59
42	N. Vincent	Alleyn's	21:02
43	M. Mackenzie	St. Dunstan's Coll.'B'	21:05
44	R. Jeffery	Alleyn's 'B'	21:06
45	P. Watson	St. Dunstan's Coll. 'B'	21:08
46	Keown	Ravenswood	21:09
47	G. Tucker	St. Dunstan's Coll.'B'	21:13
48	Nield	Ardingly Coll.	21:20
49	I. Mooney	Alleyn's 'B'	21:23
50	Crome	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.'B'	21:26
51	D. Lack	Alleyn's 'B'	21:29
52	M. Tomlinson	The Howard	21:29
53	Trunley	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	21:36
54	D. Heather	The Howard	21:36
55	Allan	St. Dunstan's Coll.'C'	21:41
56	F. Jack	St. Dunstan's Coll.'C'	21:42
57	M. Symonds	Hayes	21:43
58	J. Duncan	St. Dunstan's Coll.'C'	21:48
59	Hockley	Ravenswood	21:53
60	T. Tyrwhitt	Roan	21:54
61	Burke	Eltham Coll.	21:59
62	Sylvester	Eltham Coll.'B'	22:01
63	S. Thompson	St. Dunstan's Coll.'C'	22:02
64	Foord	Alleyn's 'B'	22:10
65	Stevens	Chislehurst & Sidcup G.	22:10
66	Holmes	St. Dunstan's Coll.'D'	22:16
67	Catherall	Eltham Coll.'B'	22:24
68	J. Soutter	Hayes	22:26
69	Sallows	St. Dunstan's Coll.'D'	22:28
70	M. Hudson	Hayes 'B'	22:29
71	Turner	Ravenswood	22:30
72	Jackson	St. Dunstan's Coll.'D'	22:31
73	M. Gable	Hayes 'B'	22:32
74	J. Khan	Alleyn's	22:33
75	T. Newson	Hayes 'B'	22:37
76	D. Neiller	Hayes 'B'	22:37
77	Gordon	Ravenswood	22:38
78	Tasker	Ravenswood	22:47
79	A. England	Hayes 'C'	22:48
80	G. Brooke	Hayes 'C'	22:53
81	P. Webster	St. Dunstan's Coll.'D'	22:54
82	Colpus	St. Dunstan's Coll.	23:05
83	Bissett	St. Dunstan's Coll.	23:09
84	A. Leach	Hayes 'C'	23:36
85	Vaughan	Eltham Coll.'B'	23:50
86	Hannaford	Eltham Coll.'B'	24:39
87	Whyler	St. Dunstan's Coll.	24:42
88	D. Walker	Hayes 'C'	25:15
89	Tadman	Eltham Coll.	25:44
90	K. Gibson	Hayes	26:18

CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY RACE SPARROWS DEN, WEST WICKHAM, KENT

Saturday, 22nd September 1979

Actor and comedian, Alfred Marks and actress, Sandra Dickinson, both then currently appearing at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, despatched 67 teams from Wuppertal West Germany, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire on the usual 2½ mile course at Sparrows Den on this pleasant mild September afternoon. 60 teams completed the six lap course. The Club provided 8 teams and all except the 'B' Team, which ran out of steam early in the event, acquitted themselves well.

As anticipated, Richard Coles ran the fastest leg for the Club in 11.16 but much credit should be given to newcomer, Bill Foster, who stormed home in 3rd place in the first lap in 11.23 recording the second fastest time of the day by a club member. A special mention is made of the two Young Athletes' Teams who finished 41st

and 60th. Note is also made of the hard work put in by the organiser, Fred Dudman and his band of helpers. It is rather strange to observe how many competitors in this relay (and for that matter, in other events) seem almost antagonistic or resentful towards officials who are only endeavouring to keep some semblance of order to ensure the success of the event. Perhaps it was not realised that almost without exception the officials were experienced runners and appreciated the pressures of competing.

Grateful acknowledgements go to the sponsors – Rays Footwear Service of Hayes, Riverhead and Sevenoaks and to the generosity of Medhursts of Bromley.

BLACKHEATH PLACES

'A' Team

Lap 1 (6) M. Athawes 11.40; Lap 2 (6) C. Haines 11.52; Lap 3 (5) R. Coles 11.16; Lap 4 (6) T. Soutar 12.06; Lap 5 (5) J. Irvine 11.29; Lap 6 (6) J. Wilkinson 12.07. Total time 7.30.

'B' Team

Lap 1 (15) R. Wright 12.01; Lap 2 (18) A. Frankish 12.25.

'C' Team

Lap 1 (3) B. Foster 11.23; Lap 2 (19) T. Llewellyn 13.07; Lap 3 (25) G. Brooks 13.28; Lap 4 (25) S. Cluney 12.51; Lap 5 (22) A. Bicknell 12.22; Lap 6 (22) C. Lard 13.06. Total time 76.18.

'D' Team

Lap 1 (33) R. Savery 12.43; Lap 2 (39) G. Crowder 13.25; Lap 3 (28) D. O'Gorman 11.54; Lap 4 (39) W. Hill 14.02; Lap 5 (41) A. Tomkins 14.50; Lap 6 (39) J. Baldwin 13.13. Total time 80.07.

'E' Team

Lap 1 (47) Belbin 13.21; Lap 2 (43) M. Wilkinson 13.32; Lap 3 (45) M. McFarnell 14.21; Lap 4 (49) M. Harley 13.47; Lap 5 (48) R. Farish 13.49; Lap 6 (47) J. Powell 13.59. Total time 82.49.

