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*"Perfer et Obdura"*

# **Blackheath Harriers' Gazette**



Judging by the assortment of senior service dress on display a ship of the Royal Navy must have come to grief at some time, though perhaps a mutiny might explain better the preponderance of gold braid.

Despite their having been all washed-up the company were enjoying life and had even got musical instruments to provide the music for the dancing. It is understood that the piano had been salvaged from one of the wrecks, which perhaps explains its tendency to stick, but we wonder whether one of the other instruments was made with the help of the ship's cat.

*Saturday, February 28, 1959*

### The Gay Nineties Dance At Hayes

*Ma foi! Exquisite! Ah! Ha!* and other such Gallic expressions of masculine appreciation.

Mistinguette had nothing on the lady who gladdened our hearts with her cunning concoction of tights, corsets, bows and feathers. Ah! those feathers — not the ones *au dessus* — the others at the — shall we say it — dare we say it — *derrie; e?*

Stage door Johnnies in their sporty costumes — flannels, boaters and blazers much in evidence — paraded, fascinated, by those feathers. Ancient members, mumbling through unaccustomed sideboards and curling moustaches, felt memories of youth fanned by those provocative plumes — *Quelle jeunesse!*

A scarlet soldier, beads of perspiration at his brow, became as red as his own tunic as he planned advances. Really! Monsieur le Général! Only the Life Guard, clad in knee-length swimming attire, remained outwardly calm; but who knows what emotion stirred behind that badge dated 1894? *Quelle horreur!*

The cold English phrases of the magazine report could not do justice to this pleasant evening, still less could they express the *joie de vivre* of the polka exponents and the gay abandon of the rock'n'rollers.

And only the French could describe that little tailpiece — *Oh! la! la!*

### 1954

We gratefully appreciate the gift of 25 pewter tankards for the bar. We are advised that there are two conditions connected with the gift. One, that the donor shall remain anonymous, and two, that the large tankard shall be reserved for the use of the Chairman for the evening. Thanks very much, Mr. Blank; we can imagine some healthy competition for the Chair if the President is unable to stay on for supper!

Those runners who follow the trail well,  
Have met on the seven a bad smell;  
But whether it's drains,  
Or human remains,  
I'm really unable to tell.

### COVER PHOTO

Country life in Mote Park, Maidstone.

The Directors meeting on the 22nd February 1988 marked the end of an era with the resignation of the Chairman after 49 years service to the Company. Laurie Hammill became Company Secretary in August 1939 since when he has been concerned with initiating many of the numerous alterations and improvements that have been made to the Clubhouse.

Soon after taking over as Company Secretary in 1939 the Second World War broke out and in 1942 Laurie went off for military service and his duties were performed by Arthur Thwaites who as President throughout the war did much to sustain the Club during this difficult period. On his return in 1947 after service in West Africa Laurie was to play an important part in paying off the Debentures raised to purchase and convert Club HQ in 1926. Assisted by a series of Derby Draws organised by P. P. Stanley Field this was satisfactorily accomplished by the end of the 40s. During the next decade he was involved in a number of general improvements to the Clubhouse. In October 1960 Laurie was made a Director handing over his Company Secretary responsibilities to P.P. Jack Sims in April 1961. In September of that year he became Chairman consequent upon the retirement of some of the more longer serving members of the Board. This it transpired would be the commencement of 27 years in office during which many major alterations would be made to provide considerably improved facilities for members. Soon after Laurie became Chairman it was obvious from the buckets around the clubroom on wet days that all was not well with the roof, it prompted a soliloquy at Punch Bowl on January 1963. A Roofing Fund was subsequently initiated and after a number of appeals, of which Laurie played no small part, the money was raised and the building was watertight early in 1965. The next significant improvement the Company was to undertake involved the provision of new boilers, showers and heating as part of a modernisation programme, this work was done in 1974/75.

It had been appreciated since the yearly 1960's that the Steward's flat in the cottage had reached the end of its economical life and with the increased use of Hayes during the 1970's the idea of extending was gaining support. In 1976 a Development Sub-committee proposed an extension incorporating additional athletic facilities and a Steward's flat above at an anticipated cost of around £24,000. With an expected grant from the Sports Council the Club was still faced with finding £16,000, a not insignificant sum at that time. A major proportion of this was raised by a Debenture issue similar to that of 1926. As the more observant members will know from the wall plaque the extension was opened in August 1979. Throughout the period of fund raising and construction Laurie played a vital role with wise counsel and a steady hand, particularly during some difficult situations.

In more recent times Laurie has been directly concerned with provision of new cesspool facilities and the fire escape which was only completed at the end of last year. His cajoling for donations to pay for these improvements are perhaps only known to those members in receipt of such missives.

Members currently enjoying the facilities at Hayes have much to thank Laurie for and the role he has played in improving and modernising the clubhouse to meet present day needs. He has provided a great service to the Club and his 49 years with the Company is unlikely to be surpassed. To mark his retirement from the Board he was presented with a memory telephone by his fellow Directors. P.P. Peter Baigent, a Director since 1971, has been elected Chairman to succeed him.

# OVER THE COUNTRY



*Jerry Barton and Alan Guilder follow eventual winner Chris Robison, Royal Navy (second from right) in the "Southern". Results on page 8.*

## CROSS-COUNTRY REVIEW

Looking backwards... over the 87/88 season, the only regret of the cross-country secretariat is that the quality and depth of the reporting will probably not match the quality and depth of the performances last winter.

These are certainly good times at first-team level. As it becomes ever more difficult to get into the first team, rising standards are reflected in steadily more impressive results. Solid performances in the County and Southern Championships were followed by a superb 3rd place in the National, equalling the best ever placing in the Club's history, achieved exactly 40 years ago by a team including Sidney Wooderson, Jack Braughton and Alan Brent; another 3rd in the Southern 12-stage road relay, the best so far in the history of that event; and the first ever national team title in the 10 Km road championship at Hemel Hempstead.

Away from the elite ranks, we triumphed in all three traditional Mob Matches, notably not through the efforts of first-teamers but the solid middle order and the tail-enders, the backbone of the Club. However, the result against Ranelagh leaves us no room for complacency — a numerical disadvantage was overcome, but a recount was required and left nothing to spare.

One special mention for a year-long visitor from Sydney, Australia, sports medicine specialist Mark Jones. He has

performed regularly and to a consistently high standard, crowning his time with us by lifting a 3rd team medal in the National. As he prepares to return home, he is 'replaced' in our ranks by a Sydney club-mate, Michael Trinca, also here for at least a year. Welcome Michael, and thank you Mark — come back whenever you can!

...And looking forward — hoping that a re-vamped fixture list will provide a full range of competitive racing at all levels on country and road this coming winter. We are looking for greater participation in Club Championships and Handicaps, record turn-outs in the Mob Matches (the best so far — 128 v South London in '86) and still better results in the Southern and National Championships — both on the country and the road.

Finally, a traditional plea. If you are a member of this Club, you don't have to be invited to take part, you can insist! Make the most of your fixture card, plan ahead and get into the action!

## KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE 1987/8

In this mild and muddy season these three races were pretty typical. The first, at Hoo early in the season to avoid a heavy wet course, came at the end of several days rain which intensified as the race progressed, the wind driving that rain almost horizontally. Richard Coles seemed to enjoy it more than most with one of his best runs for some time.

## BLACKHEATH HARRIERS CROSS COUNTRY RELAYS

*Sparrows Den*

*19th September, 1987*

The second race at least had sunshine, but had hills to go with the mud although this was parkland rather than the endless plough of Hoo. Tim Nash, as one of only four runners this season to finish a league race before Invicta closed in, led our twenty participants in — perverse as ever at this far end of Kent we had only two less than at the final “home” fixture! That final fixture was on our post-hurricane plough that I suspect made the earlier courses seem, in retrospect, quite easy; again the sun shone to give the illusion of a fine Spring day. Invicta completed their clean sweep in both the normal league and the Duodec but it was good to see our club having a good league season. It has taken us six seasons to manage a top three placing in the Duodec league, indeed this is only the second time we have scored in all three races: not since 1973/4 have we made third in this main league.

Now for the team management, having got your act together, next season you have to do it on four occasions! But hasn't your correspondent always stated that the club needs to use the Kent League to gain cross-country success (see 20th February)?

**Hoo** *10th October*  
 N. Brawn (IEK) 30.46, A. Reid (Dar) 31.02, M. Brameld (IEK) 31.13, 6 (6) R. Coles 31.43, 18 (13) M. Colpus 32.51, 26 (18) P. Ward 33.55, 30 (21) M. Watling (B) 34.00, 31 (22) K. Pike 34.01, 35 (24) M. Lawton (B) 34.10, 43 (29) D. Hassall 34.32, 52 (34) P. Calnan 35.18, 68 (43) S. Ridgewell (B) 36.23, (82) (47) K. Daniel (C) 37.14, 96 (55) J. Bailey (B) 37.54, (104) (59) M. Russell (C) 39.16, 127 W. Clapham (B) 40.46, 161 J. Brown (B) 48.49, 165 finished.  
 IEK 13, GEC 75, Dar 80, BH 81, Med 103, Cam 103, 12 BH B 229, 31 teams. Duo: IEK 191, BH 371, Med 434, 7 clubs. Individual placing shown ( ) .

