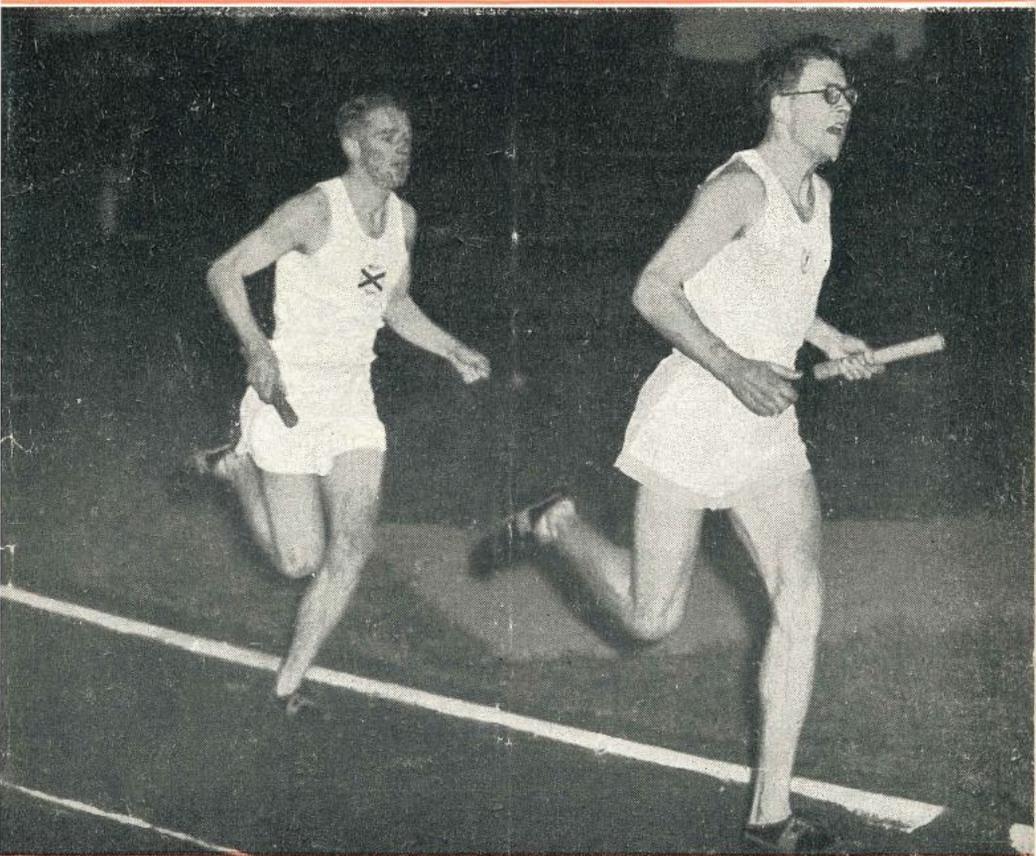


Vol. 4. No. 50.  
DECEMBER 16th, 1950.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ATHLETICS IN GREAT BRITAIN  
CONTAINING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES OF  
THE A.A.A., W.A.A.A., B.A.A.B., & E.C.C.U.

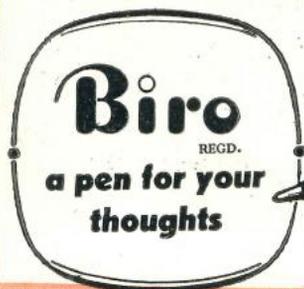
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# ATHLETICS WEEKLY



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## AUSTRALIAN HIGH JUMP CHAMPION TO RETIRE

By Ian Hamilton

John Winter, reigning Olympic, British Empire and Australian high jump champion, has announced his retirement.

He explained (on November 21st) that he did not have time to train regularly and his right ankle had been troubling him since the 1950 Empire Games so he had decided to finish with competitive jumping. But he would devote some of his spare time to coaching promising juniors.

Winter, who is 6ft. 4in. and weighs about 12 stone 6lb. (174lbs.) when fit, first achieved prominence when he won the Australian high jump title in Perth in 1947 with 6ft. 6 3/8 inches. At the Australian championships in February, 1948, he set the existing Australian record with 6ft. 7 1/8 inches.

As he used his own version of the eastern cut-off style of high jumping after a short, springy run-up, he was not expected to beat the Americans, who used the more efficient western roll style and had been jumping around 6ft. 9

inches at the 1948 Olympic Games.

On the day, however, none of the other competitors could better 6ft. 5 inches and Winter, though handicapped by a bad back, cleared 6ft. 6 inches to give Australia her first gold medal of that year's Games.

He did not compete in the 1949 Australian championships and could only reach 6ft. 4 inches at this year's meeting. But later, at the Empire Games in Auckland, he beat Borland (New Zealand) and Patterson (Scotland) with 6ft. 6 inches.

Winter, now 26 and married, is a clerk in a Perth bank.

Sydney, Nov. 18th. University A.C., led by Empiad sprints champion John Treloar, equalled its own interclub 880 yds. record of 1:28.6, which is only 9/10th outside the Australian record made by a Victorian A.A.A. team in 1935.

Treloar, who normally runs anchor, took the first leg because he wanted starting experience in preparation for his individual sprints debut on December 2nd. There were two newcomers in

*Continued on back page*

# ATHLETICS

## WEEKLY

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ATHLETICS IN GREAT BRITAIN  
Edited by P. W. GREEN

**Published by:**  
JOHN LANGDON, LTD.  
9, Clifton Road,  
Maida Vale, London, W.9  
Tel: CUNningham 6176-7-8

**Editorial:**  
KENT ART PRINTERS,  
The Brook,  
Chatham, Kent.  
Tel : CHATHAM 4644-5

*Subscription Rates: 12 months 25/-; 6 months 13/6; post free*

VOL. IV. No. 50.

EVERY SATURDAY

DECEMBER 16th, 1950

**T**WO instances just recently have left me wondering if the average runner takes as much interest in race walking as the walker takes in his opposite number.

First, Lloyd Johnson was sufficiently interested to join in the Newton controversy and, second, G. B. Rex Whitlock wrote to point out that in the report of the recent North of Thames event, where Highgate H. beat Thames Valley H. by six seconds on aggregate time after a tie, the verdict should, from the times published, have gone the other way.

In actual fact, in the rush to get all the details in, the time of K. R. Norris was given as 28:23 instead of 28:33, and this was duly published. The result, therefore, was correct, but how many runners—or field event men—would have sufficient interest to check up on aggregate times in a walking race to see if they are correct? Very few, I imagine.