'F' Team

Lap 1 (65) I. Smith 15.43; Lap 2 (63) P. Hunter 14.40; Lap 3 (54) I. Wilson 12.44; Lap 4 (51) W. Wade 13.26; Lap 5 (50) J. Wakeman 13.52; Lap 6 (50) B. Macrae 15.07. Total time 85.33

Young Athletes 'A'

Lap 1 (49) A. Bignell 13.35; Lap 2 (48) G. Fernandez 13.45; Lap 3 (42) (unknown) 13.25; Lap 4 (41) S. Roberts 12.52; Lap 5 (43) S. Wilkinson 14.10; Lap 6 (41) R. Head 13.15. Total time 81.02.

Young Athletes 'B'

Lap 1 (59) J. Martin 14.33; Lap 2 (62) A. Hartley 15.43; Lap 3 (59) A. Piper 15.12; Lap 4 (60) P. Galloway 16.13; Lap 5 (59) S. Gibson 20.17; Lap 6 (60) W. Busby 15.32. Total time 97.30.

Leading Years

1. Hercules Wimbledon 'A' 68.31; 2. Cambridge Harriers 'A' 68.59; 3. Brighton & Hove A.C. 69.15; 4. Invicta 'A' 70.04; 5. Hastings A.C. 'A' 70.28; 6. Blackheath Harriers 'A' 70.30.

Fastest lap: K. Penny - Lap 4: 10.56.

ANNUAL DINNER

28th September, 1979

This year's Annual Dinner attracted support from seventy to eighty people. It was a good mixture. There were veterans like Len Toms and Tommy Mountford and a bunch of thirteen and fourteen year olds shepherded by

John Powell. The President, in his address, took "Youth" as a theme and was able to detail the personal achievements of the young members present and to congratulate them on their efforts. There was a nostalgic moment when the "young athletes" of the 'fifties rose to drink a toast to the young athletes of today. Whether the youngsters of today were encouraged or discouraged by the display is not yet clear!

The official guests were Ron Reader, S.L.H., Harold Lee, "MR" Orion Harriers, Denis Millgate, Secretary of Kent AAA and Rex Lofts, President of Ranelagh Harriers. The latter was called upon to reply on behalf of the guests. He said how fortunate it was that he only had twenty minutes notice of "Instructions" to reply and was thus saved the agonising experience last year when he was given a month's notice and thus, 30 sleepless nights.

The dinner itself was excellent. Our member, "Tony", took charge as chef and the bevy of waitresses served as a reminder to Blackheathen coarse athletes of a more gentle and civilised way of life.

In the absence of trophies to present (the recipients were absent, we haven't lost the trophies) events tended then to become a touch reminiscent of Punch Bowl Night. One member, flattered to be summoned to receive an award to mark his prowess in the preceding year, was shattered to be presented with a small china mug in an effort to stop him from drinking other people's beer! It became that sort of evening!

As the night wore on so members present, inspired by news of the track successes, vowed that they would become fitter athletes during the forthcoming cross country season. When, near midnight, the President made his clarion call for everyone to join him at 3.00 p.m. the next day for the "Opening Run" there was a heart warming response from his audience. Of course we would be there!

OPENING RUN

29th September, 1979

Came the dawn! – or the afternoon!

Those who saw the film, "the Charge of the light Brigade", will remember the sight of the stricken survivors returning to the British lines. In similar state some five or six of the preceding night's diners reported to the clubhouse in deference to the President's remembered command. They were joined by about fifteen loathsomely fit people prancing about declaring their eagerness to take off. At 3.00 p.m. there was no sign of the President. Was he unwell? Could we decently cancel? But no, at 3.05 he leapt in and was changed in two minutes flat. He was even wearing white socks of such dazzling purity that they made our tired eyes blink.

So off we went. A splendid afternoon, and it was, after all, wonderful to be back. The gentlemanly courtesy shown, as we queued to cross stiles, was in marked contrast with the behaviour which will no doubt be shown in the 'Five' championship before long.

On our return we were glad to sit down to the excellent refreshments served to us by our new stewards, Mr. and Mrs. Selby. A good start to the season.

NATIONAL FUN RUN

30th September, 1979

"O let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

– Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast".

Sponsored by a non-existent newspaper but supported by evident enthusiasts, this 18 event – 28 category mom-moth spectacular happening, over 4km of hard grassland in Hyde Park "running" from 10.00 hrs. to 15.50 hrs. culminating in a "Mass Jog", gave something for everybody. A carnival atmosphere was sustained by bright sunshine and the odd fancy dress of some of the 15,000 competitors.

Apart from the interlude of actual physical effort (and giving gratuitous advice to, others "en route"), a great deal of the enjoyment was derived from viewing.

Several foreign visitors, diverted from their morning stroll in the Park, having carefully listened to some of these remarks, were so impressed as to purse their lips carefully and then exhorted the weary to "pick 'em up", "put it in", "move it", "turn it on", "shake it (or them)." etc., which so startled some that they really did.

For 'heathens this is very much an Annual Outing for the Geriatrics (of whom more anon) but fleetingly observed were Max Heinemann, Steve Cluney, Barry O'Gorman, Peter Long, George Down and Past President Terry Sullivan and family, beside two black clad youths (all of whom ran variously and speedily) for firm or social club.

