



"Perfer et Obdura"

Blackheath Harriers' Gazette

112th/113th SEASON, 1981-82

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EDITORIAL

"To be a Blackheathen is to belong to the most exclusive club there is."

(Ogden Nash—apologies for misquote)

Anyone who thought that the 1981 London Marathon had not signalled the start of a new era, that of the runner, has been left with few doubts following the success of the 1982 edition of 'The London.' The largest numerical extravaganza in the history of the marathon included quality performances as well. Les Roberts, the well known "Civil Servant" (thanks to David Coleman) took the Club title, the new A. G. V. Allen trophy. Those privileged to see the Gordon Hickey recording will testify that on crossing the line Les proceeded to show the assembled masses what he had for breakfast. Not as impressive as Tim Soutar who watched by millions on television insisted on blowing his nose all the way along The Mall.

Praise should go to P.-P. Tony Oldfield who organised the Blackheath support of the 'London', recruiting sufficient numbers for the sorting, bag

What did Terry Mallot say ?

All quotes in writing to the Editor

filling, and support on the day. A tremendous effort and financially very rewarding for the Club funds. Another prominent Heathen was the start organiser John Herring, was it he who sent Labour's GLC leader 'Red' Ken Livingstone to the BLUE start?

For the trackside sceptics of the past few years who kept saying 'it won't last' as the track team fought its way in successive years from Southern League to National League Division 5 then 4 and now 3, the shocks are not yet over. The team stormed to an impressive victory in the initial match at Crystal Palace and followed with a second success at Aldershot. Quite a change from the early days of League athletics as we reversed that process and dived from Division 1 to the Southern League. Today's team is being spearheaded by the



Les Roberts — Assn. Editor and runner extraordinaire !

throwers who continue to claim almost maximum points each time. Now is perhaps a good moment to send our best wishes to one member who is missing from the team at present, Trevor Walhen, who is on active service in the South Atlantic with the navy.

We must not neglect the efforts of the Southern League teams in Division 2 and 5, both extremely well placed even though the Division 5 team seems to specialize in trying to reduce its team to a number it can transport in one car; they do need competitors, please volunteer, don't wait to be asked. With all this success amongst the seniors and equally determined efforts by the young athletes we must not forget the man whose singular efforts are a very large part of this success, the Track Captain Andy Frankish.

Whilst on leagues may I remind all captains, team managers and team members that along with the results we would appreciate a short report of the proceedings, and if you encounter results without a report it is because we have not received one. Remember, you are the reporters, we are the editorial staff, so please help. That applies to all events, if you compete please let us know and we will do our best to publish.

OBITUARY

J. NORMAN

It is with regret we received news recently of the death of J. Norman. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

GILLETTE LONDON MARATHON

Sunday, 9th May, 1982

Following the stupendous success of last year's race, it was hard to imagine that anything could surpass those joyful and heartbreaking performances. The 1982 Gillette has broken all records, the event was reported fully elsewhere and this report merely seeks to set the record straight from a 'Heathen point of view.

The Blackheath machine was in evidence throughout the organisation of this massive event, both before the day in sifting the entries and on the day at the start. A glance at the Club results given elsewhere in this issue will indicate the proud performances of many a Club member — from our new marathon Champion Les Roberts in a fine personal best which moves him from 16th to 6th on the all-time list, to Bill Lake, Club Secretary, running in his first marathon at the age of 61. At the sharp end, apart from young Tim Soutar, Steve Rutherford is an exciting prospect, and over the next few years we should see particularly these two, together with Les Roberts, rewrite the Club ranking lists.

Mention must be made of our new member Merv Brameld, who was running this time for his first claim club Invicta AC. It was a fine achievement to finish 11th in a race of this quality and we look forward to savouring his exploits on the track in Blackheath colours.

COURIER

Anyone wishing to be included on the Courier mailing list should contact Chris Woodcock whose address is elsewhere in this Gazette.

SPORTS SHORTS FROM THE LONG RUN

(Can you identify the authors of each of these comments? Answer to Editor)

- * Great occasion, support from the crowds wonderful.—P.A.L.
- * More tiring watching than running.—G.W.F.D.
- * Whoever said this was a Fun Run must be joking.—R.P.C.
- * Very well organised and very good support.—D.C.
- * Spectator: Come on Snowy!
H.M.: My hair was black when I started!
- * The event matched the weather, delightful.—L.G.D.
- * "Where is this 'heath' you keep shouting about?" (Woman to P.P.)—T.T.S.
- * This beats any Ski-Marathon — I'll let Maureen do it next year, while I watch!—M.H.
- * If the Pope can kiss the ground—so can I! (It wasn't like this in 1948).—J.B.
- * A wonderful day, well organised and supported —but I'm glad I didn't sell the golf clubs.—J.R.
- * My first run for the Club for 14 years—by the way how is CPW's tendon?—R.J.T.
- * I'm never going to do it again! See you tomorrow for a quick 15 Roy.—D.A.
- * Perhaps next year June will stay at home and cook the dinner.—B.H.
- * Where was the wall that everyone keeps talking about? It was a doddle really.—A.E.B.
- * The things I'll do to take my mind off sex — wish there was one every day of the week — but the puking will have to stop.—L.R.
- * After 18 miles, I felt each mile would be my last — I wish to hell it had been!—B.G.S.
- * Seeing some of the other participants there must be great life assurance possibilities here. I'll invite them all to breakfast before next year's run.—R.H.S.
- * Would have been sub 2:40, but for the pack of girl guides playing with my woggle in Poplar.—P.B.K.
- * Spectator to M.H.: "Only the first 100 are the real runners, all the rest are joggers, I suppose."—M.H.
- * No more Bovril — we have enough.—M.A.S.
- * I may be in the minority but I prefer not to obtain my enjoyment by being beaten by women!—T.J.S.
- * I used to hit the wall making love, but thanks to all that Marathon running it doesn't *happen* now. Lovemaking.—J.J.P.
- * It was so much easier running without the "welly boots" as we had to do in the Dublin Marathon.—S.R.
- * I didn't run the London Marathon, aren't I great?—D.J.W.
- * It's less effort running than supporting this great event.—D.L.A.
- * I told the boy to stay with C.H. but he won't listen to my advice. Still he did do another lifetime best!—R.S.
- * These older members need some encouragement. C.H. would have jacked it in if I'd still been with him at 20.—T.J.S.
- * I'll be there next year, hurdles included.—R.D.E.
- * I was looking forward to it before, and I enjoyed every minute of it.—C.B.T.
- * I kept telling myself that the race was being run from Westminster to Greenwich with an 8 a.m. start.—P.E.S.
- * A great day—but wouldn't it look good if *every-one* wore green?—F.O'G.
- * Isn't it enough to get screwed by P.B.K. at

Punchbowl Night without a repeat performance in the London Marathon.—G.R.L.

- * It's O.K., it's all organised, you can start now.—M.L.P.
- * The lad was meant to run to keep me company. I shall to review the position next year.—A.T.
- * I managed to spear 592 of them during the run.—C.B.
- * Retirement should be easier than this.—W.F.L.
- * TV Star last year—but no repeat performance this year. Anyway, the reception is appalling in the far north.—G.M.
- * Did you see my training schedule?—A.N.
- * P. and loudest son could not speak for 3 days! Hoarse from supporting 90 heathens!—I.C.W.
- * Two weeks training are not enough.—M.T.P.
- * I just treated it as a longer track race.—M.J.A.
- * Thanks to everyone for shouting—but louder next year!—C.R.H.
- * I certainly made a mistake in staying with Cambridge H. first claim—'heathens have bigger support.—J.O.
- * All the "swoosh" went out of my Nike's at 18.—S.H.C.
- * Next year I'll buy a decent pair of shoes.—J.O.

LONDON MARATHON

* B.H. Member

11	*M. Brameld (Invicta)	2:15:59
118	L. Roberts	2:26:28
123	C. Haines	2:26:53
162	T. Soutar	2:28:55
195	S. Rutherford	2:30:24
200	P. Shephard	2:30:38
257	D. Wade	2:33:54
310	K. Pike	2:35:42
374	M. Williams	2:37:30
393	A. Davis	2:37:59
405	L. Atterbury	2:38:36
451	F. O'Gorman	2:39:54
470	J. Nash	2:40:24
479	D. Cocker	2:40:42
488	B. Swift	2:40:56
517	D. White	2:41:38
561	P. Barrington-King	2:42:31
574	I. Wilson	2:42:52
632	S. Robinson	2:44:11
638	*J. Oliver (Cambridge H.)	2:44:14
665	R. Creffield	2:44:50
691	R. Cliff	2:45:23
773	M. Peel	2:46:30
778	C. Ware	2:46:35
801	R. Savery	2:46:59
843	C. Woodcock	2:47:31
862	J. Facer	2:47:51
889	K. Whicheloe	2:48:24
1012	M. Wilkinson	2:50:21
1115	*L. Tempan (Invicta)	2:52:18
1126	S. Cluney	2:52:27
1159	I. Young	2:52:50
1231	M. Harley	2:53:51
1263	M. Reynolds	2:54:12
1312	M. Athawes	2:54:59
1412	A. Davies	2:56:19
1504	P. Catley	2:57:11
1506	J. Day	2:57:13
1568	P. Varcoe	2:57:51
1598	J. Phelan	2:58:09
1662	P. Hannell	2:58:44
1694	D. Amner	2:59:01
1900	A. Nana	3:01:11
2037	R. Coe	3:02:42
2189	R. Thompson	3:04:33
2290	R. Farish	3:05:30

2324	G. Crowder	...	...	3:05:48
2456	G. Gibbens	...	...	3:07:06
2573	M. Cronin	...	...	3:08:10
2610	C. Todd	...	...	3:08:32
2657	J. Kavanagh	...	...	3:08:57
2702	V. Robinson	...	...	3:09:18
3591	A. Calton	...	...	3:16:57
3731	P. Greenwood	...	...	3:18:14
4045	P. Vetterlein	...	...	3:20:43
4631	B. Stone	...	...	3:25:05
4856	H. Martin	...	...	3:26:40
4966	C. Ferguson	...	...	3:27:31
3102	D. Cordell	...	...	3:28:24
3102	D. Appleton	...	...	3:28:24
5500	T. McGeogh	...	...	3:30:55
6124	J. Raine	...	...	3:55:23
6211	J. Braughton	...	...	3:35:58
6331	D. Thomson	...	...	3:36:43
6436	A. Ball	...	...	3:37:36
7471	C. Davy	...	...	3:44:28
7516	G. Last	...	...	3:44:50
7776	M. Heiniman	...	...	3:46:30
8190	R. Tompkins	...	...	3:49:36
8584	A. Tompkins	...	...	3:52:23
8879	M. Poole	...	...	3:54:18
9119	W. Petch	...	...	3:56:02
9390	P. Smith	...	...	3:57:43
10320	A. Ridgewell	...	...	4:05:34
11066	L. Dalmon	...	...	4:11:44
11226	C. Brand	...	...	4:13:11
12015	T. Mallott	...	...	4:20:54
12762	P. Long	...	...	4:29:48
13395	J. Partington	...	...	4:39:34
13421	J. Bennett	...	...	4:40:01
13587	G. Monshall	...	...	4:42:48
14369	W. Lake	...	...	4:59:39

Co-opted Ladies

5998	Janice Oliver (Kent AC)	...	...	3:41:34
14416	Maureen Farish	...	...	5:01:21
14593	Joan Austridge	...	...	5:06:59
14690	June Hartley	...	...	5:11:26

MARATHON LISTINGS

Marathon running continues to enjoy a staggering rise in popularity both within the Club and nationwide. It is therefore an opportune moment to look back at past performances as illustrated in the All-time ranking list produced here. By the end of 1981 exactly 100 Blackheath Harriers were known to have completed the Marathon in official competition since 1932. Some of our older members may be able to recall performances prior to that date!

From the list one can identify two periods in which quality performances were returned by many Blackheath Harriers. The first period, covering the late forties and early fifties, is well documented in the Centenary History and spans a period when Blackheath Harriers won many major trophies on the road. The names appearing in this list, whilst against times which are moderate by today's standards, belong to men who were at the front of the field winning and being placed almost every time out.

Another high spot was achieved in the late sixties and early seventies. Although the numbers involved were small, high placings and fast times were recorded by both Bob Richardson and Joe Clare. Compared to these two periods the recent boom in marathon has produced much enthusiasm and many interesting performances but as yet little top quality — but the signs are there. With Richard Coles yet to run the full distance, following a promising Kent 20; Tim Soutar, Graham Martin, and Les Roberts turning in some fine runs, it is only a matter of time



Different Directions—I. Wilson, M. Peel

before this list is rewritten at the top end.

The 1981 best performance list shows that the London Marathon dominated the scene in its inaugural year and this is sure to be the case in 1982.

MARATHON RANKING LIST 1981

First Claim Members Only

1.	C. R. Haines	...	2:29:41	London
2.	P. Shephard	...	2:29:47	London
3.	G. Martin	...	2:29:54	London
4.	T. J. Soutar	...	2:30:12	London
5.	L. Atterbury	...	2:32:19	London
6.	J. R. Baldwin	...	2:33:58	London
7.	D. W. M. Wade	...	2:34:40	London
8.	L. F. Roberts	...	2:34:54	London
9.	B. Swift	...	2:35:19	London
10.	C. P. Woodcock	...	2:36:10	London
11.	I. K. Young	...	2:37:11	London
12.	J. Nash	...	2:37:27	London
13.	I. C. Wilson (8)	...	2:38:41	London
14.	R. P. Cliff	...	2:38:45	London
15.	J. A. Clare	...	2:40:19	Cambridge
16.	M. L. Peel	...	2:40:30	London
17.	C. Ware	...	2:45:54	Ryde, IoW
18.	K. Whicheloe	...	2:46:00	Sandbach
19.	S. Rutherford	...	2:46:03	New York
20.	P. Barrington-King	...	2:46:42	New York
21.	R. H. Savery	...	2:47:08	London
22.	M. Williams	...	2:48:07	Barnsley
23.	G. Hull	...	2:48:07	Barnsley
24.	J. Facer	...	2:49:19	Barnsley
25.	C. Lord	...	2:49:42	London
26.	K. Pike	...	2:49:50	New York
27.	S. H. Cluney	...	2:51:47	London
28.	S. Robinson	...	2:51:54	London
29.	D. Allen	...	2:51:55	London
30.	D. W. Amner	...	2:52:58	London
31.	J. Kavanagh	...	2:54:23	London
32.	A. Nana	...	2:55:48	New York
33.	P. Catley (2)	...	2:56:20	London
34.	M. Reynolds	...	2:58:59	London
35.	A. Edwards	...	2:59:05	London
36.	R. Palmer	...	2:59:18	London
37.	J. Phelan	...	3:00:11	London

38.	P. Hannell	...	3:01:20	London	37.	P. Corbett	...	...	2:41:48	1978
39.	J. Day	...	3:01:58	London	38.	B. J. Foster	...	...	2:44:52	1956
40.	F. Johnson	...	3:02:17	London	39.	L. Piper	...	...	2:44:53	1950
41.	R. Farish (2)	...	3:03:30	London	40.	C. Ware	...	...	2:44:54	1981
42.	G. B. Crowder	...	3:04:04	Cambridge	41.	K. Whicheloe	...	...	2:46:00	1981
43.	M. Harley (3)	...	3:04:48	London	42.	S. Rutherford	...	...	2:46:03	1981
44.	C. Ferguson	...	3:10:39	London	43.	P. Barrington-King	...	...	2:46:42	1981
45.	G. Gibbens	...	3:18:09	London	44.	R. Savery	...	...	2:47:08	1981
46.	R. Beale	...	3:19:50	London	45.	R. Webb	...	...	2:47:48	1956
47.	B. Flannery	...	3:22:02	Windsor	46.	D. Hopgood	...	...	2:47:56	1966
48.	A. Tompkins (4)	...	3:28:11	London	47.=	M. Williams	...	...	2:48:07	1981
49.	D. Popeley (5)	...	3:34:30	Birmingham	47.=	G. Hull	...	...	2:48:07	1981
50.	G. Monshall (6)	...	3:56:06	London	49.	A. Dashwod	...	...	2:48:45	1953
51.	D. Hickman	...	3:58:17	London	50.	B. Pearce	...	...	2:48:53	1963
52.	D. Cogan (7)	...	3:59:48	London	51.	J. Facer	...	...	2:49:19	1981
53.	T. Mallott	...	4:21:08	London	52.	N. Rust	...	...	2:49:29	1974
54.	J. Braughton (7)	...	4:32:21	London	53.	C. Lord	...	...	2:49:42	1981

Notes

1. Time probably 2:42:23.
2. Missed from official results.
3. Time about 70 secs. fault.
4. Actual time 3:29:05.
5. Estimated time.
6. 9 minutes fast approx.
7. 5 minutes fast approx.
8. 2:39:05, Sandbach, 4 minutes off course.

