



"Perfer et Obdura"

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: J. V. Powell, 76 The Grove, North Cray, Sidcup, Kent. Telephone 01-302 4734 (H) or 01-227 3285 (W).

Assistant Editor (Winter): P. G. Stenning, 79 Daneby Road, London, S.E.6. Telephone 01-698 6546.

Assistant Editor (Summer): I. G. W. Friend, 45 Courtlands Avenue, Hayes, Kent. Telephone 01-462 3614.

Treble dream comes true ONE, TWO, THREE, UP!

What a triple jump! Three teams in league competition, and three teams promoted, what a season! The track and field section have really excelled this year to give us one of the best spells of Athletic success in our history.

However, clearly it was our first team who went up yet again in the British League, this time to division three, who have held most people's interest this year, and here, track and field captain **ANDY FRANKISH** gives us a blow by blow account on how we did it. . . .

An overcast, drizzly day in Yorkshire heralded Blackheath's return to the fourth division of the British League after an absence of nine years. A weakened team — without 14 of our potential squad — arrived without the expectation of a win, but with the hope of being close enough to suggest future successes.

On the track the only winner was 16-year-old Paul Austridge in the B 400m hurdles. This was his first team debut. He timed 57.4 secs.



Andy Frankish.

Other good performances came from John Wilkinson, narrowly third in the 800m. A race in a personal best of 1-52.9, and Martin Carroll — second in the 110m. hurdles B in 16.1 secs.

In the field events the perfor-

mances were considerably better, although the absence of Mike Winch (coaching in New Zealand) was noticeable in the A string throws.

British international Peter Yates, on his debut for Blackheath, had an outstanding day. He won the javelin with 76.58m, the B string discus in 42.74, and the B string shot in 13.19m.

In the end we finished fourth, only 25 points behind the winners, the home club Leeds City, and came away with the feeling that although we had little danger of relegation we still had a lot of work to do to gain promotion!

Four weeks on and the team appeared at Woodford. Our squad then bore little resemblance to the side that finished fourth in Leeds. We were strengthened by the return of international Mike Winch, Trevor Llewelyn, Nick Brooks, and by the inclusion of new signing, decathlete Buster Watson.

What a different story on the track this time! In the sprints we took maximum points for the

continued on page 15

INSIDE . . .
English Schools round-up
All the league news

Also . . .
Young athletes focus
Full results summary
. . . and all the latest news and views

PRESIDENT

What a great year this has been to be President of Blackheath Harriers! As I write we are promoted to division three of the British League as champions, we look set for our B team to go up to division two of the Southern League, and our C team are almost assured of a place in division five, being the only undefeated team in division six with one match, at home, to come.

Our A team are looking confidently ahead to the GRE Cup semi-final. These successes have

in part come from, and in part contribute to, the strong club spirit that exists in our track and field teams. In eight years Andy Frankish has brought us a long way.

Our younger teams, despite the continued forebodings of Andy and John Powell, have held their own in their new leagues. It seems we will finish in the first three of the first division of the Boys and Colts League of Kent, while in the National Young

continued opposite

EDITORIAL

The heartbreak story of the season this summer must surely be that of Paul Ashen in the English Schools Championships, held at Yeovil, in July. It really wasn't his year!

First, he was overlooked by the English Schools selectors for the home international, in Dublin, the previous week, and then—after his disqualification in Yeovil, despite his 11.0 seconds being the fastest time in the competition—he was still not selected for the English Schools team for the Euro-nations schools cup the following week!

It was therefore poetic justice that he was selected a few days later to compete for the England under-20 side in Edinburgh, in the 'Bells' international between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Surely this was also the ultimate snub to the English Schools selectors, Paul having been selected in preference to Lincoln Asquith, who in turn was selected in preference to Paul for the schools match in Birmingham?

It was generally accepted at the time that it was completely irresponsible of the English Schools selection board that Paul Ashen, the fastest for his age in the United Kingdom over 100 metres this year, be omitted from the England team bound for Dublin. However, it was surely the ultimate blunder when they overlooked him again from the team to compete in the Euro-nations cup, in Birmingham, a week after the English Schools event.