**Innovation.**  
A race was held last Saturday which is believed by the promoters to be the first of its kind in this country. This was the Open Sands Race over 6½ miles of beach at Bognor Regis. Eight teams and a "field" of 61 started, which must have satisfied the promoting club.

It was, however, a pity that it was held on the same day as the Bexhill Road Relay, which suffered considerably as a result. Athletics cannot afford to have such clashes of dates in the same area. The athletes, the promoters and the sport all suffer and it could so easily be avoided.

### Last Week.

Remember Monday is the last day for sending in a 12 months' subscription as a Christmas present for a friend. We forward the December 23rd issue, with suitable Christmas card, to arrive by Christmas Day, and also the issue for December 30th, as well as throughout 1951.

THE EDITOR.

### SCHOOLS A.A. NOTES

It is with profound regret that we learn of the death of one of our Senior Vice-Presidents — Sir Noel Curtis-Bennett, K.C.V.O. Apart from his interest in the provision of National Playing Fields he was one of the Trustees of the Schools Athletic Association, in the affairs of which he took quite a personal interest. In 1933 he was instrumental in introducing the efforts of the S.A.A. to his friends in the U.S.A., one of whom, Mr. E. Roscoe-Matthews, showed his appreciation by the presentation of the "Goodwill" Cups. These trophies, which carry a message of international friendship, are competed for annually at the Inter-County Championships. A condition of the gift was that the message should be read at the annual presentation and this has been duly done each year since 1933.

The venue of the 1951 Championships has now been settled. They will take place on Friday and Saturday, July 20th and 21st at the Sports Centre in Southampton. There is not a more beautiful setting for the competitions in the country and with one of the best grass tracks available and the Festival of Britain celebrations to support the occasion we can look forward to another outstanding meeting. What an opportunity for those few Counties still outside the scheme! The call is to Bedford, Cambridge, Cornwall, Rutland, Shropshire and Westmoreland. We are again indebted to the News Chronicle for its sponsorship and an extension of time for the carrying out of all events in comfort is a most welcome innovation.

Performance in the S.A.A. Championships will now be accepted as qualification for Junior A.A.A. Championship entries.

E.C.

# THINKING ALOUD

By GEORGE PALLETT

There are few athletes who take any interest in the government of the game. It is a pity in many ways. It often occurs to me that too few clubs do, and again it is a pity because the acts of government affect the club so very directly.

One of the most often repeated phrases heard in the committee room and in the dressing room is "The club is the backbone of the game"—just like that—or a form of words which means precisely the same thing. Sometimes in the committee room it raises an uncomfortable feeling in one that it has the flavour of soothing syrup; in the dressing room there can be no doubt of its having been repeated very often with a cynical emphasis.

In these modern days the club and the game are interdependent. Maybe I have the wrong idea but in my view the club has two functions:—

- (a) to provide a centre at which the aspiring athlete can enjoy his sport in company with kindred spirits and obtain the necessary knowledge and coaching to effect improvement in his performance, and
- (b) to develop interest in the sport and play its part in the improvement of athletic performance nationally.

Read as far as "sport" in (a) and that is just about as far as some clubs go; others carry out (a) as a whole as a matter of self interest and there stop; surely one which, to the best of its ability, carries out (a) and (b) is the complete club and is a credit to the game? There are, of course, clubs which are able to offer so many attractive facilities that they mainly recruit their strength from the outstanding members of less fortunate brethren—their own eminence is the sole justification of their existence. Such clubs will, I am sure, die of self-indulgence in the course of time, with the resurgence of their victims.

Clubs have been given every opportunity in recent years, through the many and varied training courses organised by the A.A.A., to educate some of their members for the purpose of function (a) and, for that matter, (b) also, but is the trend now to organise the direct coach-

ing of athletes centrally, and does not this strike a blow at unity of club activities and club life—and is it the fault of the clubs themselves? Are the clubs as a whole taking a broad outlook on the game or a selfish one?

Is there a trend toward centralisation on the grand scale—too much so for the well-being of clubs? Is the game being run a little too much for the few? Are the clubs becoming mere production units, the produce of which is used to attract money for representative matches here, there and everywhere—too many trips abroad by expensive aeroplane? This is not a criticism of these things—if the clubs who produce the men receive some return for the work and expense of producing the men—but do they? At present, surely production of star athletes merely means they are lost to the clubs who produce them, lost for many important matches; lost too often by club-mates who might benefit by their greater prowess and experience. It is not only a clash of dates, but the question of too much competition, because the athletic club product is off, not only for these big representative fixtures, but for county, district, business house, university and college representative matches, albeit the last two are transient and the loyalty to alma mater must be respected. The athlete is a free agent, we are told—is he? Any club worth its salt says to a member selected for a representative fixture—go with our best wishes—but ought he in fairness to the club be tempted so often? There is the question of duress—spoken or unspoken. How many of us have not felt compulsion without a word being spoken? In my hearing and that of others a member of a business firm said that if so and so opted to run for his club in a national team championship, instead of his business association, which had a fixture on the same day, the athlete concerned would be considerably embarrassed in his office (a masterly understatement).

Suppose the clubs accept the situation, as they have done for so long. If progressive, if functioning for the benefit of the athlete and the game, their more or less fixed income faces a steadily mounting cost of existence. Quite outside the equipment provided through the counties, the coaching scheme, and all the aid in

kind which is received as the result of profits from meetings to which the public is attracted by the use of **products of the club**, the crying need is for a little hard cash in order that the club can exist and carry out its proper functions. Retrenchment means loss to the game.

Most clubs have to hold meetings at public tracks where gates cannot be taken, or at places where facilities for gates are unobtainable. Even small clubs are now taking the high road and fulfilling their responsibilities to the game in which they take part and are producing the occasional star. Such clubs are individually unable, out of their own resources, to stage an attractive meeting where it will pay. Supposing several London clubs, with the backing of some philanthropic organisation, combined to stage a meet like that against Gothenburg, would they have any earthly chance of getting a suitable date without competition—or would they be told to take what was left after the various associations had taken their choice—or, alternatively, face competition from them? Would the "backbone of athletics" be given any real help in such a case, in their efforts to achieve solvency?

What of the clubs by whose supreme efforts stars are being produced who are used continuously to attract the public at

big meetings. Why not a little less help in kind and a little in cash to the clubs whose men are used? Say on a basis of a small sum to the clubs for each of its athletes used, even at the cost of one or two representative matches less.

A coach was once offered £50 to ensure the acceptance of one of his charges at the "Blankers" annual open meeting. As an amateur he could not accept—but if promoters think an athlete is worth so much is not there a little something for the club who produced him? If a group of athletes provide an attraction at a big open meeting ostensibly as an A.A.A. team, why not a small payment to a club for each of its members in the team? There could be adequate safeguards—payment through the A.A.A., payment only in respect of an athlete who has been with his club for at least, say, five years, unless it is his first club; and why not the same for international matches? And for any representative match where adequate profits are made?