Corrections and Additions to Chris Haines.
01-777 6498.

BLACKHEATH HARRIERS ALL TIME RANKING LISTS

Up to 31.12.1981.

Legs for the road
The road for legs,
Resolutely nowhere
In both directions.

(Robert Graves)

1.	R. Richardson	...	2:17:51	1972	76.	A. Humber	...	...	3:07:03	1955
2.	J. Clare (1)	...	2:23:35	1970	77.	P. Johnson	...	...	3:08:23	1949
3.	M. Willis (2)	...	2:24:00	1969	78.	M. Weller	...	...	3:10:11	1967
4.	C. Haines	...	2:24:00	1972	79.	C. Ferguson	...	...	3:10:39	1981
5.	P. Hamilton	...	2:25:13	1973	80.	P. Stenning	...	...	3:10:46	1955
6.	C. Woodcock	...	2:27:38	1972	81.	L. Hammill	...	...	3:12:03	1938
7.	I. Wilson	...	2:28:16	1971	82.	N. Lee	...	...	3:12:09	1953
8.	M. Hampton	...	2:29:18	1973	83.	R. Minting (5)	...	...	3:15:30	1979
9.	P. Shepherd	...	2:29:47	1981	84.	G. Gibbens	...	...	3:18:09	1981
10.	G. Martin	...	2:29:54	1981	85.	G. Jex	...	...	3:18:20	1967
11.	T. Soutar	...	2:30:12	1981	86.	M. Jones	...	...	3:19:42	1979
12.	J. Withers	...	2:31:08	1957	87.	R. Beale	...	...	3:19:50	1981
13.	A. Weeks-Pearson	...	2:31:23	1967	88.	H. Rhodes	...	...	3:22:00	1958
14.	L. Atterbury	...	2:32:19	1981	89.	B. Flannery	...	...	3:22:02	1981
15.	R. Morley	...	2:33:01	1958	90.	P. Baldwin	...	...	3:24:07	1957
16.	L. Roberts	...	2:33:07	1980	91.	P. Hunter	...	...	3:25:08	1978
17.	J. Baldwin	...	2:33:58	1981	92.	J. Powell	...	...	3:25:31	1978
18.	C. Busby	...	2:34:06	1951	93.	A. Tompkins (7)	...	...	3:28:11	1981
19.	D. Wade	...	2:34:40	1981	94.	D. Popeley (5)	...	...	3:34:30	1981
20.	B. Swift	...	2:35:19	1981	95.	G. Grier	...	...	3:38:34	1966
21.	D. Reynolds	...	2:35:55	1954	96.	R. Michell	...	...	3:39:07	1979
22.	J. Braughton	...	2:36:44	1955	97.	G. Monshall (8)	...	...	3:54:06	1981
23.	I. Young	...	2:37:11	1981	98.	D. Hickman	...	...	3:58:17	1981
24.	H. Nunn	...	2:37:22	1956	99.	D. Cogan (9)	...	...	3:59:48	1981
25.	J. Nash	...	2:37:27	1981	100.	T. Mallott	...	...	4:21:08	1981
26.	A. Mandeville	...	2:38:23	1969						
27.	A. Davis	...	2:38:25	1970						
28.	E. Pepper	...	2:38:30	1967						
29.	R. Cliff	...	2:38:45	1981						
30.	G. Giles	...	2:40:07	1978						
31.	F. O'Gorman	...	2:40:11	1973						
32.	G. Gosling	...	2:40:14	1956						
33.	J. Mekler (3)	...	2:40:21	1955						
34.	C. Shorter	...	2:40:23	1980						
35.	M. Peel (4)	...	2:40:30	1981						
36.	S. Cluney	...	2:40:56	1980						

Notes

1. 2:18:43 (1968) before joining B.H.
2. 2:14:30 (1970) short course by 833 yds.
3. 2:27:53 (1964) in S.. Life member.
also J. Lang, 2:27:08 same race.
4. Probably 2:42:23.
5. Unofficial time.
6. About 70 secs. fast.
7. Actual time 3:29:05.
8. 9 minutes fast approx.
9. 5 minutes fast approx.

INEVITABLY FINANCES

"The worth of the State, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it."

(John Stuart Mill)

As the summer season draws on the Finance Sub-Committee begins to plan for the forthcoming financial year and having done their 'sums' this year have come up with some disturbing answers. The Club's projected expenditure for 1982/3 season is about to exceed the INCOME and obviously much searching has been done to try and alleviate this problem. The result being that the General Committee has issued notice of a Special General Committee meeting for July 5th to endorse the recommendation that the senior subscription be increased from £12 to £14, the relevant rates for younger athletes to be adjusted accordingly. This increase in subscription will NOT fully cover next season's expenditure and much emphasis must be placed by EVERYONE in joining the fund raising schemes, or devising one so as to find the balance required. Please remember even at £14 the annual subscription is still less than £1.17 per month, less than 2 pints of Stones bitter per month. IT IS YOUR CLUB, PLEASE HELP IT, the more who help the less it costs each one.

DONATIONS 1980-81

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all those who gave to the various funds.—*Hon. Treasurer.*

LIFE MEMBERS — L. S. Atterbury, A. F. Barclay, W. A. Boulton, T. M. Barrett, D. P. Crump, D. B. O. Davigs, N. Dudley, T. S. G. Haynes, F. A. Horn, A. E. Keepax, J. H. Kitton, T. F. Mountford, J. C. Oxlard, N. Page, H. J. Pearce, L. Piper, G. V. Rhodes, P. H. Saxon, L. G. Tomas, L. G. Towers, A. T. G. Trumble, J. E. Withers, L. E. Trafford.
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A SPONSORED RUN FOR FARNBOROUGH HOSPITAL

Richard MITCHELL one of the Club's younger athletes decided to repay Farnborough Hospital for their care of him during an enforced stay with an appendicitis. Last December he and a friend set off on a sponsored ten mile run and raised £79 for a portable television. The television which arrived at the Hospital just in time for Christmas was indeed a very welcomed present. Richard commented "It was very hard on the feet — we ended up half-walking and half-running — but it was worth it."

OBITUARY

Arthur Nye

It is with much regret that we have to report the death on the 26th October, 1981 of Vice-President Arthur Nye aged 75. Although not joining the Club until 1954 he had been involved in athletics for over 50 years.

On joining the Club he quickly became very much concerned with the track activities both as a coach and an official. In accompanying track teams to fixtures during the 1950-1960 era he became renown for producing song sheets to raise flagging spirits on long journeys, including continental tours. It was in the coaching of the younger members that he perhaps found most satisfaction by encouraging them to become involved in a sport that obviously gave him so much enjoyment over the years. It was to this end that he spent many cold winter nights coaching and timing at Crystal Palace in spite of being a starter in his earlier days he was best known as a timekeeper, having officiated at numerous meetings up to international standard. However, his five year spell as cross-country handicapper during the late 1960's showed his interest was not entirely confined to the track. He was made a Vice-President in 1963.

Arthur Nye was already well known in Kent athletics prior to joining the Club due to his exploits over 880 yards during the 1930's as a member of Sevenoaks A.C. when he won numerous races throughout the county. In 1932 he won the Kent County 880 yards Championship and subsequently came third in the A.A.A. Championship later that season, this resulted in him being short-listed for the Los Angeles Olympics. When the Sevenoaks A.C. was restarted in 1978 he became its President.

In 1978 he became President of the Kent Amateur Athletic Association in recognition of his many years of service to County athletics. We shall sadly miss that double-anoraked figure by the Cafe calling out the times on cold Saturday afternoons as the cross-country runners loom up out of the Hayes mist.

MOB MATCH v SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS FOR THE NICHOLLS CUP

Saturday, 21st November, 1981

One would have thought that interest would have waned for this fixture between two Clubs with a proud tradition but a mediocre present, judged by National standards. It was, therefore, surprising to the casual observer, to see one of the biggest fields in recent years contesting for the Nicholls Cup, over a course from Wickham Court Farm which deviated slightly from those used recently before finishing at the cafe on the Common. Despite being outnumbered by our white vested opponents, 82—79, Heathen hopes were high that home course advantage would result in their favour. It was not to be however, for, scoring a massive 76 a-side SLH retained the trophy by the narrow margin of 6123—5533. The home defeat was never in question however with only 6 Heathens in the first twenty and SLH's last man in at 139.

The race itself was heavily fought throughout with many personal battles against old rivals. Francis UPCOTT ran out a easy winner from a remarkable Les Roberts challenge, whilst Richard Coles had an

easy run into third place. The Club 7½ miles Championship, held in conjunction with the above had therefore been wrested from Richard COLES — by stealth (or bike) by Les ROBERTS with a rave from the past Bob RICHARDSON — in third place. The handicap was won by Craig DALY off 18 minutes in 108th place with Les ROBERTS and Roger EBBUTT taking the minor places.

An interesting sideline was provided by Peter HANNELL'S computer simulation of the match which showed SLH to be in the lead throughout, although with 44 men home BH had cut back the projected deficit to 53 points. Apart from the obvious lack of numbers up front, BH packing was bad in the region 100-130. This seems to reinforce the view that in mob matches Everyone counts. I believe that the scores in terms of numbers of wins is now level. Let's go for VICTORY next year at Coulsdon and aim for 100 runners competing. This must be possible, if we can turn out 51 runners to compete and complete a marathon, as we did in the 1981 London event, surely it should not be an impossibility to get 100 Club members to run a mere 7½ miles.

The Editor,
Blackheath Harriers' Gazette. 9th January, 1982.

Dear Sir,

Could you please have a good picture of our new Assistant Editor in the next issue?

yours,

an ardent reader.

Believe me, that's as good a picture as anyone needs of Les Roberts! Editor.

CHINGFORD REVISITED (A LONG RUNNING SERIES)

5th December, 1981.

The 'Away' match with Orion, the Epping Experience as it is known to some, is always in the nature of an expedition both in the devious journey to the Royal Forest Hotel and the devilish course from it — no place for the fragile fast man.

This year Presidential pressure resulted in some 30 'Heathens' challenging the 26 'Wily Natives'. This was to expiate the events of yesteryear (ICW — CCC — 1973), when but 19 'Heathens' gave Orion their first victory. This year a convincing win by 414 points to 673 allayed the distant apprehension of P.P. OLDFIELD (P. 1973) ministering to the needs of Rowing Clubs at Hayes that afternoon.

Virgin runners, if the term is not self-contradictory, baffled by the intricacies of the course and the adhesive terrain were cheered at Yardley (Orions answer to Fox) by George Brooks with the news of a downhill finish half a mile away and so the long day's journey into the night was relieved. Another relief or variation was the presence of a free runner in the shape of Miss CODY, a ruggedly winsome New Zealander no less, who gave a fillip to the journey and later in the day enhanced the company assembled in the Royal Fox Hotel for pre-supper drinks. Such was the effect of this feminine addition that George BROOKS sank a pint of cider and still managed to negotiate the stairs to the Club room (his 'YARDLEY').

The terrors of the Forest did not deter B.H. Marathon men and Les ROBERTS and Johnnie

BALDWIN, joint winners, ensured our success. A worthy winner of the Handicap was Doug TINGEY, who has run in every Orion match since 1941, and this was his 19th appearance at Chingford. His consistency and endurance proves that running this rugged course does not shorten your life and we hope to see yet more competing in 1983. All the runners in this year's race will have felt the warm glow and the special bond of competitiveness in having shared in the same unique experience.

At the simple, but satisfying supper in the Clubhouse, the melodious Orion Club cry, conducted and choreographed by "Dr. Who are WE", was answered, nay warmly challenged by a somewhat unrehearsed new fangled Blackheath Cry, reinforced by the resonant and Primeval Bay encouraged by the obligatory white handkerchief.

Although there was no Pantomime in these austerity days, we were entertained by Ken JONES opening the Orion cracker mottoes during which in reply, the legendary story of the waiter's thumb was narrated by the original author. Yes, we had soup for supper too and despite the latter story, it went down well and the jocularity continued. The journey home seemed so much simpler — all downhill — and so another memorable day in the annals of the Blackheath Club came to a happy ending.

KENT COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, 2nd January, 1982.

We all reported, as for many years in the past, to the Downs School near Dartford. This year, however, the course was changed. Our use of the farmland in the valley leading to Longfield, because of the death of the co-operative farmer, has come to an end. Alternatively, the course is now to the north of the A2 near Stone Hospital.

The Course organisers, with great ingenuity, have extracted the proverbial gallon from a pint pot, by sending the runners around a course of various laps which rivals Hampton Court Maze. It is splendid from the spectators point of view, but, it must have made the competitors a little giddy.

The laps were muddy and hilly, the sort of course which favoured Blackheathen masochists. What was heartening, overall, was the degree of support given this year to all age groups, it must be many years since we closed in teams for all three groups.

The first race, for youths, attracted 64 competitors and our eyes were on our favorite, Robert FARISH. We saw a hard struggle and it was no disgrace for Robert to be forced to take second place to BEAN of Folkestone. Supported by the efforts of TILLEY (16th), LAWS (29th), and SEARBY (31st), the team took the third place.

Next came the turn of the Seniors. So often in the past we have had to accept the absence of many of our top flight from this event, so it was good to see virtually our maximum strength on the starting line. The pace was a cracking one and the club entrants were led by Richard COLES, who eventually finished 7th. It is perhaps Richard's misfortune, or perhaps he accepts it as a challenge that Kent senior running is at such a high level this year. Some years ago the performance he produced would have resulted in his having a win to his credit.

Second for our team was the evergreen John BALDWIN. Finishing in twelfth spot he seems to improve, not every year, but every decade he runs for us: Third team position, at 17th was Les

ROBERTS, who ran himself into the ground to achieve this.

There followed a goodly squad of 'Heathens', enough to complete three teams with everyone working hard. One with extra thoughts on his mind was Steve CLUNEY, who in addition to running, was as GAZETTE editor, shouting instructions, to his unfortunate and startled reporter, as he passed. It is understood that his training schedule has taken odd forms recently. Cossack dancing? Can this be true?

The unluckiest 'Heathen' of the day was Chris WOODCOCK, who failed to successfully lower his undercarriage as he flew over a hillock, which resulted in him damaging an ankle on landing. This incident unfortunately ending his further participation for the rest of the day.