Despite his unfortunate disqualification in that championship Paul still ran the fastest time

over the two days in his age group and therefore it would have been logical for him to have been selected at least for the 4 x 100m sprint relay team.

But no, the English Schools selectors, blinkered as they always are, stuck to their favourite regulars and chose the same people who had run in Dublin the previous week.

Athletics at this level in schools can be damaging enough, but selection blunders like this are disgraceful.

The Wednesday following the English Schools championships, Paul received a visitation at his home in Mottingham. Andy Norman, from the Southern Counties AAA was calling: "Can you run for England this weekend?" he said. "We need a 'B' string sprinter for the England team in Edinburgh on Saturday!"

An astonished, albeit delighted Paul, of course accepted and it was later revealed that he had been selected for the AAA England team in preference to Lincoln Asquith, who of course had previously been selected in preference to Paul for the schools under-18 squad.

Selection inconsistencies such as these can only serve to discourage young athletes at this level—and what a vital level it is too. We have all heard about the huge drop-out rate at the age of 16 or thereabouts, and things like this do not exactly help to curtail that loss.

I strongly believe the English Schools is a very damaging event for a very large number of top athletes at schools level. So many athletes train so hard during their last winter at school during their

fifth year, that only first will do when they reach the English Schools.

They do not realise that second and third, albeit silver and bronze and not gold medals, are still very high levels of achievement. Enthusiasm wanes, determination lessens, and valuable, talented athletes are lost for good.

It is a great pity that events such as the AAA under-20 championships are over-shadowed by events like the English Schools, because it is at these meetings that athletes, under far less pressure than they are at the schools meetings, can perform to their optimum and be satisfied with much less.

A full round-up on results from this year's English Schools championships can be found elsewhere in this Gazette. However, I would like to congratulate all those Blackheath Harriers who took part in this year's championships on a very high level of achievement, although no golds were forthcoming.

Many were disappointed at the overall Blackheath showing at Yeovil, but let every young athlete who competes in an English Schools championship in the future remember the Olympic slogan: the most important thing is not to win, but to take part! If more youngsters could remember this slogan, surely the standard of athletics in Great Britain would be far higher than it is today?

The front page of this Gazette is devoted to the brilliant effort of the Blackheath first team this year in British League division four. It was truly a magnificent achievement, despite their shaky start in the first match, to clinch promotion for the third successive year, to British League, division three.

My congratulations to the whole track section on a marvellous effort—may it continue into next year and future years, until we are back in Division 1, where we really belong!

Congratulations too, to the second and third teams who both clinched promotion in the Southern League. Special congratulations must go to Roger Ebbutt, who in his first year of team management, helped in no small way the third team in their promotion year.

Next year our first team will have to work very hard indeed in Division three, but with a little effort surely Division two cannot be out of our reach.

continued from page 2

Athletes League Eastern premier division, we have finished mid-table.

This was despite some who have not behaved as we would wish of club members. I refer to those who fail to turn up without giving any notice. Unfortunately such selfish people are unlikely to read this, as they do not appreciate being joint members of a great club. Fortunately, in sharp contrast, we have the example of the more numerous young members who offered to double up, often in events totally foreign to them, so that we could still pick up every point possible.

It seems a long time ago that 'Marathon Fever' hit London and 50 members ran, and finished, in that great procession. What a proud sight for 'heathens with our runners spread out, not always very far behind the leaders, through the field. The first three in our Marathon Championship were even shown on TV as they finished!

Since then several "fun runners" (aren't we all?) and "joggers" (that's me again!) have joined us, some with diffidence, but soon learning that all we ask of any member is to enjoy their membership and participate in club life. Marathon running may have deflected some of our cross-country efforts but still, though we are in a quiet period, our entwined squares are usually quite well-placed over the country.

There have been other sources of good news this year. First we welcome a physical therapist, Bob Cuthbert (L.C.S.P. (Assoc.) M.F. Phys), a regular Wednesday-nighter with advice and treatment to all, and travelling with the A team to their matches. Second, we have the new Chevron track in Norman Park which, despite our nagging at the Council over the years, we had little to do with before its arrival. However, we seem now to have established a link in Council minds of Blackheath Harriers with Norman Park. Already club championship evenings have become re-established as real club evenings with very good support from members participating, and a growing number of spectators who have seen some very competitive finals (and heats) with many good performances.

