



"Perfer et Obdura"

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

113th/114th SEASON, 1982-83

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EDITORIAL

Experience is the best teacher, only the school fees are high.

(G.W.F. Hagal)

Some good running over the country by both individuals and teams during the winter augurs well for the forthcoming battles in the second division of the British League and Southern League during this summer. Leagues are won and lost by teams and the searching requirements of two per event can leave many Internationally laden Clubs wanting on the day. It is no longer sufficient to have an 'A' string and another to collect 1 or 2 points, matches are won by placing the majority of the team in the first three places at the very outside. Strength in depth is all important, as a Club is often only as good as its third string man during a long and demanding season.

The League often produces a surprise package as a team manager coerces an athlete to 'do something for a point' and suddenly discovers the athlete concerned may have misplaced his original loyalties to an event. Are you in the right event? You may think so, but are you sure? Gary Spencer reckoned road running was all he was fast enough for until he was 'begged' to run a Southern League 400m. 'for a point'. Something went wrong, he ran 56.3 sec. on his first time over the distance, and WON. Are you sure you are doing the right

event? Why not have a go at another for a change? Have you even got the right sport? Some of you better built runners might be potential field athletes for example.

The Club Marathon Championship held in the 'London' saw Richard Coles make an impressive debut at the distance with a 2hr.20m.28s. with Graham Martin second in 2h.23m.28s. and Steve Rutherford third in 2h.27m.27s.. Merv Brameld who runs on the track only for Blackheath and was representing Invicta in the London placed a superb 18th, recording 2h.13m.48s.. Richard Coles was unlucky to place just outside the top 100 in the race finishing 105th. A full report will appear in the next issue of the Gazette. The British League team met with mixed fortunes in the first match of the season in Cwmbran finishing third behind Newham and Essex Beagles, and last season's rivals Thames Valley Harriers. The latter beat us by a mere 5½ points after two unfortunate disqualifications for the Club in the 200m. and the sprint relay after finishing second in the latter. The disqualification came after a Heathen had run wearing only one number, a valuable 10 points lost. A fuller report will appear in the next issue.



23 miles gone yet still time for a quick Jimmy Durante impression - Gary Spencer.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please remember these were due at the beginning of October. HAVE YOU PAID? Seniors £14; Full-time Students over 18 £7; under 18 £5.

Without your money the Club cannot be run. Send them to the Treasurer or to the Clubhouse, IMMEDIATELY PLEASE.

THE WET AND MUDDY SEASON.....

THE CLUB 5 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

(What were those funny little flags for?)

Saturday, 16th. Oct. 1982.

Hayes

No Indian summer for us. It was cold, wet, and windy when 84 Heathens gathered at Hayes for the annual running of the Club 5. A sizeable, well clad crowd turned up to witness the start including defending champion Richard Coles who had sustained a foot injury a fortnight previously. Several other notables were also absent, either 'resting up' for the Kent 20 the next day or sojourning in the Antipodes, leaving the sharp end of the field with a slightly depleted look. However, Bill Foster, running his first Club 5, was to compensate for the absentees.

There was reluctance to leave the shelter of the trees surrounding Wickham Court. Only the iron man George Brooks defied the elements, handkerchief held on high to signify the start. Eventually though, the familiar ragged procession of black figures was winding its way round the field and swinging out onto the mud and gradient of Boundary Wood. Peter Shephard briefly led but was then overhauled by Ken Daniel. Bill Foster was content to coast along at Ken's shoulder before moving past after a mile, and disappearing with disconcerting ease into the gloom of Boundary Wood. By the time his pursuers emerged at the top of the wood, Bill was 300 metres clear, and all but out of sight. Chris Lord was now well to the fore. At this point, Bill must have decided to reintroduce some interest at the front of the race, and went on a substantial reconnaissance of the 7½ mile course before rejoining the field in fourth place. Within half a mile though, he was back in front and pulling away again—until the top of Fox Hill that is. Obviously the two rows of flags leading off to the Common were part of a local fete, so Bill sailed straight on, putting in a quick extra hill session before being called back. As before, he was soon leading

again, and coasted home to the finish (within hailing distance of the second place man—just in case). But coming to the finish, his concentration and momentum were such that he strode through the officials across the lane and was well on his way to Coney Hall before he decided that if he hadn't finished by now he was blown if he was going any further.

Bill has been much in evidence on the track in 1982 and is a much respected member of the National League team having run many fast and aggressive races for the Club. This was his first Club Championship and we hope to see more of him at Hayes now he is more mobile.

To quote Ian Wilson, and without disrespect to other competitors, "It was nice to see a true athlete win," I suppose you don't have to rely on little flags to know where you're going on the track!

Despite all the drama out in front, treacherous conditions underfoot, and horses on the course, the other leading positions stayed unchanged in the latter part of the race. Chris Lord was second, followed by the outgoing President Ian Wilson, first year senior Mike Wilkinson and, (more venerable), the two Ken's, Pike and Daniel. The top handicap positions all went to youngsters, with Richard Mitchell first. Robert Richardson Junior second, and Stuart Adams third.

It was good to see such a mixture of old, young, and new members in attendance plus the return of Peter Hamilton and Martin Goodwin after prolonged absences.

1. W. Foster 29.10., 2. C. Lord 29.14, 3. I. Wilson 29.23, 4. M. Wilkinson 29.44, 5. K. Pike 30.00, 6. K. Daniel 30.05, 7. R. Cliff 30.13, 8. S. Robinson 30.18, 9. D. Wade 30.21, 10. B. Swift 30.23, 11. M. Athawes 30.24, 12. P. Hamilton 30.33, 13. A. Davis 30.40, 14. J. Facer 30.55, 15. R. Minting 31.06, 16. N. Burrows 31.12, 17. M. Field 30.28, 18. I. Young 31.34, 19. C. Bird 31.45, 20. K. Whicheloe 32.00, 21. P. Shephard 32.09, 22. R. Creffield 32.13, 23. M. Peel 32.26, 24. P. Kelly (Guest) 32.39, 25. M. Goodwin (Guest) 32.49, 26. A. Calton (Snr) 32.56, 27. J. Nash 33.01, 28. N. Churchill 33.05, 29. K. Geere 33.09, 30. J. Phelan 33.11, 31. J. Robinson 33.12, 32. M. Laws 33.15, 33. D. Dunn 33.15, 34. R. Farish (Snr) 33.18, 35. A. Weekes-Pearson 33.37, 36. P. Davis 33.49, 37. P. Austridge 33.55, 38. R. Mitchell 33.38, 39. P. Wood 33.59, 40. B. Stone 34.07, 41. A. Calton (Jnr) 34.30, 42. B. Smith 34.30, 43. P. Horwood 34.30, 44. C. Daly 34.42, 45. R. Savery 34.52, 46. B. Fincham 35.20, 47. G. Spencer 35.35, 48. P. Hannell 35.41, 49. S. Ridgewell 35.47, 50. M. Gasson 35.53, 51. P. Hunter 35.55, 52. D. Crowdon 35.38, 53. S. Dick 36.13, 54. P. Farrar 36.20, 55. J. Braughton 36.29, 56. D. Hopgood 36.34, 57. N. Walters 36.37, 58. P. Egan 36.47, 59. R. Richardson 36.58, 60. S. Arthurell 37.21, 61. G. Gibbens 37.23, 62. M. Bignell 37.49, 63. C. Fergusson 37.57, 64. K. Turney 38.06, 65. S. Cowland (Guest) 38.11, 66. S. Adams 38.12, 67. P. Critchley 38.14, 68. D. Howton 38.20, 69. A. Tompkins 39.04, 70. D. Thomson 39.36, 71. G. Geere 39.38, 72. D. McGrath 40.26, 73. N. Hartley 40.46, 74. F. Dyter 41.01, 75. K. Coomes 41.33, 76. G. Wright 41.36, 77. G. Clark 41.46, 78. J. Sharp (Guest) 41.52, 79. J. Bennett 42.03, 80. D. Tingey 42.38, 81. C. Brand 44.15, 82. W. Lake 48.17, 83. P. Von Speyr 50.49, 84. S. Parker 53.00.

