

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS' GAZETTE
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Many thanks. Ed.

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Front cover photograph shows the evergreen Doug Tingey striding out over the Cross Country course. Thanks to Bill Graham for this and to the many other photographers who have contributed to this issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1991/92

Subscriptions for the 1991/92 year were due on the first of September 1991. To remind you, the current rates are:

Members under 18 £15.00
Full time students £15.00
Seniors £25.00
Joining Fee (Sars) £10.00

As always, any donations will be gratefully received. This year we need money to offset the general day-to-day expenditure on the club house. Those of you who subscribe to the Courier know what a great job Bill Clapham is doing. If you would like to receive it, simply add a small donation and you will be included on the next mailing.

50-YEARS' MEMBERSHIP

Past Presidents Ken Johnson and Johnny Walker have both received their 50-year membership award dishes. Ken received his at the Club Dinner on the 4th October, 1991, 50 years to the day, and Johnny at the Southern Supper on the 11th January, 1992, the day after his membership anniversary.

A record is being maintained of commemorative dishes that have been presented: Doug Tingey's was No. 18, Johnny Walker's No. 19 and Ken Johnson's No. 22.



'Bot' and 'Ben', the Blackheath men

Photo by P. Calnan

GRAHAM BOTLEY
The President
 1991-1992

"We have heard from Graham Botley who is working temporarily deep in the forests of Newfoundland, where he has just received the last issue of the Gazette. He relates many adventures, which include shooting bears and an interminable battle against mosquitoes and blackfly."

This 1968 Gazette entry reminds us not only of a lengthy Blackheath career but, aided by this sort of special strength training abroad, a fitting preparation for the Presidency.

He has been a member since the mid-1960s; he has held a number of offices such as the Editorship of the Gazette and we are already in his debt for his fine years as an inspiring Winter Captain.

From the first, he entered wholeheartedly and versatily into Club activities: road races and relays, cross-country, track, swimming and race-walking. In 1967 the Johnson Bowl said of G.B.: "(He) showed impeccable style and threatened to walk through the field until stiffness from lack of walking training slowed him somewhat."

He was soon finishing in the top dozen in inter-club matches over the country, in our scoring six in the Kent, running Southern and Nationals, Southern Road Relays, National Track League in 800, 1500 and Steeplechase. In the latter event, for example he finished second in the Kent Championships, in the 5000 metres, fifth. He has also been a winner of the Club 800m. Championship.

internationally - this time from our grass roots; there is the sense of a refreshed spirit abroad in the ranks of our active athletes, junior and senior alike. Attracted by these reputations, others will be queuing to join. Our President will be satisfied with no less than all of this. He is a man of ideas, not afraid to take the plunge at a time of need for vigorous action and change. Let us back him to the hilt.

TW-P

ADDENDUM

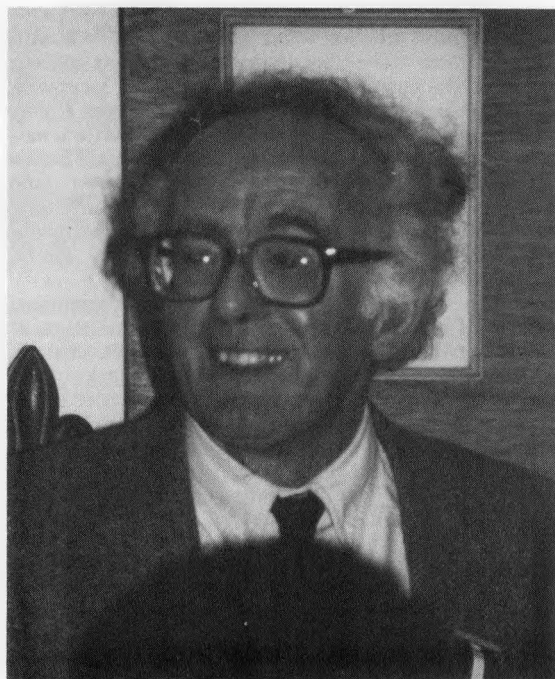
Firstly apologies to Garth Holder who was wrongly classified as a junior athlete on the back of the last Gazette. Partly Pat's fault for not telling me and partly his fault for looking so young - Now if he was in the Division 7 team, I would have known him and not made the error. Which brings me to this point. Anyone wishing to compete in the Southern League at any event, especially field events, do not hesitate to contact any of the team captains whose addresses appear in the summer fixture card. You will be surprised at what degree of competition can be found for people of most abilities. So pick up the phone now, dial 081 299 2342, ask for Jim and say something like "My name is Mike Winch, I'm a Blackheath Harrier, I do a few of the throws and I'm available for Division 7 this Summer". You never know!

Secondly an explanatory note about this issue. Ninety-five per cent of this copy was written over a year ago - it should have appeared last May, but due to a tragic series of events which were entirely unforeseeable at the time, it was not available for issue until now. So as you peruse the pages, please be aware that the events reported on happened in the Winter of 1990/91 and not the Season immediately completed.

The message from the new president Graham Botley, along with other events of the Summer and Winter of '91/92, recent obituaries and other articles received will hopefully be in the next Gazette which we aim to publish by the end of this Summer.

Any results from this Summer's competitions should be sent directly to Nigel Keogh whose address appears inside the front cover. A brief account of any outstanding or interesting happenings plus full results will suffice. Any other articles should be given or sent directly to the editor or to Dave Hassall, his new assistant. Please keep us busy.

Yours 'heathenly
 Jim Phelan
 Editor



Tony Weeks-Pearson, a man for all seasons

Photo by P. Calnan

ABOUT THE CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON (1990-91)

The President (as was then)

Some will call it disappointing, others, varied, or undulating, or anticlimactic, infuriating, frustrating.

Not to tempt the gods with our ingratitude, let's settle for tantalizing, or we'll never get home: because there has surely been enough for us either to celebrate or take satisfaction in. All sorts of celebration.

Celebration, for instance, of our Senior Team's 7th placing (of 160) in the National, surpassing their solid 4th Southern position (yes, we are still up there!); of the Silver South of the Thames medals of what some may patronise as 'our Second Team'; or of teams fielded in all five Kent Championship races; of splendid individual wins in these latter by Jonathan Murray and Adam Newman or, at the other end of the age scale, by Jack Braughton gaining the British Vets. Over 70 title and Barry O'Gorman taking the Southern Over 50 Championship by a street (or streak); of two Mob Match turn-outs (not three, alas) well over the hundred.

And so on: to Alan Guilder's 52nd National Senior or Liam Bulson's Junior 74th placings; to Spencer Newport's strong run for 13th in the Southern and Dave Heath's authoritative victory in the South of the Thames Junior.

Even those who haven't made it past the title of this scintillating burble will know it is not a step by step analysis of the Winter calendar or its progress: the detailed back-up is elsewhere in this issue. These are critical impressions only, and only one bird's eye.

As for tantalizing, well, Mark Watling was tantalized, sure enough: ambitious throughout in all sorts of races, including a bid for all three Club Championships, winning the first two, but forced to

give way in the Ten, to one of the best, Dave Taylor (like Mark, a chief pillar of the tough men this Winter). O.K., Mark - tantalized, not defeated.

Injuries made for a lot of false starts this winter. Among the disappointed perhaps have been Ken Daniel, Mark Colpus, Jim Phelan and, certainly, Jerry Barton with trouble lasting for months, missing the National and nearly everything else after the Autumn. Yet he was tough enough to do us proud with his 23rd place in the Southern.

Okay, so it's all relative, such disappointment: these performers are hard to satisfy, yet they are not ungrateful in achieving what a majority might envy. So we must understand if, in his way, Tony Baldock is 'disappointed' with second places - in the Ranelagh, the Orion Mob Matches, the Club 5, Club 7½. Yet another of our rich prospects, if he felt disappointed he was not disgraced. Like Dave Heath, he has the potential to amaze us all.

And we can understand all the better when someone like Richard Coles, after draining effort to qualify for his 435th National place talks of this as his last. Someone like . . . ? There has been no one else: twenty Nationals in succession - Youth, Junior and Senior. When comes such another? Talk only of Blackheath celebration - no disappointment?

These are individual examples for us all. But they may be duplicated over and over by others we possess in such abundance: not just the quickest of all such as Brice, Nash, Lee and O'Donnell - many like the last turning up faithfully from remote residence to form the Team - but by so many others. Let's not overlook promise like that of Jamie Jeffries with his 3rd places in Mob Matches and Club 10; nor the strength in quality, numbers and backing that brings out four teams in events like the Priory Relays or which, for that matter, produces thirty-seven finishers in the Christmas handicap, fifty in the Club 10, not to mention a strong scent for our future in the 4th places achieved by both our Boys and Colts teams in the Kent - our Youths' 2nd, our Juniors' 5th positions.

Let us not overlook either the rugged persistence of these new young runners turning out and performing with determination or the dedication of Simon Parsons to their cause - soon, surely, to be rewarded for all his efforts. These have been backed by parents with their help in transport and even work as officials on away fixtures. We are aware of these contributions also and they bode well. We welcome their approaches and participation.

One thing that big team occasions do assist is the bringing together of age sections. Trips like the annual Roeselare weekend races image this perfectly, with Vets, Seniors and Juniors on the same bus and accompanied by both the Summer and Winter Captains.

Modest club matches are increasingly supplanted by more exotic blooms of the Fixture List like Roeselare. There was another in the Reebok International at Margate. We won't sniff at these, however; they are essential introductions to top class competition and its pressures for our rising stars. In such races, junior names figured as prominently as seniors already mentioned: not least those of Stephen Hough and Anthony Algeo who did well in Junior races throughout the season. At Margate, as well as fiery baptisms for the likes of Paul Comber and Stephen Jewell, there were the war-horse veterans among boys and youths: Draper,

only showed well in championships throughout but was conscientious and determined in Mob Match attendance and performance, or (much older) by runners like Ian Young still capable of troubling all but our very best. Older still, but moving well, there were the weighty presences of Bob Richardson (40th of 155 against S.L.H.) and Chris Haines. Examples only, which thankfully can be multiplied.

These last two are veterans, of course, and much the same may be said of other veterans' achievements, among them the Southern League Championship. Not only do these do very nicely for themselves, as you see elsewhere in these pages, but they, too - the Mortens, Cronins, O'Gormans - are as much a backbone of Club competition and mob matches as the Farrells, Mays and Dysons. They will be the first to acknowledge the debt owed in the flourishing Vets.' success to Bill ('Courier') Clapham, their Captain, but withdrawing now to build on his recent Over 50 Southern League Season win.

Is all this too self-congratulatory, too bland for some palates? Perish the thought. A smidgin of astringency, therefore.

Awkward reservations persist: if we can field over a hundred in two of the Mob Matches, why only fifty in the third when that S.L.H. Match is the tough one? Not, surely because it is 'away' - a whole half dozen miles distant?

Then, are we unique in missing that vital top Senior trio or quartet through injury for the big events?

Should a famous Cross-country Club of a thousand not boast more than a hundred or so cross-country runners?

Stuff like that. And 'stuff' may be some members' response, though it does not quite dispel the nagging what if? speculations.

No one in touch with today's realities can pretend that the Mob Matches are the One, True Test. Of course not. But they are one of the significant indications of our morale: they test the temperature.

If you prefer, though, take the Kent League - a good test for a team Club possessing depth: 7th place in the first of the series with nine runners; 10th in the 2nd - seven runners; 7th in the third - and 14th and 29th team placings - also 4th, scoring twelve - total, 18 runners; 7th in the fourth and final race (at home). An interesting study, this. Ideal competition, surely, for a Club like ours which seeks to provide dozens of runners with competitive opportunities? Ought we not to support the County better? Should we fail as we do against clubs we look on as weaker than ourselves - at least, in a regular twelve to score contest (9th of 11 clubs)? What is our attitude? Do we have one . . .? And, if there is no

all levels, not occasionally a week after week. The highest levels, however, remain beyond our grasp.

Yes, perhaps tantalizing is just the word.

And so we say farewell (as the old travelogues put it in the days of Cinema) to a season of ups and downs, of rich variety of performance - as various as the weathers and courses we have run this Winter: season of contrasts if not mellow fruitlessness. There were moist Hampshire mists of the South of the Thames Junior, dismalness of Kent, St. Moritz ice-floes of Farthingdown, and downland gales for the National, while, of all courses, our own Club 10 saw shoes quite unmarked by mud.

The Closing 5 is yet to run, but the Editor and other Hounds of Spring are upon us, so it is time for daffodils and optimism. While we pounded that Club 10 last week our Youths and Seniors at Mansfield gave us further hopeful signs in the 7th and 8th places they got in the English Cross-country Relay Championships. And all the time we have the likes of Hassall, Calnan, Roy Smith to call on - athletes who run in pretty well everything from Kent League, Mob match to Area Championships, often in successive weeks - Blackheath has little to fear in its future.

The proper full stop to this Review must be praise of all these: for their turn-out - our teams always look trim; for their constant attendance, their loyalty (unswerving, as the saying goes) - their ambition. Oh, yes, and, allow me to say, their unfailing pleasantness, good spirits, cheerfulness. A privilege to be with them - snow, rain, mist or mizzle - through this 1990-91 Winter.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS . . . !

The Club and the President thank everyone for Christmas cards received, including:

Victor Beardon	Tony Hayday
Bill and Bea Brookes	Phillip and June Khan-Panni
Kathy and Hazel Bryant	Bill and Iris Lake
Jack Clear	Geoff and Carol Last
Dick Cockburn	Roy Morley
Mark Crisp	Olive and Bernard Parrott
Mike Cronin	John Powell
Derek Dhammaloka	Tim Soutar and Family
Fred and Julia Dudman	Helen and Alan Stevens
Don and Marjorie Gillate	Will Vercoe
Margaret and Derek Gregory	Ian and Pauline Wilson
Geoff and Cynthia Grier	and The Trail Layers!
Moir and Peter Hannell	

BLACKHEATH — DAY BY DAY



The ever-resourceful Scots find an economical solution to showering under the new water metering regulations

GREAT SCOTT

THE 'HEATHEN WHO RACES IN PARTS OTHER 'HEATHENS CANNOT REACH - The Club's most northerly competitor, 58-year-old George Murray, recovering from a recent exploit. Almost certainly the only Blackheath member regularly competing in Scotland, George lives in Buckie, Banffshire (east of Inverness on the Moray Firth), and has completed one 10-mile race and 3½-marathons in the last 12 months.

They were:

Black Isle Festival '1/2' -	1.51.35
Buckie '1/2'-marathon -	2.06.15
Arisaig-Mallaig '10' (the Road to the Isles) -	1.28.04
Moray MacAllan '1/2' -	2.04.06

A member since 1987, he joined after meeting Nick Brooks, Graham Botley and other 'Heathens' on spectator trips abroad, and for his first competitive outing joined another dozen members in the Great North Run in 1989. But for V-P Gordon Monshall in the wilds of Sutherland, George would also be our most northerly resident. He reports: 'Believe it or not there are folk in the far north who have not heard of Blackheath and have no idea where it is.' Before long he hopes to make the pilgrimage south to compete in a Club event and enjoy a visit to his Clubhouse.

GB

CLUB WAR MEMORIAL

The Imperial War Museum is compiling an Inventory of National War Memorials from before the Napoleonic Wars right up to the Falklands Campaign. They are inviting the co-operation of local people to help complete the project. Eventually the aim is to have a computerised list available to researchers.

To this end, the Roll of Honour, which is located at the Clubhouse and records the names of 44 Club members who lost their lives in the Great War, with a further 44 in the Second World War, has been recorded with the museum. Many Members of Blackheath will no doubt belong to other Clubs who have memorials to their members who gave their lives in the many conflicts over the years.

If you would like to register these with the War Museum, forms can be obtained from:

Catherine Moriarty,
National Inventory of War Memorials,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road,
London, SE1 6HZ.

BAS

THE ROBERT WEEKS-PEARSON TROPHY

Tony and his wife Christine have presented a trophy to the Club in memory of Robert, their late son, in the form of an athlete mounted on a wooden plinth.

The trophy will be awarded annually to the junior member whose example and overall performance throughout the cross-country season has, in the opinion of the Committee, contributed most to the Club. This trophy is the equivalent to the award of the Jack Sims Salver for senior members.

The 1991 (and first holder), Chris Huntley, was unfortunately unable to be at the AGM to receive the Cup but it was presented to him at the Southern Supper held at the Clubroom on 11th January, 1992.



"No Ruth that was NOT a P.B. today, we were three tenths faster down the aisle in the warmup on Thursday"

Photo by J. Phelan

KEN PIKE'S WEDDING

It could only happen at Kent AC! A wedding on the day of the opening five and no Bennett-cup points available for the best man or the photographer. For those of you



Graham and Anna Patterson and the rest of the relay team pose in the new club kit

Photo by J. Phelan

... and so to Liverpool

A word of warning to the hirsut - don't go to Liverpool when the Tranmere scallys are about!

We didn't know that the skin-head look was all the rage down by the Mersey, so when Paul Betts and your editor got invited to yet another wedding we never thought to get our heads shaved. We just went as we were; and stood out like sore thumbs!

It was a great do - Graham Patterson, one of the "Scouse Gits" who were regular competitors for the 'heath in the 1980s, finally got round to tying the knot and put on a terrific display. All the speeches had footballing connotations - the marriage was likened to a transfer between clubs and there were frequent references to Dalglish, Liverpool and Tranmere Rovers. Then came the reception and in the evening came the scallys.

For the next seven or eight hours we had to endure the sharp edge of the legendary scouse wit. "Eh! ain I standing on yer 'er love?" "You must be one of them southern ponces Graham invited", and of course, "Where's yer 'andbag darlin'?" were all trotted out at regular intervals. But we wouldn't have missed it for the world and on the way back we stopped off at Derby and had the pleasure of seeing Gary White, the other scouse git, anchor his team in the Northern 12 stage despite having endured the reception the previous day. Congratulations then to Graham and Anna. I'll probably mark their anniversary by having my annual haircut on their wedding day.

JP



Dynamic Doug in full flight

Photo by B. Graham

1940-1990 BLACKHEATH HALF CENTURY: DOUGLAS TINGEY

'Let us now praise famous men . . .'. The trouble with that is managing to remember the famous, especially when they have gone on and on for decades. Like Douglas Tingey, whose 50 years of Blackheath membership were completed on November 16th last.

Not too many members will remember, or know of, Doug's distinguished record of Club offices held through the 1940s and '50s: first, in four years as Assistant Treasurer, then as a most supportive Cross-country Secretary for seven years.

There were, of course, all kinds of industrious and impressive extensions of such responsibilities - the organizing of many of the Club's Schools Races for the Parrish Cup, for example, all executed with his own extraordinary thoroughness and efficiency.

These are all reasons why the Club History wisely describes him as a vital influence of the post-war years.

Skilled mathematicians will have calculated the signal year of 1940 as the date of his joining Blackheath. So Doug had to wait patiently for peacetime and the accompanying outbreak of hostilities against the ancient foes, South London, Ranelagh and Orion.

Since then he has made up for lost time - uniquely: in all these years since the war, he has rarely missed a Club race and only two Mob Matches.

All readers will pause here for a moment of reverential reflection.

After our great veteran of 90 years, Eric Reid, Douglas, as we believe, is the only other 'Half Centurion' to achieve this while still an active athlete.

In the light of this record, it was appropriate for the entire Orion Mob Match field of close on 150 runners to greet our man with three cheers immediately before the start at Hayes, and only a fortnight after 'The Date'. It hardly needs saying that D J Tingey completed the course smoothly and well before the last, younger man.

After the presentation at tea, none who know him were surprised at either his elegant * speech or his producing and quoting from the original letter written by Club Secretary, E G Lymbery, to the new member. The crowded room listened with rapt attention to the mysteries of shillings and pence paid for subscription, Club badge and kit from Stokes & Co.

Which fiscal chat brings us to yet another and surely auspicious event.

On the very anniversary of these 50 years the post brought him a Premium Bond win. The sum? Fifty quid.

Today, Blackheath still receives the benefit of his administrative experience and shrewdness in his work on the Club Committee.

Douglas, congratulations from us all, and a good retirement - if this is what you call it!

TW-P

** Printed below is a rough transcript of the speech by Doug Tingey who completed his 50 years of Membership on 16th November 1991 and received his memorial plaque from the President on 1st December at the Clubhouse after the Orion Mob Match..*

It may be of interest to those present at Hayes on 1st December, and others, if I elaborate on what I said then.

I had run my first race from the Club as a schoolboy in February 1937 and I recall, in those pre-war years, often training from the Club and the active, crowded changing room of those days. It was in the dark days of the Autumn of 1940, after leaving school, that I joined, being proposed by G A C Morton, a field events member. A letter to "My Dear Tingey" arrived from the late E G Lymbery, acting Secretary and Treasurer, welcoming me to the Club, which he described as the most democratic of its kind in the world. I paid my initial subscription - 5s/3d, and purchased from the Club Outfitters, Stokes & Co of Queen Victoria Street, a vest for 2s/9d, a badge for 3s/6d and a pair of shorts for 3s/11d, total 10s/2d.

(No track-suit, and he still hasn't got one! - Edt)

What of the Club I was entering? The building itself was entirely gas-lit. The changing-room smelled of the solid fuel used on the boiler which stood where the gas one now stands, heating the building and providing hot water for the mixture of tin baths and a more ancient hip variety. All of this was tended by the Club Trainer, Bill Spray, an aged gentleman (ex Notts Forest FC) with cloth cap and tradesman's brown coat, always chewing but with no apparent teeth. He used some park-keeper authority:- soap in the baths was a crime, as was mud, for before entering these Victorian bathing pools there was a mud bath, and anyone not using it got a vociferous call. Of course some special members, on entering the baths, were rewarded with hot water from the hose, usually only to scald them out and make that bath too hot to use.

Upstairs, at the only polished table, a large round one, always sat the President, *Arthur Thwaites, talking athletics, and waiting to address the assembly at tea-time, having officiated at the afternoon race while wearing bowler hat, spats, and carrying a rolled umbrella. Very ordinary members, like myself, sat on worm-riddled chairs at one of several long, wooden, unpolished tables with doubtful legs.

Much has changed from those far-off early days except, happily, *George Brooks, who remains much as he was then. When I was in office his help was always there and I give thanks for health and strength to run in all the winter points handicap races of his 21 years as XC Handicapper. Now a word on those races. Over the years I have always found someone to battle with - in the late 40s *Eric Reed (23 years my senior and always the minimum of one arm ahead); the late *Leonard Toms and *Jack Sims in the 50s; *Dudley Child ('the writing's on the wall now, Douglas') in the 60s; *Bill Lake in the 70s and now *Jim Bennett. During the years I have beaten the Handicapper over 30 times and have 13 mugs and the rest in spoons. The most hectic years were 1950/57, when I was XC Secretary, which included the Inter-Schools Race and a few road races and relays. However, they were very happy years, thanks to the loyalty and co-operation of the running members with the XC Officials.

On completing 50 years running in Club Champs I recall an Obituary Notice, which I read in the *Daily Telegraph* many years ago, of our late Past President, *Trevor Davis, which, amongst other things, stated 'Ran in Blackheath H Champs for 50 years.' When I joined, Trevor was in his 70s and still active. Elected on 30th September 1887, I remember he once told me he ran his first XC race over Barnes Common in 1878. Thus we have a continuity of two members in Club Champs over a century. Volunteers, please, for the next 50 years!

*(*Pictured in Centenary History (2nd Edit) - Edt)*

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Tony Baldock straining at the leash

Photo by B. Saddler

KENT COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

15th December 1990

Cobham Hall

Other counties lack the dramatic backdrop of Cobham's Tudor turrets for their championships. Kent provided a succession of competitions worthy of the setting - its house and the park round which the hundreds threaded their way through long hours of a raw day.

In fact, a demanding serpent of a course, doubling, re-doubling back on itself, with nasty lunges up and down. The weather here often derives more from the inhospitable estuary than warm Kent orchards and so it was on this day, the many spectators huddling and ducking around to keep temperature and spirits up.

Blackheath got enough satisfaction from the day to warm them, with very sound team performances, taken altogether.

A 2nd, a 3rd, two 4ths and 5th team places might fall tantalisingly short for some, not least, the athletes themselves, but they surely showed our squads to be in good nick, excellent heart.

No more exhilarating performance for the Club than Adam Newman's Colts Championship win - and not just the first place, but the way he did it. No English Champion could tear into, or away from a field in more destructive manner. It was a magnificent and courageous front-run. The young team may have been dissatisfied with their 4th place, but Club members appreciated the sight of seven of them all pressing on with determination.

18th, 21st and 25th positions, they can well pleased at their fifth place.

Equally encouraging as the Colts and together with them, a large sign of a new generation of Club talent were the eight in our Boys team. Among these are several who, unlike some of the other teams' early maturing giants, are going to have to wait a few years for their just revenge. But overtake they will, for already the likes of the Brothers Marks, Paul Comber and Gareth Riggs are thrusting well up among their opposition. Their 4th place should be enough encouragement to them for future top success. All they have to do is be patient; note that our leading trio of Hacker, Riggs and Saunders were in the first twenty.

Our own Fooks Cup has seldom had a more worthy holder than Spencer Newport who kept up his pursuit of the winner with great tenacity. He, too, will have his day: not just silver trophies, but gold in them thar hills, Spence. Tim Nash was among the County Team, but then we had to wait for 24th place - Richard-guess-who-Coles - by which time we knew, of course, it was not to be our winning day. The 3rd position was ours, however, and must surely have spelled out to the team that the County title must now be theirs once more, real soon.

That this was so is also to the credit of Mark Colpus, Barry Saddler and Pat Calnan. Roy Smith was only seconds behind with another of those strong-man runs of his; when he works more at pace and tempo he will amaze us.

Nor must we forget some determined and effective performances further down the field from the likes of Stan Ridgewell and John R. Turner. We did turn out nearly two dozen seniors in the race and it was good to note the 10th position of our 'B' Team. Good, moreover, for team morale, overall.

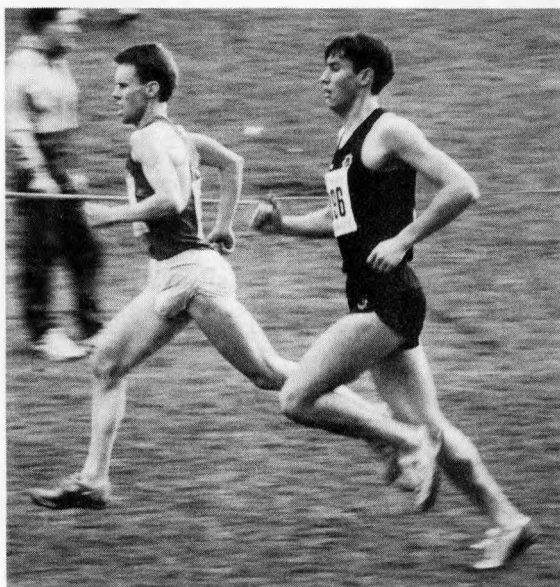
Finally, a rare word of admiring recognition for the senior Club members who acted as pointsmen. They stood at their marks for some five chilling hours, Pickwick's Leather Bottle in the village being too distant for ready sustenance. Surely an endurance feat to stand beside that of any runner. At least runners can keep circulating.