Emboldened by their success last year in finishing the only full team of six in the over 60s category the Geriatrics welcomed two nearly qualified "youngsters" to the pack and surprised a very senior member, who was astonished to receive his number and plan of the course together with full details including his doctor's permission for him to run! To complete the maximum entry a walker (no, not that one) was enlisted under promise to run the last 50 yards, (in the event he ran the whole way - good show). Another walker, (no, no, not that one) even with a bandaged knee, finished as third scoring man. So the ten trained men met, entered and finished to make a 100% effort. Names and order: Alan Brent (7th, "hippy" to his friends, who happily came in front of Stan Cox, an old adversary, Norman Dudley (risen from a bed of sickness, yet ran a blinder), Gerry Rhodes (bandaged knee), Lew (Knee-cap) Piper (a birthday frolic), Jack Parrott (bruised ribs from a cycle spill), Reg Kirk (strained back but robust legs) Len King (arthritic knees), Angus Tweedy (Anno Domini), "Johnnie" Walker (admin. lag) and Edgar Frost (novice runner - shows promise). Certificates of survival will be issued in due course. Adviser, trainer, photographer, baggage man and confidant, Past President George Brooks, who shepherded the team and got them to the start on time (and pointed them in the right direction) also enjoyed the fun of this good humoured day.

One curiosity remains; this latter category (13) - apart from the under 10s - is mixed. Can it be that this is a deliberate incentive? The mind boggles!

MOB MATCH vs LONDON UNIVERSITY PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS

Saturday October 6th 1979

Some cross country Captains will go to extraordinary lengths to maintain their position of strength at the head of the team. This tenth anniversary match on a bright Saturday afternoon - no mud - was the scene of a dastardly piece of cunning masterfully executed by one Tim Soutar. Now it must be remembered that the young man in question has lead a very sheltered life both in the depths of Bradford and the groves of academia in Oxford before settling in the rush and tumble of City life - it must affect the brain I suppose. However, enough of this digression, return to the match, the experienced athlete at these fixtures is well aware that no cross country match at which we officiate ever starts on time and that 15 minutes is an acceptable margin to most people, even to PP George Brooks. Without mentioning too many names, one member was busy warming up for a longer time than usual, when Tim saw his chance of beating the said athlete in the race, by the astounding margin at least ten minutes. At the stroke of three, the field was despatched minus the said individual. The captain's honour was preserved Martin Athawes and Ken Daniel saw to that of the Club; individually . . . but, horror of horrors, the match was lost, and that by a small margin, to bring the scores level at 5 wins each for the University and the 'Heath. A quick glance at the results by the reader may

reveal the identity of the member left at the start . . . was he the real culprit?

The results of this race are not to hand: Ed.

ANNUAL WESTERHAM STROLL WITH SURREY WALKING CLUB

Sunday 7th October 1979

A record number started from the car park at Leaves Green this year - 22 in all including 6 ladies. Ages ranged from 14 to 69, these two extremities coming from the same family.

The start was a little delayed by the train service into Hayes but this gave our President time to zip home and change one boot to give him one for each foot.

The 10 minutes lost was picked up in the exuberance of the earlier miles and the beautiful autumn sunshine and pub-fall was made right on opening time at the Old Ship at Tatsfield where the new licensee and his staff were initiated into the cries of the "quick one and out again Brigade". Here, it was noticed one or two newer strollers were inclined to treat the stop as a normal Blackheath social occasion and were surprised by the "all out" call after 20 minutes.

Peter Baigent joined us and Roy Savery and Mike Peel arrived by cycle to see us off on our second leg. This followed a modified route through Chestnut Avenue and South on a new path (for us), over the Pilgrims Way and by Farm road through Gaysham to take us directly to a new bridge carrying the M25 over the Croydon Road. The new footpath is not clearly marked at this point and we found ourselves separated from our stile by barbed wire. However, this was negotiated without injury or damage and the General Wolfe at Westerham was reached by 1.30 p.m.

Garry Botley and Eddie Winn joined us at lunch, as did Shirley Baigent and 26 started out through Aqueries, perhaps a little slowly till lunches had reached those parts that really needed them.

It was evident that a large party moves more slowly than does a small one and Walling Bryant, from his vast experience, suggested short cuts where possible. Accordingly we attempted a tighter circular route to Pipers Green but little was gained in time and the pace had to be maintained.

The most direct route was followed through Brasted, Hog trough Hill and Grays Farm till Antony Piper once more demonstrated his fitness by running the last ½ mile (in boots) to give warning of our arrival for tea.

We "made it" just 40 minutes late and proceeded to make up for lost time. Margery and Bill Ames were there to meet us and assist Gwen who, as usual, gave of her best. She does regret though, that she was kept too busy to greet all her old friends and make new ones. We are exhorted to arrive earlier in future and to stop longer.

Half an hour and 6 cups of tea later Walling, in his mercy, offered to conduct a "B" party by road for the last 2½ miles whilst the remainder followed the usual field path to Leaves Green.

In the gathering darkness, mist was wiped from wind-screens and a convoy moved off to Hayes where Mrs. Daniels was waiting with her sunny smile and another excellent supper.

A most satisfying and exhilarating day was enjoyed by:- Blackheath members and friends - 17; Surrey members and friends - 5; Joint members and friends - 4.

A shorter afternoon route is promised for next year.

FIVE MILE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AT HAYES - 20th October 1979

The 1979 race for the oldest existing Club Championship

was held over the now normal West Wickham - Pumping Station - Boundary Wood - North Pole Lane - Fox Hill - Cafe course on this bright, sunny but cool Saturday afternoon.

