



"Perfer et Obdura"

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

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INSIDE . . .

**Full, illustrated feature
on our headquarters . . .**

See pages 9, 10 and 11

*A 'pack' of runners leave our Hayes headquarters
for a Wednesday night training run, with Paul
Barrington-King leading the way.*

Also . . .

—London Marathon: official results

—Track and Field preview

. . . and all the latest news and results

EDITORIAL

Okay gentlemen, you have made your point! The Editorial in the last issue of the Gazette may have criticized the low Blackheath turn-outs in 'mob matches', but 50 starters in a marathon is surely more than enough to make the Editor swallow his words?

Indeed, marathon fever certainly appeared to strike as hard at Hayes as elsewhere when the 'Gillette' London Marathon hit the capital. Congratulations to one and all who joined the swarming masses that chilly Sunday morn', and completed the 26 mile 385 yard scenic tour of London's docklands!

The event was undoubtedly a resounding success and will surely be remembered for years to come by all who took part. Doubtless a certain ex-treasurer will remember it, if only for seeing himself on BBC 1 a few hours later, fighting it out with Joyce Smith!

A week earlier our annual winter track meeting took place at Crystal Palace, ably organised by P.P. Bob Taylor. The weather was not altogether kind to us, but another very successful meeting was held, maintaining the high standards set in past years.

Notably at these meetings, and other home promotions, we always provide our full quota of officials, but few non-competing, non-officiating supporters. With a full programme ahead of us this summer our athletes will need all the encouragement and support they can get. So come on you Blackheathens — let's give our teams the boost they are looking for to give us more success in 1981.

At Hayes the new 'multi-gym' weight training machine has proved very popular amongst members on Wednesday nights. In fact, coupled with our other weight-training facilities there, it is attracting a number of new members to the club. However, it was with great dismay that the machine was discovered damaged at the beginning of the year. The club really cannot afford to have any equipment damaged in any way, so please — take care of YOUR club's equipment.

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Gazette, Norman Park is open and available for training. The hours of daylight are now longer and so the track should be open in the evenings. This is an invaluable facility to us and, with field events being installed, should provide us with a fine training ground. So let's use it! The first major meeting will already have been held on the track by the time this Gazette is published, the Kent Relay Championships on April 26.

LONDON MARATHON

Here are some marathon quotes, briefly cut from runners and spectators alike:—

- * "I believe I speak as the first 47-year-old headmaster to finish."—G.C.
- * "Fantastic event, great life assurance possibilities."—R.S.
- * "Roll on next year."—M.H.
- * "A great performance by the Club. However, despite good natured encouragement, nobody smiled in response and R.S. was particularly rude."—J.R.
- * "Anyway, I did come in ahead of *both* halves of the cow!"—D.P.
- * "Who is this bloke Joyce Smith anyway?"—R.C.
- * "They tell me it was really something. I wish I'd seen it."—L.R.
- * "Hit the wall at 3 miles."—P.H.
- * "A Great Day, we'll run it in Dublin next year." F. O'G.
- * "Having thrown up 2 gallons of Staminade outside Buckingham Palace in front of 20,000 people, I'm now auditioning for Exorcist III."—P.B.K.
- * "This was only my second marathon, but at least I'm one up on Pheidippides."—A.T.
- * "I am sure that it even exceeded, in all respects, the expectations of Chris Brasher."—I.S.
- * "If I'd left my shoes at home perhaps I'd be club champion!"—I.Y.
- * "As I wasn't fit, I decided to let the wife run. By the way she did run in Blackheath kit so will her 3.25 place her on the B.H. all-time list?"—R.M.
- * "They said I had guts, they're all over the Embankment."—M.W.
- * "Fantastic experience, the crowds made the day especially over the last 5 miles."—A.N.
- * "It nearly made me want to run (100m.). So proud!"—G.H.
- * "Without the help of G.H., the BBC-TV coverage was excellent—our runners are truly photogenic."—B.S.
- * "A tremendous experience. The race? Oh, that was O.K."—C.H.
- * "I've now seen even nuttier ones than Blackheathens."—D.H.
- * "The highlight of my sporting life — a great occasion."—K.W.
- * "I thought Birdcage Walk was a physical affliction until I discovered marathon running — and now I *know* it is!"—T.S.
- * "Trying to keep up with those nice girl runners made me stiff."—S.R.
- * "The race was great with the crowd lifting me so much over the first 8 miles that I forgot to blow it!"—P.S.
- * "I can't write, but I can run faster than most of them. It's all in the mind, is this where I'm going wrong?"—M.P.
- * "If I beat Joyce Smith again next time, I'll be happy."—G.M.
- * "No I did not comb my hair for the ITV interview."—J.B.
- * "Did you hear about my tendon?"—C.W.
- * "They told me it was a race walk, I'm sure I could have gone faster."—L.A.

For a full account on the London Marathon as seen by our new club marathon champion, turn to pages 13 and 14. A full list of results involving Blackheath athletes can also be found on page 14.

OPERATION PROMOTION



Picture: 'Kentish Times'

**Andy
Frankish
reports
on our
prospects
for 1981**

1981 promises to be the best season for the club since the introduction of the league system. After two successful summers the first team have progressed from the Southern League's division one to the fourth division of the British League, and must start as one of the favourites for promotion to division three.

I am pleased to report that due to the hard work of several members we have greatly strengthened our team. In the sprints Steve Green and Andy Cornaby, both Great Britain internationals, have joined us. Steve was, in fact, the last Briton to defeat Olympic Champion Allan Wells. In the Pole Vault we have acquired the services of Allan Williams, also a Great Britain international, who ranks fourth in the GB all-time lists.

In the Javelin Chris Hodder, who has recently returned to England, has joined us. Chris was a Great Britain junior international in 1977. Our last and most recent newcomer is Peter Yates. He was bronze medallist in the Commonwealth Games' Javelin, and is also an accomplished decathlete. He finished third in the 1980's 'Southern' competition.

The 1981 British League season opens at Cudworth, near Barnsley, on May 9 and progresses through fixtures at Woodford Bridge and Bristol to a final fixture, at the end of July, at Aldershot. With our much-strengthened team we must stand a reasonable chance of reaching the GRE cup final for the first time ever. This campaign opens after a 'bye' in the first round with a home fixture at Crystal Palace in June, progressing to a semi-final in August. The final is in Birmingham in September.

The second team also had a successful 1980 season, missing promotion by half a league point. A failure to clear the High Jump in the first match cost us dearly! After two years in the third division they are now ready in 1981 to gain promotion to the second.

Such has been the rebirth of Track Athletics that we have entered a third team in the Southern League's division six, under the management of Roger Ebbutt. There is no reason why they should not join the first and second teams in achieving promotion in 1981. The Southern League campaign opens on May 2, at Cosham and Clacton.

The Young Athletes teams were also very successful in 1980 under the guidance of John Powell. They reached the National Runners-up Final for the first time ever. However, after two years John has

decided to drop overall responsibilities for the young athletes so he may concentrate on his own Athletic career. Therefore we must rely heavily on other sources of support to ensure that 1981 is another good year for our youngsters.

The big bonus for Blackheath has been the opening of the new six-lane 'Chevron' track at Norman Park, Bromley. The track is completed but field events have yet to be installed. Hopefully though, by the time you read this, work will be under way to install appropriate facilities. It is important that the club makes the maximum use of this track so that we can bring it up to British League standard. Season tickets will shortly be available for the track, cost £9 (seniors) and £4.50 (Under-16's).

Congratulations must go to Mike Winch who, on taking over as Britain's number one shot putter, gained selection for the European indoor championships in Grenoble. Finally, may I wish all track athletes a successful 1981 season. Hopefully my third year as Track Captain will be as successful as the previous two.

THANK YOU!

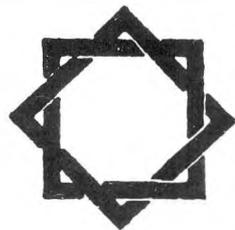
The latest news regarding our sponsorship deal with Express Dairies is that they have made a very generous donation to the club.

Express representative Tony Hardy confirmed recently that his firm will donate to Blackheath a sum of £250 to be spent on some item, or items of equipment for use by our members.

In addition to this Express are also willing to sponsor a track and field meeting during this summer season, at either Crystal Palace or Norman Park.

The club committee will be discussing ways of taking advantage of this very kind offer in the near future, and members will of course be informed as to how we intend to do this as soon as possible.

Meanwhile our thanks go to Mr. Hardy and Express Dairies, who have already been involved in sponsorship with Blackheath. As reported in the last issue of the *Gazette*, Express Dairies sponsored in full the Kent county Boys and Colts Cross-Country championships, promoted by us, in Sparrows Den last November.



REPORTS



Above: The Blackheath team of (l. to r.) Barry O'Gorman, Les Roberts, Joe Clare, Jr., Ian Wilson, Chris Woodcock, Joe Clare, Sr. (team manager).

LE QUESNEY 1980

When "they" ask you, "Why do you do it?" the response varies with your current mood or the situation, but after a weekend like this a ready answer is easy . . . "To travel with a group of good friends—at someone else's expense—and thoroughly enjoy good food with the best of French hospitality, rounded off by a satisfying race—what more could one want?"