TW-P

Results

Seniors (7 1/2M) 2 S Newport 40.40 (**Fooks Cup**); 8 T Nash 41.45; 21 A Baldock (ns) 42.54; 24 R Coles 43.03; 33 M Colpus 43.46; 35 B Saddler 43.48; 36 P Calnan 43.50; 44 Roy Smith 44.07; 59 P Barlow 44.55; 75 M Dyson 46.18; 80 C Griffin 46.34; 89 J A Cooper 47.21; 95 A Bounds 47.38; 115 S Ridgewell 48.49; 122 J R Turner 49.07; 124 D Henry 49.11; 129 P Shepherd 49.25; 212 S Parsons 58.40; 228 A Musson 64.11.

Teams (Scoring 6) 3 BH'A; 10 BHB'.
 Juniors 18 S Hough 34.09; 21 C Huntley 34.31; 25 A Algeo 35.08.
 Teams (Scoring 3) 5 BH.
 Youths (3 1/2 M) 1 J Murray 17.38; 5 A Draper 18.07; 14 T South 19.02;
 25 Dv Marsden 19.49.
 Teams (Scoring 4) 2 BH.
 Boys 13 J Hacker 17.38; 15 G Riggs 17.39; 17 I Saunders 17.44; 29 J
 Marks 18.17; 41 S Jewell 18.50; 44 P Comber 18.52; 58 A Gibbons
 19.42; 60 D Marks 20.02.
 Teams (Scoring 4) 4 BH.
 Colts (2 1/2 M) 1 A Newman 15.28; 13 E Moore 17.04; 23 D Dodds
 17.26; 40 P Modlock 18.22; 50 N Hamilton 18.55; 51 N Russell 19.00;
 69 P Popely 20.38.
 Teams (Scoring 4) 4 BH.



Spencer Newport, first 'heathen home in the Southern

Photo by B. Saddler

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

11th January 1991

Havant

These days, there is an air of confidence and pride about members of the Club's teams selected for Championships, summer and winter. Win or lose, each athlete seems to feel that he is part of something special, something serious. Once again, it was an impression that supporters carried away with them from the Southern Championships.

It still seems strange to be at this event in January rather than the Kent Championships. But let that pass: there was enough in our fourth Senior Team place and in all four of our teams closing for Blackheath to leave Havant reasonably satisfied and certainly encouraged.

The course of knobbly field and wood paths with some twists and turns plus a pair of testing hills on each lap was a good one for spectators and not bad for the runners.

No sign of trouble for Spencer Newport who took home our own Rapley Cup with a solid run for fourteenth place. Jerry Barton, some way off full fitness, did his stuff as our runner-up. However he runs, the presence in the team of members like him and Coles is always a boost to the rest.

A glance at these other names shows how strong we were throughout: this squad is building really well now. Our winning performance for the Kent twelve-scoring Camden Cup is an indicator: at one time there was little or no competition for us; nowadays it takes a strong Club team to do it. Another encouragement to us.

Dave Heath, yet another of our rising stars, returned to the scene of his South of the Thames Junior triumph and though this full Championship and the extra distance made it a different proposition, he showed that he can face the big challenge. He was our third man home ahead of tough team opposition from O'Donnell, Nash and Guilder. Really, all twelve men seemed to perform well up to standard. We are lucky.

Whether or not it shows in the Junior, Youth and Boys' results, the proof of the pudding was certainly in the watching. It was truly heartening to see all of them without exception taking their races most seriously.

Of course, there was yet another fine effort by Mark Steinle, growing in strength and with another season ahead of him in this age group. But elsewhere, too, there was much for the numerous band of Blackheath supporters to admire: Chris Huntley leading his team home in the Junior race, Stephen Hough keeping him well in view throughout; Adrian Dennison backing Steinle - when he strengthens up he will be one of our best, one feels; Tom South and Robert Weatherstone as determined as ever; our very own Marks brothers showing well, while right behind Danny was a serious, long-striding performer, Gareth Riggs. And there's another formidable talent in a year or two's time.

A most encouraging day.

No complaints.

Great Expectations.

Results

14 S Newport 45.44 (Rapley Cup); 24 J Barton 46.33; 38 D Heath 47.10; 44 A Guilder 47.19; 52 W O'Donnell 47.32; 87 T Nash 48.24; 106 M Watling 48.53; 108 M Colpus 48.55; 118 R Coles 48.59; 175 A Baldock 50.19; 216 P Calnan 51.02; 251 D Hassall 51.33.

Teams (Scoring 6) 4 BH; Camden Cup (1st Kent club scoring 12) BH.
 Juniors (6M) 65 C Huntley 34.26; 80 S Hough 35.10; S Povey (aka S James); D Hunt.

Teams (Scoring 4) 12 BH.

Youths (4M) 10 M Steinle 22.00; 54 A Dennison 23.32; 69 T South 23.57; 82 R Weatherstone 24.12.

Teams (Scoring 4) 8 BH.

Boys (3M) 44 J Marks 17.19; 104 D Marks; 105 G Riggs; 159 S Jewell.

Teams (Scoring 4) 17 BH.

INTER COUNTIES CC CHAMPIONSHIPS

26th January 1992

Leicester

We had seven representatives in this annual Championship, three youths and four seniors. Our four seniors were representing three different counties!

While Paul Dugdale was winning and leading Lancashire to a team victory that used to be taken for granted in the days when I began running (the early sixties . . . very early, about 1959) Bill Foster (Yorkshire) and Alan Guilder (Kent) were battling for the honour of first 'heathen home. This went to Bill who finished 64th in 40.49. Not too far down was Alan with 70th place in 40.58. Bill O'Donnell placed 94th with 41.20 and Tim Nash was 142nd with 42.15.

Our three Youths were all representing Kent but with differing results. None more striking than the County Champion, Jon Murray, who finished 212th with only 20 runners behind him almost two minutes



Paddy Brice and Dave Taylor moving up a gear

Photo by B. Saddler

THE NATIONAL

23rd February 1991

Luton

The biggest race of the year returned to Stopsley Sports Centre after a break of five years. It's not a wonderful course though it is very good for spectators, presenting them with very little hassle in getting across to view the race on both sides of the main loop. But if you are looking for terrain in the mode of Graves Park, Roundhay Park or good old Parliament Hill then forget it. Mind you, next year's race at Newark will appear even flatter. The grass was in good shape even after the races were all over and the only thing making difficulties for the runners was the wind.

Blackheath were there in force and for the first time lately we fielded complete teams in all races. Admittedly there are only three races but it is a feat that often eludes us. We managed it also at the Southern so things must be on the way up. The wind was at its strongest for the Youths race, making the pace friendlier from the outset, as what contenders there were, spent much of the race eyeing each other up and waiting until around the halfway mark before setting out in earnest.

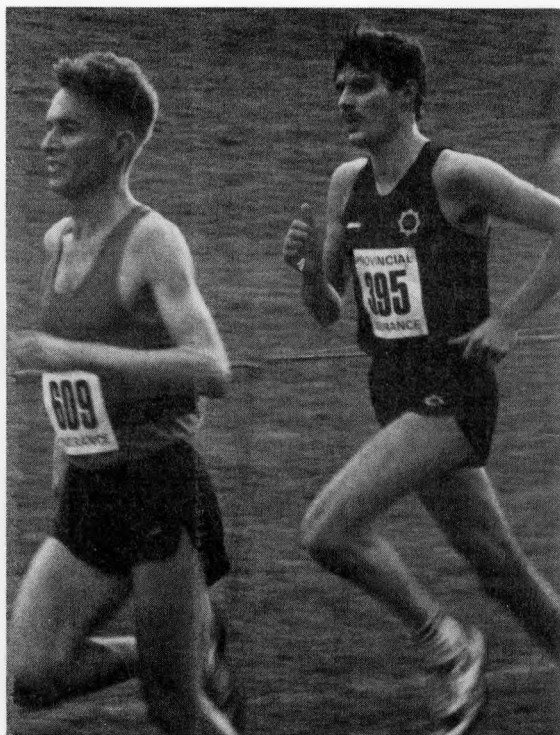
as we fielded the maximum allowed runners. We even had a couple of reserves willing and waiting. Liam Bulson was our leader but we had a fair wait after the leaders had gone by. Liam also was down on his finish of last season as his appearances on the country become rarer. His 74th was almost 100 places in front of the rest of our team as less than 300 finished but at least we were there. A point emphasised at the supper that evening.

Those regularly at this event may well claim that this was the most competitive National since the inception of the 'Trial', I would have to go along with that. But it's obvious why . . . the trial didn't happen this year and in a contrary way that elevated the National to the status it deserved. A record of 2170 finished this premier event. Many times someone has stated that this is the event they would most like to win. Each edition is memorable and it remains, if nothing else (but there is plenty else) the Club championship of England. In that respect we continue to emphasise our standing among the Cross Country elite. Again we placed in the top dozen as 236 clubs of varying standards closed teams in. Teams like Shaftesbury and Highgate, centuries like ourselves who both finished ahead of us. Teams like Medway, Reading, Warrington, Salford, Morpeth and Clayton-le-Moor that are well-known names and will be for some time yet I'm sure. Teams like Datchet Dashers, Garden City Joggers and Yaxley Runners who have some way to go yet and still add to the uniqueness of this occasion. Look in vain though for Belgrave Harriers, their pride evidently doesn't go this far.

A place in the Blackheath team for this event is still something to be proud of. If you are in doubt about that just ask the likes of Richard Coles and Tony Baldock. Both competed here and it meant a lot to both of them but obviously in totally different ways. Just ask Pat Calnan who wasn't even included on the entry list of fifteen. When we lose that element of pride then we will be in the same bracket as the other clubs who frankly should do better. That's not the voice of politicking talking, that's the voice of club runners everywhere . . . almost.

The race up front was intriguing as the main players jockeyed in a lesser wind for those elusive places in the GB team to be selected the following day. But many of the spectators looked further afield than that. While it was a big interest, the fortunes of our own runners was more important or at least parallelably so. (New word there perhaps?)

With a few missing it is all too easy to speculate on what might have been. Now there's a change. But let us forget that, for I will not deal in conjecture but concern myself with the heroes of this particular day. We had



Tim Nash, recent father and first team regular

Photo by B. Saddler

two men in the first 100 and while we praise those it is the nature of the beast to be not so impressed. Alan Guilder ran the race we have not come to expect in the past couple of years. It didn't seem to work at the Southern so perhaps a different M.O. was called for. He went out quickly and stayed well placed to lead us home just outside the top fifty. Dave Lee was running his first National for the club and should also be pleased with his result but as I earlier intimated that is not the nature of the beast. (I nearly put the 'nature of the best' but that may equally have suited.) To eventually place 87th made a good impression on many of the club supporters and Dave should be satisfied for the time being anyhow. Bill O'Donnell ran very well to claim our third spot finishing just outside the first 100. Since his self-imposed exile in Devon, Bill is only on view for the big occasion and always runs well. This must rate as one of his best runs for a while but I know he would have liked to be about 8 places higher.

Fourth scorer was Spencer Newport, who would not have been 'over the moon' with his 139th, a place which represented his lowest finish in this Championship but he didn't make a big deal out of it, unless his judgement of the performance was represented by the shirt he wore at the Clubhouse in the evening. The final places in the scoring team were keenly fought out round the whole of the race with the suntanned David Taylor holding off Tim Nash and Paddy Brice and the duo pushing Brice into the spot of our first Non-scorer. Initially this looked like a finish in the top ten and it proved even better. Seventh place was a good result and puts us in the elite of Cross Country for another season. We really are up there. What's more we can field 100 runners in a Mob

Match for two out of three occasions . . . now that's a club.

Newark Showgrounds next season? Well, I may be persuaded to go along if there's no live game on Television or any Indoor Athletics.

MH

Results

Senior Race:

1 R Nerurkar (Bingley) 43.11; 2 D Lewis (Rossendale) 43.21; 3 M McLoughlin (Liv. Pembroke) 43.29; 52 A Guilder 45.50; 87 D Lee 46.33; 107 B O'Donnell 46.49; 139 S. Newport 47.11; 158 D Taylor 47.27; 165 T. Nash 47.31; 167 P Brice 47.33; 435 R Coles 49.50; 486 T Baldock 50.09. Also ran: K Pike (Kent AC) 49.35; 401 G White (S. Helens) 49.45; 421 . . . 2170 finished.

Teams: 1 Bingley H 175; 2 Westbury H 403; 3 Tipton H 408; 7 Blackheath H 708 . . . 236 teams finished.

(Incidentally, the first 8 teams all bore the name Harriers).

Junior Race:

1 A Pearson (Longwood) 31.45; 2 S White (Coventry) 31.59; 3 J Gascoyne (Harlow) 32.02; 74 L Bulson 35.15; 168 C Huntley 37.31; 211 S Hough 38.37; 228 A Algeo 39.21; 238 D Hunt 39.47; 240 D Whitcombe 39.51 . . . 295 finished.

Teams: 1 Sale H 188; 2 Portsmouth 216; 3 Tonbridge 222; 19 Blackheath 681 . . . 27 teams finished.

Youths Race:

1 T Mackin (Old Gays) 20.05; 2 S. Lloyd (Wolves) 20.08; 3 R Edwards (Sthend) 20.10; 10 J Murray 20.25; 88 A Draper 21.38; 169 A Dennison 22.27; 234 R Weatherstone 23.10 . . . 368 finished.

Teams: 1 Wirral AC 54; 2 Wolves 71; 3 Sale 205; 18 Blackheath 501 . . . 45 teams finished.

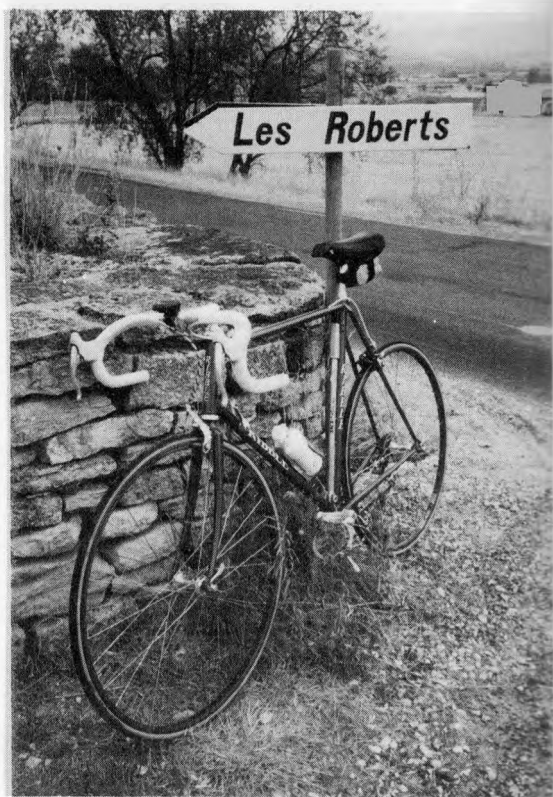


Photo by C. Law

Most cyclists just have their post codes engraved on the frame, but when you've been World Champion subtlety goes right out the window . . .



Mark Steinle, a talented athlete on both track and country

Photo by B. Graham

CLUB FIVE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

20th October 1990

Hayes

The first Club Championship of the season is frequently one of the more satisfying spectacles of the winter: it has about it the buzz of new hopes, fresh beginnings, a large and enthusiastic field and often, even, agreeable weather. Above all, there is a wide, representative range of Blackheath athletes - track, field and country: youths and juniors rub vigorous shoulders with seniors and veterans, joggers contest the slopes of Boundary Wood with high jumpers. The Club's strength is plain to see with, as on this occasion, as many as a hundred and twelve members competing and finishing. And these are supported by upwards of three and four dozen officials, pointsmen and onlookers.

Yet again it was contested strongly: the first six were home within the minute; that battle for places was stern. Significant and welcome were the names of the leading trio - staunch Club team members, Watling, Baldock and Calnan. Neal Newport led the brisk start. The four already named broke away up Boundary Wood, staying together around the fields at the top. Re-entering the woods Baldock made a break, tracked now by Watling and Calnan. Halfway down, Calnan began to lose ground. As Baldock and Watling broke from the trees, the latter pulled away to secure a popular, nine-second victory.

It was good to see Neal Newport in fourth place, while there was another sort of pleasure in the perennial sight of Richard Coles in hard pursuit and holding off

1 M Watling 32.25 (13); 2 P Calnan 31.44 (28); 4 N Newport 31.52 (37); 5 R Coles 32.15 (43); 6 M Steinle 32.25 (1st Jun: retains **King-Morrison Trophy**) (19); 7 D Hassall 32.28 (41); 8 P Hamilton 32.49 (1st V) (36); 9 P Barlow 32.55 (13); 10 Roy Smith 33.04 (52); 11 D Williams 33.18 (35); 12 M Farrell 33.31 (34); 13 C Huntley 33.41 (20); 14 C Lord 33.46 (24); 15 K Daniel 34.02 (50); 16 G Femandes 34.20 (45); 17 M Cronin 34.24 (40); 18 N Davidson 34.30 (56); 19 G Spencer 34.33 (65); 20 J Murray 35.05 (58); 21 R Coe 35.06 (54); 22 A Algeo 35.19 (5); 23 D Hunt 35.27 (48); 24 I Young 35.30 (3); 25 C Griffin 35.40 (10); 26 A Bounds 35.48 (51); 27 T South 35.57 (6); 28 S Povey 36.00 (7); 29 S Ridgewell 36.02 (9); 30 J R Turner 36.21 (67); 31 M Lodwig 36.30 (22); 32 P Lester 36.37 (39); 33 P Shephard 36.49 (53); 34 B Swift 37.00 (23); 35 G Finch 37.05 (G); 36 Dv Marsden 37.09 (18); 37 S Michell 37.09 (25); 38 D Ellison 37.21 (59); 39 I Wilson 37.23 (61); 40 N Wheeler 37.25 (26); 41 D Flagg 37.30 (11); 42 T Brightwell 37.32 (14); 43 S Freemantle 37.47 (64); 44 S Capey 37.57 (38); 45 S Hough 38.01 (83); 46 M N Williams 38.06 (71); 47 G Lloyd 38.09 (12); 48 P Lonergan 38.21 (60); 49 C Fincham 38.27 (82); 50 B Fincham 38.30 (32); 51 R Morris 38.36 (74); 52 D Galvin 38.50 (16); 53 A Krywko 38.53 (87); 54 R Turney 38.54 (68); 55 J P Forrest 39.02 (81); 56 B Wilson 39.09 (62); 57 N Colvin 39.18 (66); 58 S Cluney 39.23 (75); 59 M Crickett 39.28 (42); 60 C Rowe 39.33 (79); 61 R Savery 39.45 (57); 62 V Hamlin 39.53 (30); 63 G Agnew 39.59 (2); 64 C Painter 39.59 (21); 65 J E Sullivan 40.00 (33); 66 J Pearce 40.11 (27); 67 M Peel 40.18 (44); 68 M Reynolds 40.19 (73); 69 P Austridge 40.20 (88); 70 S Hutson 40.30 (97); 71 L Rogers 40.51 (??); 72 D Crowdsen 40.51 (89); 73 A Grace 40.54 (72); 74 J Robinson 41.03 (70); 75 S Parsons 41.09 (76); 76 T Llewellyn 41.10 (96); 77 M Wade 41.28 (63); 78 S Algeo 42.06 (80); 79 B Dinsley 42.14 (78); 80 W Orton 42.16 (1); 81 C Daly 42.37 (99); 82 A Izzard 42.45 (101); 83 A Weeks-Pearson 43.02 (15); 84 C Knight 43.06 (G); 85 C Hall (sen) 43.12 (105); 86 J Routledge 43.14 (100); 87 B Hartley 43.25 (69); 88 D Grierson 43.26 (106); 89 A Pontifex 43.29 (49); 90 Roy Green 43.49 (29); 91 M H Allen 43.55 (55); 92 P Lovell 43.55 (47); 93 D Dhammaloka 44.25 (85); 94 I Cayzer 44.42 (92); 95 D Farrelly 45.02 (102); 96 G Pearce 45.06 (98); 97 A Hartley 45.11 (86); 98 B O'Flynn 45.36 (46); 99 W Wheeler 45.36 (95); 100 I Gold 45.57 (77); 101 D Wilcox 46.28 (4); 102 R Parris 46.42 (109); 103 D Brickwood 47.00 (90); 104 A Musson 47.53 (103); 105 D Larcombe 48.30 (91); 106 A Mothersole 48.36 (108); 107 B Todd 49.01 (8); 108 P Prisley 49.18 (G); 109 E Smith 49.49 (84); 110 K Coombs 50.08 (107); 111 P Long 50.15 (104); 112 B Bayliss 50.53 (110); 113 P Squires 53.20 (112); 114 D Tingey 55.30 (94); 115 Kt Morris 56.51 (111); dnf S Walker & R Morten. 112 Heathens finished including a dozen Juniors.

MOB MATCH v. ORION

Hayes

1st December 1990

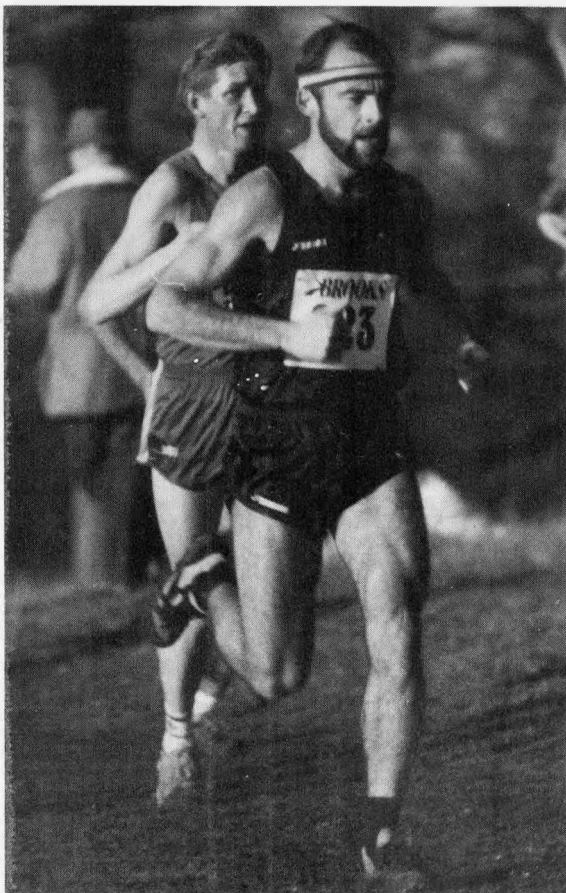
It was a splendid victory for Blackheath Harriers, and one of the finer examples of cross country running at club level. Orion Harriers had travelled through the tunnel from Chingford, with more hope than confidence, although they had recently beaten Ranelagh at home, with a massive turnout of 90-plus. On Saturday, 1st December, however, they could muster only 30 athletes to make the trip to Hayes, and were routed.

Blackheath were out in force, with no less than 110 runners, but only the top 27 for each club scored. Wickham Court Farm's "Midden Field", where the race started, was crawling with their black vests. A TV crew was in attendance, filming the race for a magazine item in a COI film about life in Britain, to be shown in 70 countries abroad, and they couldn't have chosen a better day.

The sky was hazily bright, and there was a gentle, moist wind. Underfoot, the ground was soft but not slushy, an important factor on the steep hills.

Blackheath's newly-appointed President, Tony Weeks-Pearson, officiated, forsaking the opportunity to run at Roehampton against his old sparring partners, Chris Brasher and Chris Chattaway, on the occasion of the centenary Oxford-Cambridge cross country race.

He took a moment before the start to announce that Douglas Tingey (67) had just completed 50 years' active membership of Blackheath Harriers. Since 1946, he had run in every Mob Match except two, and there he was again, the day's oldest competitor. Three cheers rang out from clubmates and opposition alike, and the race was on.



'Hard Man' Watling, out for a jog!

Photo by B. Graham

Tony Baldock immediately surged into the lead, with head-banded Mark Watling and defending champion Richard Coles a stride or two behind. This trio was expected to produce the eventual winner. Once round the field, they ran, then out into the country, skirting ploughed fields and turning left for the first of the punishing hills, up through Boundary Wood on the heights above New Addington.

Down the other side, continuing their anti-clockwise sweep, Baldock still leading, with Coles, Watling and Dave Hassall just behind. Only Q. Broadbent and P. Filler from Orion broke the line of black. On they went, downhill to Furze Bottom, then right handed up the crippling hill. Back down, then on past Blackness Farm before they swung left

around Keston Court Farm, bunching behind three riders on excitable horses.

Pat Calnan ran with Richard Coles but had trouble with his breathing, and had to stop momentarily, yielding all chance of catching the leaders. At the front, Mark Watling proved himself the man in form, passing Baldock and running strongly to win his second club championship in a row, in a time of 43:32, with Baldock second (43:35) and the ever-improving Hassall third (43:38). Richard Coles came in next, in 43:45, ten seconds ahead of the leading Orion Harrier, Broadbent.

John Beck, our first man in the London Marathon, came from nowhere to snatch sixth place, despite going off course near the finish, in 44:22, 18 seconds clear of Calnan and Orion's P. Filler, who ran the last stretch side by side and crossed the line together. Neil Wise and Pete Barlow took the remaining top 10 places, and veteran Hugh Morten was 14th in 46:39.

Other personal triumphs were celebrated too. Derek Dhammaloka, who got lost and came in last against Orion last winter, was all smiles at finishing in the first 100 for the first time, his 57:50 a creditable time, only five seconds behind Simon Parsons, the man behind the Young Athletes' cross country successes this season.

On handicap, Kieran Morris was the winner, with Mike Gasson second and Ian Cayzer third. The handicap system, which enables even the slower runners to win trophies, provides the incentive to go on improving, and demonstrates Blackheath's encouraging attitude even towards beginners.

