



"Perfer et Obdura"

# Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

## 112th/113th SEASON, 1981-82

### President :

IAN C. WILSON

Alverstone, Vines Lane, Hildenborough, Kent.  
Tel. Hilden 838736

### Secretary :

W. R. LAKE

4 Sutherland Avenue, Orpington, Kent.

### Treasurer :

R. D. EBBUTT

6 Cherry Hill Gardens, Waddon, Croydon,  
CR0 4QL.  
Tel. 686 2689

### Editor :

S. H. CLUNEY

104 Wickham Chase, West Wickham, Kent,  
BR4 0BN.  
Tel. 01-777 2817

### Asst. Editor (Courier) :

C. WOODCOCK

7 Bencombe Rd., Purley, Surrey, CR2 4DR.  
Tel. 01-660 0118

### Asst. Editor :

L. ROBERTS

117 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent.  
Tel. Farnborough 57438



If we do all these three things, *Involvement*, *Co-operation* and *Winning*, then Blackheath Harriers is sure to remain the best Club. To remind you of what we will all do during the forthcoming year you only have to think of your President's initials !

Please do.

Yours 'Heathenly,

IAN C. WILSON.

*Involvement — Co-operation — Winning*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 1981-82

Dear 'Heathens,

Well, money has been won and lost on who would succeed I. F. Smith as President of the Club and it is my good fortune to be entrusted with that office for the 112th year in the life of the Club.

It is my hope that this message will serve two purposes. First, it enables me to transmit to those of you not present at the AGM my aim for the Club during my term of office. Second it will reinforce my message to those of you who were present at the AGM.

My aim is simple. It is to ensure the continued success of our Club. I shall be looking to each and every one of you to help towards this end. I hope that you will all continue to be INVOLVED with the Club.

I hope that you will CO-OPERATE with each other to strengthen the Club.

And I hope that you will individually and therefore collectively WIN for the Club.

## THE PRESIDENT

Ian C. Wilson, our new President, was born on 25th June, 1944, and gained his education at Dulwich College Prep. School, Samuel Pepys County Secondary School and, he informs me, Blackheath Harriers. By profession he is a Chartered Engineer and is infamous in winter circles for his work on the Club's heating system. A task that has on frosty evenings, when cold water has poured forth from the showers, been the subject of much 'friendly' abuse.

He joined the Club in 1959 at the age of 15 but due to a lack of races for younger members in those early days took the just forgivable step of joining Kent A.C. second claim in search of more

competition. As a Junior he won the Junior 1 Mile Championship and the Cross-Country Championship, whilst in the senior ranks he has been the 10,000m. and 1 hour Champion on the track, though to this day he has been unable to win a Senior Cross-Country Championship. His best achievements have been 3rd in the 5 and 2nd in the 7½. Despite this fact Ian has finished 4th in the Kent twice, 11th in the Southern and 72nd in the National. Ian's best 10 mile road time is a speedy 50m. 41s., a 15 mile time of 80m. 58s., set in 1981, and a Marathon of 2hr. 28m. 16s.

Having joined the Club committee in the mid 1960's he then progressed to cross-country captain which he held for six years. He became a Vice-President in 1976. From there Ian began to represent the Club on outside bodies and was President of the South of the Thames Cross-Country Association in 1980/81 and holds the same position this year in the Southern Cross-Country Association. Those apart he is also a Vice-President of the English Cross-Country Union. A busy man as you can see.

To complete the picture he has represented Kent County on both road and country on numerous occasions, the most recent being in 1980.

As befits an engineer Ian is an athlete who believes in carefully planned, regular training habits which have usually allowed him to run his best in major events. Although he regards his early days as anything but illustrious he feels that by careful planning and perseverance through the years he has eventually attained the goals he desired.

#### CLUB OFFICERS, 1981-82

*President*—I. C. Wilson.  
*Hon. Secretary*—W. F. Lake (Orpington 27484)  
*Hon. Treasurer*—R. D. Ebbutt.  
*Hon. Secretary, Wine Committee*—B. G. Stone.  
*Hon. Assistant Secretaries*:  
*Cross-Country*—R. P. Cliff; *Track*—M. J. Carroll; *Road*—M. N. Williams; *Officials*—J. R. Baldwin; *Members*—D. White; *Press*—J. V. Powell; *Trophies*—C. R. Haines.  
*Wine Committee*—C. R. Haines, P. C. Hannell, G. Hickey.  
*Asst. Treasurer*—P. E. Shephard, R. E. Green.  
*Winter Capt.*—T. J. Soutar; *Vice-Capts.*—R. Farish, G. B. Crowder.  
*Summer Capt.*—A. W. Frankish; *Vice-Capts.*—J. B. Wilkinson, D. G. Cocker, R. D. Ebbutt, P. R. Austridge.  
*Hon. Editor*—S. H. Cluney; *Asst. Ed.*—L. Roberts (Winter).  
*Hon. Archivist*—R. H. Thompson.  
*Hon. Cross-Country Handicapper*—D. H. Hopgood; *Track*—A. W. Frankish; *Field*—C. S. Ellis.  
*Hon. Auditors*—J. V. F. Bennett; I. K. Young.  
*Hon. Asst. Sec., Coaching*—R. Liston.  
*General Committee*—G. Brooks, P. N. Davies, R. Soutar, K. A. Whicheloe, I. P. Holder, K. R. Daniel.  
*Past Presidents*—S. C. Wooderson (1947 and Centenary Year 1970), G. H. Wilkinson (1948), S. A. Field (1953), C. A. Wiard (1954), W. H. M. Vercoe (1957), V. W. Beardon (1959), J. R. D. Cockburn (1961), L. E. Hammill (1963), R. H. Thompson (1966), A. J. Brent (1967), D. G. Child (1969), G. F. Brooks (1971), P. J. G. Baigent (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), C. Brand (1979), B. G. Stone (1980), I. F. Smith (1981).  
*Vice-Presidents*—J. H. Kitton (1927), C. L. Mobbs (1935), J. D. Rogers (1936), C. E. Stevens (1949), E. J. Reed (1949), R. H. Gollan (1949), C. E. Clowser (1950), N. W. Page (1954), D. J. Tingey (1956), G. Waller (1956), L. G. Towers (1957), P. E. Sims (1958), H. R. Howard (1959), B. G. Parrott (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), P. H. Francis (1964), D. E. E. Hogg (1964), K. J. Johnson (1964), I. B. Herring (1965), G. Monshall (1966), A. J. Weeks-Pearson (1967), W. S. Norton (1967), A. V. Hayday (1968), T. W. F. Mountford (1968), R. J. Edmonds (1969), R. Richardson (1968), D. H. Hopgood (1970), I. M. Ross (1971), D. L. Gregory (1972), J. Lisaman (1972), J. E. Day (1973), B. M. Shapcott (1973), G. R. Last (1974), F. J. Dyter (1975), C. R. Haines (1975), G. Hickey (1975), G. Botley (1976), F. C. Rogers (1976), J. C. W. Friend (1977), F. G. W. Dudman (1978), S. F. H. Glynn (1978), M. L. Peel (1978), A. W. Frankish (1979), M. J. Mahoney (1979),

P. E. Shephard (1979), J. Clear (1980), J. Braughton (1980), D. Amner (1980), P. Hannell (1980), T. Mallott (1980), M. A. Winch (1981), R. I. Coles (1981), J. V. F. Bennett (1981), T. Cavanagh (1981).