A number of leading members, including the current holder, R. Coles, were representing the club in the National Road Relay at Southport. Therefore, without detriment to the contestants, the result was a little less predictable. 68 Heathens and 2 guests competed. After a fast start, Andy Frankish led the field past the Pumping Station closely followed by K. Daniel, R. Cliff, I. Wilson, P. Brencley, C. Bird and W. Wade. At this stage, the eventual winner was not in the first half dozen. The young, the middle aged and older were in hot pursuit and this was the pattern throughout.

At the top of Fox, Frankish still led but Chris Haines was pressing him with Daniel, Wilson, Atterbury, Brencley and Clare in close attendance, again with the bulk of the field not allowing the pace to slacken. Chris Haines proved 8 secs. faster than Frankish to take the cup followed by Daniel, Wilson, Brencley and Atterbury. All these front runners finished within the same minute and just under 22 minutes separated the first from last which was a good indication of the range of talent and perseverance of the field. Singling out two other participants, Anthony Piper, aged 14 years finished a very creditable 48th and 11 year old Richard Mitchell was 63rd.

The 1979/80 Points Handicap for the Bennett Cup opened with J. Kavanagh in the lead from M. Jones and R. Farish (Snr.).

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS 5 MILE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AT HAYES

20th October, 1979

Pos'n	Name	Time	H/cap	Net Time	H/cap Pos'n
1	C. Haines	30:06	1:40	28:26	14
2	A. Frankish	30:14	1:45	28:29	17
3	K. Daniel	30:18	1:40	28:38	24
4	I. Wilson	30:27	2:00	28:27	16
5	P. Brencley	30:49	2:20	28:29	18
6	L. Atterbury	30:50	3:00	27:50	10
7	J. Clare	31:00	2:10	28:50	28
8	W. Wade	31:14	2:20	28:54	29
9	R. Cliff	31:20	1:40	29:40	44
10	P. Horwood	31:31	3:00	28:31	20
11	C. Bird	31:36	3:00	28:36	21
12	A. Davis	31:39	2:20	29:19	39
13	I. Young	31:58	3:00	28:58	31
14	P. Shephard	32:12	2:50	29:22	41
15	J. Baldwin	32:16	4:00	28:16	12
16	J. Wilkinson	32:27	2:40	29:47	46
17	B. Swift	32:27	3:50	29:37	22
18	R. Savery	32:28	4:00	28:28	16
19	M. Peel	32:30	4:00	28:30	19
20	D. Amner	32:58	6:20	27:38	8
21	G. Blessing	33:10	4:00	29:10	36
22	M. Reynolds	33:21	5:50	27:31	6
23	G. Crowder	33:30	6:10	28:20	13
24	P. Higgins	33:47	5:10	28:37	23
25	P. Catley	34:01	6:10	27:51	11
26	F. Johnson	34:06	4:20	29:46	46
27	J. Kavanagh	34:15	9:00	25:15	1
28	T. Llewelyn	34:20	5:30	28:50	29
29	J. Hills	34:22	5:20	29:02	34
30	R. Farish (Jnr.)	34:32	4:30	30:02	60
31	M. Harley	34:35	5:20	29:15	37
32	J. Wakeman	34:36	5:50	28:46	27
33	R. Farish (Snr.)	34:42	8:10	26:32	3
34	J. Nash	34:44	4:50	29:54	48
35	S. Davis	35:20	6:20	29:00	33
36	M. McFarnel	35:47	8:20	27:27	5
37	W. S. Hill	35:50	6:40	30:10	51
38	G. Botley	36:11	7:00	29:11	36
39	P. Hunter	36:17	7:20	28:57	30
40	A. Piper	36:18	7:40	28:38	26
41	D. Allen	36:25	6:30	29:55	49
42	A. Tompkins	37:10	9:30	27:40	9
43	M. Jones	37:25	11:10	26:15	2
44	D. Hopgood	36:32	8:00	29:32	43
45	R. Norton	38:44	8:00	30:44	54
46	D. Selvey (Guest)	38:50			
47	R. Pinder	39:08	9:40	29:28	42
48	G. Wright	39:13	8:00	31:13	57
49	J. Raine	39:16	7:20	31:56	60
50	A. Calton (Snr.)	39:36	7:50	31:46	58
51	I. F. Smith	39:39	10:40	28:59	32
52	G. Butlin (Guest)	39:44			
53	C. Ferguson	39:48	8:40	31:08	56

54	A. E. Ball	39:52	10:00	29:52	47
55	D. Saunders	40:05	10:50	29:15	38
56	A. Calton (Jnr.)	40:22	10:00	30:22	53
57	B. G. Stone	40:28	13:40	26:48	4
58	P. Critchley	40:39	11:20	29:19	40
59	A. Pinder	42:53	11:00	31:53	59
60	F. Dyter	42:54	12:00	30:54	55
61	D. Tingey	43:11	13:00	30:11	52
62	N. Painter	44:10	10:00	34:10	63
63	R. Mitchell	44:11	10:00	34:11	64
64	T. Mallott	44:31	17:00	27:31	7
65	J. Bennett	44:41	11:30	33:11	62
66	C. Brand	44:45	16:00	28:45	26
67	W. F. Lake	44:52	16:00	28:52	28
68	A. V. Hayday	46:56	16:00	31:56	61
69	P. Hannell	48:58	11:00	37:58	66
70	P. Nash	51:51	14:00	37:51	65