As it is, it is seldom that a club is even given the courtesy of having its name mentioned in publicising athletes who are being exploited. One meeting this season, new to the London area, invited athletes well in advance and thus robbed their clubs of their services for a

*Continued on page 7*

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# DUNCAN CLARK

*Answers the  
A.W. Questionnaire*

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- Name (surname first):** ..... Clark, Duncan McD.  
**Club:** ..... Royal Ulster Constabulary  
**Occupation:** ..... Detective Sergeant  
**Age:** ..... 35 years  
**Height:** ..... 5ft. 11½in.  
**Weight:** ..... 15st. 1lb.  
**Educated at:** ..... Greenock High School  
**First started athletics (at what event):** ..... Hammer and Shot  
**Favourite events now:** ..... Hammer  
**Brief details of athletic successes:** ..... Empire Championship and record 163ft. 10½in.; A.A.A. Champ. 177ft. 4½in.; Scottish Champ. and record 175ft. 11in.; N. Ireland record 176ft. 6in.; British National record 178ft. 4½in.; British Police record 178ft. 1½in.; New Zealand record 180ft. 0½in.
- Best Performances:** ..... 183ft. 9½in. at Wellington, N. Zealand.  
**Performance which gave you most personal satisfaction and why:** ..... I consider that my throw of 183ft. 9½in. at Wellington, N. Zealand in March, 1950, gave me the most personal satisfaction, because it is my best ever and was only 1½in. short of the winning throw at the Olympic Games.  
**Have you any particular objective or ambition in athletics?** ..... To compete at Helsinki in 1952 and in the Empire Games at Canada in 1954.  
**What part do you consider coaching has played in your success?** ..... For what success I have achieved I owe quite a lot to the guidance and patience of my coach, Franz Stampfl.  
**How many days a week do you train?** ..... At least two, sometimes three  
**When do you train?** ..... Tuesday and Thursday (afternoon or evening)  
**How long do you spend on each training session?** ..... About 2 hours  
**Have you any special ideas on training?** ..... I think that training should continue throughout the winter. No hammer throwing before January. Rather aim at becoming really strong and fit. Then start off with a heavier hammer—say 17lbs., but do not throw for distance. About March change to the 16lb. hammer.

**Are there any particular features or reforms you would like to see in athletics? .....**

**What advice would you offer to the novice? .....**

I would like to see more field events at the ordinary Sports Meeting. Properly staged a throw-event can be interesting. This has been proved at the White City where field recording boards show almost immediately what distance a competitor has thrown.

Master the movements of a sound technique. Practise on a hard flat surface in preference to grass and throw from a 7ft. circle. Do not allow the seemingly phenomenal throws of seasoned throwers make you lose confidence in yourself.

### NEWS FROM JAMAICA

Les Laing, popular Poly star of recent years, who took up a scholarship at Fresno State College a short time ago, was followed to the U.S.A. by compatriot E. "Pretty" McNeil, who was awarded a scholarship to Lincoln University, Penn. McNeil has clocked 10.4 for 100m. and 21.7 for 200m. and beat Laing over both distances this year.

Vinton Beckett, one of Jamaica's best women athletes, who represented her country here in the 1948 Olympics and earlier this year set up a new Caribbean high jump record of 5ft. 4in., is returning to this country to study nursing.

### THINKING ALOUD—contd.

big inter-club meet. Big posters advertised the meetings, giving the names of the athletes and their performance—but not a word about the clubs from which they were drawn.

Should not more credit be given to the Club? Must clubs be driven to protect their own interests?

This is just thinking aloud—what do you think?

\* \* \*

Cambridge Harriers suffered a severe loss last week when their cine-projector was stolen from club headquarters. As it was not insured the loss was a great blow to the club.



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# Letters to the Editor . . .

## ANOTHER NEWTON CRITIC

Dear Sir,

I have no wish to prolong the Arthur Newton controversy. I, like Lloyd Johnson last week, think we have had enough and that the space in "Athletics" could be better employed.

I should, however, like to raise one point which I have not seen brought out in any criticism.

Arthur Newton's chief claim to fame is in the running of super long distances, distances which only one or two people have ever run.

Now it seems to me that if a man were to push a peanut with his nose from Lands End to John O'Groats he would receive much notoriety and if he were so disposed could lay claims to be the authority on peanut pushing.

To say however, that his methods, technique, training, etc., were correct, and would suit everybody who took up this freak performance at this distance or shorter, is quite another matter. If we had as many athletes running 100 miles as we have at 100 yards, Arthur Newton's performances and ideas on athletics would fall into their proper place in the scheme of things.

In Newton's "Commonsense Athletics" there is both sense and nonsense, in different proportions; it is up to the reader to sift the wheat from the chaff.

The danger seems to be that some young athletes, immature physically and mentally, are apt to accept Newton's theories as the last word on the subject.

R. G. Mehew,  
Cambridge Harriers.

## JUSTICE FOR MR. NEWTON

Dear Sir,

I have read D. V. Ellis' interesting and comprehensive critical essay on Arthur Newton's "Commonsense Athletics." I have also read Newton's adequate and brilliant reply. Now I have read Lloyd Johnson's criticism of Arthur Newton.

With objective criticism one can have no quarrel. Thus, in the main, Ellis' article and Newton's reply speak for themselves. But an unfair and unjust personal attack is entirely different and I consider that Lloyd Johnson's letter creates a false impression of Arthur Newton's personality. May I be allowed to make one or two comments. First of

all, Mr. Johnson puts up the plea—"Please, Mr. Editor, may we have a little less Mr. Newton?"—inferring that Mr. Newton is writing too many articles—for his taste. I doubt if a consultation of the files would reveal a Newton monopoly.

However, recently a vote was asked from readers to disclose what type of features should appear. In the light of that, is the Editor not using satisfactorily his powers of discrimination? Many readers have little interest in walking. Is that any reason why walking enthusiasts should not be catered for? No, we must be democratic and take the broad point of view; and if Arthur Newton does at times arouse controversy, what's wrong with that? Isn't stimulation and interest preferable to apathy?

Mr. Johnson appears to consider it strange and unusual that Newton should reply to Ellis. I consider it would have been passing strange had Newton not replied. For Ellis's essay shrieked for a reply.