#### Awards:

*Honours Awards*—1981—S. M. Green, P. D. Yates, L. G. Watson, K. A. Horne.  
 1972—T. Walhen.  
*Merit Award*—J. B. Wilkinson, C. Woodcock.  
*Junior Honours Badge*—K. Horne.  
*Lindsay Salver*—C. Ellis.  
*Browning Trophy*—K. Horne.  
*J. Sims Salver*—J. Baldwin.  
*Hornell Trophy*—M. Cannon.  
*Ponsford Trophy*—P. Davies.  
*New Vice-Presidents*—M. Winch, R. J. Coles, J. V. F. Bennett, T. Cavanagh.

#### EDITORIAL

This year, with the advent of a new President, one Ian Wilson, you also have, for better or worse, a new Gazette Editor. My only qualifications for this post are that I can just about read, barely write, and didn't fancy the Hon. Secretary's job that was also being touted around. In an impetuous moment I raised my hand, looking for permission to be excused, but chose the wrong moment. Hence I find myself pounding the plastic keys of my typewriter.

What must be remembered is that I am the Hon. Editor, and not the Hon. Reporter and the same applies to my Hon. Assistants and my cohort Chris Woodcock on the Courier. It is you, the members, that are the REPORTERS; it is our task to collate the information. As Editors we shall endeavour to find people in advance to report on major Club encounters and then pursue the said reporters mercilessly after the event for results and reports. If you are one of a small number attending an event please don't wait to be asked. If you don't report it we can't print it, please remember that. We would rather have too much material than too little. I would like to be in a position where I have to occasionally apologise to some people that I have not had the space to publish their work in a particular issue. I stress it is not my intention to write the Gazette.

One of the Club's major problems, as spelled out by the Hon. Treasurer, Roger Ebbutt, is MONEY. Whilst it is my desire to provide an interesting and informative periodical I like everyone else these days must therefore not lose sight of costs.

To this end the Courier and the Gazette will work in tandem. All results received will be published in detail in the Courier, while in the Gazette we hope to provide the stories behind those facts but will not duplicate overly what has gone before. So those who do not receive the Courier and wish to do so should contact Chris at the address shown in this issue.

There will be a Gazette/Courier folder behind the bar at the clubhouse where results and reports can be left. Otherwise please forward them to the Club or my address.

If you like or dislike the format and content please let us know. Unless you do so we cannot make the appropriate changes. We hope to cover all spheres of Club activities as fairly as possible but the undoubted bias will be on the flag waving teams who carry the Club's name so successfully. But if your section is neglected it may be because you the reporters have failed to be industrious for just a few minutes every now and again.

If we succeed in producing the Gazette and Courier to your satisfaction it will be due to a team effort between the editorial staff and you the reporter. If we fail, then I am well aware it is I who will have failed to stimulate your interest and we

will be looking for a new Editor next October. On that note I look forward to reading your reports and a fruitful year pounding the plastic keys with my digits.

### HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. President, Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure in presenting the 112th Annual Report of the Blackheath Harriers.

We can all feel proud that our Club has survived so long with such distinction. In our Cinderella sport many changes have already been made and many still need to be made. Much time by athletes and officials is given for very little reward, but for the love of our chosen sport.

Our Cross Country season opens with our cross country relay, on a closed course at Sparrows Den. John Hills has done a fine job organising this event and we should all give him our support. In 1980 Blackheath Harriers managed to finish second team, with Richard Coles our fastest man in 11 minutes 10 seconds. An early defeat in the season by London University should have shaken us up a bit. The Club 5 brought out all those in hibernation as usual, with a fine win for Richard Coles from L. Roberts with A. Frankish third. In the South of Thames Junior, L. Roberts was 8th. The Ranelagh Centenary Mob Match at Petersham was a great success. S.L.H. won from Ranelagh with B.H. 3rd. R. Coles was 2nd individual. In the GLC Championship R. Coles was 2nd individual for the second year running. There is no doubt that Richard enjoys Parliament Hill. Let us hope he wins next year and, hopefully, gets a bit more support from the team. The Club 10 was a surprise win for G. Martin, with Les Roberts just 9 seconds adrift. Now really, you young men, how can you let a veteran slip into third place. Well done, John Baldwin, who manages to fit in the necessary training in between helping run the 200 Group, being Minutes Secretary, Officials Secretary and, just for good measure, he happens to be a Director of B.H.H.Q. too. I am certain he also finished 2nd Vet in the Southern Counties Veterans Cross Country Championship held at Croydon last season.

Brent, Brooks and Baldwin; I hope their example makes you think. Have you given as much back to our sport? Without looking I know for a fact that most members who take the trouble to attend our A.G.M. have given or are giving of their best, athletically or as an official of some kind.

Ian Wilson was President of South of Thames Cross Country Association last season. We did not do him credit, in the South of Thames Senior we only finished ninth. I am pleased to announce that Ian has also been elected President of the Southern Counties Cross Country Association for 1981/82 season.

In both the Southern and the National, Richard Coles performed outstandingly, finishing 12th and 25th respectively. We really must try and make a stronger team though. Tim Soutar and Ian Young need the support of some of our road runners. We did, however, manage to beat Ranelagh in the Annual Mob Match, L. Roberts winning in 48 minutes, 57 seconds.

During the last year we have had two Club Marathon Championships. The first was at Harlow won by C. Haines in 2-31.42 with L. Roberts 2nd and I. Wilson third. The Club also finished third in the Kent Team Championship held in conjunction. The second was the London Marathon also resulting in a win for C. Haines in 2-29.41, this time with P. Shepherd 2nd in 2-29.47 and G. Martin 3rd in

2-29.54. Generally, the public take particular interest every four years when the Olympic Games come round. Over the years, great names have emerged such as Gordon Pirie, Dave Bedford, Brendan Foster and so on. At the moment it is Seb. Coe and Steve Ovett doing all they can to enhance our sport — fine ambassadors they are too. Now we have the London Marathon which really, I feel, is the best thing that has ever happened to athletics, certainly gaining the imagination and interest of the general public, and this is what is needed.

We are all, indeed, greatly indebted to Chris Brasher as organiser and the many people who helped with this magnificent event. By the way, Chris, do you think you could get the London to Brighton road closed for a few hours so we could reinstate the Relay which we all used to enjoy so much. I still feel this could be on the cards. We shall have to have a word with Sir David McNee!

The Winter Track Meeting was once again a huge success. Our thanks go to Bob Taylor and all the many officials.

In the Johnson Bowl, Peter Selby won, with Roger Michell 2nd. We also managed to beat Surrey W.C. in the team race. For another summer season the Club H.Q. closes on Saturday afternoons to its members, leaving a sad and dejected cross country section looking forward to September once again. Geoff Last returns to umpire at cricket, John Nash plays, Bill Norton watches, but we are not at all sure what Johnny Walker is up to these days!

In the spring we have the Ted Pepper Memorial Road Race. Our organiser, Mike Peel, once again turned up trumps attracting a large entry and also some of our star runners. This we all hope will develop into a top class race with even more internationals looking for a short fast run on the road. We are, in fact, once again getting a strong road running section.

Mike Peel is the present secretary but does he realise Don Hopgood has done this job for no less than 14 years? We are very fortunate indeed to find members who can contain a section of the Club for so long.