THURROCK, ESSEX 10 MILES ROAD RACE

24th June, 1979

1. P. Eales Windsor S. & E. A.C. 49 min. 37 sec.; 2. P. Richardson Havering A.C. 50 min. 06 sec.; 3. J. Goldring Walthamstow A.C. 50 min. 50 sec.; 50. M. Peel Blackheath H. 58 min. 08 sec.; 80. B. Fincham Blackheath H. 60 min. 06 sec.; 85. P. Catley Blackheath H. 60 min. 50 sec.; 106. G. Gibbons Blackheath H. 63 min. 54 sec.; 115. C. Ferguson Blackheath H. 65 min. 17 sec.; 123. D. Hopgood Blackheath H. 66 min. 40 sec.; 136. G. Wright Blackheath H. 70 mins. 01 sec. 148 finished.

A notable feature of the race was a torrential down-pour at about the halfway stage unique in the experience of faithful correspondent P.C.

Team result:-

DARTFORD HALF-MARATHON

August 4th 1979

TEAM INDIVIDUAL

1. D. Chettle Croydon H. 63 min. 28 secs.; 2. G. Tuck Cambridge & Coleridge 64 min. 54 secs.; 3. P. Eales Windsor S. & E. 65 min. 38 secs.; 16. C. Woodcock Blackheath H. 71 min. 01 secs.; 75. F. Johnson Blackheath H. 78 min. 30 secs.; 104. D. Amner Blackheath H. 81 min. 22 secs.; 111. P. Catley Blackheath H. 82 min. 01 sec.; 115. G. Crowder Blackheath H. 82 min. 41 secs.; 118. M. Peel Blackheath H. 83 min. 15 secs.; 150. S. Robinson Blackheath H. 86 min. 34 secs.; 158. L. Roberts Blackheath H. 87 min. 16 secs.; 179. J. Hills Blackheath H. 90 min. 42 secs.; 187. C. Ferguson Blackheath H. 93 min. 49 secs.; 208. M. Williams Blackheath H. 96 min. 58 secs.; 218. P. Hannell Blackheath H. 109 min. 41 secs. 241 started; 220 finished.

A very well organised race on a beautiful day.

1. Invicta A.C. 24 pts.; 9. Blackheath 'A' 235 pts.; 13. Blackheath 'B' 336 pts.

26th ANNUAL SHAFTESBURY & SOUTHERN 10 MILE ROAD RACE

11th August, 1979

1. A. Simmons Luton 48 mins. 45 secs.; 2. T. Wright Wolverhampton 49 mins. 09 secs.; 3. G. Laing Shaftesbury 49 mins. 48 secs.; 26. C. Woodcock Blackheath H. 54 mins. 16 secs.; 139. F. Johnson Blackheath H. 60 mins. 33 secs.; 142. P. Catley Blackheath H. 60 mins. 36 secs.; 186. S. Cluney Blackheath H. 62 mins. 48 secs.; 200. J. Wakeman Blackheath H. 63 mins. 23 secs.; 230. D. Allen Blackheath H. 65 mins. 00 secs.; 270. S. Robinson Blackheath H. 68 mins. 30 secs. 404 started. 323 finished.

Blackheath 'A' team 22nd. 40 'A' Teams finished. Winning team - Shaftesbury.

On a very hot day 81 competitors dropped out, including some leading Blackheath representatives.

GREENWICH ELEVEN MILES ROAD RACE AT ELTHAM SE9

8th September, 1979

1. K. Penny Cambridge H. 55 min. 37 sec.; 2. D. Faircloth Croydon H. 55 min. 50 sec.; 3. D. Hardstaff Nth. London 56 min. 23 sec.; 30. M. Peel Blackheath H. 65 min. 06 sec.; 45. D. Allen Blackheath H. 67 min. 18 sec.; 46. P. Catley Blackheath H. 67 min. 29 sec.; 55. J. Kavanagh Blackheath H. 70 min. 05 sec.; 76 finished.

The race was run on a fine afternoon over the usual four lap course. Unfortunately, this is far from traffic-free and most of the running is done on pavement which means coping with kerbs, dogs and pedestrians. Not in my own opinion a race which will attract large numbers in its present form.

INSURANCE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 10 MILES ROAD RACE NEW ELTHAM

Tuesday, September 25th 1979

1. R. Gevers Temple Bar/South London H. 50 mins. 45 secs.; 21. M. Peel Guest/Blackheath H. 57 mins. 25 secs.; 23. P. Catley Ibis/Blackheath H. 57 mins. 38 secs.; 60. F. Dyter Pearl/Blackheath H. 76 mins. 25 secs. 62 finished.

The race was run on a pleasant evening over a 3-lap course. The general feeling was that the course was probably a little short, unfortunately.

CAMBERLEY 10

30th September, 1979

Our sole competitor Mike Williams recorded 64.54 when finishing in 58th place to Graham Taylor's winning time of 51.08.

HERCULES WIMBLEDON ATHLETIC CLUB 19th ANNUAL 10 MILE ROAD RACE WIMBLEDON 10

6th October, 1979

1. K. Green (Harlow): 49.38; 2. G. Grant (Cambridge H.): 49.42; 3. B. Watson (Cambridge H.): 49.52.

Nearly 200 runners lined up for the Wimbledon 10. Blackheath were quite well represented by the every faithful middle pack. This course has a testing hill at the start of each of the 3 laps and a mile and a half further on a steep zig-zag descent.