PKP

Results

(including club 7 1/2 mile XC Championships)

1 M Watling 43.32 (Davis Cup) (H'cap pos'n 50); 2 A Baldock 43.35 (44); 3 D Hassall 43.38 (20); 4 R Coles 43.45 (31); 6 J Beck 44.22 (4); 8 P Calnan 44.50 (67); 9 P Barlow 45.06 (40); 10 N Wise 45.13 (5); 11 Roy Smith 45.16 (32); 13 C Huntley 46.29 (49); 14 H Morten 46.39 (60); 15 A Howey 47.09 (69); 16 M Cronin 47.15 (43); 17 B Mellish 47.46 (76); 18 S Ridgewell 47.59 (10); 20 J A Cooper 48.04 (62); 22 A Bounds 48.19 (19); 23 C Griffin 48.23 (29); 25 J R Turner 48.50 (16); 28 I Young 48.57 (48); 29 R Coe 49.15 (61); 30 D Flagg 49.47 (11); 31 P Shephard 49.55 (22); 33 D Henry 50.38 (87); 34 R Cliff 50.38 (88); 35 G I Morgan 50.54 (89); 36 C Fincham 50.57 (87); 37 T Brightwell 51.00 (26); 38 A Kilgour 51.06 (59); 39 D Ellison 51.09 (35); 41 P Metcalf 51.25 (36); 42 M Ellison 51.31 (73); 43 D Mortimer 51.32 (91); 44 J E Turner 51.35 (57); 45 J Phelan 51.43 (84); 48 S Capey 51.55 (42); 49 G Lloyd 52.07 (34); 50 S Paiman 52.13 (66); 51 S Lang 52.22 (92); 52 M Athawes 52.26 (75); 53 S Hollingdale 52.29 (93); 54 N Nuttall 52.37 (94); 56 N Colvin 52.43 (13); 57 S FitzCosta 52.56 (95); 58 D White 53.05 (86); 59 R Morris 53.07 (46); 60 R Savery 53.30 (18); 61 J Brown 53.35 (45); 62 A Krywko 53.39 (47); 63 R Brown 53.47 (96); 64 N Wheeler 54.15 (77); 65 C Rowe 54.19 (39); 66 J Taylor 54.28 (70); 67 M Crickett 54.33 (51); 69 C Kelly 54.38 (71); 70 M Peel 54.44 (25); 71 J Tateson 54.58 (30); 72 P Rissen 55.02 (80); 73 V Hamlin 55.09 (53); 75 J E Sullivan 55.11 (54); 76 J Robinson 55.12 (14); 79 W Clapham 55.20 (74); 81 R Chambers 55.56 (68); 82 M Wade 56.00 (27); 83 R Graf 56.03 (33); 84 J Hines 56.06 (97); 85 A Grace 56.09 (41); 86 R Ebbutt 56.13 (56); 87 W Orton 56.27 (9); 88 B Wilson 56.44 (79); 89 Kr Morris 56.45 (98); 90 C Haines 56.59 (99); 92 I Cayzer 57.17 (2); 93 M Hamlin 57.22 (83); 94 A Pontifex 57.27 (66); 95 S Parsons 57.35 (63); 96 C Painter 57.39 (78); 98 C Dale 57.47 (100); 99 D Dhammaloka 57.50 (3); 100 J McGowan 57.56 (65); 101 N Brooks 58.16 (101); 102 K Whicheloe 58.19 (102); 103 B Hartley 58.28 (17); 104 R Griffin 58.37 (103); 105 A Izzard 58.50 (52); 106 A Weeks-Pearson 59.00 (38); 107 M H Allen 59.03 (15); 109 C Hamblen 59.12 (104); 110 G Fee 59.15 (105); 112 P Lovell 59.23 (21); 113 J Routledge 59.50 (58); 114 C St Aubyn 60.37 (106); 115 B O'Flynn 61.02 (12); 116 M Gasson 61.04 (1); 117 G Pluckrose 61.09 (107); 118 G Pearce 61.21 (28); 119 P Scrivens 61.25 (G); 121 R Potter 61.28 (108); 122 T Nicholls 61.45 (G); 123 R Gibson 61.54 (109); 124 K Pearson 62.07 (110); 125 J Cross 62.31 (81); 126 J Braughton 62.35 (111); 128 A Gibbs 63.26 (G); 129 D Wilcox 63.29 (37); 132 I Gold 64.06 (64); 133 W Graham 64.28 (72); 134 D Brickwood 64.42 (55); 135 D Larcombe 65.25 (23); 137 A Mothersole 65.37 (90); 138 A Tatsmaham 65.49 (G); 139 W Buttinger 66.10 (85); 140 B Todd 66.40 (24); 143 E Smith 72.09 (82); 144 D Tingey 73.46 (7); 145 S Jones 74.30 (112); 146 D Lawrie 78.02 (113); 147 Finish.

Teams (Scoring 27) BH 493; Orion H 1777.



Terry Brightwell out on the Tundra

Photo by B. Saddler

MOB MATCH v RANELAGH

26th January 1991

Hayes

Exactly one year after an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Ranelagh, we recaptured the coveted Pelling-Ratcliff Cup in the second Mob Match of the current season. Two newcomers to the club, Jamie Jefferies and Tony Howie, placed well in the top 20.

On this occasion, Ranelagh could muster only 34 runners to Blackheath's 110, so only the first 31 of each club scored.

The event was contested on our own course, which starts with a circuit of a grassy field at Wickham Court Farm, skirts ploughed fields, then rises steeply through woodland when all conversation ceases and the runners' breath comes in laboured gasps and the stony path obliges them to keep their eyes down. The danger of a turned ankle is very real.

Down from the summit overlooking Addington, they hurtle towards Layhams Farm, where traffic is held up until they are safely through. Numbers of supporters had gathered at the farm to cheer every competitor on his way. As each heard his name called, his head lifted and there was an extra spring in his step as he sprinted across the road and plunged down the muddy road to Furze Bottom.

There a spirit-daunting hill awaited him, the cruel climb punctuated by a stile that tired legs can barely climb over. An additional hazard on cross country runs can be groups of horse riders and, in fact, some of the leading runners were severely baulked by three inexperienced riders, who communicated their anxiety to their frisky mounts.

The leading four or five runners managed to get away, but the following group, which included Dave Hassall, Roy Smith and Hugh Morten, had to almost mark time until the horses descended to a clearing, before they could pass. It

(43:40), who was running only a second race in the black vest.

Jefferies used to run for Tunbridge Wells, but was recently introduced to Blackheath (along with Tony Howie) by Mick Hamlin, the man who trains that incredibly talented youngster, Mark Steinle, the schools cross country champion. Close behind Jefferies was Pat Calnan, who is returning to something like his form of last year.

Next home was Ranelagh's second man, J. Smith (44:04), a short stretch ahead of Dave Hassall (44:16), Roy Smith (44:25) and leading Veteran Hugh Morten (44:29), who made a spirited attempt over the final 100 metres to catch his teammate. The Top Ten was completed by Richard Coles and Mark Watling, who ran together all the way, treating this as a training run, and crossed the line in 45:11.

The black vests then came home thick and fast, with Mark Farrell, Neil Wise, Pete Barlow, Nick May and Barry O'Gorman in close order. At 52, O'Gorman continues to astonish with his fine performances.

Conditions underfoot were relatively dry and firm and, though cold, the weather was good for cross country. But familiarity does not make this course any easier, and many a runner finished with pain etched on his drawn face. Jim Phelan almost caught Ken Daniel on the line, his face flushed with the effort. In contrast, Mike Cronin strode in impassively. Further back, Phillip Metcalf and Robin Graf showed the strain, as they finished behind their training partner, Mike Lodwig, who had had the misfortune to drop his glasses and lose a lens.

Mike Peel and Jack Braughton both finished with something in reserve, as examples of how to pace oneself

PKP

Results

1 M Reilly (Ran. II - Thompson Medal) 43.04; 2 A Baldock 43.31 (H'cap Pos'n 33); 3 J Jefferies 43.40 (26); 4 P Calnan 43.47 (21); 6 D Hassall 44.16 (54); 7 Roy Smith 44.25 (13); 8 H Morten 44.29 (7); 9 R Coles 45.11 (71); 10 M Watling 45.11 (72); 11 G Broadbent 45.16 (G); 12 M Farrell 45.23 (29); 13 N Wise 45.27 (39); 14 P Barlow 45.50 (55); 15 N May 46.26 (60); 16 B O'Gorman (1st V50 - Harry Sheer Cup) 46.29 (15); 18 A Howie 46.43 (28); 21 A Bounds 47.18 (35); 23 K Daniel 47.23 (37); 24 J Phelan 47.25 (9); 25 M Cronin 47.28 (45); 28 R Coe 47.50 (16); 31 S Ridgewell 48.21 (42); 34 D White 48.26 (11); 35 M Ellison 48.32 (6); 36 J R Turner 48.45 (32); 37 C Griffin 48.58 (53); 38 P Hills 49.10 (G); 39 C Fincham 49.12 (30); 40 A Kilgour 49.16 (34); 41 I Young 49.29 (46); 43 T Brightwell 49.54 (8); 44 B Fisher 49.57 (73); 45 B Swift 50.31 (80); 46 S Hollingdale 50.33 (23) (Lanterne Rouge); 48 R Cliff 50.42 (40); 49 D Flagg 50.47 (64); 50 S Paiman 50.50 (12); 51 M Lodwig 50.52 (56); 52 P Lester 50.53 (38); 54 G I Morgan 51.18 (48); 55 P Metcalf 51.22 (65); 56 P Rissen 51.30 (5); 57 N Colvin 51.40 (10); 59 B Wilson 51.58 (3); 61 R Brown 52.57 (31); 62 S Michell 53.02 (77); 63 P Shephard 53.10 (95); 64 D Parrott 53.11 (66); 65 S J Thompson 53.21 (43); 69 M Crickett 53.55 (19); 70 W Clapham 54.14 (67); 71 S Lang 54.18 (81); 72 S FitzCosta 54.21 (69); 73 G Anderson 54.22 (105); 74 J Pearce 54.41 (14); 75 A Jones 54.42 (74); 76 R Savery 54.45 (68); 77 B Bruce 54.49 (36); 78 Jon Brown 54.54 (70); 80 G Lloyd 55.20 (93); 81 A Krywko 55.23 (79); 82 J E Sullivan 55.25 (44); 83 R Morris 55.35 (90); 84 J Tateson 55.45

(76); 85 A Pontifex 56.08 (25); 86 M Martineau 56.15 (H'cap); 87 C Haines 56.21 (17); 88 R Graf 56.31 (47); 89 M Peel 56.37 (78); 90 I Cayzer 56.42 (61); 92 B Hartley 57.06 (49); 95 N Brooks 57.50 (24); 96 G Fee 57.52 (18); 98 J Robinson 57.56 (91); 99 N Webb 58.06 (1); 100 J McGowan 58.10 (52); 101 M Wade 58.20 (85); 104 D Dhammaloka 58.39 (57); 105 C Hall (Sen) 58.45 (63); 106 D Popeley 58.50 (86); 107 R Chambers 58.55 (96); 109 B Dinsley 59.20 (98); 112 G Pluckrose 60.26 (20); 113 B O'Flynn 60.32 (22); 114 M B Allen 60.33 (100); 115 C Poole 60.50 (103); 116 M H Allen 61.06 (82); 117 C St Aubyn 61.07 (51); 118 A Weeks-Pearson 61.10 (83); 119 W Graham 61.11 (2); 120 K Pearson 61.40 (27); 121 R Potter 61.47 (41); 122 J Routledge 61.58 (84); 123 R Parris 62.03 (4); 124 A Izzard 62.57 (97); 125 L Dickens 63.24 (106); 126 I Gold 63.29 (62); 127 J Braughton 63.32 (99); 128 W Wheeler 64.39 (94); 130 A Musson 65.05 (101); 131 V Hamlin 65.20 (107); 132 S Waugh 65.27 (108); 134 D Wilcox 66.02 (89); 135 A Mothersole 66.06 (50); 136 J Cross 66.34 (102); 137 K Coombs 66.54 (58); 138 B Todd 66.59 (92); 139 D Larcombe 67.13 (75); 141 P Prisley 70.00 (109); 142 W Buttinger 70.00 (104); 143 P Long 71.27 (87); 144 S Jones 72.59 (88); 145 D Tingley 74.40 (59); Ranelagh 33 finished; BH 110 finished.

Teams (Scoring 31) BH 699 (Pelling-Ratcliff Cup); Ranelagh H 1791.



Con Griffin asks John Turner why it's called 'HAPPY' Valley

Photo by B. Saddler

SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS: MOB MATCH

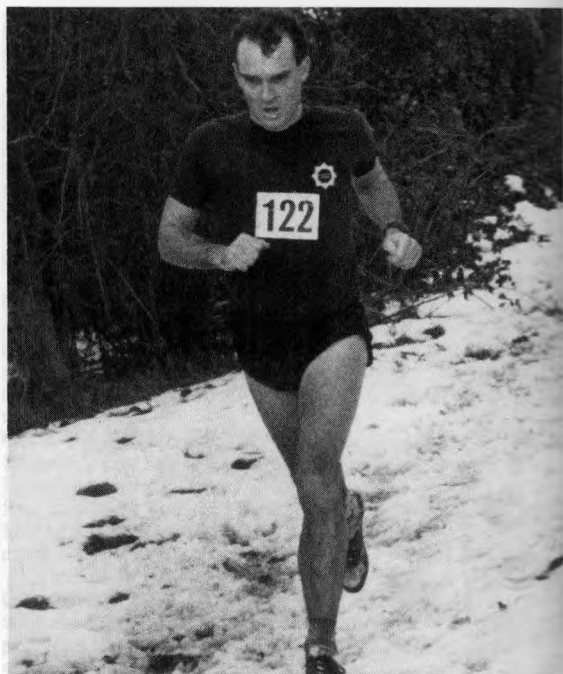
16th February 1991

Couldson

Elsewhere, the snow was fast disappearing, but on Nicholls Cup Farthingdown it was icily stubborn still: returning along the frozen rim of Happy Valley runners were lucky to stay on their feet.

No such problem for the natives of this habitat. Once again, a fair old trouncing. But we must blame ourselves rather than the course. This Mob Match saw our numbers reduced by thirty and forty from the previous two. At our strongest we are still superior; anything less nowadays spells defeat. Blackheath finished seventy, S.L.H. eighty-five.

Unsurprisingly we were sustained by the leadership of Richard Coles in third position. Equally inspiring were performances by such notable vertebrae of the Club's distance backbone: Mark Farrell, Roy Smith chased Coles. The Calnan, Watling, Hassall contingent were well thickened by the indispensable Veteran cohorts. Always a joy but, good as they are, they remind us equally of our lack of younger quality runners.



Chris Fincham beating the handicapper in the snow

Photo by B. Saddler

Further back, but also a cheering sight was the host of marathon and other 'medium' team men grimly fighting it out: Pontifexes, Crowders, showers of Pooles and other noble names. We are accustomed to their efforts but mob matches are the great occasions to remind ourselves of their endeavours. Good, too, to see Nick Brooks turning out so usefully.

A thought less welcome, no doubt - but perhaps S.L.H. are currently a shade more passionate than us about this Match? Anyway, they were touchingly delighted with the result.

TW-P

Results

3 R Coles 46.14 (H'cap posn 5); 4 M Farrell 46.51 (2); 5 Roy Smith 46.59 (13); 6 J Beck 47.24 (22); 8 P Calnan 47.38 (32); 12 M Watling 48.03 (31); 17 H Morten 48.28 (34); (Ponsford Pewter); 18 B O'Gorman 48.32 (8); 19 P Barlow 48.44 (24); 26 R Coe 49.30 (6); 27 D Hassall 49.35 (54); 29 J Phelan 49.45 (10); 31 M Cronin 50.06 (18); 33 C Fincham 50.25 (1) (Scottling Salver); 40 R Richardson 51.12 (17); 43 A Bounds 51.25 (35); 44 J R Turner 52.03 (25); 45 C Griffin 52.07 (28); 47 A Kilgour 52.24 (23); 49 T Brightwell 52.31 (15); 53 S Ridgwell 52.52 (42); 55 D White 53.06 (41); 57 N Colvin 53.21 (31); 58 Dv Marsden 53.23 (9); 62 P Rissen 54.29 (21); 66 S Paiman 55.05 (38); 69 S Hollingdale 55.26 (44); 75 C Woodcock 56.18 (60); 79 B Wilson 56.35 (40); 82 B Swift 56.46 (63); 84 C Rowe 57.13 (20); 86 P Shephard 57.45 (61); 87 I Cayzer 57.53 (4); 92 G Anderson 58.26 (36); 93 Kr Morris 58.33 (7); 94 S FitzCosta 58.38 (47); 95 R Savery 58.48 (43); 96 R Brown 58.52 (57); 97 A Jones 59.12 (51); 99 J Brown 59.30 (53); 101 A Pontifex 59.43 (29); 102 R Morris 59.44 (58); 103 G Plank 59.52 (16); 104 M Martineau 59.56 (H'capper); 105 C Dale 60.05 (11); 106 N Brooks 60.11 (12); 107 J Tateson 60.30 (55); 108 B Hartley 60.38 (33); 111 M Hamlin 61.02 (30); 112 R Chambers 61.05 (46); 113 G Crowder 61.23 (50); 115 A Krywko 62.11 (67); 116 C Poole 62.14 (37); 117 V Hamlin 62.21 (59); 122 N Webb 63.50 (56); 123 J Braughton 63.54 (19); 126 W Graham 64.33 (26); 128 B O'Flynn 64.59 (39); 132 I Gold 65.29 (14); 134 M B Allen 65.41 (48); 135 M Gasson 65.57 (45); 137 K Pearson 67.00 (49); 138 P Lovell 67.04 (65); 139 A Weeks-Pearson 67.07 (62); 145 R Parris 69.51 (66); 146 J Cross 70.12 (64); 149 S Michell 72.56 (69) (Lanterne Rouge); 152 D Larcombe 76.56 (68); 153 J Bennett 76.58 (52); 154 D Tingley 77.39 (27); SLH Finished 85; BH Finished 70.

Nicholls Cup (Scoring 67) SLH 3776; BH 5359.

CLUB 10 MILE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

16th March 1991

Hayes

Dave Taylor became Blackheath Harriers' 10-Mile Cross Country Champion on Saturday, denying Mark Watling the hat-trick. Earlier in the season, Watling had convincingly won the 5 and the 7.5 mile Championships, but acknowledged that Taylor was the pre-race favourite, having finished higher than any of Saturday's competitors in the recent National Cross Country Championships.

The Club 10 is one of the hardest cross country courses anywhere, both because of its length (most courses are 7.5 or 9 miles) and because of its very steep hills. Starting and finishing at the old Cafe on Keston Common, it plunges down Fox Lane, through Well Wood and along Layhams Road to Wickham Court Farm, then follows the usual 7.5 mile course.

A couple of ploughed fields, then the long trek through Boundary Wood, down the other side across field to Layhams Farm, on to Furze Bottom where a cruel hill complete with stiles depletes the stamina. Swinging anti-clockwise, the runners head towards Keston Fruit Farm, climbing the notorious Chicken Run where most back markers walk, then the final leg through Leafy Grove and the woods leading back to the Cafe.

The 55 starters included two guests from Cambridge Harriers, Natalie Brightwell, the teenage daughter of Blackheathen Terry, and young Dave Marsden, who has just turned 17. "From the start I felt so good," said Mark Farrell later, "that I found myself in the lead. The adrenalin started flowing and I stayed with it for a couple of miles, but was then overtaken, and by the bottom of Boundary Wood I was in deep oxygen debt. It was agony from then on."

...blowing hard and just clear of Dave White, who seemed to run on well-oiled wheels. On his shoulder was Bob Richardson, the former UK International, now on his way back to fitness.

Taylor's finishing burst was incredible. Clearly a class above most of his clubmates, he ran most of the race in company because he did not know the course. But at the top of the Chicken Run he changed gear and shot off, leaving Watling standing. Twice he strayed off course and was called back, yet he still finished in 56:40, 43 seconds ahead of Watling, looking untroubled by the gruelling 10 miler. Watling settled for 2nd and coasted in, timed at 57:23. Jefferies was third in 58:16.

The event was also scored on handicap, to allow even back markers to win trophies, and when these were taken into account, the winner was Derek Larcombe, who actually finished in 49th place. Second and third on handicap were Kieron Morris and Roger Morris, who actually finished 23rd and 24th.

PKP

1 D Taylor (Rowland Cup) 56.40 (H'cap pos'n 18); 2 M Watling 57.23 (8); 3 J Jefferies 58.16 (31); 4 Roy Smith 58.29 (27); 5 P Pape 59.08 (G); 6 M Farrell 59.21 (36); 7 P Barlow 59.46 (19); 8 P Heywood 59.58 (G); 9 N Wise 61.45 (41); 10 A Bounds 62.10 (14); 11 D White 62.55 (6); 12 R Richardson 63.38 (20); 13 A Kilgour 63.44 (9); 14 M Ellison 64.04 (26); 15 T Brightwell 64.08 (11); 16 C Fincham 64.53 (39); 17 I Young 65.37 (30); 18 B Swift 66.02 (13); 19 S Freemantle 66.23 (16); 20 N Colvin 66.48 (28); 21 P Shephard 67.37 (7); 22 M Robertson 68.02 (46); 23 Kr D Morris 68.17 (2); 24 R Morris 68.17 (3); 25 S Paiman 69.54 (40); 26 G Anderson 70.10 (4); 27 B Wilson 71.10 (38); 28 C Rowe 71.27 (23); 29 Dv Marsden 71.57 (48); 30 R Savery 72.12 (22); 31 J Brown 72.34 (29); 32 M Martineau 72.41 (H'capr); 33 R Randall 72.56 (37); 34 J Tateson 73.09 (21); 35 A Bruce 73.13 (33); 36 M Peel 73.17 (24); 37 D Parrott 75.02 (47); 38 N Brightwell 75.09 (LG); 39 C Haines 75.30 (35); 40 P Weatherall 75.59 (G); 41 A Pontifex 76.45 (42); 42 D Dhammaloka 76.48 (25); 43 M Jones 78.25 (G); 44 A Weeks-Pearson 78.30 (5); 45 P Gray 78.49 (44); 46 W Graham 79.45 (10); 47 B O'Flynn 81.31 (32); 48 I Gold 81.52 (15); 49 D Larcombe 83.48 (1); 50 D Wilcox 86.33 (34); 51 A Mothersole 90.22 (43); 52 B Todd 91.08 (45); 53 J Bennett 95.33 (17); 54 D Tingey 97.15 (12).

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Chris Huntley, fastest man in the Closing '5'

Photo by B. Saddler

CLOSING '5'

Hayes

23 March 1991

18-year old Chris Huntley was the fastest man home in the Closing Five on 23 March, completing the demanding 5-mile cross country course in only 31 minutes 40 seconds. Just as he did a year ago, he demonstrated the considerable talent he has, beating other leading club runners including in-form Mark Farrell, Barry Saddler and Neil Wise.

The Closing Five marks the official end of the cross country season, as we swing into the road running season, prior to the Summer's Track and Field endeavours. Starting at Wickham Court Farm, the course took the 36 competitors up through Boundary Wood, where they made a clockwise loop before retracing their steps back to the farm.

The event incorporated three races: fastest finishers, a yachting handicap, and the culmination of a six-event handicap competition for the Bennett Cup.

The yachting handicap sent the slowest runners off first, and the aim of the handicapper, Mike Martineau, was to have all 36 finishing together. It was a nightmare for the scorer, Past President George Brooks, a man known for his accurate predictions of race results. However, it allows the back markers (and often the oldest men) the chance to finish alongside the best.

One of the oldest competitors, Doug Tingey, who will be 68 this year, was the first to set off, and he eventually crossed the finishing line 8th, improving his Bennett Cup ranking to fourth overall.

Jack Braughton, the National Over-70 Cross Country Champion, had a handicap of only 10.5 minutes, which gave him no chance of being among the medal winners. Club President, Tony Weeks-Pearson, had a recurrence of a nagging injury and had to pull out.

Eventually, it was Nick Brooks who crossed the line first, well clear of Barry Saddler and Steve Thompson, and the first 31 runners finished within the next five minutes, with Neil Wise and D. Parrott sprinting to a dead heat. The first 10 to finish, with their handicapped positions in brackets, were: 1. N. Brooks (17); 2. B. Saddler (3); 3. S. Thompson (10); 4. J. Cross (29); 5. I. Smith (34); 6. N. Colvin (9); 7. M. Peel (20); 8. D. Tingey (35); 9. C. Huntley (race winner); 10. M. Robertson (13). Runner-up on handicap was Mark Farrell who, as the only scratch runner, was the last to start. Neil Wise was 4th on handicap, followed by Mike Cronin, Chris Fincham, Ken Daniel, Terry Brightwell, Neil Colvin and Steve Thompson.

Winner of the Bennett Cup, calculated on handicapped position in six events, was Terry Brightwell with 156 points. Despite a great effort on the Closing Five, Neil Colvin jumped from 20 points behind to just 10, and Chris Fincham was third on 114, only 2 points clear of Doug Tingey, the Club's most consistent runner: he has run in club matches for 50 years!

PKP

Results

In handicapped order

1. C. Huntley	31.40	19. J. Kelly	37.28
2. M. Farrell	31.50	20. M. Peel	37.54
3. B. Saddler	32.32	21. A. Bruce	37.57
4. N. Wise	32.46	22. D. Parrott	38.46
5. M. Cronin	32.58	23. R. Chambers	38.52
6. C. Fincham	33.02	24. C. Haines	39.18
7. K. Daniel	33.15	25. V. Hamlin	39.51
8. T. Brightwell	34.04	26. M. Wade	41.19
9. N. Colvin	34.20	27. M.H. Allen	41.24
10. S.J. Thompson	34.42	28. J. Copley	41.35
11. I. Young	35.04	29. J. Cross	43.09
12. B. Swift	35.15	30. J. Braughton	43.53
13. M. Robertson	35.47	31. A. Alvin	45.11
14. P. Metcalf	35.49	32. D. Wilcox	47.35
15. B. Wilson	36.53	33. D. Dhammaloka	49.09
16. S. Lane	37.01	34. I. Smith	49.18
17. N. Brooks	37.02	35. D. Tingey	51.55
18. K.D. Morris	37.27		

BENNETT CUP & CROSS-COUNTRY 1990/91

Terry Brightwell was a very deserving winner of this year's Bennett Cup. He improved on his handicap in each race and that is precisely what the Bennett Cup competition aims to recognise and reward. But spare a thought for runner-up, Neil Colvin, who pushed him all the way. In a large field, his spirited run in the Closing 5 might well have snatched victory away from Terry.

MM

BENNETT CUP - TOP TEN (of 197)

1 T Brightwell 156; 2 N Colvin 146; 3 C Fincham 114; 4 D Tingey 112. 5 Kr Morris 89; 6 N Brooks 87; 7 W Graham 86; 8 Roy Smith 80; 9 I Cayzer 78; 10 M Farrell 76.



Ken Daniel tells a couple of 'Youngsters' about the joys of becoming a Veteran

Photo by B. Saddler

BLACKHEATH CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY

22nd September 1990

Sparrow's Den

We have yet to match the size of events like the Reigate Relay, our own clashing still with the Surrey League. Still, fifty teams, six of them in black, made a gratifying enough crowd, and our weather is better than Surrey in November.

The course was essentially the same, with the small changes that councils and hurricanes compel. As demanding as usual, there were the familiar long grass stretches, pebbly paths and the stony ascent, mid-wood.