**Hythe** *28th November*  
 M. Gratten (IEK) 31.06, M. Stickles (Ton) 31.26, (2) T. Nash 31.35, 14 (13) R. Coles 32.56, 15 (15) M. Colpus 33.09, 24 (21) P. Hamilton 34.01, 28 (23) D. Williams (B) 34.12, 37 (30) P. Calnan 34.51, 39 (32) D. Hassall (B) 35.08, 46 (36) G. Patterson (B) 35.25, 64 (45) K. Daniel (B) 36.15, 69 (49) G. White (B) 36.30, 79 (58) J. Phelan (C) 36.53, 85 (61) P. Barlow (B) 37.09, 87 P. Betts (C) 37.16, 98 J. Bailey (D) 37.54, 111 M. Athawes (D) 38.33, 119 S. Capey (D) 39.03, 122 J. Kelly (C) 39.07, 132 P. Barrington-King (C) 39.47, 146 W. Clapham (D) 40.32, 155 W. Wheeler (C) 41.01, 160 S. Parsons (D) 41.40, 191 A. Musson (D) 45.31, 203 finished.  
 IEK 16, GEC 53, BH 56, Ton 87, Dar 93, Med 103, 10 BH B 177, 19 BH C 420, 27 BH D 474, 39 teams.  
 Duo: IEK 204, BH 385, GEC 435, 9 clubs.

**Hayes** *6th February*  
 M. Gratten (IEK) 35.08, J. Wigley (IEK) 35.22, B. Roydon (Med) 35.33, 8 (7) M. Jones 36.13, 12 (10) R. Coles 36.46, 29 (17) P. Calnan 38.37, 30 (18) M. Colpus 38.42, 32 (20) N. Kinsey (C) 38.48, 43 (27) D. Hassall 39.16, 49 (31) J. Phelan (B) 40.02, 51 (32) G. White (B) 40.06, 53 (34) K. Daniel (D) 40.18, 57 (36) M. Watling 40.32, 80 (49) P. Betts (B) 42.10, 87 (52) P. Barlow (B) 42.32, 100 J. Bailey (C) 43.34, 124 W. Wheeler (C) 45.38, 129 M. Crisp (B) 45.50, 131 W. Clapham (B) 46.04, 146 S. Parsons (D) 47.26, 159 R. Wood (D) 49.34, 167 R. Green (C) 52.09, 169 D. Hopgood (D) 52.29, 173 A. Musson (C) 53.53, 177 B. Todd (D) 55.50, 181 finished.  
 IEK 12, GEC 61, Med 72, BH 79, Dar 85, Ton 123, 13 BH B 267, 19 BH C 423, 25 BH D 527, 31 teams.  
 Duo: IEK 169, BH 334, Med 340, 6 clubs.

**Final leagues:**  
 IEK 324, GEC 303, BH 289, Dar 284, Med 280, Ton 272, 11 BH B 216, 21=BH C 108, 28 BH D 66, 46 teams listed.  
 Duo: IEK 60, BH 57, Med 53, Dar 50, Tun Wel 45. Other six clubs did not always score.

1. Boxhill Racers	67.32		
2. Cambridge Harriers	67.56		
3. Invicta East Kent	68.07		
4. Brighton & Hove	68.29		
5. Blackheath 'A'	69.00		
R. Coe	11.48	W. Foster	10.59
R. Coles	11.30	P. Calnan	11.37
K. Pike	11.40	M. Colpus	11.26
17. Blackheath 'B'		74.43	
S. Thompson	11.38	K. Daniel	12.06
P. Barlow	12.41	S. Freemantle	12.43
S. Ridgewell	12.51	R. Cliff	12.44
25. Blackheath 'C'		78.27	
M. Field	13.57	J. Clare	13.03
D. White	13.23	M. Cronin	12.27
J. Taylor	13.11	B. O'Gorman	12.36
26. Blackheath 'G'		78.47	
M. Athawes	12.42	J. Kelly	12.51
J. Phelan	15.00	P. Barrington-King	12.37
Not Known	12.31	Not Known	13.06
30. Blackheath 'D'		84.49	
S. Parsons	13.40	M. Green	13.18
R. Green	15.19	R. Charwood	14.52
R. Ebbutt	13.56	P. Rissen	13.44
31. Blackheath 'F'		85.03	
W. Wheeler	13.19	A. Musson	14.26
M. Allen	17.02	R. Morris	13.09
S. Carey	13.43	J. Bailey	13.27

35 teams closed in.

## ECCU 'NATIONAL' CROSS COUNTRY RELAY

*Crystal Palace*

*24th October 1987*

### Results

1. Shaftesbury (K. Mills; J. Goater; J. Sherban; M. Williams)	33.16
2. Birchfield (R. Harrison; A. Laukham; N. Appleby; A. Salter)	33.31
3. Stretford (S. Alexander; P. Tootell; K. Rothwell; N. O'Brien)	33.38
4. Blackheath (J. Barton; W. Foster; C. Tulloh; T. Nash)	33.57
5. Bingley (G. Grindley; M. Crewe; C. Moore; M. Hawkins)	34.06



*Bill Foster heading for a very special end to his cross country season.*

Hayes

31st October, 1987

Bristol

1st November, 1987

1. M. Jones	48.59	77. W. Clapham	60.26
2. R. Coles	49.05	79. J. R. Turner	60.38
3. L. Roberts	50.17	82. M. Peel	61.09
5. K. Pike	51.26	85. B. Wilson	62.02
7. P. Calnan	51.41	86. R. Ebbutt	62.07
9. M. Watling	52.05	87. C. Kelly	62.32
11. P. Ward	52.32	88. R. Hilton	62.38
12. D. Williams	52.34	89. P. Metcalfe	62.46
13. R. Coe	52.53	90. D. Crake	62.52
14. D. Hassall	53.07	91. P. Rissen	62.59
17. M. Cronin	53.33	92. S. Cluney	63.01
22. N. Colvin	54.10	93. R. Turney	63.01
23. G. White	54.13	94. C. Rowe	63.01
26. N. Davidson	54.39	95. R. Chambers	63.01
27. S. Ridgewell	54.45	97. B. Hartley	63.13
28. A. Tilley	54.49	99. R. Wood	63.19
29. R. Cliff	54.51	101. N. Keogh	63.47
30. M. Jackson	54.53	102. A. Grace	64.04
33. G. Spencer	55.07	104. J. Routledge	64.28
34. P. Barlow	55.12	108. J. Braughton	65.19
35. K. Daniel	55.16	110. S. Parsons	65.51
36. M. Colpus	55.29	112. K. Dryland	66.08
39. J. Phelan	55.52	113. E. Sullivan	66.08
41. D. Freemantle	55.58	114. T. Dovey	66.24
42. P. Shephard	56.00	115. M. Gasson	66.32
43. M. Ellison	56.07	116. J. Kelly	66.43
44. P. Barrington-King	56.16	118. M. Martineau	66.48
45. M. Lawton	56.17	119. A. Pontipex	67.03
47. J. Taylor	56.44	120. D. Hopgood	67.07
48. J. Bailey	56.53	121. M. Field	67.17
49. P. Austridge	56.54	122. A. Musson	68.00
50. B. Sadler	57.00	123. D. Brookes	68.22
51. B. Leahy	57.05	124. S. Davis	68.49
52. I. Young	57.10	125. J. Brown	70.23
54. G. Patterson	57.26	129. D. Wilcox	71.02
56. P. Betts	57.51	131. C. Peck	71.54
60. W. Wheeler	58.05	134. M. Hill	75.38
62. F. Neal	58.18	136. P. King	80.13
63. D. Croll	58.24	137. B. Graham	80.25
64. M. Athawes	58.32	138. D. Tingey	80.28
65. M. Ludwig	58.46	139. J. Bennett	80.33
67. A. Kilgour	59.12	140. C. Brand	81.43
68. M. Williams	59.15	141. D. Johnson	83.49
69. S. Capey	59.28	142. P. Long	87.53
71. G. Riggs	59.45		
72. J. Robinson	59.45		
74. S. Rutherford	59.59		

Result  
1813 points  
2051 points

The Mike Sully races are a series of cross country races for all ages which take place at Ashton Court, Bristol each November. The course is perfect for fast running and the senior race is one of the classiest to be seen this side of Christmas.

It was, therefore, somewhat disconcerting to read in the race preview in Athletics Weekly that "Blackheath... should also be challenging" — shome mishtake here shurely as I was having enough trouble working out if we had enough runners just to close a team. Fortunately we did have the required four team members but a "short" eight mile S.L.H. Mob Match for two of them was not ideal preparation for such a classy event.

The start was reminiscent of some of the continental fixtures our members might have encountered, where you find yourself sprinting flat out just to maintain a mid-field position. Jon Richards controlled the race to win comfortably by ten seconds. Our runners did not cope so well. Jerry Barton felt his lack of mileage contributed to his slightly disappointing 20th place, while Bill O'Donnell was still suffering from the after effects of a cold. Bill is now working in Devon but has very sensibly decided to remain with Blackheath. If some of us complain about the toughness of our own club courses we might do well to reflect that, because of the rugged terrain in his area, Bill is doing rep sessions in a local cow shed — the only flat place he can find!

Steadily improving Mark Colpus performed well for 45th showing his victory in the Club Five was well earned. Pat Calnan put in a desperate last half mile to avoid coming outside the top hundred.

1. J. Richards (Cornwall) 24.14; 2. D. McNeilly (Bristol) 24.24; 3. B. Knight (Torbay) 24.29; 20. J. Barton 25.28; 40. B. O'Donnell 26.21; 45. M. Colpus 26.26; 94. P. Calnan 27.46.