As a one-time 440 yard runner I will be excused mentioning as outstanding among these championships the Youths 400 metres,

a very closely contested in-depth race at a very high standard. No less competitive was the 'impromptu' hopping challenge race over thirty metres by two of our internationals, who at the time each had a leg ham-strung!

It is, I hope, obvious to all that to run our club is expensive, of cash and officials time; but it is certainly very pleasing to see how tremendously members respond in both these areas. It is fortunate most do not take for granted what is provided and it is on this that our strength is based. We must however never be complacent; we can never have enough money, we can never have enough officials. Of immediate concern in the former category we have a need of £2000 to re-wire the clubhouse, while in the latter we seek a new general secretary, a cross-country secre-

tary and a track vice-captain to look after the B team.

That we are successful as a club can be seen at all our fixtures, be it on a track in Yorkshire or Avon, in the mud of Parliament Hill, on the streets of the Isle of Dogs, or at a supper on a 200 Group draw night. Our results as an athletic force are open to inspection.

However, as with an individual, the club will only maintain its standing by careful preparation and hard work, by deriving pleasure and seeking new challenges, by being determined to do better next time.

So I shall rewrite my opening sentence: "What a great year this has been to be Blackheath Harriers," but next year will be better if we stay involved and continue to have fun. Finally, remember there is not much time left to Sign my book.—I.F.S.

Paul and Robert are pride of England

Our Dublin experience

- by Robert Farish

The week-end began on the Friday at Euston station. Everyone nervously eyed each other as the majority of us were total strangers.

The journey went smoothly though, and once we had arrived at Blackbrock College, in Dublin, events slotted into the usual well-planned schedule for which such meetings are renowned.

We were all matched with our respective hosts in a rather unnering little ceremony, and were taken back to our 'digs.'

It is common for competition teams to compare their hosts with others they had stayed with in previous years, and I must confess that my hosts in Dublin gave me the warmest reception I have ever had!

At 9.30 a.m. on the Saturday morning we were taken back to the college — a mere 4½ hours before the first event!

The time passed somehow, and by 1.30 p.m. we actually arrived at the track.

In fact, I found the whole mood of the meeting far more relaxed than the English Schools Championships, which was to follow a week later.

Paul Austridge was narrowly beaten in the 400 metres hurdles



Paul Austridge

Picture: Croydon Advertiser

by an Irish boy, Fergus Sixsmith, who he later discovered (through reports in the local press the following day) to be the Irish team captain, and their hero of the day.

I won the 1500 metres and England took all the team honours by massive margins.

The day was rounded off with a rather long drawn-out meal, complete with its full quota of speeches. Finally, and well overdue, came the disco.

I enjoyed the trip immensely and I am sure everyone else who took part did as well.

SOUTHERN ATHLETICS LEAGUE '81

We had missed promotion last year by half a point in division three after a disastrous start, and were determined not to suffer the same fate this year.

The season opened on May 2, at Walton, and this resulted in a comfortable win over the home club.

Four weeks later, and a much tougher match at Crystal Palace, saw team hero Danny O'Connor help us clinch victory over Essex with his final attempt in the triple jump!

The third match took place at Bournemouth seven days after that, and the pressures of fielding three teams for the first time ever in one week-end showed as the team struggled to fourth place. Sterling work by Peter Brookes and Tony Maltby could not hide weaknesses in other areas.



Bob Pinson—he helped our B-team this year with fast sprinting but later graduated to the first team.

All the news on our promotion treble challenge this year

Half the season had now gone and we were still in the top five! Round four was at Cophall Stadium, Hendon. There, it was the field events which saved the day.

Personal bests for Kevin Horne in the discus, and Daryl Brand in the javelin, and wins for Peter Brookes, Nick Latcham and Jim Day proved invaluable. The match was, overall, a good win and a consolidation of our position.