STOP PRESS—Following a superb run over 3000m at Cosford where he almost got the better of an international class field, Bill has again suffered serious injury which has once more frustrated his shining talent

MOB MATCH v CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS v LONDON UNIVERSITY

30th October, 1982

Hayes

The day of this race was quite mild and dry compared with recent ones. It is quite an unusual occurrence to have a mob match against Cambridge Harriers and we normally run the match against London Univ. at Parliament Hill, but the venue gave the University runners a new experience as far as courses go. There were additionally a few 'surprise items' in the shape of several guests from Dartford Harriers, from whence the race victor was provided.

On this occasion the race was started from just below the Church, rather than at Wickham Court Farm, as the farmer was using the field where recent starts have been. This meant there was rather a bottleneck at the first stile, at one stage there was a traditional British queue in excess of a dozen but as ever many of the combatants devised their personal ways of negotiating this obstacle.

There were about 120 starters and there ensued a real scrap between John Grix (Dartford), the Heath's Richard Coles, and Peter Gaden of Cambridge, with that being the finishing order at the sharp end. The team race resulted in an impressive victory for Blackheath in both matches, beating Cambridge 595 to 1085 and London Univ. 22 to 56.

1. P.J. Grix (Dartford) 28.10s, 2. R. Coles (Blackheath) 28.12s, 3. P. Gaden (Cambridge H.) 28.23, 4. L. Roberts 28.33s, 5. K. Daniels 28.37s, 6. M. Jackson 28.46s, 7. M.J. Wilkinson 28.50s, 9. J. Baldwin 29.05s, 10. C. Woodcock 29.09s, 11. K. Pike 29.16s, 16. R. Cliff 29.28s, 17. B. Swift 29.48s, 20. M. Athawes 30.03s, 21. D. Searby 30.09s, 22. I.C. Wilson 30.10s, 23. P. Barrington-King 30.12s, 26. P. Shephard 30.14s, 27. J. Facer 30.17s, 31. M. Field 30.49s, 32. K. Whicheloe 30.54s, 33. R. Coe 31.02s, 34. I. Young 31.02s, 40. M. Goodwin 31.30s, 42. J. Beck 31.34s, 45. D. White 31.44s, 47. N. Wise 32.01s, 48. M. Peel 32.01s, 49. A. Calton Snr. 32.10s, 50. M. Laws 32.28s, 52. P. Varcoe 32.31s, 53. P. Austridge 32.34s, 57. J. Phelan 32.47s, 58. C. Haines 33.09s, 59. P. Davis 33.09s, No. 101 ??? (B.H.) 33.29s, 62. G. Spencer 33.43s, 63. P. Hopwood 33.52s, 64. B. Fincham 33.56s, 65. R. Chambers 33.59s, 66. B.J. Smith 34.03s, 67. P. Hannell 34.12s, 68. P. Egan 34.16s, 71. J. Hills 34.25s, 73. A. Calton Jnr. 34.38s, 74. R. Ebbutt 34.42s, 75. D. Appleton 34.47s, 76. S. Dick 34.47s, 77. J. Wakeman 34.55s, 78. C. Ferguson 35.30s, 79. D. Crowdsom 35.55s, 80. P. Lester 36.03s, 81. S. Arthrell 36.06s, 83. S. Fitz-Costa 36.14s, 76. G. Gibbens 36.35s, 78. D. Hopgood 36.38s, 79. R. Foreman 36.41s, 90. G. Botley 36.41s, 92. J. Broughton 36.46s, 93. P. Hunter 36.51s, 94. R. Turney 36.52s, 99. G. Plank 37.57s, 100. J. Nash 38.03s, 101. P. Nash 38.03s, 102. A. Tompkins 38.12s, 103. K. Price 38.20s, 104. D. Thompson 38.23s, 105. B. Atkinson 38.25s, 106. S. Bibby 39.54s, 107. J. Sanford Jnr. 39.56s, 108. N. Hartley 41.38s, 109. K. Coombs 41.38s, 110. C. Brand 43.53s, 111. G. Clark 44.47s.

Scoring:- 25 a Side. Blackheath - 595 Pts. Cambridge - 1085 Pts.

Scoring:- 6 A Side. Blackheath 22 Pts. London Univ. 26 Pts.



A select bunch with 3 miles to go includes Richard Coles

SOUTH OF THE THAMES JUNIOR

Saturday, 13th November

Windsor

The course was a 'short' five miles consisting of two laps with one long shallow uphill drag on each lap but was very wet and uneven underfoot. The Blackheath team was led home by Mike Wilkinson who was well placed at halfway but slipped back a few places during the latter stages of the race. He was closely followed by Steve Thomson (home from Bristol Univ. for the weekend), Ken Pike, Steve Rutherford (looking decidedly off-form), and Brian Swift. Good packing but too low in the order to make any impression on the higher team placings. Elliott's won the the team race with Blackheath the second Kent Club to finish. Mark Jackson was unlucky enough to lose a shoe on the first lap and this clearly effected his performance.

Martin Athawes was suffering throughout the race, no doubt due to the pressure of holding high office, he is this year's South of the Thames CCA President. The road racing fraternity formed the bulk of the B team and performed creditably in what were for runners used to the firmness of the roads very difficult conditions.