We were third team in the Southern 20 mile road race and also 3rd team in the Chichester to Portsmouth. In the London Marathon no less than 50 Blackheath Harriers started and all finished. We also managed 3rd team in the Isle of Wight Marathon. Chris Woodcock won the Kent 20 mile Championship and we also won the team event. This brings to mind about ten years ago when, with the following members, we could successfully take on any club in the country. Bob Richardson, Joe Clare, Mike Willis, Ian Wilson, Chris Haines, Bill Wade, Allen Davies, M. Weller, A. Weeks-Pearson and the late Ted Pepper. Now we have some new names: Les Roberts, Richard Coles, P. Shepherd, C. Ware, Mike Williams, Paul Barrington-King and more coming along.

Turning to the track section, what a year it has been to be President. May I say it could not have happened to a nicer chap. This is without doubt the finest track season in the club's history. How encouraging for our younger members to see all three track teams gain promotion. The 1st team promoted to division 3 of the British League, the 2nd team promoted to division 2 of the Southern League and the 3rd team promoted to division 5 of the Southern League. Many outstanding individual performances contributed to our three fine team placings. I will mention but a few names: P.

Ashen, English Junior International; R. Farish, P. Austridge and P. Aubrey, English School Team again. Also seniors: S. Green, P. Yates, R. Coles, B. Foster, C. Ellis and M. Winch brought considerable credit both to themselves and the Club.

Julian Spooner and Nick Brooks have once again showed how strong they are over 400 and 800 metres, while a great deal of credit for our success over the season must go to our Track Captain, A. Frankish; also to Vice-Captains J. Wilkinson, D. O'Connor and R. D. Ebbutt. Just for the record it has taken Andy nine years hard work to build up our track section. Well done Andy.

C. Brand, A. Frankish and A. Brent put in a considerable amount of work which resulted in a very successful Fernand Beauce meeting. Blackheath Harriers were second to Hermes by just one point. A most enjoyable day for all concerned.

The National 100 x 1 Mile Relay organiser, Ian Young, should feel quite pleased with the final result as we were second only to Sale Harriers; a truly fine team performance. Our thanks go to Ian for taking on yet another job.

In the National Young Athletes League, we could only manage to finish halfway up the table; a little disappointing after a successful previous year.

The Norman Park Track has at long last materialised. As Brian Jacks was heard to say on the day, he hoped we would get a properly constructed building for both athletes and officials near the track. It is not yet properly equipped really to take League fixtures but we manage. It is all too easy to say do not spoil the ship for a dab of tar, but we really are very fortunate in having this track put on our doorstep, especially as we have Crystal Palace so near.

With the financial climate at the moment we should, indeed, feel very fortunate. We have made good use of the track and field events area and look forward to better things to come. We hope to have a small building near the track very soon. So, do not forget, from little acorns oak trees grow. I feel sure we can work with Bromley Council to achieve a satisfactory conclusion. Last, but not least, may I, on behalf of the Club, thank Bromley Council for their help and encouragement already given.

B.H.H.Q. have had a busy year. We have had the Club rewired at a cost of about £2,000 so please be as generous as you can with a donation. The planning for the rewiring was undertaken by Ian Wilson — no mean task. Also more work was needed on our hot water system. Our thanks go to Ian who gave a lot of time working at weekends. Many thanks Ian for once again getting us out of trouble.

B.H.S.C. have continued to raise money for the benefit of us all. Our thanks go to all the ladies who give of their time cooking, attending track and cross country meetings, organising raffles, jumble sales and at the end of the day may be rewarded by being asked to wash out some muddy cross country kit.

Mrs. Daniels, our cook, still manages to provide us with excellent meals at a very reasonable cost. We are all "internally" grateful to both Mrs. Daniels and those who serve us on the Wine Committee. Peter Hannell, Chris Haines and Gordon Hickey must put in a lot of time on our behalf. Have you ever tried shopping around for food on a large scale? Brian Stone still keeps in touch with this section of the Club in an advisory capacity.

We have a table tennis section, with three teams, competing in the Croydon and Bromley Leagues. Do try and give this section your support too. I

am hoping we can arrange a table tennis match with S.L.H.

After getting a reprint of Club Officers, I noticed no mention of a certain group of V/Ps, the trail layers or pointsmen who brave the elements on our behalf all through the winter season yet apparently do not have to be elected. Tom Crafter, Sid Taylor, Keith Wilcockson and now Ken Johnson have been our chief trail layers spanning nearly 80 years. Many thanks to you all who serve us today for your guidance, encouragement and long period of service to the Club.

There are many members who have not been mentioned by name who contribute both athletically or as an official of some kind. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Club to thank you all most sincerely.

Our President, Ian Smith, has done a marvellous job during his year in office. Congratulations and our thanks, Ian, for yet another year of hard work for the Club.

I will close my report now, hoping that I have not caused our Gazette Editor too much work. Also I would like to thank you all for your kind attention. Thank you gentlemen.

F.G.W.D.  
Hon. Secretary

7/10 for effort. I. F. SMITH.



Assistant Editor — Les Roberts

#### HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

On the Income and Expenditure Account there was a slight decrease of income even though subscriptions were increased during the year. There was also an increase in donations to the club, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who contributed to these special funds. A fuller appreciation to these people will appear in a future Gazette.

A special mention must be made of Mrs. Austridge who organised a Jumble Sale on behalf of the Young Athletes which enabled them to break even on an original £400 deficit last year. Mike Peel again organised the Ted Pepper Memorial race successfully and also cared for the needs of the

Road Running section at minimal cost. However we did not reap the benefits of the Crystal Palace programme sales this year which resulted in a loss of income and will also be the case next year.

John Hills again made a small profit on the Cross-Country Relay, which is proving successful, whilst Bob Taylor put in another tremendous effort by breaking even at the Winter Track Meeting.

Ian Young is to be congratulated on his organisation of the 100 x 1 Mile Relay, but unfortunately because the sponsorship money has not come in his efforts have not been rewarded sufficiently. As there was no major sponsor last year a large drop in income resulted. This event is a major source of revenue for the Club (in the past it has been well supported by athletes' sponsorship) but it can only produce funds if we get in the individual sponsorship. A substantial sum has still to be returned. Please contact Dick Green on this subject.

The 200 Club organised by Chris Haines and John Baldwin subscribed a further £1200 to Club funds. Included in the sundry receipts is a donation from the London Marathon for helping with the preliminary work and efforts on the day.

The Expenditure side of the summer season is once again high due to the travelling incurred by our successful first team. Chris Haines manages to keep the Schools race to a minimum still. The largest rise is the cost of the Gazette, with John Powell managing to produce four issues (included in the cost is one of last year's issues), which in its present format will become an ever increasing expenditure.

Rates have once again been increased which means that our payment for rent to BHHQ Ltd. was also increased.

John Powell should be congratulated on his press releases to the local newspapers and the excellent publicity it brings to the Club. His efforts on our behalf however have to be paid for.

There was a small deficit of £225 this year and if the Club is to maintain its success and provide a strong financial base for its future we must strive to find new ideas for fund raising. In this we must expect the FULL support of ALL members for our ventures. The alternative is reduced facilities or we could find ourselves in financial difficulty.

On the balance sheet there was no stock bought last year as there was a large increase the previous year.

I would like to thank my predecessor Peter Shephard who helped me during my first year and to Jim Bennett for auditing these accounts.