The race was dominated by Box Hill, but our own honour was served by the first team going three places better than last year, to fifth. It was a solid performance by our great dependables, lent spice by Kenya-born Dave Taylor's classy third leg of 9.58, twenty seconds behind Hercules Wimbledon Rayner's fastest of the day and taking us from seventh to fourth. Rivaling his good run was the anchor leg of Australian Gary Sheumack, in England for the summer. Before Taylor, Mark Watling had set things up well with a nifty sixth place. Tony Baldock hung on to keep the opposition in Dave Taylor's sights. It always seems more, but, in fact, thereafter we conceded only the single place, thanks to the dogged duo of Calnan and Hassall. Sheumack's was a fine leg. His specialist miling strength showed as he kicked powerfully away from Jon Wigley of Invicta over the last 800 metres after Wigley had closed the gap on the first three quarters of the lap. We hoped he enjoyed his brief sojourn with us; he retains his Blackheath membership and promises to return.

In other teams, Vets. Hamilton and Phelan caught the eye, failing to duck under eleven minutes by a greying eyelash, as did more youthful fellows like Wise and Betts.

We enjoy the now regular visits of our Belgian friends, of course, both for the race and the evening

Wise 11.01; 19 P Barlow 11.11; 17 P Betts 11.05; 17 C Hamley 11.25; D Hunt 12.10; 38 IW's International Select 76.42 (43 B Swift 12.25; 40 I Wilson 12.25; 39 M N Williams 13.07; 39 G Sageart (Belg) 13.23; 38 R Turney 12.42; P Shephard 12.40); 40 BH'E' 78.12 (48 J Robinson 13.26; 39 I Young 11.17; 37 T Brightwell 12.25; 37 C Griffin 12.01; 37 A Weeks-Pearson 14.30; M Gasson 14.33); 43 BH'F' 80.37 (40 J R Turner 12.11; 42 V Hamlin 13.35; 42 S Parsons 13.37; 41 M H Allen 13.46; 41 R Ebbutt 13.32; D Dhammaloka 13.56). Fastest Laps: S Rayner (Herc W) 9.38; R Ligneel (Roestl) 9.46.

REIGATE CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY

3rd November 1990

Reigate

This was a second sound Autumn relay performance to set beside that in our own race. Four of that team ensured this, well backed by Giles Clifford and Pete Barlow. Once again, we were adrift of the winners by a matter of three minutes, but this time against as many as eighty teams. That this included three other Blackheath teams was in itself encouraging, with numbers of members competing elsewhere also - from Bristol to Richmond Park.

So Mark Watling led the Club charge up the first tough climb to the Priory ridge and was rewarded with a time sixteen seconds quicker than the previous year, sending Dave Taylor off in tenth position.

Another bobby dazzler of a leg from him - one of the fastest of the day, under thirteen minutes and taking the team into fourth place. Though Dave Hassall slipped to seventh, this was no disaster, his time a half-minute improvement on last year and still 4th fastest of the team. One other was faster - our bright new acquisition Tony Baldock, making significant progress from his previous effort at Sparrow's Den, but for our 'B' team.

After that, Pete Barlow yielded only one place, and Pat Calnan held this to the finish - third fastest in his team and another who has had an excellent start to his season. In the end, we were promoted to seventh after Hounslow's much publicized disqualification. While it is clear that our best teams of all would win many events like these, overall, these chances given to other regulars do much to promote our strength.

Speaking of which - in our three other teams there were admirable feats a-plenty from youths to vets. - among them, Steinkle's 13.48 to rank with several of our best times.

Results (6 x 2 1/2 M)

(77.26) 7 BH'A' 80.45 (M Watling 13.11; D Taylor 12.54; D Hassall 13.37; G Clifford 13.39; P Barlow 13.57; P Calnan 13.27); 19 BH'B' 83.31 (A Baldock 13.22; M Farrell 14.09; M Steinkle 13.48; M Dyson 14.06; G Spencer 13.56; R Coe 14.10); 31 BH'C' 86.30 (K Daniel 13.55; A Algeo 14.50; S Hough 14.40; C Huntley 14.16; P Betts 14.36; N Wise 14.13); 76 BHD' 97.16 (D Hunt 14.22; J P Forrest 16.06; V Hamlin 16.52; D Popely 18.29; Dv Marsden 15.51; R Minting 15.36). Also B Saddler and A Musson.



Alan Guilder making light work of the Climbs

Photo by R. Coe

NATIONAL CC RELAYS

16th March 1991

Mansfield

Anyone who would have prophesied that the Youths would finish higher in their Championship than the Seniors, particularly since the Youths team were not at their best and the Seniors were, would have drawn a certain amount of mirth I am sure, but that was the way it turned out at Mansfield.

For those in doubt, Mansfield is in Nottinghamshire. They do have even a professional Football team that are languishing near to the end of the third division as I write. They have hosted these E.C.C.U. relays for three seasons now and do it well, though the length of the races is a bit short and it hardly seems that four runners in a National CC relay is enough for Seniors. It is in fact a race made for television but unfortunately television seems totally disinterested. Neither is Mansfield a good place to stop for a pint while driving between two other places.

So, anyway to the races. The Youths were in action first and started with Will Donaldson, whose earlier claim to fame was apparently that the road that John Baldwin lives in was named after one of his ancestors. A group of seven broke away and Will tried hard to get on to the back of it. He didn't manage this but came home 8th with a bit of a gap in front of him. The leader

School at some unheard of time in the early morning to make this race, ran 8.05. He handed over to Rob Sedgwick. The task of holding this pace over 2500 metres was to be too much for the 800m runner. He ran okay for about two thirds of the race but the drawn-out effort proved a bit much for him. After running 8.33 he came home in 13th place and we were now 61 seconds down on the new leaders, Derby. Derby were to fade away though and the second placed Wirral, who won the National were not about to do that. Mark Steiner afterwards said that he felt he was sprinting all the way. Remembering that this CC race is shorter than his preferred track distance it is not that surprising. He did begin the climb back to respectability as he passed four teams to bring us up to 9th with a stint of 7.56. We were now 1.06 down on the leaders who were once again Wirral. Jon Murray took the final stage and passed two more teams to bring us home in seventh place after running 7.44. The fastest lap was 7.28 by Mackin, the winner at Luton. We could not have run any better than this team did and this was the best performance by one of our younger teams for some years.

1. Wirral 31.14 2. Wolves 31.16 3. Mandale H. 31.56 ... 7 Blackheath 32.21.

So we persuaded the Youths to stick around to watch the Seniors because the team we had running looked so good. We got off to a good start as well as Alan Guilder was entrusted the opening leg. Reliable as ever, Alan assumed his usual style of running through the field and moved up from around sixth at halfway to come home in third place, a mere four seconds down on the leaders, Gateshead, who were eventually to 'sink beneath your wisdom like a stone' (anyone out there identify that one?). Bingley, Salford and Omega were right behind us. Spencer Newport went off well and soon passed Gateshead but at the same time was passed by Hawkins of Bingley. On the way round he was also passed by Highgate (Manners) and Salford (Leonard) but got past them again before finishing his stint. Spencer held second at the finish, only seven seconds down on Bingley. He ran 15.09 against 15.10 last season, but that was the second fastest of the day in 1990. Halfway through the race and we were where we wanted to be.

Richard Nerurkar set off for Bingley and proceeded to open up a gap of 200m on the rest of the field setting up a classic contest in the process. Dave Lee set off for us in second place and despite running a respectable 15.24 he drifted back through the field as the big guns came into play. We were back in 7th place at the finish of the stage as the likes of Robison, Taylor and Wilson went by him. Dave Heath fared no better on the final leg on a course that might have suited him better. His 15.43 effort was not good enough to keep Highgate from passing us as well but the attention had changed to the battle up front as the big lead was eroded by Mark Dalloway to give Stourport another win in this event and an improvement on their own course record. My own opinion is that only Dalloway on the final lap thought he could catch Bingley, who had gambled, and he was rewarded for his assessment of that situation. After all, it's never over till it's over ... someone said that.

1. Stourport 60.33 2. Bingley 60.43 3. Tipton 60.44
4. Salford 60.44 ... 8. B.H. 61.30

Unfortunatly for Blackheath, whose Young Athletes are National Champions in track and field, Sunday's London Youth Games at Cophall claimed their best cross country runners. And indeed, in that Meeting's Intermediate Boys' event, those incredible 16-year-olds, Jonathan Murray and Anthony Draper, took silver and bronze.

There was less cause for celebration at Brockwell Park, although the scratch teams of young Harriers took 6th place for both Colts and Boys, with Jonathan Hacker (14) distinguishing himself over 3 miles by coming 9th of 52 runners, in a time of 20:24.

Results

Colts (2 miles) 11 D Dodds 15.23; 15 E Moore 15.44; 25 P. Modlock 16.08; 46 W O'Connor 18.00; 49 P Popely 18.26; 60 A. Buckley.

Boys (3 miles) 9 J Hacker 20.24; 17 G Giggs 20.53; 33 S. Hennelly 22.39; 45 B Townsend 23.33.

Youths (4 miles) 21 R Morten.

Teams: Colts 6/16 Boys 6/15.

YOUNG ATHLETES XC LEAGUE

Brockwell Park

24th November 1991

Brockwell Park was the scene of Adam Newman's triumph, in the second of four fixtures in the League organised by Herne Hill Harriers. The Colts Race was contested by 47 young athletes representing 14 clubs. Their two lap course was a "generous" two miles.

For the first time this season, Blackheath Harriers were able to field their first-choice runners, and pulled off the kind of victory that so often eludes them in the winter season because school commitments, rugby and illness deny them the services of their best runners. Adam, who played his part in Blackheath's summer successes, running the fastest 1,500m for his age in the UK, was less well-known for cross-country, and the lad from Belgrave Harriers was widely tipped to win.

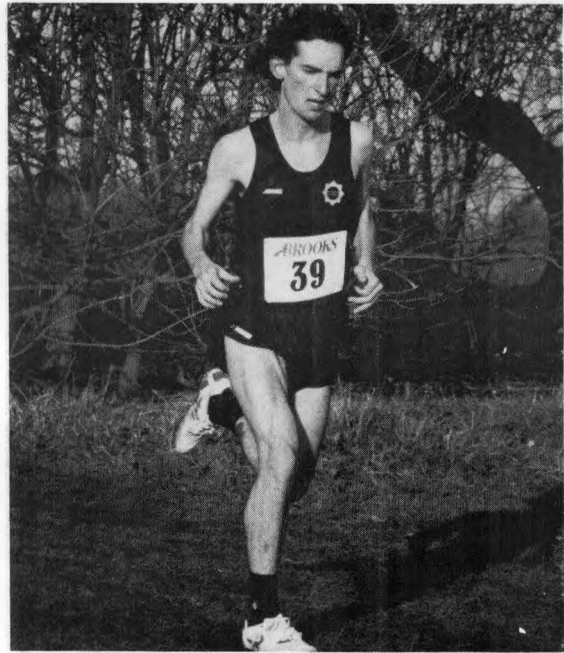
However, Adam surged to the front soon after the start and stayed there. He has leg speed as well as stamina, and is rapidly developing sound tactical sense. Winning easily in 13:47, he was fully 30 seconds ahead of the favourite from Belgrave, and had clearly held himself in check.

Clubmate Eamonn Moore was 9th in 14:55, with James Phillip and Danny Dodds close behind, 12th in 15:29 and 13th in 15:33 respectively. Paul Modlock completed the victorious team, finishing in the middle orders, 23rd in 15:59. Had he finished just five places further back, his team would have lost.

Blackheath won with 58 points, with Belgrave and GEC-Avionics joint second with 67 each.

In the Boys' event, over 2.5 miles, Blackheath came 6th of 15 clubs, with their leading runner, Gareth Riggs, a minute and 18 seconds behind the winner. He was 16th in

like to run cross country, whether talented or not, will have a chance."



Jon Murray, winner of the Kent Youth Championships

Photo by B. Graham

KENT CHAMPS

15th December 1991

Cobham Hall

Youths

Jonathan Murray controlled this race, the way he did his track races in the 1990 season. Always in the lead group, checking any surges from the opposition and finishing strongly he looked almost unbeatable. Anthony Draper finished a good fifth and these two were backed up by some solid running from Tom South in 14th and David Marsden in 25th. This was enough to take second place in the team race. Mark Steinle missed the race after injuring himself playing football the day before. With him running the team medals might have been gold.

1st J. Murray
5th A. Draper
14th T. South
25th D. Marsden

17.38	Teams	
18.07	1st G.E.C.	22pts
19.02	2nd Blackheath	45pts
19.49	3rd Medway	47pts

SOUTHERN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS

12th January 1991

Havant

Youths

Tom South was the only member of the Kent silver medal team who made the start of this race. He ran well in 69th place. Star of the team was Mark Steinle who finished 10th, and being in the younger year of his age group he will be a champion contender next season. Adrian Dennison made his debut for the club over the country and finished an encouraging 54th. Saturday working has limited his outings for the clubs. There seem to be few opportunities for those in the youth and junior age group who work Saturdays to compete at weekends. While in the area of track and field the relation between drop out rate and lack of competition has been recognised, there seems to be no acceptance of this fact from those who organise cross country fixtures. Few road races give out prizes to juniors yet they are still expected to pay the same entrance fees as seniors. Veteran athletes would not accept such a situation. More should be done to encourage the youths and junior age groups. Ever reliable Robert Weatherstone completed the scoring four for the team to finish 8th and 2nd Kent club again behind G.E.C. Avionics.

1st	T. Mackin	Old Gayt	21.03	Teams	
10th	M. Steinle	Blackheath	22.00	1st	Shaftesbury 82
54th	A. Dennison	Blackheath	23.32	2nd	G.E.C. Avionics 102
69th	T. South	Blackheath	23.57	3rd	Cornwall 108
82nd	R. Weatherstone	Blackheath	24.12	8th	Blackheath 215

Juniors

Chris Huntley reaped the rewards of some dedicated training to finish 65th. He can look forward to improving further in the next two years in the age group. Steven Hough again ran well in 80th and these two were backed up by Steve Povey, back after a spell off, and David Hunt who, determined to finish after dropping out of the Kent's, crossed the finish line barefoot after both shoes were sucked off in the muddy conditions.

1st	J. Gascoyne	Harlow	29.53	Teams	
65th	C. Huntley	Blackheath	34.26	1st	Newquay And Par 109
80th	S. Hough	Blackheath	35.10	2nd	G.E.C. Avionics 139
?	S. Povey	Blackheath	00.00	3rd	Highgate 150
?	D. Hunt	Blackheath	00.00	6th	Dartford 183
				12th	Blackheath (3rd Kent) 346

NATIONALS

23rd February 1991

Luton

Youths

National Day is the cross country race of the year in which to peak and Jonathan Murray did just that. On a blustery day at the exposed Stopsley Park he finished a mere twenty seconds behind winner Terry Mackin of Old Gaytonians. Murray does not compromise in his running. When he runs well he runs brilliantly. When he runs badly he does have stinkers. Today was the former. He was backed up by Draper, Dennison and Weatherstone for an 18th team position. Mark Steinle opted out of running in order to concentrate on the English Schools the following week.

1st	T. Mackin	(Old Gayts)	20.05	Teams	
10th	J. Murray	(Blackheath)	20.25	1st	Wirral 54
89th	A. Draper	(Blackheath)	21.38	2nd	Wolves and Bilston 71
170th	A. Dennison	(Blackheath)	22.27	3rd	Sale 205
235th	R. Weatherstone	(Blackheath)	23.13	11th	G.E.C. 353
				16th	Tonbridge 456
				18th	Blackheath 501



Steve Hough puts in another consistent performance

Photo by P. Cainan

Junior

The Junior age group in Kent this year is particularly strong and we will probably have to wait a year or two before we aspire to the top team places. However, this was no reason for not running and, despite a spate of illnesses, injuries and parties(!), we did field five athletes, which is more than have appeared in recent years. First home was Steve Hough, who seems to race as much as he trains. (This is not meant to be a criticism. The club needs more racers). Backed up by Chris Huntley and Anthony Algeo the team closed in fifth.

Also running in Blackheath colours was Jamie Jefferies who joined the club from Langton at the end of the track season. A 1.55 800 metre runner, he felt that to progress in his event he ought to avoid the dangers of competing for too small a club where at some track fixtures he was doing seven events in an afternoon. Contrary to popular belief Jamie did not suffer a nose bleed during this race. His nose was just cold! His reason for dropping out was an over ambitious start which left him steadily moving backwards through the field. Our other competitor was David Hunt who had one of those days to forget and retired after two of the three laps.

Up front Dave Robertson (Tonbridge), who later in the year represented Great Britain in the world cross country championships, won by eight seconds from Lee Elliot (Medway), who later in the year finished ninth in the inter counties.

1st	D. Robertson (Ton)	30.35	Teams	
18th	S. Hough	34.09	1st	Tonbridge 13
21st	C. Huntley	34.31	2nd	G.E.C. 25
25th	A. Algeo	35.08	3rd	Dartford 27
			5th	Blackheath 64

DNF J. Jefferies (N/S) D. Hunt



Liam Bulson makes use of the firm going

Photo by P. Calnan

Juniors

Liam Bulson ran his first and last cross country race of the season at Luton. Niggly injuries kept him out of the Kents and Southern. Currently studying at Manchester University and training with the classy middle distance runners at Sale he is concentrating mainly on track. He could probably have done with a couple of races prior to his run at Luton but 75th was not a bad position even if it was a bit down on last year.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the day was that we turned out our maximum possible complement of runners (six) and also had two reserves. All of these are still juniors next year and with the likes of Murray, Draper, Weatherstone, Dennison and both Marsdens joining them in this age group we may actually have to do some serious selecting.

It was pleasing to see Daniel Whitcombe back in action after a long absence even if he is not as fit as he would like to be at present. Team regulars Huntley, Algeo, Hunt and Hough made up the rest of our runners. They have been the backbone of the Junior team this season and I'm sure their excursions over the country will do nothing but aid their track performances this summer.

All Blackheath's six juniors finished ahead of Tipton's first scorer. Tipton's seniors team have won a medal in every National since 1978 which shows that success at junior level is not necessarily a prerequisite for honours in the older age group. Interestingly while writing this I noticed a copy of *Running Review* from 1986 on my bedroom floor giving the results of that year's National. In 1986 Robert Denmark finished ninth in the Youths National. Five years on saw him coming third in the European Indoor Championships breaking Jack Buckner's British Indoor Best in the process. In the Junior race Tonbridge took the team title with their first three scorers being Smith (2nd) Newport (9th) and Hollens (14th). Fifth was 1991 world cross country



David Hunt does his 'bit' for the junior squad

Photo by P. Calnan

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS SCHOOLS CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

6th March 1991

Sparrows Den - Hayes

A perfect spring day greeted this the 65th annual running of the Blackheath Harriers Schools race at Sparrows Den, Hayes.

Reversing a trend of recent years, the number of schools taking part was increased with the addition of Eaglesfield, The Howard, St Olaves and Royal Russell, bringing the total participants to 13 schools comprising 22 teams in all.

With the welcome return of Skinners School, the winners for the past 5 years - Judd, were guaranteed a harder passage to victory than they have had of late.

The race was started by President Tony Weeks-Pearson and the field gradually strung itself out over the first large lap of Sparrows Den. After a mile it was clear that the race would be between Judd and Skinners with Judd's Skelton and Laughton-Zimmerman occupying first and second spots, closely followed by Skinner's Barrable and Francis in third and fourth. Briefly bisecting these pairings was Tom South of Dulwich College and Blackheath Harriers who sustained his brave challenge for a further mile before eventually fading to 9th.

If the contest for the Parrish Cup, awarded to the overall winners on a four to score basis, was an either-or



'Tough of the Country' Danny Whitcombe

Photo by P. Calnan

situation, then the battle for the RAGS Trophy [awarded to the first school to finish, being within a ten mile radius of BH HQ] was a far more open affair. At the half-way point Dulwich College, Whitgift, Trinity and St Dunstons were all in the frame with Blackheath's trio of South, Whitcombe and Rees all well up in the top fifteen. After a lap of the woods the individual placings were already settled whilst the team prizes were contested right up to the finishing line.

Overall winner was Mathew Skelton of Judd who on the previous weekend had finished fourth in the English Schools cross-country Championships, and

whose form over the last three years reads 2nd, 1st and 1st, whilst Ryan Laughton-Zimmerman also of Judd improved from fourth last year to second. Skinners provided the next three finishers with Nick Barrable in third spot while Tom South was the first Harrier home in 9th place.

Medals were awarded to the first three finishers, the first three teams and first B team, as well as the first three under 16 finishers.

Other teams who entered and have not thus far been mentioned were Chislehurst and Sidcup, John Fisher and Wilsons.

JP

TEAMS RESULTS

1. Judd 20 [Parrish Cup]
2. Skinners 24
3. Dulwich College 57 [RAGS Trophy]
4. Whitgift 75
5. Trinity 95
6. St Dunstons 97
7. Judd B. 105 [1st B Team]
8. John Fisher 132
9. The Howard 164
10. Eaglesfield 177
11. St Olaves 183
12. Whitgift B 198
13. Wilsons 206
14. St Dunstons B 207
15. Trinity B 224
16. Chislehurst and Sidcup 250
17. Wilsons B 296
18. The Howard B 306
19. St Olaves B 319
20. St Dunstons B 336
21. Royal Russell 365
22. The Howard C 385

INDIVIDUALS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. M. Skelton (Judd) | 17.15 |
| 2. R. Laughton-Zimmermann (Judd) | 17.46 |
| 3. N. Barrable (Skinners) | 18.02 |
| 4. N. Francis (Skinners) | 18.20 |
| 5. T. Galliford (Skinners) | 18.23 |
| *6. A. Bennett (Judd) | 18.25 |
| 7. A. Dennison (St Olaves) | 18.26 |
| *8. S. Ralph (Howard) | 18.37 |
| *9. T. South (Dulwich) (BH) | 18.45 |
| 10. D. Whitcombe (Dulwich) (BH) | 18.51 |
| 11. J. Lodge (Judd) | 18.57 |
| 12. B. Cox (Skinners) | 19.02 |
| 13. X. Rees (Dulwich) (BH) | 19.12 |
| 14. D. Owen (Whitgift) | 19.13 |
| 15. S. Clark (Judd) | 19.16 |
| 16. O. Johns (Whitgift) | 19.18 |
| 17. A. Button (Trinity) | 19.27 |
| 18. P. Clouston (Trinity) | 19.36 |
| 19. I. Corcarachio (John Fisher) | 19.38 |
| 20. J. Osher (St Dunstons) | 19.39 |

* 1st 3 U/16

Further BH Runners: D. Marsden (Judd) 28th 20.10
100 Finished



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Strong man of the country, Roy Smith, leads a 'hapless' Fairbrass

Photo by R. Coe

SEVEN SISTERS XC MARATHON

27th October 1991

Eastbourne

Roy Smith led a team of 16 Blackheath Harriers home in the spirit-sapping Seven Sisters Marathon at Eastbourne, on Saturday, 27th October. Although run through some of the loveliest Sussex countryside, the course was obviously designed by and for someone with a taste for severe punishment.

Even over the more usual cross country distance of 7.5 miles, the course would be testing. But it's a killer over the full marathon distance of 26.2 miles, including no less than 32 gates and stiles, and some 300 waterlogged steps that were the wrong shape for a proper running action up them.

Not a single mile is level, and if you add up the vertical distance of all the climbs, they total an amazing 3,000 feet!

This year was the 10th running of the race, and it ranks among the very best organised events in the South, with a wide range of drinks and even food at the feeding stations, intelligent marshals, musical entertainment along the route, and large numbers of enthusiastic spectators. The entries were limited to just 2,000 athletes, including race walkers.

Promptly at 9:00 a.m. they surged up a long, steep hill that makes Gravel Hill look like a gentle slope, and continued climbing for the first 4 miles. Roy Smith, who recently turned 28, ran in full training gear, including long trousers and two tops, having heard about last year's chilling gales that blew at least one man over and turned another right around so that he found himself running the wrong way.

Bounds. Last year's leading 'heathen' in this event, improved his 1989 time by seven minutes, and his race position by 8 places. John Kelly was the third 'heathen', 48th overall in 3:24. He started the race with his 19-year-old daughter, Donna, but she was unwell and had to drop out.

Mike Cronin was next, three places and only a few seconds ahead of David White (73rd) and Peter Crawford (74th), all with a time of 3:33. Mike and Dave ran together all the way, encouraging each other when the going got hard, and it was Dave's experience that kept them at the right level of pace.

At the top of Beachy Head, just before the final mile and a bit down to the finish at St Bede's School, they overtook a very tired Peter Crawford, and gave him the boost he needed to pick up his speed and cross the line with them. They all three had a most welcome dip in the school swimming pool.

The remaining Blackheath Harriers were spreadthrough the field, but mostly in the first 300. They included Dave Cordell (105th), Pete Rissen (142nd), Andy Nichols (192nd), Phil Lonergan (232nd), Alan Izzard (254th), Peter Lovell (294th), George Payne (320th), Kierron Morris (365th), Dick Griffin (383rd) and Alan Mothersole.

PKP

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE I

6th October 1990

Canterbury

The first competition in the annual series of four saw a mere nine pilgrims at Canterbury. This mixed but notable team secured a worthy and, for Blackheath, customary seventh place. There was a welcome rare appearance in this event of first team man Tim Nash, fresh from fatherly duties. Leading the team home he finished just over a minute down on the winner.

That the team was a mixture is to be seen from the combination of young and old - junior and senior, as instanced by Chris Huntley, well up in the first half of the field, and Ken Veteran Daniel, our third scorer. Ably backing these were the exotic assortment of Izzard, Clapham, Dhammaloka and Popely Senior.

It was good to hear of plans afoot to increase and promote the Club's efforts in this event. The present participants deserve it.

TW-F

Results

17 T Nash 27.22; 51 M Farrell 28.59; 55 K Daniel 29.13; 56 D William 29.13; 75 C Huntley 30.05; 204 A Izzard 34.57; 206 W Clapham 34.59; 221 D Dhammaloka 36.21; 225 D Popely 36.42.

Teams (Scoring 4) 7 BH'A.

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE II

Hoo

24 November 1991

The second match in the Kent League was at Hoo, near Rochester. Seven Blackheath Harriers entered, among 258 starters, but none of the club's top runners was present. All of them had travelled to Roeselare in Belgium for the Euro Cross event, and it fell to middle order stalwarts like Tim Nash, Neil Wise and Pete Barlow to fly the club colours.

Run over five miles, including playing fields and muddy plough, the event attracted some big names from other clubs. Invicta's Mike Grattan, a former winner of the London Marathon, was there, as was Dartford's Geoff Wightman, another marathoner who has represented Britain at the Commonwealth and European Games. But the clear winner was Medway's Barry Roydon, a former Kent Champion over 5,000m on the track, in 27:45, a time that reflected the severity of the course.

Blackheath's leading trio were: 23rd Tim Nash in 29:48, 42nd Neil Wise 31:00, 43rd Pete Barlow 31:01. Nash started strongly, keeping in touch with the group chasing the leaders, but fell back in the closing stages, finishing among the flood of runners a minute or two behind the fast men.

Barlow ran steadily at first, suffered in the middle stages, especially over the ploughed fields, then rallied and almost caught teammate Neil Wise, who just had the strength to stay a stride ahead at the line.