1. R. Carter (Brighton) 23.30, 45. M. Wilkinson 25.01, 53. S. Thompson 25.12, 57. K. Pike 25.14, 63. S. Rutherford 25.19, 66. B. Swift 25.20, 85. M. Jackson 25.40, 102. M. Athawes 25.55, 154. D. White 26.50, 168. J. Facer 27.01, 180. K. Whicheloe 27.18, 194. P. Barrington-King 27.35, 231. J. Phelan 28.30.

Teams-1. Elliott A.C. 75 pts. 10. B.H. 'A' 218, 32. B.H. 'B' 696.

MOB MATCH v SLH

Saturday, 20th November, 1982

7½m/Coulisdon

1. A.J. Evans (SLH) 43.40s, 2. R. Coles. 43.45s, 3. D.J. Latter. (SLH) 44.07s, 8. R. Richardson (Snr.) 45.58s, 9. C. Lord 46.04s, 10. L. Roberts. 46.18s, 11. K. Pike. 46.20s, 13. S. Rutherford. 46.45s, 14. R. Cliff. 46.50s, 15. K. Daniel. 47.03s, 17. I. C. Wilson. 47.14s, 19. P. German. 47.35s, 20. C. Woodcock. 47.46s, 21. J. Baldwin. 47.48s, 22. B. Swift. 47.49s, 24. M. Athawes. 47.57s, 25. D. Wade. 48.00s, 31. P. Shephard. 48.34s, 34. D. White. 48.50s, 35. J. Facer. 48.58s, 36. S. Robinson. 49.02s, 39. J. Adams. 49.09s, 41. R. Coe. 49.27s, 42. P. Barrington-King. 49.32s, 43. I. Young. 49.33s, 45. M. Jackson. 49.41s, 46. K. Whicheloe. 49.59s, 50. F. O'Gorman. 50.15s, 51. C. Walker. 50.23s, 54. P. Cosgrove. 50.58s, 55. M. Laws. 50.59s, 56. M. Cronin. 51.01s, 57. R. Minting. 51.03s, 60. J. Phelan. 51.20s, 64. J. Nash. 51.36s, 67. C. Haines. 51.51s, 68. M. Peel. 51.54s, 69. D. Dunn. 51.57s, 70. A. Calton. (Snr.) 52.00s, 71. G. Crowder. 52.19s, 73. A.J. Weeks-Pearson. 52.45s, 77. J. Robinson. 52.58s, 79. P. Davis. 53.11s, 80. N. Churchill. 53.13s, 92. B.G. Stone. 54.02s, 94. R. Ebbutt. 54.08s, 98. R. Chambers. 54.17s, 102. J. Hills. 54.30s, 103. P. Hannell. 54.42s, 104. C. Daly. 54.51s, 105. G. Spencer. 54.54s, 106. P. Davies. 54.59s, 109. R. Farrish Snr. 55.13s, 110. R. Savery. 55.22s, 113. I.A. Blackman. 55.51s, 117. R. Mitchell. 56.35s, 118. R. Foreman. 56.40s, 120. P. Lester. 57.20s, 121. S. Ridgewell. 57.23s, 122. P. Austridge. 57.25s, 125. K. Price. 57.40s, 130. G. Plank. 58.18s, 132. J. Broughton. 58.24s, 136. P. Hunter. 58.43s, 138. D.H. Hopgood. 58.51s, 139. S. Dick. 58.59s, 142. D. Hickman. 59.39s, 146. B. Todd. 60.00s, 147. A. Dick. 60.02s, 151. M. Allen. 60.57s, 157. A. Tompkins. 62.07s, 159. R. Richardson Jnr. 62.30s, 160. D. Thomson. 62.37s, 161. Mackinlay. 62.45s, 162. G. Last. 62.56s, 163. A. Ball. 64.09s, 165. P. Farrar. 64.46s, 167. G. Clark. 64.52s, 168. F. Dyter. 64.58s, 169. D. Saunders. 65.01s, 172. L. Dalmon. 65.35s, 174. K. Coombs. 67.30s, 175. D. Tingey. 68.08, 178. C. Brand. 69.13s, 180. J. Bennett. 71.48s, 182. J. Parlington. 81.25s, 183. W. Lake. 82.13s. Gordon Hickey - "My aim is to get down to twice Les Roberts' weight."

Scoring 83 A Side

SLH 6633;

B.H. 7353

GLC LONDON CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, 27th November, 1982 *Parliament Hill*
As usual the GLC had arranged for the Fire Brigade to water the 6 mile course, yet with youthful enthusiasm 18 Heathens decided to brave the bitter cold in their efforts for personal and team glory.

Richard Coles (6th), Les Roberts (22nd), and the two newcomers Chris Lord (32nd), Mike Wilkinson (36th) all ran well to score for the 'A' team. Then followed a veritable procession of Heathens in one of the best displays of packing the author (who decided to have a rest halfway round to see how the others were getting on!) has ever witnessed. Eight men from 32nd. to 58th., 14 Heathens in the first 86, and the last man home in 150th. in a field of 288 finishers.

Not surprisingly the 'A' team were fifth, the 'B' team hot on their heels in seventh only 71 points adrift, with the 'C' team 13th. and the 'D' team 20th., out of 46 teams. The 'B' team achieved a wealth of notable 'A' team scalps, SLH, Herne Hill, Croydon, Cambridge, Poly and TVH—a good day in all.

1.—S. Lowe (Shafts) 31m.51s., 6. R. Coles 32.45, 22. L. Roberts 33.49, 32. C. Lord 34.35, 36. M. Wilkinson 34.43, 38. I. Wilson 34.48, 42. K. Daniel 34.57, 45. S. Rutherford 35.03, 48. K. Pike 35.18, 51. B. Swift 35.29, 58. R. Cliff 35.47, 67. M. Athawes 36.01, 83. R. Coe 36.43, 85. S. Robinson 36.48, 86. D. White 36.53, 103. J. Facer 37.38, 105. K. Whicheloe 37.50, 138. M. Field 39.19, 150. J. Phelan 39.40.

Teams—1. North London A.C. 52.5. B.H. 'A' 96.7. 'B' 173.13. 'C' 259.21. 'D' 379.

VETS-B.H. v WOODFORD G v SLH v VETS A.C. WYCOMBE PHEONIX

Saturday, 27th November, 1982 *Hayes - 10kms*
1. D. Wade (B.H.) 40.10s. 2. J. Oliver (B.H.) 42.30s. 3. J. Mattinson (SLH) 42.30s. 4. M. Peel 42.47s. 5. J. Nash 42.48s. 7. A. Weekes-Pearson 44.27s. 11. G. Crowder 44.42s. 12. B. Stone 44.45s. 14. J. Hills 45.10s. 18. R. Chambers 46.38s. 19. R. Savery 46.38s. 24. J. Braughton 48.33s. 32. B. Todd 51.10s. 34. A. Tompkins 51.52s. 36. R. Turney 52.24s. 37. G. Butlin 52.29s. 39. D. Saunders 53.39s. 40. M. Heinnemann 53.52s. 41. D. Thompson 54.06s. 42. A. Ball 55.32s. 44. D. Tingey 56.47s. 48. C. Brand 58.23s. 51. W. Lake 63.44s.