### THE A.G.M. SEEN FROM THE BACK ROW

On the evening of the 17th October, 1981, another stitch was sewn into life's rich tapestry; I attended my first Annual General Meeting of the Harriers. From previous experience in cycling and climbing circles I knew that these affairs could span a wide spectrum of diversion from the electrifyingly riveting to something akin to watching grey paint dry in a chapel in Blaenau Ffestiniog on a November Wednesday afternoon. It can be safely said, though, that the Harriers 112th AGM approached neither extreme.

If I suspected at the outset that I had let myself in for a marathon for which I was not properly trained, I was convinced by the time the Hon. Minutes Sec. had monologued the report of last year's meeting. Surely it was an eternal optimist who named such reports 'minutes'!

However, eventually the official reports were called for, the first being from the Hon. Secretary

to the Club, Frederick Dudman. During an innings that seemed to last just this side of an eternity, he carried his bat well, scoring a six, several fours and a number of cheeky singles all round the wicket; a classic stayer's performance. It was, therefore, generally thought to be rather harsh of the outgoing President to award him only seven out of ten with six of those for effort. However, a show of appreciation from the floor sounded much nearer a ten to my generous ear.

Next to go into the stocks were two fiscal fly-by-nights, Roger Ebbutt and Peter Shephard who ostensibly had taken care of the Club's wealth during the year. A number of probing questions were raised but each was succinctly answered on the lines of "No idea, squire," and "What T-shirt money?" Among the more tenacious questioners was one Christopher Haines who clearly had great difficulty in grasping the cogent responses being offered. After a volley of abortive "but surely's" he leapt out of the window with a cry of "they should have buried the b... in the foundations of the Humber Bridge." I'm told he was later seen on top of the railway embankment standing in a bucket of water reaching out for the live rail.

Next on to his feet was a gangling fidgeting youth representing the Wine Committee who wittered on about dwindling profits, pint glasses and the price of mince. However, I don't recall too much of this as I was thankfully distracted by a small fly on the floor with a damaged wing which seemed doomed to spend the rest of its life rotating on its axis. By the time the poor creature had expired we were reaching the stage when the new President was to be announced. The air buzzed with apathy. It turned out to be Wilson which was clearly not universally expected judging by the number of quids that immediately started to change hands.

He stood to address the Club. His built-up shoes had obviously not come through yet.

Just as his predecessor had done, he developed his rallying call upon his initials, I.C.W. The I. C. apparently was to stand for "In Charge". In Competent and In Continent were alternatives from the floor but our new man was going to have no truck with the remarks of the mindless rabble (If you can think of a better way of describing G. Hickey in less than 20 words please contact the Editor. A prize for the best entry).

'W', he emphasised, his chain of office now swinging like a demolition crane, "is for winning; winning by whatever means. In 1982 we'll have none of this namby pamby running for fun. And what's more if I hear one more lily-livered slob say that it is not the winning but the competing or that everybody who competes is a winner, I'll bloody well throw up!"

Almost asphyxiated by the intensity of his passion he sank back into his newly acquired high chair to witness what was undoubtedly to be the high spot of the evening. It began with a rendition of the old Club cry by the redoubtable Laurie Hammill, hanky waving, false teeth clackerlacking. His enthusiasm was, however, distinctly flagging which probably reflected his realisation that, this night, tradition was to be broken with the establishment of a new Heathen holler. This seemed to be led primarily by Messrs. Peel and Haines (the latter having returned after failing, one imagined, in his attempt to electrocute himself). Roughly speaking, though by no means as roughly as they were singing, the words remained the same—liberal helpings of 'blacks' and 'lacks' rounded off with a sprinkling of 'heaths'—but now the tune was the old standard Colonel

Bogey. I suspected the future was now going to hold countless occasions, social and sporting, when Heathen throats would be called upon to put the fear of the Almighty right up the opposition (groan).

So that's about it, really. What remained of the evening was spent aimlessly wandering about consuming and spilling shepherd's pie and booze. In other words, life returned pretty much to normal.

To anyone who doubts the authenticity of this account I would say you'd better turn up and see for yourself next year, hadn't you?



Assistant Editor (Courier)—Chris Woodcock

### JUST RAMBLING

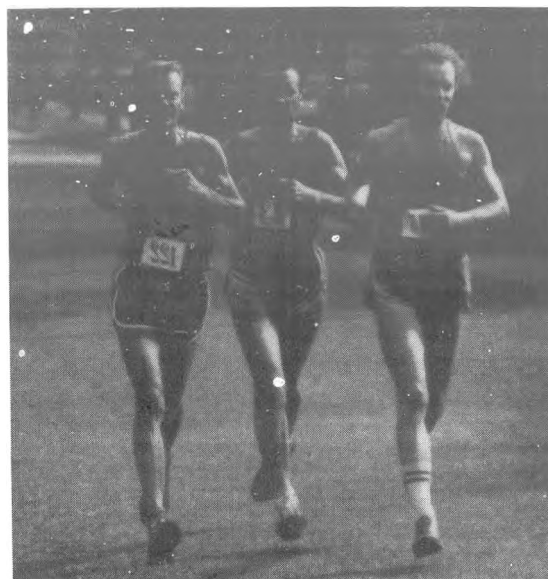
Autumn is traditionally a time of change. Mother nature changes the leaves to brown, the nights grow longer and the days colder, but as wet as ever. In the athletics world the track season fades into arm-chair memories and TV spectaculars on how it was done. The throwers disappear to their weight rooms, the sprinters and jumpers into their track-suits and if lucky to the indoor centre at Crystal Palace. Now is the time for the cross-country runners to begin emerging. This is the one time of the season you can make out the true colour of their kit or the make of their shoes. For several weeks they will complain about the heat and lack of mud and surface water. But nowadays the once limited road running season has expanded into their calendar. Where once you anticipated one race a month against the same 200 stalwarts it's now all changed. It's a Marathon a week if you so fancy. No you won't get in the Guinness Book of Records by doing it as an American, Jay Helgeson, did it last year, sorry. The recent Walton 10 boasted over 1,000 starters including all the elite. All can now compete albeit at a distance, with their TV heroes, something few other sports can boast. And let's not forget, it's not only on the roads that this happens and Walton is not the only race to find itself with increasing numbers. All race organisers are finding themselves with bigger fields but unfortunately are often unprepared for handling the logistics of such events. Coping with large numbers is something that must be quickly learnt whatever the event or we might be in danger of damaging the

reputation of our sport through lack of preparation. Any open event staged is no longer a happening to be taken lightly, it is something that requires planning, precision and volunteers in large numbers.

This year's cross-country season as ever began with the 'friendly' President's run, where all participants hoped to hoodwink the cross-country handicapper so as to start the season right in the Club 5 the following week with a generous handicap and accumulate early points in the Bennett Cup. They should know by now it never works. How can you confuse a man who is deaf, dumb and blind, and who as well all know, knows nothing about running anyway, whoever he is. We spend all year telling him so anyway. Well there goes my chances for this year.

It is invariably the dawning of the New Year that brings the greatest tension into the Country season with the County Champs on the first Saturday; always a good indicator of form for the forthcoming big ones. Around the country each prospective competitor begins to plan for the area Champs, for us the Southern. Then in March comes the 'biggy', the National, with the start that still seems to enthrall BBC and ITV alike. All that for an exploding dustbin. But for the runners there is always the thrill and memory of having taken part albeit that you lose one of your £40 spikes, fail to score for your team by finishing 1432 and stand shivering in a queue first to get your finishing disc, and then to get dribbled on by a cold shower that fails to remove any of the mud pack you gathered. By the time you return home though you are convinced you had a good day and tell everyone so. Besides which you can give them a first hand account of how Bernie Ford swept past Barry Smith on the run in, largely because it was you they lapped at that stage of proceedings. Despite all that, there can be few runners who don't remember their run in the National, and that is really what it's all about, unless of course your name is Alberto Salazar or something similar. May we the Editorial staff wish you all the best of luck whether your thing is at Cosford, Parliament Hill, or here at Hayes.