The penultimate fixture took place at Windsor, and the team was strengthened by the inclusion of Chris Ellis who, in a tactical switch, was moved down from the first team. This worked perfectly, as he achieved personal bests in both the shot and hammer, while Kevin Horne backed him up well to clinch maximum points in the shot and discus.

The match yielded a comfortable victory, leaving us needing only second place in the last match to ensure promotion.

The final match took us back to Cophall and another comfortable victory. The star performer on this occasion was John Shaw, on his debut for the club, winning the 100m. B race in 11.4 secs, the 200m. A race in 22.5 secs, and running the first leg of the winning 4 x 400m. relay in 50.4 secs. James Cunningham again won the pole vault and Kevin Horne the discus. Peter Brookes again performed sterling work in the field and over the hurdles.

The final outcome was a secure fourth place in the division and promotion. All credit to Kevin Horne, the only person to compete in all six fixtures and to the high points totals scored by Peter Brookes and Ian Holder.

Match Results: May 2 (Walton): 1, Blackheath; 2, Walton; 3, Bexley; 4, Twickenham; 5, Oxford B. May 30 (Crystal Palace): 1, Blackheath; 2, Essex Beagles B; 3, Bedford B; 4, West Suffolk; 5, Tonbridge. June 6 (Bournemouth): 1, Bournemouth; 2, Dartford; 3, Sutton and Cheam; 4, Blackheath; 5, Eastbourne. June 27 (Cophall): 1, Blackheath; 2, Southampton B; 3, Victoria Park; 4, Hurlingham; 5, Highgate B. July 25 (Windsor): 1, Blackheath; 2, Enfield B; 3, Haslemere; 4, Horsham; 5, Windsor B. August 15 (Cophall): 1, Blackheath; 2, Barnet, Stevenage; 4, Diss; 5, Worthing.



Ray Ward—one of our most improved under-20 400-metre athletes this year.

... and on to the third team

On May 2 a new chapter in Blackheath Harriers' history began. A third league team was representing the club. Fourteen members set off for Clacton, unaware what was in store.

We arrived to find that nothing was ready to start on time, so under the careful guidance and arm bending of team manager Roger Ebbutt, nearly all the team slots were filled.

Roger Ebbutt led the way by competing in no fewer than eight events, while Colin Brand competed in all the throwing events. In the end, we emerged comfortable winners.

May 30, at Alderhot, was a very close competition with local team rivals Herne Hill. We won by a single point after Herne Hill were disqualified in the 4 x 400m. relay!

Our team gave another good all-round performance, with a welcome return to club athletics by Tony Maltby.

continued on page 15

YOUNG ATHLETES FOCUS

After a season of immense success last year when Blackheath's young athletes reached the National Young Athletes League runners-up final, 1981 has provided us with mixed fortunes.

Our track and field teams appeared considerably weaker than last year on paper, but new recruits boosted our strength no end and we again held the potential to do very well this summer.

However, this was not to be, and although I don't want to mar what has obviously been a magnificent summer season for the club as a whole, it must be said that our failings have been quite unnecessary.

We finished mid-table in the National Young Athletes League Eastern premier division, but it could have been far better. In fact we could have been relegated if we had suffered as disastrous a result in our final match, at Croydon, as we did a few weeks before at Enfield.

It was indeed a sorry situation throughout the year as a small group of our youngsters continually failed to show.

To be fair, we were also hit badly in most of our matches by the non-availability of our star athletes, Paul Ashen, Robert Farish, Paul Austridge, and the injured Robin Ashdown, but the increased pressure put on our B string athletes and reserves by additional, unnecessary absenteeism was a poor reflection on club standards.

Much work is put into every individual fixture by many people—almost a hundred phone calls on occasions are made by various people for one match alone—and it really is very demoralising to all concerned, including the team who do turn up, if let-downs such as these happen.

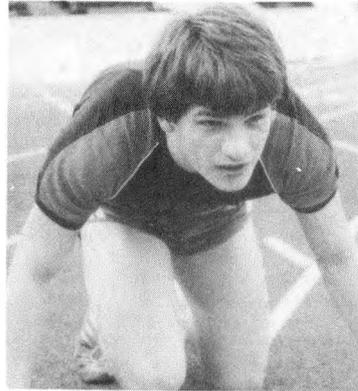
So for next year, let's make a real effort to co-operate with the team manager and secretary and let him or her know in good time if you are unable to compete.