Teams

1. Bristol 36; 2. Westbury 116; 3. Boxhill 134; 7. Blackheath 199.

SOUTH OF THAMES JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Swindon

14th November, 1987

An enthusiastic band of Heathens set off on the long journey to Swindon only nearly to be thwarted by British Rail as the train ground to a halt at Slough — they had forgotten to fill up the locomotive at Paddington. Nonetheless spirits were high as the course at "The Lawns" was surveyed in time on a bright, clear yet cold afternoon.

The usual charge set off up the first testing hill (so much for the name) which becomes very "slippy" on the third circuit of an enjoyable course that was far more testing than it looked with various rises in woodland, a large hill and soft going.

Heathens in various stages of fitness got stuck in, none more so than young Damon Williams who, as a genuine Junior by age did well to place 40th out of nearly 200 seniors and the old man of the team Ken Pike who pushed through steadily to more than halve his previous best placing in the event. (Its only Junior in that good runners such as our 'Southern' winning team are barred, hence Ken can still claim to be a 'Junior' Vet).

Thanks to the eleven who made the trip — a good 7th place was recorded — and to the three Heathens (Messrs Wilson, Athawes and Brent) who were there to support in their roles as general helpers as well as being ex-presidents of the South



Devon domiciled but still turning out for the Heath, Bill O'Donnell.

of Thames Cross Country Association, a body whose aims of promoting cross country for club runners, rather than stars, are always to the fore. Without its commitment cross country would not survive.

Excellently organised by Swindon A.C. with superb cream cakes and teas after, this type of race reflects the essence of the sport.

	(5.1 miles)	
1. P. Hennessey	Windsor	27.24
2. K. Penney	Boxhill	27.38
3. J. Chaston	Belgrave	27.53
	<b>Blackheath Results:—</b>	
20. K. Pike	A Team	28.52
22. M. Colpus	A Team	28.54
40. D. Williams (J)	A Team	29.49
51. D. Hassell	A Team	30.15
62. G. Spencer		30.30
77. M. Watling		31.06
90. S. Ridgewell		31.42
110. P. Barlow		32.44
115. M. Athawes		32.56
119. P. Barrington-King		33.05
dnf T. Cross (J)		—

(158 finished) plenty dropped out!

**Teams:**

1. Boxhill 25; 2. Aldershot 35; 3. Reading 77; 7. Blackheath Harriers 133; 17. Blackheath Harriers 'B' 377. (2nd 'B' Team) (24 teams closed in).

who had run this course many times commented that it was the worst conditions yet. My shoes died but as the "final" result was a win for us Heathens, they will be awarded a posthumous V.C. Shoes were sucked off by the ooze; mud was up to the knees in places and over the ankles everywhere else; it was cold and misty and dark at the finish. On the last cruel climb, because of the gathering gloom, you could only see white Orion vests ahead which was very depressing. But we were there. After the communal shower in the big bath; soup, tea, cakes and sandwiches tasted like never before. The results proved to be a headache. We were told by Orion on the day that we had won narrowly. I was phoned on the next day to be told we had lost by a tiny margin. Then on club night, three days later, it was announced we had won by a few hundred points after a recount. Heathens ran this race regardless of their normal event. It was a great team effort. Special mention must be made of Stan Ridgewell who ran a blinder while waiting for his hernia operation. With blood trickling down my face from a tree which attacked me and with mud between my teeth flicked up by the runner in front, I thank Bill Wheeler for insisting on my support — but not a lot.

Let the results tell the rest.

**J.E.T.**

1. D. Barlow	49.15	59. B. Clapham	57.42
2. P. Hamilton	49.25	60. J. Turner	57.43
3. P. Filler	49.52	62. D. White	58.00
		64. M. Ludwig	58.03
		65. W. Wheeler	58.26
		67. S. Capey	59.10
		68. R. Hilton	59.33
		71. M. Martineux	60.11
		76. M. Keogh	60.58
		77. A. Grace	61.05
		78. G. Plank	61.20
		81. R. Wood	61.32
		86. S. Hill	63.00
		87. R. Ebbutt	63.11
		91. A. Musson	63.35
		93. G. Crowder	64.06
		97. P. Davis	66.02
		98. D. Brooks	66.03
		99. D. Hoggood	66.16
		100. D. Crake	66.24
		103. B. Todd	67.35
		104. J. Brown	68.00
		106. P. Lovell	69.47
		107. D. Larcombe	70.50
		112. D. Johnson	76.33
		113. B. Graham	76.43
		115. J. Bennett	77.11
		117. D. Alvin	80.14
		118. C. Brand	81.04
		119. D. Tingey	82.00
		<b>Result</b>	
		1. Blackheath Harriers	3182
		2. Orion	3494

**SOUTHERN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Trent Park

9th January, 1988

	<b>Boys</b>	
1. S. Poore	Team Solent	18.56
11. J. Murray	Blackheath	20.01
28. A. Draper	Blackheath	20.41
40. G. Riggs	Blackheath	20.48
80. R. Weatherstone	Blackheath	21.24
145. A. Algeo	Blackheath	22.38
149. S. Agnew	Blackheath	22.44
172. N. McDonald	Blackheath	23.09
204. D. Stickles	Blackheath	23.43
	(272 finished)	
	<b>Youths</b>	
1. N. Campbell	Winchester	23.08
18. L. Bulsom	Blackheath	24.36
165. M. Green	Blackheath	28.04
	(237 finished)	

Another busy winter for Pat Calnan.



**BLACKHEATH v ORION MOB MATCH**

Chingford

5th December, 1987

**Don't It Make Your Green Socks Brown?**

Definitely the stuff to tell grandchildren about, by the fire, in the winter of our lives. This was real English cross country. It was trench warfare not a race course with a few straw bale obstructions. We were led out at 3 p.m. to a quagmire called the start. Oh! yes, I have been asked to mention Pete Barlow's new weekend sport — mud surfing — but without a board. After all the pre-race discussion about spikes/studs/flats — waders/wellingtons were the only real choice. People

**Seniors**

1. C. Robison	Royal Navy	48.20
10. J. Barton	Blackheath	49.36
53. A. Guilder	Blackheath	51.39
62. M. Jones	Blackheath	51.52
70. M. Colpus	Blackheath	52.29
80. W. O'Donnell	Blackheath	52.51
81. R. Coles	Blackheath	52.53
90. D. Heath	Blackheath	53.15
137. P. Ward	Blackheath	54.11
205. K. Pike	Blackheath	55.31
245. D. Hassall	Blackheath	56.38
306. P. Calnan	Blackheath	57.50
339. M. Watling	Blackheath	58.32

(728 finished)

**Team Result:—**

1. Invicta E.K. 8. Blackheath (52 teams closed in).

**RANELAGH v BLACKHEATH HARRIERS MOB MATCH**

*Richmond*

*16th January, 1988*

1. T. Nash	39.22	88. S. Capey	49.41
2. H. Jones (RH)	39.36	89. T. Tunley	49.44
3. M. Jones	40.12	92. S. Parsons	50.02
Other Blackheath			
7. R. Coles	42.03	93. A. Jones	50.03
9. P. Calnan	42.09	95. R. Coe	50.16
11. M. Colpus	42.27	96. A. Grace	50.18
17. D. Hassall	43.36	97. D. White	50.22
18. M. Jackson	43.41	99. W. Clapham	50.24
20. S. Thompson	44.09	100. C. Kelly	50.27
22. D. Williams	44.18	102. W. Wheeler	50.31
23. L. Roberts	44.23	104. J. Robinson	50.38
25. G. White	44.46	106. R. Hilton	50.45
26. K. Daniel	44.53	108. R. Wood	51.02
27. B. Mellish	44.55	110. M. Martineau	51.20
29. M. Cronin	45.04	116. D. Carton	51.32
30. K. Pike	45.13	117. P. Metcalf	51.38
31. J. Phelan	45.15	123. G. Plank	52.17
32. B. O'Gorman	45.21	124. J. Hines	52.22
33. T. Bounds	45.26	126. B. Hatch	52.25
35. R. Cliff	45.35	127. M. Peel	52.35
38. I. Wilson	45.51	130. D. Crake	52.40
40. J. Clark	46.12	135. I. Cayzer	53.16
42. P. German	46.25	140. R. Savery	53.36
44. P. Barlow	46.30	141. P. Davies	53.37
47. S. Rutherford	46.37	142. R. Green	53.46
53. J. Taylor	46.54	146. G. Crowder	54.20
54. R. Smith	46.59	148. A. Pontifex	54.30
57. N. Athawes	47.14	150. E. Sullivan	54.46
58. S. Ridgewell	47.16	152. R. Ebbutt	55.14
56. M. Lodwig	47.40	156. M. Allen	55.33
62. B. Fisher	47.45	158. D. Hopgood	56.05
63. B. Leahy	47.46	160. P. Lovell	56.36
65. A. Calton	48.04	162. J. Brown	56.59
66. D. Ellison	48.07	163. D. Larcombe	57.03
68. S. Freemantle	48.10	167. P. Churcher	57.49
71. J. R. Turner	48.19	171. H. Hill	59.33
73. J. E. Turner	48.28	172. D. Johnson	59.37
74. P. Shephard	48.34	178. B. O'Flynn	60.45
75. P. Austridge	48.39	182. K. Tingey	62.27
78. S. Cluney	48.59	185. R. Counter	63.39
79. B. Wilson	49.01	189. C. Brand	67.38
81. M. Crisp	49.11	190. J. Bennett	67.44
82. P. Rissen	49.12	<b>Result</b>	
84. N. Wheeler	49.26	1. Blackheath Harriers	7220½
86. B. Swift	49.32	2. Ranelagh Harriers	7344½
87. N. Kcough	49.34		

**SOUTH OF THE THAMES SENIOR C.C.**

*Hayes*

*23rd*

*1988*

“Rain, guttering down in waterfalls of slime,  
Kept slush waist-high and rising hour by hour,  
And choked the steps too thick with clay to climb.”  
Wilfred Owen

When the mud in parts sucks the shoes right off your feet and the lighter wetter slime splatters at your kit and exposed limbs getting the appearance of sepia dalmation and you hear the cry “Get stuck in lads”, as you charge over the

clinging clay and rough plough, you could be forgiven for thinking that this was the re-enactment of a bayonet charge originally staged at Ypres or the Somme circa 1914. It was in fact a scene from the centenary running of the South of the Thames Senior Championships and the venue for the third time this season — the formidable new course at B.H.H.Q. Hayes.