In his letter Johnson misquotes twice—on the second occasion grossly so. In the first, Newton merely states a fact. In real long-distance running he did indeed put up world best performances; and that being so, surely there must be some degree of merit in his methods. That was all Newton claimed. Unlike Johnson I have read Newton's books and he says quite definitely that his records were capable of being beaten and would be beaten by someone willing to put in the required work.

The second quotation, "Congratulations on thinking for yourself, but if you think differently from me you're wrong," is entirely incorrect, not only in fact but in implication. A real enthusiast and actually one of the most modest of men, Newton's philosophy is entirely opposed to dictatorship. He is at great pains to emphasise his methods and ideas will be improved on in the future. Please, Mr. Johnson, do not misquote. It is incorrect grammar and unfair polemics.

A reference is made to Arthur Newton's particular "branch of science," which is described as jog-trotting some 50 to 100 miles. Newton certainly ran very long distances but he did not just travel at "walking" speed or he wouldn't have set up world records. As a matter

of fact Newton whilst running in a 50 miles race covered the standard Marathon distance of 26m. 385 yds. in 2 hrs. 42min. 43 secs. That's not exactly jog-trotting. The present marathon standard is set at 2 hours 55 mins., and it is considered quite an honour to beat that time.

Jack Holden and Vanin, world experts in marathon running and of course vastly superior to Newton in that field have on occasions won marathon races around 2 hrs. 40 mins. and over, and considered it quite satisfactory. Could anyone say that Holden jog-trots or that Vanin with a 3rd fastest to Zatopek in Europe over 10,000 metres is a sluggard? No, Newton ran long distances but spread his resources over his run, just as Mr. Johnson did in his distance walks.

Mr. Johnson may be entirely correct in his views on breathing and exercises but I am not concerned with this aspect of his letter which is objective criticism and represents fair comment.

I have nothing but admiration for Lloyd Johnson's prowess in the Olympic Games and for the magnificent fitness of this veteran. At the same time there is some difference of technique in running and walking. By its very nature running is a more relaxed exercise than walking—from the muscular point of view. Therefore exercises which might be beneficial to walkers are not necessarily so to runners. But this is a minor point.

Finally, let me say this—in the exchanges between Mr. Ellis and Mr. Newton—if anything it was the former's tone that tended to be dictatorial, although it was an excellent essay in many respects. Newton's reply was pointed but it remained courteous and dignified. I consider he emerged with credit.

John E. Farrell,  
Maryhill Harriers

#### Editor's Note:

In fairness to Lloyd Johnson it must be stated that his letter was only one of several written in similar terms. I am quite certain it was not meant as a personal attack.

Lloyd Johnson endeavoured to bring out two points—1, that the longer the distance (in long distance racing) the lower the standard, due to the fact that fewer class runners attempt such distances, and 2, that the extra long distance events are the only ones of which Newton has any real experience and can

speak with any authority — both of which are quite true.

In the Ellis article the writer was not dictatorial but attempted—not unsuccessfully—to give facts of which he had more knowledge than Newton, as facts, and to put forward others as probabilities.

Few would quarrel with Newton over his ideas on training for the extra long distances, but it is when he applies those ideas to all distances and ridicules the accepted beliefs of those who can speak from experience and knowledge instead of mere theory, that he gets many people "hot under the collar"—which is, after all, what he sets out to do, to make others think and reason for themselves.

Surely there were good points, and bad, in the contributions of Ellis, Newton and Lloyd Johnson — and in the above letter too.

Arthur Newton will be given space to reply to his critics next week. This discussion will then be closed.

#### SELLING ATHLETICS AND A TRAGEDY

Dear Sir.

May I, on behalf of my Club, hasten to assure the Southern Committee and Londoners in particular, that we entirely disagree with Roy Rox's statement re "The Tragedy of the South West." Maybe he, as Honorary Secretary of a Midland Club, feels he is also the "St. George of the West" in Athletics.

It is appreciated that London Clubs did not send entries to Westbury Harriers recent Road Relay Race—I believe that Club's first public promotion) possibly sound reasons do exist, e.g. financial and previous commitments, but surely Mr. Fox has crossed his trails in his condemnation of the London Athlete.

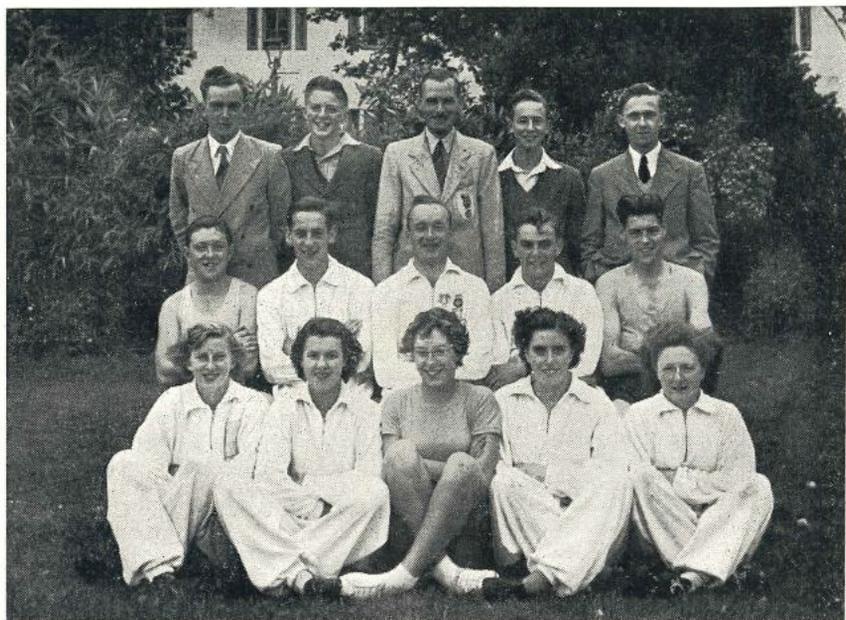
Londoners have on many occasions given of their best in the West and in Bristol in particular and we are grateful to the Southern and London especially (as well as the Midlands and Wales) for their readiness in trying to put over "Big Athletics" in the "Remote and Backward West" as Mr. Fox puts it.

Since Athletics restarted in 1946 prominent athletes from London have appeared every season in Bristol and Mr. Fox is well aware of this—he, at least, can have no denial to that!!! Numerous individual athletes, and "stars" at that, have caught the train from Paddington to support West Sports meetings and "give that helping hand for the sake of Athletics."

*Continued on back page*

# ATHLETIC CLUBS OF BRITAIN

By James Audsley



POOLE AND COUNTY ATHLETIC CLUB

The Poole and County A.C. is officially less than two years old, but few clubs can have achieved as much in so short a time; and what it has achieved has been done in a hitherto not very athletic-minded area.