The other Blackheath competitors were John R. Turner, Chris Haines (continuing his comeback), Alan Izzard and Derek Dhammaloka who hates heavy, muddy conditions, but enters almost every event he can. Through sheer determination, his performances have improved over the past year, and he sets a good example as a club runner who will compete even when he has no hope of winning.

PKP

pulled back by those who believed that they were queue-jumping. One very good runner estimates that he lost between 90 seconds and two minutes at this bottleneck. It was madness to send 300 runners out on a course with a stile so near the start, and reflected the total inexperience of the host club, Langton AC.

Nor was that the only problem. The route included two laps of a large field. Each circuit measured about a mile. However, the absence of proper directions and controls meant that many a back marker ran the loop only once, saving himself a mile out of the scheduled five, and recording amazing times and finishing places.

The row continued long after the finish, and many club representatives hurried away to tend to their wounds, rather than wait for the detailed results that were slow in coming. After another recent event where also there were complaints about the local organisation, it does seem as though Kent AAA will need to look hard at the pedigrees of the clubs that host these fixtures.

At Penshurst on Saturday, the Heathens' 'A' team ranked fifth, and consisted of: 17th. Tony Baldock 29:48; 30. Roy Smith 30:14; 36. Mark Dyson 30:23; 40. Pat Calnan 30:29. Close behind were Dave Hassall and Mark Farrell, who did not score.

The 'B' team ranked 14th, with Neil Wise, Ken Daniel, Jim Phelan and Tony Bounds, and their 'C' team were 29th. First man across the line was Ben Reynolds of Tonbridge AC, and the winning team was Invicta.

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Results

(27.56) 14 K Pike (Kt) 29.30; 17 A Baldock 29.48; 30 Roy Smith 30.14; 36 M Dyson 30.23; 40 P Calnan 30.29; 43 D Hassall 30.36; 47 N Wise 30.46; 63 M Farrell 31.30; 69 K Daniel 32.01; 76 J Phelan 32.22; 109 J R Turner 33.55; 116 M N Williams 34.18; 124 A Bounds 34.46; 137 N Colvin 35.19; 145 M Ellison 35.36; 149 W Clapham 35.55; 180 C Haines 38.17; 206 A Weeks-Pearson 40.53; 232 D Dhammaloka 46.28.

Teams (Scoring 4) 7 BH'A; 14 BH'B; 29 BH'C.

Teams (Scoring 12) 4 BH.

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE III

19th January 1991

Penshurst

Saturday, 19th January: the Kent Cross Country League event turned out to be a farce, in the words of one competitor, who went on to complain that it was even positively dangerous.

The five-mile course at Swaylands School, Penshurst, near Tunbridge Wells, was a welter of sticky mud. Half a mile from the start there was a 1 in 4 descent to a stile, with a nasty barbed wire fence on either side. 300 runners bunched up against the stile, their running rhythm shot, and their patience thin. Only the leading few got over safely.

A large number then tried to bypass the crush by climbing through the barbed wire. That would be inadvisable even when one is alone and fully dressed. In Saturday's melee, scantily clad runners were being pushed and shoved and their bare limbs were torn by the barbs. Ken Pike, one of the first through the fence running for Kent AC, and Pat Calnan, for example, were almost totally covered in scratches.

It was like a football crowd out of control. Competitors battled to climb on the stile, only to be

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE IV

9th March 1991

Hayes

This competition got no easier with the season's end. There was no let-up in the standard, any more than there is from year to year. However, we were at home and so had two teams out which provided us with company, at least. The clash with the National Vets. Championships this weekend understandably did not help.

Finishing seventh is okay - but not, perhaps, for Blackheath. And we wouldn't want to be doing any worse, would we? Competition is too sharp up front, so that our own best performances seem less good: but Pat Calnan's - half a minute up on our next man - represented an impressive chasing effort.

At the other end, it may be observed that there was too large a gap after our first seven men home.

TW-P

Results

22 P Calnan 30.36; 35 M Farrell 31.06; 39 P Barlow 31.26; 53 N Wise 32.14; 54 K Daniel 32.15; 88 J Kelly 34.42; 99 S Freemantle 35.31; 100 A Weeks-Pearson 39.50; 144 C Haines 40.11; 151 M Wade 40.39; 168 D Dhammaloka 44.37; 170 M N Williams 48.22.

Teams (Scoring 4) 7 BH'A; 23 BH'B.

Final League Pos'ns 7 BH'A; 27 BH'B; 45 BH'C; (Duodec) 9 BH.



Anthony Algeo digs deep in the S.O.T.

Photo by P. Calnan

SOUTH OF THE THAMES "JUNIOR" (5m)

10th November 1990

Leigh Park, Havant

Nine 'heathens' competed in the race supported by the President and a "gaggle" of past Presidents. Godfather of the South Coast Mafia Tony Oldfield managed the team at short notice as Richard Coles had been recruited by hosts Portsmouth A.C. to mark the course at a crucial turn where judicious flag manipulation could have influenced the results. Local residents clearly thought the nice flags were for them to take home, fortunately the flags were again in place when the start of the race (courtesy of Alan Brent's pistol!) coincided with the start of the rain.

The runners headed downhill over rough grassland with no one really prepared to take the pace. Dave Heath, realising that a "contract" was out on this race and the Mafia expected a result, was comfortably tucked in at the head of the field. Further down the field Roy Smith was well placed with Dave Hassall in hot pursuit. Pete Barlow, Mark Dyson and Chris Huntley were packing well though a little too far down to figure in the team placings.

On the second lap Heath opened up a gap which he held to the finish despite a strong challenge from Steve Fury on the uphill finish. Hassall came through strongly as second scorer, overtaking Smith with Barlow closing in for 7th team position.

The event was notable for another example of the "Curse of Phelan". Apparently our editor is afflicted, whatever number is pinned to his chest determines his finishing position. Clutching disc 101 in his hand with a

3rd	L. Elliott	M.L.	26.35
28th	D. Hassall	B.H.	28.12
33rd	R. Smith	B.H.	28.21
50th	P. Barlow	B.H.	28.46
64th	M. Dyson	B.H.	29.16
71st	C. Huntley	B.H.	29.24
100th	J. Phelan	B.H.	30.26
110th	A. Cooper	B.H.	30.44
176th	A. Algeo	B.H.	33.27

Teams	1 Medway	59	(4 to score)
	2 Boxhill Races	78	
	3 Portsmouth	81	
	7 Blackheath	112	

BANK OF ENGLAND & THAMES VALLEY HARRIERS

17th November 1990

Roehampton

First things first, Forget the race. At the palatial and munificent Bank H.Q. the anticipation and digestion of The Tea are the prime features of this away fixture.

Instead of results, therefore, let the long overdue enquiry commence into the unpardonable devouring of The Tea by Blackheath Fast Men before their slower, loyal, supportive, generous-hearted Fellow-members could arrive to claim their modest share.

Subsequent offers of pints at the bar were not enough to sluice away the bitterness. One expects such offers as one's due, in any case.

Oh, very well - the Race.

The Richmond Park surroundings royal as ever, more attractive than some of the afore-mentioned runners, that's for sure. These runners went surprisingly fast. And, of course, by tea-time - in fact before - we knew why they had been in such an almighty rush, didn't we?

This greed meant that we won the team race against a representative Thames Valley squad as well as the Bank team. Readers may see from the results how the Blackheath leaders devoured the ground. In addition to everything else.

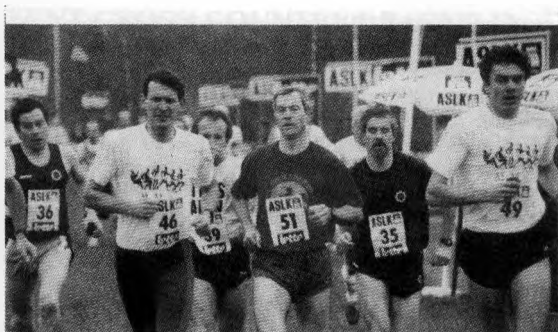
One mustn't complain too much. Some vestiges of Blackheath decency remain in such as Simon Parsons and Chris Haines who, very properly, refused to let mere hunger dictate their pace.

TW-P

Results

1 N Wise 25.45; 2 P Barlow 25.46; 4 M Farrell 25.57; 5 Roy Smith 26.04; 6 P Calnan 26.45; 8 I Young 27.01; 9 C Griffin 27.02; 10 M Cronin 27.03; 13 C Fincham 27.52; 15 J R Turner 28.12; 18 P Shephard 28.43; 25 D Galvin 30.20; 28 A Izzard 30.52; 29 W Clapham 30.53; 31 M Reynolds 31.15; 33 S Parsons 32.17; 35 C Haines 32.30; 38 D Dhammaloka 33.18; 39 A Weeks-Pearson 33.40; 43 R Parris 36.27.

Teams (Scoring 10) 1 BH'A' 65; 2 TVH 217; 3 Bank Eng 237; 4 BH'B' 309.



Andy Frankish and Ian Wilson certainly know how to pick their races!

INTERNATIONAL XC RACE

25th November 1990

Roeselare

A reasonably filled coach travelled to the village of Gits for the 1990 edition of this fixture. The village, situated near to the brewery town of Roeselare, does not benefit from the English pronunciation and it is good to bear in mind that in the Flemish language the letter 'g' is pronounced like our 'h'. . . some say fortunately. The coach stopped first in the Hypermarket complex of Calais where many of the travellers sampled the varied treasures held by the friendly Mammoth. Those who chose, like the typical English day-tripper, to load up with easily available, uninteresting brews missed an Aladdin's cave of treasure. One more stop was de rigueur as the coach passed through the village of Esen just outside Dixmuide. It is here that the brewery that produces many award-winning beers is situated and run at weekends only by three brothers and their mother. De Dolle Brouwers are a regular stopping place for many of us on trips to Bruges and further into Belgium and hopefully those who this winter sampled their wares for the first time were suitably impressed. If you were not and have some left over I will gladly exchange for any of the uninspiring stuff available at your local Whitbread outlet.

Enough of Baccus and let's get baccus to the other reason we went to Flanders, the races. The day dawned wet and stayed that way. The mud came down heavily. The Meeting was as well supported as ever and the races early on were run with less mud than was experienced by the older runners later. Our first action was in the Scholerin Heren. The title of that race causes me to wonder if Antony Draper was the only runner in that race who wasn't . . . if you get my drift? A hairpin bend after a 100m sprint start is something that would be avoided in England but not here. Seventy six finished that race so as many if not more sprinted towards that bend. Jon Murray was up the front right from the start but our other runners were not as well suited to that kind of start. The field, having negotiated that bend, were well strung out and the next two laps of about 600m each (yes, really) were spent seeing the progress through the field of Antony Draper and Mark Steinle. They did eventually get there and the three Blackheath Harriers were together with a lap to run. On the final lap Murray narrowly held off Steinle and Draper slipped back 10 seconds but gave us a clean sweep. This was to be the first of three trophies that we were to win on this

afternoon. But the distance of the race was way below that to be experienced later in the season, but we will have done some training by then!

Next was a very strange affair. This did not appear on the programme and was called an Invitation V.I.P. race. A motley selection of the lower end of the human spectrum was assembled proving that the participants did not have to be V.I. to take part, indeed some of them hardly qualified to be P. Into this classless assembly we contributed I.C. Wilson and A. Frankish. They finished in that order third and fourth. The winner looked good and may well have been a real runner at some stage in his past. I understand that there were feeding stations en route, surely contravening I.A.A.F. rules.

The Juniors event was also a Blackheath Victory teamwise, though we did not exhibit the extravagances of the Scholerin race. Chris Huntley led us home in 16th place; he is an improved runner this season. Steven Hough placed 22nd and Anthony Algeo 29th. Should it have been four to score (maybe it was) Van Hamlin placed 42nd. They were as surprised as anyone to learn of the team success at the presentation, indeed we were surprised to learn of the team events anyway. The Elite race saw the welcome return of Jerry Barton. He was off quickly and was followed initially by Club 10m Champion Tony Baldock, who finishes his nine month wait in three weeks time. For the first lap Jerry and Tony were well placed and then Tony began to slip back. Jerry stayed well placed to eventually finish in 12th place, ahead of Ian Manners (A.A.A. 10km Road Champ). Meanwhile Alan Guilder was running his usual race and working through the field as he often does to such good effect. He was eventually to come through to place 20th. David Taylor, off on a visit to the Dark Continent later that week, caught Tony Baldock with one lap to run (the race was six laps) and they eventually placed 29th and 32nd to give us another team trophy. This performance, on a muddy course that did no favours to him, must surely have encouraged Jerry Barton, who has not had a fortunate past few months. In the 'B' race that followed Jamie Jefferies did not look happy on the mud as he finished 57th. He appears to be the sort of runner that would be seen to better effect on firm ground. He may not get any if the winter continues in this vein.

We fielded three veterans. John Baldwin ran well but not well enough to satisfy his stringent requirements. 20th place was a good performance but again he was not happy on the ground. Mike Williams was not as displeased with his 42nd and the new President also ran. The Pres, who was mentioned in the following weeks Athletics Weekly, but not for this performance, placed 69th. He did enjoy his weekend away though but not for the mud, wind and rain. We could all have stayed at home and had that, we got it all the next day.

MH

VARSIY CENTENARY XC RACES

1st December 1990

Roehampton

Over at Roehampton, Blackheath's Jerry Barton was runner up to national champion, Richard Nerurkar, in the Old Blues six miler that preceded the centenary Oxford-Cambridge race, an event he won in the early '80s.

promise and seems bound for greater things. He is likely to be a top member of our ambitious Senior Team.

So is Tony Baldock, already in a short time a committed team man. Only twenty seconds behind Taylor, his was a robust run for 22nd place. It may be cavalier to observe that Hassall and Watling turned in their regular, expected performances, yet that is what they did for the umpteenth time, with Mark Colpus once more in close attendance. He, in particular, must soon achieve the looked-for breakthrough.

Championship running calls for good concentration and it says much for them that they kept our first man well in sight for much of the way, and that our first eight all finished under forty minutes. With our other four backing them so well the Club's second placing was very satisfactory.

TW-P

Results

12 D Taylor 37.43; 22 A Baldock 38.03; 28 M Watling 38.27; 35 K Pike (Kt); 38.43; 37 D Hassall 38.44; 39 M Colpus 38.52; 57 M Farrell 39.28; 64 Roy Smith 39.40; 68 P Barlow 39.56; 79 N Wise 40.16; 80 N May 40.18; 81 M Dyson 40.20; 119 K Daniel 41.45.

Teams (Score 6 & 12) 2 BH.

Results

Finishing 1st J Broughton (Running time 28th) 41.59; 2 B Todd (32) 45.57; 3 B Swift (5) 34.44; 4 W Clapham (16) 38.01; 5 B Hartley (24) 40.31; 6 M N Williams (13) 36.18; 7 C Fincham (=7) 35.15; 8 C Hall (Sen) (26) 41.33; 9 I Gold (30) 44.55; 10 R Chambers (21) 39.13; 11 A Kilgour (9) 35.16; 12 S Hollingdale (14) 36.32; 13 I Cayzer (22) 40.03; 14 P Metcalf (12) 36.05; 15 A Pontifex (23) 40.20; 16 J Williams (LG) (18) 38.22; 17 M Farrell (2) 32.23; 18 J Tateson (19) 38.42; 19 A Bounds (4) 33.49; 20 G Fee (27) 41.53; 21 M Cronin (3) 33.27; 22 R Brown (17) 38.02; 23 M Ludwig (10) 35.51; 24 D Tingey (36) 53.12; 25 N Wise (1) 32.15; 26 A Mothersole (33) 47.15; 27 D Larcombe (34) 47.23; 28 J R Turner (6) 35.01; 29 A Krywko (20) 38.51; 30 M Gasson (29) 44.09; 31 S Ridgewell (=7) 35.15; 32 N Brightwell (LG) (25) 41.22; 33 P Long (35) 51.05; 34 T Brightwell (15) 37.54; 35 G Spencer (11) 35.53; 36 D Dhammaloka (31) 45.52; 37 D Johnson (37) 56.52.

Liquid Prizes to 1st, 2nd & 3rd in race, and to 1st, 2nd & 3rd fastest. Christmas Puds to Dave Johnson (for chatting to everyone who passed him) and to Janida Williams (for unladylike comments about the Handicapper).



Pat Calnan, 2nd 'heathen home in the Clubman's

Photo by B. Graham

KENT CLUBMAN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

5th January 1991

Hayes

A damp and cheerless day at Sparrow's Den was sufficiently improved for the Club by solid performances in both Vets. and Clubman's races.

In the second of these and backed by the team men one has come to expect - Calnan, Barlow, Farrell and the fast-finishing Neil Wise - Mark Colpus showed how his forays from the north are always serious, leading the team home, with Pat Calnan just four seconds down. With these thrusting performances they secured the runners-up medals, going one better than the Veterans.

TW-P

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ON THE ROADS

NEW YORK MARATHON

4th November 1990

The Big Apple

Two hundred and fifty years ago the Big Apple didn't exist, the UK was going through a dark period and the Athenians had already forgotten the Pheidipides Marathon run of 490 BC.

However now in 1990 New York celebrated its 21st Marathon and UK its 10th, how much both the Yanks and Pommies have progressed from the founder and mentor Pheidipides in marathon aspirations.

The New York Marathon included the well established events of Registration in the Sheriton basement precluded by a 1 hour queue, the collecting of numbers and paraphernalia, the "exhibitioners and exhibitionists" and the chatter of tongues like the "Tower of Babel".

Saturday morning saw the event known as the International Breakfast run which starts outside of the United Nations Building on the east side of Manhattan and finishes 3Km later in Central Park.

The grounds of the United Nations building saw nearly 9000 runners from 86 different countries. Standing in the morning sun each country displayed by flag and nameboard, the British contingent proudly holding up the Union Jack flag, the Welsh and Scottish runners had their own (but we didn't get to blows!!).

The finish of the International Breakfast run in Central Park was a sight to behold as finishers clambered for the packed breakfast, a drink and of course the finishers "T" shirt.

Saturday night the infamous Pasta Party to the devoted few at Ronzoni but for most a look around town for one's own pasta and pizza plus the good old jacket potato.

The great day arrives - Sunday, at the crack of dawn sees 25,000 runners having a quick "breakers" and catching the coaches to the start which left from the New York public library 0500, what, yes to 0730, and transported all runners to Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island.

Because arrival by the runners at Fort Wadsworth is some 3/4 hours before the "GUN" at 1050 hrs. chance can be taken to have a drink of coffee, tea, chocolate, squash and indulge in a breakfast of rolls, buns, cakes etc. and then "lie down on a cardboard mat" in the many tents provided and try to get a "bit of a kip" amidst 25,000 people milling around.

Whilst resting up with a Canadian on one side (born in South London) and an Australian on the other Colin Poole was approached by a New Zealander who said BLACKHEATH HARRIERS - was there earlier this year, give my regards to MIKE PEEL, my name is PETER FORBES and had a general chat of his happy time with the 'heathens'.

Nature 'calls' frequently during the "arrival to start" period with constant fluid topping up since the day was expected to rise to 23°C (74°F) (like the previous day which was the highest November temperature on record). Visit the longest "URINAL" in the world was the boast of the NYC Marathon write up. You're not kidding!! 50 metres long stacked with males side by

side filling the trough and standing 4-6 deep, females milling around and drivers on the Verrazano Bridge looking down to admire "the sights", the sound of running water was only overshadowed by the "clicking shutters of observer cameras"!

10.25 hrs. the announcement of colour codes - BLUE - GREEN and RED allowed the runners to line up on the TIME BOARDS and walk the trek through the Fort grounds, out through the fences and onto the Verrazano narrow bridge ready for the start which was prompt at 10.50 hrs.

What a sight, 6 lanes of bodies (car lanes, body lanes, more like 20) starting the slow jog up the hill to the crown of the bridge and over the top to pass from Staten Island to BROOKLYN to be met by the first section of New Yorkers cheering on the mobile masses of 89 countries and ages up to 80 years plus including the Blackheath Harrier contingent of Colin Poole, Len Dickens, Geoff Plouckrose, Steve Waugh and Paul Davies.

The course took the runners from the Verrazano Bridge to Brooklyn, through Brooklyn and over the Pulaski Bridge into Queens, over the Queensborough Bridge into Manhattan and the straight 4 1/2 mile run up First Avenue, over the Willisave Bridge into the Bronx, through the Bronx and back over 3rd Avenue Bridge into Manhattan down 3rd Avenue into Central Park to meet the only hills on the course. Undulating would be a mild term for Central Park and at 23 miles not at all appreciated but the crowds (like nearly all along the course) were absolutely dynamic in driving the runners on to get through the park, run the 1/2 mile along the South Road, back into the park just before the 26 miles and climb up to the finish and under the clock.

The "after run" care was fantastic, well organised tunnels, number code removed, medals issued, aluminium capes put around (though at 70°F not really required but kept the heat in for later), the drinks, goodies bag and join the 1 mile silver snake through the park lane to the baggage buses which were lined up in colour code and surname initial, the main difference to London '90 a map showed where ALL the buses were and the girls in each bus got the bag for you to save the "mass scrambling" associated with 'large marathon finishes'.

The day culminated in the awards ceremony at the Sheriton where Douglas Wakihuri was given First at 2.12.39 and Steve Brace, Third at 2.13.32 of a total number of finishers at 23491.

Though Colin Poole was a long way behind at 3.27.28 (3.25 real time) in a temperature of 70°F and positioned 3371 he was more than happy to celebrate the New York's 21st Marathon and at the same time raise £450 for the R.N.L.I., his preferred charity.

Congratulations to Len, Geoff and Steven for raising £6000 between them running for charity.

CP

HOG'S BACK 9

9th December 1990

Guildford

The weekend's wintry weather added a dimension of difficulty to The Hog's Back Race, one of the most testing road races in the region. Fully 42 Blackheath Harriers braved the treacherous conditions on Sunday, 9th December, battling through sleet and ice . . . just to



Hog's Back U.50 winner Barry O'Gorman

Photo by B. Saddler

arrive at the start! Not even the M25 had been gritted, and with cars skating over ice patches it seemed likely that the race would be called off.

Fortunately for the 1500 or so people who turned up, the organisers held their nerve, and the race started as planned at 10.30 a.m., the arctic wind scything at the competitors' legs and eyes, giving them the bleak look of mountaineers.

The 73-furlong (9.125-mile) course is out-and-back, starting and finishing on the Old Portsmouth Road at Farncombe. Heading north towards Guildford, the runners climb the massive Hog's Back, which marks the halfway point. Snow lay heavily on the ground, churned into chilling slush by a thousand pairs of slithering trainers, and the runners' breath snaked down the hill like the smoke from a labouring steam train.

"Conditions were grim," said Road Racing Captain, Mike Williams. "Our Vets did well, and it was a superb performance by our Wednesday Nighters," he added.

Considering how dangerous the course was in parts, the leaders' times were incredible. First across the line was Bournemouth's D. Bird in 46:28 - five-minute miling on snow and slush-covered hills. However, Blackheath's first man in, and winner of the V50 category, was the evergreen Barry O'Gorman, who has been winning at every age since he was a schoolboy in Ireland. 32nd overall, his time was 51:50.

The second 'heathen to finish was Barry Mellish, 41st in 52:20. In the high quality V40 group, which included Keith Penny and Peter Standing, he was ninth. It was a remarkable performance by a man who took up running only 3 years ago, then aged 39, when his best rugby-playing days (at Westcombe Park) were over.

R Pearson 64.50; 527 G Clowder 65.20; 507 G Pickhouse 66.12; 589 B Weatherill 66.31; 658 N Webb 68.07; 659 C St. Aubyn 68.09; 692 L Dalmon 68.55; 736 I Gold 69.56; 771 A Mothersole 70.42; 773 W Graham 70.44; 791 S Waugh 71.08; 826 R Gibson 72.10; 885 D Brickwood 73.46; 916 M Goddard 74.55; 928 G Morris 75.13; 946 P Morris 75.50; 969 P Prisley 76.50; 994 S Jones 78.03; 997 D Larcombe 78.22; 1088 K Coombe 85.23; 1092 K Morris 85.52; 1145 G H Morris 95.16.

Teams (Vets) 3 BH.

CENTRESPORT 10K

Crystal Palace

31st December 1990

The recent wintry weather relented on Sunday to offer perfect conditions for the ninth annual Centresport 10Km Road Race at Crystal Palace, sponsored by the Bromley branch of General Portfolio. The sun shone brilliantly, temperatures soared to Spring levels, and the standard of competition rose in harmony. It was a day for Blackheath Harriers to shine.

Of the 600 competitors massed at the starting line, on the track at Crystal Palace, 63 were Blackheath Harriers, including the eventual winner, Gary Arthey. In support of Graham Botley, Blackheath's Winter Captain and Centresport's Chief Executive, we also provided the officials and marshals.

The three lap race started and finished in the stadium of the National Sports Centre. An initial two laps strung out the huge field, before the runners exited through the gate by the Jubilee Stand, swinging left towards the ski slope. Arthey was quickly in his element. Hampered by injuries over the past two years, he now avoids cross country running and concentrates on road races, where there is less chance of a turned ankle.

Skirting the lake, he led the multi-coloured crocodile at five minute mile pace along the path behind the Jubilee Stand, down to the station end, where they re-entered the stadium, to thunder along the back straight to complete the first of three such circuits.

Competition for the lead came from Mike Boyle and Geoff Jerwood of Herne Hill Harriers, and Shaftesbury Barnet's Mike Moughton, and prominent in the following pack were the black vests of Mark Watling and Tony Baldock, who dogged each other's footsteps all the way.

The occasion signalled the welcome return to racing of Robert Farish, who held off the challenge of clubmate Pat Calnan, just ahead of our leading Vet, Hugh Morten. Our other Vets did well, five of the first seven — six, if you included Ken Pike, who ran for Kent AC but is also a 'Heathen. Also in the Blackheath pack was the Biblical figure of John E. Turner, whose road racing debut was in this event in 1982. He has since run with distinction in the London-Brighton race, and has competed in 8 of the nine Centersport 10K races.

On this occasion, Gary Arthey played Pied Piper, crossing the line in 30:38, a slow time for him as he has bettered half an hour before. But it was enough to give him a significant lead over Mike Boyle (31:14) and Mark Moughton (31:48). 'Heathens Mark Watling and Tony Baldock entered the stadium together and in the final sprint it was Watling who broke clear to finish in 32:41, just three seconds ahead of Baldock.

Robert Farish was our next finisher, in 33:34, followed by Pat Calnan (33:47), Hugh Morten (34:00), Mark Farrell (34:05), Peter Hamilton a step behind in 34:06, Peter Barlow (35:06), then Barry Mellish (35:18), Con Griffin (35:20) and Neil Wise (35:34), who was fastest in the previous weekend's Cross Country handicap.