At one time it appeared that a discussion regarding Cross Country administration was taking place as past and present Club Secretaries, namely Ian YOUNG and Bob CLIFF ran together. However, they must have resolved whatever problems pre-occupied them as Ian YOUNG took off during the last lap.

Perhaps similar management problems kept out President and Country Captain together as they finished 22nd and 23rd respectively.

So our first team finished better than the pundits had prophesied, in second place. We also had the satisfaction of our 'B' team being the first B team home.

Then followed the junior race, which consisted of a smaller field and an age range which embraces youngsters of widely different stages of physical development. We were delighted to see the steady running of Stephen THOMPSON, who finished a creditable 11th. It is understood that the pressures of school do not permit this young man to do much training. Someone to watch if he does get the chance one day to concentrate on his running. He was well supported by WILKINSON (15th), COLPUS (17th) and someone who is a veteran in terms of effort for Blackheath, the one and only Ray WRIGHT who finished in 18th place.

A well earned third place for this team. What was commendable was the degree of support given to these juniors by members of the senior team, who stayed on to jog round the course giving encouragement to the juniors.

There were many supporters also, who braved the miserable elements to cheer and encourage all competitors. Perhaps pride of place went to the undisputably youngest supporter, Master COLES, aged three weeks. Congratulations All and Richard

POSTSCRIPT TO PUNCHBOWL NIGHT

A certain Past-President who did not imbibe too much punch at the festivities, but did get involved in mixing same, arranged for his chauffeuse to collect him at midnight. She duly arrived and after the usual 30 minute delay, managed to get him into the car and away home. On reaching home, she remarked on his inability to string together two coherent punch lines to tell a joke, and suggested he try his mechanical ability by opening the garage door.

He climbed from the car and swung the up and over door into motion. As it slowly arced upwards the car headlights lit the garage interior like a stage. Bearing in mind the musical tone of the evening the P.-P. swung round and went into a song and dance routine. Unfortunately, at this juncture, the garage door reached the end of its travel, hit the rubber stop, and bounced back on the return journey, accelerating en route. It came down on the head of the P.-P. with a resounding clang —



whereupon he went into his funny walks routine. At this moment in time he felt no pain but awoke the next morning with an egg sized lump, surmounted by a cut, and his hair matted with dried blood. His chauffeuse thought the grimace of pain was due to a well-earned hangover, but burst into hysterical laughter when shown the injury.

The moral of this tale is— beware if you aspire to be a star — you might end up seeing them.

THE MENS SALOM (Formerly THE CLUB 10)

9th January, 1982

With the arctic conditions over this weekend and more than a foot of snow over the normal course. It was doubtful whether the race could be run at all, but with more than 50 runners assembled at the Clubhouse it was decided to use the relay course at Sparrows Den. Off went the trail layers at about 2.30 p.m. All 52 runners were assembled at the start, including D. TINGEY, who had left home at 11 a.m. that morning in order to participate. Some French looking chap, who turned out to be the President of the Club, not France or some other Foreign Country), explained the course. The race was then left in the capable hands of P.P.G. Brooks, who acted as Starter, Timekeeper, referee, recorder and who was heard to say "I am bloody freezing", to get the pack of equally freezing runners on the move. It seemed just like a normal Wednesday night pack run, chatting away as they proceeded from the start, with the wind behind them. They proceeded out through the virgin snow and it was not long before one of the members remembered the carol Good King Wenceslas and allowed SOUTAR to forge ahead forging a trail whilst the remainder of the runners like the good King followed in his footsteps. Little did they realise however, despite SOUTAR'S remarks in the Clubhouse prior to the start, that he was nearly naked in a temperature of minus 10 degrees and remarkable fit, were signs that he was out to win. By the time they entered the woods

realisation had dawned on the remaining runners, but they could only follow the master's footsteps and obediently tread them for the rest of the race.

Now this is where your Reporter, chauffeur, timekeeper, recorder, teamaker and general 'Dog's-body' decided to add Photographer to his list of duties. Rushing ahead of the two female supporters and using his vast knowledge of the course he recklessly abandoned all human thought of cold and suffering by flinging himself to the floor and lying in all the freezing snow, snapped the leaders of the race as they ran down the steepest part of the course in the woods. Laying there shivering and contemplating the great sporting pictures he was going to get, whilst avoiding various members of the HAINES family hurtling past on toboggans, he was surprised to hear cries of encouragement coming from the spectators, who by now, numbered four. They were joined by the HARTLEY'S, some way over to the side. Turning his eye from his Olympic Trip viewfinder, he noticed that various runners had appeared behind him and to his left, having emerged from the woods further up. So much for the art. He consequently decided that instead of catching pneumonia by remaining in the prone position in the freezing snow, to join the spectators and hurl abuse at the remainder of the field, which was starting to spread out into a straggling line, headed by SOUTAR, COLES, HAINES and WADE. Round the circuit they went and we could only admire all the runners and feel for them, knowing that they had three more laps to complete.

Your reporter now had to brave that terrible wind himself in order to get to the finishing line before they arrived in order to record the gallant finishers. En route back he was not at all surprised to see a large St. Bernard dog plodding through the snowdrifts, unfortunately minus the traditional brandy cask round its neck. A reassuring sight.

Then some 30 maniacs from the Rugby Club bar appeared equipped with assorted tobogganing gear, consisting of plastic bags, bartrays attacked the terrifying slopes of the putting green. Among their glowing faces appeared a familiar one, in the shape of young A. BROOKS, who could not believe there was a race on in this type of weather and made enquiries as to whether his father was at hand.

He was told that his father was not to hand, but, if he cared to approach what appeared to be a white frozen pillar, standing alone, nearby, and carefully wipe the snow from the top, it would reveal his Grandfather, George. He was warned, however, not to distract him too much as he would shortly be galvanised into frenzied action, recording the 48 finishers, who would be arriving at roughly one minute intervals.

In due course, the finishers began to appear on the horizon and the first to cross the finishing line being SOUTAR, who put his placing down to (great effort), second was HAINES (who had succeeded with the help of his local knowledge of the course), in third place came the veteran WADE, (who put his success down to his experience), then came a constant stream of competitors, who when considering the appalling conditions they had faced to race, can consider themselves also winners. Last but not least was the gallant TINGEY. From the comments, congratulations, excuses and validations, it transpired that V.P. PEEL, plus others, did an extra lap. It appeared that before facing the long exposed run in, he had decided to visit the woods for a call of nature and four "Wallies" followed him. It is not surprising that he did not want to stop went on to complete another lap, when he saw himself being nursed by four characters of apparently dubious

intentions.

Back at at the Clubhouse our two lady supporters were joined by Mrs COLES (congratulations) who dispensed the tea and buns and eavesdropped on the tales of woe and humour. such as the fact the P.P. STONE had lost three pounds (it must have been on another of HEINIMANN's horse). Then there was the one about P.P. BRAND, who lives on the course, but was still late and missed the start. It appears that whilst in the throes of embroccating in company with P.P. BENNETT, he informed V.P. EDMONDS, one of the pointsmen that the race was going ahead, but, what he forgot to tell him, was that the race was now at Sparrows Den. The poor 'sod' spent some 50 minutes waiting in a blizzard somewhere in Kent for non existent runners to appear. The President presented the medals with his usual good humour. The handicap being won by WRIGHT, DYTER and STONE. Unfortunately, only the latter was present to receive his award but I can assure that the warmth of the applause for them and the other winners was genuine and heartfelt by everyone present who had taken part in a truly remarkable Club 10.

MOB MATCH v RANELAGH H.

Saturday 16th January 1982. Richmond Park.

If the Club 10 was an occasion for sledges and snow shoes, then surely the mob match against Ranelagh called for waterwings and slush puppies. A dramatic change in the weather was responsible, and although the water underfoot remained at zero degrees, the warm southerly wind was a most welcome change.

With 99 starting (had Pete Shepheard arrived on time it would have been an even ton), it was a very good turnout for the Heath on an away event, with 45 a-side scoring. The usual 'yahoos' at the start quickly changed to 'yahs' and 'oohs' as freezing slush was splattered freely about. This discomfort enduring until the field took on its usual single file, follow the leader look, at about a mile.

Unfortunately, one of the then leaders, John Baldwin, was forced to drop out with a recurrence of back trouble, but Tim Soutar, Graham Martin, and Ian Wilson managed to maintain contact with the leading group. The race was won by S. Hedges of Ranelagh the Honours went to Ranelagh who won by 67 points.

Ranelagh — 2014. B.H. — 2083.

HERNE HILL LEAGUE (Young Athletes)

23rd January, 1982. Brockwell Park

Having secured six second places in various sections in two previous meetings the Club's youngsters headed for Brockwell Park for the third cross-country League match with high hopes.

The thick mud encountered over the 3 miles course in the Boys section obviously suited James Adams as his final charge for the tape disposed of all his rivals to gain him an excellent individual victory in 18m. 10s. His success heralded a team victory with the scoring five being Allen Hartley 12th, Peter Davies 15th, Martin Carney 22nd, Stephen Bibby 33rd. This effort placed the Club at the head of the League table, level with Elliott AC on League points but with superior match points. But things are very close at the top with 3 clubs just one point adrift of the top two.

1. J. Adams 18m. 10s.; 12. A. Hartley 19m. 21s.; 15. P. Davies 19m. 29s.; 22. M. Carney 19m. 56s.;

33. S. Bibby 20m. 17s.

Teams—1. Blackheath 83.

In the Colts age group Clive Suckling returned a fine performance to place fifth, whilst the Youths had to contend with the opposition without their fastest man Robert Farish. They responded well and took third team place being led home by Gavin Fernandes in 13th place.
13. G. Fernandes 25m. 28s.; 15. M. Laws 25m. 42s.; 23. P. Cosgrove 26m. 19s.; 26. S. Roberts 26m. 46s.; 30. R. Ashdown 27m. 55s.
Team—3. Blackheath 107.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, 30.1.1982.

Bexley

This year's South of the Thames Senior Championships were staged almost on our doorstep at Footscray Meadows in Bexley. The first Blackheath man home was Richard Coles who produced a fine run to place 6th in 39m. 14s., less than half a minute behind his great local rival Keith Penny (Camb. H.) in 4th place. The remaining Blackheath contingent ran well to secure sixth team place with 394 points.
1. P. Rowland (Horsham) 38m. 16s.; 6. R. Coles 39m. 14s.; 52. K. Daniel 41m. 16s.; 58. T. Soutar 41m. 33s.; 75. I. Wilson 41m. 52s.; 90. R. Wright 42m. 12s.; 113. K. Pike 42m. 44s.
Teams—1. Camb. H. 172pts.; 6. Blackheath 394.

KENT LEAGUE (Young Athletes)

20th February, 1982.

Bexley

Footscray Meadows was the venue for the second of the three match series and it didn't turn out to be a particularly good day for the Heath. The only Heathens to show well were in the Colts race over 2½ miles where Clive Suckling ran well to place third in 15m. 46s., whilst the next man home was Andrew Carlton in 27th place recording a time of 17m. 14s.

ENGLISH NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

6th March, 1982.

Roundhay Pk., Leeds

The Blackheath team travelled to Leeds on the Friday evening and eventually all arrived safely though not without a number of mishaps which may have made the race itself seem a little mundane to some on reflection. The President's party comprising his goodself, wife, and Les Roberts managed two unscheduled motorway stops. The first was due to their car overheating (who said the President's all hot air) and the second stop provided a little more excitement as the car ran out of petrol as they were in the fast lane overtaking a lorry! We have it on good authority that Pauline now understands what all those little gauges are for. On arrival the party was joined by the supporters in the shape of I.P.P. Ian Smith, and V.P.s John Herring and Gary Botley and physio Bob Cuthbert was on hand to tend any last minute panic injuries. The general feeling is we ought to send him on a car mechanics course to ensure the future arrival of the team.

Race day finally dawned wet and overcast but the Club never lacked support and two exiles arrived from out of the mists of time, P.-P. Robert Morley now resident in Sheffield and Nigel Bailey who is north of the border. On surveying the course it was found to be well grassed as against a muddy quagmire and fairly undulating with one very steep testing hill.

First to perform were the Youths with Bob Farish who was second in the Southern and of whom we all had high hopes, Dave Searby and Mike Laws, but alas not enough for a scoring team. Their

course consisted of a short stretch out to the loops and then two small laps and as they reached the course proper Bob Farish was well placed in the first 25 and a mile later at the first steep ascent he had improved to 6th and as he reached the steep hill at about 2 miles he charged off into a commanding lead of about 25m., a move that left a look of devastation on the faces of his rivals. Unfortunately it was Bob who was to be devastated as he reached the end of lap 1 with a 50m. lead and to his horror found he wasn't arriving at the finish but had another lap. He continued for another ¼ mile into the final lap before exhaustion set in and he dropped out of the race. Thus spelling out a very important message for runners and team officials—make sure you are fully aware of the task at hand before the gun goes. The other two Club runners returned solid performances with Dave Searby finishing 378th and Mike Laws 395th out of over 560 finishers.

The senior team was the next to take the stage and the Club had a strong 9-man team with much hope resting on Richard Coles and Les Roberts. Richard however was disappointed with his 66th place though he was suffering from a cold. The youngest Club supporter, 4-month-old Andrew Coles, showed little interest in his father's form and slept throughout the proceedings, such a wise head on young shoulders. Les Roberts had his best cross-country race yet and finished 159th, not bad for a 38-year-old. Captain Tim Soutar also ran well for his 252nd placing and was followed home by Ken Daniel in 331st, Graham Martin 408th with our President completing the scoring six in 556th position, his lowest place ever in a National. He was heard to comment that he hoped newcomers Chris Lord (566) and Ken Pike (732) had enjoyed following him on his 'fartlek' session through the field. Brian Swift closed in the 9 man team in 788th place with some 1605 finishers. The Club placed 30th out of 173 teams closing in, with the mighty Gateshead managing only 25th place, and happily ahead of old rivals Ranelagh and S.L.H.

On what was by now a churned up course the last to go were the Juniors, and although there were no spectacular performances from our 3 competitors (an incomplete team again) they showed great promise and seemed to enjoy their runs. Mike Williamson led the way home in 116th place and the St. Dunstan's pair Steve Thompson and Mark Colpus were 189th and 269th respectively of 486 finishers.

Seniors—1. D. Clarke (Herc. Wim.); 66. R. Coles; 159. L. Roberts; 252. T. Soutar; 331. K. Daniel; 408. G. Martin; 556. I. Wilson; 566. C. Lord; 732. K. Pike; 788. B. Swift.

Teams—1. Tipton H. 263; 30. B.H. 1772.

Juniors—1. S. Harris (Shafts.); 166. M. Wilkinson; 189. S. Thompson; 269. M. Colpus.
Youths—1. M. Vile (Westbury); 378. D. Searby; 395. M. Laws.

NATIONAL VETERANS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday 14th March 1982.

Parliament Hill

The Club's veterans found form as a team at the Championships being the fourth team to finish but first Southern team home in the 40-49 age group. Leading the Heath was Barry O'Gorman who had a superb race to place 26th. The following scorers packed well with Joe Clare in 58th, Bill Wade 62nd, and Alan Davis 66th, for a total of 212pts. In the over 50 age group race our first finisher was Gordon

Gibbens who was 70th, but it was Jack Braughton who stole the glory finishing 88th in this race and placing 2nd amongst the over 60's in the process. Thus earning himself yet another Championship medal.