In actual fact, the club is really about five years old. In 1945, Dorset had no county organisation and no women's athletics. In Poole, the 20-year-old Poole Wheelers found themselves with about 30 cyclists and 6 athletes, mostly pre-war veterans not still competing. Then Mr. J. Hopkins arrived in the district, joined the Wheelers, and set about resuscitating the athletic section: to such purpose that after one season it had a mixed membership of 170. Later, this increased still further, two athletes were transferred under the "Hard Case" rule to help to form a club at Blandford, and a County Association came into being with Mr. Hopkins as Secretary.

The composition of the club had changed beyond recognition; and then came an event described, quite wrongly, in the local Press as a "split." On a

motion put by a cyclist and carried by cyclists, the athletes not opposing it, the club was disbanded. Immediately after this, the cyclists formed a new Poole Wheelers club entirely composed of cyclists, while the athletes gathered at the Dolphin Restaurant on January 27th, 1949, and formed the Poole and County A.C.

So started officially a club which, in practice, had already done yeoman service for athletics in a previously barren area; and which was soon to do more. In 1948, Mr. Hopkins had organised the Dorchester-Poole relay for a trophy presented by his firm, the Decca Record Company, and the club took over this race. Then, last June, it organised the Western Championships.

Internally, this club, which has practically no second-claim members and a long-term policy of concentration on juniors, has had its difficulties, mainly a steady loss to the services: but it has a membership of nearly 200, and covers track and field, cross-country and walk-

*Continued on page 13*

# Race Walking

by F. W. Blackmore

## Greeting the Ladies

Although fixtures were fairly numerous, there were no major events last week-end—at least, for male competitors. I make this qualification because the most widely-reported result was that of the Women's National Road Walking Championship, over 2½ miles, at Chigwell Row.

It is brought home to me that I have never once, either in these notes or anywhere else, made the slightest reference to women's race walking, even although, within my knowledge, it has originated, developed, and persisted during the quarter-century and more over which I have been a race walking man.

It is true that so far as this official publication is concerned, the subject of women's walking has been covered in the W.A.A.A. notes appearing from time to time. Not that I am putting that forward as an excuse for my own reticence on the subject. Rather am I offering apology for the fact that I know far less about women's walking than some of my distinguished colleagues among walking Judges who have, from time to time—a few of them, I believe, quite regularly—acted as Judges of women's walking events.

The recollection comes to me that in the 1920's the London Olympiades A.C. did as much, if not more, than any other ladies athletic club to foster race walking among the fair sex, leading spirits in the competitive sense including Miss Winnie Horton, daughter of a famous walking father, and sister of his almost equally-famous walking sons, and the Misses Parsons; to-day, the one-time Miss Horton is the wife of an ex-captain and present Hon. Secretary of the Walking Club whose fame her father and brothers helped to build.

This apart, however, I have to admit that the only women's race walking I have ever seen was not in this country at all, but in Sweden in 1947 when I attended the Swedish track walking championships which are all men's and women's events equally, decided on the same day. Since I was chiefly in attendance to observe the general mode of progression of the competitors, and the Judging system practised in Sweden—and since there were already sufficient points for discussion—I must confess that I relaxed when it came to the chief women's event. Indeed, a photograph published at the time on the cover of "Svensk Idrott" shows me in the background, in discussion with a hidden figure, apparently taking no interest in

the proceedings as the ultimate winner, Miss May Bengtsson, speeds by. On studying the photograph—and I have the publication in front of me as I write—I feel it is just as well for my peace of mind, and for the greater harmony of the later discussions with Swedish judges, that I took so little interest in the event.

However, it is none the less obvious, even in my acknowledged ignorance of women's race walking, that in winning the National Championship for the fifth successive time on Saturday last, Miss Joyce Heath, Small Heath, consolidated an already formidable record of successes. Incidentally, since the team champions, Birchfield Ladies, also hail from the Midlands, it seems to me it is time that lady walkers in the South, whether through London Olympiades or some other club—perhaps, for instance, Cambridge Harriers—asserted a real challenge from the district which, after all, even allowing for the recent successes of Sheffield United Harriers, is still the stronghold of race walking among men. If there should be such a revival, who knows we might have a women's walking event in the London Gothenburg match; and then I might gain further experience of women's walking—in Sweden!

## At Eltham To-day.

Cambridge Harriers, promoting the fourth of this season's big Opens in the Metropolitan area at Eltham to-day, have maintained the record of the three previous events by securing a best-ever entry. This sort of thing has been developing now through successive post-War seasons, though perhaps not to so marked a degree as we have seen this season. There can't be too much wrong with race walking in this country.

**Surrey W.C. 7M.**—1, D. H. Christie-Murray 55:19; 2, M. J. Fisher 55:36; 3, W. L. Burgess 56:50. Hcp: G. Rhodes (8:00) 52:25.

**Belgrave H. 7M.**, Horwood Cup — 1, G. Gregory 56:05 (record); 2, A. H. East 57:48; 4, G. Waddingham 58:25.

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL ROAD WALK

1, J. Heath (Small Heath) 23:04.8; 2, I. Williams (Birchfield) 23:32; 3, S. Ashton (Birchfield) 23:41; 4, N. Batson (Small Heath) 23:53; 5, M. O'Riordan (Birchfield) 24:05; 6, B. Harris (Birchfield) 24:17. Teams: 1, Birchfield (2, 3, 5) 10 pts; 2, Small Heath 14; 3, Harborne 35; 4, Birchfield "B" 41; 5, Sheffield U.H. 43; 6, London Olympiades 45. Mrs. Heath was presented with the W.A.A.A. "Best Performer" Cup after the race.

# WHY NOT REVIVE INDOOR ATHLETICS ?

By ALEXANDER JOHNSTON

Is it not time that the subject of reviving indoor athletics was considered in England? Now that the standard of performance in this country has risen to such a satisfying level, surely this is the time to revive the A.A.A. indoor championships and inaugurate other similar meetings?

In the U.S.A. organised indoor athletics have been going strong since 1906. Armouries provide the locations for a lot of these meetings, but there are a few special stadia such as Madison Square Garden which can accommodate as many as 15,000 spectators. The indoor season

lasts from December until March.

The Empire Pool at Wembley was the venue for the A.A.A. indoor championships before the war. The track was wooden and measured 142½ yards in circumference. Of course, the bends were sharp and some of the competitors negotiating these corners reminded one of the immortal Chaplin at his best!