Teams—1. B.H. - 12pts.

KENT COUNTY VETERANS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, 11th December, 1982 *Sidcup*
The day was cold and sunny with the course very muddy in places following recent heavy rain. A prominent feature of the 10km. race was the requirement to negotiate the River Cray TWICE, about 10 paces of shin deep icy water.

The race organisation was excellent in every respect and as the results show a spectacular triumph for Blackheath providing not only the winner and runner-up John Baldwin and Chris Woodcock respectively, but also 4 in the first ten, seventh Peter Shephard and ninth Ted Tunley and thus the winning team of three with a mere ten points. The 'B' team fared equally well placing seventh of 14 teams.

1. J. Baldwin 34.54s. 2. C. Woodcock 36.06. 7. P. Shephard 37.12. 9. E. Tunley 37.32. 19. M. Peel 39.24. G. Crowder 40.56. 34. J. Kavanagh 41.44. 35. R. Farrish (Snr) 41.57. 39. R. Savery 42.24. 42.24. 70 finished.

Teams 1. Blackheath 'A' 10pts. 7. B.H. 'B' 72.

MOB MATCH RESULTS

Some of you will have seen lists of computer scores which appear as subsidiary results to the normal inter-club positions and it is about time I came clean and explained what they are all about.

The initial interest in the mob match calculations lies in three areas. First, what is the significance of a given victory by x points? Second, everyone knows that having a greater number on the start line is an advantage, but how much? Lastly, if one team fills the first few positions, they are

obviously ahead at that point but how important is this, and as the remaining runners come in what is the current overall race?

The advent of computers to even this ancient area of sport makes it possible to do the fairly straightforward sums required to answer these questions and hopefully add to the interest in the results, and point out the reasons for a victory (or defeat if such an event should come to pass!) The presentation of these results is by means of a forecast of the final outcome right from the start, where one team usually has an advantage, and going on through the field down to the last scoring runner and final match figures.

The principle on which these forecasts are created is not at all obscure—at any point the teams have a number of athletes still to finish some of whom will probably not score. For example B.H. 32 and SLH 20, the total number still to finish is thus 52 and it is assumed that these 52 positions will be filled evenly by both teams, so the sixteenth B.H. and tenth SLH runner will be around the 26th. of these 52 runners. It will usually happen that of these say the first 10 B.H. and the first 17 SLH will then fill the forecast of scoring competitors to give a final result. Fortunately the formula required to follow this principle and thus answer the questions we started with and quickly arrive at the result is not impossibly difficult.

For those at the finish, both officials and runners as they arrive, it would be interesting to see this forecast of the final result as the rest of the field comes in. In theory this is very easy, but the logistical practicalities are more difficult and depend on the general interest in such a project.

As an example of the way things work out I have been looking at last year's Orion match. As it was an away fixture our members were roughly equal (30 to their 26) although on this occasion it was our stronger runners who turned out. The result in my format with 23 to score was—

Competitors Finished			Actual Cumulative Forecast Final Result			BH Victory
BH	Orion	Total	BH	Orion	BH	
—	—	0	—	—	505	581 76
3	1	4	6	4	481	606 125
7	1	8	32	4	435	656 221
13	4	17	115	38	405	690 286
16	9	25	183	142	416	678 262
21	14	35	336	294	412	684 273
(24)	23	47	414	673	414	673 414

The final result was thus a victory by 259 points. B.H. had one non-scorer (position 41) holding back the last few Orion scorers. The average score was 544 which is near to the rough approximation of 541 which is n^2 where n is the number of scoring athletes on each side (23 in this case). The victory should be measured in terms of this average to compare different matches. It is 100% for a complete victory (all one team home before the opposition). This was obviously a convincing victory at 48% for 259 points.

Our 4 extra runners were worth 76 points and our initial strength soon showed, 221 points. The lack of a comparable number of slower men meant we advanced no further after position 17 (286 points) and in fact went slightly backwards to finish 259 points ahead.

I hope this analysis gives some idea of the interpretation and I trust interest of the final results, that being the case I shall continue to produce tables.

MOB MATCH v ORION HARRIERS

Saturday, 11th December, 1982 *7½/Hayes*

1. C. Lord 46.58s. 2. M.J. Wilkinson 47.24s. 3. K. Pike 48.55s. 4. D. Wade 49.02s. 5. S. Rutherford 49.34s. 6. K. Daniel 49.27s. 8. R. Cliff 49.39s. 9. B. Swift 49.41s. 11. I. Young 50.19s. 12. P. Hamilton 50.22. 13. P. Barrington-King 50.49s. 14. K. Whicheloe 51.04s. 15. D. White 51.16s. 16. R. Coe 51.24s. 17. J. Facer 51.28s. 18. D. Searby 51.51s. 19. J. Adams 51.55s. 20. J. Phelan 52.39s. 21. M. Cronin 52.46s. 23. A. Calton Snr 52.58s. 24. P. Cosgrove 53.11s. 25. N. Churchill 53.44s. R. Minting 53.51s. 27. D.

Dunn. 54.10s, 28. C. Haines. 54.13s, 29. C. Daly. 54.46s, 30. J. Robinson. 54.49s, 32. F. Johnson. 55.06s, 33. S. Ridgewell. 55.10s, 34. P. Farrar. 55.11s, 35. G. Spencer. 55.21s, 37. M. Laws. 55.48s, 38. R. Ebbutt. 55.59s, 39. P. Austridge. 56.04s, 40. G. Williams. 56.12s, 41. R. Chambers. 56.30s, 42. J. Hills. 56.57s, 43. C. Nash. 57.19s, 44. P. Davies. 57.24s, 46. B. Stone. 57.40s, 49. J. Bailey. 58.10s, 51. D. Crowdon. 58.34s, 52. M. Gasson. 58.37s, 53. D. Hickman. 58.49s, 54. S. FitzCosta. 60.08s, 55. A. Calton Jnr. 60.35s, 56. C. Fergusson. 60.37s, 57. R. Richardson. (Jnr) 61.06s, 58. D. Hoppood. 61.31s, 59. G. Plank. 61.37s, 60. B. Todd. 62.45s, 61. M. Allen. 62.51s, 62. J.E. Hill. 63.24s, 63. T. McGeough. 64.09s, 64. R. Turney. 64.20s, 66. P. Critchley. 64.34s, 67. D. Thomson. 64.40s, 68. M. Heinemann. 64.55s, 69. G. Butlin. 66.11s, 70. A. Tompkins. 66.19s, 73. P. Saxon. 67.57s, 74. A. Ball. 68.56s, 75. D. Wilcox. 69.50s, 76. L. Dalmon. 70.00s, 77. C. Brand. 70.17s, 78. D. Tingey. 71.38s, 79. J. Bennett. 73.44s, 80. G. Clark. 76.11s, 81. W. Lake. 87.59s.