40-49 Age Group: 26. B. O'Gorman, 58. J. Clare, 62. D. Wade, 66. A. Davis, 148. M. Peel, 4 to score—B.H. 'A' 212pts. (1st Southern).

Over 50: 70. G. Gibbens, 88. J. Braughton (2nd Over 60), 93. D. Hopgood, 120. A. Ball, 3 to score 251.

GLC CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, 28th November, 1981. Parliament Hill
The GLC championships very often give the first taste of the year of true cross-country, this year was no exception. The conditions reminded the 15 Heathens that during the coming winter they could look forward to many cold, wet and grey afternoons with cold showers during and after the race. The ground staff had been busy and once again prepared the course perfectly. It was wet in places, very wet in others, and uniformly muddy, except for the run-in to the finish of each lap where they had carefully removed all the covering earth from the tree roots, dried the remaining soil, and covered the hole in large pebbles to maximise the competitors' chances of breaking their ankles. Despite an earlier than usual start the three Blackheath teams managed to arrive in good time and this year we all remembered to bring our shorts with us. Such is the reputation of Hampstead Heath that in the recent past a member of the Club has attempted to run minus his shorts. This is of course against ECCU rules and besides setting a bad example to our younger athletes could BLACKEN the Club's good name. Not to mention the effect of the chill winds of north London.

It soon became apparent that the absence of Richard Coles who was awaiting a 'Happy Event' (no not the arrival of the new Gazette) had seriously damaged our chances of finishing in the top six clubs. John Baldwin, who doesn't seem to get any slower despite his 'advancing' (not the Editor's words, honestly John) years led the teams home in 34th place followed by the youthful President, Ian Wilson (37th) and the pubescent Frankish (41st). Rumours that the team let the oldest man finish first as a mark of respect for his years are largely unfounded. Bob Cliff completed the scoring first team in 63rd place, and the cross-country secretary assures us he was trying quite hard and was not just out for the view and the air.

The first team finished in 11th place with the B and C teams chasing hard in 17th and 20th respectively. It was pleasing to see that so many Heathens turned out on such an unpleasant day, especially so for members of the track team, who were out to show that there was more to their athletics than trying to get a suntan at British League meetings.

Shaftesbury won the team event, led home by Dave Bedford running on his home ground. Thames Valley were second and Essex Beagles third. One can only guess where Blackheath would have come had our strongest team been available, but the Club has enough talent coming through to allow us to do better than 11th next year — if they run.

Full result in Newsletter Vol 4, No. 7.

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

It has been said before but what a pity more 'heathens do not use these shorter, fast, races as part of their build up for the bigger championship events. If you believe these to be "easy" runs ask

Richard Coles about his seventh place less than half a minute off the leader. However, as last year's President showed, even the slow men can have a competitive run which is surely what it is all about; it is a pity he had to score at Tonbridge, though to improve the team position by more than a place a 'heathen would have been needed between Ken Daniel and Andy Frankish. The Tonbridge course is very flat, and not too interesting, but the two other courses, while being quite fast with some mud, are varied and testing; more of you should try them!

Followers of the wider athletics field will be pleased to hear that Joby Mayatt, now of Medway, finished in the 80's in two of the races; it is a long time since he competed internationally. The Rome Olympics are also a long way back, and so it is pleasing to see Don Thompson still enjoying athletic competition with Folkestone, consistently some eight minutes off the leaders. Those who saw Ian MacMillan, of Invicta, hobbling round Sparrows Den in a bid to come back after his serious road accident whilst training and who perhaps doubted he would ever make it, will be pleased to know he ran in two of these races to finish within six minutes of the leader at Maidstone. Also running in the Invicta vest two new Blackheath track first claim members, Jon Wigley and Merv Brameld, gave confirmation of their speed at this sort of distance, and with Richard Coles they should bring our middle-distance to a standard more in keeping with our British League status. This should also allow the various 'heathens who have been called upon and who have without exception run so well for the team, but who have been so often outclassed, to now have the chance of success at a more appropriate level or in their preferred event.

Finally dare mention be made of the intention next season, that in addition to an unchanged league format there is to be a competition based on the first 10 or 12 in each club at each race; will we ever compete there?

10th October, 1981.

Tonbridge
1. A. Guilder (Elliott) 24.31s.; 23. K. Daniel 26.22s.; 32. A. Frankish 26.48s.; 34. I. Wilson 26.54s.; 116. I. Smith 35.15s.

Team—1. Elliott AC 25; 10. Blackheath H. 205.

5th December, 1981.

Maidstone
1. G. Huckwell (Dart) 26.07s.; 3. J. Wigley (Inv) 26.13s*; 4. M. Brameld 26.19s*; 7. R. Coles 26.33s; 20. A. Frankish 28.16s; 24. R. Cliff 28.25s; 27. R. Richardson 28.44s; 31. K. Daniel 28.59s; 40. M. Athawes 29.42s; R. Ebbutt 35.11s; I. Smith 39.26s.
Team—1. Elliott AC 27; Blackheath H. 78.

20th February, 1982.

Dartford
1. P. Gaden (Camb) 25.37s; 3. M. Brameld (Inv) 25.51s*; 18. K. Daniel 27.32s; 30. G. Martin 27.56s; J. Wilkinson 28.28s; 35. M. Athawes 28.30s; 37. C. Haines 28.42s; 43. J. Oliver (Camb) 29.13s*; A. Davis 30.06s; 64. J. Phelan 30.23s.

Team—1. Elliott AC 40; 7. Blackheath H. 120.

Final League—1. Elliott AC 221; 2. Camb. H. 207; 3. Invicta 202; 7. Blackheath H. 162.

* 2nd claim B.H.

CLOSING 5

27th March, 1982.

Hayes

Whilst a number of this season's cross-country races have been beset with inclement weather the same could not be said of this day. The sun shone while a cooling breeze kept the temperature down to provide pleasant running conditions. Present in a spectating capacity was the Club's latest bionic man

'Johnny Walker' complete with new hip joint and fresh from his hospitalization. The Hon. Handicapper, whoever he is, had a thankless task on his hands with a number of unknown quantities present, including an appearance by one of the Club's hammer throwers, Doug Gray, some pounds lighter than last track season, and undoubtedly with some miles running under his belt.

This being the traditional yacht handicap the runners proceeded to depart at their allotted time intervals, led away by Bill Lake, but it was from amongst the second group, off 16 mins., that the real 'dark horses' were to emerge and fill 3 of the leading 4 places. Newcomer Stan Ridgewell romped home first over 1½ mins. clear of Max Heinimann, with Peter Davis having a fine run to take third spot, ahead of another of the '16' group Tony Oldfield. We are assured the handicapper has made note of these 'persons' and will seek revenge. Showing well was P.-P. Brian Stone, another who has shed some pounds in recent months and is busily preparing for 'The London'. Last man away, off 20 secs., was the captain Tim Soutar who fought his way through to secure 28th place. Happily for the officials the 55 combatants failed to agree with the handicapper and did not arrive at the finish line en masse, heaven help us if he ever gets it right.

1. S. Ridgewell 22.08/16.00; 2. M. Heinimann 23.40/16.00; 3. P. Davis 23.56/9.45; 4. A. Oldfield 24.44 16.00; 5. W. Lake 25.20/20.00; 6. B. Stone 25.43/8.45; 7. G. Blessing 26.22/4.30; 8. D. Amner 26.31/6.30; 9. D. Thomson 26.40/9.30; 10. A. Hartley 26.41/7.30; 11. A. Tompkins 26.48/9.15; 12. A. Calton (Snr.) 26.56/5.45; 13. R. Tompkins (Jnr.) 26.58/7.00; 14. R. Chambers 26.50/6.30; 15. J. Nash 27.04 4.30; 16. B. Smith 27.12/6.45; 17. C. Haines 27.14/2.00; 18. T. Partington 27.16/15.00; 19. D. Blackman 27.23/7.30; 20. D. Tingey 27.33/14.00; 21. S. Gibbins 27.28/6.45; 22. R. Savery 27.33/5.00; 23. I. C. Wilson 27.33/1.30; 24. S. Dick 27.37/9.15; 25. I. Young 27.47/2.0; 26. J. Braughton 27.49/7.30; 27. J. Robinson 27.51/6.00; 28. T. Soutar 27.54/0.20; 29. A. Dick 27.56/9.15; 30. M. Peel 27.57/3.30; 31. S. Bibby 28.03/6.15; 32. D. Gray 28.12/12.00; 33. W. Wheeler 28.12/8.00; 34. B. Todd 28.17/7.00; 35. F. Dyter 28.22/11.30; 36. P. Critchley 28.22/10.00; 37. D. White 28.25/2.00; 38. P. Long 28.35/16.00; 39. R. Cliff 28.54/1.20; 40. L. Percival 28.58/7.00; 41. I. F. Smith 29.03/11.15; 42. N. Burrows 29.32/2.50; 43. P. Hunter 29.41/6.45; 44. J. Phelan 29.59/3.45; 45. C. Daly 30.45/6.15; 46. R. Mitchell 30.54/6.45; 47. L. Dalmon 31.09/14.00; 48. J. Raine 31.18/6.30; 49. R. Richardson 31.54/8.00; 50. S. Thompson 32.29/6.30; 51. T. Mallott 33.14/15.00; 52. A. Calton (Jnr.) 33.20/8.00; 53. J. Partington 33.27/15.00; 54. S. Fagg 33.35/5.00; 55. M. Manley.

BENNETT CUP POINTS HANDICAP

	Cl	SLH	Or.	Cl	Rn	Close	Tot
1. A. Tompkins	5	7½	7½	10	7½	5	
2. J. Braughton	16	37	37	27	21	15	156
3. C. Haines	5	33	26	28	18	24	134
4. T. Soutar	—	23	34	36	26	13	132
5. I. Wilson	28	24	29	5	23	18	127
6. A. Calton (Snr.)	37	1	28	19	10	29	124

The Bennett Cup turned out to be a close affair with the top positions keenly contested and an "anything can happen" situation on the final day with the Closing 5 to be run. An exceptional run by a number of people could secure a placing, the final result is above.



John Robinson

R.A.F. COSFORD

Robert Farish finished 6th in the AAA under-20 indoor championships at RAF Cosford on 3rd April clocking 3m. 56.6s. He ran steadily in his heat to qualify for the final but it was here against some strong opposition he found himself at a disadvantage before the gun had even fired. The start consisted of a grid system and Robert was drawn in the back row resulting in his being last away and leaving him a lot of work to do to make any mark on the race. At halfway a group of 4 broke away but Robert was unable to regain contact with them and had to settle for a scrap for 5th and 6th place with the defending champion Alistair Curry.

WINTER TRACK MEETING

Sunday, 4th April, 1982.

Crystal Palace

As is customary many of the Club's track men used our annual early season meeting to gauge how their winter's training had gone to date, and some Club members produced some fine performances.

In the Junior men's 300m. Ray Ward knocked 1 sec. off his best when he finished second in 36.0s. A fast start quickly put Ward a metre up on the field and only some strong running from Allan of Victoria Park H. robbed him of victory.

Bob Pinson contested both the Senior 100m. and 300m., winning the shorter race in 11.6s. and placing second in the 300m. with 36.1s. Meanwhile in the 300m. 'B' race the Club's two International high jumpers did battle, and in a very close race Tim Foulger placed second in 36.3s. while Trevor Llewellyn was fifth in 36.6s.

In the Boys' 600m. Richard Mitchell got away at a tremendous pace to lead all the way although his very early pace took a toll as he slowed in the latter stages of the race, but was nevertheless 4 seconds clear as he crossed the finish line.

In the senior 3000m. Richard Coles ran a well controlled race breaking away from a strong field after 3 laps to record a fine victory in 8m. 22.1s. Other track winners on the day were James Adams in the Youths' 1000m. clocking 2m. 50.3s. with Anthony Dick fifth in 3m. 1.0s. Edison Agbandji won the Boys' 100m. in 12.1s., while Paul Ashen won two Junior 100m. races in 11.4s and 11.5s., Tim Soutar clocked 6m. 10.7s. to finish second in the 2000m. steeplechase.

But it was not only a day for the track men to come out of hibernation, it was also a chance for the field eventers to show off their new-found strengths and techniques, which they did to good effect. Mike Winch, Britain's leading shot-putter, won both the shot and discus with 15.73m. and 54.34m. respectively, while Chris Ellis was third in the discus with a throw of 45.04m. In the Junior javelin Ian Kavanagh placed third with an effort measured at 52.05m.

THE NEW 200 GROUP

Dave Amner Lands the Big One!

The new 200 Group eventually got off the ground in September, 1981, the subscription level having been raised to £2 per month and the prize list adjusted accordingly. Currently there are 128 members participating in this unique experiment in the redistribution of wealth (Haines style), the only certainty being that large four-figure sums will be raised for the benefit of the club. Vacancies still exist and if you are not a member, feel lonely, and that you are missing something — you are! Telephone Chris Haines 01-777 6498 immediately. Check the members' list below, the moneys shown against the names indicate the already lucky members.

1. N. W. Page, 2. Ms. A. Leggett, 5. C. H. Shorter, 6. P. W. Catley, 8. W. A. Boulton, 9. Mrs. P. A. Wilson, 10. D. White, 11. A. J. Brent, 12. Mrs. I. Hickey, 13. L. E. Hammill, 14. Mrs. U. V. Malone, 16. Mrs. I. E. Parsons, 17. W. F. Lake, 18. F. C. Rogers, 19. C. R. Haines, 20. Mrs. K. M. Smith (£25 Jan.), 21. D. Hoppood, 23. A. M. Davies, 24. L. E. Piper (£25 Feb.), 25. Mrs. M. Frankish, 28. J. B. Herring, 29. R. J. Danks, 30. P. Sims, 32. E. J. Malone (£25 Oct.), 34. R. P. Cliff, 35. B.H.S.C., 36. D. A. Amner (£305 Feb.), 37. K. J. McSweeney, 39. Mrs. C. A. Taylor, 40. Mrs. J. D. Cavanagh, 42. R. Richardson, 43. D. Taylor (£50 Feb.), 44. Wine Comm., 47. Mrs. J. Mahoney, 48. Mrs. E. Cooper, 50. J. Nash, 51. D. W. M. Wade, 52. L. Roberts, 55. D. G. Gale, 57. C. J. Wallis, 58. B. G. Stone, 59. G. Butlin, 60. A. A. Oldfield, 62. I. K. Young, 64. Mrs. B. Sullivan, 65. J. R. Baldwin, 68. Mrs. N. Sims, 69. Mrs. L. Horwood, 70. S. C. Wooderson, 72. R. H. Savery, 73. R. E. Green, 75. W. E. Tonkin, 76. Ms. J. Child (£50 Nov.), 77. R. H. Seager, 78. S. A. Field, 79. J. Hills, 81. G. Wright, 82. Miss M. Thompson, 83. P. E. Shephard, 85. M. T. Poole, 87. P. C. Hannell, 88. J. B. Wilkinson, 89. G. Botley, 90. K. J. Allen, 92. R. D. Turney, 95. G. Martin, 97. S. F. H. Glynn, 99. A. W. Frankish (£25 Sept.), 102. T. Llewellyn, 103. L. A. Wilson (£25 Nov.), 104. D. A. Bentley, 105. R. A. Morley, 106. N. Dudley, 112. Mrs. V. Shuttleworth, 114. R. A. E. Galley, 115. T. T. Sullivan, 117. Mrs. B. L. Stone, 118. Mr. & Mrs. J. O'Connor, 119. Mrs. L. A. Young, 121. W. S. Norton, 122. B. C. Baldwin, 123. R. E. D. Taylor, 126. R. E. Green, 127. Mrs. N. Taylor, 128. R. K. Brennan (£25 Jan.), 130. B.H.H.Q., 131. Mrs. E. M. Child, 132. C. M. Brand (£50 Nov.), 135. Mrs. P. Moss, 136. A. G. Chappell, 138. T. J. Cavanagh, 139. M. L. Peel, 140. B. M. Shapcott (£25 Nov.), 141. I. C. Wilson, 142. Mrs. V. Cliff, 144. J. Braughton, 146. S. H. Cluney, 147. L. E. Hammill, 151. R. J. Coles, 156. R. J. Edwards, 160. P. J. G. Baigent (£25 Sept.), 162. B. D. Hartley, 164. Mss. D. & C. Mahoney, 165. K. J. Daniel, 166. Miss N. D. Taylor, 167. J. R. D. Cockburn (£50 Jan.), 168. G. Botley (£25 Oct.), 169. K. Tonkin, 172. G. E. Monshall, 173. J. E. Philip, 174. R. I. Hawtin, 175. G. Hickey, 177. Mrs. V. L. Peel, 179. J. Raine, 181. M. A. Taylor, 183. I. M. Ross, 184. G. B. Crowder, 185. J. Wakeman (£25 Feb.), 186.