We set off on Saturday—what a team! Barry O'Gorman, Les Roberts, Ian Wilson, Joe Clare and Chris Woodcock, must have been one of the best squads to represent Blackheath in a marathon for years!

Our crossing of the Channel was uneventful. Upon arrival, we were installed in the local Agricultural College. We were given rooms overlooking the track where we were to finish. A jog around the outskirts of this beautifully walled town and its substantial moat was followed by a real pre-marathon repast.

All the "international" opposition being present, we were able to sum up our chances and engage in the usual banter with the "British" squad of Brighton, Concorde, and Falkirk Harriers.

The day of the race was humid and windless. An excellent breakfast was followed by a period of intense relaxation, interspersed by bouts of liquid consumption! Everyone has his own pre-race ritual, but heavy hydration was obviously the order of the day. We acquired our numbers, under the guidance of Barry's contact, who spoke excellent English and who had competed in the Paris Marathon a few weeks earlier (one to avoid from what he says).

The race followed the expected pattern with the quick boys flying away on the two initial 5000

metre laps of the town. We followed at a respectful distance. Out of the town we went, on a quiet but wide road. It was too warm for an early effort. After about an hour's running we entered the pine forest—a good road with no traffic, but with cyclists to assist us.

Apparently, all the Blackheath runners could be seen by our "sweeper" on the long, undulating straight—we were all running well! At just over half-way, with the major part of the 'undulations' completed, we were catching the weaker of the fast starters. Ian Wilson and Les Roberts caught Chris Woodcock about then, and we ran together for the rest of the race. Barry and Joe were in good shape and not far behind.

Re-entering the town for the final lap, Les and Ian gained a few yards, then we were directed off the course by a very insistent soldier! He assumed we were in the leading group, whereas we were, in fact, some four kilometres in arrears!

We finished with a couple of laps in the small stadium with Les breaking into fluent French to explain the error. (We all reckoned that marathons ought to end about four kilometres short—it definitely takes the edge off the fatigue!)

We watched the rest of the field run in—some running an extra four or five kilometres at the request of another pointman! Barry finished the proper distance in 2 hours 43 minutes and was the first veteran home. Joe was second veteran, just behind in 2 hrs. 43 mins. 08 secs. They were 16th and 17th respectively.

At the champagne reception in the Town Hall, we sorted out the results. Being credited with Les 12th (2 hrs. 21 mins. 42 secs.), Ian 13th (2 hrs.

21 mins. 46 secs.) and Chris (2 hrs. 21 mins. 55 secs.) a reasonable estimate was that we were about 18 minutes short. Falkirk won the team race with Blackheath in second place. Les was the fourth Englishman to finish.

That evening we ate royally again, rounding the day off with a beer with the rest of the British contingent. It was interesting to compare notes on this and other races with the winner, Jini Dingwall (2 hrs. 18 mins. 02 secs), and his team mates.

After another good night's sleep we bade farewell to our generous hosts and wandered back to Calais. We arrived home with a vehicle crammed with souvenirs, prizes, tee shirts, as well as the usual array of duty-free goods. When's the next one, Barry?

January 31, 1981

SOUTH OF THE THAMES "SENIOR" CHAMPIONSHIP

Three hundred motley souls were blasted into orbit by the starting of Mrs. Pauline Wilson, wife of the esteemed President of the South of Thames on this sunny but cold afternoon, at Sparrows Den.

However, the experience didn't seem to distract the likes of Peter Standing (Windsor, Slough and Eton) who rocketed round the seven miles of this Jekyll and Hyde course in 33 minutes 41 seconds — 17 seconds ahead of Keith Peny (Cambridge Harriers).

Les Roberts was our front runner, crossing the line in 25th position (35 mins. 40 secs.). Other Blackheath placings were: 41. Tim Soutar (36 mins. 9 secs.); 50. Ian Wilson (36-28); 73. Ken Daniel (36-54); 81. Graham Martin (37-15); 99. Brian Swift (37-15); 105. Pete Shephard (37-15); 106. Bob Cliff (37-56); 110. Martin Athawes (38-02). Presumably, Martin Athawes was obliged to carry a lot of loose change in his pockets in his role as S.O.T. treasurer! 117. Chris Woodcock (38-08); 136. Ian Young (38-37); 147. Chris Haines (38-47).

Blackheath were only ninth team in the six-man contest and fourth in the 12-man event, which was less than we might reasonably have expected.

November 8, 1980

SOUTH OF THE THAMES "JUNIOR" CHAMPIONSHIP

A field of over 250 launched itself into the dense, energy-sapping grasslands of Windsor Great Park for the somewhat oddly-named race, bearing in mind that a good proportion of the competitors each year will not see 30 again — let alone their mid-teens!

The Blackheath contingent had every incentive to do well this time with Ian Wilson having been enthroned as South of Thames President, and Bob Taylor being on hand to verbally (if not, physically), abuse 'non-triers'!

Thus inspired, Les Roberts sprinted clear at the start of this five-and-a-bit mile race in order to get free of the crush. On the next lap he had slipped back to about 30th. He soon got into the groove though and, by the finish, he had carved his way back up to eighth place clocking 31 minutes exactly. He was just 56 seconds behind the winner, M. Lassites of Brighton and Hove A.C.

Martin Athawes finished 28th (31-40), Ian Young 62nd (32-41), Graham Martin 80th (33-10), Ken Pike 86th (33-20) and Bruce Macrae 105th (33-54). Blackheath Harriers' A team clinched fourth team spot overall, winning medals for being the first Kent team home.

MY FIRST RACE AT COSFORD

Robert Farish reporting...

March 20/21, 1981

It was the first time that I had competed at Cosford and, in addition to this, it was the furthest I had travelled on my own to an Athletic's meeting. I was therefore looking forward to the occasion with a great deal of excitement!

Having arrived at my hotel about about 4.30 p.m., I made my way by train to Cosford in good time for my heat, which was due off at 7.30 p.m. that evening.

My first impression of the indoor arena was how small it was. One side of the track runs adjacent to the side of the aircraft hangar, so spectators can only stand or sit around three quarters of the arena.

The centre of the track was covered by mats. The lighting was good, but being an enclosed space it was very hot. I noticed this particularly when competing.

A warm-up area lay at the side of the track, but this was just a concrete strip so I decided to warm-up outside on the grass. It was cooler and decidedly less crowded there. Unfortunately, because of this, I missed my call for the 1500 metres heats and those in my heat were already stripping off!

Being last onto the track helped me key myself up though, and possibly unnerved some of the other competitors.

I ran as Charlie Elliott had advised: a very positive race, taking control from the front and leading from start to finish. I timed 4 minutes 6.8 seconds which, I believe, equalled last year's winning time!

I was unaware that there were any showers so, after warming down, I took the train back to my hotel for a shower, evening meal, and bed.

Saturday seemed a very long day. I had to occupy myself until the final at 5.30 p.m. I was staying in Shifnal, so I explored the town and spent most of the day in the library as it was the only warm and dry place to go (other than pubs, God forbid!).

EDITOR'S NOTE: I do not understand that remark either!

I arrived at Cosford with two hours to spare and, probably because of my experience on Friday night, I warmed up too early! Anyway, I was the first one to report for my race (which for me is a record on its own!).

Once the race started nobody wanted to take the lead, so after the initial burst, I went out in front. I led for about 800 metres then another competitor, Currie, took the lead. I stayed on his shoulder until we had covered 1200 metres when he kicked away and gained about ten yards on me, gradually opening the gap as he went. Instant fatigue set in and, try as I might, my arms and legs slowly got heavier and heavier. The track being very quiet, I was unaware that the person in third place was getting closer all the time, but I held out to finish three seconds behind Currie, and a tenth



of a second in front of Ramsden — the boy in third.

I believe it was the first time that any of us in the final had raced indoors. I found it very strange and difficult to adjust to the lane positions—running too wide and then over-compensating the other way, nearly running off the track on occasions!

I greatly enjoyed running indoors, and the meeting was extremely well organised. However, I find it difficult to believe that we still have only one indoor stadium in the country. Due to, presumably, problems like travel and accommodation and, of course, expense, it seemed to me that the meeting was predominantly attended by athletes from the strong clubs, or those who had some kind of financial support. Therefore can a meeting such as this, with the restricted entry it has, be truly termed a 'National' championship?!

March 14, 1981

SCHOOLS INTER-COUNTIES CROSS-COUNTRY WINCHESTER

The course was approximately four miles of mainly well-drained grassland — excellent for spectators, but rather repetitive and boring for the runners.

It rained on and off all day long, but my race took place in bright sunlight. The purpose of the race was three-fold . . . I had been injured and wanted to see how fit I was after such a long lay-off; I wanted to prove to the county selectors that I was fully fit again; and, most important, I wanted to win!

A boy from Hampshire took the lead at a very fast pace early on, and after three-quarters of a mile he was still some 15 to 20 yards ahead. At first I thought he was one of those who always starts too fast, but he wasn't slowing up!