THE WESTERHAM STROLL

Sunday 10th. October 1982.

The Country

Once again the weather was kind to the annual joint stroll between Surrey Walking Club and Blackheath Harriers and with about 20 participants the event was as successful as ever. Blackheath were very well represented with 17 members including joint members, wives, and Victor the dog. The course was reputed to be even shorter this year, but at 19 miles we certainly did not feel too lightly taxed. As custom decrees, our President started with us as one of the, hopefully, more pleasurable duties of his annual agenda, but equally customarily. Past Presidents, Colin Brand apart, were conspicuous by their absence, from which various deductions may be made.

The group made occasional tendencies to emulate the amoeba and divide into two parts and then subdivide again and so on but it was no surprise that the dichotomy was resolved by a convergence of all parties on the chosen hostelry at Toys Hill. Our thanks were due to Don Hoppood our navigator whose infallibility was never questioned even though it sometimes appeared that Lew Piper knew a quicker way to the pub. The said establishment is rightly proud of its ale, the stocks of which were attacked with gusto by our party. The loss of two walkers at this point may have as little to do with the excellence of the beer as was our acquisition of another P.P.

Thus fortified, we tackled the longer and tougher ascent to the dizzy heights of Biggin Hill. The return was not entirely incident free as we were treated to Dicky Green's cartwheel act over a stile – fortunately without serious injury. The other extra mural activity was the frequent reclaiming of Victor onto the straight and narrow from which his four rather muddy feet were apt to stray. The climb back onto the North Downs Way was rewarded by marvellous views of the Weald despite the rather dull conditions and the last lap to take in the Piper household was rewarded by the equally marvellous view of the tea Gwen had laid up for us. This last element of the excursion would be enough in itself to make the walk worthwhile and all were most grateful to our hostess.

All in all a most satisfying day enjoying the beautiful countryside we are lucky to have so close by. So let's see more of you next year. If Harry Kempton can do it at 72 so can you! Should further recommendation be required you only need to ask The President – when he recovers!

The Blackheath participants were P. Baigent, D. Bennett, J. Bennett, Mrs. Bennett, C. Brand, Mrs. Brand, L. Dalman, R. Green, P. Hannell, D. Hoppood, A. Kempton, L. Piper, J. Rhodes, R. Richardson, D. Thompson, and Victor the dog. In

A NEW YEAR DAWNS ON THE COUNTRY



addition there were four more Surrey only members, W. Bryant, S. Fullager, J. Palmer, and J. Ryden.

KENT COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, January 8th, 1983

Maidstone

The first Saturday of each year is by tradition Punch Bowl Night but in order to have something to celebrate or moan about we equally traditionally partake of the County Championships during the afternoon. This year's setting, Mote Park Maidstone is an idyllic setting for a picnic stroll on a warm summer evening but when converted into a cross country course some of its undoubted attractions such as its fine sweeping hill and fine views from the top become a totally different thing. That is merely a spectator's opinion so no doubt the combatants would be even more lyrical about the course. The weather was however suitable, cool and sunny with a hint of a breeze. The course was indeed a fast one with a number of fast flat sections and just two short but steep rises.

The seniors were first away with the large number of Heathens being masterfully organised by Past President Tony Oldfield who was issuing numbers so late that he almost had to lead the way round the first lap, numbers and pins at the ready. The first two Heathens to finish in 3rd, and 9th, Merv Brameld and Jon Wigley, are first claim Heathens on the track and were on this occasion running forssch! don't want to put that in print do we. But cross country captain Richard Coles led home the team finishing in 16th place. Then came some excellent packing by the first team in the 20's with Heathen taking 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, and our last scorer Mike Jackson 29th.

A little further back there was a battle between two 'golden oldies', as former British International Bob Richardson made a fleeting reappearance in Club colours to do battle with, and beat his old adversary Past President Ian Wilson. A victory I'm sure he will savour for some time. Well to the fore was also a large contingent of the Club's road runners who had taken to the softer stuff for the day but seemed a little wary of the brown stuff that kept dirtying their shoes. Blackheath closed in three teams finally, third, ninth, and eleventh, of 15 teams.

Second to race were the Youths who were to compete over 4 miles. The first Heathen home on this occasion was James Adams who placed an excellent ninth with Cosgrove, Davis, and Blackman completing the scoring team.

The last away were the Juniors which is usually the weakest section of the Club but happily things are looking better and this year we had enough to close in a team which managed fourth place. The Juniors ran their 5 miles over two laps of the senior course and Elliotts A.C. showed total domination with a perfect score in the 3 to score team race, a mere 6 points-first second and third. The Heathens seemed to adopt "The Ark" syndrome as they raced in pairs with Steve Thompson and Dave Searby finishing 16th and 17th and Mark Colpus and Mike Laws placing 21st and 22nd. Paul Austridge, known more for his 400m. hurdling than his cross country running seemed unsettled when he again found lack of things to jump over on the course, but still managed to finish 32nd.

7½ miles SENIORS

1. G. Huckwell. (Dartford). 39.27s, 2. K. Penny. (Cambridge). 39.41s, 3. M. Brameld. (Invicta, B.H. Track). 39.44s, 9. J. Wigley (Invicta. B.H. Track) 40.26s, 16. R. Coles. 41.44s, 20. L. Roberts. 42.30s, 21. J. Baldwin. 42.41s, 24. C. Lord. 43.18s, 25. K. Daniel. 43.25s, 29. M. Jackson. 43.39s, 35. R. Richardson. 44.00s, 37. I. Wilson. 44.06s, 38. B. Swift. 44.10s, 49. I. Young. 45.23s, 56. M. Field. 45.53s, 62. J. Facer. 46.22s, 65. P. Sheppard. 46.36s, 71. M. Athawes. 46.53s, 75. P. Barrington-King. 47.11s, 76. M. Wilkinson. 47.17s, 80. N. Wise. 47.47s, 87. D. Hickman. 48.10s, 88. R. Creffield. 48.18s, 89. R. Minting. 48.18s, 97. M. Williams. 49.12s, 101. J. Phelan.