On that occasion, Phillip Metcalf and Tony Pontifex dead-heated, but this time Metcalf (39:12) proved his superiority on the road, with Pontifex far behind in 42:20. Three youngsters who did well were the 18-year olds, Chris Huntley (36:25) and Van Hamlin (41:35), and the 16-year old David Marsden (37:59), running this time without his twin brother Duncan.

In the Vets' rankings, Hugh Morten was second to Ken Pike for the V40s, Chris Woodcock was second V45 behind Cambridge Harriers' Steve Birkin, who so convincingly won the Sevenoaks Half Marathon, and Blackheath's Ron Chambers was the fourth-placed V55.

General Portfolio's sponsorship enabled the organisers to offer no less than 21 prizes to the leading men, women and Vets, and these were presented by Mr Vincent Rozkres, branch manager, and his assistant, Martin Russell. The event also enabled the Crystal Palace Fun Runners to make a further generous donation to Sydenham's St Christopher's Hospice, matching the £1,500 they handed to Dame Cicely Saunders on December 15.

PKP

Results

1 G Arthey 30.38; 7 M Watling 32.41; 8 A Baldock 32.44; 15 Rb Farish 33.34; 16 K Pike (Kt) 33.40 (1st V); 17 P Calnan 33.47; 22 H Morten 34.00 (3rd V); 24 M Farrell 34.05; 25 P Hamilton 34.06; 31 P Barlow 35.06; 32 B Mellish 35.18; 33 C Griffin 35.20; 35 N Wise 35.34; 38 J Jefferies 35.46; 40 C Woodcock 36.14; 41 C Huntley 36.25; (S Povey); 48 S James 36.54; 55 D White 37.15; 58 C Fincham 37.23; 64 S Hollingdale 37.49; 67 Dv Marsden 37.59; 69 J E Turner (Oh Yes it was) 38.00; 72 M Lodwig 38.15; 76 T Brightwell 38.24; 80 J R Turner 38.43; 84 ANO 38.57; 88 P Metcalf 39.12; 92 G Canfield 39.18; 94 P Rissen 39.20; 100 S Paiman 39.28; 106 R Brown 39.38; 109 B Wilson 39.44; 120 J E Sullivan 40.10; 143 R Chambers 41.30; 146 V Hamlin 41.35; 148 M Martineau 41.38; 154 S Mitchener 41.52; 155 A Nicholls 41.54; 167 I Cayzer 42.14; 172 C Rowe 42.20; 173 A Pontifex 42.20; 181 J Tateson 42.34; 210 J Hobbs 43.26; 218 W Orton 43.34; 224 D Popely 43.39; 226 B Hartley 43.45; 231 N Wheeler 43.58; 244 N Brooks 44.18; 256 G Pluckrose 44.41; 264 R Potter 44.51; 270 D Dhammaloka 45.11; 272 L Dickens 45.12; 290 W Graham 45.35; 292 MB Allen 45.38; 303 L Smith 45.56; 316 D King 46.14; 371 W Buttinger 48.18; 375 J Niewiarowski 48.22; 377 J Cross 48.26; 456 P Long 51.21; 482 S Davis 53.09; 486 S Jones 53.18; 513 R Beacham 55.21; 526 J Cameron 56.10.

NOT QUITE THE TATSFIELD 5

6TH GOVER'S ROUND THE ISLAND RACE

7th April 1991

When is a Race Director not a runner? There are those that say I never have been, or ever will be, but on the 7th April 1991 I happened to be both at the same time

having been conned into the job by a smooth talking Dee and Tony Gover; as was our hard working Kitty Keeper Virginia Ng. The 7th April 1991 started at 4.00 AM, there are many of you who have been there before me I know, so let's get down to the real job in hand. 64 applicants with 60 runners on the day, the weather being a mixture of cool humid to medium warm throughout.

In view of my responsibilities, I decided to find a colleague who knew my foibles (Les Whittle), to back me as a Whimp in the event of problems, now what can go wrong on an Ultra Marathon on flat ground round a little old island such as Hong Kong, I ask you! So off I trot at the press of the knob, with a smile from Race Co-ordinator Chris Reade (he who can be blamed for everything), looking forward to an uneventful day at the races. That was my first mistake; for having found 4 cases of water stolen at the start, I was not surprised to find the water pick up at Tai Tam also missing. All else was OK up to the half way point where I was just pipped to the post by a herd of flying feet from the Mount Butler Race and Linda Winsper who had the nerve to ask for my water.

It was at the Mount Butler Change Over Station that I was informed by Chris that two, yes two runners, had got lost between the start and 1st Check Point would you believe. There was also doubt about water for the mobile link being provided by good young Trajn Brouham between Aberdeen Reservoir and Peel Rise, so what does a man do. Time to use the Whimp colleague, so Les set off in the general direction of Chung Hum Kok without a second glance back, but I'm not quite sure what he said on the way out! With the assistance of the Marshals we managed to overcome this and the few other minor problems that occurred to the general satisfaction of most, I understand. All but three covered the distance, or half way stages. Two individuals who shall remain nameless picked up runners at Brewin Path, got lost, went back to the same point, started again and followed runners to the finish. At this stage one of them who was not even entered, demanded a 'T' shirt with only \$1 to his name and started to walk around the finish park barriers (I mean on top of), at this stage people started to lose interest awaiting the white coat brigade. Who the hell was he anyway!

There are always a *very few* however, who manage to tarnish the day by thoughtless actions or words to the Marshals and it's at times like this that I marvel where we find all of the wonderful people who are prepared to come along and *make their day*! To all of the Marshals, far too many to mention by name but never forgotten, from the runners, thank you for keeping this event going. All in all a good day at the races with three new course records, one for the Lasses by Yuko Gordon with Tim Soutar taking the Senior and only just missing the Lads course record as well, the third going to Claude Bernard who won the open even though adjusted due to his early arrival at the finish by 1.34 in order to leave again for China by 2.15!! and finally the Whimps V45 to Bob Whitehead/Kit Villiers. The day ended in really fine style, with over fifty of us (retired but not all hurt), down at the Chung Hom Kok Club where Charlotte Mitchell had arranged many splendid things.

Results

1 Tim Soutar 5.46.34.



'Bungalow' Bill Foster out for a long run

Photo by B. Saddler

LONDON MARATHON

21st April 1991

Blackheath - Westminster

As is customary by now, the Club covered itself in numerical glory, at least, contributing over 130 runners to the field of 23,000. Close on twenty of these finished inside three hours, most of the rest were under four hours. The outstanding performance, for our Allen Cup, was, of course, Bill Foster's 2.19.03 which puts him high enough among U.K. runners to expect an early international vest. Though he conceded his Club title, John Beck ran well up to form, third finisher behind Roy Smith. Collectively, our veterans - Shepherd, Cronin, O'Gorman & Co. - showed well to the fore of our participants.

It is no news to observe that some improved while others regressed on the previous performance: in a field of this magnitude ten minutes is neither here nor there. However, it was good to see Colin St. Aubyn lopping off a chunk, while Derek Dhammaloka ran over a quarter of an hour faster to finish almost four thousand places higher than last year.

Many of them even appeared to enjoy the experience, or else disguised their true feelings: it was amazing how many Blackheath runners were happily conscious enough to greet the Club supporters who cheered them across Westminster Bridge. Though Wordsworth would have changed his mind about the view from there.

Asked for printable comments, this selection of coves managed the following:

The London Marathon following a hernia op. was a strange way to train but it was my best marathon ever.

- Colin Poole



Mike Peel displays his full set of gongs!

Photo by B. Saddler

A personal worst: another medal (full set) must do better next year!

- Mike Peel

After a frustrating start, it all came right in the end. Really enjoyed the atmosphere as always and managed a strong finish to get a p.b.

- J E Turner

A slower time than 1990, but still get a big buzz from the crowd and crossing that line at Westminster Bridge!

- Nick Nuttall

A very slow run, helping an 18-stone rugby prop forward achieve his aim of finishing. He did!

- Steve Freemantle

I followed a Norwegian vision with legs up to her neck for most of the way - but lost her in Jubilee Gardens.

- Colin St Aubyn

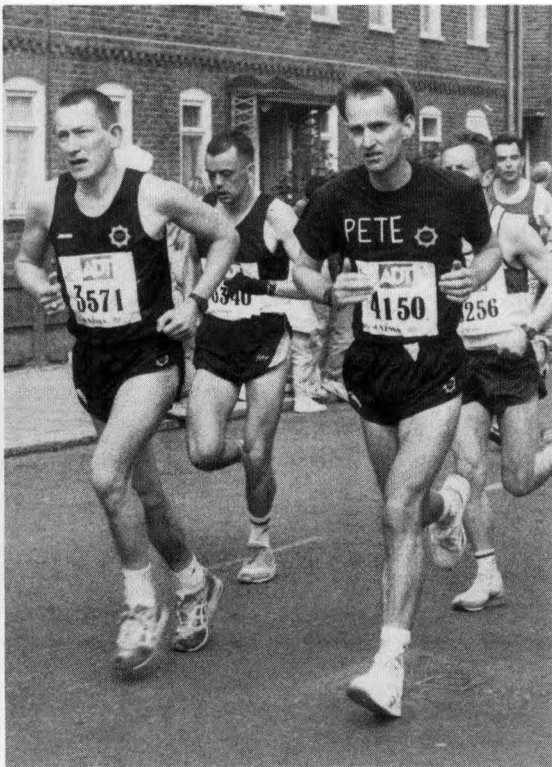
I was considering resigning myself to a career in bowls, when I spotted Westminster Pier!

- Jonathan Brown
TW-P

TED PEPPER MEMORIAL 10K

Park Langley

6th May 1991



Con Griffin leads Glyn Morgan and Pete Crawford in this year's London Marathon

Photo by B. Saddler

Results

(2:09.17) 96 W Foster 2:19.03 (Allen Cup); 277 Roy Smith 2:31.19; 330 J Beck 2:33.26; 619 D White(V) 2:40.26; 987 P Rissen 2:47.15; 1245 P Sheppard 2:50.55; 1289 ???
1395 J E Turner 2:52.28; 1503 A Bounds 2:53.32; 1718 D Flagg 2:55.50; 1811 C Griffin 2:56.34; 1890 P Crawford 2:57.20; 1914 I Young 2:57.32; 1921 G Morgan 2:57.33; 1975 B Leahy 2:57.57; 2079 M Cronin 2:58.47; 2182 B O'Gorman 2:59.38; 2197 G Canfield 2:59.42; 2259 T Brightwell 2:59.59; 2490 M Ludwig 3:02.24; 2528 G Lloyd 3:02.51; 3257 R Brown 3:08.54; 3259 S Hollingdale 3:08.54; 3282 J R Turner 3:09.05; 3298 C Love 3:09.13; 3342 M Peel 3:09.32; 3458 G Mexted 3:10.26; 3465 S Bradshaw 3:10.28; 3869 R Wheatland 3:13.24; 4047 C Poole 3:14.29; 4176 J McConville 3:15.14; 4245 Kr Morris 3:15.41; 4275 R Graf 3:15.51; 4609 M Crickett 3:18.11; 4662 K Dryland 3:18.36; 4668 P Lovell 3:18.40; 4737 D Carton 3:19.03; 4986 C Hall 3:20.31; 4992 N Nuttall 3:20.35; 5059 J Tateson 3:21.00; 5081 S Reynolds 3:21.10; 5489 W Orton 3:23.36; 5567 K Pearson 3:23.59; 6115 R Griffin 3:27.16; 6390 J Hines 3:28.48; 6433 A Foreman 3:28.58; 6842 Krywko 3:31.01; 6867 G Pluckrose 3:31.11; 7030 C Dale 3:32.03; 7382 N Webb 3:34.09; 7437 B Hartley 3:34.23; 7484 J Kenny 3:34.38; 7488 J McGowan 3:34.40; 7640 P Hannell 3:35.27; 7655 J Brown 3:35.33; 7759 N Brooks 3:36.10; 7808 G Payne 3:36.27; 7871 C St Aubyn 3:36.49; 8068 J Hobbs 3:37.53; 8328 B Wilson 3:39.34; 8329 M Field 3:39.34; 8680 C Painter 3:41.15; 8916 P Bowen 3:42.24; 8937 M Rawlins 3:42.31; 8944 B O'Flynn 3:42.33; 9171 H Martin 3:43.44; 9172 A Alvin 3:43.45; 9194 I Marsden 3:43.52; 9195 D Dhammaloka 3:43.53; 9508 L Dickens 3:45.38; 9848 G Anderson 3:47.33; 10010 J Niewiarowski 3:48.23; 10179 R Hogwood 3:49.20; 11162 A Izzard 3:53.43; 11253 R Parris 3:54.07; 11297 S Croft 3:54.21; 11376 W Graham 3:54.40; 11427 P Degutis 3:54.55; 11436 R Hill 3:54.58; 11778 P Taylor 3:56.37; 11789 P C Davies 3:56.39; 11919 S Walker 3:57.06; 11937 K Porter 3:57.12; 12069 A Buick 3:57.52; 13052 S Lacey 4:02.21; 13786 D King 4:06.18; 13945 D Wilcox 4:07.18; 14298 D Miles 4:09.20; 14703 D Larcombe 4:11.42; 15178 B Cowland 4:14.25; 16752 D Birkett 4:24.27; 16753 M Mann 4:24.28; 17087 R Gibson 4:26.28; 17174 M Martineau 4:26.59; 17456 T Kavanagh 4:28.43; 17523 P O'Brien 4:29.03; 17812 C Leon 4:31.13; 18274 A Mothersole 4:34.26; 18754 S Waugh 4:38.41; 18762 J Bennett 4:38.42; 19499 C Howe 4:45.17; 19510 J Cameron 4:45.28; 21099 Kt Morris 5:04.24.

The Blackheath Harriers/Paul Davis "Ted Pepper Memorial 10Km" was a seven miler until this year, when the course was slightly altered to meet runners' demands for standard metric distances. The roughly triangular course, measured painstakingly by the event's organiser, Les Roberts, consisted of three laps past the Langley Park Schools, up Wickham Way to the Chinese Garage, and back down South Eden Park Road.

Of the 108 runners, male and female, who assembled at the starting line, the pre-match favourite was John Wigley, a veteran who has distinguished himself in road and cross country races locally for many years. He was in the striking red colours of Invicta East Kent, and wearing number 1. Also fancied was Paul Betteridge, Havering AC's 8:50 Steeplechaser and leading 10K road runner, in his debut appearance in this event.

At the gun it was Dave Hassall who showed at the front, but not for long. As soon as a leading pack had been established, Havering's Betteridge took up the running, and completed the first lap with a 13-second lead over teammate John Barker, with John Wigley third.

Betteridge was uncatchable, and eventually breasted the tape in 30:52, below his best but over a minute ahead of John Wigley (31:56), who won the prize for 1st V40 as well as the second place overall. Barker dropped to 3rd, 20 seconds behind Wigley.

Close behind the leading group were the black vests of Barry Saddler and Dave Hassall, these two running in tandem all the way to the final stretch, when Hassall's longer legs took him past his teammate in a thrilling sprint for the line. The taller man had been battle hardened by a gruelling winter season in which he often won cross country honours, while Saddler rested.

They were followed to the finish by Blackheath's leading V40, Ken Daniel, running in the Club's white summer strip. Their combined positions were sufficient to clinch the team prize for Blackheath Harriers, ahead of Cambridge Harriers and Kent AC.

By the halfway point in the race, the runners were well strung out, small groups clinging together for fear of losing touch and falling behind. Just ahead of the middle bunch was the leading lady, Viv Hill of Redhill and Surrey Beagles, running strongly with a group that included a couple of Blackheath Harriers and a Capital Road Runner. She finished in an enviable time of 38:16, four minutes ahead of second-placed lady, Janida Williams (42:29), whom husband Mike had unaccountably entered her under her maiden name of Darby. She also collected the prize for the 1st V35.

Not far behind was another small group, led by Bill Clapham, who was just beaten to the line by fellow 'Heathen, Mick Hamlin, but still took the prize for the first V55, in a time of 39:51. Cambridge Harriers R. Williams and J. Avis won the V45 and V50 prizes: Williams was 9th overall in 34:02, and Avis 29th in 36:58.

No less than 20 individual prizes and 3 team prizes were awarded, through the kind generosity of the race sponsors. Paul Davis Associates, a local firm of Chartered Surveyors. A keen sportsman himself, Paul Davis is keen to see this event grow in recognition as a major 10K road race. The visiting competitors certainly find it a very attractive course, but it has to be said that some motorists once again displayed dangerous disregard for the safety of runners, passing them at speed even when the safety margin was narrowed by cars going in the opposite direction.

PKP

P Cross 45.47; 65 J Malsum 45.02; 66 D Larcombe 45.24; 68 A Weeks-Pearson 45.44; 90 R Parris 46.05; 95 M Gasson 48.59; 98 S Waugh 50.13; 99 J Bennett 50.44; 100 K Morris 51.55; 102 P Popely 59.25.
Teams (Scoring 3) 1 BH 18; 2 CamH 31; 3 Kent 81.



AN INDEX OF HALF-MARATHONERS 1990

This event has gained increasing recognition and the 1992 Great North Run will be the inaugural World Championship. The list below is based on events held in 1990 and recorded in the Courier. No allowance is made for the accuracy (or otherwise) of course measurement, nor for hills, weather, blisters etc. Thanks are extended to Bill Clapham for his splendid research in compiling this index.

NAME	TIME	NAME	TIME	NAME	TIME
Arthey G	63.49	Grace A	91.43	Nuttall N	82.59
Baldock A	71.10	Graham W	99.58	O'Flynn B	99.37
Barlow P	71.30	Griffin C	79.02	O'Gorman B	75.16
Bedford P	107.49	Griffin R	92.47	Orton W	87.03
Bennett J	115.26	Hamblen C	89.02	Painter C	86.36
Bogle J	91.43	Hamilton C	101.51	Pairman S	83.53
Broughton J	96.36	Hassall D	72.34	Payne G	96.12
Briffa J	96.39	Hayward G	94.14	Pearce G	98.57
Brightwell T	85.24	Henry D	80.52	Pearse J	93.47
Brooks N	91.52	Hill H	108.07	Pearson K	93.46
Brown J	90.12	Hill R	101.33	Plank G	89.13
Bruce A	90.00	Hilton R	84.11	Pontifex A	91.12
Buttinger W	111.08	Hines J	93.37	Poole C	89.55
Calnan P	70.30	Hobbs J	90.48	Rawlins M	87.37
Canfield G	82.29	Hollingdale S	87.45	Rees M	99.53
Canty C	91.00	Izzard A	91.37	Reynolds S	88.11
Carton D	94.33	Johnson J	132.30	Roberts L	72.30
Cayzer I	88.18	Jones A	83.59	Saiz R	96.41
Chester L	101.00	Jones S	121.19	Shakespeare G	105.12
Clark S	93.22	Kavanagh J	89.07	Shepherd P	78.53
Cobbett P	94.08	Kilgour A	82.09	Smith E	109.56
Counter R	92.04	Kinsey N	71.30	Smith L	100.33
Crawford P	84.48	Krywko A	86.58	Smith Roy	73.00
Crickett M	87.53	Larcombe D	101.33	St Aubyn C	101.00
Crisp M	81.05	Lawrence R	143.11	Stewart R	103.23
Cronin M	79.25	Lloyd G	83.55	Sullivan J E	88.00
Crowder G	94.16	Lodwig M	82.31	Tateson J	87.10
Daly C	89.56	Lovell P	92.32	Taylor P	103.11
Daniel K	78.36	Marsden I	96.27	Turner J E	81.06
Davies P C	93.00	Martineau M	86.52	Turner J R	77.07
Dean M	91.43	McGowan J	89.19	Walker S	100.55
Denney R	97.32	McLeod D	99.01	Ward J	121.27
Duff R	107.03	Mellish B	75.31	Watling M	71.53
Ellison M	80.09	Merlin B	111.32	Webb N	99.03
Enright G	91.34	Metcal P	86.31	Wheatland R	86.14
Fagg S	96.39	Mitchener S	98.06	Wheeler N	83.14
Farrell M	74.13	Morgan G	85.43	White D	79.29
Fincham B	85.02	Morris Kr	84.04	Williams A	110.54
Flagg D	91.34	Morris R	85.03	Wilson B	86.11
Foreman A	93.00	Mothersole A	103.07		
Foster W	64.52	Niewiarowski J	96.05		



"I think, therefore I am, I think . . ."

Photo by P. Calnan

CITY OF LONDON POLICE RELAY

24th March 1991

Barbican, London

Four Blackheath quartets turned out for this City event. Compared with the problems of finding one's way into the modern Barbican, the feat of two perimeter laps per man was a doddle. Even though we didn't retain the title.

Still, the fast, flat course was well-marshalled and offered an exciting race which the first team lost to a classy Highgate squad. Not that our people hung about: fastest time of the day of just over sixteen minutes was well chased by Jefferies, Nash and Calnan, all under seventeen minutes, with Baldock not much slower. Running for the 'B' team, Steinkle was also inside seventeen. Two other juniors, South and Hough, put in useful runs; our fastest Vets. were Phelan and Daniel who shared the trophy with fastest Vets. times of 17.40. Good, too, to see fast track men like Paul Galloway getting in an early season strength race.

TW-P

Results

(65.45) 2 BH'A' 67.43 (3 J Jefferies 16.57; 3 T Nash 16.56; 2 A Baldock 17.06; P Calnan 16.50).
3 BH'B' 69.15 (5 P Barlow 17.23; 4 M Farrell 17.27; 3 P Galloway 17.30; M Steinkle 16.55).
4 BH'C' 70.34 (6 K Daniel 17.40; 5 P Betts 17.31; 4 J Phelan 17.40; N May 17.43).
7 BH'D' 75.14 (8 T South 18.44; 7 S Hough 18.34; 8 S Freemantle 19.39; P Barlow 18.17).
Fastest leg: 16.03; Fastest Vet: J Phelan/K Daniel 17.40.

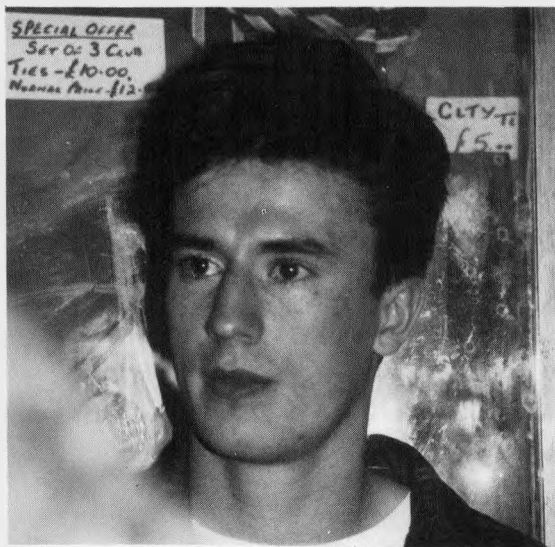
SOUTHERN 12 STAGE ROAD RELAY

7th April 1991

Wimbledon

Ah, the twelve stage relay at Wimbledon. One of the highlights of the winter season but also heralding the forthcoming close of another winter. This year the fans at the Common were a bit chilly thanks to a day that

was not quite as warm as they would have liked it but at least the rain held off. The race seemed to be between Highgate and Shaftesbury to the knowledgeable, with the upsets likely to come from Box Hill or ourselves . . . but not so.



Paddy Brice 'on offer' at the Clubhouse

Photo by P. Calnan

Dave Taylor was entrusted STAGE 1 and a good job he made of it too. As the leading group thinned out he stayed with those who remained. Easily picked out among the group by his suntan and high shoulders he moved through the leading group until about one and a quarter miles to go. At this point he was dropped from the leaders as they went left round a bus before turning left and Dave went right and found himself about thirty yards down. He made up this ground and in the process gave the guest videoring the wedding on the corner a fleeting glimpse of his style as he passed between video and wedding. Round the final lap of the common he regained second place some six seconds behind Gentry (Essex B). Liam Bulson ran STAGE 2 as he did last year and was unable to maintain this position, though we were still higher than we had hoped for as Liam came home in 8th place. This did not appear to concern Alan Guilder on STAGE 3 as he would probably rather have gone off in eighth position than up in the front. As it was Alan performed to his usual standard and moved the team up into third place. After the first three stages had had the usual effect of shuffling the teams around we were well placed after the early messing around and just had to spend the rest of the afternoon seeing if we were to maintain this. STAGE 4 was run by Mark Watling and here the results and times tell different stories as Mark ran 16.40 against the Shaftesbury runners 16.45 but still appeared to lose a position to him. I must admit that it's beyond me but regardless of that we remained nicely placed in the first half dozen teams. Pat Brice ran STAGE 5 and in only his second appearance for the club (the first was in the National CC) he ran effectively to admittedly lose another place as John Sherban routed the opposition. Sherban's run put Shaftesbury well in the driver's seat with a lead of 1.35 over the rest. On the way out Sherban and Hackney were together and some were heard to comment that

these two would have a good battle! Pat Brice kept us in sixth place. Tony Baldock finished off the first half of the pace on STAGE 6 and picked up a place as he passed London Irish. At halfway it looked like this; Shaftesbury, Highgate, Aldershot, Brighton, Blackheath.

STAGE 7 was entrusted to Spencer Newport, who was racing here thanks to a rescheduling of a training stint in Portugal. I'm sure he was much better employed in the draughts of Wimbledon. He was in fact to lose a place in the final half mile as Eammon Martin rushed passed him to record the day's fastest (and history's second fastest) long leg. We stayed in the first five. Dave Heath went out just behind Aldershot and Basildon on STAGE 8 with Highgate and Shaftesbury, now in that order, well ahead. During his stint Dave disposed of the Basildon man but found Aldershot too much to handle and they moved into third place some 20 seconds ahead of us. It looked like the battle to finish in the top two was over as Highgate increased their lead over Shaftesbury. STAGE 9 was to rewrite that scenario. Who would have imagined it? Shaftesbury quickly passed Highgate and proceeded to run the wrong way. Who would have thought that after running the long leg for five years in a row this would happen to Ian Cornford? But it did and the assembled masses trying to warm themselves outside the Hand in Hand were surprised to see Richard Partridge bring Aldershot in first followed by our own Bill Foster. Where were Shaftesbury and Highgate? The truth was to emerge later, at least a few versions of the truth anyway. But who cares about the truth? We were up to second and that was the truth as we understood it. STAGE 10 kept the order the same as Richard Coles remembered the way and held second to Aldershot. Behind him Highgate had repassed Shaftesbury with Box Hill at last coming through into the picture. STAGE 11 saw Box Hill go past us into 4th place as Pat Calnan was surprised to be running a long stage today. Highgate had pulled to within 1.25 seconds of Aldershot but this was the end as far as the front of the race was concerned. STAGE 12 had Dave Hassall keeping the fifth place for us and qualifying once again for a run in the National 12 Stage Relay at Sutton Park.

So we had ourselves a fair amount of drama at Wimbledon on this day. The arguments still no doubt go on but the fact is the result sheet. We were not affected place wise as Highgate and Shaftesbury got past us again anyway. Aldershot may consider themselves lucky to have won but all that really counts when it's all over is the result at the end of the day and Aldershot ARE Southern Champions.