R. D. Ebbutt, 187. M. Mahoney, 188. H. B. Rhodes, 190. T. C. Mallott, 191. J. C. W. Friend, 194. Mrs. B. Brent, 195. C. A. Beer, 198. Mrs. J. W. Oldfield, 199. M. Heinimann.

HEART BEAT HARRIERS JOGGING CLUB

March Newsletter, 1982—Excerpt.

Brisbane, Australia

Club Run Report—Col. Thatcher

Saturday, 20th February, 1982, saw the inaugural Les Ritchie Saturday Morning Training Run with runners coming from as far away as Brisbane. Quite a turnout with Les, Bob, Peter, Peter, Peter, (darn impediment), Angela, Terry, Phil, Niel (Maggron), Bryan and Col. The regulars were joined by John Robinson—a visitor from the U.K. who is a member of the Blackheath Harriers. John impressed lesser HBHs with his fitness and by his ability to wash down his wheaties with Irish Whisky.

The event started with a superb 6 mile run along a State Forest bush track which was shades of a roller coaster circuit and was followed by a road circuit to make up the 15 miles. Unusual parts of the run were a visit to a landing field for miniature flying saucers, a match race against a greyhound and a BMX obstacle course (who said runners don't fantasize).

The only non-finisher was Terry who withdrew with a minor arch injury. Others who tended to wilt in the sunny latter stages received assistance from the "After Hours Doctor" who Les apparently arranged to be available for consultation on the footpath en route. Sympathy goes to Les, his attractive wife, Dawn, and the local garbage collector for the consumption of endless bottles of mineral water.

The world is a small place when you are mad on running, or a mad runner. On recommendation of Graham Botley I called on the above club and a month later they forwarded their newsletter containing the above article.

It should be mentioned that this run commenced at 5.30 a.m. on a beautiful sunny day. The temperature on starting was 30C (86F) and we did just 6 miles in the State Forest before the first water stop and included 6 more before the 15 mile run had been completed; whilst the temperature gradually climbed above 36C (96F). The group stopped at garages and homes and one 'Aussie' who was washing his car even gave us the benefit (?) of a shower. The proceedings took 2½ hours, and although it wasn't a race I did not tarnish the Heath's reputation despite the unusual temperatures.

For the benefit of those Heathens going 'down under' for the Commonwealth Games later this year these will be some of the hosts of the 'Botley extravaganza' and I can assure of their warm hospitality for visitors.

St. JOHN MATTHEWS/FRANKISS CUP

Rowing Race

Sunday, 5th December. The Thames, Chiswick
This year the crews, Blackheath and Ranelagh, raced downstream to finish at the iron railway bridge adjacent to the Civil Service rowing club at Chiswick. Thus after the race would come the labour against the tide back up the river to the starting point at the Horseferry Rowing Club to return the boats for future years confrontations. Stories were filtering through the grapevine (club bar) that Ranelagh's crew were even better than in previous years. This year new recruits from the local rowing clubs had been hammering on the door of the "Dysart Arms", Ranelagh's headquarters,

with the result that only one of last year's crew had been good enough to retain his place in this season's crew. Blackheath, as usual confined their activities to short stints in the tidal waters of Greenwich combined with longer efforts at Curlew Rowing Club's most inviting bar, in vain efforts to secure the running services of some of their members, whom we may also be able to use in pursuance of their own sport. Alas all was with little effect.

Ranelagh's crew was as good as the boasts had indicated, and with clean strike of experienced oar they won by four lengths or more, so narrowing Blackheath's wins margin to ONE. Is there an experienced oar out there who doesn't know this race exists or doesn't know whom to contact? Come to the bar at Hayes any Wednesday and learn more.

ON THE ROAD

ROESELARE 1981

Saturday, 21st November, 1981. Belgium
Saturday, 21st November, was just not the President's day! After requiring the services of the Winter captain to disentangle him from the barbed wire fence at Furze Bottom (Captain's note 1: never run behind the President) he only just had time to announce our defeat by SLH before being dragged away superfluous to Dover where he then discovered that our jetfoil had been cancelled and there was no alternative means of transport to Ostend (Captain's note 2: next year's team should be strong swimmers). However, Bill Wade, his preparation suggesting a scouting training, or more probably distrust of club organisation, produced a map of France and Belgium and a new route via Dunkerque was arranged by means of a quick phone call. Even though we arrived after midnight the President's misfortune continued as his chauffeur for the journey from the French port to Roeselare was poor even by Belgian standards. His circuitous route included a stretch on the pavement behind the lamp posts.

The morning of Sunday 22nd arrived very early. Our accommodation in a local school was very comfortable except the bell remained programmed to jangle frequently and loudly from 6.00 a.m. onwards (Captain's note 3: club teams to catholic countries should comprise entirely of Parisienne Hunchbacks to ensure adequate rest).

We were at the course by 10.30 a.m. by which time the day's programme was already well under way. By now we were also encountering something of an identity crisis. The AAA permission to compete was made out in favour of "Blackheath Harriers" and then we were grandly presented to the swelling crowd as "Blackhead Harriers", morale was not high. We decided on a short walk round the well spectated course, just as well, a long one would have made us dizzy. However, the organisers clearly maintained the misguided notion that we were a force to be reckoned with as they then attempted to "nobble" us with yet another substantial meal.

Thus to the race. The start could charitably be described as a shambles, resembling a self administered yacht handicap. After almost ten minutes the starter still hadn't got all the field back to anywhere near the line. However, an over generous gesture of frustration was interpreted by many as the 'off' and away they went. Needless to say, the Heath being true English sportsmen were thus severely disadvantaged from the outset and our chances were not improved by a mass pile-up on a 90 degree corner just 80 metres from the official start. By the time

most of us had negotiated this human alp a significant part of the field were already half way round the first of six 800 metres, flat and winding laps. Although most of the team proceeded to move through, the initial setbacks proved too much due mainly to the opposition (Bouster, Puttemans, Leseck, etc., were amongst the fast runners).

However, even with our modest performance we all received a prize and even a rather splendid gilt trophy (one cynic suggested for being the first English team home beginning with B). This is now on display at the Club. The President was again out of luck as he arrived just in time to see the captain steal the honour of receiving the cup from Emile Puttemans. This did not, however, prevent the President from making an admirably short speech (so as not to waste valuable drinking time) and a small presentation to our hosts. Next day saw us ushered to yet another "small" reception. The team manfully downed yet more local brew, merely out of politeness, you understand, and confirmed its ambassadorial role which was doing wonders for l'entente cordiale or whatever the Flemish equivalent is. At any rate it secured our invitation back again next year when perhaps we might try and show them we can run as well as being nice guys.

HOG'S BACK 11½ MILES ROAD RACE

Saturday, 19th December, 1981 Guildford, Surrey
A bright, but bitterly cold day, fitted between snow falls, produced another record breaking race. The entries, in line with present day trends, were up to 1830, and the number of finishers likewise to 1089.

The new 11½ miles course appears to have met with the approval of the majority of competitors, the first half being flatter than that of the previous 10 mile course which compensates for the somewhat steeper climb onto the Hog's Back via Wanborough Hill. Peter Standing (WSE), having set the 10 mile course record of 47m. 39s. in 1979 will now start with the record for the new course.

A good turnout from the Club were led home by Brian Swift in 67th position. The writer recommends this race as a well organised, well supported event, well worth contesting in 1982.

1. P. Standing (Windsor SE) 53.38s. (48.06 at 10); 67. B. Swift 61.09s.; 74. G. Martin 61.33s.; 89. S. Rutherford 62.02s.; 149. S. Robinson 64.31s.; 152. P. Catley 64.33s.; 192. J. Phelan 65.52s.; 306. A. Edwards 68.44s.; 307. J. Cavanahg 68.51s.; 350. R. Beal 69.53s.; 396. R. Chambers 71.10s.; 462. P. Hannell 72.39s.; 697. I. Lavender 78.14s.; 998. J. Robinson 92.10s.

Team Race—Windsor SE 26pts.; 11. Blackheath H. 'A' 290pts.

ERITH 10km. ROAD RACE

Friday, 1st January, 1982.

A good-sized field assembled on the start-line on Erith Stadium track on New Year's Day for the Erith 10km. road race. Those who had survived the previous night's celebrations were blessed with a break in the Arctic conditions and set off on this annual event which was slightly adjusted to a measured 10km. A good turnout from Blackheath took part and Chris Woodcock produced an excellent performance to take 7th position of the 184 male finishers. Unhappily, the following day Chris turned out in the County Cross-Country Championships and sustained an ankle injury. The event was won by Keith Penny of Cambridge Harriers who continues to be Kent's 'King of the Road'.

It is with much regret we have learnt of the recent death of J. F. Dyball.



James Andrews

SITTINGBOURNE 10 MILE ROAD RACE

31st January 1982. *Sittingbourne, Kent.*

A good sprinkling of Blackheath vests were to be seen in the good sized field which set off on a flattish course for the Sittingbourne 10 Mile road race. After a small loop three laps were run in ideal weather conditions, mild and windless. Very fast times and personal bests for everyone were the order of the day — IF you were to believe the claim that the course had been measured by wheel. However, though this writer would be delighted to be running that fast, he is absolutely convinced that the course was short as will no doubt be proved when the 284 finishers look at their finishing times next time out.

1. M. Gratton (Invicta) 45.55s, 3. J. Wigley (Inv) 47.05s (2nd claim B.H.), 49. P. Barrington-King 53.52s, S. Robinson 54.35s, M. Williams 55.21s, 66. G. Hull 55.28s, 69. P. Catley (6th vet) 55.43s, 70. J. Phelan 55.46s, 90. J. Kavanagh 56.39s 92. A. Nana 56.45s, 113. H. Davies 58.42s, 114. R. Beal 58.48s.

WOKING 10

Sunday, 28th February, 1982. Woking, Surrey
This was yet another race that had record entries this year, with the acceptance of 1450 of which about 1150 started and 1068 finished, with over 700 unlucky applications being returned. The weather was ideal for racing and the organisation first class, and the Heath had a good number of entrants. First man home for the Club was Steve Rutherford who ran 54m. 05s. to place 59th.

1. M. Kearns (Tipton H.) 48m. 10s.; 59. S. Rutherford 54m. 05s.; 129. D. White 56m. 57s.; 140. J. Nash 57m. 08s.; 151. P. Catley 57m. 39s.; 156. M. Williams 57m. 45s.; 157. P. Greenwood 57m. 45s.; 164. C. Woodcock 57m. 58s.; 229. J. Kavanagh 59m. 32s.; 237. J. Phelan 59m. 42s.; 271. K.

Whicheloe 60m. 24s.; 298. A. Edwards 61m. 02s.; 300. J. Hills 61m. 03s.; 360. C. Ferguson 62m. 04s.; 361. M. Peel 62m. 05s.; 398. G. Gibbens 62m. 50s.; 454. A. Davies 63m. 56s.; 502. T. McGeogh 65m. 04s.; 564. C. Todd 66m. 06s.; 944. R. Beale 85m. 15s. Vets.—40/45 13. P. Catley; 45/50 4. J. Kavanagh; Over 50 12. G. Gibbens; 20. C. Todd.

CHARGE OF THE BLACKHEATH BRIGADE

Saturday, 6th March Beckenham Place Park
The Forbans Half-Marathon in Beckenham Place Park provided the scene for one of the most impressive displays by Blackheath of race domination witnessed in quite a few years. Strong running saw the Club fill six of the first ten places. The winner was Dartford's veteran Brian Bounvino in 71m. 31s., who found himself being chased home by a mass of black vests, the charge being led by Peter German returning 71m. 42s., and Peter Shephard in 73m. 41s. Paul Barrington-King proved lack of inches does not preclude him from fast times placing fourth in 74m. 54s. and by complete contrast was pursued home by 6ft. 4in. Doug Cocker, but he's a quarter-miler you all cry, not so it would seem, another aiming for the 'London'. Not the man to get involved with in the last 385 yards of a marathon. Still to come were road race secretary Mike Williams who was eighth and John Facer ninth.

1. B. Bounvino (Dart. H.) 71.31s.; 2. P. German 71.42s.; 3. P. Shephard 73.41s.; 4. P. Barrington-King 74.54s.; 5. D. Cocker 76.03s.; 8. M. Williams 77.21s.; J. Facer 77.30s.

TONBRIDGE 10

13th March, 1982.

A field of over 300 runners were greeted by a mild but windy Saturday afternoon for the 1982 edition of the Tonbridge 10 miles road race, with a large Blackheath contingent in attendance. The 2 lap hilly course provided a fine testing ground for all the would-be club marathoners.

The Heath were led home in 24th place by Ken Pike in 53.18s., who was followed by Pete Shephard (54.17s.) in 31st and 'Le President', Ian Wilson (54.51s.) in 37th place. Most Club participants seemed satisfied with their performances in what was a well contested race. A fast finishing Peter Catley did well to secure 4th place in the vets competition.

1. M. Knapp (Invicta) 49.08s.; 24. K. Pike 53.18s.; 31. P. Shephard 54.17s.; 37. I. Wilson 54.51s.; 48. R. Coe 55.45s.; 54. D. White 56.09s.; 60. J. Nash 56.24s.; 66. S. Cluney 57.11s.; 71. S. Robinson 57.25s.; 72. P. Catley (vet) 57.27s.; 78. J. Facer 57.55s.; 100. R. Creffield 58.44s.; 103. P. Varcoe 58.48s.; 154. R. Chambers 62.22s.; 182. B. Fincham 64.00s.; 195. B. Todd 64.58s.; 236. L. Fagg 67.01s.; 269. L. Percival 69.32s.; 288. M. Smith (vet) 71.16s.; 293. S. Ridgewell 72.08s.; 296. M. Heinimann 72.47s. 337 finished.

Teams—Blackheath 'A' 7th; B.H. 'B' 13th. 35 teams closed in.