Lyn Atterbury (30th) led the team home in the very useful time of 53.55. Steve Cluney (84th: 58.26) just got the better of Mike Peel (85th: 58.28) who in turn beat Fred Johnson (89th: 58.50) who in the Dartford half marathon trounced him by nearly 6 mins. Just one second inside 59 mins. was Peter Catley (93rd). Our team was closed in by John Kavanagh (109th) the fast improving 45 year old ex-cyclist who failed by 26 seconds to beat the hour. 190 finished.

MARATHON WINDOWS WALTON 10 MILE ROAD RACE

October 14th, 1979

1. S. Jones RAF Lyneham 46 min. 20 sec. (Record); 2. R. Crabb RAF Lyneham 47 min. 03 sec.; 3. Gra. Tuck Cambridge & C.A.C. 47 min. 12 sec.; 40. L. Atterbury Blackheath H. 52 min. 00 sec.; 58. D. O'Gorman Blackheath H. 52 min. 53 sec.; 131. B. Cluney Blackheath H. 56 min. 20 sec.; 137. M. Peel Blackheath H. 56 min. 32 sec.; 160. P. Catley Blackheath H. 57 min. 48 sec.; 197. S. Davies Blackheath H. 59 min. 58 sec.; 243. P. Hunter Blackheath H. 64 min. 31 sec.; 249. A. Davies Blackheath H. 65 min. 54 sec.

This is a great race renowned for producing the season's fastest times for most runners. This year was no exception, the weather was perfect and the course, mostly flat, is most conducive to very fast times as can be seen

from the winner's record. Joyce Smith also ran a Ladies World Best of 54 min. 13 sec.

Blackheath were led home by Lyn Atterbury running his fastest ever 10 followed by Barry O'Gorman, our fastest veteran. Steve Cluney again beat Mike Peel, and Peter Catley achieved his ambition and set his fastest time for 13 years. Simon Davies in his first 10 since joining the club just managed to slip under the hour. Philip Hunter was next, while Alan Davies, also competing in his first 10, ran an even paced race to clock a creditable time. 283 finished. (Or was it 269?—P.C. and M.P. did not agree—Ed.).

AAA 6-STAGE ROAD RELAY – SOUTHPORT

Saturday October 20th, 1979

Despite the combined efforts of British Rail (a near-missed connection at Wigan) and AAA officialdom (problems concerning the eligibility of our new member Bill Foster) the club, in the shape of Richard Coles, succeeded in toeing the line for the start of this year's National 'Short Stage' Relay. Any anxiety that the Captain/Team Manager might have felt as a result of his well-made (?) plans being disturbed by the problems mentioned above, and the resultant rapid reshuffling of running order, was not reflected in Richard's cool running as he recorded 13th fastest time of the day. Going to the front only towards the end of the 4¼ mile leg he handed over the lead several yards clear and thus ensured that the Heathen presence; if possibly soon forgotten, could not be ignored.

Martin Athawes, having been put in this unenviable position, had to spend the whole of his leg observing the passing backs of athletes of a slightly higher calibre, though this should not detract from what was a good solid run and all that could be asked for. Nor could Peter Irvine stop the rot though the decline was slowing. Chris Woodcock held his own on his leg (which might explain why he didn't run faster) but the Captain proved that contrary to popular opinion, we could in fact drop back further by losing a further place. On the last leg Bill Foster had a fine run, despite being out of touch, and although he was unable to gain any places, illustrated that, had the team been able to run in the order originally planned, we would have been to the fore for considerably longer.

Although the result may seem on paper a trifle disappointing, we were not disgraced by any means. It was an exercise in realism (there are some very strong teams about!) and valuable experience was gained which will hopefully be of use in next year's 12-Stage Relay. In addition the team had an enjoyable day at the seaside and three other club members had the advantage of sharing the clubs spoils.

Result:

1st Bingley 116.30; 2nd Gateshead 117.13; 3rd Manchester 117.52; 16th Blackheath 123.51.

1. Coles 19.16; 2. Athawes 20.33; 3. Irvine 20.27; 4. Woodcock 21.39; 5. Soutar 21.18; 6. Foster 19.38.

CLUB MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 27th October saw 7 Heathens making their way to the start of the 'Unigate' at Harlow. The conditions were good for the athletes if a trifle chilly for the large band of helpers that turned up in support.

After the race had settled down the order at the first feeding station was Chris Woodcock clear of Chris Haines who was in turn ahead of Joe Clare, Roy Savery, Mike Peel and Dave Amner were all running together some 2 mins back. Steve Robinson was a further 2 mins adrift but running evenly. By 20 km Haines had caught Woodcock who was to drop out shortly after with hamstring problems.

A few miles further on Joe Clare was also forced to quit with badly blistered feet. At the 20 mile mark

Chris Haines was leading Amner by some 10 mins with Mike Peel suffering a bad patch a further 4 mins down. Roy Savery was also going through a trying period from which he never really recovered but with his usual dogged determination he successfully finished his first marathon in 3.04.04.