Already after only the S.L.H. and T.H.H. mob matches, the course has gained a reputation for sheer gumption and soul destroying (not to mention shoe destroying) plough, that even the Orion would be proud of. Already affectionate name tags have been lovingly bestowed upon the more outrageous sections of heavy going — “Clay Alley”, “Half Brick Bog” and the notorious “Heart-Break Hill” to be found at the further point of the course.

As for the race itself — as if merely completing the course weren't sufficient merit on its own — Boxhill continued to impress with K. Penney in second place, G. Ribbons in fourth and their scoring 6 inside 22 they easily dominated Belgrave who had the winner in D. Swain, and Aldershot who packed well to take third place.

Ranelagh did extremely well to close in fourth place in front of Portsmouth and Reading with Blackheath a poor tenth. This was certainly a ‘B’ team effort by the Heath, as non of the scoring six that went on to do so well in the ‘National’ were in evidence in this team. Mark Colpus was our first man home in 34th place followed by Peter Ward and Ken Pike in 46th and 47th. Damon Williams in 75th, Dave Hassall in 84th and Mark Watling 98th completed our scoring six.

In the Coleman Cup with 12 to score, we fared slightly better. Once more Boxhill dominated — totalling 505 points for their 12. Belgrave were again second but Ranelagh moved into 3rd ahead of Blackheath in fourth for a reversal of the Mob Match result the previous week on their territory. Blackheath's total of 1305 was made up by Jim Phelan who ran well to finish in front of Ken Daniels 137th and 139th respectively, with Barry Mellish just behind in 142nd place. Mark Jackson suffering badly from the plough finished 156th with vet Ian Wilson in 162nd spot — the 12 man team was completed by an injured Robert Farish who gallantly struggled to finish 185th out of a total of 245 runners.

And of those who finished and those who failed to do so, one aspect of this, the Centenary Championships of the South of the Thames Senior, which will be remembered by all who took part will not be the commemorative mug they received for their endeavours, but the admiration and awe every participant had for the course — one that is indeed worthy of maximum respect.

J.P.



*Dave Hassall – looks quite stylish in the mud.*

CLUB 10 MILE CC CHAMPIONSHIP

THE CLOSING 'S'

Hayes

5th March, 1988

Hayes

12th March, 1988

Spring-like weather greeted runners at the start of the Ten which was in the usual field near Layhams Road.

Upon the signal from the President, Les Roberts attired in his Red Baron racing gear zoomed off to a flying start with Richard Coles and Mark Colpus.

The course whilst mainly dry was in places rutted and frozen, a rubber studded shoe would probably have been the best footwear.

Due to damage to trees during the Great Storm of 1987, the Ten course had a new look, but turned out to be just as difficult as the old route.

There were close encounters between Ron Chambers and Roy Savery, Steve Freemantle and Bernard Wilson, but the final one, two, three, were:—

- 1. R. Coles 53.12
- 2. L. Roberts 54.20
- 3. M. Colpus 55.29

From the above times it was estimated that the course was thankfully about 9.3 miles.

The Handicap proved to be a close affair, with honours going to John R. Turner, Joe Clare and Norman Davidson.

A fine run in tenth place by Roy Smith in only his second Cross Country race promises better performances to come. Norman Davidson (I'm not good on the Country) also ran a sound race to finish in the No. 5 spot.

Special mention here of the amazing performance of Jim "Chopper" Phelan, who was involved in a racing incident in the last half mile, his new race tactics were highly effective, but in fairness to sporting Jimbo he did stop to scrape your reporter off the deck, before he... off to the finish to place sixth in the race.

All's fair... roll on the next race.

Finally, thanks to Fred Dudman for cups of hot tea at the finish — whatever next!

Who knows what a "yacht handicap" is? It is the well-tryed and enjoyable formula for this traditional end-of-term fixture, and if you don't ever take part in it, you may never find out!

Considering the comparatively high turn-out in Mob Matches and Club Championships in recent years, the field of 37 was very disappointing — not least for the Handicapper, for whom this is the supreme test and the culmination of a winter's work. All being well, everyone will finish at the same time, and the winner of the Bennett Cup (the season's aggregate handicap trophy) will emerge from a group of highly-competitive 'middle-order regulars'.

The weather was warm and dry, the course fast and dry, and there was a joker in the pack. To confound all the Handicapper's hard-work and computer-based predictions. Jim Raine, the not-very-well-known Orpington gymnast and occasional cross-country person turned his 'handicap' into a benefit and finished with over 2½ minutes to spare!

The Bennett Cup, for which an appearance in all the Mob Matches and Club Championships is desirable if not essential, went deservedly to Bernard Leahy by a narrow margin.

Pos'n.	Name	Time	H/cap	Net Time
		m s	m s	m s
1.	J. Raine	34.39	10.00	24.39
2.	J. R. Turner	32.06	4.50	27.16
3.	K. Daniel (1)	29.25	2.00	27.25
4.	C. Huntley	31.59	4.30	27.29
5.	B. Leahy	31.43	4.00	27.43
6.	D. White	32.34	4.40	27.54
7.	B. Wilson	31.59	4.00	27.59
8.	M. Cronin (3)	29.59	2.00	27.59
9.	S. Freemantle	30.28	2.20	28.08
10.	S. Parsons	32.50	4.30	28.20
11.	R. Chambers	34.58	6.35	28.23
12.	M. Crisp	33.06	4.40	28.26
13.	M. Laws (2)	29.28	1.00	28.28
14.	R. Hilton	34.55	6.20	28.35
15.	A. Rose	33.11	4.30	28.41
16.	W. Wheeler	33.27	4.40	28.47
17.	M. Reynolds	33.43	4.40	29.03
18.	P. Metcalf	33.55	4.50	29.05
19.	M. Martineau	33.57	4.50	29.07
20.	R. Turney	33.27	4.10	29.17
21.	G. Pearce	37.28	8.20	29.28
22.	D. Johnson	40.16	10.40	29.36
23.	D. Crake	35.05	5.20	29.45
24.	D. Brookes	38.00	8.10	29.30
25.	D. Wilcox	39.15	9.20	29.55
26.	G. Plank	35.03	5.05	29.58
27.	D. Larcombe	39.05	8.05	31.00
28.	R. Thompkins	33.03	2.00	31.03
29.	S. Capey	35.57	4.50	31.07
30.	R. Wood	35.54	4.40	31.14
31.	P. Rickell	36.52	5.30	31.22
32.	B. Todd	40.10	8.30	31.40
33.	J. Cross	43.53	12.00	31.53
34.	D. Tingey	45.29	13.00	32.29
35.	D. Searby	34.33	2.00	32.33
36.	J. Bennett	47.19	13.50	33.29
37.	A. Musson	39.23	4.40	34.43

Fastest of the Day —

- 1. K. Daniel 29.25
- 2. M. Laws 29.28
- 3. M. Cronin 29.59



Left: 1987 Club 5 Champ Mark Colpus.



*Its quite a while since the entwined squares were seen at the head of a National above 1644. Lots of famous faces*

## THE NATIONAL

Newark

20th February, 1988

While your correspondent has been fortunate to witness many major athletics events around the world, there are very few spectacles to quicken the pulse like the start of 'The National'. So it was again here on the Agricultural Showground where a sizeable contingent of 'Heathen supporters were given an early hint of something special, Jerry Barton leading the entire field around the first turn — a moment captured the following week in a centre-spread photo in Athletics Weekly and reproduced here.

As the 9-mile race unfolded, it was England's most successful and consistent cross-country runner, Dave Clarke of Hercules/Wimbledon, who moved into an early lead. His pursuers, led in determinedly but ultimately unsuccessfully by Dave Lewis, found overtaking difficult on much of the testing, rough farmland sections, and as the individual race turned into a procession, attention turned to the team race and the fortunes of our lads, probably the strongest team yet fielded by the Club, including that of 40 years earlier led by Sydney Wooderson! This time it was Jerry Barton and Bill Foster showing the way comfortably placed in the 20's and 30's, with Alan Guilder and Tim Nash in the 60's and 70's — when did we last have 4 in the first 100? There seemed to be a battle on with our Kent rivals from Invicta/East Kent, who also had 4 in 100, but in such large numbers it is near impossible to track team fortunes. As the race moved into the closing stages, our leading four battled on grimly and

support came from Mark Jones, moving up close to the first 100, and Richard Coles, making his familiar late charge, to close in at 174.

Results took a long time to come through, and half the team disappeared back to the hotel, happy with their performances individually and collectively, with talk of a team position comfortably in the top ten. Then when rumour gave way to confirmed result, the Captain had to make a panic call to the hotel and recall his troops — "get back here boys, you've placed 3rd team!"

The presentation was understandably a joyous affair. A few tears were shed, a magnificent trophy for 1st Southern Team collected, and Richard Coles was seen to leap a long way off the floor at confirmation of his medal. What a just reward for his service to the Club, including 13 consecutive appearances in The National.