Editor.



Doyen of the Wine Committee—Pete Hannell (131)



27th September, 1981

### CHEAP DAY SINGLE TO BRIGHTON

As part of the Festival of Britain celebrations way back in 1951, the then existing News Chronicle undertook the expense of organising the first open amateur race from London to Brighton. It was an outstanding success for Blackheath Harriers as our own Lew Piper, still a regular Wednesday nighter, having toiled through drowning rain took the lead with four miles to go. At the finish, by the Aquarium on the seafront, Lew led the rest home by over 2 minutes in a time of 6hrs. 18m. 40s.

Before the 1952 race the Road Runners Club was formed. Heathens, of course, were prominent from the beginning, even supplying the first President, Rex Cross. Among the original members of this forward looking group were Geoff Grier, Laurie Hammill, and Denis Bentley, all still involved at Blackheath.

The 1952 race was organised by the RRC with such ability that they continue to do it to this day. Having produced the inaugural winner could Blackheath repeat this? Derek Reynolds proved we could by running a new course record of 5hrs. 52m. 22s., a winning margin of more than 16 mins.

We have been well represented over the years, but have only produced one other winner. On a warm September day in 1970 Joe Clare, in his first attempt at this classic, won in 5hrs. 41m. 8s., the second place man on this day was over 14 mins. adrift.

The course has varied in length over the years from 52 3/4 miles to 54 1/4 miles, due mainly to the Gatwick Airport by-pass and other major road works. The current distance from Big Ben to the Aquarium is 53 miles 856 yards; two marathons plus a mile. In recent years Brian Pearce was our stalwart competitor putting up 7hrs. 36m. 44s. in 1978, and one of our New Zealand members, Stan Foster, ran 7hrs. 23m. in 1977.

This year's race on the 27th September saw me (Mike Peel) back on the line, having attempted it last year and failed at 40 miles. Not many people knew about my intentions this year as I had kept it quiet. I was not as physically prepared as I wanted, but with my belief that it's as much mind as body, I was ready. This year I forewent a bike race, which incidentally I won last year, as I felt that the short concentrated training I employed for it was the prime reason my thighs packed up at Bolney last year.

I soon settled down to a self imposed 7½ mile pace passing Croydon, the 10 mile mark on pace in 74½ minutes, Redhill (20 miles) in 2hrs. 29m. and Bolney (40 miles) just five minutes outside 5 hours. The pace slowed on approaching the notorious Dale Hill, but having mastered that my goal was near and I reached the Aquarium in 7hrs. 3m. 29s. Though a little disappointed at failing to break 7 hours, I was still pleased to have finished this gruelling race. I only have praise for my helpers, Val and the boys, who stopped every 1½ miles or so with drinks and changes of clothes as I got drowned a couple of times when the heavens opened. The presence of people like Mike Williams, Peter Hannel, and in particular Steve Cluney helped enormously. Steve was fantastic, he helped me a lot over the last 20 miles, in particular up Dale Hill . . . it's almost 2 miles up and over the South Downs and when it comes at around 46 miles it's no fun.

Mind over matter works . . . what do I want to do next, 100 miles, or even 24 hours? NO, the other ambition is to break 2 minutes for 800m., especially now as a vet.



Mike Peel en route to Brighton

### THE WESTERHAM STROLL — 1981

A total of 14 people turned out for this combined Blackheath Harriers/Surrey Walking Club event which was scheduled as a 20 mile stroll. Thirteen set out behind Don Hopgood (one was inadvertently left behind while still trying to put his boots on in his car).

It was a glorious day sandwiched as it was between two miserable wet days (a brilliant piece of organisation this on Don's part). This was the first such walk I have been on and one thing to put straight immediately is the term 'stroll'. The pace was such that when I paused for a second to point out a beautiful red fungus, not only was no one looking but I found myself 50 yards down on the pack. At first I thought Don was going to use his famous Wednesday night tactics — of changing direction when everyone has gone past his intended turn-off point, but he was a little more humane on this occasion. However Lew Piper, who is 70 (and a bit) took the lead and the pace became even more relentless, particularly as the Fox and Hounds at Toys Hill grew closer.

At the Fox and Hounds we were joined by the chap who hadn't got his boots on quick enough and Karen Smith. So we were 15 for the return leg, which was a little more leisurely.

My main impression of this stroll was of the continuous view of the ground. I discovered you can't walk fast in the country if you take your eyes off the ground (try it some time and you'll see what I mean). But with or without the chance to admire the views we all made it back, healthier (I think), to Lew's cottage in Biggin Hill where his wife laid on some very welcome refreshments. Thank you Don and thank you Lew.

## ON THE ROAD

### CORNWALL 10

Britain had experienced three weeks of glorious late summer weather, but on August Bank Holiday Sunday, fifteen men of Kent looked out on a grey, windy, Mevagissey morning and knew that their luck was in. Last year's race had been very hot and oh, that hill at the end. Last year's Blackheath contingent didn't say exactly how long the hill was or just how steep, and exactly how many had died in the previous year. But 'rookies' Les Roberts, Chris Ware and John Wilkinson were not looking as happy as during the revels the night before.

The race was started by the Mayor of Penryn dropping a handkerchief. Paul King ran underneath it, Chris Ware tripped over it, Mike Williams used it for the first time in his life, and Don Hopgood, ever courteous, handed it back.

Les Roberts quickly tested the local opposition by 'kicking' in the first quarter mile; few responded, so he pressed on down through Penryn, over the hills to Falmouth, along the sea front, out around Pendennis Castle, and back over the hills to Penryn. And then that hill! It is 1 in 8 for about a mile and it was here that Les left the last of the opposition to win by 21 seconds, in a time 51:13. It was also here that Paul King, little legs whirring like bees wings, overtook 'vet' John Wilkinson who was still hurdling each litter bin. Chris Ware ran a tremendous race to finish 8th in 54:06. Paul was 17th in 56:14 and the ever graceful John 20th in 56:27. Keith Whichelow was also among the prizes finishing 22nd in 56:40. We only just lost the team prize to Duchy of Cornwall A.C.

The team had to do well because we had invited Sydney Wooderson along. The West Briton newspaper recorded, "The record field of 72 runners at the start of the 13th Cornwall ten-mile road race was introduced to former world mile record holder Sydney Wooderson now retired and living in Perranporth. The spontaneous applause from the athletes demonstrated the respect which he still enjoys in the company of fellow runners." After the race, the local mayor wanted Sydney to present the prizes but he had to hurry away to a prior engagement . . . it was his birthday.

So, laden down with much booty, the victorious Blackheath contingent piled into their faithful minibus for the 350 miles return drive to London but only four yards had been covered when the first incident occurred; they attempted to demolish the side of the hotel drive. Fancy going all that way to run a ten and "hitting the wall"! The evening was spent eating and drinking in the Dartmoor village of Sticklepath and suffering Paul King doing his impression of Al Jolson's "Mammy" complete with the hands. All very well but he was driving the minibus down the M5 at the time. We were back in south London at 3 a.m., no doubt waking up Stan as we drove our cars out of the Club car park.