But this meeting, which was first held in 1935, became increasingly popular. The results of the five championships that took place might prove to be of interest.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
70 yds.	K. S. Duncan 7.5 secs.	C. B. Holmes 7.4 secs.	C. B. Holmes 7.3 secs.	E. L. Page 7.4 secs.	B. Giles 7.5 secs.
880 yds.	—	—	J. V. Powell 2min. 3.3	A. C. Pettit 2min. 4.4	G. F. Morris 2min. 0.4
2 miles	—	—	R. Thorogood 9min. 38	R. Thorogood 9min. 33.6	T. N. Rowe 9min. 27.2
10 lap relay	—	—	Achilles 2min. 55.4	Ponders End 3min. 0.3	London P.M. 2-51.6
1 mile walk	—	A. A. Cooper 6m. 59.4	—	—	—
600 yds.	—	J. V. Powell 1m. 19.5	—	—	—
70 yds. h'ls.	A. G. Pilbrow 9 secs.	E. D. Mitchell 9.3 secs.	D. O. Finlay 9 secs.	D. O. Finlay 8.9 secs.	T. L. Lockton 8.9 secs.
High jump	S. R. West 6ft. 0in.	J. L. Newman 5ft. 10in.	J. L. Newman 6ft. 2in.	R. K. Kennedy 6ft. 1in.	J. L. Newman 5ft. 10in.
Long jump	K. S. Duncan 22ft. 9in.	R. C. Crombie 21ft. 3in.	J. P. Daniel 22ft. 4½in.	R. A. Powell 21ft. 9in.	R. A. Powell 21ft. 8in.
Pole vault	F. R. Webster 12ft. 3in.	F. R. Webster 12ft. 3in.	F. R. Webster 12ft. 9½in.	F. R. Webster 12ft. 3in.	H. W. Yelder 12ft. 0in.
Shot putt	R. L. Howland 42ft. 1½in.	L. R. Carter 43ft. 1½in.	P. Hincks 45ft. 1½in.	R. L. Howland 44ft. 1½in.	H. Merz 42ft. 0½in.
<b>WOMEN</b>					
60 metres	K. Stokes 8.2 secs.	E. Hiscock 8.1 secs.	B. Burke 8.1 secs.	B. Lock 8 secs.	B. Lock 7.9 secs.
60m. h'dls.	V. Webb 9.5 secs.	E. Ball 8.9 secs.	B. Burke 8.6 secs.	—	—
250yds. relay	—	London Olympiades 23.1s.	—	—	—
4 lap relay	—	—	Atalanta 1min. 13.2	Atalanta 1min. 14.5	Mitcham 1min. 12.3
712 yd.	—	—	—	E. Forster 1min. 56.4	E. Forster 1min. 55.
5 lap race	—	—	—	—	—
High jump	M. Milne 4ft. 11in.	M. Dumbrill & D. Odam 5' 2"	D. Odam 5ft. 2½in.	D. Odam 5ft. 1in.	D. Odam 5ft. 1in.
Long jump	E. Raby 16ft. 6½in.	E. Raby 16ft. 11in.	E. Raby 16ft. 10½in.	E. Raby 17ft. 6½in.	E. Raby 18ft. 0in.
Shot putt	K. Tilley 30ft. 8in.	K. Tilley 30ft. 10½in.	K. Tilley 34ft. 0½in.	B. Reid 36ft. 4½in.	B. Reid 36ft. 10½in.

## For the 100 or the 440

Sprinters, and those whose forte is the gruelling quarter-mile, need different qualities for success in their chosen spheres. All, however, need training—and all succeed or fail ultimately according to the response of their hearts, muscles and lungs under maximum demands during the heat and speed of the race itself. The muscular system can maintain its best performance only when plenty of vitamin B is available in the diet to supply the conditions favourable to high output with minimum fatigue. So . . .

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What about reviving these championships? There are bound to be difficulties, but these can be overcome just as they were when we had the task of re-establishing British athletics in 1945.

One good reason why the American athletes lead the world is because they have the opportunity to practice their sport winter and summer, with appropriate periods of rest in between seasons.

Why not in England? Is Wembley Stadium booked up all the year round? Are there no other stadia, gymnasia, armouries or swimming baths in the country which could be temporarily adapted to accommodate an indoor meeting?

In this decade of Committees, Organisations and Councils, surely something could be done? It would be interesting to hear the views of such men as the Chief Coach, Jack Crump and others.

How about it?

**Editor's Note**—The original track was destroyed in storage during the London "blitz". Considerable discussion has taken place regarding the possibility of reviving the Indoor Championships, but it has not been possible to obtain an import licence for the special wood required for an indoor track. Furthermore, with the housing situation as it is, I under-

stand the possibility of obtaining a licence in the near future is very remote.

### POOLE & COUNTY A.C. (contd.)

ing for both sexes. It has a qualified coaching panel and qualified masseurs.

Several Western and Dorset championships have been won, but the biggest national achievements have been by youngsters in the women's section. Miss H. Mitchell and Miss R. Singleton came 1st and 2nd in the 1950 women's national junior hurdles, while Miss J. Wyndham was 2nd in the intermediate discus with a standing throw after three weeks practice. In national schools championships, Miss H. Hatfield won the 100 in 1947, 1948 and 1949, and Miss Singleton was hurdles runner-up in 1949 and 1950. J. Pitman, and in the boys' hurdles after injuring a shoulder, set a new record in his heat. L. Phillips, a junior sprinter, and Miss Hatfield have been selected for coaching to international standard.

Poole's headquarters are Poole Stadium (track) and Upton (cross-country). The club takes its name from Poole's status under an ancient charter as a County in its own right; and the badge is the full heraldic arms of the County Borough. The colours are black and gold.

# RESULTS

## December 2nd

**Birmingham and Dist. League—Div. 1, Cheltenham:** 1, C. Gray (Small Heath) 30:26; 2, A. Dalton (Birchfield) 31:02; 3, R. Reid (Birchfield) 31:03; 4, S. Dean (Tipton) 31:35; 5, J. Corfield (Tipton) 31:36; 6, J. Sneath (Godiva) 31:44 **Teams:** 1, Coventry Godiva 89 pts.; 2, Birchfield 119; 3, Small Heath 119. **Div. 2, Oldbury:** 1, D. Pearsall (Oldbury) 39:09; 2, J. Kendall (Stourbridge) 40:09; 3, N. Clarke (Oldbury) 40:10; 4, H. Haden (Dudley) 40:13; 5, E. Nicholls (Bromsgrove) 40:27; 6, K. Brettell (Halesowen) 40:28. **Teams:** 1, Oldbury 78 pts.; 2, Stourbridge 83; 3, Halesowen 105. **Div. 3, Rednal:** 1, T. Iliffe (Sparkhill) 41:04; 2, G. Thatcher (West Bromwich) 41:14; 3, N. James (RAF Bridgnorth) 41:18; 4, G. Woodhouse (Walsall) 41:41; 5, W. Butcher (Birm. Atalanta) 41:50; 6, R. Brant (Harborne) 42:22. **Teams:** 1, Sparkhill 53 pts.; 2, Walsall 101; 3, R.A.F. Bridgnorth 126.