By good fortune or good planning the whole team were able to celebrate at length at a dinner that evening, accompanied appropriately by the President and his lady, and our sole representatives in the Youths Race — Liam Bulson — and the Junior Race — Matt Lawton. They have both had an early taste of senior team success, and will no doubt make sure they are in the team again next year when the Championships will be held at Cheam.

Will your be there to share the experience?

*Individual:* 1. Dave Clarke (Hercules/Wimbledon) 44.14; 2. Dave Lewis (Rossendale) 45.00; 3. Craig Mochrie (Leicester) 45.12.



*Jerry Barton leads the charge from the gun. Bill Foster can also be seen an inch or so ahead of the pack.*

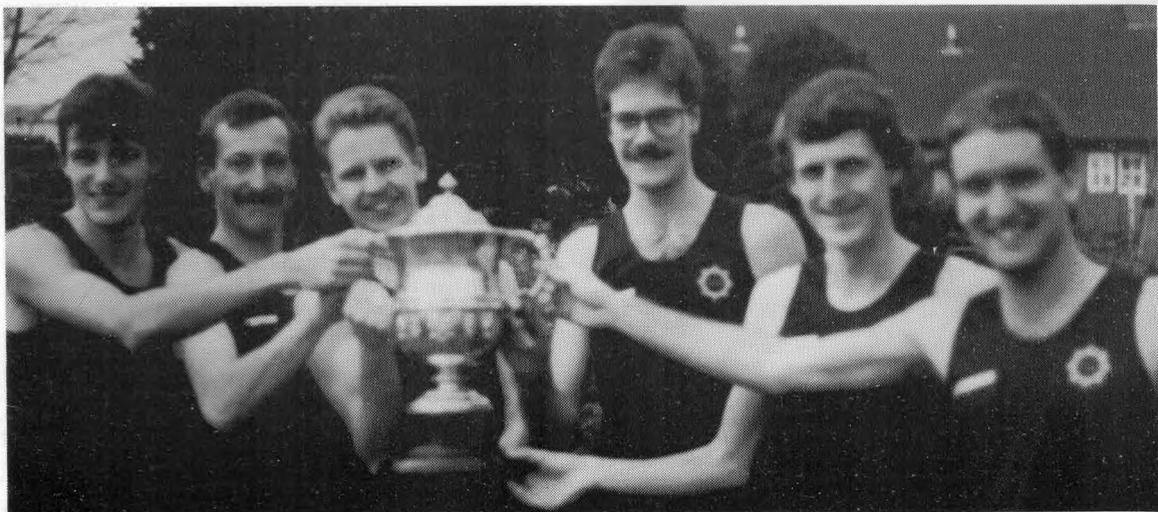
*Blackheath*

34. Jerry Barton	47.10	114. Mark Jones	49.11
41. Bill Foster	47.28	174. Richard Coles	50.07
71. Alan Guilder	48.14	262. Mark Colpus	51.01
83. Tim Nash	48.30	667. Dave Heath	54.31

*Team:* 1. Birchfield H. 248 pts; 2. Tipton H. 369 pts; 3. Blackheath H. 516 pts; 4. Invicta/East Kent 540 pts. 2136 Finished — 230 Teams closed in.

*Juniors:* 1. S. Mugglestone (Westbury) 31.13; 139. Matt Lawton 36.02. 388 Finished.

*Youths:* 1. J. Brown (Hallamshire) 22.27; 69. Laim Bulsom 24.48. 488 Finished.



*The proud medal winners.*

*L-R Tim Nash, Richard Coles, Alan Guilder, Jerry Barton, Bill Foster, Mark Jones.*



Laim Bulsom - 18th in the Southern and 69th in the National Youths. Promising stuff, eh?



## VETS RESULTS

### VETS' MOB MATCH

Coulsdon 7m

7th November, 1987

Alas the yew trees. They had been landmarks to generations of cross-country runners but could not survive the October storm which was to have such repercussions for the Winter Season.

From where they lay we started on the first of two circuits. Leaving Farthing Down and crossing the road near the cafe, we entered the valley along the right-hand side. Going over or around a few fallen trees we then descended the valley and returned the other side before scrambling up the steep chalk bank to the Down again. Hence to the start, giving a good run and some novelty for those familiar with the usual course.

There was a good turn-out and we contributed 24, but half of us are the wrong side of fifty and it showed in an easy home win. Too few, notably Mike Cronin and Chris Woodcock, kept our flag flying near the sharp end. We did rather better at the Age Handicap, Jack Braughton being an easy winner of the V50+ award.

Back at the Comrades Hall a stark choice awaited us: bread-pudding today or a hill session tomorrow? Oh Cholesterol!

Teams, scoring 13:—

SLH 227; Orion 350; BHH 438; Ranelagh 487.

(Winner 39.35)  
Blackheath Results:—

6. M. Cronin	41.20	55. B. Hartley	49.41
9. C. Woodcock	41.53	62. J. Braughton	50.35*
15. J. Taylor	43.59	64. G. Crowder	50.50
22. P. Shephard	44.55	65. R. Varcoe	50.54
31. J. Robinson	45.54	67. B. Dinsley	52.24
37. B. Wilson	46.42	70. D. Hopgood	53.15
41. M. Reynolds	47.13	81. J. Bennett	60.29
42. W. Clapham	47.22	82. D. Tingey	60.59
45. P. Metcalf	47.46	83. C. Brand	62.32
46. A. Grace	48.09	84. D. Johnson	62.59
47. R. Foreman	48.17	*(1st: Age H'cap 50+)	
50. D. Crake	48.47	84 Fin	
52. R. Chambers	49.17		

B.C.

### KENT VETS' CC CHAMP

Beckenham Place Park (10 Km)

2nd January, 1988

With the course muddier than last year and a strong wind the pace was slowed, but at least we had bright sunshine, the heavy rain being saved for the North Kent Race which followed.

Recent fixtures had shown up our need for some younger vets and fortunately a number of Heathens have 'come of advanced age' this season. One of these, Peter Hamilton, who had lead the Club home in the Orion Mob Match the month before, showed that this was no accident and celebrated his recent birthday with a convincing win. Another, Barry Mellish, was also well placed. Between these two came Chris Woodcock, placing our scoring 'A' team third, while good support came from the Wilsons, Ian and Bernard.

If Peter Hamilton was clearly "Man of the Match" another accolade must go to Pete Shephard, who took advantage of the nearby venue and early start to dash off afterwards to Hayes for the Thames H.H. Mob Match while we lesser mortals wallowed in the showers. The event, hosted by Kent A.C., was well organised and gave a good afternoon's run for our 17 finishers.

Results:—

1. P. Hamilton 36.33; 9. C. Woodcock 38.40; 12. B. Mellish 39.40; 15. P. Shephard 40.13; 16. I. Wilson 40.16; 30. B. Wilson 42.50; 35. W. Clapham 43.26; 37. J. Robinson 43.37; 41. R. Turney 44.34; 42. C. Rowe 44.41; 49. R. Foreman 45.27; 52. M. Field 45.48; 54. D. Crake 46.22; 61. J. Braughton 47.06; 70. D. Hopgood 48.26; 74. G. Crowder 49.00; 84. D. Johnson 57.49. 85 Fin. Teams:— (Scoring 3) 3. BLK 'A'; 8. BLK 'B'; 10. BLK 'C'.

B.C.

### CAMB. H. VETS. CC CHAMP & INTER-CLUB (5m)

Avery Hill Park

24th January, 1988

Our hosts had spread their net wider this year and gathered a field of sixty or so including 11 of us, with supporters including our President. A fine afternoon but with a good deal of water and mud to be tackled.

Play your Ace first; so we did, in the shape of Peter Hamilton who continued his winning ways in convincing style. The rest of us were, unfortunately, not there to see it turning up in a bunch some five minutes later.

This is a venue where one field looks very much like another and a course change had been made since last year. This caused no bother to Jack Braughton who didn't know the way then either and came home as 1st V60. He was joined by Geoff Crowder, Don Hopgood and Bill Clapham for the 2nd place V50+ medals behind Cambridge.

**Results:—**

1. P. Hamilton 30.30; 24. W. Clapham 35.32; 26. J. Robinson 35.47; 31. R. Turney 36.24; 33. C. Rowe 36.36; 35. M. Field 37.00; 38. G. Crowder 37.34; 41. M. Peel 38.00; 46. J. Braughton 38.29 (1st V60); 52. D. Hopgood 40.23; 59. B. Todd 41.49.

Teams (Scoring 4) V40/49:— 5. BHH; V50+:— 2. BHH  
B.C.

**CLUB VETS' CC CHAMPIONSHIP, INTER-CLUB AND SELF-HANDICAP**

*Hayes (10Km)*

*30th January, 1988*

Those who had run the SLH Mob Match or seen the South of Thames Senior knew that, though shorter, this would be a testing ploughland course even though the weather was kind. Flavour-of-the-Month was Peter Hamilton. Beginning with the Kent Vets Championship he had followed with wins at Wimbledon Common and Avery Hill. Today was to be no exception. Although Mike Cronin lead out of the Church field, by the end Peter was a full two minutes ahead of such a redoubtable competitor as John Geoghegan (Camb. H.) with Mike third. Chris Woodcock was the third medallist in the Club Champ.

With a course that no-one had run within living memory, if ever, the Self-Handicap was more of a guessing game than usual, even for the 32 Heathens taking part. Our 30 visitors must be especially congratulated in the circumstances.