*Saturday, 12th September, 1981*

### GREENWICH 11

The Greenwich 11 was quite a success for the Club with Les Roberts shining on the day with a fine 55:38 to place 4th, in a race won by Mark Pickard of Epsom. It was also a good day for the team, with 4 to run and 3 to score they secured 3rd place scoring the same points as the second placers. Second Blackheath man home was Bob Cliff who started slowly and gradually worked his way through the field to finish 28th, while the third

scorer in 32nd place was Chris Ware. The race is one that will never expand in its present form encompassing as it does three major roads as part of its course and a number of unmanned junctions which nearly brought a car-runner collision in my own sight. It is in fact the only pavement race I have ever contested because that is where everyone runs to stay in one piece over this 4 lap course.

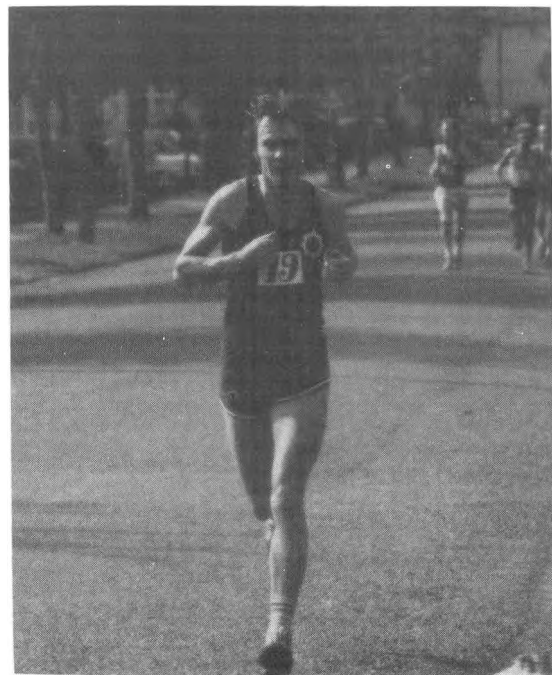
*26th September, 1981*

### READING POLICE 10

But for a nagging wind, conditions were excellent as a star studded field of nearly 400 lined up for the start of what is now one of the fastest 10's in the south. Almost from the gun 15 or so runners broke clear including the likes of Bernie Ford, Keith Penny, Hugh Jones and Peter Standing. Also up there with them, however, until the group split at 4 miles was our own Les Roberts who held his own in very respectable company to finish 13th in a personal best of 50:05. Good times, many of them also PB's, were recorded by Ken Pike, 54:20; Bill Wade, 54:25; Chris Haines, 55:50; Steve Robinson 58:41; Jim Phelan 58:50; Brian Todd (vet) 64:56. Keith Penny suffered his first road defeat in 18 months when Bernie Ford outprinted him recording 47:26.

### THE SEARCH FOR 3

Aiming to break three hours for the marathon after his 3hrs. 0m. 11s. in the London Marathon he entered the Manchester Marathon on 18th October only to record 3hrs. and 25s. Returning to London he discovered on the mat his acceptance for New York, so off he flew. This time he failed by some eight minutes. His comment as he departed Kennedy Airport (NYC), "Roll on London '82". Who is the unlucky but determined Harrier? Why, it's Jim Phelan. Better luck in '82 Jim.



**Jim Phelan**



Saturday, 3rd October, 1981

### WIMBLEDON 10

A mild but windy and overcast day greeted the 270 or so starters for a hilly course that basically circumnavigates the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club three times with its start and finish on Wimbledon Park track. The course can be quite testing in the latter stages when required to negotiate for a third time the severe hill at the start of each lap as can be shown by the fact only the winner managed to break 50 mins. despite the presence of some useful performers. The Club fielded just six runners who were led home by Steve Cluney in 46th place clocking 56.48.

11th October, 1981

### WALTON 10

At going to press the official result was still awaited, but we can tell you that Bill Foster recorded his own personal best and the fastest '10' by a Harrier for a number of years — 48:49 for 22nd place in this top class field which was led home by Bernie Ford (who is this guy?) in 47.21.

Bexley, 10th October, 1981

This Saturday saw the Vets team take to the roads for the Southern Counties V.A.A.A. Road Relay Championship. Despite the depth and strength of our Vets we managed only two teams but not for want of trying. The eventual winners were local rivals Dartford Harriers who in fact had to sport a Blackheath second claim member Dave Nash. He clocked a fine 17.29 for his club. Our 'A' team did the Club due credit placing 5th in 53.51 while the 'B' team finished in 14th place.

1, Dartford Harriers 49.13; 5th, Blackheath 'A' 53.51; 14th, Blackheath 'B' 61.12.

**Two miles gone—24 to go. New York City runners pour into Brooklyn from the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.**

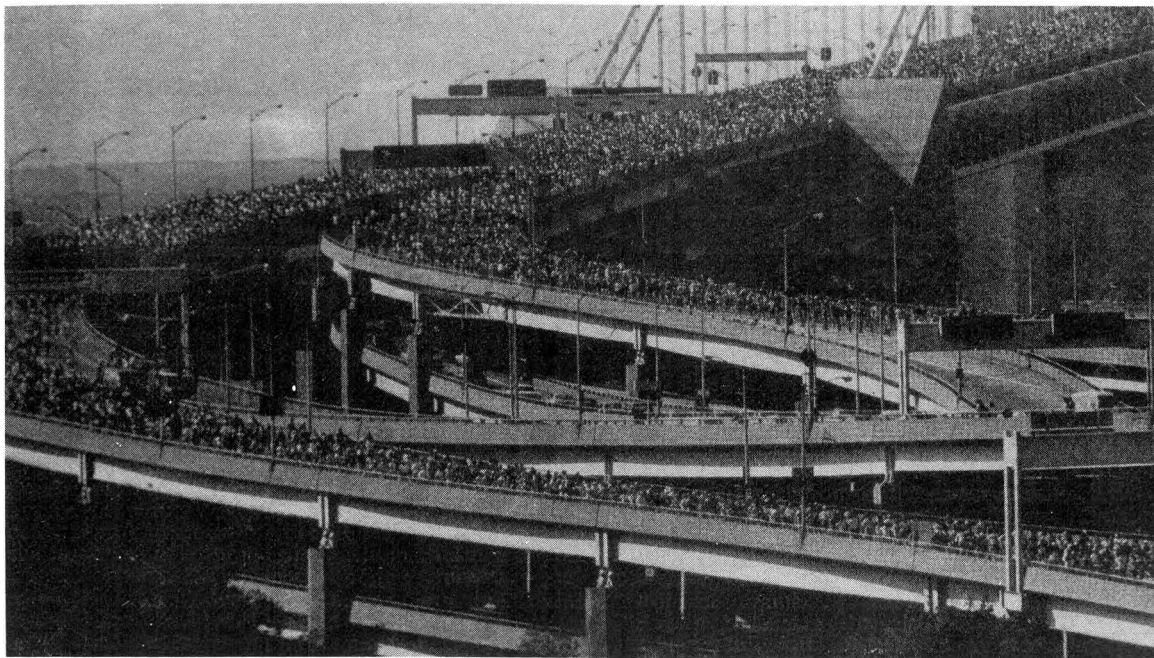
### "IT'S JUST PEOPLE EXERCISING"

To convey an adequate description of the New York City Marathon is comparable with trying to describe an elephant to someone who has never seen one. In fact, ludicrous though it may seem at first, this most famous of marathons bears a certain resemblance to such a beast. It is of course large (14,496 starters this year), makes a lot of noise (an estimated 2½ million spectators lined the route and the press, radio and television coverage was extensive), consumes large quantities of food (both at the breakfast run for international entrants held the day before the race and at the pasta party the same evening, it was evident carbohydrate loading is taken very seriously by many) and once it starts to move it is most unwise to stand in its way.