**Southend A.C.** 48 pts. beat **Chelmsford A.C.** 72, **Thames Valley 97, Essex Beagles 110 & Ipswich H.** 201—1, T. Mardell (S) 41:57; 2, J. Lowen (S) 41:57; 3, W. Lennie (C) 42:04. In a junior match **Chelmsford A.C.** 20 pts. beat **Southend A.C.** 26, **Essex Beagles 36** and **Ipswich H.** 78—1, J. Bowen (C) 30:28; 2, M. Schofield (C) 30:28; 3, D. Hawkins (S) 30:40.

**Finchley H.** 98 pts. beat **Watford H.** 139 and **St. Albans City A.C.**—1, M. Blyth (St. A.) and R. Hills (St. A.) 36:48; 3, Shirley (F) 37:15. In a 3M. junior match **St. Albans A.C.** 16 pts. beat **Watford H.** 22—1, P. Palmer (St. A.) 17:09; 2, J. Sutcliffe (St. A.) 17:10; 3, T. Clark (St. A.) 17:16.

**Bournemouth A.C.** 26 pts. beat **Eastleigh A.C.** 45 and **Gosport Boro' A.C.** 49—1, Vickery (B) 40:02; 2, D. Burnett (E) 40:05; 3, E. Price (G) 40:38.

**Imperial College (Lond.)** beat **Woodford Green A.C. "B"** by 59 pts. to 85—1, E. Whitlock (IC) 29:33; 2, Low (W) 30:38; 3, Dodd (W) 30:39.

**Fraternity Cup Contest** over 5M. at **Totteridge**—1, A. Ferguson (Highgate H.) 32:19; 2, D. Thompson (Shaftesbury H.) 32:23; 3, L. Mann (Queens Park H.) 33:24. **Teams:** 1, Shaftesbury H. 45 pts.; 2, Highgate H. 57; 3, Queens Park H. 147.

## December 9th M.C.A.A.A. EVERILL CUP, Warley Park

- m. s.  
1. A. E. Binder (Wolves H.)... 35.33  
2. B. B. Hartley (Godiva H.) 35.46

3. R. Harding (Lozells H.)..... 36.14  
4. S. Cootes (Smethwick H.)... 36.52  
5. K. G. Dare (Small Heath) ... 37.02  
6. J. Keily (Derby & C.)..... 37.07  
7. F. H. Haden (Dudley H.)... 37.12  
8. J. F. Perrins (Small Heath)... 37.16  
9. J. Bond (Stourbridge) ..... 37.24  
10. F. W. Kellett (Small Heath) 37.27  
11. C. J. Senior (Small Heath) 37.28;  
12. B. Harbach (Tipton) 37.29; 13. A. G. North (Godiva) 37.30; 14. R. S. Moss (Notts) 37.39; 15. J. E. Tucker (Small Heath) 37.40; 16. D. Harris (St. Gregory's) 37.42; 17. A. E. Booth (Godiva) 37.44; 18. W. McGrory (Small Heath) 37.47; 19. H. Hamilton (St. Gregory's) 37.49; 20. J. Tipper (Sparkhill) 37.51.

### Team Placings:

- Pts.  
1. Small Heath H. (5.8.10.11.15.18) 67  
2. Cov. Godiva H. (2.13.17.36.57.60) 185  
3. Tipton H. (12.31.37.43.56.78) 257  
4. Northampton & C. 261; 5. Derby & C. 316; 6. Birchfield H. 325; 7. Smethwick H. 330; 8. Sparkhill H. 396; 9. R.A.F. Bridgnorth 403; 10. St. Gregory's 404; 11. Stourbridge 427; 12. Halesowen 475; 13. Oldbury 495; 14. Wolverhampton 504; 15. Dudley 515; 16. Lozells 516; 17. N. Staffs 570; 18. Notts 599; 19. Atalanta 732; 20. Harborne 781.

Small Heath total was a record "low" for the competition.

### INTER-VARSITY C.C.

Cambridge caused a surprise by winning the Inter-Varsity Cross-Country by 34 pts. to 44 at Roehampton. Oxford were without R. G. Bannister, D. C. Law and J. H. Scott Wilson.

C. J. Chataway (O) had no difficulty in winning, though last year's runner-up, D. H. Gilbert (C) gave him a good race.

1, C. J. Chataway (O) 40:59; 2, D. H. Gilbert (C) 41:05; 3, C. W. Brasher (C) 41:21; 4, P. R. L. Morgan (O) 41:32; 5, J. C. Hawke (C) 42:25; 6, J. D. Grayson (C) 42:32; 7, R. S. Ellis (C) 42:42; 8, S. J. Bryant (O) 43:01.

**Bexhill Road Relay**—1, Aylesford, P.M. (Friend, Acott, Hucks, Charlesworth, Ellis, Sando) 84:29; 2, Aylesford "B" 88:10; 3, Bexhill A.A.C. 89:25; Fastest laps: Charlesworth 13:32, Ellis 13:48, Acott 13:57.

**London University Champs.**—1, E. F. Whitlock (IC) 28:13; 2, M. Barrett (Battersea Poly) 28:35; 3, T. Betteridge (KC) 28:54; 4, T. Mardell (QM) 29:05. **Teams:** 1, King's Coll. 46 pts.; 2, Imperial College "A" 58; 3, Queen Mary Coll. "A" 112.

**Civil Service Championship** at Woodford—1, L. Eyre 31:28; 2, R. Gosney 32:46; 3, A. Parker 33:00; 4, A. Webster 33:04; 5, E. Manley 33:23; 6, J. Brown 33:30. **Team:** London Telecoms. Reg., G.P.O.

**Inter-Banks Championships** at Coulsdon—1, D. Pirie (Lloyds) 30:36; 2, P. Pirie (Lloyds) 31:37; 3, J. Wood (Barclays) and H. Wheeler (Barclays) 32:29. **Teams:** 1, Lloyds 56 pts.; 2, Barclays 62; 3, Westminster 87. **Juniors:** 1, R. Tooby 32:47; 2, P. Vivian 33:31; 3, E. Stallard 33:33. **Team:** Bank of London and S.A. "A" 15 pts.