The H'cap was based, this year, on a Scratch time of 45 min. This was well-intentioned but proved to be over-optimistic for nearly the whole field and lead to some spectacular errors. First bottle went to J. Baker of Woodford and home prizes to Mike Cronin (yes, him again) and Tony Pontifex. The 'Special' went to a visitor for whom George Brooks had instituted a search down the course and who managed to be nearly 19 mins out of H'cap. It is again a great pleasure to record our thanks to Frank Dyter for his thoughtfulness and generosity in donating prizes.

**Results:—**

1. P. Hamilton 42.22 (Browning Tankard); 3. M. Cronin 44.55; 6. C. Woodcock 46.42; 7. J. Taylor 47.04; 10. B. Fisher 47.27; 16. M. Reynolds 49.48; 17. P. Shephard 50.11; 18. J. Robinson 50.17; 20. C. Rowe 50.25; 21. A. Grace 50.44; 22. B. Wilson 50.59; 24. M. Field 51.41; 26. R. Chambers 51.55; 28. M. Peel 52.07; 29. R. Turney 52.19; 31. G. Plank 52.37; 33. P. Metcalf 52.50; 37. J. Braughton 54.10; 38. A. Pontifex 54.25; 40. A. Michel 55.05; 43. R. Savery 56.24; 44. D. Hopgood 57.28; 45. R. Varcoe 58.21; 46. D. Crake 58.59; 47. J. Raine 59.04; 50. B. Todd 59.30; 51. D. Wilcox 61.16; 55. J. Ashton 63.10; 58. D. Tingey 67.04; 59. J. Bennett 67.33; 60. J. Cross 68.47; 61. C. Brand 69.37; 62 Fin.

Teams (Scoring 3) 1. BHH 10; 2. Medw 23; 3. Camb. H. 25; 4. Vets A.C. 29; 5. Woodfd 33.

(Scoring 6) 1. BHH 35; 2. Vets A.C. 80; 3. Medw 87; 4. Woodfd 98.

B.C.

**SOUTHERN COUNTIES VETS' A.C. CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Old Coulsdon (10Km)*

*28th February, 1988*

With the National Vets' Champs consigned to Ayrshire we had decided that this was to be our last Vets' cross-country event for the season.

We had met Happy Valley earlier as part of the SLH course for the Vets' Mob Match but approached it today steeply downhill and after three circuits, returned whence we came. A fortnight of drying wind produced much firmer

ground than for most fixtures this winter, benefiting the road men in a fast run. The wind continued down the valley, causing those of us who think that good things are done up in small parcels to shelter behind our better-endowed fellows.

The V40/49s went in the first of two races, allowing them to drain Fred Dudman's tea urn before the V50s got back. Barry O'Gorman was soon forced to pull out with a niggling injury, thereby weakening our challenge. However, Peter Hamilton was well placed in a good quality field and was well supported by V45 medallist Chris Woodcock and by Mike Cronin. We lacked runners at the younger end of the V50+ category but Jack Braughton again scored in the more senior echelons.

The event was well organised by Croydon H. and Officers of SCVAC but, as a whole, there were notably fewer participants than when the event was last held in the London area. This, one feels, must reflect the continuing dissatisfaction of Vets over the attitudes towards them of various governing bodies. In the circumstances we can record with some satisfaction a total of twelve finishers, allowing us to place respectably in all team categories. It is a pleasure to be able to record the support that our Vets have again given to Blackheath's cross-country programme.

**Results:—**

V 40/49 (32.56) 10. P. Hamilton 34.58; 18. C. Woodcock 36.09 (3rd V45); 21. M. Cronin 36.29; 45. J. Taylor 39.07; 57. J. Robinson 41.09; 59. M. Field 41.19; 60. C. Rowe 41.39; 73 Fin. Teams (Scoring 3) 4 BHH; (Scoring 6) 3 BHH.

V50+ (35.34) 25. W. Clapham 41.10; 37. J. Braughton 42.47 (1st V65); 38. G. Crowder 42.49; 53. R. Varcoe 44.39; 64. J. Bennett 53.25; 66 Fin. Teams (Scoring 3) 4 BHH.

B.C.



*Matthew Lawton. 139th in National Juniors and rapidly joining the Club's upper echelons.*

# ON THE ROAD

## MARSEILLE — CASSIS HALF MARATHON

October 1987

I like France. So do quite a few of my friends. It was probably, therefore, the lure of an opportunity of spending a few days dunking bread and butter into vat sized bowls of hot chocolate over breakfast and quaffing vino ad nauseam out of green bottles with little stars on the side, rather than the thought of racing up and down a severe col of Tour de France proportions that saw Paul Barrington-King, Pete Barlow, Mark Colpus and Les Roberts flying off to Marseille last autumn. There was also the attraction of lolling about in weather which, though not exactly merveilleux in late October, would certainly be better than most of what we had experienced that summer.

Despite all the potential distractions mentioned above plus one or two others, the principal reason for our presence on the Med. was the Marseille to Cassis half marathon. A mega race this on a par with the first London Marathon. About 8000 competitors line up each year outside Marseille FC's stadium on closed roads and then proceed to charge through the suburbs and onto the formidable Col de Gineste en route to the picturesque fishing village which gives its name to blackcurrants.

Tackling this little hump is the equivalent of climbing the last part of Gravel Hill — for 10 Kms! Admittedly it is then downhill for 6 Kms but there are a few stings in the tail for those impertinent enough to relax too early.

Apart from the cost of getting there everything else was found by the organisers. We were billeted in a slum dwelling of indeterminant age in the middle of Cassis. For those of you well travelled in France you will know that from the outside at least it is often difficult to tell the difference between an historically significant gite and a long since abandoned barn. Our place was rather the reverse of this. Outwardly an ancient town edifice of some substance; inwardly a multi-storey echo chamber which enjoyed minimum plumbing of an early period and highly floral wall paper which hung in festoons from every surface. The sum total of the furniture for the whole building was a pile of mattresses and bolsters. Having said all that, the place had a certain charm and although we were offered better when the organisers realised where they had placed us, we declined their generosity. Being centrally placed and exclusively accommodated away from the other international riff raff was, we decided, to be preferred.

On race day, we were ferried "en mini-bus" (which for non linguists means "in a mini-bus") to Marseille along the line of the course. For Paul and Peter, having done the race in previous years, this was old hat but for Les and Mark it brought a certain uneasiness as the bus struggled up and soared down inclines the like of which you prefer only to admire on postcards from the comfort of an easy chair.

There was all the hurly burly one usually associates with the start of a mass road event — lavatories bulging at the seams, and an assortment of humanity from the athletically sleek to the elephantine; from the elegantly attired à la mode sportive to those who succeed in looking like plastic bin liners of household waste which have been ransacked by a scavaging fox. You know the scene. Also, of course, everyone and his mate was intensely engaged in limbering up and stretching various parts of their anatomy. All, that is, except

Paul who just sat on a wall drooling over the ~~mediterranean~~ crumplet of which, I have to say, there was plenty.

A cannon powerful enough to blow ear wax deep into the innermost caverns of the brain set the race in motion. In just in case this excessive use of military hardware had failed to dull the senses completely, a helicopter immediately arrived on the scene and hovered over the front ~~range~~ height that caused considerable difficulty in keeping ~~under~~ under the downdraught. After all that the arrival of the Col didn't seem too bad — at least for a while.



Fatty Roberts strides over the Col de Gineste en route to a good 'un.

Out front the winner for the past few years Martin of the French Navy had gone clear followed by the ~~World~~ international squad of Nigel Adams, Steve Brace and Kenny Davies. Also up there was French international steeplechase star Raymond Pannier and somewhere in the first dozen was Les Roberts whose gossamer frame was clearly less of a burden to him on the hill than the ~~bulky~~ carried by many of those around him. Mark Colpus was also hanging in there in the top thirty or so.

However, as much to his own amazement as anyone else's it was over the top after the 10 Km point — reached in about 33.40 — that Les really got going. Leaving behind the company he had been keeping at the summit he blazed a ~~pace~~

trail in the wake of the Welsh boys and at 15 Km was astonished to have the pleasure of overhauling Martin and leaving him for dead. Having picked off a handful of other stragglers from the front Les hit the litte port of Cassis in 7th place and only just failed to reel in Davies for 6th. Had he turned on his now infamous finishing kick it is almost certain he would have gained the higher place but he admitted he wasn't prepared to make a total spectacle of himself in front of such a tremendous crowd which had assembled at the finish on the quayside. It was nevertheless one of the best runs of his career and with a time of 66.36 it was only a little over 2 minutes behind the winner, Adams and it pushed the veterans record for the event well beyond its previous mark.

Young Colpus also ran well for 22nd place in 69.42 which he felt he could have improved on had his feet not disintegrated on the descent. With Paul B-K and Pete Barlow filling 135th and 182nd places respectively the Blackheath contingent once again this year featured in the international team rankings. Our quartet were 3rd behind the Welsh, who were every inch a true international class outfit and the Belgians.

After the event there was, of course, the celebrations impressively laid on by the organisers in a gymnasium the size of an aircraft hangar in Marseille. Because of the not unsuccessful efforts on our part to parly the old lingo with the natives it was clear we were held in special esteem and we found we were adroitly assisted by all and sundry to buck the systems governing the distribution of food and drink. Suffice it to say, therefore, we got enough of each.

That night will go down in the annals as a strange one which developed into a mini drama featuring a happily married Belgian with two children as the hero, an 18 year old nymphomaniac of dubious nationality, the heroine, Les, the villain and Paul, the upholder of moral rectitude. The plot is not for this occasion but lets just say it all eventually sorted itself out — at least as far as we can tell.

L.R.