Any further description would I feel be too subjective in that it is impossible to obtain a balanced view of any race when you are stuck somewhere in the middle of it and thus unaware of what is happening both in front of you and behind you. In addition I am sure that the New York means something different to each of its participants and a different account would be given by each of the other eight 'Heathens' who took part.

I think it is fair to say, however, that the course itself in New York is a harder one than that in London and the infamous New York roads make even Wapping High Street a preferable surface to run on. This did not however prevent two or three of our members, including the Club's leading short distance runner, from improving their personal bests (or PR's in local jargon). Such is the atmosphere of the race, and as an added bonus this year we had the opportunity to run in a race in which the world's fastest times were recorded, male and female; an opportunity which is rare indeed for most of us.

To conclude I would merely say that if you are interested in running a marathon you should consider running New York: at the very least you'll experience an interesting tour of many of the differ-



ent ethnic neighbourhoods of the city and you'll even get goodies in your goodies bag.

1, A. Salazar, 2:08.13; 113, Alison Roe, 2:25.28; 211, T. Soutar, 2:31.42; 635, S. Rutherford, 2:46.03; 662, P. Barrington King, 2:46.42; 834, K. Pike, 2:49.50; 1190, T. Nana, 2:55.48; 1222, S. Cluney, 2:56.16; 2259, J. Phelan, 3:07.58.

## CLUB KIT

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS FROM THE WINE COMMITTEE, OVER THE BAR, WHENEVER THE CLUB IS OPEN

### SWEATERS

Machine washable lambswool sweaters, embroidered with Club name and badge on left breast.

Navy or Black, Sizes XS, S, M, L, XL ... .. £15.50

### TIES

Standard Club Tie ... .. £3.00

Blazer Tie ... .. £4.00

City Tie ... .. £5.00

TRACKSUIT BADGES Silk-screen cloth badge ... .. 80p

KEY CHAIN ... .. 80p

BAG STICKERS ... .. 20p

CAR STICKERS ... .. 25p

### CLUB HISTORY

A definitive account of the first 100 years of Blackheath Harriers. Large, hardback volume, extensively illustrated, 247 pages ... .. £4.95

### JUBILEE PLATES

Limited edition, specially designed to commemorate 50 years of occupation of the present Headquarters £5.00

Order by letter or phone:

THE WINE COMMITTEE

56 BOURNE WAY

HAYES, KENT

Telephone: 01-462 3115

(Wed evenings only 8 p.m.—11 p.m.)

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

A reminder to all members — your 1981/82 subscriptions WERE due in September — failure to pay will incur the wrath of the Committee and will result in you being struck off the membership list.

## IN THE MUD

17th October, 1981

### FIVE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

Last year, it may be recalled, we celebrated the Centenary of this event. This year we started another century with the extremely good field of 73 runners. A new feature of the course is the "moat" constructed alongside Boundary Wood. It's a sad commentary on current behaviour that the farmer feels that this is necessary to protect his farming activities.

At the start, Les Roberts led off at a very respectable pace, but his present lack of fitness soon showed and he dropped back near the pumping station. With such familiar senior talent as John Baldwin, Ian Wilson and Andy Frankish in contention with Richard Coles it was most encouraging to see the youthful Robert Farish battling with them and, in fact, taking the lead. These five "mixed it" very closely until the run in across the common, where at a certain bush, in the proximity of which footsteps are apparently muffled, Richard Coles made a break past Robert and headed home to take first place.

Richard confessed to your reporter that he had been "jumped" by the wily Bob Richardson at the same spot some years ago. Perhaps we should erect a suitable monument!

Robert Farish's performance in finishing second was well rewarded in the handicap as he was given second place. Peter Orviss, who finished 35th, took the first handicap spot. The third man home was yet to have his moment of the day, for it was the future President, Ian Wilson.

The race encompassed several families and various fathers were seen to be trying desperately to keep up-and-coming sons behind them. Sometimes they failed so to do! The Caltons, Edmunds and Tompkins were all present in force to ensure that their respective Blackheathen dynasties will continue.

1, R. Coles, 30.15; 2, R. Farish, 30.20; 3, I. Wilson, 30.45.



Bill Lake—Club Sec. and the Edmunds Clan

## **KENT CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE**

**(Youths, Boys and Colts)**

Fortunately, the opening fixture of the Kent Youths, Boys and Colts cross-country league did not mean a two hour journey beforehand. Indeed, because the fixture was a home one, more people turned up to run, and the results were significantly better than last year. The day was warm and dry and the course was fast. The winner in the Colts race won by a considerable distance as did the winner in the Boys race, and Robert Farish in the Youths race. Leading Blackheath home in the Colts race was Clive Suckling in 4th place, followed by A. Carlton (19th), M. Fovargue (22nd) and S. Adams (40th) rounding off the scoring for the 'A' team. They finished 3rd team with the 'B' team 18th. The Boys race produced a somewhat similar result with James Adams first home for 'Heath in 2nd place, followed by A. Hartley (17th), S. Creedon (19th) and D. Blackman (23rd). The 'A' team finished 3rd, and the 'B' team 14th. Not surprisingly in the Youths race Robert Farish won with considerable ease. He was followed by M. Laws (13th), G. Fernandes (22nd) and D. Searby (35th). They finished 5th team.

The overall results were far better than any of last year's Kent League fixtures — let's hope that it is the sign of even better things to come.

## **SOUTHERN COUNTIES VETERANS' DECATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*or "last of the summer whine and wheeze"*

The durability of veteran athletes was well illustrated at Norman Park on the occasion of the first Southern Counties Veterans' Decathlon championships, on 17th and 18th October.

Conditions on the first day were against any personal bests being achieved and the strongest opposition was provided by the driving rain and the cold wind which blew unhindered across the park. In order to keep warm the competitors and officials had arrived swathed in numerous layers of jumpers, tracksuits and wets. The warm-up over, competitors wasted no time in moving from event to event so that the first day was completed in record time.

The Club's representatives, Jim Day, who was responsible for much of the organisation, and Colin Brand, competing in the 1B (45-50) age group, were well placed after Saturday's five events with their stronger events to come on the second day. Jim, who was still suffering from a nagging calf muscle injury, had battled well for his points score, and Colin using his strength in the final effort of the day, the 400m, produced a good time against the back straight wind, which augured well for Sunday.

The second day was sunny and, compared to Saturday, quite mild. All except one competitor returned to the arena for the next five events, 110m. hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and for the finale the 1500m. Jim, for once, failed to reach 3.00m. in his own event, the Pole Vault, but gamely started the 1500m. despite the discomfort his leg injury was causing. Sadly he was unable to score any points at all in this event. Colin, with the two long throws to pick up the points which he needed after spread-eagling himself across the track at the first hurdle of the 110, put in a steady Pole Vault (2.15m.) and a dogged 1500m, chipping 9 seconds off his National Decathlon time of three years ago. He made sure of the 1B title scoring 3716.7 points. Jim finished an aching and disappointed third.