Our National League campaign began this year at a very windy and wet Thurrock track, in Essex.

This turned out to be one of the closest meetings of the season, with Blackheath ending up third of the four competing teams. Essex and Thurrock tied for first place with us only just behind.

The most memorable feature of this match had to be the relay leg, run by Youths 4 x 100 metres anchor man, Paul Ashen. The

A comprehensive review of the young athletes scene so far this year by the Editor of the Blackheath Harriers Gazette.



Paul Ashen—one of our most outstanding young athletes this year.

wind dropped as he switched into overdrive up the home straight to more than cancel out a 15 metre lead held by Thurrock.

The Blackheath representation there at the time could not help grinning as an astonished Thurrock sprinter watched him flash past!

Our second meeting took us to nearby Croydon where we were able to field a fairly strong team and dismiss all the opposition. We won the match comfortably.

That first place took us into fifth place in the league, but our feet were pulled firmly back to ground in our third clash, at Wimbledon Park.

Brighton and Herne Hill provided the main opposition there and it was clear from the start who was going to take the pace.

Brighton led almost all afternoon and emerged handsome winners, but a terrific come-back after an appalling start took us into second spot for a while, ahead of the mighty Herne Hill.

The sprint relays let us down though, and we eventually had to be content with third place again, although only by a few points.

Our real disaster of the year came at Enfield. This was our crunch match with three of the best clubs in the division, and it was generally accepted beforehand that with a full-strength squad we would do exceptionally well to finish second or third.

However, it was for this match—of all matches—that we were let down by a number of our top athletes, some not even indicating before the day of their unavailability.

Our consequently much-weakened teams were crushed by very tough opposition and finished last of the four clubs by over 100 points.

Our slide down the table had gathered momentum after this defeat and relegation was not altogether out of the question. We needed third place or better in our final fixture, home at Croydon, to be sure of staying up.

Thankfully, the opposition was slightly easier there, and we scored more than the necessary points to stay up. We finished second to Crawley AC—but here again we would have won with ease had some athletes not let us down at very short notice!

The highlight of this meeting was the Youths 4 x 400 metres relay. Our squads had been nibbling away at the club record during the earlier stages of the season, but this time they smashed the old record out of sight.

Their 3 minutes 35.5 seconds took almost five seconds off the old mark. Our team was (in order of running) Paul Austridge, Robert Farish, Duncan Motagalli, and Robin Ashdown. Robin clocked the fastest split time of 53.5 seconds.

Our other league competition, involving just the Boys and Colts, had not finished as the *Gazette* went to press. However, it was fairly clear after our penultimate fixture that we were heading for a probable second place in the overall competition in division one of the Boys and Colts League of Kent.

Our opening fixture at Deangate in May thankfully saw Blackheath arrive on time, and on the right day! Last year our youngsters may recall a very pleasant, but totally unnecessary drive though the wilds of Kent to Deangate—two weeks before the fixture was due to take place!

Both Boys and Colts teams took second place to a very strong Dartford side, who—short of a miracle—will be presented with the championship trophy (at present standing in our club-room) after the last fixture at Erith, on September 6.

Subsequent matches at Dartford (not so good) and Norman Park (a bit better) saw us hold

before 6a.m. hoping to arrive in Yeovil around 9a.m. However, a "well informed" *Gazette* Editor claimed that it would take somewhat longer than the time that he had allowed to reach their destination, so the departure time was brought forward some 90 minutes.

The drive down went without a hitch, in fact it went so smoothly that at about 7.30 in the morning of that Friday, an orange Datsun pulled into Yeovil town centre.

"I told you so," said the chauffeur, yawning, as he stared at his wrist watch in disbelief. "I'll never let you forget this as long as you live," he threatened.