CROYDON HARRIERS ROAD RELAYS

14th March, 1982. *Crystal Palace N.S.C.*

A cold and very windy Sunday morning on the old motor racing circuit was the scene for the Croydon Harriers 8 x 2½ miles road relay. From the outset the Blackheath 'A' team set about the task at hand with great determination and held the lead for the opening two stages. Bill Foster set the proceedings underway with a 9.43s opening stage for the 2½



John Nash

(nearer 2¼) miles, which gave the team a 100 yards lead. He was followed by Martin Athawes and a sneezing Ken Daniels who was besotted with a cold. Despite Epsom & Ewell seizing the lead on lap 3 it proved only a temporary setback for the Heath as Richard Coles ran a powerful 9.43s leg to reinstate Blackheath at the front of the field. This lead was maintained by a returning from injury Peter Irvine and cross-country captain Tim Soutar. As the last stage got underway Chris Lord found himself with the slenderest of leads and being chased by a determined Chris France of Epsom. Despite a courageous run by Chris Lord the Epsom man proved a little too strong and the Heath had to be content with the runners-up position.

While all this was going on up front a depleted 'B' team did its best to 'fly the flag', and managed to rise as high as 9th place by the 5th leg when despite doubling up they had to retire through lack of numbers. A great shame as they were within striking distance of becoming first 'B' team. It seems a great pity with our glut of road runners we could not find enough looking for speedwork to finish two teams.

1. Epsom 82m 01s; 2. Blackheath 'A' 82.11s; 'B' 57.08s after 5 laps.

'A' W. Foster 9.43s, M. Athawes 10.24s, K. Daniel 10.39s, M. Wilkinson 10.50s, R. Coles 9.43s, P. Irvine 10.12s, T. Soutar 10.20s, C. Lord 10.20s.

'B' M. Laws 11.23s, S. Cluney 11.01s, R. Ebbutt 12.44s, A. Frankish 10.45s, S. Cluney 11.35s.

LES 20 KMS. DU BOULONNAIS

Sunday, 14th March, 1982

Belgium

It has always been a good idea to have a work out over the half distance when training for a big race and it was with thoughts on the London Marathon in May (reported elsewhere in this issue) that an excursion over this distance was pencilled in for the second Sunday in March. As a Wintonian, the Winchester Half-Marathon seemed to be the ideal race, the course would follow the lanes and hills remembered from some years ago. Three Maids Hill, the Wosthys, the Fitchen Valley, the route out of the city and the Westgate are all landmarks to punctuate the long journey and to allev-

iate the boredom. With these thoughts passing through my mind, against the backdrop of Winchester Cathedral, the awful realisation, that it was not to be became apparent on receipt of a curt rejection from the organisers. (Did the London rejects feel twice as bad?).

And so it was, that I joined a party of eight Heathens on the weekend trip to Boulogne organised by our dual member Dave Nash (Dartford Harriers). The weekend of French cuisine was eagerly anticipated, as we met at Folkestone for the early afternoon ferry. More than a little nervous, in the face of weather reports of Force 9 gales in the channel on the previous evening, liberal doses of 'kwell's and 'sea-legs' were taken by both the experienced and inexperienced travellers alike. We needn't have worried for, in fact both crossings were a little uncomfortable at worst. Boulogne greeted us with cool sunshine in the early evening, hotels were found and our first experience of long range organisational problems ended in disaster. The restaurant in the old part of town denied the telephone booking for the hapless Harriers leaving Les Roberts as the only member with a smile on his face (he had two female companions!) However, a brave front enabled the group to keep salmonella poisoning at bay at a rather different establishment across the road. Much wine was consumed, some rather dated ballads were sung and the Club cry was kept in abeyance in deference to the proprietor. The evening finished for most, with a nightcap at the hotel.

The race was held early on Sunday morning, from La Capelle into Boulogne. The rather spartan facilities near the start reminded me of races in certain parts some twenty years ago. Whilst it was not raining, it was bitterly cold and a strong wind seemed to blow from random directions. From the start Les Roberts took the lead with only George Meredith (Camb. H.) giving any sort of attempt to keep up. Les led the Club home over a tough, hilly course, slightly over distance, to win by more than two minutes. With six men in the first twelve the team race, such as it was, showed first and second to Blackheath. Although several members had extremely good runs, in particular Steve Rutherford, the standard of the opposition was certainly lower than in comparable races in the U.K. Tony Nana showed tremendous courage in running, since he had no recollection of his gastronomic and bilious disaster of the night before!

Enough of this, come to the club to hear the full story at first hand, and exercise one of the following options :

1. Reserve the date for next year's trip to Boulogne.
2. Decide never to set foot in Boulogne.
3. Pour yourself another malt whisky.

I have settled on option 3, but this may change.

1. L. Roberts 65m. 55s.; 6. C. Haines 70m. 45s.; 8. S. Rutherford 72m. 30s.; 9. P. Barrington-King 74m. 14s.; 14. K. Whicheloe 74m. 19s.; 12. M. Williams 75m. 28s.; 21. T. Nana 80m. 18s.; 22. A. Edwards 80m. 18s.; 23. C. Daly 81m. 00s. 130 ran.

NEW MEMBER

We are proud to be able to announce the news that Allison and Richard COLES have become the proud parents of a newly arrived harrier Andrew John, who arrived at approximately 11.40 p.m. on December 18th and weighed in at 7lbs 9½ ozs.

KENT A.C. 10

Sunday, 28th March, 1982. Sidcup, Kent

Weather conditions were ideal for this local three lap course and it was a pleasant change to run with a small but more manageable field. A good sprinkling of Club members were in evidence amongst the starters and Steve Rutherford produced an excellent performance as the first Club runner home in 10th position in 53m. 37s.

1. L. Slater (Inv.) 51m. 07s.; 10. S. Rutherford 53m. 37s.; 15. P. Shepheard 54m. 52s.; 23. P. Barrington-King 55m. 43s.; 33. P. Catley 56m. 57s.; 39. J. Facer 57m. 40s.; 42. F. Johnson 58m. 14s.; 53. K. Whicheloe 59m. 08s.; 58. M. Cronin 58m. 55s. 124 finished.

Teams—1. Invicta 26 pts.; 5. B.H. 'A' 48; 12. B.H. 'B' 150. 21 teams closed in.

CAMBRIDGE HARRIERS ROAD RELAYS

20th March 1982.

Bexley

The Cambridge Harriers 8 x 3¼ miles relay held on a cold, damp Saturday was marred by the fact that Invicta lost their substantial mid-race lead when they strayed off the unmarked course and never regained the lost time on the hilly course. But for Blackheath, who fielded two teams it was a day of consistency with the 'A' team finishing a solid eighth place with all the members running within one minute of each other. For the 'B' team it was a similar story in 16th place and within a 45 seconds range. The most promising fact was the presence of three juniors, Wilkinson, Thompson, and Colpus in the 'B' team who all performed admirably alongside their more 'senior' colleagues.

1. Aldershot , 8. B.H. 'A' 96.04s, 16. B.H. 'B' 99.22s.

'A'—Soutar 15.33s, Wilson 16.24s, Athawes 15.52s, Lord 16.06s, Martin 16.12s, Cliff 15.57s,

'B'—Wilkinson 16.29s, Thompson 16.10s, Cluney 16.43s, Colpus 16.31s, Baldwin 16.34s, Horwood 16.55s.

THE BLACKHEATH HARRIERS MARATHON CLINIC

Friday, 2nd April, 1982.

Hayas

In view of the marathon running epidemic and in particular with the London Marathon only just round the corner in every sense of the phrase, it was decided that the Club should open its doors to those local people infected with the disease. The evening of the 2nd April was chosen and an encouraging 50-plus aspirants duly trooped in and sat themselves down. To a person they appeared to be full of miles in anticipation and it fell to the panel of Alan Brent (Chairman), Dave Chettle (2h. 10m.), Don Faircloth (1970 Commonwealth Silver Medal), Bob Richardson (Club Rec. 2h. 17m.), Chris Haines, Ian Wilson and Graham Martin, the organiser, to reassure, instruct, advise, and warn from their own not inconsiderable experiences of racing in general and of the 26.2 miles in particular.

If the audience expected a blueprint to instant success then they were going to be disappointed :

- (a) because they were soon made to realise that there were virtually as many approaches as there were runners, and
- (b) because Chris Haines had made up his mind that his principal role that evening was to disagree with virtually everything everybody else said.

Whilst this might well have guaranteed that any confidence the novices may have had when they arrived was well and truly stripped away by the time they left, it did at the same time ensure a very entertaining evening. There were, of course, a number of incontrovertible do's and don'ts regarding pace, liquid intake and clothing which were strongly emphasised. By and large therefore everyone felt the exercise, which had been admirably orchestrated by Graham Martin, had been well worthwhile, and would possibly be the embryo of bigger things to come of this nature.

SOUTHERN ROAD RELAYS

Saturday, 3rd April, 1982.

Wimbledon Common

The Southern Road Relays proved to be quite a tussle up front with the lead changing hands numerous times amidst the heavy Saturday traffic of Wimbledon Common. The Blackheath team met with mixed fortunes during the race, where the opposition gets stronger annually, placing 15th of the 40 starters.

Tim Soutar ran himself hard on the very fast opening long leg to hand over in 24th place and giving the team manager a few anxious moments as he wobbled around the common after his run giving a good impression of a ghost. Peter Irvine ran well to pull back to 21st on the short leg and then came the 'Richard Coles Roadshow' on Leg 3. Richard obviously anxious to finish his effort and get to the pub by the start stormed through the field to bring the Club up to 13th place with a 25m. 12s. time. Bob Cliff managed 16m. 59s. for Leg 4 finishing in 15th place before Les Roberts set about securing his County selection (for the forthcoming Inter-Counties 20) and his first ever County vest at the age of 38, in recording 26m. 2s. He was followed by Ken Daniel and Graham Martin who handed over to the team's youngest member Steve Thompson of St. Dunstan's College who returned 17m. 31s. on his short leg. The team was rounded off by President Ian Wilson, Martin Athawes, and Chris Haines, with Chris Lord bringing the team home for a final placing on 15th.

1. Shaftesbury 4h. 07m. 53s.; 15. B.H. 4h. 21m. 51s.



Dave 'Tod' Amner and Jim Raine

24th T. Soutar 26m. 17s.; 21st. P. Irvine 16m. 42s.
13th. R. Coles 25m. 12s.; 15th R. Cliff 16m. 59s.
13th L. Roberts 26m. 02s.; 14th K. Daniel 17m. 06s.
13th. G. Martin 26m. 44s.; 14th. S. Thompson 17m.
31s. 16th. I. Wilson 27m. 40s.; 14th. M. Athawes
16m. 55s. 15th. C. Haines 27m. 32s.; 15th C. Lord
17m. 11s.

STAR PRE-LONDON HALF-MARATHON

Sunday, 4th April, 1982. Aldershot, Hants.

Whilst a number of the Club's marathon runners were in Rochester doing their requisite pre-London ½ marathon, two of us adopted the infamous advice 'Go West young man' and travelled to Aldershot to do battle. The weather encountered was similar to that in Rochester, sunny, very warm, and a decided headwind on the return journey. The course (well, someone somewhere tells fibs) we were told it 'undulated' in the last 3 miles, where in fact it gently undulated for the first 10 miles, and the last 3 miles consisted of a 'series of steepish hills.

The start was in the Rushmoor Arena in Aldershot, a military establishment designed for army displays, and with true military precision things were well organised, and had to be with over 2500 starters. The thousands of spectators created quite an atmosphere with the Gurkha band providing musical entertainment until the airborne arrival of the Red Devils parachuting team. The extensive prize list attracted the class runners and the front echelon somewhat resembled a who's who of road running. There was little chance of the race going astray as there were 2 police motorcycles, 2 lead cars, and an army landrover at the head of the field.

The local populace on the one lap course had obviously been saturated by the local press (who were one of the sponsors, the Surrey and Hants Star) in the preceding weeks.

The whole route, which passed from one delightful village to another, was crowded with thousands of spectators, many with their own impromptu water stops. There were 2 official feeding stations and 3 first aid stations en route all well equipped and well manned, in the heat a very thankful sight they were.

With the announcer listing a number of non starters, all servicemen who were already bound for the Falkland Islands, the starter's gun echoed ominously around the vast arena. A fair proportion of the field were local 'joggers' who were nervously anticipating their first ever race, so the field rapidly snaked out over the Hampshire roads. The authorities, police, army and civilian, maintained excellent control of the traffic and it was most gratifying to be safe from the Sunday motorists. The final 3 miles skirted the army firing ranges and the continuous light arms fire was an ever present reminder of where one was. The small Club contingent was led home by Steve Cluney in 91st place in a time of 1h. 19m. 29s., with Bill Petch the other 'Heathen' in attendance 508th in 1h. 32m. 52s. The one slip in the organisation was the eternity it took to produce any results on the day, computers are only as good as the people who operate them.

Despite the hills and the heat of the day most people seemed well pleased with the outcome in general and as is now becoming traditional in such events there was a medal for every finisher inside the time limit of 3 hours. A race for your diary providing you are not looking for a fast flat course, if so forget it now.

1. D. Stevens (Hastings) 1h. 5m. 32s.; 91. S. Cluney 1h. 19m. 29s.; 508. W. Petch 1h. 32m. 52s. 1995 finished.

ROCHESTER HALF-MARATHON

Sunday, 4th April, 1982. Rochester, Kent

The day was sunny, cloudless, warm and windy, not altogether good weather for prospective distance combatants, and as it turned out a fair indication of the day ahead. There were no maps of the course available and so the race lined up for the 'off' all enquiring what lay ahead, the replies from the 'knowledgeable' ranging from 'dead flat' to 'Mount Everest!'

The gun fired and the field streamed away and very soon the climbing began, up and up and UP the course went and eventually took us across a grassy park where the referee held up play in a soccer match to allow us through. Then a diversion to let the local people on a housing estate take a look at the runners, we hope they enjoyed it more than we did.

After running into a headwind on the way out we turned for home and what do you think, yes, the wind had turned as well so we had the pleasure of running back into it. We eventually made our way back up hill and down dale, finding the finish at long last; marked only by a hamburger van with its evil smell of half cooked onions to greet us.

The showering facilities were inadequate to say the least with only 2 showers between 300 plus, with the occasional female walking through the changing rooms, sorry no energy to look twice. Generally not a race that is likely to entice one back a second year. Amongst the Heathens it seems those most pleased were the field event personnel who treated it as a pre London warm up and this resulted in many personal bests.

Results not available at time of going to print.

LLOYD'S BANK ROAD RELAYS

Wednesday, 14th April, 1982.

New Beckenham, Kent

This was a night of surprises, for the Blackheath 'A' team who dramatically slipped from first to third on the last 50 yards of the race. For Peter Hannell who turned up to spectate and found himself in the scratch 'C' team who in turn scared the 'B' team by hotly pursuing them in the early stages, and for Doug Cocker who was running for the Lloyds Bank 'A' team on this occasion and found himself one spot down on the Heath's 'C' team man Chris Ware.

The race comprised of 2 short (3000m.) and 2 long (6000m.) stages and took place in ideal conditions, a warm windless evening at the Lloyds Bank ground. The outstanding feature of the evening was undoubtedly Les Roberts sporting his latest gear, a pair of purple knee-length baggy shorts (Geoff Capes cast offs by size) which he happily discarded prior to his storming run on the opening leg to bring the 'A' team home in joint first place alongside Chelmsford AC. On stage 2 Blackheath took command with a fine stint from Peter Irvine, whilst Richard Coles, in his THIRD session of the day did battle with Richard Charleston of Chelmsford. So the race remained until the last 50 dramatic yards when glory was snatched from the team by Chelmsford and Elliotts. Further down the field amongst the 43 starters the 'B' and 'C' teams waged a number of private feuds with opponents, some of them Harriers running for other institutions. There is no doubt with the 'B' team taking first place in their category in 8th place overall and the 'C' team finishing 13th, some 3 minutes adrift of them, it was quite a successful Club evening.