**Bognor Regis A.C. 6½M. Open Sands Race**—1, E. Tranter (Portsmouth) 34:46; 2, P. Brewer (Walton) 34:50; 3, I. Chandler (Worthing) 35:05; 4, J. Addington (Walton) 35:12. **Teams:** 1, Walton A.C. (2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 17) 47 pts.; 2, Portsmouth A.C. 113; 3, Eastleigh 147; 4, Brighton and Co. H. 154.

**Insurance A.A. 5M. Championship,** Hayes—1, J. Lowen 28:38; 2, J. Smith 29:06; 3, M. Barratt 29:09. **Team:** Cuaco 35 pts.

**Highgate Harriers' Schools Cup,** over 3M. at Parliament Hill—1, D. Maclean (Wandsworth) 19:04; J. Piggins (Spring Grove) 19:17; 3, R. Dunkley (William Ellis) 19:24. **Teams:** 1, William Ellis Sch. 74 pts.; 2, Bishopshalt 76; 3, Clapham College 77.

**Belgrave Harriers' 7M. Championship** at Wimbledon—1, C. Walker 37:50; 2, L. Herbert 37:51; 3, W. Lucas 38:35; Hcp: K. Stimpson (5.20) 35:32.

**Portsmouth A.C. beat King Alfred's College** by 52 pts. to 53—1, Isaac (P) 32:18; 2, Hulme (KA) 32:51; 3, Stuchbury (KA) 32:58.

**"Turner" Cup** (1st round) — 1, D. Thompson (S) 31:53; 2, R. Lambert (W) 32:12; 3, G. Olding (Horn. H.) 32:17; 4, D. Lee (S) 32:53. **Teams:** Shaftesbury H. 37 pts., Wigmore H. 104, Hampstead H. 110 and Hornsey (St. Mary's) H. 124.



D. J. THOMPSON (Shaftesbury H.) leading A. T. FERGUSON (Highgate) during the Fraternity Cup Race at Whetstone.  
*H. W. Neale*

**Southampton A.A.C.** beat **Bournemouth A.C.** by 20 pts. to 35—1, E. Downer (S) and K. Davies (S) 34:30; 3, K. Crooke (S) 34:42.

**Manchester Univ.** beat **Loughborough College** by 62 pts. to 83—1, J. Wilmshire (L) 41:50; 2, F. Newton (M) 41:55.

**Mitcham A.C.** 28 pts. beat **Ryde H.** 65 and **United Hospitals** 78—1, Williams (M) 30:18 (course record); 2, Burroughs (M) 30:24; 3, Biggs (R) 30:30.

**Surrey A.C. "B"** 19 pts. beat **Epsom and Ewell H.** 46 and **Kent A.C.** 55—F. Thorn (S) 28:56.

**Croydon H.** 19 pts. beat **Redhill and Reigate A.C.** 30 and **Sutton and Cheam** 34—and **Croydon H.** 42 pts. beat **Redhill** 63—1, V. Murry (C) 24:15; 2, D. Funnell (S) 24:20; 3, J. Brunden 24:30.

**Fairbairn House A.C.** 70 pts. beat **Eton Manor A.C.** 76, **Wadham H.** 81 and **Grafton A.C.** 87—1, D. Quinn (W) 21:16; 2, D. Issett (W) 21:27; 3, L. Dias (G) 21:38.

**Tiffin's School** 32 pts. beat **Kingston G.S.** 37 and **Ranelagh H.** "B" 60—A. Rowbottom (K) 24:29.

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## READERS' LETTERS—contd.

Such events as Midlands v. South (1947) Midlands v. South v. Wales (1949), Bristol Mile Trophy Race, Bristol Aeroplane two miles invitation and the recent Inter-City Women's match and National Women's Relay Championships have been well supported by competitors from the Metropolis and if Mr. Fox has preferred in certain instances not to witness these meetings I can assure him the loss was his.

Your correspondent may recall his remarks to me personally a few days before the first two miles invitation race organised by Bristol Aeroplane Co. in 1946 (I believe), where he gave as his opinion that certain prominent Londoners who had entered would not appear; they did and were accompanied by that very good friend of West Athletics—Mr. Jack Crump.

Make your event sufficiently attractive, go the right way about getting your entries and your athletes will come—always remembering the majority are not independent financially and long journeys can be expensive—increasingly so. Not all employers will give unlimited time off with pay and even star performers must eat. A trip to the West is not merely catching the 11.15 a.m. from Paddington and the 7.45 back.

I think those in the Southern Counties area appreciate far more than Mr. Fox, the problems of the West and have given and are still giving considerable thought to the difficulties. Within the last twelve months Western Counties Cross Country and Track Championships have been held covering the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. These were authorised by the Southern Committee in order to develop athletics in the area and much unknown talent brought to light, this is simply the beginning.

Instead of sitting back and expecting Londoners to supply the attractions, we have set about finding and developing our own stars, and perhaps showing our own "top line wares" will, in the long run, prove a better way of selling athletics in the West, than relying on the continual display of "Foreign Goods" which may not always be available. An athlete, being human, can only be in one place at a time.

H. S. L. McCarthy,

Bristol South Harriers.

Dear Sir,

A good publicity agent is a great asset in making Athletic Meetings a paying proposition. You get a great deal of athletics now in School activities and some of these Athletes show up well but do not belong to any Club though they would like to "have a go" in open competition to see what they can do.

I heard of several in this category at Newark but the bills advertising the programme of events was not published in the town until after the closing date for entries. As many entries as possible should be aimed at as they bring mother, fathers and other relations along in their train. This helps to swell the gate to start with.

Again, if a few days before the meeting you publish the number of entries, and the names of some of the best athletes who have entered, and their performances, it creates interest and many will then go to see these athletes perform. If you have a meeting in mid-season or later, or earlier for that matter, keep the public informed of what your local athletes are doing at other sports meetings. Keep the crowd interested, not just for one meeting, but all the time.

Have an open training night, say once a fortnight, when the public can come and see the training done. Let them know the nights and the times well in advance and keep jogging their memory about it. Athletes themselves can help by going further afield now and again and, when possible, when team races are not in evidence, split up with some going to one meeting and some to other meetings. It is far more pleasurable to win against rivals who are from other clubs, than to beat one's own pals. Not only that, it helps to advertise the Club, and the athletes concerned can publicise any future meetings long before they are due. I don't see why they should not be made a paying proposition by increased publicity in the sporting press and by personal recommendations.

H. W. Beaumont

## AUSTRALIAN NOTES—contd.

the team, Bob Solomon and Alan Shepherd, who replaced Bill Job and Charlie Campbell, both out because of exams.

John Bullock, who anchored the Varsity squad, had earlier turned in the day's fastest 100 yds. (10 sec.), while Shepherd ran convincingly to win a "quarter" in 49.8 sec.

J.H.G.