I sped up slightly to catch him. I was feeling strong on the hills, and this is where I caught up to take the lead. There were sections of narrow path that we had to run through, and it was on one of these, with the Hampshire runner on my shoulder, that I was spiked, but I was quite able to carry on.

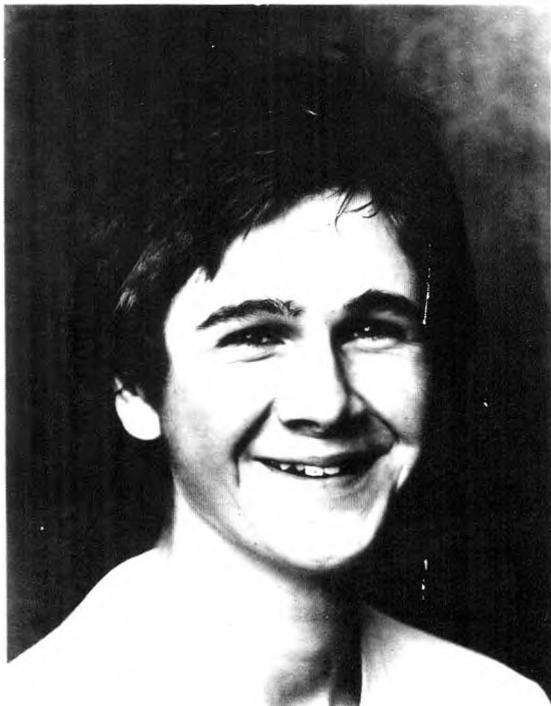
On the penultimate hill I opened up a gap of about 15 yards, but he gradually came back. I had obviously underestimated the determination of my rival, apart from the fact that I had lost concentration on the race for a moment!

However, we ran strongly all the way up the finishing hill and I hung on to my lead to win by a single second. In all a hard, but satisfying run.

The Kent team won the Junior and Senior team races, and provided the individual winner in all three races.

Young Athletes Beware! James Kirkpatrick Young will soon be mounting his campaign to follow in father Ian Young's footsteps on the cross-country scene. Not quite yet though—he was only born on May 8, 1981! Congratulations Ian on this recent addition to the family, when is he signing up?

Congratulations go to two other prominent names in the club. Mike Mahoney has expanded his family — by one of the female species — and Jonny Walker has suddenly taken the plunge and got married. We wish he and his bride Doris all the best for the future.



STEPHEN ROBERT BIBBY

Born November 11, 1966, elected to Blackheath on April 6, 1981, currently living in St. David's Close, West Wickham, Stephen is undoubtedly one of the most promising young new recruits we have made recently.

His speciality lies in the realms of middle distance running, and at his current rate of improvement, could be heading for a very healthy Athletics career.

Stephen has always been enthusiastic on keeping fit. He used to go jogging each night from home—until he heard about a club called Blackheath Harriers!

"I liked the friendly atmosphere," he said, "and I was greatly impressed with the various facilities at Hayes — especially the weight-lifting equipment."

As Stephen became more and more enthusiastic, so his performances on the track reflected the effort he was putting in.

2-20.0 over 800 metres at Ladywell on April 18 was his current personal best time as the Gazette went to press, but coach Andy Frankish is optimistic that he holds the potential to go much faster!

Stephen has also clocked 59.8 seconds over 400 metres (six seconds faster than before he joined Blackheath), and 27.5 seconds over 200 metres.

Keep it up Steve!

J.V.P.

YOUNG ATHLETES FOCUS

In a season that promised so little — even after we had seen the New Year in — it is perhaps a little ironic that the 1980/81 winter produced more team honours for our young athletes than ever before!

The Kent Cross-Country league will be one competition we will want to forget as quickly as possible, though. Some individuals did shine in one or two fixtures, but our team results were far from flattering.

However, the Herne Hill Cross-Country League at Brockwell Park did produce some outstanding success. We opened our campaign in October with a fine all-round performance leaving us second in the overall league, and well-placed in the three age-group competitions.

The second match in November was not such a good result, but we did not lose very much ground in any of the tables. Our Colts were struggling against strong opposition, but the ever-faithful Boys and Youths teams ran well.

Andrew Suckling will not forget the November fixture in a hurry. He won the Boys' race in style and shot up to third in the Boys league rankings.

Unfortunately, Andrew missed the third fixture in January, which cancelled his chances of an individual medal at the end of the season, but thanks to a superb run by Richard Teall, the team result suffered little in his absence.

Richard, who has to rank as one of the most improved youngsters in the club during the winter, finished fourth in his race — a fine performance.

By now the Youths team was suffering with the absence of Robert Farish — apart from the unavailability of a number of other top runners. Indeed, this played no small part in a disastrous slump in the January meeting which almost cost us very dearly!

The final match in March was always going to be a thriller for us. Despite our ups and downs earlier in the winter, we were still well in contention for honours in Boys, Youths and overall leagues. The result was beyond our wildest dreams!

Andrew Suckling returned to the Boys team for this match and rose to the occasion magnificently. He clinched second place, and with the ever-improving James Adams not all that far behind in ninth, the stage was set for a very good team result indeed.

The Boys team finished second behind Cambridge Harriers — enough to clinch second place in the league overall and silver medal number one.

The Youths event produced what must surely be our most encouraging result for a very long time. We won the match by a single point from the mighty Elliotts team. This was more than enough to give us another second place and silver medal number two — for the Youths league!

After such fine results in the Boys and Youths races, the Blackheath contingent waited nervously for the overall league tables to be produced. Our Colts had finished ninth in their race, but we were confident that our 1979-80 runners-up spot had been retained in the combined league.

Indeed, when the tables were released after a lengthy wait at the Costa-del-Brockwell lido, it was revealed that silver medal number three would be brought back to Hayes!

In the County championships held in January our Youths team excelled to earn yet more fame for the 'Heath. They finished third team — or so they



thought — behind winners Elliotts AC and runner-up Tonbridge.

However, a pleasant surprise was in store for them in the days following the race. It transpired that Elliotts had run an ineligible runner and were therefore disqualified — promoting us to second place.

The Southern and National championships saw some worthy performances from our youngsters, but alas only very modest team placings.

One sad feature of the season was the forced absence of Robert Farish from the competitive scene for almost three months. Injury problems prevented Robert from competing in the January inter-counties match for Kent, and all other races until March — including the Kent Schools Championships.

However, Robert was allowed to run in the schools inter-counties meeting at Winchester soon after he returned to fitness, and certainly made a point by winning his race convincingly.

This was evidently not enough though, to persuade the Kent schools team selectors into including him in the team to compete in the English Schools Championships, at Wigan. One could not argue, though, with their reasoning that Robert has missed the all-important selection races and that it would have been unfair to the youngsters that did run and make the grade, to slot him straight into the team.

Before the English schools races had taken place Robert was racing in his first-ever indoor track meeting at RAF Cosford. Here he proved that he had well and truly put his injury problems behind him. He finished second in the 1500 metres final in 4 minutes 3.2 seconds.

There were many other individuals, though, who enjoyed a great deal of personal success during the winter. 13-year-old James Adams improved with every stride, and team mates Martin Bignell, Simon Dick and David Blackman ran consistently well throughout.

Boys Cross-Country Captain, Allen Hartley—third in the club championship in December and promising even better for the future — was unfortunately forced into taking up the role of spectator at most of 1981's matches. He was struck with injury and, like Robert Farish, missed out on the main championships of the year. Happily though, at the time of writing he was well on the way back to full fitness.

As usual there is far too little space to detail every young athlete who has contributed to our efforts over the recent months, but the club owe much to 'young faithfuls' such as Gavin Fernandes, Allan Tilley, Stephen Roberts, Michael Laws, Stephen Thompson (Youths), Anthony Dick, Paul Cosgrave, Chris Crouch, Martin Osborne, David Blackman, Peter Davies, Kevin Grainger, Richard McNamara (Boys), Richard Mitchell, Clive Suckling, Raul Codd, Peter Radelat, Andrew Brett (Colts), and many, many more!



Robin Ashdown

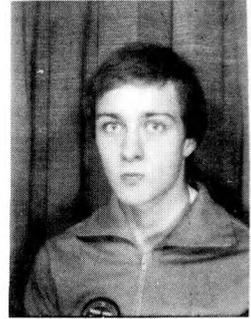


Paul Ashen

Picture: 'Kentish Times'



Paul Austridge



Robert Farish

... AND ONTO THE TRACK

Our young athletes begin this year a seriously depleted squad from 1980. So many of our previously outstanding stars of the Colts or Boys teams last year have moved up an age-group to leave a huge gap behind them. Recruitment, at the time of writing, is down and the prospects in the league competitions this year do not look terrific.

Oh dear! What a bleak outlook that sounds like! But never fear, all is not lost! We are certainly up against it this year but one must look at the club as a whole and not isolate one team.

Contained within our youngsters are a number of highly talented individuals. Although it is always nice to have team success at all levels, at young athletes level it is the individual success that should be prized most.

Brilliant young athletes such as Robert Farish, Paul Austridge, Paul Ashen and Robin Ashdown, to name only four, are surely what athletics at this level is all about?