49.36s, 106. A. Calton. 50.04s, 108. G. Spencer. 50.11s, 109. M. Peel. 50.13s, 115. K. Whicheloe. 54.04s, 124. R. Foreman. 51.57s, 125. S. Ridgewell 52.12, 127. R. Ebbutt 52.26, 128. B. Smith 52.28, 148. J. Braughton 54.42, 151. J. Kavanagh 55.03, 155. P. Hannell 55.40, 160. D. Hopgood 55.59, 162. M. Gasson 56.10, 176. M. Todd 59.39, 177. D. Thompson 59.39.

Teams-1. Invicta 47pts., 2. Cambridge H. 92,3 Blackheath 'A' 135,9, 'B' 474,11, 'C' 548.

5 miles- Juniors

1. K. Hayes (Elliott) 26m.43s., 16. S. Thompson 29.56, 17. D. Searby 30.11, 21. M. Colpus 30.30, 22. M. Laws 31.06, 32. P. Austridge 32.31.

Teams-1. Elliott A.C. 6pts., 4. Blackheath 54.

4 miles-Youths

1. A. Hollens (Tonbridge) 17m. 11s., 9. J. Adams 18.16, 18. P. Cosgrove 19.12, 28. P. Davis 20.09, 30. D. Blackman 20.12, 42. A. Hartley 22.13.

Teams-1. Tonbridge 15., 5. Blackheath 85.

ON MANOUVERS-CIRCA 1983

Punchbowl 1982 will be remembered for the pitiful sight of a demolished Geoff Last crawling through the car park on all fours gibbering.

It's amazing, however, what time can do, for just twelve months later there he was, resplendent in his Home Guard Captain's uniform (the fact that it still fitted perfectly spoke highly of his marathon training), as in command of the evening's affairs as he was victim of them the previous year.

With a rod of iron, or perhaps it was just poor War Department tailoring, he controlled the programme of speeches and cameos that he had demanded with menaces from a number of hapless individuals in the preceding weeks.

First to be ordered on parade were Private Dave Thompson and Warrant Officer John Baldwin who each wittered on about effluent and holes in the ground for a while and then told a couple of yarns apiece. An adjacent member of the audience later remarked that he had once heard funny versions of all of them.

Johnny Walker, wishing to make quite sure he wasn't roped into the proceedings, went AWOL and popped over to New Zealand for a few days and limited his communications with the gathering to a letter which quite naturally made reference to a bowl of soup and a waiter's thumb.

Jack Parrott amused and educated us with the trials and tribulations of the trail layers (Pathfinder squadron) and then it was the turn of Ian Ross, here on a brief visit from the other side of the globe. His store of excellent jests not only served him well but, we were given to understand, also provided Captain Mainwaring (alias Geoff Last) with a substantial part of his material (boo, hiss).

Keeping the flavour overseas Chris Woodcock delivered a seminar on workaday French, by the end of which we were all left in no doubt that "moi aussi", did not mean "I am an Australian" and that "les roberts" meant big girls' chests.

Next to his feet was John Kavanagh. I was going to say he was next to rise but if anything, the act of disembarking from his chair left him several inches lower causing his drip tray bib to catch on the table edge and deposit its contents down his Harris tweed romper suit. Nevertheless this did nothing to dampen his enthusiasm and we were subjected to a toast to the VPs in the form of a deluge of witticisms delivered at the pitch of a dive bombing stoker. I'd lay odds he slept well that night.

The fiendish punch was by now beginning to dilute the sensibilities, which was perhaps as well, for suddenly amidst a cloud of smoke Steve Cluney burst through the first floor clubhouse window like an S.A.S. stormtrooper with a mission to deliver chocolates, and proceeded to disembowel us with his razor keen wit on behalf of the VPs. It seems fashionable nowadays for all screen heroes to have a small idiot robot in constant attendance. Our hero was no exception



and his casting of Paul Austridge as the aforementioned companion was impeccable.

A right old pasting was then given to the wine committee by the one and only – thank the Lord – Tony Calton. As one would expect, he presented a collection of japes and jives with the composure of a man whose suppositories had been coated with Algipan.

Brian Stone, in responding, restored some decorum in readiness for what many expected to be the high spot of the evening – a lecture on “running to victory over 26.2 miles” by Geoff Crowder, the man to whom Pierre Cardin once said, “Oo are you, Madame” Geoff’s wit and command of the English Language is widely appreciated and it has been said that there cannot be 20 men his equal in the whole of Furze Bottom. However, his truncated offering left a very parched audience feeling it had been drip fed from a barely damp sponge.

The Chairman found Crowder “Sweet, succulent and to the point”, which gave some idea of just how crowded it gets in the showers down the Club these days. At this point the writer’s evening drew to a close as he succumbed to the “fall-over juice” and lost both concentration and his pen. Apologies, therefore, to anyone who said anything significant which has failed to be recorded.

What will next year bring one wonders. If you want to be grossly misrepresented then why not go along and offer to do a turn.

CLUB 10 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, 15th January 1983

Hayes

1. R. Coles. 56.02s, 2. C. Lord. 58.00s, 3. W. Wade. 59.11s, 4. K. Bradley. 59.12s, 5. R. Richardson. 59.55s, 6. S. Rutherford. 59.57s, 7. I. Wilson. 60.21s, 8. C. Woodcock. 61.33s, 9. I. Young. 61.40s, 10. P. Shepherd. 62.07s, 11. K. Whicheloe. 62.12s, 12. S. Russell. 62.20s, 13. M. Field. 62.40s, 14. P. Cosgrove. 62.56s, 15. M. Cronin. 63.16s, 16. R. Cliff. 63.31s, 17. J. Facer. 63.55s, 18. G. Spencer.

64.35s, 19. A. Calton. 65.06s, 20. R. Minting. 65.34s, 21. J. Nash. 65.45s, 22. P. Betts. 65.48s, 23. M. Peel. 66.01s, 24. P. Barrington-King. 66.13s, 25. J. Phelan. 66.57s, 26. D. Dunn. 67.42s, 27. C. Haines. 68.04s, 28. J. Robinson. 68.18s, 29. S. Ridgewell. 68.30s, 30. G. Crowder. 68.32s, 31. R. Ebbutt. 68.41s, 32. P. Daniel. 69.04s, 33. J. Kavanagh. 69.22s, 34. M. Shiels. 69.29s, 35. J. Bailey. 69.31s, 36. R. Pitcairn-Knowles. 69.40s, 37. R. Foreman. 69.48s, 38. R. Chambers. 70.16s, 39. B. Smith. 70.40s, 40. M. Richards. 71.07s, 41. R. Savery. 71.49s, 42. P. Greenwood. 72.37s, 43. D. Whiting. 73.20s, 44. P. Hannell. 73.26s, 45. P. Austridge. 74.12s, 46. M. Gasson. 74.32s, 47. R. Turney. 76.47s, 48. D. Hickman. 78.25s, 49. J. Braughton. 78.32s, 50. R. Critchley. 78.36s, 51. G. Butlin. 78.44s, 52. S. Rich (Guest). 79.00s, 53. G. Plank. 79.18s, 54. R. Day. 79.30s, 55. D. Somerset. 79.42s, 56. T. McGeough. 80.35s, 57. A. Tompkins. 81.27s, 58. D. Saunders. 82.03s, 59. D. Brand (Guest). 84.18s, 60. Heinimann. 85.27s, 61. M. Cowling. 85.40s, 62. G. Wright. 85.45s, 63. K. Coombs. 85.46s, 64. T. Dovey (Guest). 85.56s, 65. P. Farrah. 86.54s, 66. D. Tingey. 87.28s, 67. R. Pinder. 88.47s, 68. A. Buckle. (Guest). 89.59s, 69. C. Brand. 90.02s, 70. J. Bennett. 93.25s, 71. W. Lake. 108.52s.