## ROCHESTER 5

15th November, 1987

Gary Arthey continued his run of road race victories with an impressive win on an over distance course at Rochester. This was the 63rd running of the event and it continues to attract top class fields. For the unacquainted, the course consists of a two mile climb at the start; followed by some small undulations (to add some interest); and finishes with a kamikazi descent and long drag down the promenade. If this wasn't testing enough there was also a strong wind.

Gary took control from the start and by the first mile was already well clear of a field which included a number of junior internationals and top seniors. The following pack was led by Richard Coles and with Pat Calnan and Rob Farish well up the team result was going to be interesting. The pack was unable to get anywhere near Gary as he romped to a comfortable victory. It did, however, mean fireworks on the prom as they hit the last 400 metres, with Richard finding himself outkicked by young upstarts who would struggle to keep with him on the country at the moment. Calnan and Farish hung on well for us to close four in 24. Ken Daniel was next home in 44th, somewhat slower than his best time for the course. You can tell when a male athlete is not as good as he was when, instead of checking on the opposition, he's more concerned about whether he'll be beaten by the leading women. Ken 'suffered' this for the first time last week at Southend, but was well clear today.

We were just pipped by G.E.C. Avionics who had the second and third home but it was, nevertheless, a good team result as we pipped a strong Newham team and were comfortably clear of Invicta.

## Results:—

1. G. Arthey (Blackheath)	25.33
6. R. Coles (Blackheath)	26.16
19. P. Calnan	27.13
24. R. Farish (Blackheath)	27.32
44. K. Daniel (Blackheath)	29.03

## Teams

1. G.E.C. Avionics	46 pts
2. Blackheath	50 pts
3. Newham and Essex Beagles	51 pts
4. Invicta	55 pts

## SOUTHERN 12-STAGE ROAD RELAY

Wimbledon Common

26th March, 1988

In this fascinating event, which takes over 4 hours and covers 54 miles, the Club has not distinguished itself in recent years. Placing of 14th, 12th and 16th in the last 3 years would hardly support the Captain's aspirations of springing a surprise victory, even with a full-strength squad, unquestionably the best 12 ever to take to the road in Club colours.

The standard is always very high, with dozens of established internationals on parade and the traditionally strong clubs — Aldershot, Shaftesbury and Haringey in particular — always taking it very seriously. The first long leg (5¼m) rarely gives any real clubs to the final outcome, and so it was again with Richard Coles coming home just 1 min. 40 secs. off the lead. From his opening 29th position, the plan unfolded promisingly. Bill O'Donnell followed up with a sparkling short leg to gain 14 places, then Alan Guilder pulled back another 12 places to get up to 3rd. Such dramatic progress is of course impossible to sustain — the next six athletes spent the next two hours consolidating the position, so that at the ½-distance David Taylor on his debut finished just 18 seconds off the lead in 2nd place, the nearest we were to get to the front of the race. Both Tim Nash and Les Roberts found it tougher going than last year, and in spite of sparkling short legs by Dave Heath and Chris McGeorge (both 1500m specialists making their relay debuts) we had to give best to Aldershot and Haringey. The best ever result in this event earned everyone a Southern Championship medal, but where was the Captain? — In Auckland, at the World Cross-Country Championships!

## Team Results: (53 Teams)

1. Aldershot F & D	4.07.18
2. Haringey A.C.	4.08.19
3. Blackheath H.	4.09.40

## Club Performances:

1. Coles	25.52 (29)
2. O'Donnell	16.03 (15)
3. Guilder	24.36 (3)
4. Farish	16.29 (3)
5. Foster	24.44 (2)
6. Tulloh	16.32 (2)
7. Barton	24.51 (2)
8. Taylor	16.09 (2)
9. Nash	26.02 (3)
10. Heath	15.43 (3)
11. Roberts	26.34 (3)
12. McGeorge	16.05 (3)

Fastest Laps: Long Leg — Steve Harris (Haringey)	24.05
Short Leg — Steve Ovett (Phoenix)	15.03

## LLOYDS BANK ROAD RELAY

Beckenham

27th April, 1988

A local event always well supported by the Club, this relay has steadily increased in popularity. The entry jumped this year to 69 teams, which stretched the officials but didn't prevent accurate results on time — just made it more difficult



## MISSING RESULTS

Club Records for the 1980's seem to have too many gaps, mainly through the participants leaving it to others to send in results! Consequently despite brave efforts there are gaps in the results of some of our most important races of each cross country season. Would anyone who ran in the following races looking up their own diaries etc. to help complete the records, otherwise your efforts and those of your team mates will be lost for ever!

**National Cross Country Championships 1981 (7-3-81)**  
Parliament Hill. Was there a 9th man home after M. Athawes 611?

**Southern Cross Country Championships 1981 (14-2-81)**  
Trent Park. Only Richard Coles 12th is known. What about the other 11 runners? (Not even the scoring 6 is known).

**Southern Cross Country Championships 1982 (13-2-82)**  
Parliament Hill. Positions of 8th — 12th i.e. G. Martin; B. Swift; C. Haines; R. Cliff; M. Athawes?

**South of Thames Senior Championships 1982 (30-1-82)**  
Footscray Meadows. Positions of 7th — 12th i.e. Les Roberts—?

**Southern 12 Stage Road Relay April 1983.** No information known at all!

Any information can be put in writing or rung in to Ken Pike (01-291 1287), 15 Trilby Road, Forest Hill, London SE23.

## BENNETT CUP RESULT 1987 TOP 25 PLACES

	Opening/ 5	S.L.H.	Orion	Ranelagh	Club/ Closing/ 10	5 Pts
B. Leahy	27	30	36	1	11	36 141
R. Hilton	30	16	34	15	10	27 132
S. Freemantle	31	10	22	1	35	32 131
P. Metcalf	32	1	35	1	36	23 128
M. Cronin	17	22	13	1	37	33 123
M. Martineau	37	1	38	1	22	22 121
B. Wilson	dnr	1	39	1	27	34 102
D. Johnson	14	1	20	39	6	19 99
D. Brookes	35	13	33	dnr	drn	17 98
D. Drake	39	1	1	35	dnr	18 95
J. R. Turner	1	1	1	1	40	39 83
R. Coles	9	36	dnr	1	34	dnr 80
D. Tingey	dnr	1	1	40	30	7 79
G. White	5	12	29	1	31	dnr 78
R. Wood	dnr	1	21	26	18	11 77
A. Grace	21	1	26	27	dnr	dnr 75
J. Bennett	24	1	6	18	16	5 70
J. Phelan	1	3	31	1	33	dnr 69
J. Brown	23	1	14	29	dnr	dnr 67
D. Hopgood	10	1	1	24	29	dnr 65
M. Ludwig	dnr	27	11	25	dnr	dnr 63
C. Brand	29	1	1	32	dnr	dnr 63
R. Chambers	dnr	1	dnr	dnr	32	30 63
L. Roberts	dnr	33	dnr	1	28	dnr 62
W. Wheeler	1	9	1	1	24	25 61

## PAST PRESIDENT VICTOR BEARDON

On Wednesday evening 17 August the Club organised the Prix de Nike Final meeting at Norman Park and no doubt, the results and report on the event, which saw the first sub minute mile in Bromley, will be featured in a later Gazette.

On this occasion, the Club took the opportunity to mark the long membership and service of Past President Victor Beardon. Victor was elected to the Club in May 1927 having been proposed by C. L. Westley and seconded by H. J. Dyball who was a notable secretary.

Victor, a sprinter who rapidly made his presence felt in the Club teams, first held the Rampley Cup for 100 yards in 1928 and was part of the Kent Relay team the same year and again in 1929. In 1930, displaying versatility, he won the Reay Cup for 440 yards and was second in the 100 yards the same year.

These are just some highlights of his active running days.

Soon a committee member and Track Handicapper from 1934-1937, he became Track Captain from 1938 right through the war years and I suspect that he contributed much more during this period. He was Club Secretary from 1946-1953, seven years, fulfilling this most onerous office to a very high standard. He was elected Club President 1958-59, some 30 years ago, an office he performed in his usual effective and efficient manner.

His name and 61 years membership, ranks alongside the Blackheath Greats — The Founder, F. H. Reed, Ponsford, Metcalf and Ratcliffe in the early days; Arthur Thwaites, Clarke, Taylor and McIvor to name a few in the middle years and Jack Sims, George Brooks and Laurie Hammill who are known to many Club members today.

He is currently President of Kent AAA and over the years has given much to the County.

Finally, he is a starter "par excellence" officiating over many years at important and international meetings as well as Club events. However, the time has come when he has decided not to renew the necessary licence for his starting pistols.

Like many Club celebrities, Victor has been well supported over the years by his wife, Connie.

At the conclusion of this meeting the President presented Victor with a unique embroidered sampler, created by Mrs. Brenda Brent, which notes the Club's appreciation of his service and devotion. Victor Beardon has indeed persevered and endured.

P.S.

## THE 'HEATHEN' BADGE

### How it came about

*Phillip Khan-Panni investigates. And speculates.*

The origin and meaning of the Club badge must have exercised many a mind since Fred Reed and a few friends founded The Peckham Hounds in 1869. Our older Members will recall that the name "Blackheath Harriers" was adopted nine years later, in 1878, when the headquarters were moved to the Green Man.

There is, of course, no definitive record of the badge's beginnings. Many have mistaken it for the Star of David and, indeed, a lady of the Jewish persuasion in Brooklyn singled me out for her encouragement, during the New York Marathon, just because I wore the badge. I would have stopped to explain, you understand, for one observes the courtesies even in America, but I was on a promise to better four hours.