Result:

1. Aldershot, Farnham and Dist.	4:09.09
2. Highgate H.	4:11.12
3. Box Hill Racers	4:12.02
4. Shaftesbury	4:12.38
5. Blackheath H.	4:13.32

60 teams finished.

Long Stage

Fastest: E. Martin (Basildon)	23.43
David Taylor	24.37
Alan Guilder	24.58
Pat Brice	25.52
Spencer Newport	25.13
Bill Foster	25.36
Pat Calnan	26.57

Short Stage

Fastest: M. Rowland (Phoenix)	14.59
Liam Bulson	16.49
Mark Watling	16.40
Tony Baldock	16.38
Dave Heath	16.16
Richard Coles	16.51
Dave Hassall	17.16

It lacks the peculiar, headlong excitement of the old relays on the Brighton Road, but there is no question that this competition is as thrilling in its way and certainly as fiercely fought as any of its ancestors in the London to Brighton Relay.

The race has, of course, a wholly different environment and atmosphere in the rural, woody surroundings and open heathland of Sutton Park. No place to be for a wintry National, but on a splendid spring day like this, an ideal venue with its lakes and paths that are traffic-free, though scarred and scared by mountain bikes.

Only the strongest teams of all can survive the relentless demands of the four-hour contest. In any case, you have to qualify toughly, regionally, in the first place - no mean achievement. In the Championship, not only can there be no weak links, no 'breathing pauses', but several of the later legs when the big guns are out are themselves like individual championship races: name after famous name flashes past in ferocious pursuit.

Though the team was not our strongest on this occasion, it was a good one: a gap of sixteen minutes after four hours is not to be sniffed at. That it means 31st position is as graphic an impression as any of the high standards. The plain fact is that all our longleg times have to match Alan Guilder's 26.07, while our best short lap - a fine one by Mark Colpus - was still over a minute down on the day's fastest.

Obviously some, like Dave Taylor, were disappointed with their performances, but once you are out of touch, and even - on the remote outer stretch of the long lap - out of sight, you lose pace: in effect, thereafter, you're in a different race.

None of this should seem un-gracious, however, much less griping. None of our team gave less than his best and, considering our positions in the late twenties and thirties from third leg onwards, everyone's concentration was excellent. The cream of the country's distance and middle distance runners were all there, and we acquitted ourselves well against such opposition - with good promise of much more to come next year. Even, perhaps, a place in the first dozen.

TW-P

Results (Long leg 5m 706yds. Short leg 3m 8yds)
(4:04.13) 31 BH 4:20.01 (7 A Guilder 26.07; 15 L Bulson 15.29; 26 D Taylor 27.38; 27 G Clifford 15.44; 32 P Brice 28.14; 32 B Saddler 15.34; 37 M Watling 28.42; 36 D Hassall 15.33; 34 A Baldock 27.50; 33 R Coles 15.32; 33 P Calnan 28.35; 31 M Colpus 15.03. Fastest legs 25.03 and 13.55.

May, 1991. I was reading. I have passed my good wishes for a happy and successful year as President on to Tony.

Yours sincerely,
Betty Child.

Dear Mr Editor,

For the second year running our Evening Meetings seem to be missing the Handicaps. Is this the shape of things to come?

As one who has consistently tried to outwit the Handicapper for over 30 years I cannot allow their possible passing without a protest.

The current championships are certainly the poorer without them.

Yours heathenly,
Jim Day.

Dear editor, Jim,

At the National supper last week, Brian Stone approached me, and what he said, went something like this:

Saddler, you'll never make the National team
You're too fond of a beer
You've always got a glass in hand
It will never be your year.

You will never make the National team
You're well past your prime
Destined to be second rate
Until the end of time.

I know what I'm on about
I've been up there, with the best
And if there's one thing that I'm certain of;
You'll never wear a National vest.

I'll not bet you one hundred pounds
I'll only bet you five,
'Cos knowing Botley, you'll have fifty each,
And he'll put you in the side.

Reply:

I'll be in the National team
In Nineteen Ninety-two
And at next year's National supper
I'll take a five pounds cheque off you, Brian Stone.

Well Jim, that's how the conversation went if you could find a space for this in the gazette - you'll jog a few memories, as he said it in front of quite a few people.

BAS.

A word of advice to our younger members about to embark along the long and winding road that is athletics: "Be careful what you disclose in questionnaires, it may well come back to haunt you". As promised, our researchers have dug deep into the past and come up with this set of such answers by a promising young Blackheath athlete which appeared in the pages of Athletics Weekly way back in 1958. In pre-Bedford days our current President was hitting 111 miles per week - now read on . . .

TONY WEEKS-PEARSON

(Blackheath Harriers)

*answers the
Questionnaire*

Tony Weeks-Pearson winning the Blackheath Harriers 10 Miles Club Championship and setting a new Club record, having won their 5, 7½ and 10 Miles Championships in one season.



Photo by H. W. Neale

Name (Surname first):	Weeks-Pearson, Anthony James
Birthplace and date:	Hastings, Sussex, 12/10/31
Height:	5' 5½"
Weight:	8st. 12lbs.
Occupation:	Schoolmaster
Club:	Blackheath Harriers
When did you first commence athletics?	1933 (1st Toddlers' Race - Rye Sports)
What were your first events?	100 yds., 220 yds.
What are your favourite events now?	Cross-country, Road racing; Two-Six miles track. (Not yet silly enough to like marathon running).
What are your best marks at these events?	Hardly any track racing last two seasons. Two miles - 9.10; Three miles - about 14.15; Six Miles - 29.17.
Give brief details of your athletic career, championships won, dates and performances:	1951 - Kent Junior Cross-country Champ. 1952 - Army Mile Champ. 1953 4-5 - 2nd 3 miles Oxford v. Cambridge. 1953 - 2nd 5,000 metres International Student Games. 1954 - 11th National Cross-country. 1957 - 5th Poly marathon; 1st Kent "20"; 1st Criterium des As; 1st International C.C. Race at Lille.

training session?

Give a brief outline of your training in the Summer season, with a typical week's work:

Monday: 9 miles (morning), 9 miles (evening).
Tuesday: 9 miles (morning), 9 miles (evening).
Wednesday: 9 miles (morning), 9 miles (evening).
Thursday: 9 miles (morning), 9 miles (evening).
Friday: 9 miles, but usually racing on Saturdays, in which case steady 2-3 miles warm-up with half a dozen fast stride-outs.
Saturday: Race or 10 miles.
Sunday: 20 miles if not too tired. But very elastic and averages 70-80 miles per month.

Give a brief outline of your training in the Winter season, with a typical week's work:

Monday:
Tuesday: As in Summer - all on road apart from racing.
Wednesday: No fast-slow work or interval running - too exhausting for too little return - but still all running done at a smart pace, without, however, pushing to limits.
Thursday:
Friday: No warm-up.
Saturday:
Sunday:

How often do you compete in the competitive season(s)?

Depends - lately once a week, but summer racing hinders road training.

Describe briefly the warming-up you do before competition and time taken:

If cold - plenty; that is, two to three miles with strides, but nearly always feel tired before races. Very little in hot weather. Unlike most, I like to warm up before long distance road races, however.

How many days rest do you prefer before competition?

Usually in the past one day complete rest as well as easing up, but lately have continued easy running up to day of race.

Name the coaches who have coached you:

Wooderson, Jeffrey (Loughborough), Stampfl, P. W. Green.

Have you any suggestions for improvements in competition or athletics generally?

Less theorizing drivel talked instead of getting on with it. Shorter questionnaires for athletes.

What advice would you offer to the young athlete or novice?

Run as you feel, learning to distinguish between fatigue and feeling tired. Experiment, but copy no one blindly. Aim at complete self-discipline, mental and physical training and racing, whether you win or lose.

Do you include any weight or Circuit training in your programme? If so, what work of this nature do you do and what benefits have you noted?

Three years ago I did one winter with weights and benefited in greater shoulder strength especially. Now I do none - only because I think running more essential for marathons and have no energy left for this extra training. For shorter distances which demand more muscular power I think it very necessary. Too much prejudice against it at present, while with others it obscures the real business of event practice.

VET'S CROSS COUNTRY, ROAD & RELAYS



Bill Clapham shows a clean pair of heels in the Southern Championship

Photo by M. Cronin

BROMLEY VETS' AC INVITATION

13th October 1990

Beckenham Place Park

We opened our Season, Nearly-In-My-Backyard, with this well-organised, two-lap 5-Miler.

On a fine day, 50 men and 16 women set off, to be joined after a couple of minutes by Bernard Wilson, who had tried to start a rival race in another part of the park.

The fast, downhill start over the high field was followed, this year, by veering right down the track towards Crab Hill (watch out for ATB cross-traffic). A scramble up the steep bank to the left and beside the railway, heading for the Plantation, which, though noted for mud, was, that day, dry as a bone. Another steep bank to lift us over the railway and so around the football field. Back over the bank, then climbing by stoney tracks and so up to the first field where the BromV Bapmobile was conveniently parked. After the first lap we were stunned - the girls were finishing and had 15 mins start on the cake. We kicked again, as they say.

The men's race included a dozen Over-35 'Pre-Vets' who had come along to dip a toe in the water. They soon found out as Pikey (for Kent AC) showed them a clean pair of heels.

Hugh Morten, in third place, was clear of his club-mates; next Barry O'Gorman with a new pair of knees, first over-50, closely followed by Garry Spencer, Mike Cronin and Peter German. Hugh, Barry and Mike gave us the Vets' team prize.

John Hills made a welcome return to the XC scene and came through on the second lap for the V55 prize while Jack Braughton was comfortably first V60 with about ten years in hand.

The final count showed some new faces among 22 'heathens', with many good runs, including the mid-field excitement of a sprint to the line between John Robinson and Derek Crowdsen. My half-hour's view of Crowe's back may not be the prettiest sight but at least it didn't recede too far into the distance.

BC

Results

1	K Pike	(Kent AC)	28.19;
2	S Nice	(Medway)	28.59; (Pre-Vet)
3	H Morten	(BH)	29.27;

Other BH:- 4 B O'Gorman 30.03 (1st V50); 5 G Spencer (0/35) 30.04; 6 M Cronin 30.09 (1st V45); 7 P German 30.19; 9 A Bounds (0/35) 31.12; 11 D White 31.33; 15 T Brightwell 32.41; 17 P Metcalf 33.05; 22 J Hills 34.34 (1st V55); 23 C Rowe 34.43; 24 W Clapham 34.49; 35 J Braughton 37.49 (1st V60); 36 J Routledge (0/35) 37.55; 38 B Wilson (started late) 38.19; 44 J Cross 41.11; 50 J Bennett 44.44; 51 Fin.

Vet Teams (Scoring 3) 1 BH. 3, 4 & 6.

VETS' MOBMATCH

3rd November 1990

7 1/2M Richmond Park

You've met 'em, haven't you?

Gary Plank and I found ours in the bus queue outside Richmond station.

"You're not trying to get to Twickenham to see the Argies, are you?"

"No, the Dysart."

"Just as well, cos these buses don't go there. In fact they don't often go anywhere."

I would have jogged, but I was carrying the silverware and didn't fancy the streetcrime in Richmond - I feel safer in Peckham. But we got there, joining a very welcome turnout of 41 BHVs from which we had 39 finishers among a record 126, perhaps indicating the veteran strength in the four clubs.

A few puddles scattered the usual two-lap Ranelagh course but the surface was firm with a cold wind, particularly noticeable as we passed along the lake by the stony track. There is little chance of getting lost on this course, nor of losing sight of one's quarry (nor, for that matter of being invisible to one's pursuers). So it comes down to racing.

Club numbers were such that it developed into two contests, Ranelagh v Blackheath and SLH v Orion, both of which were closely contested. With 17-to-score (another record), Ranelagh were the winners, thus continuing the recent sequence of the Cup moving to whichever club is host.

Our individual successes came with second and third places respectively for Ken Pike and Hugh Morten; first V50 for Barry O'Gorman and first in V50 Handicap for Jack Braughton.

Stan Ridgewell, though no stranger to Club cross-country, joined our vet ranks, as did two new faces, Stephen Hollingdale and Gareth Lloyd, all three being among our scorers. The rest of we regulars performed as expected or, if we didn't, were sufficiently seasoned to have our excuses ready (one of our high-flyers, Pete Shephard, ran into a kite - have you heard that one before?)

Gary had a good run. We like cross-country, even if I didn't get to carry the silver home; you don't get very far with 9-stone at Twickers.

BC

Results

(1 R Hartford (RNL) 42.13; 2 K Pike 42.50; 3 H Morten 43.09; 8 B O'Gorman 44.32; 11 B Mellish 44.45; 14 M Cronin 45.19; 18 S Ridgewell 46.26; 19 C Woodcock 46.49; 28 B Swift 48.25; 29 P Shephard 48.33; 30 M N Williams 48.35; 34 S Hollingdale 49.07; 42 J Taylor 49.45; 44 M Lodwig 49.53 (late start); 48 G Lloyd 50.16; 51 S Cluney 50.34; 55 R. Turney 50.55; 57 M Reynolds 50.58; 58 M Crickett 51.03; 61 R Savery 51.19; 62 P Metcalf 51.22 (late start); 66 M Peel 51.35; 67 G Plank 51.39; 70 C Rowe 51.55; 71 D Crowdsen 51.56; 75 W Clapham 52.21; 83 G Crowder 53.53; 89 C Hall 54.51; 93 A Pontifex 55.25; 95 B Hartley 55.38; 96 J Braughton 55.44 (1st in V50 h'cap); 98 A Weeks-Pearson 55.53; 105 J Cross 58.09; 107 W Graham 58.47; 111 I Gold 59.26; 114 M Gasson 60.07; 119 B Todd 61.33; 120 E Smith 63.15; 124 J Bennett 66.23; 126 D Tingey 70.24.

Teams (Scoring 17) 1 Ranelagh H 419 (Peter Driver Cup); 2 BH 493; 3 SLH 901; 4 Orion H 909.

Finishers (126):- Ranelagh 45; BH 39; SLH 19; Orion 23.

Chris Woodcock, though not 100% fit, ran a solid 9th. Mike Reynolds, John Robinson and Bill Clapham ran more or less in that order all the way, with little separating them. John, preferring this type of course, finished the strongest of the three but just failed to catch Mike.

A points system of scoring, based on the number of finishers, is used and produced a very close result, with Barnet and Medway divided only by their last scorers, and ourselves third.

Results

1 H Morten 28.25; 9 C Woodcock 30.59; 16 M Reynolds 34.01; 17 J Robinson 34.03; 18 W Clapham 34.14.

Teams (Scoring 2V40s + 1V50) 1 Barnet 63 pts; 2 Medway 63; 3 BH'A' 62.

2) 25th November

5M Chatham

For the second fixture we fielded the same team with the welcome addition of John Cross. Capstone Park is not the easiest place to find but the sign, "17th Century Ruin" suggested that we were expected. The hilly course is adjacent to the nylon piste of the Alpine Ski Centre. That's a sport where it's downhill all the way, a bit like veteran athletes, though we don't get chairlifts up the hills.

The two-circuit course is mainly grass with steep ups and downs, while mud from overnight rain made us pensive about footwear. A new feature is a stout wooden fence with three narrow 'squeezes' in quick succession which, one suspects, the well-endowed would have to take sideways.

Hugh Morten was recovering from a biathlon of the previous day and did well to manage third, while Chris Woodcock improved his previous position to sixth. John Robinson and Bill Clapham saw off a determined challenge from Bob Belmore (Barnet) before John pulled away from Bill, who was V50 scorer for BH'A'. Mike Reynolds and John Cross completed BH'B'. Teamwise we were second to hosts Medway. Our thanks go to them and especially to Vic Smith, who, apart from running, was last seen riding round on a mountain bike picking up flags, though whether he was skilled enough to do it from the saddle like the old-time lamplighters, we didn't discover.

Results

(27.36) 3 H Morten 29.19; 6 C Woodcock 30.23; 13 J Robinson 33.13; 14 W Clapham 33.30; 20 M Reynolds 35.28; 22 J Cross 37.40.

Teams (Scoring 2V40s + 1V50) 1 Medw'A' 55pts; 2 BH'A' 52; 3 Barnet 'A' 44; 4 Medw 'B' 43; 5 Medw 'C' 34; 6 BH'B' 20.

otherwise we were as before.

The three-lap course was, thankfully, unfrozen with only a powdering of snow. We made a brisk start, scrambling for position before a climb along the edge of the wood, muddy and narrow with awkward cambers and little chance for passing. Turning at a grassy plateau (part of the golf course) we then began a long, gradual descent through woodland where motoring was again in order, the only obstacles being a potentially-decapitating tree and an unnecessary mud 'cat-walk' between trees and a ditch.

Hugh Morten, Chris and Bill Clapham ran to form to give a healthy 'A' team score. Drama, however, was added by John Robinson who, though delayed and starting late, still managed to catch the Medway V50 runners, thus displacing them by an all-important point.

Like the Earl of Warwick, we finished second to the home team, but at least we lived to fight another day. Shakespeare summed it up for us:-

*"We, having now the best of Barnet field,
Will thither straight . . . And, as we march, our
strength will be augmented
In every county as we go along. - Strike up the
drum; cry 'Courage' and away."*

Results

(29.30) 3 H Morten 31.00; 10 C Woodcock 33.23; 17 W Clapham 35.27; 26 J Robinson 37.14 (late start); 32 J Cross 41.19.

Teams (Scoring 2V40 + 1V50) 1 Barnet 78; 2 BH'A' 69; 3 Medway 68.

4) 16th March

10Km Lloyd Park

As noted elsewhere, league results in the fourth fixture were derived from the SCVAC Championship races.

Our extra firepower on this occasion was enough to give us a league win on the day and an overall win in the league series. As with the SCVAC T&F League last summer, our win was achieved not so much by having the best runners as by being there with someone to contest every event.

BC

SCVAC Lge (4) derived from Champs results: 1 J Phelan; 2 B O'Gorman; 3 B Mellish; 4 M Cronin; 13 W Clapham; 18 R Turney; 24 J Braughton.

Teams (Scoring 2V40s + 1V50) 1 BH'A' 72pts; 5 BH'B' 43.

Series Result 1 BH'A' 255pts; 2 Barnet 241; 3 Medway 234; 7 BH'B' 98.

Series Individual Points

V40-49 (Winner scored 88pts from 4 runs) 3 H Morten 81/3; 5 C Woodcock 63/3; 14 J Robinson 32/3; 17 J Phelan 25/1; 19 B Mellish 23/1; 21 M Cronin 22/1; 23 M Reynolds 19/2.

V50-59 1 W Clapham 52/4; 6 B O'Gorman 24/1; 12 R Turney 8/1; 17 J Cross 4/2.

V60+ 4 J Braughton 2/1.



Hugh Morton in full flight abroad

Photo by J. Phelan

KENT VETS' CC CHAMPIONSHIPS

5th January 1991

10Km Sparrow's Den

The overnight warning of gales didn't materialise, at least not so as to cause any obstructions in Spring Park Woods. However, we faced a stiff head-wind as we set off across the playing fields on the reverse of the relay course for the first of three circuits. After a steep climb up into the woods we found the track, usually gravel, muddy from recent rain and this was particularly so as we later dropped down and turned sharply past a stile at the approach to the golf area. Each circuit of pounding feet churned the mud further and this continued in the following Clubman's Race.

Encouragement around the course was appreciated but the cry 'sprint' came at the same instant as a brickwall of moving air when we turned for the last time towards the finishing line.

Each year they seem to get younger (and, seemingly, better). Vets that is; and this year there was Jon Wigley, whom many will remember running track for Blackheath. He pulled right away in a time that would have placed him second in the Clubman's Race. Kent AC mustered the necessary four this time and Ken Pike, in second place, led them to a well-deserved win in the Kent Messenger Cup. We had a good turn-out and, though hills, wind and Christmas took their toll, we managed 33 finishers. In V40-49s we were third, our scorers being Hugh Morten, in continuing good form, followed by Peter Hamilton, Ken Daniel and Barry Mellish. Our Vet strength was again shown by having nine further finishers in the first 50. In the V50+ category we were second (Bill Clapham, Gary Plank and Ron Chambers). And, of course, our evergreens were there, including Doug Tingey who would probably have known his way around blindfolded.

Our thanks to the Blackheath Trail-layers and Officials.

With the Clubman's Race starting behind us we headed back to HQ to polish off the hot water and cakes. After all, we mustn't leave temptation in the path of such as Colpus and Calnan.

BC

Results		
1 J Wigley	(IEK)	34.02;
2 K Pike	(KI)	36.00;
3 G Meredith	(Camb H)	36.05;
27 G Gee	(Camb H)	38.46 (1st V50);
Blackheath Results 5 H Morten 36.32 (Roger Smith Tankard); 7 P Hamilton 36.36; 11 K Daniel 37.13; 16 B Mellish 37.57; 19 C Woodcock 38.15; 20 J Phelan 38.20; 28 S Ridgewell 39.21; 29 I Young 39.38; 30 D White 39.56; 33 T Brightwell 40.11; 40 I Wilson 40.41; 49 P Shephard 41.30; 50 P Metcalf 41.35; 58 M Athawes 42.15; 64 B Wilson 42.48; 68 WV50 Clapham 43.07; 70 C Rowe 43.27; 72 GV50 Plank 43.30; 75 A Jones 43.44; 77 I Cayzer 43.48; 80 M Peel 44.23; 82 M Martineau 44.28; 87 J Tateson 45.00; 89 RV50 Chambers 45.17; 92 GV50 Crowder 45.36; 93 B Hartley 45.47; 115 M Gasson 48.31; 121 W Graham 49.05; 123 JV50 Braughton 49.38; 127 BV50 O'Flynn 49.50; 133 DV50 Brickwood 52.00; 139 PV50 Long 55.10; 141 DV50 Tingey 59.57.		
Teams V40-49 (Scoring 4) 3 BH'A'; 6 BH'B'; 11 BH'C'; 15 BHD'.		
V50+ (Scoring 3) 2 BH.		

BROMLEY VETS' XC INVITATION

23rd February 1991

Beckenham Place Park 5M

Our second visit to this venue was on 'National' Day and the Quality (e.g. last-time winner Ken Pike) was away. There was a Vets' Indoor at Haringey but we're afraid of not being able to stop at the brick wall in the 60m and, as Jim Bennett remarked, "We're outdoor types really"; so there we were.

The course was unchanged, but recent snow and rain gave softer going accompanied by a strong wind. We had a good turn-out and were led home as first team by our three Irish Veterans. (Q. How do you tell the difference between an Irish Vet and any other Vet? A. The other Vet may stop talking when the race starts.)

Dave White was unfortunate to suffer a calf strain on the hills but there were some good runs from our other regulars, a vet debut for Donald King and a guest-run from young Con Griffin. Excellent fare from Bromley Vets - they practically begged us to finish up the cake!

BC

Blackheath Results

1 B O'Gorman 29.07; 3 J Phelan 29.31; 5 C Griffin (0/35) 29.40; 7 M Cronin 29.54; 12 T Brightwell 31.34; 13 D White 31.38; 16 B Wilson 33.14; 19 A Bruce 34.28; 21 W Clapham 35.20; 23 A Pontifex 37.01; 25 D King 39.39; 27 J Cross 43.05; 28 J Bennett 46.49; 29 Fin.

Teams (Scoring 3) 1 BH.

BLACKHEATH VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP, SELF-HANDICAP & INTER-CLUB

2nd March 1991

10Km Hayes

A pleasant day for a somewhat extended jog to reach the start, moved one field on past Wickham Court Farm, where we found good conditions underfoot.

As well as three dozen in the Blackheath Vets' Championship, we were this year able to incorporate an invitation Inter-Club with Vets AC and with Bank of England and Kent AC (the latter two including non-vets). Last but not least, the intrigue of the Self-Handicap attracted a further sprinkling of vet visitors from SLH, Woodford Gr, Dartford, Camb.H and Bromley Vets plus young Natalie Brightwell.

Mike Cronin, always in the frame

Photo by B. Saddler

Our President performed his usual trick of helping himself to a 10m lead, ostensibly to start the race. He warned us of an on-coming horse but, after a circuit of the field, horse and 10m were gone and a closely-attended Ken Pike was leading.

The ATB (All-Terrain Botmobile) was on-hand to move clothes, and some of us, to the old café where we settled down to wait.

Fast times were the order of the day and we were somewhat surprised at the early re-appearance of the leaders - even George had to take a hard look at his watch.

Running together, Barry Lee of Kent AC reached the line fractionally ahead of Ken Pike, who took the Browning Tankard, though chased all the way by a game Hugh Morten. Ken Daniel took bronze in the Browning, while other vets to the fore included S Herrington (Woodford), Barry O'Gorman, Jim Phelan, J Brown (Vets AC), Mike Cronin, P Hills (Dartford) and Bob Richardson, who isn't seen in our ranks as often as we would like. A bit further down the field, former Cross-Country Secretary Bob Cliff made his vet debut.

Frank Dyter, who now misses this form of sport, again generously gave liquid prizes for the Self-Handicap. Here it was Tony and John Cross who were closest to their predicted times. One suspects they were advised by Annette and Nanette who are, no doubt, expert on husbands' handicaps. Barry O'Gorman, Paul Betts and Natalie (as first lady) were similarly rewarded though, in the latter case, perhaps we should hope that Terry helped her drink it.

BC

Results

1 B Lee (Kent AC non-vet)	35.01;
2 K Pike (Browning Tankard)	35.01;
3 H Morten	35.05;
5 K Daniel	36.17;

Other Blackheath Vets 7 B O'Gorman 36.29; 9 J Phelan 36.55; 11 M Cronin 37.08; 15 R Richardson 38.02; 16 S Ridgewell 38.07; 17 T Brightwell 38.12; 18 B Swift 38.33; 19 I Young 38.40; 21 B Fisher 39.03; 25 P Metcalf 39.50; 30 S Hollingdale 40.08; 32 R Brown 40.31; 33 B Wilson 40.48; 34 R Cliff 41.02; 36 R Morriss 41.10; 38 P Shephard 41.29; 41 J Taylor 41.53; 42 C Rowe 41.58; 44 A Bruce 42.38; 51 R Chambers 43.58; 52 M Peel 44.38; 58 B Hartley 45.51; 59 K Pearson 46.05; 63 Roy Green 48.18; 64 I Gold 49.06; 67 J Braughton 50.30; 68 B Todd 50.44; 69 J Cross 51.01; 70 D Larcombe 51.23; 71 D Wilcox 51.26; 76 P Long 56.15; 77 J Bennett 56.32; 78 D Tingey 57.38.

With no BH teams in any division, it was down to individuals to show the flag. First off was Jack Braughton for a nippy 5K, surrounded by young (well, over 35) ladies and headed at first by his old rival Dennis Evers. Jack overhauled him on the second lap for the V70 title symbolised by a glass tankard with the BVAF ∞ infinity sign - he seems to go on forever.