It should be the target of every youngster to improve his performance in any one event, and if that helps the club to team success on the way, that is a welcome bonus.

In the National Young Athletes League this year, Blackheath are in a division even stronger than that of 1980. The league has again been reorganised, and we find ourselves in the Eastern premier division.

We will meet clubs such as Harringey and Tonbridge, who beat us in last year's National Runners-up Final, as well as our old friends from Herne Hill and Brighton to name but four clubs.

When this Gazette is published the first fixture, at Thurrock on May 3, will already have taken place, so we will have a reasonable idea of how things are likely to turn out. There are, however, four more

fixtures: at Croydon on May 24, at Wimbledon on June 7, at Enfield on July 5, and at Norman Park, Bromley, on July 26.

Our shortcomings in the Boys and Colts teams will be especially highlighted in the other league in which we compete, the South East Counties Boys and Colts league — or the Boys and Colts league of Kent, as it is now known.

Here we will be up against the same teams as last year with the notable addition of Cambridge Harriers. They have been promoted from the second division, and are undoubtedly going to cause every-one problems in the first!

In the various championships last year we had a strong representation from Blackheath on most occasions. Medals were won in both schools and club county competitions as well as in the Southern Counties championships.

In the English Schools championships we had a very strong showing, and this promises to be the case again in 1981.

Robert Farish must rank as one of the favourites for honours in the 'intermediate' 1500 metres, and Paul Austridge (who has taken great joy in burning up a certain Gazette Editor in training sessions throughout the winter) must be fancied in the 'intermediate' 400 metres hurdles.

Our star sprinter, Paul Ashen, will want to put behind him all memories of last year's schools 'national', but this year if all goes well he will be among the front runners in the 100 metres.

Meanwhile, a watchful eye will be kept on a number of youngsters who last year did not quite hit the limelight, but who this year could do very well indeed. These include throwers Sean McGowan and Mark Bullock, all-rounder John Hunter, sprinter Paul Thomas, triple jumper Lawrence Bobb, and many more.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1. Intervals; 7. Strength; 10. Pit; 13. Ten; 14. Nervous; 15. Energy; 18. Coach; 19. Enters; 24. Set go; 26. Vet; 28. Arena; 30. Runner; 33. Pin; 34. Marathon; 35. Eat; 36. IPP; 37. Bag; 38. Relay; 41. Gazettes; 44. Kit; 45. Team; 46. IT (Ian Thompson); 47. Heat; 48. Paced; 49. Physio; 50. Lasts; 51. Thrower.

Down: 1. International; 2. Tense; 3. Run; 4. Air; 5. Slow; 6. IFS; 8. Tape; 9. Gap; 11. Top; 12. Training; 16. Noon; 17. Race; 20. Team; 21. Rear; 22. Strongman; 23. Beat; 24. Set; 25. Gun; 27. County; 29. Express; 31. Nemeth; 32. Rest; 39. Laps; 40. Led; 42. Zip; 43. Shot; 45. Ten.

YOUR GAZETTE

The Editor wishes to apologise to members for the delay in producing this issue of the *Gazette*, which should have appeared by the end of April.

This was partly due to the last-minute need to add a further four pages and also a large backlog of work at the printers, caused by the two Bank Holidays in rapid succession in April and May.

However, this only emphasises that delays of any other sort cannot be afforded. So if YOU have any news for the next *Gazette*, please let the Editor have it as soon as possible so that the next issue may be published on time.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS



Pictured above are the Vice-Presidents of Blackheath Harriers assembled in the club room in Hayes, after their annual supper earlier this year.

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF 56 BOURNE WAY

Wednesday evening — club night. An assortment of City gents, West End businessmen, schoolteachers, pupils, and one or two athletes, wander into 56 Bourne Way. The hubbub in the changing rooms rises to a new high as popular cries of 'hope my ankle holds out tonight,' 'crumbs, my back is killing me,' and 'we're not really going as far as that, are we?' sound out from the crowd.

Eventually the chaos subsides as the bodies join together in 'packs', edging their way — reluctantly — towards the door. After further in-depth discussion on suitable kit for the occasion, how each individual feels at the time, and so on, the door opens and out they go.

Cries of 'up the 'Heath' — occasionally interrupted by 'get off my toe' — go up in the chilly evening air as the Blackheath mob pile out into Bourne Way.

Peace! The clubhouse is once more plunged into relaxing calm, with only the occasional sound of pots and pans being shuffled around upstairs as Mrs. 'D' prepares the evening feast.

As the runners return, so the noise rises again. More enthusiastic now: 'felt good tonight', 'went out too fast', 'not bad with my ankle', and 'anyone seen Fred?' are now typical extracts of conversation.

Steam envelopes the room. Sighs of relief are heard as the showers turn from ice-cold to an acceptable warm. Grunts and groans still float through from the next room where the strong(?)men continue in their efforts. Chris Ellis is seen swinging from side to side with numerous tons of metal astride his shoulders, while others furiously attack the 'Multi-gym'.

Upstairs the rush hour is about to begin. Stan appears behind the bar — immediately regretting such a move as he is besieged with orders for various beverages by thirsty members!

Operations in the kitchen are in full swing. Tier upon tier of 'sweet' bowls are piled up as the oven

fills up with ready-cooked meals for the imminent rush.

As the clubroom fills up the action begins. The post-mortems on the evening's efforts, previews on forthcoming week-end matches, and other liken topics provide most of the conversation at this stage. A significant rise in the noise level is noticed as the younger members of the club return from their weekly jaunt to Sparrows Den, Hayes Common, or some other popular venue. Crisp sales rocket and the bar runs out of Coke, as great wads of fivers are waved at the poor harrassed barman. (How much pocket money *do* they get these days?!).

Nine o'clock and the car park begins to empty, half past and things are decidedly calmer. One or two groups are left chatting over the last 'one for the road' as the Wine Committee count the cost of the evening.

This is 56 Bourne Way on Wednesday nights. How many other clubs are as lucky as us to have such excellent facilities? We are "lucky" indeed. Our clubhouse is the envy of all its visitors — and rightly so! Have you 'cashed in' on your luck recently? (Hint, hint!).

See centre pages for pictures of the club on Wednesday evening.

MORE FROM THE EDITOR . . .

I hope members have noticed that this *Gazette* is somewhat fatter than usual — 20 PAGES in all! This is partly due to the large amount of news to report this time, and partly to the slightly modified style now adopted.

However, although obviously (!) worthwhile, it all costs money, so how about a few donations into the *Gazette* fund?!—ED.



Laid up and waiting for the rush. A quiet clubroom awaits the return of hungry runners for their Wednesday night feast.



'The drinks are on me!' It looks as if John Baldwin (right) has been collared for this round. A thirsty Peter Shephard (left), and Paul Barrington-King wait with anticipation as Peter Hannell draws a mouth-watering pint.

Blackheath Harriers This is YOUR life



The ever-smiling face of Stan Selby. Stan has been at Bourne Way since he was 15 years ago.

AND WHAT IT IS TO

Our club must supply the finest headgear and an even more diverse social life to go with it.

Meals on virtually every Saturday evening (often by discos), together with events like the St. Andrew's and V.P.'s dinner, and the feast of a packed social.

Exceptionally good management from Mrs. Daniels, who we do without her 'administration by committee', and the hard work put in by Stan Selby combine to give 56 years of the high-ranking social life that has always enjoyed.



Above: There's always a warm welcome waiting at the 'Harriers Rest.' Our picture shows Wine Committee 'supremos' (l. to r.) Chris Haines, Peter Hannell and Brian Stone.

Right: Blackheath's version of the Pied Piper, Andy Frankish, leads the weekly charge of youngsters into Bourne Way.



Below: Yum, yum! Members tuck into a Mrs. 'D' Special — washed down by the obligatory pint — after a Wednesday night training run.



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Chipstead Valley 2, Blackheath 3

It was only a matter of time before Blackheath, not content with Athletics and rowing, would want to demonstrate their prowess in other fields. And so it came to pass that soccer was lined up to be added to the list of talents for which our club is justly famous.

A chance remark fired into a wilderness of inebriation, probably by one of our more irresponsible senior members, managed to reach the acute ear of Clive Woods, who took advantage of all the addled grey matter around him to settle a fixture for the Sunday after Christmas. It was against a veteran, but still very capable, Chipstead Valley side. The day was grey and raw, but Chipstead's hospitality looked as though it would be warm and their pitch was in remarkably good shape.

This was not, however, seen as an advantage to us, as the pitch would allow more scope for skill to prevail, and skill was undoubtedly the one thing Blackheath were unlikely to be overloaded with!

From the kick-off our backs were to the wall (goal-line, actually, but 'wall' sounds better!) Chipstead had clearly played before! It was no surprise, therefore, when they scored after ten minutes — and what a goal! It would not have looked out of place on BBC's 'goal of the month'. Gordon Hickey, our 'keeper for the day, did not have time to move a muscle. The only thing he nearly caught was a chill from the draught made by the ball as it bulletted past him! Five minutes later they did it again and we were definitely beginning to think we were on the wrong pitch!