Haines continued his consistent pace to finish in 2.36.42 to take the Club Championship. Our most prolific marathon runner this year (this was his 4th) Mike Peel was closing on a now struggling Amner. With less than ½ a mile to go Mike passed Dave to clock 2.50.03 for 2nd place compared to Dave's 2.50.26. Steve Robinson closed in in 3 hours 24 mins.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES VETERANS, CROSS COUNTRY RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PARLIAMENT HILL

29th September, 1979

With no new "young" 40 year olds appearing (although we hear Richard Farish has now reached the exalted status of veteran) and with Fiddes and O'Gorman away Savery was our fastest and ably backed up by another ex-cyclist (or is it cycling member?) Kavanagh and closed in by the Headmaster (this is a little premature—Ed) our A team secured 8th and B team 13th team place.

Newcomers to this relay in future years would be well advised to reconnoitre the 2¼ mile lap as the dearth of trail or points men is one of its distinguishing features.

Mallott went off course and found the runners in his lap coming towards him, so be warned!

1. Ealing & Southall; 8. Blackheath H. 'A'. R. Savery 15.18; J. Kavanagh 15.30; G. Crowder 15.22; 13. Blackheath H. 'B' W. Hill 16.18; J Hills 15.38; D. Hopgood 17.01. Blackheath H 'C' F. Dudman 18.38; T. Mallott 25.50.

3 x 3½ MILE VETERANS' ROAD RELAY RACE AT BEXLEY FOR THE LAURIE BLACKABY MEMORIAL TROPHY

13th October, 1979

The meeting was not as well attended as in previous years. Maybe clubs were concentrating on the Crawley or Walton 10 Mile Road Races to be held on the following day

There were 15 teams on the starting line with Blackheath fielding 'A' and 'B' teams.

The 'A' team finished in 1st PLACE! — largely due to a very fine performance by John Baldwin. John registered the equal fastest lap for the over 40 team, which, considering his long absence through injury, is very encouraging. The 'B' team were the first to finish in their group and were placed 7th overall.

A. D. Amner 17.07; R. Savery 17.17; J. Baldwin 16.48; B. R. Farish 17.59; W. Hill 18.55; J. Hill 18.11; C. D. Hopgood 20.05.

SOUTHERN VETERANS' 10 MILE ROAD RACE AT CRAWLEY, SURREY

14th October, 1979

Team:

1. Havering 18 points; 2. Cambridge 21 points; 3. Highgate 30 points

Individual:

1. J. Oliver (Cambridge H.) 54-10; 2. D. Parker (Worthing) 54-54; 3. J. Geoghegan (Cambridge H.) 55-49; 12. R. Savery (Blackheath H.) 58-38; 15 G. Crowder (Blackheath H.) 59-34; 24. J. Kavanagh (Blackheath H.) 61-03; 46. J. Hills (Blackheath H.) 64-53.

Note

Women's race held in conjunction:— 1. R. Joyce (Crawley) 57-58!

BLACKHEATHEN SETS NEW BRITISH NATIVE RECORD

That's a headline which we have not been able to publish in the "Gazette" for a very, very long time. Tim Foulger is to be most heartily congratulated on his achievement in setting up a new High Jump record with the, literally, dizzy height of 2.18 metres. The previous record had stood at 2.17 metres for about two years. Tim was probably inspired by the excitement of the occasion which was the Russia versus Great Britain match in September. This was won by the British team in the very last event.

Tim also has the satisfaction of knowing that he has reached the Olympic qualifying standard. He is the only Briton so far to have reached the high jump standard.

Well done, Tim!

BLACKHEATH'S NEW-BORN GENERATION!

John Powell reports . . .

Much has been said of our young athletes section in general, just recently — in the Gazette, the club, and in the media overall — including much praise for the individuals that have shown so well this year.

However, little individual attention has been paid to the remainder, the majority, who have slogged away this year, supporting our team performance as few squads of athletes so young would. So it is here that I would like to pay tribute — although perhaps a little belatedly — to these youngsters that have worked so hard . . .

Our late-season team successes on the track in the Colts division this summer was due to the influx of many new members, and the vast improvement on the performance being given by those already in the team.

Our sprints squad was strengthened by the appearance of Robert Keyes and Chris Scott, who actually started to win some races — something that had formerly been unfortunately lacking in our Colts. With strength added to the sprints, giving us strength in depth with the arrival of such Langley Park athletes as Lawrence Bobb (quite useful in the field events as well), and Sean McGowan, results steadily improved.

The introduction of Allan Hartley gave us a much-needed boost in the middle-distance events, which up until the final league matches of the season, had been our main worry on the team overall.

Allan ran consistently well along with some ever-faithful club-mates: Chris Poole (a great future prospect for the 800m); Richard Mitchell (one of the most enthusiastic in the squad of middle distance runners that we have at the moment, who — if he keeps going — could find that some quite significant improvement is just around the corner); Martin Osborne (who proved a point about my team selection when he went out to win the non-scoring 1500m at Deangate, clocking a faster time than our scorer); Mark Hale (who just can't help but improve with every run at the present) and Julian Beale. Julian — who joined in advance of the track season had a rough time to begin with, as his sprint place in the team was being consistently challenged by the other newcomers mentioned above. However, he eventually found a hidden talent in 80m hurdling, and after breaking just about everything in the way of league records with his rapid scurries up the straight, during the summer, seems to be a great prospect for next year, despite his broken wrist in the Autumn.

Special mention must be given to three youngsters in this age group who have really shone: Martin Osborne, and nine year-old, Clive Suckling and Stuart Adams.

Clive and Stuart have performed with admirable confidence in the races in which they have competed — especially when one considers how old some of their opposition has been!