The V50+ race produced a great run and fourth place for Barry O'Gorman, who was afterwards in two minds as to whether he should perhaps have gone with the three leaders. Bill Clapham also ran in this race as did Hugh Morten and Martin Athawes in a very competitive V40/49 field.

Full marks to hosts Bedford AC.

BC

Results

V40-49 (10Km/33.59) 45 H Morten 37.08; 162 M Athawes 47.01.
V50-69 (10Km/35.26) 4 B O'Gorman 37.14; 78 W Clapham 44.55.
V70 5Km 1 J Braughton 23.57.



*A man with a running record to respect,
Jack Braughton, still winning at 70*

Photo by M. Cronin

SCVAC XC CHAMPIONSHIPS

16th March 1991

10Km Croydon

Snow in Happy Valley in February caused this event to be rescheduled to the league fixture date at Lloyd Park, and our thanks go to Ken Crooke and Croydon H for making this possible.

The usual course was shortened at the westward end and three circuits were run in dry conditions, the forecast downpour fortunately waited 'til teatime.

Jogging to the start with Rod Turney (first run after prolonged injury), we were asked if we were orienteers but replied that we usually ran better if we knew roughly where we were going. As we warmed up, it was Mike Cronin who spotted the Irish Wolfhound, circling with a view to sinking its fangs into Duff's Union Jack-ass. Obviously a discerning reader of AW.

First came the V40-49 race, with solid team packing from Jim Phelan, Barry Mellish and Mike to land the third team award.

In the V50+ race which followed, Barry O'Gorman, reproducing the form he showed in the National Vets', had opened a gap after the first field and was never challenged thereafter. Further back, Bill Clapham and Rod completed the team to give us fourth place, while Jack Braughton completed his 'double' of V70 titles, only this time they made him run 10K to get it.

Off to Hayes to find out how the real hard men had fared in the Club 10.

BC

Results

V40-49 (33.15) 12 J Phelan 35.51; 16 B Mellish 36.18; 18 M Cronin 36.32.

Teams (Scoring 3) 3 BH.

V50+ 1 B O'Gorman 35.37; 17 W Clapham (3rd V60) 41.02; 27 R Turney 42.58; 37 J Braughton (1st V70) 47.41.

Teams (Scoring 3) 4 BH.



Della Daniel sits 'spellbound' at yet another running saga

Photo by P. Calnan

SCAA ROAD RELAYS [VETS]

29th September 1990

Aldershot Arena

In the sad absence of a senior squad it was left to the veteran ranks to carry the Blackheath flag at these annual Southern County relays. A dozen 'heathens' made the trip and the V40 team only just missed out on a medal. Despite being in third spot for part of the last leg, Ken Daniel was pipped by a storming run from a Verlea runner who recorded one of the fastest legs of the day. All four A team runners ran remarkably consistently with only 24 seconds separating them. As well as having the luxury of a B team which finished in 41st spot we also took along four V50 athletes who finished 17th in their age group.

It was a pity that the dozen 'heathens' present had no team to cheer on in the following senior relays as there were plenty of club standard runners ready, willing and able to compete for Blackheath in this prestigious event: indeed, there were a few Veteran athletes already there who would have been willing to run a second leg too.

Results (4 x 6Km) (40-49; 78.16. Fastest leg 18.37).

4/74 BH'A' 79.46 (20 J Phelan 20.08; 8 P Hamilton 19.44; 4 H Morten 19.52; K Daniel 20.02); 41 (5B) BHB' 87.05 (B Mellish 20.28; J Kelly 21.35; M Athawes 22.14; B Wilson 22.48); V50+ (86.02).

Fastest leg 19.45. 17/24 BH 96.19 (G Plank 24.14; J Kavanagh 24.19; G Crowder 24.41; R Turney 23.05).

TVH VETS ROAD RELAYS,

30th March 1991

Cranford

A brilliant, sunny and warm Easter Saturday - which, together with numerous injuries, some caused apparently by kamikaze 'heathens' running into bollards, resulted in a low turn out. Hugh Morten, having been pestered into attending by your correspondent, found he could only limp painfully while warming up, and so had to withdraw (sorry Hugh!).

Leg one, and Jim Phelan twinkled down the road in brightly coloured new racing flats, leaving only small indentations in the tarmac. Actually, he had a great run (he told me I had to say this otherwise he would edit out of existence anything I wrote for the Gazette), knocking some thirty seconds off his best for the course. Next away was Martin Athawes, who gave a sparkling demonstration of how a happy, normal individual can transform himself into a gasping, gibbering wreck in just 3.6 miles. Someone really will have to confiscate his self-destruct button. Anchor man was Bill Clapham who confirmed his recent outstanding form - rumour has it that it has only taken him 55 years to reach the V60s. Phelan couldn't bear to put his new shoes back in their box and ran another lap later on - well, there's always one, isn't there?

JK

Results

(10) J Phelan 18.17
(15) M Athawes 20.04
(28) W Clapham 22.08
60.29

CAMBRIDGE H. VETS' ROAD RELAY

22nd December 1990

Rochester Airport

It was cold, bleak and windy up above Rochester on the last Saturday before Christmas where four veteran harriers found not only respite from the last Xmas shopping rushes but also a county bronze medal and a couple of pounds of pork chops as prizes. Hugh Morten ran an excellent first leg in 13.13 to bring us in 6th. Jim Phelan, just back from two months of injury, ran just two seconds slower to gain two places and put us in with a medal chance. Peter Hamilton ran the fastest leg of the day for Blackheath to take us to third spot where Ken Daniel held us with a leg of 13.16 squeezing Kent A.C. out of the medals. As the meeting was sponsored by a chain of butcher's shops there was meat galore for prizes - definitely not the race for our vegetarian runners!

Results (4 x 2.6M)

1 CH 51.00; 2 AFD 51.17; 3 BH 52.42; (H Morten 13.13; J Phelan 13.15; P Hamilton 12.58; K Daniel 13.16.

0000m	L Roberts	8:49.3	Cr (8574)	22/4/89	BH Senior Warm-Up, Norman Park
5000m	L Roberts	14:32.48	Gaz 615 p7	30/5/87	Br Lge, Birmingham
0000m	L Roberts	30:21.1	Cr (6.6 p12)	20/25/8/84	Euro V Ch, Brighton & Crawley
3000SC	L Roberts	9:36.21	Cr (6.6 p4)	17/6/84	Br Lge, Crystal Palace
10H(99cm)	D Gale	16.9	Cr (3.6 p3)	8/7/78	SV Ch, Southampton
00H(91.4)	R Minting	64.1	Vet Aths. Aut 91	16/6/91	SWVAC Bournemouth
000TrW	P Hannell	12.53	Croy Adv 10/11/85	30/10/85	South Open, Crystal Palace
000TrW	P Hannell	22:25.3	Cr (6.6 p12)	20-25/8/84	Euro V Ch, Brighton
x 100	Rc Farish	52.0	JR;	18/5/85	Lambeth Borough Open, Battersea Pa
	St Davies, J Robinson & P Baigent				
x 400	Cocker, Daniel	3:40.3	Cr (11301)	8/9/91	SCVAC Lge Final, Croydon
	Spencer & Minting				
ledley	Daniel, Spencer	4:08.8	Cr (10627)	13/5/91	SCVAC Lge, Battersea Park
	Robinson & Martineau				
x 200	Cocker, Daniel	1:46.3	Cr (10653)	26/6/91	SCVAC Lge, Dartford
	Robinson & Phelan				
IJ	G Hickey	1.75	Cr (2.28 p2)	1/6/77	BH Ch, Ladywell
V	J Wakeman	3.50	Cr (8606)	6/5/89	SL3, Tooting Bec
J	D Gale	6.61	Cr (3.6 p3)	8/7/78	SV, Southampton
J	D Gale	12.17	Cr (2.22)	7/8/76	National v Champs
P 7.26K	C Ellis	13.58	Cr (6.5)	3/6/84	SV, Watford
IT 7.26K	C Ellis	40.68	Letter CE	26/6/87	SCVAC Chs, Tooting Bec
IT 2Kg	C Ellis	49.30	Letter CE	16-17/5/87	Kent Chs. Crystal Palace
T 800g	C Brand	50.52	Cr (2.27 p3)	7/5/77	SL1, Portsmouth

British and World Veteran (M40+ Outdoor) T&F Records
(Information to hand November 1991)

	Br.	Wd.
100m	10.9	10.6
200m	22.2	21.74
400m	49	47.87
800m	1:51.25	1:51.25
1500m	3:53.8	3:49.21
5000m	14:22.0	13:45.6
0000m	29:47.0	28:33.4
000SC	9:03.5	8:41.5
10H(99cm)	14.4	14.06
00H(91.4)	54.8	52.76
000TrW	12:46.03	11:28.21
000TrW	22:09.8	20:13.0
IJ	1.86	2.07
V	4.50	4.80
J	7.15	7.54
J	14.63	15.70
P 7.26K	16.56	21.41
IT 7.26K	70.88	74.34
IT 2Kg	54.30	72.08
T old 800g	65.38	78.98

WC



Doug Cocker, stalwart of the S. League Div. 7

Photo by J. Phelan

LIFE MEMBERS

An exercise in contacting all Life Members of the Club (now standing at 101) to update the membership list has just been completed. It was felt necessary that this should take place as many of our Life Members have little contact with the Club and as postage costs rise, it is obviously a waste of Club funds to send correspondence, Gazettes, etc. to members who have moved house without informing us, are no longer interested in Club affairs or, as proved in the case of Colin Collen-Smith, have passed away. No replies were forthcoming to two letters sent to his last known address in Pulborough, Sussex. So our intrepid sleuth, P.P. Tony Oldfield, who lives in the area, was contacted and shortly afterwards we received the following very interesting letter from Tony.

"As requested, I have visited Pulborough recently and talked to people in the local post office and a nearby sorting office. So I was able to find Holme Manor which still showed as the address of a Collen-Smith. On arrival I found that the rather splendid manor house had been split up into a number of individual flats.

I knocked on the door of one of them, at random, and addressed my enquiry to a very pleasant lady who answered the door. She was able to tell me that the current owner, who was out anyway, was the son of the 'old' (our) Collen-Smith. The father she said, had died in 1977 so I think that that name can be removed from our list of members.

But, as I turned away, I explained the purpose of my visit and mentioned the magic words 'Blackheath Harriers'. At that she looked startled and said: 'My husband was a Blackheath Harrier. Do come in and meet him.'

So I found myself in the presence of John Bray, who was as amazed as I was at the coincidence. He joined before the Second World War (he is now 72), through association with the late Keith Wilcoxson and the Queen's Westminsters. He was a friend of the late Cecil Pollard, Cyril Williams (who was godfather to his son) and Will Vercoe.

After the war he returned and ran at Hayes until he went, in 1948, to East Africa and later, Hong Kong with a bank. As I 'only' joined in 1948 for a change I felt like a new member!

On his retirement he felt that he wouldn't know anybody so never returned to Hayes. He had the 'Gazette' in Hong Kong for a few years. He must have been struck off many years ago as his name does not appear in an old 1978 list which I have.*

He went to Whitgift School and must have been a contemporary of Harold Thompson. So passed an interesting hour which I think 'made his day'. The years just vanished. Thank you, therefore, for the opportunity of enjoying such research."

Other Life Members who replied to our enquiries include Peter Campbell (who informed us that he has now moved house from Worcestershire to Cornwall - any member who wishes to know his new address, please contact Mike Peel or Brian Saxton); he asked to be remembered to Johnny Walker, George Brooks, Vic Beardon, Alan Brent and any others who knew "a keen but not very fast 'heathen' (his words). Brian Sanders, who also mentioned that his brother, Norman, also a Life Member, is living in Norway and at the age of 61 has become father of a beautiful daughter - so his retirement may be deferred by a decade or so. Barrie

Underhill sent his regards and a donation to the Gazette Fund. Also the Rev. Ted Sampson sent a donation to Club funds and reported that he is alive and well - even fit - but, alas, not at this time involved in the great sport and goes on to say "I think it would be impossible to repeat the satisfaction of those great days with Blackheath in the mid- and late fifties." He offered greetings to a few names still with the Club who were there in his era, and ended his letter: "There is a lot of class in the present Club I am pleased to see, but it is about time the 400 record was no longer in my name."

Finally, in a letter received from Sir Donald Murray, he congratulated John Powell on the content, layout and presentation of the new Review and went on to say: "It must be very encouraging for the youngsters, and it is still interesting to the OAPs."

*In fact, John Bray joined the Club on 1st November, 1937, was struck off the membership on 6th November, 1972 and the only address we have on record is the Union Building, Hong Kong.

BAS

OBITUARY

C. A. PEACHEY



Peachey at lunch after receiving his 50 years Pot (18 years late!) from PPs Thompson and Walker.

Photo by M A Walker

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Archie Peachey in January at the age of 93. He joined on 11 October 1919 and was well to the fore in Cross Country fixtures over the next few years, serving as Winter Vice-Captain in the 1920-21 season. In 1923 his career in the Insurance world took him away from London, first to Bristol and later to Southampton, so his active period in the Club was short but his interest and support continued unabated.

He was a convivial and hospitable man who had wide interests in the sporting world. He was on the Committee of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club and also a Committee Member and later Vice-President of the Hampshire County Cricket Club. BH remained his first love however and these other connections were always at the service of the Club. In 1987 he moved to Richmond, Yorkshire, where he was delighted to receive visits from Club members and to reminisce about the Club activities at Blackheath and West Wickham and to discuss Club affairs.

We mourn the passing of a very loyal Blackheath Harrier and are grateful for the wholehearted support and enthusiasm shown over more than 70 years. We send our condolences to his family.

Those not privileged to attend Punchbowl Night this year will not have received their gilt-edged copy of the script as then issued, to remedy which dreadful privation the text is reproduced below. You are urged to mark and learn it diligently, dear reader, and let its priceless poetry be EVER on your lips.

PERFER ET OBDURA

They say there is style in Orion . . .
That Ranelagh's all gold and true blue;
That South London's Grid's made of iron . . .
But Blackheath's for me and for you.

(Chorus line)

In black, black, we never turn back
For mountains, for mud or for slime.
In black, black, in pack, road or track
Blackheathens all make the best time.

(Chorus line melodic reprise)

In black, black, we never turn back
For mountains or mud or for slime.
In black, black, we'll make the roof crack
And lift the Club Cry one more time . . .

(Clean handkerchief bit)

BLACK LACK-LACK, BLACK LACK-LACK,
BLACK LACK-LACK
BLACKHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEATH!

D.G.

Continuing the Poetic Theme of this issue of the Gazette here's a little gem that appeared in the *Hong Kong Sunday Morning Post* on 1st July 1990. My thanks to Bob Soutar for bringing it to our notice.

COWARD'S MODERN MATCH

by DAVID PRICE

In last month's Writers' Colony you were asked to rewrite Noel Coward's *Mad Dog's and Englishmen* in a modern Asian context. It was perhaps the hardest literary challenge yet offered in these pages, yet many took up the challenge. Here's a selection:

And Chep Lap Kok
As back payment on the rent.'
(Richard Lawrence)

The winner of this month's magnum of champagne is Mr Tim Soutar who took us on a culinary tour of Asia, with reference to the present eschewing of beef in Britain because of the so-called "mad cow" disease. Perhaps Coward himself may have smiled.

In Hong Kong, the locals long for a bowl of good wonton
To begin what of course is
Eight courses.

Up in Tokyo they much prefer miso
For the health that they accord it.
While in Mandalay they would like satay
Could they but afford it.

From twelve noon the native spoon
Works hard 'til well past one.
But mad cows for Englishmen
Make their meal times far less fun.

In Bangkok, the chilli stock
Burns far worse than the sun.
And can cause one's digestion
To question.

Now around Guangdong, they find nothing wrong
In serving up their poodles.
Though in Singapore
They're quite a bore;
Their fame is for their noodles.

Throughout the East, the natives feast
Til every dish is done.
But mad cows for Englishmen
Make their meal times far less fun.

Wednesday night wet and windy
Storm Clouds loom on every front
Driving rain, ferocious headwinds
These all make the runners grunt.

Wet weather gear that looks so stylish
Morten's looking such a beau
Velcro pockets that keep the rain out
Gore-tex out of Savile Row.

Phelan's legs have seen all weathers
Limbs that cause old ladies fright
Since they're bare in all the seasons
Why is it they are so white?

The groups together
An easy start
This gentle pace
Gives Rissen heart.

Wait! the pack fragments
It splits asunder
No one can stop
The flying Finbar.

Near Shirley Hills
And off goes Cronin
While at the rear
Rissen's groaning.

Eight miles are done
The showers cold
Rissen is feeling
Very old.

P. Rissen

MARYON-WILSON SWIMMING RACE

10th May 1991

Beckenham Baths

The swimming race is usually held during the winter months, but due to bad weather in October 1990 and then refurbishment works at Beckenham Pool, the above event could not be arranged until May 1991.

This in fact gave the competitors more time to train and prepare for the tough two-length race over a 662/3 yards (60.93m) course.

Not many races start at 10.15 pm but this did not deter 'heathens of all ages in taking part in this historic swimming race.

Race No. 1 (for men over 45 years old).

J. Parrott, V. Beardon, A. Brent, P. Saxon, B. Parrott.

Fine flying dives from J. Parrott and B. Parrott enabled them to gain an early lead, but a fumbled tumble turn going into the final length by J. Parrott wrecked his chances of a surprise win and caused him to drop back. The winner was A. Brent, closely followed by P. Saxon and V. Beardon.

Race No. 2

D. Johnson, H. Morten, W. Clapham, M. Cronin.

Winner was D. Johnson just ahead of W. Clapham with H. Morten finishing strongly. M. Cronin was fourth.

Race No. 3

T. Brightwell, D. Parrott, C. Brand.

T. Brightwell, a previous winner of this event, showed fine speed over the two lengths to finish ahead of D. Parrott and C. Brand.

Final Race Record

	Time	Handicap	Handicap Time	Placing
1. T. Brightwell	40.92	Scr	40.92	4
2. D. Parrott	44.67	2	42.67	6
3. C. Brand	50.68	7	43.68	7
4. D. Johnson	63.75	16	47.75	10
5. W. Clapham	66.00	Hcpr	-	-
6. A. Brent	67.42	29	38.42	3
7. H. Morten	70.07	29	41.07	5
8. P. Saxon	74.22	28	46.22	9
9. M. Cronin	80.06	34	46.06	8
10. V. Beardon	90.61	58	32.61	2
11. B. Parrott	94.84	67	27.84	1
12. J. Parrott	144.34	76	68.34	11

MC



Ken McSweeney bequeaths all to Blackheath before coxing

Photo by P. Calnan

ROWING RACE v. RANELAGH & ORION

2nd December 1990

Kew

No team at all last year, two rival sets of oarsmen this year and the prospect of a row-off for the honour of representing the 'heath in the annual running club rowing race down the Thames.

The 'A' team took it seriously: twice a week at the Curlew Rowing Club, ergometer and aerobics on a Tuesday and out rowing on the Thames every Sunday plus a couple of sessions in the 'Tank' got us all fully conversant with the rowing terminology. "Splosh yer oar in the water" soon became "feather your blade, bow" except for Nick Kinsey for whom it was still "splosh yer oar in the water mate".

We travailed and although we came close to drowning on several occasions, probably closer than we would ever like to admit, we eventually graduated to a 'four' and three weeks prior to the event went for our first serious row with our cox.

It's almost impossible to find words to describe how badly we rowed on that occasion, the boat, a fairly solid 'clinker' rolled about like a drunken snake. We couldn't row in unison, Alan Izzard managed to break his seat and our cox, Ken McSweeney came very close to giving up there and then.



Alan Izzard sits uncomfortably on his broken seat

Photo by J. Walker

The following week should have been the row-offs but unfortunately the 'B' team had disintegrated by then so we had another chance to practise our technique; which showed a slight improvement on the previous week's fiasco.

Come the day of the race and confidence was missing quietly as we watched the Orion crew almost self destruct on a stanchion of Kew bridge - it then took a nose-dive when we learned that three of Ranelagh's oarsmen were real, bona-fide, card-carrying watermen and not just a bunch of runners pretending to be rowers.

In the first race (semi-final #1) Orion were well beaten by Ranelagh. Likewise were we in the second semi, but to the utter amazement of cox, crew and stalwart supporters, we managed not only to row together, but also to steer a straight course and to move through the water with some speed.



The intrepid crew set off down river

Photo by J. Walker

We were well confident therefore when it came to the row-offs for third spot and within fifty metres of the start, had pulled a length clear of Orion; and although they started to come back at us over the second half of the course, we had by now, the confidence and technical ability to increase pace and held off the challenge to win by a respectable margin.

Thanks must be given to members of the Curlew Rowing Club for teaching us terms and techniques, for the 'B' team and Peter Rissen for providing extra back up and internal competition, for the spectators who came along to sup and support and for the bravest, or foolhardiest cox on the river, Ken McSweeney for allowing himself to be propelled by the four of us.

It was a most enjoyable experience but not necessarily one I'll ever repeat.

JP

Chris and was educated at Reisted School in Essex. His working life was mainly spent abroad, including clerical posts in Madrid and Brussels; also Trinidad and Nigeria, where he held a number of senior administrative positions within the police, military and security fields.

He became a member of Blackheath Harriers on the 20th August, 1938, having been proposed by E. L. Page and seconded by E. C. W. Cook, participating in field events; he was also a member of Blackheath Rugby Club and a good all round sportsman.

He left a wife and three children.

27.3.91

OBITUARY

J. E. C. WHALL

Sadly, we have to report the death of John Whall on 21st November, 1990. Although at the time of his death he was no longer a member of the Club, he had been one of our first-class track/field athletes of the Ladywell era. He represented his country at long and triple jump for several seasons in the late fifties, holding the English Native record for the triple jump and still holding the Club long jump record for 7m 51 set in 1960.

John started his athletic life with Kent AC in 1950 and was AAA Youth Champion in the shot put. He topped the British rankings in shot and discus several times at the Youth and Junior level. He was a marvellous all-round athlete, able to run 100 yds. in even time, high jump in 1m 90, as well as an ability to hurdle, vault, jump and throw all the field implements.

He sustained injury in preparing for the Rome Olympics and although losing touch with the Club, modern members will remember him as a co-ordinator and personality at the Crystal Palace track where he still trained regularly until the late eighties. The regret of many of his friends was that he never attempted the decathlon, where his multitude of talent could have taken him to even greater honours.

We extend our sympathy to John's mother and his two brothers.

REDT

SUMMER FIXTURE LIST 1992

June		
1 Mon	???	Southern Vets League (3)
4 Thu	Victoria Park	Assembly League (7.15)
6 Sat	Sheffield	U.K. Championships Southern Vets Champs.
7 Sun	Sheffield	U.K. Championships Southern Vets Champs.
	Crystal Palace	National Young Athletes League (3)
10 Wed	Croydon	Club Championships (inc. Kent 10,000)
13 Sat	Crystal Palace	Southern Championships Seniors/Youths
	Tonbridge	Kent Schools
14 Sun	Crystal Palace	Southern Championships Seniors/Youths
	Tonbridge	Kent Colts & Boys League
15 Mon	Croydon	Southern Vets League (4)
20 Sat	Woodford Green	British League (2)
	Ealing	Southern League Div. 1
	Ealing	Southern League Div. 3
	Walthamstow	Southern League Div. 7
21 Sun		
24 Wed		Club Championships
27 Sat	Birmingham	AAA Championships
28 Sun	Birmingham	AAA Championships
	Reading	National Young Athletes League (4)

July		
4 Sat	Crystal Palace	Southern U20 Champs. Juniors/Boys
5 Sun	Crystal Palace	Southern U20 Champs. Juniors/Boys
	Croydon	Kent Colts & Boys League
8 Wed	Croydon	Club Championships
9 Thu	Blackheath	Assembly League (7.15)
10 Fri	Hull	English Schools (Day 1)
11 Sat	Hull	English Schools (Day 2)
	Leeds	British League
	Deangate	Southern League Div. 1
	Wimbledon	Southern League Div. 3
	Ipswich	Southern League Div. 7
12 Sun	Crystal Palace	London Youth Games
18 Sat	Hendon	National Vets Champs.
19 Sun	Deangate	National Young Athletes League (5)
	???	GRE Cup Semi-final
	Hendon	National Vets Champs.
22 Wed	Croydon	Club Championships
25 Sat	Stoke	AAA U20 Championships (Day 1)
26 Sun	Stoke	AAA U20 Championships (Day 2)

August		
1 Sat	Haringey	Southern League Div. 1
	Horsham	Southern League Div. 3
	Copthall	Southern League Div. 7
2 Sun	Enfield	British Junior League (3)
6 Thu	Victoria Park	Assembly League (7.15)
8 Sat		
9 Sun		

15 Sat	Thurrock	Southern League Div. 1
	Sutcliffe Park	Southern League Div. 3
	Swindon	Southern League Div. 7
	Sheffield	GRE Cup Final
	Crystal Palace	AAA U17 Championships
16 Sun	Crystal Palace	AAA U17 Championships
22 Sat	Stretford	British League (4)
23 Sun	Birmingham	British Junior League (4)
29 Sat		
30 Sun		
31 Mon	Reading	Reading Gazette Trophy

September

2 Wed	Norman Park	Reebok Challenge
3 Thu	Beckenham	Assembly League (7.00)
5 Sat	Birmingham	National YA League Finals (Day 1)
6 Sun	Birmingham	National YA League Finals (Day 2)
9 Wed	Norman Park	Johnson Bowl
12 Sat	Copthall	Southern Colts Champs. (Day 1)
	Croydon	Southern Vets League Final (Day 1)
13 Sun	Copthall	Southern Colts Champs. (Day 2)
	Croydon	Southern Vets League Final (Day 2)
	Sutcliffe Park	Kent AAA Relays
18 Fri	Hayes	YA Presentation Evening
19 Sat	Deangate	Kent Multi-Event Champs. (Day 1)
20 Sun	Deangate	Kent Multi-Event Champs. (Day 2)
26 Sat	TBA	European Junior Clubs Cup
27 Sun		

SPORTS INJURIES

The club has the services of Physiotherapist D. Galvin and Sports Massage Therapist L. Roberts who are normally in attendance each Wednesday at the club-house.

HIGH SOCIETY photographs opposite snapped by Pat Calnan. Top to bottom and left to right:

Tony Weeks-Pearson presents a trophy while Mick Hamlin dreams of a pint of Ruddles County. Brian Hartley attempts to outstare Anthony Algeo while Les Roberts tells yet another interesting story. Simon Parsons attempts a masonic signal which leaves Ian Wilson completely celleried. Meanwhile on the back stairs Jack Parrott and Tony Pontifex in descending order with Brian stoned as usual.

And on the back cover Blackheath participants in this year's London Marathon. From top left to bottom right: Ian Young, Terry Brightwell, John McConville, Mike Cronin, John R. Turner, Roy Smith, Mike Lodwig and John E. Turner. Photos by Barry Saddler.