Others have seen some mystical significance in the intertwined squares, speculating on possible Masonic connections. Although I have never been invited to join the brotherhood, and both my trouser legs remain unrolled, my understanding is that the secret society was not responsible for the design. One illustrious past Member, who rejoiced in the exotic sobriquet of 'Shanghai' Tommy Atkins, informed us that the badge has a clearly defined meaning in China.

There (he wrote) it is the symbol of the landed gentry — those who own fields. He was writing historically, of course, since Chairman Mao altered the arrangements in 1949 and removed fields from individual ownership. Tommy's contemporary, Ramsay Moir, remarked drily that 'Heathens may not actually own fields, but do at least run them regularly'.

### Back To The Beginning

China was a long way from anyone's mind when the Club began. I opened up The Old Oak Chest, and blew dust off the yellowing files, to find some powerful circumstantial evidence. I also discovered that the very first Club run bore a striking resemblance to Mike Peel's Wednesday evenings.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday 23rd October, 1869, two hares (Messrs Black and Eastie) left The King's Arms, Peckham Rye, and set a cracking pace along a 10-mile route. They went through Goose Green, Denmark Hill, Lordship Lane, Dulwich, Sydenham, Forest Hill and back to the Rye, though not necessarily in that order. The hounds lost the scent several times, and eventually gave up the chase and made their own way back, arriving some ten minutes before the hares.

They must have taken a short cut — as I did when I discovered that Fred Reed was an Architect and Surveyor.

### Amazing Discovery

A few months before he founded the Club, Fred was agog at a new discovery under the streets of London. Workmen building Queen Victoria Street in the City uncovered a fine Roman mosaic pavement, some 19 feet below the present surface, in the region of Bucklersbury. Its principal pattern was a pair of intertwined squares.

Dating from the early 3rd century, this pattern was popular among the rich Romans who followed Julius Caesar to this sceptered isle. It featured strongly in a similar mosaic pavement found under Old Broad Street in 1854.

What may have made a particular impression on Fred, however, will be apparent if you pop along to see the Bucklersbury pavement at the Museum of London. That's the oddly-designed edifice near the Barbican, whose entrance can be found only by those with A-levels.

Unlike the straight-up-and-down regularity of other Roman designs, this one positively lounges. One glance and you will find yourself leaning casually against the nearest wall, shirt open at the neck and legs crossed at the ankles, in the manner of a young blade without a care in the world. I do not know whether Fred actually cried 'Eureka!' when he stood at Bucklersbury and peered into the 20ft hole (for Victorian values did not stretch to such excesses) but it seems likely that he permitted himself at least a smile of triumph.

### But What Does It Mean?

Catherine Johns, Curator at The British Museum, wrote to say that the decorative use of geometric motifs is so widespread that "it is futile to attribute a single symbolic value to any of them." It can mean, she says, whatever you want it to mean.

Well, now. In palmistry, for instance, a square is sign of protection. In tea-leaf reading it signifies a stronger bond — even imprisonment. Could it be that interlocking squares point to the mutual protection afforded by a fraternal organisation or Club? And could the 'imprisonment' be our addiction to the 'runner's high'?

Watch this space.

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### NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Saturday, April 23rd at approx. 1.15pm ended what was the holiday of a lifetime for the crowd who flew with Blackheath Harriers to the exotic Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

After 2 weeks of sun, sea, sand and none of the other — at never not for me that is — no one could deny that it had been a never to be forgotten experience.

It's cheap bars, along with its natural beauty and laid back way of life made the 8½ hour flight well worthwhile.

Having arrived feeling drained and nearly asleep I was to find the next 2 weeks probably the most eventful ones of my life. What could be more eventful than sharing a room with Jason "yes I did fall asleep on the bird sanctuary trip" Mulcahy. Warren "its O.K. to drag me along the poolside,

Graham" Caswell, and Paul "Can I breath out now?" Spence.

The Island's picturesque beaches were just incredible, with the palm trees gently swaying in the breeze. The golden sand and blue sea were everything you could want for 2 weeks.

The visit of Blackheath Harriers was the highlight of the Trinidadian athletics season, for competition was what they wanted, and competition it was they got. Despite being used to the prestige that goes with being a Blackheath Harrier we were not expecting to be announced as having arrived on the T.V. to the whole island.

Our first meeting at the national stadium saw some great early season form from many of our athletes, including a 2.10 high jump clearance by Warren Caswell a 10.50 100 metres by Phil Davies, and a 1.49.7 800 by Chris McGeorge. The relays and field events meeting in Arima 8 days later saw Graham Savory win both shot and discus in 16m 30 and 52m.78 respectively, Mark Colpus won the 5000m in fine style with a 61 second last lap and the Harriers won all the relays, 4 × 100 in 42.9, 4 × 400 in 3.21.3, 4 × 800 in 7.38.2 and the 200m × 200m × 400m × 800m Medley in 3.28.8.

Turning to the social side of things, those wearing sunglasses on the day they decided to visit the north circular were the fortunate ones, for they were the ones whose eyesight was spared the exotic knee length shorts, which turned out to be an extremely popular buy.

Just think if we'd all turned out for the relays dressed in those shorts as we'd planned.

What more could be asked of a holiday where it was so relaxed and everybody got on really well with each other. The atmosphere around the pool was probably the best I've ever witnessed. We were even privileged to watch Jason Mulcahy learning to backward dive and somersault — and he did it!

That brings me on to one of the highlights of my holiday (and probably many others) the pool party and awards ceremony. This won't apply to Rob Bates, Ian Dibbens and Gary Spencer because they won't remember much about it. But didn't we have a laugh?

Warren Caswell is probably reading this and recalling his bare behind being dragged across the poolside and being thrown in — naked!

The ever confident Les Roberts took on the job of Master Speaker and presented the awards to the winners for various characteristics displayed during the trip.

The highlight for most people's holiday was their trip to the unforgettable island of Tobago. Tobago is a must for all those honeymooners. This was the island of paradise you've seen on the bounty adverts.

The picturesque island was flowing with natural beauty, with the coral reef as probably its main attraction. Swimming amongst the fish was an unbelievable experience; it was like something out of a film.

Another reason I couldn't forget Tobago was the skimming across the water in a jet ski with Jason Mulcahy. I can't remember the number of times we crashed, but I won't forget the experience.

The account of 2 wonderful weeks would not be complete without the 'thank you's'.

Firstly thanks to Paul "you really freak me out" Austridge, Nigel "have I really caught the sun" Keogh, Phil "Flaky" Davies and Rob "yes I slept through the turbulence" Bates, for giving me the biggest soaking of my life — whilst asleep in bed! Cheers mates!

Thank you to the pilot on the return journey. I'd never even heard of turbulence before, and it was him who reassured me it was nothing to worry about!

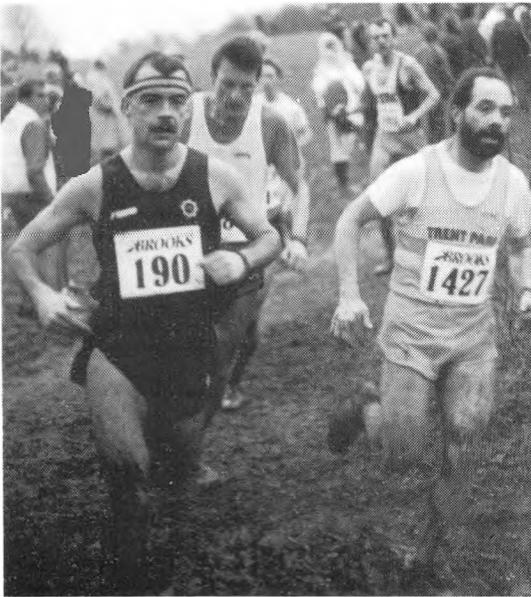
A special thanks to everyone in the party who made the whole trip a truly enjoyable one.

And finally an extra special thanks to Andy for organising the whole trip. It was much appreciated by everyone.

Jamie Quarry



*Another arduous day's training in Tobago!*



*Mark Watling endeavours to keep his hair out of his eyes and off his head too it seems. Right Bob Taylor, Graham Savory and his friends. – You don't get many of these to the pound.*

# OBITUARIES

## A. A. TWEEDY

Many members of the Club will learn with deep regret the passing of V.P. Angus Tweedy on 18th October 1987.

Joining the Club in 1925 he was a regular member of the "ordinary runs" as they were then termed and also the mob matches and club championships. As a "medium" pack man he was a mainstay of the Club in this area. He acted as Honorary Auditor from 1946-1970 and was made Vice-President in 1959. Living in North London restricted his appearances at Hayes in recent years but he continued his running (including the Centenary 5 in 1969) and his continued loyalty was expressed when he turned out for the "Geriatrics" in 1979 being then 73 and the oldest member of this specialised sect.

His characteristic kindliness endeared him to his friends who recollect him with affection and sympathise with his widow and son in their sad loss.

## FREDERICK AGER

Freddie Ager, a stalwart of Orion Harriers of over 60 years, died following a heart attack on the 15th October 1987. His cremation was held at Putney Vale on the 22nd October 1987.

The President and P.P. George Brooks, representing the Club, attended joining other mourners who included a number of Orion Harriers.

Condolences on behalf of the Club were offered to Freddie's widow Maureen and a contribution was made to the RSPCA at Putney. In his memory, members are reminded of his verse which appeared in the club history extolling the pleasures of hip baths which were in use at Hayes right up until 1948.

"In hip baths warm more hot than cold  
You made me lie in ecstasy.  
Which soon produced a rosy seat  
But left quite dry my head and feet."