Lap 1

1. Chelmsford 18.21s.; 2. B.H. 'A' (L. Roberts) 18.21s., 18.21s.; 6. B.H. 'B' (G. Martin) 19.06s., 19.06s.; 9. B.H. 'C' (C. Ware) 19.38s, 19.38s.; 10. Lloyds 'A' (D. Cocker 19.42s., 19.52s.

Lap 2

1. B.H. 'A' (P. Irvine) 9.04s., 27.25s.; 2. Chelmsford 27.44s.; 6. B.H. 'B' (M. Athawes) 9.32s., 28.38s.; 14. B.H. 'C' (P. Hannell) 10.48s., 30.26s.; 19. Forbanks (M. Clemence) 9.52s., 30.57s.; 22. Lloyds 'D' (R. Ebbutt 9.42s., 31.19s.

Lap 3

1. B.H. 'A' (R. Coles) 17.55s., 45.20s.; 2. Chelmsford 45.28s.; 7. B.H. 'B' (J. Baldwin) 19.22s., 48.00s.; 8. Lloyds 'A' (P. German) 19.07s., 48.09s.; 15. B.H. 'C' (P. Barrington-King) 20.24s., 50.50s.; 34. Lloyds 'B' (P. Shephard) 21.58s., 55.36s.

Lap 4

1. Chelmsford 54.36s.; 2. Elliotts 54.42s.; 3. B.H. 'A' (K. Daniel) 9.23s., 54.43s.; 5. G.L.C. (B. O'Gorman) 9.53s., 56.44s.; 8. B.H. 'B' (R. Cliff) 9.15s., 57.15s.; 13. B.H. 'C' (S. Cluney) 9.29s., 60.19s.; 30. Lloyds 'B' (A. Frankish) 9.32s., 65.08s.

INTER-COUNTIES 20

Sunday, 18th April, 1982. Ruislip, Middx.

It was the turn of the South this year to host the Inter-Counties 20, and what better event to use than the Finchley 20, celebrating its 50th year. The field that lined up at the start was the largest of those 50 years, nearly 500 competitors going for a complex array of prizes and titles from the Inter-Counties itself and the Finchley Open event through numerous county and regional awards for individuals and teams and age group awards.

The day was perfect for spectators and there were plenty of them around the famous Ruislip-Ickenham 5 mile lap which was to be covered four times. From the gun, the front runners hit near five minute mile pace and by the end of the first lap a group of 16 including Les Roberts and the rest of the Kent team were well clear, completing the lap in 25m. 35s. At the end of Lap 2 the picture was much the same with the clock now reading 51m. 59s. It was now that the pace began to tell and the hitherto compact group began to stretch. Right at the front the Kent number one Mike Gratton (Invicta) dug in and opened a gap which he held to the end, recording 1h. 42m. 44s. Les, meanwhile, had stuck at it and had probably his best ever race coasting in full of running in 1h. 48m. 19s. for 17th place. But with Kent men already home in 1st, 9th (Nick Brawn), and 13th (Len Slater), this class performance of Les's didn't even get him a medal. (Rumour is he's migrating to another county before next year's race).

In the open event Blackheath were also represented by Bill Wade 78th in 1h. 58m. 03s., Steve Robinson 92nd in 1h. 59m. 35s., and Mike Williams 94th in 1h. 59m. 53s. Steve and Mike's runs were personal bests. These performance enabled the Heath to lift third team in the Southern Counties section of the race, so Les got a medal after all.

1. M. Gratton (Kent/Invicta) 1h. 42m. 44s.; 17. L. Roberts 1h. 48m. 19s.; 78. W. Wade 1h. 58m. 03s.; 92. S. Robinson 1h. 59m. 35s.; 94. M. Williams 1h. 59m. 53s.

MISSING LIFE MEMBERS

The Club has no addresses for the following list of Life Members, if anyone can help could they please contact any member of the committee—

M. Allen, E. R. Badrey, J. F. Bell, F. Bentley, R. Briars, P. D. Coombs, M. J. Dale, H. Edwards, D. F. G. Harrold, T. J. G. Haynes, D. E. S. Burton-Jackson, P. F. Lane, J. W. Lees, V. E. Norman, J. G. Richardson, E. J. Sampson, F. G. H. Sivyler, D. H. Taylor, C. E. Todd, R. A. Walker, C. L. Westley, C. Wright.

TED PEPPER MEMORIAL RACE

Monday, 3rd May, 1982. West Wickham

Bernie Ford (Aldershot F&D) carried off this year's event in the record time of 33m. 10s. for the 7 miles while Ilford AC won the team race. John Baldwin demonstrated that he still knows how it goes, leading in the Blackheath contingent in 12th place which also made him yet again first veteran.

Steve Rutherford's elevation through the ranks continued apace as he came in 24th in 36m. 45s., with Tim Soutar 31st in 37m. 17s. and Ian Wilson 33rd in 37m. 25s. This gave Heath the second team award. With Chris Woodcock (35th), John Herring (37th), Peter Shephard (38th) and Brian Swift (42nd), the Heath also took the third team place and if that wasn't enough, Ken Daniel (43rd), Chris Haines (48th), Keith Whicheloe (50th) and Bill Wade (53rd), the Club also gained the first 'B' team prize.

This excellent promotion continues to attract star names in ever increasing numbers from near and far and looks set to establish itself as one of the classics of the road calendar under the first class direction of Mike Peel and his seconded team.

1. B. Ford (AFD) 33m. 10s.; 12. J. Baldwin 35m. 33s.; 24. S. Rutherford 36m. 45s.; 31. T. Soutar 37m. 17s.; 33. I. Wilson 37m. 25s.; 35. C. Woodcock 37m. 47s.; 37. J. Herring 37m. 57s.; 38. P. Shephard 38m. 03s.; 42. B. Swift 38m. 25s.; 43. K. Daniel 38m. 36s.; 48. C. Haines 38m. 57s.; 50. K. Whicheloe 39m. 07s.; 53. B. Wade 39m. 16s.; 54. S. Cluney 39m. 18s.; 56. P. Varcoe 39m. 20s.; 57. I. Young 39m. 28s.; 65. J. Kavanagh 40m. 04s.; 77. J. Phelan 41m. 11s.; 78. G. Gibbons 41m. 15s.; 81. A. Calton 41m. 29s.; 95. J. Hills 42m. 21s.; 98. R. Chambers 42m. 30s.; 100. D. Cordell 42m. 32s.; 104. R. Ebbutt 42m. 44s.; 106. P. Hannell 42m. 50s.; 110. B. Stone 43m. 01s.; 112. C. Ferguson 43m. 04s.; 126. Tracey 43m. 47s.; 139. C. Todd 45m. 03s.; 142. J. Braughton 45m. 15s.; 144. P. Hunter 45m. 29s.; 148. B. Wheeler 46m. 06s.; 166. M. Allen 48m. 08s.; 170. H. Martin 48m. 40s.; 175. M. Manley 50m. 11s.

Teams—1. Ilford 74; 2. B.H. 100; 3. B.H. 'B' 152. 1st 'B' team B.H. 'C' 194.

Vets—1. 'A' B. Buonvino (Dartford); 1. 'B' J. Baldwin (B.H.); 2. 'A' G. Gibbons (B.H.).

RESULTS IN BRIEF

22nd May, 1982. Kent Champs.—Deangate
Colts 200m.—2nd Andrew Brett, 29.1.

23rd May, 1982. Kent Relay Champs. Norman Park
Senior 4 x 100m.—1st B.H. 42.4. Club Rec.

4 x 400m.—1st B.H. 3m. 24.0.

Medley—1st B.H. 3m. 31.8.

30/31st May, 1982. Cwmbran, S. Wales

100m.—S-F Paul Ashen. Heats Bob Pinsen.

200m. Final—2nd Luke Watson 21.17. S-F Paul Ashen. Heats Peter Said.

400m.—S-F Dominic Emery 47.58.

High Jump—1st Trevor Llewellyn 2.16m.

Discus—4th Kevin Horne 49.16m.

Javelin—2nd Peter Yates 75.00m.

CLUB RECORDS IN MAY

Senior—15.5 Pole Vault—Perry Aubrey 4.50m. 23.5

—4 x 100m 42.4s.

Junior—16.5 400m.—Domonic Emery 47.58s. 23.5

Discus (2K)—Kevin Horne 49.16m. 12.5 Javelin—

Daryl Brand 56.32m. 15.5. Discus (1.75K)—Kevin

Horne 50.32m.

JUNE

Senior 5.6 4 x 100 m.—41.7s.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS—2.6.82

Senior 400m.—Doug Cocker 51.2s. 3000m.—Robert

Farish 8m. 44.2s. Discus—Colin Brand 26.58m.

Pole Vault—John Wakeman—3.20m.

Sir,

My first inclination on reading the scurrilous remarks concerning my person made in the second leader (No. 604 Vol 84) was one of sufficient outrage to warrant a letter to "The Times" or at least an appeal for assistance and support from SOPPH (Society for the Protection of Poor Handicappers).

However I find on perusing the latest issue that there is indeed truth in some of the allegations and my sight is grievously impaired. I can just about manage to read the caption "Assistant Editor—Les Roberts" on Page 4 but the photograph is just a blur.

yours with the white stick,

Hon. Cross-Country Handicapper.

Clearly this is a positive aspect to your visual handicap. Be thankful for small mercies! Editor.

AROUND THE CLUB

Editor's Award—This goes to Peter Catley who religiously sends in reports and results of all the road races he contests. He's an Editor's dream come true and we wish to give him our profound thanks. Please keep up the good work Pete. Hopefully we will find a few more like him.

Winter Bests For Youngsters—Paul Ashen made a good start to the year by winning a SCAAA 60m. race at Crystal Palace during March with a time of 7.1secs. A time to send shudders through even his more senior rivals at that time of the year. At the same meeting James Adams covered the 1500m. in 4m. 24.9s., a six seconds improvement on his best. The third PB of the meeting came from Michael Laws who recorded 4m. 24.6s. in the Junior race. A five second improvement on his previous best.

Ashen in GB Squad—Paul Ashen, just 17 years old, has been included in the British Senior Sprint 'C' Squad this year, less than one year after gaining his first English Junior vest. As the 'A' squad consists of only one man, Olympic Champion Alan Wells, this gives Paul the chance of inclusion in many of the big international meetings this year. —"You can have too much of this socialism."—Chris Haines, Members Night, 12th March, 1982.

—Geoff Crowder, realising Ian Wilson was standing behind him, "I had a super shower tonight."

Saturday, 13th February—Our commiserations go out to Nick Brooks, who on his return to O. Beccamians First XV suffered a number of breaks in his right leg. The injury has required pinning and may put him out for most of the forthcoming track season.

200 Club Supper, 26th February—"I'll do anything for a drink."—Allison Brand.

Christmas Supper, 1981. Jack Braughton—"It gives me great pleasure. . .!" Brenda Brent—"We wouldn't do it if we didn't enjoy it."

H.Q. Re-Wiring Fund—Donations to the fund have been received from the following members and we offer our grateful thanks—J. R. D. Cockburn, R. D. Ebbutt, A. V. Hayday, C. A. Kidd, M. Pollard, I. F. Smith, G. E. Turner.

The total received to date (8th March) is £1028, a magnificent response and just about half of the expenditure on this project. As only 80 members have contributed so far there may be other members who wish to contribute and assist in clearing the remainder of the cost. Donations should be forwarded to L. E. Hammill, 107 Langton Way, Black-

heath, London, S.E.3.

London-Brighton—Following the account of Mike Peel's epic deeds on the road to Brighton in 1981 a letter has been received from a past member of the 'crazys' team, one Brian Pearce. We hear that Brian went into hospital on 24th February this year to have new knee joints and we are assured he will be as good as new after this part transformation into a bionic man. He also mooted the idea HE may even get together a London-Brighton team in a year or two. Brian's best L-B was 6th in 1962 in 6h. 41m. 1s.

—Dave Nash, Dartford Harriers, speaking of club-mate Brian Buonvino: "He never mixes running with pleasure."

—Les Roberts, the morning after running his first marathon: "I must have slept in a draught, my legs are stiff."

—Chris Woodcock on meeting a friend he had not seen for a number of years: "Hello, you won't have heard about my achilles."

—Anonymous young clubman: "I don't mind marshalling road races. At least it keeps me from hanging around street corners."

—Two athletic fans leaving a major meeting at Meadowbank Stadium: "Ther wa' a big gate to-night." The other: "Aye Jimmy, the biggest I've had to climb over all season."

—Peter Catley on happening on the Editor sporting red shorts and vest in the Tonbridge 10: "He's sweating blood, that's taking his job too seriously."

—Do you believe? 663rd place in the 'Star Half-Marathon' in Aldershot, A. S. Claus, time 1h. 36m. 26s.

—THANKS must go to Joan Austridge who raised £70 for her efforts in the London Marathon which she duly donated to the Blackheath Young Athletes Fund.

TRACKWISE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Saturday, 1st May, 1982. Norman Park

Hammer 'A' 1. M. Fenton (Ips.) 60.40m.; 4. C. Ellis (B.H.) 39.16m. 'B' 1. C. Clover (Ips.) 30.78m.; 2. D. Brand (B.H.) 24.46m.

400m. Hurdles 'A' 1. N. Hammersley (Ips.) 55.1s.; 2. P. Austridge (B.H.) 57.3s. 'B' 1. R. Wright (B.H.) 62.9s.

Long Jump 'A' 1. P. Flanders (B.H.) 6.70m.; 2. P. Davies (B.H.) 6.45m. 'B' 1. B. Hull (B.H.) 6.48m.; 3. R. Lyston (B.H.) 5.82m.

100m. 'A' 1. P. Said (B.H.) 11.0s. 'B' 1. I. Cooper (Bourn.) 11.4s.; 2. R. Lyston (B.H.) 11.5s.

800m 'A' 1. Allison (Ips.) 1m. 59.4s.; 5. Blessing (B.H.) 2m. 02.0s. 'B' 1. Whitby (Bourn.) 2m. 00.3s.; 4. Fernandez (B.H.) 2m. 06.1s.

Shot 'A' 1. M. Fenton (Ips.) 13.19m.; 2. C. Ellis (B.H.) 12.79m. 'B' 1. S. Prescott (Ips.) 11.48m.; 2. K. Horne (B.H.) 11.47m.

5000m. 'A' 1. Boyes (Bourn.) 14m. 56.3s.; 4. L. Roberts (B.H.) 15m. 11.6s. 'B' 1. Cross (Bourn.) 15m. 10.7s.; 2. P. Brenchley (B.H.) 15m. 50.7s.

400m. 'A' 1. Hammersley (Ips.) 52.8s.; 2. Ward (B.H.) 53.1s. 'B' 1. Sylvester (B.H.) 54.5s.; 2. Salmon (B.H.) 55.4s.

110m. Hurdles 'A' 1. Marsh (Ips.) 16.1s.; 3. Holder (B.H.) 16.8s. 'B' 1. Reeves (Ips.) 18.3s.; 5. N. Latchem (B.H.) 25.1s.

Javelin 'A' 1. C. Clover (Ips.) 64.34m.; 2. D. Brand (B.H.) 55.70m. 'B' 1. Marsh (Ips.) 60.55m.; 2. Kavanagh (B.H.) 55.60m.

200m. 'A' 1. Said (B.H.) 22.5s. 'B' 1. P. Austridge (B.H.) 23.9s.