MOB MATCH v RANELAGH

Saturday, 22nd January, 1983

Hayes

On a cool, dry Saturday afternoon Blackheath took to the country around Hayes for the last of the season’s Mob Matches and with the intent of avenging last season’s defeat by the rejuvenated Ranelagh Harriers. Ranelagh arrived, minus their present day superstar marathoner Hugh Jones, but with a leading light of yesteryear John Disley, whose recent experiences in mapping the London Marathon courses equipped him well for picking his way around the winding Hayes 7½ mile course. Another charming addition to the visitors ranks came in the shape of Mary Smith one of the new breed of lady Ranelagh Harriers.

From the gun the visitors packed well at the front and as the

race strung out around the first field the only Heathen in the leading pack of 8 men was Les Roberts. As for the details of the ensuing 7 miles up front I am not qualified to comment being somewhat further back, suffice to say that Woods of Ranelagh was the first to reach the finish and Les Roberts was second with John Baldwin in fourth and Brian Swift sixth. Myself. I spent the race battling the hills and elements a little oblivious of the happenings around me. Fortunately the fairly pleasant weather of late left only a few muddy sections, nevertheless I contrived to lose a shoe and resoundingly lost an argument with a stile. Despite the determined struggle put up by the also ran Heathens our tight packing in the latter half of the field failed to have an impression on our visitors efforts up front and we had to be content with second place!

MOB MATCH v RANELAGH

Saturday, 22nd January 1983

7½m-Hayes

1. T. Woods. (R). 44.34s, 2. L. Roberts. (BH) 44.52s, 3. D. Harvey. (R). 45.34s, 4. J. Baldwin. 45.37s, 6. B. Swift. 46.32s, 7. I.C. Wilson. 46.34s, 10. W. Wade. 47.06s, 13. P. Hamilton. 47.22s, 17. M. Cronin. 48.32s, 18. K. Pike. 48.58s, 19. J. Facer. 49.02s, 20. S. Rutherford. 49.02s, K. Whicheloe. 49.14s, 25. D. Creffield. 49.15s, 26. M. Athawes. 49.17s, 27. A. Orr. 49.22s, 29. G. Spencer. 49.26s, 34. D. Shephard 50.06s, 35. J. Wilkinson. 50.13s, 36. M. Laws. 50.14s, 37. R. Minting. 50.20s, 40. J. Nash. 50.36s, 41. P. Betts 50.42s, 42. A. Calton (Snr). 50.44s, 43. N. Wise. 51.08s, 44. J. Phelan. 51.12s, 45. R. Ebbutt. 51.28s, 47. M. Shiels. 51.46s, 49. J. Kavanagh. 51.54s, 52. S. Ridgewell. 52.12s, 54. R. Chambers. 52.26s, 55. P. Daniel. 52.27s, 56. R. Coe. 52.30s, 57. M. Peel. 52.38s, 58. G. Crowder. 52.42s, 61. P. Austridge. 52.51s, 62. M. Harley. 52.54s, 65. M. Williams. 53.05s, 66. P. Greenwood. 53.20s, 68. R. Saverv. 53.28s, 69. B. Smith. 53.42s, 70. N. Churchill. 53.48s, J. Bailey. 53.51s, 72. J. Pitcairn-Knowles. 54.32s, 73. C. Daly. 54.57s, 74. S. Cluney. 55.11s, 75. P. Davies. 55.15s, 79. M. Richards 55.43s, 80. M. Gasson. 56.01s, 82. J. Raine. 56.48s, 83. S. Fagg 57.01s, 84. C. Haines. 57.10s, 86. D. Hickman. 57.29s, 87. P. Davis. 57.48s, 88. R. Turney. 58.07s, 90. J. Braughton. 58.15s, 92. G. Butlin. 58.38s, 93. D. Somerset. 58.50s, 94. R. Day. 58.59s, 95. M. Allen. 59.10s, 96. P. Critchley. 59.37s, 97. T. McGeough. 59.46s, 98. P. Hunter 59.54s, 99. M. Cowling. 59.55s, 100. B. Aiken. 59.56s, 101. I. Laphorn. 60.35s, 102. L. Percival. 60.38s, 105. M. Heinemann. 61.15s, 109. A. Thompkins. 62.25s, 110. D. Wilcox 62.35s, 111. P. Saxon. 62.36s, 112. D. Thomson. 63.20s, 113. A. Ball. 63.25s, 114. G. Wright. 64.36s, 115. K. Coombs. 65.23s, 116. D. Saunders. 65.34s, 117. I.F. Smith. 65.40s, 118. L. Dalmon. 66.36s, 119. P. Farrah. 67.17s, 120. A. Johnson. 67.25s, 121. D. Tingey. 67.44s, 122. C. Brand. 68.37s, 123. J. Pearce. 70.28s, 124. J. Bennett. 70.48s, 127. W.F. Lake. 81.12s.

S.C.A.A.A. VETS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPS

Saturday, 5th February 1983

Wimbledon Common

On a windy, freezing day on a tough 10km. course Blackheath vets stole the glory as they stormed to victory on the Common taking first team spot in the 3 and 6 a-side competitions. It was again John Baldwin who led the way home taking second place in the race and win the 0.45 Championship. Second scorer was Barry O'Gorman in a superb eighth place and Chris Woodcock closed in the team in 22nd position, totalling a mere 32 points in the 3 a-side Championship. Bill Wade 25th, Peter Shephard 52nd, and Mike Peel in 96th completed the 6 a-side team for another team victory amassing only 205 points.

In the over 50's race Ron Foreman was 25th., Richard Pitcairn-Knowles 26th., and Jack Braughton 52nd., the latter winning the over 60's Championship, this despite a bad fall about a mile from the finish.