However, Mr. Farish had his forte to come. It was decided to partake of some breakfast in one of the local hotels. While waiting, quite a long time in fact, for some service in their restaurant, when the waitress did eventually appear and asked for a room number, so that the appropriate account could be billed, Mr. Farish informed her, "Oh, it's all right, we've just come

in off the street!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: "I won't let you forget that for a long time, either, Richard."

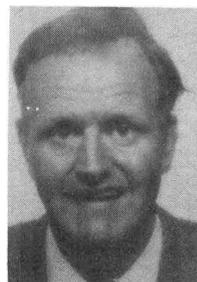
Stories of the Kent team's antics after the second day of the championships have been somewhat more rare this year. Last year, many comic stories were forthcoming from the various Blackheath members of the County team, on how one or two individuals got stranded well away from their places of residence, and were so under the influence of Lemonade, Coke and suchlike, that they were looking under the letter 'T' in the telephone directories for taxis to get home!

The Merseyside air obviously had some magical curing effect in it, as among those who were eventually forced to run miles home, there being no taxis at that time of night, was a certain member of Blackheath Harriers who only hours earlier was barely able to walk after his final of the junior boys 400 metres! What on earth will happen next year?

LOOKING BACK . . .

Athletics at Sandhurst

—by Ted Purves



"Say, do the elm clumps greatly stand Still guardians of that holy land?"

The words are from Rupert Brooke's poem "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester." Yet they are now appropriate to Sandhurst for, sad to say, the elms which used to grace with such elegance the fringe of the Royal Military Academy's running track have long since been blighted by the Dutch Elm disease.

It was nevertheless still good to walk again through the Academy's grounds and be reminded of the club's early season fixture with its cadets. It was there that, for so many club members track athletics began to assume a certain prominence; where the club began to take shape; and where its personalities began to be heard.

"When's the next match?" eagerly enquired a youthful John Lindblom after having competed so promisingly in the shot putt.

"You'd make it in two" yelled someone to an aspiring club discus thrower who, from near the throwing circle, was looking somewhat forlornly at a far away flag which marked the world record for that event.

"I tried to slow it down," moaned a crestfallen 'heathen in attempting to explain away his mistaken tactics in the half mile.

And yet, with such splendid facilities, with a veritable army of cadets officiating, with all the paraphernalia of 'walkie-talkies' in a truly military manner, the actual athletic performances at Sandhurst were often not all that good!

continued from page 10

In the earlier matches Andrew Suckling proved our mainstay in the middle-distance events, with worthy back-up from Richard Teall, John Tadman, and Duncan Motagalli.

In fact Duncan proved himself something of an all-rounder as a track athlete with wins during the season over 00m, 400m, and 800m.

The Pole Vaulting duo of James Cunningham and Richard Hoare continued to improve with club records galore, and they now form an important role in our senior B and C teams.

Ray Ward missed being a young athlete by a matter of days, but I am sure no one will deny him a mention in these columns after his incredible improvement over 400 metres this year.

Ray joined us from Darrick Wood School just before the season began as a 57-second one-lapper, but now he has reached our B team in the Southern League with 52.0 seconds to his credit.

So now it's on to Cross-Country again—but please, young athletes, let's co-operate with the team secretaries, and make their job as easy as possible.

To end with, I must record my personal thanks to everyone who in some way has contributed to

the running of the young athletes teams this year — and especially to June and Brian Hartley, Terry Mallott, track captain Andy Frankish, and club President Ian Smith for unflinching support throughout the year.



Richard Teall—ever faithful team member over 3000 metres this year.

Perhaps a cadet, who after throwing the discus so abysmally, gave the reason as he slouched dejectedly away: "It must be nerves," he muttered grimly.

Perhaps it was the sheer beauty of the place, for once upon a time there was a girl who, after looking admiringly around and murmuring "Aren't they lucky?" — an oblique reference to the cadets

—trotted up to the take-off board of the long jump. She was somewhat handicapped in high heeled shoes, it is true, and actually failed to make the pit. However, a year later that same girl won the European championship for the event!

There was, of course, the occasional exception, although perhaps in the case of Jack

Braughton it was not so occasional. Year after year he came to Sandhurst and ran with consummate ease to win either the mile or the two miles.

"The sweat that must have poured off him and on to this track," commented a staff officer, as he admiringly watched Jack run smoothly onto yet another victory.

