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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ATHLETICS IN G.T. 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

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ATHLETICS IN GREAT BRITAIN

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EVERY SATURDAY

OCTOBER 14th, 1950

THE article by Walter Jewell, which is continued this week on pages 7-10 will no doubt invoke considerable discussion. There are many who consider that the sport of athletics in this country is being run on lines which are too narrow and too conservative. Unquestionably, the future of athletics and our ability to hold our own with other countries in international competition depends on the amount of money which can be attracted into the sport.

There are some who will say "why worry about international competition—if we can't keep pace, drop it altogether." This viewpoint, to my mind, is completely out of touch with present day ideas and values. Nothing inspires the athlete, the schoolboy, or the ordinary spectator as much as the finest international competition. The crowds attending such meetings as the "British Games" each year are proof of this. It is the same with our matches against other countries.

Those who shudder at publicity in any form should reflect on the good which can be done with the money brought in by such meetings and others of a similar nature. Too long we have been the poor relation of British sport and it is time we gave up expecting Government help—as so many do—and set to work to organise the sport on more businesslike lines. There is a vast public for the right type of international meeting. Only the best is good enough and a little sound salesmanship can ensure capacity crowds, with benefit to all athletes and the sport as a whole. Where the Government could help is by providing more tracks and facilities.

But, as Walter Jewell points out this week, much can be done in our national "set-up" to improve the efficiency and

Best Performance List amendments:
Hammer, C. J. Reidy 163ft. 3in., A.
Valentine 156ft. 0in.

Best Junior Performance amendments:
880 yds: 1:58.4 B. Hewson; 2:00.9 P. Barber (Darnley A.C.). Discus: N. H. Aston's throw was a Youths and not a Junior performance. G. G. Chinery (T.V.H.) 137' 6". Pole Vault: G. Jenkins (Whiteland G.S.) 11' 4"; Shot: D. G. Saunders (Swansea G.S.) 44' 4½"; Javelin: G. Owen (Cambridge G.S.) 186' 1".

Longwood Harriers elected Mr. D. S. Dove, 46 Ravensknowle Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, as Fixtures Secretary. Mr. S. Quinn, 3, Sunningdale Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, is again General Hon. Secretary. The club now has its own film projector and many film loops have been made of club members.

attractiveness of the sport. Too few clubs are run on businesslike lines and their meetings are often very slipshod affairs. Some "like it that way" but it is an attitude which does no good to anyone and a great deal of harm.

Something should be done about the L.C.C. grounds, where many clubs hold their meetings but are not allowed to charge a "gate." In consequence, many of these clubs find it difficult to make both ends meet, though they hold meetings which are capable of drawing large crowds.

Much more can be done to put athletics on a sound financial basis. It has nothing whatever to do with amateurism and all such monies attracted into the sport are ploughed back for the benefit of all concerned and, perhaps even more important, for the benefit of those to follow.

THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . .

UNDER 17's AT MOTSPUR PARK

Dear Editor,

Having read E.C.'s Schools A.A. notes, I fear he seems disappointed at the discontinuance of the Scheme of Training at Motspur Park for the under 17's.

Let him not despair, however, as Mr. Clements, A.A.A. Hon. Coach, and myself have been busy these last two years handling youngsters, especially in sprints, at the above track and have had trainees in the 'All-England Schools' events at Carshalton and Port Sunlight.

Also, we have been available week in and week out during the seasons and we invariably take a class of youngsters in free exercises to get the right build-up. In the relay races in the County Schools events we have had quite a good return for our efforts.

We shall be available in future—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays A.M. Send the boys along.

I was glad to learn that Mr. Stamatakis has been mentioned at last. In my opinion, this gentleman is the finest coach in the British Isles and Les Lewis can be deemed very fortunate in having had the advantage of his instructions.

Mr. Stamatakis is very highly thought of in the Midlands.

G. W. Clay

A.A.A. Hon. Senior Coach

ANOTHER APOLOGY FROM H.M.A.

Dear Sir,

It was kind of you to publish my apology to Dr. Douglas, but, woe is me. I must now offer one to that other great Scottish Hammer Thrower, Duncan Clarke. Douglas's 178ft. 5½in. is the **second** best ever in Europe by an athlete eligible to represent Great Britain. The best goes to Duncan with 178ft. 8¼in. at Gothenburg in 1947.

Let me hope that there are no more errors for a week or two. With apologies for using still more space!

Harold M. Abrahams

IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

My name is Stephen Yarrow and I am nine. I think that in a Cross Country race the runners ought not to go round the same fields two or three times but have one whole race across the

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country and come back to where they started from. I don't think that the runners should go across the field two or three times because I would think it is rather boring. I don't think that the competitors should run through any narrow gap in case they are in a bunch and then some of them will have to slow down which would not be fair. And also I think that the competitors should have a nice wide start and not all huddled together.

I like Cross Country running because it is very interesting and my father is a Cross Country runner. The other day my father wanted to go a Cross Country run with the Polytechnic Harriers boys but the car broke down and Daddy missed the run.

Stephen Yarrow

Some very sensible comments, Stephen. It is a pity that some of those who arrange cross-country courses do not always show the same commonsense. The reason why we have several laps instead of one large one is usually to enable the spectators to see more of the race. If you turn out as good a runner as your father, Stephen, the "Polytechnic Harriers boys" will be very proud of you.—
Editor.

OPEN HANDICAPS

Dear Sir,

Open handicap racing continues its popularity because it is the only fair method of "grading" according to the athlete's known ability—which falls into far more categories than first, second and third class.