1500m. 'A' 1. Allison (Ips.) 4m. 05.1s.; 5. K. Daniel (B.H.) 4m. 11.0s. 'B' 1. Lushington (Ips.) 4m. 09.1s.; 4. P. German (B.H.) 4m. 20.1s.
Pole Vault 'A' 1. Lynk (Bourn.) 3.45m.; 4. N. Latchem (B.H.) 2.80m. 'B' 1. James (Bourn.) 3.00m.; 3. Cunningham (B.H.) 2.60m.
 3000m. *S/C 'A' (No water jump)* 1. R. Cliff (B.H.) 9m. 40.5s. 'B' 1. Wood (B.H.) 9m. 52.5s.; 2. Colpus (B.H.) 10m. 06.9s.
Triple Jump 'A' 1. Gaynes (B.H.) 14.27m. 'B' 1. P. Davies (B.H.) 13.63m.
Discus 'A' 1. Horne (B.H.) 48.52m. 'B' 1. C. Ellis (B.H.) 44.08m.
High Jump 'A' 1. I. Marsh (Ips.) 1.80m.; 4. P. Davies (B.H.) 1.65m. 'B' 1. R. Brown (Ips.) 1.75m.; 4. I. Holder (B.H.) 1.60m.
 4 x 100m. *Relay* 1. Bournemouth 44.8s.; 3. B.H. 45.7s.
 4 x 400m. *Relay* 1. B.H. 3m. 32.5s.
Match Result—1. Ipswich 134; 2. B.H. 127; 3. Brighton 107; 4. Bournemouth 98; 5. London Irish 71.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION 5

Saturday, 1st May, 1982. Norman Park
 400m. *Hurdles* 'A' 1. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 64.3s. 'B' 1. J. Powell (B.H.) 64.5s.
 100m. 'A' 1. M. Mahoney (B.H.) 11.7s. 'B' 1. G. Churchill (B.H.) 12.0s.
 800m. 'A' 1. D. White (B.H.) 2m. 08.5s. 'B' 1. M. Laws (B.H.) 2m. 11.4s.
Hammer 'A' 1. R. Jiggins (Thur.) 31.12m.; 3. C. Brand (B.H.) 19.96m. 'B' 1. A. Mack (Didcot) 19.64m.; 2. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 15.66m.
 5000m. 'A' 1. S. Rutherford (B.H.) 16m. 08.4s. 'B' 1. I. Wilson (B.H.) 16m. 17.2s.
 400m. 'A' 1. D. Motagalli (B.H.) 54.5s. 'B' 1. J. Powell (B.H.) 55.2s.
 110m. *Hurdles* 'A' 1. R. Merrigan (Thur.) 17.0s.; 2. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 20.0s. 'B' 1. Clarke (Thur.) 19.5s.; 2. Hicks (B.H.) 20.8s.
Pole Vault 'A' 1. J. Day (B.H.) 2.80m. 'B' 1. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 2.70m.
Long Jump 'A' 1. Richardson (Didcot) 6.07m.; 2. Hicks (B.H.) 5.87m. 'B' 1. Charles (Didcot) 5.68m.; 3. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 5.27m.
 200m. 'A' 1. M. Mahoney (B.H.) 24.1s. 'B' 1. G. Churchill (B.H.) 24.7s.
 1500m. 'A' 1. S. Thompson (B.H.) 4m. 24.8s. 'B' 1. D. White (B.H.) 4m. 25.3s.
Javelin 'A' 1. C. Brand (B.H.) 36.55m. 'B' 1. Talbot (Didcot) 31.95m.; 3. (B.H.) 22.58m.
 3000m. *S/C 'A' (No water jump)* 1. Thompson (Didcot) 10m. 24.0s.; 2. S. Cluney (B.H.) 10m. 43.9s. 'B' 1. Tuson (Didcot) 10m. 40.8s.; 3. P. Hannell (B.H.) 11m. 13.7s.
Triple Jump 'A' 1. M. Braxier (Thur.) 12.34m.; 3. P. Hicks (B.H.) 11.02m. 'B' 1. R. Ebbutt (B.H.) 10.89m.
Shot 'A' 1. G. Hickey (B.H.) 10.61m. 'B' 1. C. Brand (B.H.) 8.63m.
High Jump 'A' 1. D. Talbot (Didcot) 1.60m.; 2. G. Hickey (B.H.) 1.55m. 'B' 1. P. Hicks (B.H.) 1.50m.
Discus 'A' 1. B. Adkins (Didcot) 24.78m.; 2. C. Brand (B.H.) 24.22m. 'B' 1. G. Purvis (Didcot) 24.58m.; 2. R. Taylor (B.H.) 20.76m.
 4 x 100m. *Relay* 1. Didcot 48.1s.; 2. B.H. 48.1s.
 4 x 400m. *Relay* 1. B.H. 3m. 44.8s.
Match Result—1. Blackheath 161 pts.; 2. Didcot 140 pts.; 3. Thurrock 99 pts.; 4. Chelmsford 82 pts.
 Another fine effort by the 'C' team in their opening fixture with a handful of athletes, a lot of multi eventing, much shuffling, and a lot of

GENTLE persuasion by Roger Ebbutt and Chris Bird the team manager proved successful. Things started sweetly with Roger Ebbutt providing a fine captain's lead in winning the 400m. Hurdles 'A' race and John Powell doing likewise in the 'B' race. With a number of elder statesmen in the team and a number of last minute VOLUNTEERS the team reached halfway having dropped only 8 points and only 19 by the finish.

Roger Ebbutt's 7 events apart there was fine running from Dave White in the 800m., Mike Mahoney in the 100m. and 200m. and Steve Rutherford and President Ian Wilson in the 5000m. Points abounded in the field events with double firsts in the Pole Vault and Shot. Special mention should go to Peter Hannell's Steeplechase effort as he was out on his pre-marathon 20 miles run when he called at Norman Park to see how the teams were doing and found himself doing a speed session in the middle of his run, with barriers.

With better support the team could have gained even more valuable match points so check your diaries and make sure you keep the League days free.

BRITISH ATHLETICS LEAGUE DIVISION 3

8th May, 1982. Crystal Palace
 The 1982 track season in the British League got off to a flying start at Crystal Palace as the first team powered its way to victory in the inaugural Division 3 match. Whilst pre-match discussion centred on whether an under strength team could hold the powerful Thames Valley team, the athletes set about the opposition from the outset and culminated with a new Club points record in League matches and emerged winners by a 39 point margin.
 The pride of place must go to the field eventers who amassed 150 out of a possible 160 points, almost equalling Sheffield AC score on their own and setting up the team victory. The Club achieved 16 first places with a tremendous maximum points in the Shot and Discus, with Mike Winch taking the two A string firsts, the shot by 2 clear metres and the discus by over 5½ mts., and supported in the B string by victories from Kevin Horne (Discus) and Chris Ellis (Shot). If all that were not enough Trevor Llewellyn set a Division Record of 2.10m. (6ft. 10½ins. for the linear readers), whilst Peter Yates decided to outshine everyone by launching the javelin a mighty 81.02m. (265ft. 10ins.) for a new League Record. While all this fervent activity took place in the centre of the arena, even more points were being amassed on the outer perimeters of the track as Phil Davies improved his personal best to 6.55m. in the Long Jump to secure first place and Perry Aubrey also improved his best in the Pole Vault to 4.20m. to take the honours in the B string Pole Vault, where another double first was achieved as British International Alan Williams cleared 4.40m. on his debut for the Club and also broke the Club record in the process.
 Not to be outdone the track men also set about re-writing the Club records list as Paul Ashen sliced two-tenths of a second off his best ever 100m. with a 10.6s. B string victory and the same again in the 200m., a two-tenths improvement to 21.5s., and another victory plus two Club Junior records. To complement his younger Club colleague, Luke Watson stormed to victory in the 100m. A string in 10.6s. and secured second place in the 200m. with a new Club record of 21.0s. Another young athlete showing improved early season form was young athletes captain Paul Austridge who was second in

the 'B' string 400m. hurdles with a personal best of 56.3s. Another runner making his Club debut was John Wigley who placed second in the 5000m. to British Olympian Bernie Ford while ever present Richard Coles finished third in the B string.

RESULTS

Hammer (A) 1. B. Williams (B) 42.74m.; 3. C. Ellis (B.H.) 37.46m. (B) 1. P. Yates (B.H.) 36.78m.

400m. Hurdles (A) 1. H. Mossop (B) 52.6s.; 4. M. Carroll (B.H.) 56.5s. (B) 1. K. Pascoe (TVH) 54.0s; 2. P. Austridge (B.H.) 56.3s.

800m. (A) 1. S. Larder (TVH) 1m. 52.9s.; 4. J. Wilkinson (B.H.) 1m. 54.5s. (B) 1. P. Browne (TVH) 1m. 53.4s.; 3. R. Farish (B.H.) 1m. 55.1s.

100m. (A) 1. L. Watson (B.H.) 10.6s. (B) 1. P. Ashen (B.H.) 10.6s.

3000m. S/C (A) 1. J. Solar (TVH) 8m. 58s.; 3. T. Soutar (B.H.) 9m. 36.6s. (B) 1. R. Keeney (A) 9m. 22.2s.; 3. A. Frankish (B.H.) 9m. 44.8s.

Discus (A) 1. M. Winch (B.H.) 52.06m. (B) 1. K. Horne (B.H.) 45.90m.

100m. Hurdles (A) 1. K. Pascoe (TVH) 14.9s.; 4. J. Pyman (B.H.) 15.7s. (B) 1. H. Moscrop (B) 15.3s.; 3. M. Carroll (B.H.) 16.2s.

Long Jump (A) 1. T. Wade (TVH) 7.37m.; 2. T. Maltby (B.H.) 6.82m. (B) 1. P. Davies (B.H.) 6.55m.

400m. (A) 1. S. Sole (S) 48.1s.; 4. R. Pinson (B.H.) 50.4s. (B) 1. D. Rippon (S) 49.7s.; 4. R. Ward (B.H.) 51.2s.

1500m. (A) 1. K. Newton (S) 3m. 50.2s.; 6. J. Wilkinson (B.H.) 4m. 09s. (B) 1. C. Thomas (TVH) 3m. 58.9s.; 5. S. Thompson (B.H.) 4m. 12.4s.

200m. (A) 1. T. Bennett (Soton) 21.0s.; 2. L. Watson (B.H.) 21.0s. (B) 1. P. Ashen (B.H.) 21.5s.

Pole Vault (A) 1. A. Williams (B.H.) 4.40m. (B) 1. P. Aubrey (B.H.) 4.20m.

High Jump (A) 1. T. Llewellyn (B.H.) 2.10m. (Division Rec.). (B) 1. M. Cannon (B.H.) 1.95m.

Shot Putt (A) 1. M. Winch (B.H.) 18.48m. (B) 1. C. Ellis (B.H.) 13.15m.

5000m. (A) 1. B. Ford (A) 14m. 10.2s.; 2. J. Wigley (B.H.) 14m. 22.3s. (B) 1. P. Bennett (A) 14m. 27.7s.; 3. R. Coles (B.H.) 14m. 48s.

4 x 100m. Relay. 1. Soton 42.7s.; 2. B.H. 43.0s.

Javelin (A) 1. P. Yates (B.H.) 81.02m. (League Rec.). (B) 1. D. Brand (B.H.) 55.24m.

Triple Jump (A) 1. A. Lees (TVH) 14.55m.; 2. P. Davies (B.H.) 14.01m. (B) 1. I. Timbers (A) 13.8m.; 2. F. Gaynes (B.H.) 13.54m.

4 x 400m. Relay. 1. Soton 3m. 18.7s.; 6. B.H. 3m. 28.2s.

Team Result—1. Blackheath 275; 2. Thames Valley 236; 3. Aldershot 201; 4. Southampton 199; 5. Brighton 182; 6. Sheffield 158.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION 5

Saturday, 22nd May, 1982. Southampton

A small team of 13 athletes plus officials, lacking sprinters and throwers, put up a spirited performance in enabling the team to finish second on the day. As usual athletes were either begged or 'volunteered' to do events, which they should never be asked to do. In the first hour a new saying went around the ground "Where's Roger?" as field event judges waited patiently for him as he dashed from one event to another. Roger (Ebbutt that is) competed in 9 events, winning the 'B' string Pole Vault and Long Jump, whilst also setting a PB in the Triple Jump. Peter Hicks competed in 7 events to complement Roger's efforts. Colin Brand did his usual competent job in the throws, whilst the team had a double first in the Pole Vault and 5000m. Mike Mahoney won the 100m. and 200m., while Dave White and Chris Bird ran well in the 800m.

and 1500m. All but one of this team were over 25, and this team was created to give the youngsters a chance of League competition — where are you all? This is undoubtedly a superb result when the numbers competing are considered and the members deserve utmost congratulations in finishing in second place.

Results—

Pole Vault—'A' 1. D. Day 3.00m.; 'B' 1. R. Ebbutt 2.40m.

High Jump—'A' 4. R. Ebbutt 1.50m.; 'B' 3. P. Hicks 1.50m.

Hammer—'A' 2. C. Brand 19.46m.; 'B' 2. R. Ebbutt 16.60m.

Long Jump—'A' 3. P. Hicks 5.80m.; 'B' 1. R. Ebbutt 5.68m.

400m. H.—'A' 3. R. Ebbutt 64.0s.; 'B' 5. K. Pike 69.9s.

100m.—'A' 1. M. Mahoney 12.1s.; 'B' 2. P. Hicks 12.8s.

800m.—'A' 3. D. White 2m. 04.4s.; 'B' 3. M. Laws 2m. 08.2s.

Javelin—'A' 2. C. Brand 35.98m.; 'B' 4. C. Bird 23.96m.

Shot—'A' 2. C. Brand 8.79m.; 'B' 4. J. Phelan 6.58m.

5000m.—'A' 1. M. Athawes 15m. 46s.; 'B' 1. I. Wilson 15m. 50s.

Triple Jump—'A' 4. R. Ebbutt 10.91m.; 'B' 4. P. Hicks 9.44m.

400m.—'A' 5. C. Bird 59.5s.; 'B' 4. D. White 57.0s.

110m. H.—'A' 2. R. Ebbutt 20.2s.; 'B' 2. P. Hicks 22.4s.

200m.—'A' 1. M. Mahoney 24.2s.; 'B' 3. P. Hicks 26.1s.

Discus—'A' 4. C. Brand 26.98m.; 'B' 4. J. Phelan 16.36m.

1500m.—'A' 3. C. Bird 4m. 20.6s.; 'B' 1. D. White 4m. 24.2s.

4 x 100m. Relay—4. B.H. 47.9s. Mahoney, Hicks, Ebbutt, Laws.

3000m. S/C—'A' 2. K. Pike 10m. 30.7s.; 'B' 2. J. Phelan 10m. 55.8s.

4 x 400m. Relay—4. 3m. 50.6s. Laws, Bird, Ebbutt, Mahoney.

1. Salisbury 126; 2. Blackheath 117; 3. Fleet 115; 4. Winchester 106; 5. Tonbridge 61.

OBITUARY

L. G. TOMS

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Len Toms. Len was one of the quiet members, a whole hearted Club man who could be relied upon to turn out for team and mob matches, one of the life blood of a Club such as ours. Never a brilliant runner he was undoubtedly one of the essential members of the team, always providing good solid performances and like everyone had his 'good' days, often when needed by the team. A member of the Club team that won the Kent County 20 miles Road Race Championship in 1939, the sort of event to which he was ideally suited. Had the war not intervened it was here he would have shone.

His departure to Essex curtailed his activities at Hayes but he remained an enthusiastic Heathen and a notable member of the Vice-Presidents' clan. Our sympathies go out to his family at their loss.