Over 40's-1. T. Davies (Aldershot) 33.23s., 2. J. Baldwin 33.42s., 8. F. O'Gorman 34.46s., 22. C. Woodcock 35.53., B. Wade 35.49s., 52. P. Shephard, 96. M. Peel.

Teams-3 a-side 1. Blackheath 32. 6 a-side 1. Blackheath 205.

Over 50's-1. M. Barratt (Ealing) 35m.17.. 25. R. Fore-

man 40.07s., 26. R. Pitcairn-Knowles, 52. J. Braughton 43.07s. (Over 60's Champ).

TWO DAYS IN A ROW

Sunday, 6th February, 1983

Belgium

Following their stunning success in the SCAAA Vets Cross Country Champs at Wimbledon a number of the victorious team set off for the far east, well they crossed the Channel and set about the Belgium cross country scene on the Sunday. Flushed with their previous day's success the team continued their winning streak with John Baldwin winning the race, and Chris Woodcock 7th., Barry O'Gorman 8th., reversing the previous day's order. The team was closed in by Bill Wade who was 10th., not bad running for the second time in 24 hours.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, 29th January, 1983

Sparrows Den

Result- 1. P. Rowland (Horsham B.S.) 34m.10s., 7. R. Coles 34.45, 30. L. Roberts 35.52, 39. J. Baldwin, 44. M. Jackson, 51. K. Daniel 52. R. Richardson, 73. I. Wilson, 79. S. Rutherford, 90. B. Swift, 98. C. Woodcock, 114. K. Pike, 115. I. Young.

THE NATIONAL

Saturday, 5th. March 1983

Luton

Whereas The Southern at Trent Park was run in a quagmire of prehistoric proportions, the National at Luton provided a course of totally contrasting character. Indeed, in parts it resembled a generously piled axminster that was heaven sent for the pure speed merchants. The result reflected this overall and also in respect of our own senior runners. Richard Coles, vibrant from his fine run in the Trent Park Everglades, was very disappointed with his 79th; clearly a man who needs a full portion of treacle pudding. The race was obviously not 9 miles, nearer 7½. On the other hand, Mark Jackson found his natural track fluency unimpeded and glided into 31 7th. place with Steve Rutherford following up in 366th. - a far cry from their impression of duelling stalagmites at The Southern. With the exception of poorly Ken Pike all our lads packed well - Chris Lord 278, Brian Swift 408, Ken Daniel 454, and Mike Wilkinson 527.

Even though Ken only managed 753 after a saga of maladies and misfortunes it must be remembered that something over 1600 of the country's top cross country men finished. Their combined efforts gave the Heath 39th. place and this was without Les Roberts (injured), John Baldwin (preparing for the National Vets 7 days later) and Ian Wilson (playing God as an England selector).

With all due respect to the Seniors, it was in the Juniors and Youths that our star performances of the day were to be found. In the Juniors, Steve Thompson ran superbly for 145th. out of nearly 500. He was admirably backed up by Dave Searby (289th.) despite being badly spiked at the start, Gavin Fernandes (300th.) and Mike Laws (383). As a team they were 46th. with 57 teams closing, a great number of teams did not. Pride of place must go, however, to James Adams brilliant run in the Youths race. Still only a first year Youth he completely eclipsed both the Kent and Southern Counties Champions as he sped into 39th. place out of a field of 600. What an exciting prospect he is proving to be. The rest of the team, which finished 47th. out of 81, were Martin Carney (315), David Blackman (331) and Alan Hartley (415) with Peter Davis (475) and Nicholas Brown (538) completing the rosy picture.

The annual competition held between competitors and travelling supporters to see who can come closest to guessing the finishing order of the senior team, provided the day's only real black spot - a walkover by P.P. Ian Smith. Immense kudos is now attached to this competition and because he even predicted Ken Pike's finishing position we suspect P.P. Smith went to the lengths of a Finnish styled blood change on the Friday night with Gypsy Petrulengo. Heaven knows what she did on that Saturday - probably discovered she had an overwhelming desire to go through the Clairvoyancy and

Allied Trades handbook with a fine tooth comb!

NATIONAL VETS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS

Sunday, March 13th, 1983

Cambridge

*The reasonable thing is to learn from those who
can teach (Sophocles)*

On a mild day over a dry, flat and grassy 3 lap course John Baldwin placed second in the Vets National behind Taff Davies of Aldershot, whilst also winning the age group championship.

John ran with the leading pack of eight runners which had gradually dwindled in size to just 3 John, Taff Davies and Steve James (Southport). At this point Taff Davies began to push the pace and only John responded to the challenge, but eventually Davies opened up a 25m. lead to take the victory in 30m.18s. to John's 30m.26s..

Behind John the Blackheath packing was highly compact with the next three scorers finishing within 26 seconds and 10 places of each other. Chris Woodcock placed 27th, Barry O'Gorman 30th. and Bill Wade 37th., thus taking 4th place in the team race, 2 points adrift of 3rd.

In the over 50's race the first Heathen home was Richard Pitcairn-Knowles in 40th in a time of 37m.05s. with Ron Foreman 47th, Jack Broughton 65th (also placing 3rd. in the Over 60's section) and Don Hopgood the final scorer in 79th. This gave them 7th. place in the team race.

CLAN RUMOURS!

Past-President Ian Wilson gained a very fast pay-off from his successor Jim Day. In the space of 24 hours he had two wins, £50 in the 200 Club Draw and victory in the Club Paarlaf in partnership with Steve Rutherford.

3 lads who clearly enjoy a good wallow in the mire. Don Hopgood (Below) Gordon Wright (Above right) Jim Phelan (Below right) in the 'Orion 15'.



Over 40's

1.-T. Davies (Aldershot) 30m.18s., 2. J. Baldwin (1st. over 45), 27. C. Woodcock 32.09, 30. F. O'Gorman 32.16, 37. D. Wade 32.35, 67. P. Shepherd 33.39, 76. J. Oliver 34.00 (Camb./2nd. claim), 82. T. Tunley 34.10, 86. J. Clare 34.14, 104. M. Peel 34.50, 170. G. Crowder 37.20, 202. P. Hannell 38.55, 227. G. Butlin 40.57.

Teams.-1. Bingley 59, 2. Wirral 72, 3. Tipton 94, 4. Blackheath 96.

Over 50's

1.-M. Barratt (Ealing) 32.12, 40. R. Pitcairn-Knowles 37.05, 47. R. Foreman 37.35, 65. J. Broughton 39.05 (3rd over 60's), 79. D. Hopgood 40.14, 118. J. Bennett 45.04, 131. D. Tingey 47.21, 140. W. Lake 54.20.

Teams.-1. Rolls Royce A.C. 74, 7. Blackheath 152.