The Southern Counties also ran their 10,000m. Veterans' Championships in conjunction with the second day, which made for an added attraction. In the over 50's John Oliver gave best to Laurie O'Hara of Belgrave, only after an interesting and hard fought contest.

The Club provided most of the officials on the second day of this pleasant and friendly event which was suitably concluded by the presentation of awards by our President who thus had a Blackheath winner within twenty hours of being elected.

*Hyde Park, 27th September, 1981*

## **SUNDAY TIMES FUN RUN**

### **Geriatric Jottings**

As in the previous three years a group of B.H. Seniors indulged in this nostalgic scamper, even to the extent of entering a team in their age class. Having finished a creditable 27th team from 90th last year a vigorous campaign (via a "come and join us" birthday card) ensured three speedy additions for 1981 with high hopes for improvement.

Alas, injuries and rumours of injuries, apart from the usual athletic "ploys", (with one man fleeing to the wilds of Norfolk in order to establish an alibi!) resulted in the 'A' team being depleted which meant that two of the "joke pack" would have to stop laughing and run. Honourable mention must be made of Alan Brent who having fallen from a ladder earlier (unintentionally) was a doubtful starter, but came along out of curiosity and turned in a heroic performance to finish 51st in contrast to his 13th last year.

The pallid Sunday sun produced nine 'heathens' supported by evergreen George Brooks giving his computer watch an airing; and Mesdames Marjorie Braughton and Doris Walker were initiated into the art of guarding clothing and soothing the nervous entrants.

In the event, to coin a phrase, the final positions were as follows:—

3, J. Braughton; 12, F. Dyter; 20, J. Bennett; 46, W. Lake; 51, A. Brent; 71, L. Piper; 87, J. Parrott; 90, L. King; 96, J. Walker.

This gave a team score of 203, thus achieving a creditable 27th from 1350 teams, and next year who knows with some more "freshmen" we may improve on this. Other 'heathens' in their various categories were disporting themselves on this good-humoured day encompassing some 27,000 participants, including the disabled.

It was observed "en passant" that the wily secretary led his troops "Plaza-Toro" like from behind and wore a bandage to solicit sympathy and scare the stretcher-bearers. His main recollection of the run was being passed by a grey-haired lady in slacks whilst she was adjusting her shoulder strap — and he couldn't press on to offer help! By the way this class of the Fun Run is mixed — no fools these old boys.

---

**Photographs except New York by S. Cluney.**

---

---

**COMING SOON  
KENT 20  
INTER-BANKS CC  
VETS MOB MATCH  
DONATIONS**

---

## National Road Relay

Crystal Palace, 24th October, 1981

A late entry was made by the Club to the National 6 Stage Road Relay which, being on our doorstep, seemed an ideal opportunity to get some early winter racing in for some. It however turned out to be a disappointing day. The general turnout Nationally was poor and the Club did not fare that well being light of a number of key runners for various reasons. But that in no way detracts from the tremendous efforts put in by those who toiled round the tough 3 lap 1.3 mile circuit of Crystal Palace. The front end of the race was a battle between Aldershot, Invicta and Tipton, whilst for the Club our fastest man was Richard Coles who contested a fast second leg in 20.41. The rest of the team that took 19th place was John Baldwin, Ian Wilson, Bob Cliff, Martin Athawes and Ian Young.

### LETTER

Sir,

I was astounded to learn at the AGM that "ROTA" was a four letter dirty word in the confines of the Wine Committee.

It seems that in my time on that body I was very lucky, as I had the support of twelve good men and true for a rota of six on tea duty and six on bar duty; which meant for each man a total of some five "duties" during the winter season. If for any reason a man couldn't be there on his duty night, then he exchanged with one of his colleagues. A simpler rota continued for the summer season.

Is there no club spirit to support a similar system? If the only club spirit existing is in the bottles behind the bar then it must be appreciated that this places a greater load on the already hard-working staff; and if we continue to flog willing horses, then we may kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Yours 'heavenly,

Johnnie Walker.

### H.Q. RE-WIRING FUND

Donations to the fund have been received from the following to whom we offer our grateful thanks:

J. H. Allanson, E. Anslow-Wilson, M. J. Athawes, J. Austridge, P. I. G. Baigent, A. E. Ball, T. M. Barrett, V. W. W. Beardon, C. A. Beer, J. V. F. Bennett, L. Bishop, J. Blackman, A. C. Blackwell, L. E. Blight, J. Braughton, F. G. Brooks, T. Cavanagh, J. A. Clear, D. R. Cocker, E. T. Coles, F. G. W. Dudman, N. F. B. Ebbutt, J. R. Edmonds, A. W. G. Edwards, Rev. P. H. Francis, A. W. Frankish, E. A. L. Frost, A. H. Gedde, G. E. Geere, R. E. Green, P. C. Hannell, M. J. Harley, M. Heiniman, J. P. Holder, F. A. Horn, T. Jarrold, K. J. Johnson, A. E. Keepax, J. H. Kitton, W. F. Lake, E. J. Malone, G. E. Monshall, T. J. Mountford, C. C. Noaks, W. S. Norton, T. M. O'Reilly, N. W. Page, J. J. Partington, H. J. Pearce, M. L. Peel, G. Richardson, F. C. Rogers, S. R. Rutherford, D. I. Saunders, P. E. Sims, G. H. Smith, P. W. von Speyr, P. G. Stenning, J. C. Stevens, B. M. Swift, M. A. Taylor, R. E. D. Taylor, P. H. Thompson, W. E. Tonkin, L. G. Towers, W. H. M. Vercoe, D. W. M. Wade, M. A. Walker, A. J. Weeks-Pearson, D. White, G. H. Wilkinson, M. N. Williams.

There was also a donation from Mrs. J. W. M. Norman in memory of her husband, Monty, who died early in 1981. Donations to date total £965.

Deadline for articles for next Gazette—  
15th MARCH, 1982

AT THE HEART OF  
BRITISH ATHLETICS

centresport

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE  
CRYSTAL PALACE

CLUB



KIT

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE  
AVAILABLE TO ORDER

CLUB KITBAG ... .. £7.95

VESTS: XS (30-32) £3.50; S (34-36) £4.00; M (37-39) £4.50; L (40-42) £5.00; XL (44-46) £5.50.

SHORTS: New design, available early '82. Sizes 28", 30", 32", 34", 36" ... .. £4.50  
As above, with inner brief ... £5.50

WEATHERSUITS: Specially made in Club colours by Karhu of Finland. Windproof and waterproof, both jacket and trousers fully lined, Suit £27; Jacket £15.50; Trousers £12.50. Sizes XS, S, M, L, XL.

SWEATSHIRTS: Top quality American sweatshirts.

Children's 28", 30", 32" ... £5.25  
Adults, S, M, L, XL ... £6.25

T-SHIRTS: 100% Cotton T-Shirts, flock-printed back and front.

Children's 28", 30", 32" ... £2.25  
Adults, S, M, L, XL ... £2.75

All the above prices are specially discounted for members. All members are eligible for a 10% discount on all other purchases from our shop, open 7 days a week in the National Sports Centre.

LONSDALE CENTRESPORT LTD.

87 Beckenham Lane, Shortlands,  
Bromley. Mon-Fri. 01-464 6211

Order by letter or telephone. Ask for  
Graham Botley or Ken Daniel

Brain Teaser (Supplied by Mensa)

Rearrange the following words into a well known phrase or saying:—

lack, heath, lack, Black, lack, lack, black.