Gradually, however, we settled down and got a grip on things. Brian Stone and his three colleagues at the back, Fred Hickey, George Butlin and Ron Lakeman began to sew up our defences with a fine display of robustness, authority and enthusiasm.

Ken Daniel and Les Roberts took on the role of midfield 'dynamos' and Keith Whichelow was a tower of strength up front. His golden locks regularly soared gracefully above the Chipstead defence! It was such a move that led to our first goal. A high clearance from one of our iron men at the back was nodded down by Keith to the feet of Ken

McSweeney. Ken zoomed past two astonished defenders and slid the ball beneath the advancing goalkeeper.

Pressure was maintained and there was almost an air of inevitability about the second goal which Les rifled in with his left foot. (He later admitted that he had contemplated not bothering to put a boot on that foot, so redundant had it become over the years for anything but standing on!).

John Hills was playing a great part in breaking down the Chipstead defence. His fumbling, stumbling approach was not pretty on the eye, but exceptionally effective. He explained his original style afterwards:

"If I don't know where the hell I'm going, then there's a fair chance the opposition won't either!"

Colin Brand's contribution was also significant. His tussles with their centre back was like King Kong meeting Godzilla!

After the interval the hosts came back into the game for a while, but we held out. We gained control of the midfield again and mid-way through the half we went ahead. Keith won a duel on the edge of the box, turned, and, after hesitating for what seemed an eternity, let loose a pile-driver into the roof of the Chip's net. 3—2!

By now Peter Shephard had come on in place of our first-half substitute Clive Woods. Peter looked every bit the ace soccer player in his green and black strip — a pity the rest of us were in yellow!

So confident did Blackheath become with their lead that not only did they survive heavy pressure, but flashes of real football became ever more apparent!

The game was refereed by Alan Whittle, the former /Everton and Crystal Palace professional. He expressed surprise and considerable delight at the performance of the two teams, but we did not get the impression any of us were about to make the headlines in any multi-million pound transfer deals.

After a few hearty post-match pints we offered Chipstead the opportunity to take revenge — over our 7½ mile cross country course — but they declined the offer! I cannot recall the exact words they used! For the statistically minded, the crowd numbered 15, including two dogs, and the aggregate age of the Blackheath XI was just over 500.

EDITOR'S NOTE

No doubt some members will notice that one or two events during the winter season have not been covered by this Gazette. This is regrettable, but — as stated in the previous issue — if secretaries are unable to forward results in time the *Gazette* will not wait.

Rather than waiting until the copy deadline, perhaps results could be sent in as and when they happen — thus ensuring their inclusion in the next issue! — ED.

THANKS DAVE!

The Editor would like to express his gratitude to Dave White for his recent good will in volunteering to handle distribution of the *Gazette*. This is one of the chores that comes with every issue and one that everyone dreads.

Of course he will need some help, so even if it is too late for this issue, how about giving him a helping hand in the future? Anyone willing to assist should contact the Editor, or Dave, as soon as possible.

50 BLACKHEATH WINNERS'



Chris Haines reports . . .

Nothing had happened quite like this through the streets of London ever before. The media, with their pre-race ballyhoo and the enthusiasm of Chris Brasher, swamped the organisers with over 7000 entries. The lead into the race began last

November with preliminary announcements, and the sending out of entry forms early this year. The club offered help at an early stage, but not until the last minute were we asked to help in the processing of entries.

The large number of entries from the club was evident from the renewed interest in pack running

for the collection of numbers and a bag — sadly deficient of goodies — from the Strand Palace Hotel. Here again, several Blackheathens were in evidence assisting with the administration, welcoming runners with such phrases as "Have a sweat band" (Gordon Brooks) or "Hello, ugly" (Gordon Hickey). No amount of praise could bring forth the promised T-shirts, said to be covered by the entry fee, though!

After an extra-early night (the clocks went forward that evening), it was still decidedly unpleasant trying to wake up and have breakfast in time for the race — between 5 and 6 a.m.! But with however many scientific aids at his disposal, each athlete is still a law unto himself as regards the final meals before a race. The variations, sworn to have unbelievable effects, ranged from toast and cereal, through to a good fried breakfast — or nothing at all! Whatever was eaten though, the adrenalin soon played its part with most members arriving in Greenwich Park in good time.

It was especially pleasing to be assisted by so many club officials in checking in, finding the relevant buses for tracksuits to be taken to the finish, and being pointed in the right direction for the legendary 100-foot urinal! The starting area had



from the club HQ on Wednesday nights, and by a Tatsfield splinter group on Sunday mornings. The usual preparations were carried out: long, slow runs played havoc with the Cross-Country Captain's selection policy for both the 'Southern' and the 'National'!

Rumour followed rumour: was Gordon Marshall really going to run his first marathon at the age of 60? Anyway, where could he train in the mountains of Scotland? Did Graham Martin really understand the difference between 800 metres on the track and marathon running? Would Chris Woodcock complete the course? Was Keith Whicheloe really training last evening at 11 p.m.?

As the fateful day neared, the conversation turned to diet and shoes — even I decided to buy a new pair.

The three days prior to the race were set aside

to be seen to be believed! The reader of this account will already have read stories of the whole event in the national press and elsewhere, however, which do greater justice than could be done in our club journal.

The main area of concern for most athletes were the arrangements for the start. Everything went smoothly though, and there was no need to worry about being in the wrong place. The seeding system was self-selecting and fortunately, most runners are honest!

The race got under way at 9 a.m. sharp and from the outset the noise of the helicopters above, and the crowd on every part of the route, was deafening. Even among the million or so spectators one could identify a friendly face here and there. Gordon Hickey appeared from nowhere in Deptford and on Southwark Bridge, and was that the 'Darenth Valley

Mafia' in Greenwich and on the Isle of Dogs? Alan Brent and Brenda Brent made themselves heard at the Embankment, and was that Peter Horwood half-way up Tower Bridge? There was so much support for everyone that you couldn't help but run and run and run.

The last few hundred yards past the Palace to Constitution Hill will always be remembered by everyone, together with the superb services at the finish, but would we ever reach the giant digital clock on the horizon? Brief words were exchanged with other runners when we happened to meet, and then — the long trek home.

What has been missed by those who had participated was shown at 4 p.m. that afternoon. The superb pictures produced by the BBC TV coverage showed the absolute measure of the event. Of course those who had run simply wished to see themselves again, but what was evident to me was the pleasure that running had given to so many athletes, spectators and joggers. It was wonderful to see youngsters respond to the challenge of veterans and ladies in the race. Everyone helped each other.

This was shown in those marvellous pictures of Gordon Marshall assisting a fellow competitor in the closing stages, as was in the dead-heat arranged for first place. This, for me, was the idea of everyone participating in one event — something which has borne fruit over a good many years in our own 'Mob Matches', and which is exacerbated by the mushrooming of races over the last few years for veterans only.

As for the athletic performances, these are detailed elsewhere in this *Gazette*. Suffice to say that only nine of our 50 runners did not record personal best times. The club championship with this race saw an astonished *Gazette* reporter retain his title after passing Pete Shephard (after all it was a Sunday!), and Graham Martin less than 300 yards from the finish.

Only those three managed to beat Joyce Smith (2:29.56)—the winner of the women's title, although Tim Soutar certainly tried to keep his end up when she passed him near the end.

Even so, these club performances were superb: three under 2.30 for the first time since 1972, and the fastest marathon times by club members since 1973. Another personal best by John Baldwin only served to move him down from 15th to 17th on the Blackheath Harriers 'all-time' list.

Finally, please note next year's provisional date — April 4, 1982, and let Mike Peel know as soon as possible if you intend to run.



Les Roberts: 2:34-54 in the London Marathon.

The Blackheath Harriers' placings and times are shown below. One or two positions are omitted as these were not known at the time of going to press.

How they finished . . .