Tea was always taken immediately after the last event, but it did not always end with tea. There was an occasion when an Australian, on secondment to the academy, endeared himself to Cecil Pollard by saying: "Have some beer, sport."

Always a very popular and attractive fixture, it was therefore understandable that some should choose to linger on in Camberley and enjoy themselves in the smoky haze of an after match get together in a local country pub.

Colonel Edward Reed was one to revel in such an atmosphere: "Bad, you know, bad!" he winked knowingly at a barmaid as he drew her attention to a youthful club member who, slowly succumbing to the influence of drink, seemed oblivious to all but her.

Sadly the fixture is now in the past, yet perhaps it belongs to the past? When athletes, in response to the dictates of some point-scoring league system, were not bundled into a coach and sent speeding along some monotonous motorway to a competition at the other end of England; when they had more time to enjoy their sport and the embellishments it provided.

"Oh, yet, stands the church
clock at ten to three,
And is there honey still for
tea?"

Somehow the last lines of Rupert Brooke's masterpiece "The Old Vicarage" seem somewhat fitting in this particular context — when life was lived in a more relaxed and civilised way, and when it would certainly not have been necessary to seek out special permission in order to enter the grounds of The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

[NOTES: John Lindblom is still with Blackheath Harriers and is a Vice-President. He held the Southern Counties AAA shot record just after the 1939-45 war.

The "once upon a time" girl was Jean Desforges. She won the European long jump title in Berne, in 1954.

Fleet Street blunder 'Standard' practice?

Those 'Heathens who read a recent edition of the 'Standard' newspaper just prior to the AAA championships at Crystal Palace, will no doubt have seen the small article on our young sprinter Paul Ashen.

However, any who may have read the mid-day edition of the paper will have been wondering whether the world had turned upside down, as the cutting below illustrates . . .

Superstar status . . .

ANYONE watching the heats of the AAA 100 metres at Crystal Palace tomorrow might spare a clap for 16-year-old John Towell of Blackheath Harriers, who could be in the same class for determination, if not speed, as Allan Wells.

John has not had the best of luck all season and tomor-

row he'll be running with his right arm in a splint.

Running the anchor leg for an England junior team he dipped so sharply at the tape that he fell and broke his wrist. I'm told he still reckons it was worth it because England won.

I can't help wondering what price Lawrie McMenemy would put on that kind of spirit. Did I hear £750,000?

Tessa's melon - valid point

Needless to say, "Mr. Towell" was on the phone to Fleet Street minutes after the paper hit the streets to correct the error for later editions.

It did, however, highlight an incredible deficiency in reporting by the usually reputable Mr. Neil Allen, in whose column it appeared, in that he not only put in the Press Officer's name and not the athlete, but mis-spelt it into the bargain!

Splint champion!

ANYONE watching the heats of the AAA 100 metres at Crystal Palace tomorrow might spare a clap for 16-year-old Paul Ashen of Blackheath Harriers, who could be in the same class for determination, if not speed, as Allan Wells.

Paul has not had the best of luck all season and tomor-

row he'll be running with his right arm in a splint.

Running the anchor leg for an England junior team he dipped so sharply at the tape that he fell and broke his wrist. I'm told he still reckons it was worth it because England won.

I can't help wondering what price Lawrie McMenemy would put on that kind of spirit. Did I hear £750,001?

Tessa's home line

Happily the correction reached the presses in time for later editions to bear the correct name (and headline—corny isn't it?).

However, one must hope that this is not 'Standard' practice with this particular newspaper!

CLUB OBITUARIES

F. R. A. GLANVILLE

We were very sorry to hear of the death of our most senior member, Frank Glanville, in September, 1980, aged 91.

Frank joined the club in October, 1906, and was a member of our 'Southern' team just before the first world war, in which he served with distinction in the Royal Fusiliers, and was awarded the Military Cross.

He was also a very keen swimmer, competing many times in the Maryon Wilson race in his early years in the club, and threatening to do so again as late as 1967 when he was approaching 80!