Martin made everyone sit-up and look only recently, when he placed 11th in the County Championships at Hythe, with Allan Hartley only three places in front. Martin has clearly great prospects — let's hope he can

keep it up!

I am sure I shall get lynched for not mentioning someone in this little account when it is published, but all I can say is that I am sorry. Everyone is doing so well, that there are far too many names to mention here all at once!

Undoubtedly, our strongest team of the year has been the Boys from the overall angle. They were our sole salvation at the beginning of the season when our Colts were so under-par, and have gone on since to prove themselves one of the best teams around for their age. At present, they head the Boys C.C. League promoted by Herne Hill Harriers, and do not look like surrendering that lead, unless our injury list becomes still worse than it is at present.

Apart from the Farish - Ashen syndrome, which has rung in our ears for a large part of what has obviously been a terrific year for them, we have still got many young Boys who have supported us right from the outset.

Robin Ashdown joined the club about a third of the way through our track and field programme, and boosted our 400m squad no end individually and in the relay team. He is probably one of the brightest prospects the club have got from our junior ranks, and he must surely be on target for honours next year if he keeps running as he is.

Andrew Suckling - although plagued with an ankle injury which has bothered him intermittently for some time now - is a really exciting up-and-coming middle-distance man, having improved on his times over and over again this year. As a first-year 'Boy', he even qualified for the Kent final at Frith in May this year, so who knows what might happen next year if he keeps training during the winter!

Gavin Fernandes and Stephen Roberts must be next on the list, with their outstanding exploits over Cross-Country, and their gallant efforts on the track during the summer. Stephen even ran 5½ laps of a 3000m at Ladywell in one of our league matches this year with his nose streaming blood - obviously a true Blackheathen! As for Gavin - we'd like to see a little more of him on the track next year - rather than having consistently to dig him out of hibernation for every match!

Stephen Wheeler, Timothy Mallott, Mathew Bushby, John Hunter and Stephen Poole are among the many others who have supported the club in a way that only true Blackheathens do.

Each has his own style: Mathew with his long-striding 800m runs (and if he's in a good mood, he might even do the 1500m if you ask him nicely), Stephen Wheeler, (who pushes his brick wall up the home straight after each 700m he races), Tim Mallott on the field with his throws (take cover, especially if he's in the discus!), John with his 'short-circuits' over the hurdles, and Stephen Poole who doesn't really know what he's good at, but whenever he does something, he seems to beat people rather than have other people beat him!

So there we have it! These are our 'British Leaguers' of tomorrow, so let's give them every ounce of support we can, and see them eventually help our first team to the top of all athletic competition once more!

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club has had a successful year both socially and financially. The money we have raised in our Jumble Sales, Tombolas and Raffles has paid for the kitchen units in the new downstairs kitchen and in the Stewards' flat. We are now financing the purchase of new crockery and dishes for both kitchens in the club house and have agreed to pay for a special mat for the weight training sessions.

Our Annual Children's Party is on Sunday, 16th December, at 3.15 for children aged 3 to 8 years. The next Barn Dance will be on Saturday, 16th February, at 8.00 p.m. The numbers for this event are limited to 70, so book early for this jolly evening.

Our members also play Table Tennis in the Beckenham & Bromley Table Tennis League in mixed teams with

Blackheath Harriers. We hope you will continue to support our events and don't forget that we still collect Green Shield and Co-op stamps.

Although we are a small group we always welcome assistance in our efforts to help the Club. The subscription is £1.00 per annum and anyone wishing to join the Social Club should contact our Secretary - Mrs. V. Peel at 777 8291.

POSTBAG

(The Editor welcomes pertinent comments on any relevant topic).

The President has received a letter from Jack Clear pointing out an error on page 143 of the Centenary History. H. T. Aitchison was in fact killed in action on or about 29th June 1944 near Colleville about 20 kilometres from Caen in Normandy while serving with the 2nd battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, and not at Anzio as stated.

The Editor would be pleased to publish any similar errors that may come to light.

Johnnie Walker received a letter of apology from Stan Twyford of Dartford, unable to join in the Fun Run. He enclosed a cheque for £1.00 for club funds.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. National (ECCU Championships), Saturday 23rd February, Leicester. Plus National Supper at Hayes in the evening. Make a day of it.
2. Winter Track Meeting, Sunday 23rd March, Crystal Palace. Volunteers required for officials, please contact Bob Taylor on 01-467 6466.
3. 14 mile Cross Country Race: Tatsfield - Hayes on Saturday 10th May (Cup Final Day).

REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

1. The previous Editor, engaged in providing bound copies of the Gazette for club records, is short of issues No. 579 (Apr-Aug 1971), 583 (Oct-Dec 1972) and 586 (Oct-Dec 1973). Any member able to make good these deficiencies will be gratefully remembered by posterity and Tony Oldfield.
2. Don't forget the 200 Club, that leading fund raiser, and as always wishing to expand its membership.
3. Club ties available from the Wine Committee: £1-75, £2-50, £2-75.

OBITUARY

Members will be sorry to hear of the deaths of two of our very oldest members:

J. M. Robins of Billingshurst, Sussex: joined 1946, age 92.

R. W. Pattison of Ventnor, Isle of Wight: joined 1905; age 93.

It is hoped to include tributes in the next issue of the Gazette.

STOP PRESS

Attention - Veterans!

1. Southern Counties C.C. Championships at Harlow on 2nd February.
2. National C.C. Championships at Wolverhampton on 9th March (First race: 1.00 p.m.)