132	Chris Haines	...	...	2:29-41
135	Peter Shephard	...	...	2:29-47
138	Graham Martin	...	...	2:29-54
148	Tim Soutar	...	...	2:30-12
183	Lyn Atterbury	...	...	2:32-19
218	John Baldwin	...	...	2:33-58
234	Bill Wade	...	...	2:34-40
237	Les Roberts	...	...	2:34-54
250	Brian Swift	...	...	2:35-19
277	Chris Woodcock	...	...	2:36-10
309	Ian Young	...	...	2:37-11
322	John Nash	...	...	2:37-27
324	Dave Nash*	...	...	2:37-32
361	Ian Wilson	...	...	2:38-41
363	Bob Cliff	...	...	2:38-45
418	Mike Peel	...	...	2:40-30
618	Len Tempan*	...	...	2:46-37
641	Roy Savery	...	...	2:47-08
755	Chris Lord	...	...	2:49-42
818	Mike Williams	...	...	2:51-01
844	Steve Cluney	...	...	2:51-49
850	Steve Robinson	...	...	2:51-54
851	Ken Pike	...	...	2:51-55
852	Dave Allen	...	...	2:51-55
875	Keith Whicheloe	...	...	2:52-19
903	Dave Amner	...	...	2:52-58
976	John Kavanagh	...	...	2:54-23
996	Paul B-King	...	...	2:55-03
	Peter Catley	...	...	2:56-40
1201	Mike Reynolds	...	...	2:58-59
1238	Andy Edwards	...	...	2:59-05
1251	Rod Palmer	...	...	2:59-18
1310	Jim Phelan	...	...	3:00-11
1374	Peter Hannell	...	...	3:01-20
1399	John Day	...	...	3:01-58
1412	Fred Johnson	...	...	3:02-17
	Richard Farish	...	...	3:03-00
1512	Mike Harley	...	...	3:04-48
1522	Geoff Crowder	...	...	3:04-55
1546	Tony Nana	...	...	3:05-41
1810	Colin Ferguson	...	...	3:10-39
2227	Gordon Gibbens	...	...	3:18-09
2326	Ron Beale	...	...	3:19-50
2679	Terry Minting**	...	...	3:24-57
2965	Alan Tompkins	...	...	3:28-11
3992	David Popeley	...	...	3:44-26
4311	Henry Martin*	...	...	3:51-10
4801	David Hickman	...	...	3:58-17
	Gordon Monshall	...	...	4:05-00
5791	Terry Mallott	...	...	4:21-08
6012	Jack Braughton	...	...	4:32-21

* Second claim member.

** Mrs. 'R.' Minting.

MIKE SULLY CROSS COUNTRY RACES, BRISTOL

This early season 'classic' run in the grounds of Fry's Chocolate Factory, near Bristol, was blessed with a crisp but cloudless day. Over 500 competitors lined up for the start of the senior race, but the fast grassy circuit soon had them strung out as the stars hit sub-5-minute mile pace.

The race was won by Barry Knight (Torbay) from Steve Jones (Bristol). Our representatives were Richard Coles, Les Roberts and John Powell. Richard and Les finished well to the fore in 12th place (27 minutes 35 seconds) and 38th (28-48) respectively.

John was a little further back in 238th spot having made up a dozen or so places in a scintillating sprint finish which nearly matched Knight's winning effort. In fact he soared into the finishing tunnel with such enthusiasm that the stewards opened an empty channel for him to avoid a 'multiple-runner pile-up'!

In the Youths' race Robert Farish did the club proud with a brilliant run, eventually finishing up in sixth place. His race was won by that unstoppable youngster from way out west, Jonathan Richards (Duchy of Cornwall AC).

March 1, 1981

BOULOGNE 20 km.

By midday on Sunday, during a weekend which on occasion had so nearly threatened disaster, things had blossomed into individual and team triumph. 'L'equipe de Blackheath' — all nine of us — carried off a silver cup as team prize in a competition involving 110 runners.

What's more, the eventual winner turned out to be the 12th ranked distance man in France, with the veterans marathon champion of Flanders (PB 2.28) in third place! In between this pair squeezed, to his great credit, our very own Les Roberts in 65 minutes 41 seconds — one heck of an effort. The course was a hilly and demanding one which wound through a succession of tiny farming communities, before finishing in the village of La Capelle.

There were some fine performances all round, but special mention should go to Keith Whichloe (sixth) and Paul Barrington-King, cough and all, (twelfth). Fighting it out with them came Mick Clements (whose coiffure remained undisturbed by the early morning chill and later showers), and Dave Nash.

On their heels came Blackheath's B team. These included Tony Nana (18th), Mike Williams (19th), Andy Edwards (21st) and Pete Hannell (27th). Andy is particularly indebted to Paul and Keith for the conversation that took place late Saturday night/early Sunday morning. Their words had an apparently unparalleled effect on young Edwards, who later found himself giving an impromptu interview on the race's outcome to the local radio station — 'The Voice of the North'!

On reflection, even those moments when patience was tested grew rosy. Accommodation, though comfortable, required two to a bed. This, plus various background noises of the night, meant everyone was equally shattered come 9.30 am, and the race. (The pure in thought and deed will read that sentence exactly as it was intended).

By general consensus the trip will be remembered for some splendid running, and equally fine food. Next time perhaps we should all wear pullovers like Andy. Maybe that same waiter will think we're an entire SAS unit!

CLUB 10 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

They used to say that it was the jam roly-poly, the suet pudding and spotted dick that spelt the end of many a young 'Heathen's dream of success over the country a generation or two ago. Nowadays the problems have moved onto the custard, up which aching limbs, already having covered six gruelling miles, are persuaded to reach an ever receding summit — only to be faced with the 'north face of the Eiger' only a moment later!

The start from the cafe was no pedestrian affair. The late cyclist, Lest Roberts, took off in hot pursuit of the holder, cross-country oerzeitenfuhrer Tim Soutar, across the common and down 'Fox'. Be-

Overall result (handicap positions shown in parenthesis):

1.	G. Martin	60-40	(3)
2.	L. Roberts	60-49	(10)
3.	J. Baldwin	61-00	(9)
4.	T. Soutar	61-46	(14)
5.	W. Wade	62-19	(4)
6.	I. Young	62-50	(6)
7.	P. Brenchley	63-35	(17)
8.	R. Cliff	63-44	(12)
9.	K. Daniel	64-05	(2)
10.	C. Lord	65-05	(7=)
11.	C. Haines	65-46	(25)
12.	J. Oliver	65-46	(30)
13.	D. White	66-37	(11)
14.	P. Shepheard	67-00	(32)
15.	J. Nash	67-20	(13)
16.	R. Savery	67-35	(7=)
17.	A. Davis	68-01	(21)
18.	R. Palmer	68-11	(16)
19.	R. Richardson	68-16	(35)
20.	D. Allen	68-20	(1)
21.	S. Robinson	31	(5)
22.	F. Johnson	69-05	(15)
23.	G. Crowder	69-38	(26)
24.	J. Hills	70-06	(23)
25.	P. Farrar	70-15	(24)
26.	M. Peel	70-26	(20)
27.	M. Williams	70-55	(19)
28.	P. Hannell	72-17	(27)
29.	A. Calton	72-30	(18)
30.	J. Phelan	73-03	(22)
31.	R. Ebbutt	73-23	(29)
32.	Richard Farish	74-09	(33)
33.	C. Ferguson	74-58	(31)
34.	D. Hopgood	75-31	(—)
35.	R. Chambers	76-59	(36)
36.	P. Hunter	78-53	(27)
37.	P. Critchley	82-18	(28)
38.	F. Dyter	88-05	(38)
39.	D. Tingey	88-19	(34)
40.	C. Brand	89-22	(39)

tween these two and the chasing bunch of 37, Graham Martin filled a lowly third spot.

The pattern at the front end stayed the same for the first two-and-a-half miles, but then in the confusion of straying slightly from the course Tim suffered several deep barbed wire lacerations on his legs, which allowed Les to pedal into the lead.

Graham Martin passed Tim and had caught the leader before Boundary Wood. There ensued a thrilling battle, stride for stride to the very end, when Graham ran out a good winner in a sprint finish.

A rejuvenated and clean-shaven John Baldwin moved through to third and, well down the field after a late start (4 mins. 6 secs.), was not Peter

Shepherd, but Bob Richardson, who looked as though he had had a good Christmas!

The handicapper kept an eye on the race from near the back and did a good job in his second year of his prescribed 19-year stint, allowing Dave Allan a narrow victory.

A glance at the results will show that times change, but not much. Sydney Wooderson won the 'Rowland' in a time well over the hour in post-war years. Indeed, 60 minutes is still a good time today for our 11-mile ten! Only nine 'Heathens, led by Richard Coles (57 mins. 23 secs. in 1975), have ever broken the hour. As for the size of the field, the average over the past six years is 38 runners, whilst back in 1967, 45 finished. Can we beat that in 1982?

March 28/29/30, 1981

WELLINGTON RELAYS, OSTEND, 1980

On Saturday, March 28, a party of 17 Blackheath Harriers assembled at Bromley South station to travel to the Wellington Relays, in Belgium. The Channel crossing was very calm, so we arrived in good spirits at Ostend. Old acquaintances were rekindled with the other British teams competing all staying in one hotel (was that wise)? Everyone attempted to get some sleep — some succeeded, but not all!

The morning of the race day was overcast as we went to survey the course, but as the day went on the weather improved.

Arriving at the course in the afternoon the crowd was swelling the grandstand to capacity with a Cup Final atmosphere. Junior races passed and then the ladies race which was won spectacularly by our neighbours, Bromley Ladies A.C.

Eventually the time for the main race arrived and the teams paraded before the crowd. Blackheath got off to a bad start: Martin Carroll was bumped and barged and finished about half-way down the field of 60 teams.

We gradually pulled up, however, but a mix-up on one of our change-overs cost us dearly. Our middle-distance runners consolidated our position, although the leaders were well ahead, leaving us to fight for the lower placings. Bob Pinson, on the penultimate leg, had to negotiate a sharp hairpin turn during his 300 metres leg, leaving the 'glory' leg to our star long jumper, Bob Weaver. He crossed the line in a creditable 10th place.