His interest in the club never waned over the years, and it was delightful to hear his reminiscences of early days, including memories of contemporaries, some of whom lost their lives in the war.

There was, in fact, in him a direct link almost to the beginning of the club because he had been personally acquainted with F. T. Pridmore, who was Hon. Handicapper in the early 1870s, and club secretary 1875-77. We extend our sympathy to his widow.

H. BELLMAN

We learned with regret of the death of Harold Bellman, who joined the club in 1913. He was never a first team athlete, but enjoyed immensely the club life at the Green Man, Blackheath, and confessed that he endured rather than welcomed the move to the rural scenes of West Wickham, in 1921.

Like so many of that generation of members, however,

his interest in the club continued after his running days were over and he never lost touch with its activities. When he was living in Winchester, for example, he was to be found at Southampton supporting the club at a Ryder trophy meeting.

When removal to Devizes took him away from the club's normal area of fixtures he followed its fortunes in the *Gazette*, writing from time to time to comment on fixtures (such as the 24-hour relay) or articles which particularly impressed him.

I. W. NICHOLSON

Lt.-Col. I. W. Nicholson, whose death was recently reported, joined the club in October 1907. Though never a first team runner, he competed regularly before the first world war, and also took a leading part in the social programme, being an accomplished pianist and, what must be rare among 'Heathens', a skilful performer on the bagpipes!

He served in both world wars: in the first in the R.E. Signals section, in the East African Expeditionary Force, and in the second, in the A.A. Division Signals.

In recent years he lived in Nottingham and had little opportunity to join in club events, but was to be seen when the 'National' took place in the Midlands. A warm welcome awaited any 'Heathen' who called at his home, and he was delighted to receive his 50 years' membership tankard at such a visit. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

STOP PRESS . . .

GRE CUP SEMI-FINAL

In our cup semi-final tie at Bristol on August 16, we were edged out of the competition. We finished third to Haringey and Southampton. This was mainly due to more last-minute injuries to Buster Watson and Paul Ashen, costing us dearly in sprints and field departments. Full result: 1. Haringey 135; 2. Southampton 116; 3. Blackheath 101; 4. Brighton 99; 5. Cardiff 89; 6. Polytechnic 76; 7. Portsmouth 70; 8. Newport 46.

GLC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The GLC championships, held on September 5, yielded five gold medals for Blackheath members. Paul Ashen won the Youths 100m. in a championship best of 10.8secs, and the 200m in another championship best of 21.9secs.

In the senior high jump Trevor Llewelyn won with a championship best 2.08m (ahead of Mark Naylor: he failed his opening height, apparently due to run-up problems). Mike Winch won the other two golds with winning performances in both shot and discus competitions.

BOYS & COLTS LEAGUE

Our Boys and Colts held on to overall second spot in the Boys and Colts League of Kent after their final fixture at Erith on September 6. Three of our youngsters were presented with league record medals at the end of the match for 1981. Martin Carney (Boys 1500m B-string, 4-43.8), Tim Farish (Boys 80m hurdles A-string, 12.5), Clive Suckling (Colts 400m A-string, 61.5 club record).

Overall match result: 1. Dartford 1914; 2. Cambridge 1594; 3. Blackheath 158; 4. Medway 156; 5. Bexley 144; 6. Ashford 96.

Final division one table: 1. Dartford 7(564) 24; 2. Blackheath (674) 18; 3. Cambridge (6314) 16; 4. Medway (6624) 14; 5. Ashford (448) 8; 6. Bexley (449) 4.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 17th October, 1981

B.H.H.Q. Ltd., at 6 p.m.

at Club Headquarters

56 Bourne Way, Hayes, Kent

B.H. Club A.G.M. at 6.30 p.m.

all members welcome

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:

SENIORS	...	...	...	...	£12.00
FULL-TIME STUDENTS	...	...	...	...	£6.00
(Over 18)					
UNDER 18s	...	...	...	...	£4.00

Published for private circulation among members of Blackheath Harriers by the Honorary Secretary of the Club, F. G. Dudman, 'The Snowballs,' 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent, and printed by Invicta Printers, 98 Edgehill Road, Chislehurst, Kent. Tel. 01-467 8721.