A fine performance was put up by our youngsters, Robert Farish, Malcolm Cannon, Paul 'The Frog' Austridge, and Ray Wright. It was a satisfactory result, but with Aldershot and Surrey AC finishing just in front it was a little disappointing.

All the teams returned to the hotel afterwards, then it was on the town for the night with few — if any — members getting much sleep! A tour of the town in the morning by some sleepy-eyed athletes was followed by lunch and everyone packing for the trip home.

On the way back we enjoyed another calm crossing and we were all safely back at Bromley by 8.15 p.m.

Blackheath Team: Martin Carroll, Malcolm Cannon, Richard Lyston, Trevor Llewelyn, Robert Farish, John Wilkinson, Bill Foster, Gerry Blessing, Ray Wright, Paul Austridge, Bob Pinson, Bob Weaver.

Right: Another of our young hopefuls, Allen Hartley.

RESULTS

February 7, 1981

SOUTHERN COUNTIES VETERANS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

40-49 age group: 1, T. Davies (Aldershot), 36 minutes 20 seconds; 2, J. Baldwin, 36-50; 27, J. Clare, 39-30; 31, A. Davies 39-42; 78, J. Kavanagh, 41-39; 112, G. Crowder, 43-15; 125, J. Hills, 43-48; 161, G. Gibbens, 45-54; 168, R. Beale, 46-28; 174, R. Chambers, 46.43; 190, D. Hoggood, 47-51.

50-plus age group: 1, A. Ball; 68, P. Critchley; 70, J. Braughton; 72, F. Dyter.

February 14, 1981

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS, TRENT PARK

Boys: 1, Tonbridge 62 pts; 34, Blackheath 579. Youths: 1, Elliotts, 12 pts; 23, Blackheath, 484. Senior: Aldershot, 203 pts; 11, Blackheath, 618.

March 11, 1981

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS SCHOOLS RACE

3rd win: 1, A. Guilder (Howard School), 18.06; 2, R. Farish (L.P.) 18.19; 8, S. Searby (St. D.) 18.58; 10, S. Thompson (St. D.) 19.02; 19, A. Suckling (Ravensburne) 19.57; 24, M. Colpus (St. D.) 20.08; 34, G. Paice (Trinity) 20.24; 74, D. Blackman (St. D.) 21.32.

1. Skimmers, 26 pts (Parrish Cup); 3, St. Dunstan's College, 72 pts (Rags Trophy).

March 14, 1981

CLOSING '5'

1, J. Phelan; 3, D. Allen; 4, A. Calton (Jnr.); 5, B. Stone; 6, A. Calton (Snr.); 7, B. Saxton; 8, I. Young; 9, W. Wade; 10, P. Critchley; 11, M. Peel; 12, R. Wright; 13, A. Tompkins; 14, D. Tingey; 15, C. Brand; 16, P. Hunter; 17, G. Wright; 18, C. Haines; 19, R. Farish (Snr.); 20, G. Butlin; 21, J. Baldwin; 22, I. Smith; 23, P. Farrar; 24, W. Lake; 25, T. Mallott; 26, R. Cliff; 27, J. Bennett.



March 7, 1981

**NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PARLIAMENT HILL**

Senior: 25, R. Coles; 338, I. Wilson; 365, I. Young; 388, K. Daniel; 400, B. Cliff; 524, B. Swift; 591, G. Martin; 611, M. Athawes. 1679 started, 1546 finished. Teams: 33, Blackheath 2040 pts.

Junior: 264, S. Searby; 301, R. Wright; 417, R. Head. 534 started.

Youths: 164, S. Thompson; 255, S. Roberts; 287, I. Ketchin; 377, D. Searby; 450, M. Colpus; 457, G. Fernandes. 652 started. Teams: 46, Blackheath, 1083 pts.

March 20, 1981

ORION '15'

D. Horton (Harlow), 1-36.20; 8, D. Wade, 1-40.10; 29, A. Davis, 1-45.26; 52, M. Peel, 1-50.05; 67, R. Palmer, 1-53.51; 97, P. Hannell, 2-04.16; 127, C. Brand, 2-38.14. 141 started, (21 teams). Blackheath finished 6th.

March 22, 1981

**BLACKHEATH WINTER TRACK AND FIELD
MEETING, CRYSTAL PALACE**

Boys: 1, M. Hale, 14.3; 4, R. Reid, 15.1; 4th Race: A. Brett, 14.7. Youths 100m.: 4, C. Fovargue, 12.6. Seniors 100m (3rd race): 3, R. Lyston 12.0. Seniors 600m. (race 1): 4, T. Llewelyn, 1-22.29; 7, D. Cocker, 1-26.8. Youths 300m. (race 2): 6, D. Taylor, 42.2; Race 4, 5, S. Bibby 44.1; Race 5, 1, C. Fovargue 41.5. Boys 600m. (race 2): 5, A. Calton, 1-01.3. Seniors 3000m. (race 2): 9, D. White 9-28.6. Seniors 300m. (race 3): 3, D. Cocker, 38.0; 4, M. Carroll, 38.1. Senior long jump: 6, P. Davies, 5.74. Boys 1000m. (race 1): 2, J. Adams, 2-58.2; 3, M. Bignell, 3-00.0; race 2, 3, S. Dick 3-10.0; 5, P. Davis, 3-15.4. Youths 1000m (race 3): 3, A. Calton, 3-28.1. Junior 1000m.: 1, R. Head, 2-45.9; 2, G. Denham, 2-49.4. 2000m Steeplechase: 3, J. Wilkinson, 6-08.5; 4, T. Soutar, 6-19.8; 8, A. Frankish, 6-54.7. Senior Pole Vault: 1, P. Aubrey, 3.80; 3, J. Day 2.80. Senior Javelin: 4, T. Mason, 47.68. Junior Javelin: 3, D. Brand, 49.46.

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Gaps in a training session, perhaps (9); 7. Might (8); 10. Long jump landing area (3); 13. Club championship figure! (3); 14. A pre-race state of mind? (7); 15. A force needed by all athletes (6); 18. A training vehicle? (5); 19. Forwards one's name for a race meeting, perhaps(6); 24. On your marks . . . (3, 2); 26. A special doctor over 40 (abr'vn.) (3); 28. Stadium; 30. Athlete; 33. You might secure your number with this (3); 34. Harlow, to name but one (8); 35. Even non-athletes must do this to survive! (3); 36. Blackheath Harriers position of honour (abr'vn.) (3); 37. Kit Carrier? (3); 38. Usually the last event (5); 41. Great magazines! (8); 44. Athletics clothing (3); 45. Blackheath have a strong one in the British League (4); 46. Initials of a famous marathon runner (2); 47. Not a final (4); 48. A steady, well-? run (5); 49. Athlete's doctor? (abr'vn.) (6); 50. Slats (5); 51. Field events athlete (7).

Down: A very high-class athlete (13); 2. Teens (5); 3. What a track athlete loves to do (3); 4. What we breathe (3); 5. Good runners never are! (4); 6. Famous initials! (3); 8. A record finish? (4); 9. Space between two runners, perhaps (3); 11. Where we'd all like to be in the rankings (3); 12. This is vital to stay fit (8); 16. Start time of an annual Surrey marathon (4); 17. A competition (4); 20. Squad (4); 21. The back of a race? (4); 22. Weight-lifter? (9); 23. An athlete always aims to — the opposition (4); 24. Marks, —, go! (3); 25. A starter's vital piece of equipment (3); 27. Kent (6); 29. A fast sponsor! (7) 31. Famous javelin thrower (6); 32. What we could all do with after a hard session! (4); 39. There are 25 in the longest track event (4); 40. 'Shackled' without the old hut! (3); 42. A track-suit fastener, perhaps (3); 43. An event nothing to do with being gunned down! (4); 45. The Hogs Back, Herne Hill, Camberley, etc. (3).

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'HEATH DOUBLE BID GATHERS STRENGTH

With the British League track and field season less than one month away, the rumblings at Blackheath Harriers suggest that life may not be too easy for their rival clubs in division four.

Having gained promotion from the Southern League two years ago, then taken the British League fifth division championship last year, the Hayes-based club are still not content to let ambition rest.

"Provided we don't get hit by a crop of injuries it should be between ourselves. Aldershot and Leeds for the two places to go up," captain Andy Frankish said.

"And we do have hopes of reaching the final of the GRE Cup for the first time ever," he added.

The air of confidence has sprung out of the close-season developments which have brought a number of star competitors to the fringe of Blackheath's team.

As reported way back in December, both sprinter Steve Green—a post-Olympic conqueror of Allan Wells — and pole vaulter Allan Williams are awaiting the completion of transfers to Blackheath.

While there is a chance that Green may be eligible for league action before the completion of the four-match series, Williams is unlikely to beat the nine-month suspension which would not make him available until August.

But they should be free to line-up in the GRE Cup August semi-final and the final in September if Blackheath qualify.

Frankish commented: "Assuming we have Steve and Allan clear — which we should — we should have a hope of reaching the final."

But, of more immediate impact could be the decision of 1978 Commonwealth Games javelin bronze medallist, Peter Yates, to join Blackheath.

The club announced this week that the 23-year-old field events all-rounder had moved up to London from Exeter Harriers and that his transfer was likely to go through at the next Southern Counties AAA meeting.

He might have chosen a division one club, such

as Harringey, but selected Blackheath. "I'd much rather be in a position where I can help a club progress up the league rather than pitch in straight at the top," he said.

Yates is currently tuning up in Hungary under the guidance of his coach, Miklos Nemeth, 1976 Olympic champion and former world record holder.

Another exciting addition to the Blackheath squad is decathlete Graeme Watson, who may be eligible to compete in the league if his former club, Polytechnic Harriers, lodge no objection to his move.

Watson was fourth in the Edmonton Commonwealth Games and his bests include 10.6 seconds for 100m, 48.6 for 400m, 7.25m. for long jump and 14.33m. for shot.

With the retirement from the sport of Geoff Capes, Blackheath now have the country's top shot putter in Mike Winch. He has proved a leading light in Blackheath's return to top flight athletics.

Some proof of the club's determination to succeed can be gathered from the case of high jumper Peter Brooks. He will be busy in his homeland of Jersey but will be flown over by Blackheath for league fixtures when needed.

Other areas in which Blackheath have been strengthened are in the sprints, through Andy Cornaby, and the discus, with 17-year-old Kevin Horne.

Cornaby was a 10.6 man over 100m. before he gave up the sport five years ago, while Horne, fourth in the English Schools intermediate discus last year, is capable of 42.00m. with the senior implement.

Blackheath's league programme is as follows: May 9 (Leeds AC hosts), June 6 (Woodford Green hosts), July 11 (Bristol AC hosts), July 25 (Aldershot hosts).

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BEST CLUB PERFORMANCES 1980

100 Metres (11.8)

11.0	R. Lyston	Aldershot	May 24
11.0	N. Lambert	Copenhagen	June 18
11.0	P. Ashen	Erith	July 20
11.1	R. Pinson	Cwmbram	June 28
11.3	E. Chambers	Crystal Palace	May 17

200 Metres (24.4)

22.4	P. Ashen	Windsor	June 7
22.6	R. Pinson	Cwmbram	June 28
22.7	R. Lyston	Cwmbram	June 28
22.8	E. Chambers	Crystal Palace	May 18
22.8	D. Lazaro	Crystal Palace	May 17

400 Metres (51.2)

49.0	J. Spooner	Oxford	Aug. 23
49.0	N. Brooks	Cwmbram	June 28
49.5	J. Salmon	Reading	Aug. 25
50.1	T. Llewelyn	Crystal Palace	June 1
51.3	D. Cocker	Crystal Palace	May 17

800 Metres (1.59.8)

1.47.1	N. Brooks	Knoxville	Apr. 11
1.47.8	J. Spooner	Knoxville	Apr. 11
1.53.8	J. Wilkinson	Oxford	Aug. 23
1.54.4	R. Wright	Kirby	July 11
1.54.5	W. Foster	Windsor	May 3

1500 Metres (4.02.5)

3.53.0	W. Foster	Cosford	Jan. 25
3.58.1	R. Coles	Crystal Palace	May 17
3.58.2	R. Farish	Lincoln	July 20
3.59.3	J. Spooner	Cwmbram	June 28
4.03.4	J. Wilkinson	Cwmbram	Aug. 10

3000 Metres (9.00.0)

8.20.7	R. Coles	Crystal Palace	Mar. 23
8.23.4	W. Foster	Cosford	Feb. 16
8.51.8	P. German	Sandhurst	May 28
8.55.0	M. Athawes	Ladywell	Apr. 20
8.55.0	P. Brenchley	Deangate	May 31

5000 Metres (15.24.0)

14.15.4	R. Coles	Crystal Palace	July 5
15.04.0	J. Baldwin	Windsor	June 7
15.06.4	P. German	Ladywell	June 11
15.07.3	L. Roberts	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
15.12.5	M. Athawes	Ladywell	June 11

10,000 Metres

29.52.4	R. Coles	West London	Apr. 9
32.02.0	L. Roberts	Beckenham	July 16
32.21.9	I. Wilson	Crystal Palace	June 1
32.44.0	M. Athawes	Beckenham	July 16
33.10.9	C. Woodcock	Erith	May 24

110 Metres Hurdles

15.8	D. Adkins	Enfield	Aug. 16
15.8	M. Carroll	Cwmbram	June 28
15.9	I. Simmons	Cwmbram	June 28
16.0	J. Pyman	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
17.1	I. Holder	Croydon	July 16

400 Metres Hurdles (3' 0")

55.6	M. Carroll	Crystal Palace	June 1
56.7	P. Brooks	Oxford	Aug. 23
57.6	J. Wilkinson	Windsor	May 3
59.0	P. Austridge*	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
59.9	I. Simmons	Ladywell	July 2

*56.3 (2' 9")

3000 Metres Steeplechase

9.29.9	A. Frankish	Crystal Palace	May 17
9.31.5	R. Cliff	Aldershot	May 24
9.32.2	T. Soutar	Cwmbram	July 28
9.43.1	G. Giles	Windsor	June 7
10.07.2	L. Roberts	Haringey	June 22

High Jump (1.70)

2.15	T. Foulger	Aldershot	May 24
2.10	T. Llewelyn	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
2.01	P. Brooks	Ladywell	July 2
1.90	M. Cannon	Crystal Palace	May 18
1.83	G. Mitchell	Crystal Palace	May 17

Long Jump (5.92)

7.03	R. Weaver	Cwmbram	June 28
6.73	G. Mitchell	Tenterden	June 14
6.61	P. Brooks	Enfield	Aug. 16
6.57	I. Simmons	Crystal Palace	May 18
6.47	D. O'Connor	Enfield	Aug. 16

Pole Vault (2.50)

3.70	P. Aubrey	Windsor	June 14
3.20	J. Wakeman	Cwmbram	Aug. 10
3.20	J. Day	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
3.00	N. Latchem	Windsor	May 3
3.00	P. Davies	Oxford	Aug. 23

Triple Jump (12.48)

13.61	P. Brooks	Enfield	Aug. 16
13.60	P. Davies	Enfield	Aug. 16
13.57	N. Burrows	Ladywell	June 18
12.88	M. Carroll	Cwmbram	June 28
12.61	D. O'Connor	Ladywell	June 18

Shot Putt

19.11	M. Winch	Carshalton	June 18
12.88	T. Walhen	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
12.68	C. Ellis	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
10.69	R. Harradine	Windsor	June 7
10.65	D. Brand	Enfield	Aug. 16

Javelin (41.14)

62.74	C. Hodder	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
56.56	R. Harradine	Crystal Palace	June 1
53.74	C. Morris	Aldershot	May 24
50.94	T. Mason	Enfield	Aug. 16
48.44	C. Brand	Enfield	Aug. 16

Hammer

50.26	M. Winch	Crystal Palace	June 1
39.88	T. Walhen	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
37.86	C. Ellis	Cwmbram	Aug. 10
31.48	D. Gray	Enfield	Aug. 16
21.26	C. Brand	Croydon	July 19

Discus

54.62	M. Winch	Cwmbram	June 28
44.22	C. Ellis	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
38.42	T. Walhen	Crystal Palace	Oct. 5
30.74	D. Gray	West London	May 3
27.82	C. Brand	Croydon	July 19

REMINDER

Have you signed the President's book yet ?

LOOKING BACK 50 YEARS AGO . . .

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

AND

Club



Record.

"Perfer et Obdura"

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CROSS COUNTRY.

(62nd Season, 1930-31).

HEADQUARTERS:

Saturdays: The Club Headquarters,
Station Road, Hayes, Kent.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: The Pavilion,
Private Banks' Ground, Catford Bridge.

LIST OF FIXTURES—1931

- MAR. 7—LLOYDS & BARCLAYS, at Hayes.
SEVENOAKS SCHOOL (away).
BRIGHTON COLLEGE (away).
- " 14—**National C.C.C.**
INTER-SCHOOL RACE, at Hayes.
• ARDINGLY COLLEGE (away).
• UPPINGHAM SCHOOL (away).
- " 20—ANNUAL DINNER, Waldorf Hotel, 7 p.m.
- " 21—JOHNSON BOWL, 7 miles Walking Race, at
Hayes, and SEALED HANDICAP.
INFORMAL DANCE.
- " 28—*FIVE MILES HANDICAP and Closing Run

Notices.

ANNUAL DINNER at the WALDORF HOTEL

The Dinner will be held at the Waldorf
Hotel, Aldwych, W.C. 2, at 7 p.m., on

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th.

Please reserve this date and do your utmost
to assist to make this fixture a success by
writing to me early for as many tickets as
possible. Tickets are 10 6 each.

F. W. PARKER, *Hon. Social Secretary*,
60, Talbot Road, Highgate, N.6.

This old *Gazette* front page will bring back memories to some of our more senior members. It is the cover to the March, 1931 issue, which was published almost 50 years ago to the day.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

All club members are reminded that subscriptions are renewable every September. There are still a large number of subscriptions overdue. If you have not yet paid your sub's. to the Hon. Treasurer, you should do so without further delay.

Subscription rates are as follows :

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