Whilst Jack Crump refers to the huge fields at a few meetings, he omits to mention the hundred and one country and village meetings where only a handful of entries are received.

There has been a continued growth over the last twenty-five years of scratch racing with inter-club and trophy meetings and league racing, and any further development on these lines is to be welcomed, but despite the big match programme of most clubs, many members only get the odd run or so or else they are not good enough or their ability has not been noticed, and for these chaps the "opens" provide a useful means of competition.

Jack Crump states that handicap racing has had harmful effects on many youngsters, but my experience as an athlete, coach and handicapper is quite to the contrary. I was an active athlete during the development of club matches and had a wide experience of 'opens' and scratch running. As an adviser to young and unknown talent I find handicaps very helpful in assessing ability, and as a handicapper I watch with interest and at times amazement an athlete's rise from the obscurity of a long mark to subsequent success in all forms of athletic competition. Perhaps Jack Crump will give us some facts to support his statement for if he is right then a full investigation is called for.

H. A. Johnston

Dear Sir,

I read Jack Crump's letter with regard to open handicap running with much interest and I see he mentions graded competitions with handicap events within the limits of these grades, and this is going back to what my colleague and I suggested in our letter to you in your issue of October, 1949.

The only snag here seems to me, what do the sports promoters who put these events on, think of the idea?

Jack Crump says he wonders what athletes themselves think? but surely the final word rests with the sports promoters.

As regards the merits or de-merits of

handicap racing, it is significant to note that both Sydney Wooderson's 880 yards and 1 mile world records were made in specially framed handicap events, a fact which seems to be generally overlooked.

Also at the recent flood-lit meeting at Perry Barr, Birmingham, Valerie Ball set up a new world record for the women's 880 yards in a handicap event, whereas Bill Nankeville failed in his attack on Sydney Wooderson's $\frac{1}{4}$ mile record because, in my opinion, the race was run on scratch terms and I understand that Nankeville also shares this opinion.

E. A. Duffett

With all due respect to Ernie Duffett, he is getting away from the main issue here. No-one would question the value of the specially framed handicap for assisting a champion athlete to produce record time. In a scratch race, unless there was another in the field of equal calibre, he would be out on his own in the latter stages, just when he is tiring and could do with someone to help "pull him out." This is entirely different to the open handicap racing which is under discussion.—Ed.

WORLD RECORDS

The I.A.A.F. has accepted the following as world records:

MEN

200 Metres Hurdles: 22.3 secs. by H. Dillard (America) on 21st June, 1947, at Salt Lake City, U.S.A. (to be held jointly with F. Wolcott (America) who accomplished the same time in 1940).

220 Yards Hurdles: 22.3 secs. by H. Dillard (America) on 21st June, 1947, at Salt Lake City, U.S.A.

10,000 Metres: 29 mins. 2.6 secs. by E. Zatopek (Czecho-Slovakia) on 4th August, 1950, at Turku, Finland.

Putting the Shot: 17.79m. (58ft. 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.) by J. Fuchs (America) on 28th July, 1949, at Oslo, Norway.

WOMEN

100 Yards: 10.7 secs. by M. Jackson (Australia) on 31st March, 1950, at Newcastle, Australia. Her previous 10.8 secs. on two occasions were also accepted.

220 Yards: 24.2 secs. by F. Blankers-Koen (Netherlands) on 29th June, 1950, at Brescia, Italy.

* * *

Ilford A.C. announce change of Cross-Country Secretary to H. S. Haffenden, 22, Fernhall Drive, Ilford.

SCHOOLS A.A. NOTES

A careful analysis of results over a period of years sets some pretty problems of comparison as to the athletic ability of boys and girls. An eminent medical authority has recently expressed the view that in time, with practice and experience, there is no reason why girls and women should not be as successful as many boys and men in the athletic field. In other words, the present variance is due, almost entirely, to the fact that for centuries, in this country at least, the opportunity has been denied to the "weaker sex."

In a study of S.A.A. results over a quarter of a century there is evidence which supports such a theory—in the junior division at any rate. In track events the improvement of the girls is obvious in all spheres. Hurdling gives us an outstanding example and for that matter the high and long jump afford some evidence in the same direction.

An overall study of high jump development, however, gives much food for thought. There appears to be a point where the girls' ability for high jumping except in rare cases—becomes static, or even goes back. In assessing standards the junior division brings us to a figure of 4ft. 11in. or 4ft. 10in. for girls. But while the boys' figure justifies a graduated rise for the intermediate and senior ranges, intermediate girls just about maintain the junior standard and the senior girls find a great difficulty in doing so. The tendency in the senior range actually points to a decline in the potential. The long jump, too, indicates a similar trend but less marked. Therein lies a reason which we are anxious to investigate—What is the reason?

E.C.



R. HATTON (Birchfield H.), Midland
Junior Mile Champion. *K. M. Carr*

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THIS BUSINESS OF SELLING ATHLETICS (Contd.)

By WALTER C. JEWELL

Hon. Treasurer and Vice-President A.A.A.;

Past President, International Cross Country Union

WITHIN THE "WORKS"

Any association of clubs voluntarily acting together is naturally a democratic organisation and in the A.A.A. so far, the clubs have been entirely responsible for the appointment of those who conduct its affairs. It is very desirable that the position should be maintained but the old order seems to be changing. It is becoming more difficult to find executives who are disposed to take the interest in management as was the case a few years ago when there were not so many in the game. This applies not only to club life, but to county and area associations. Perhaps present day conditions may cause this, but it is quite plain that if there is to be a general benefit from the schemes now operating, many improvements are necessary.

The amateur joins a club of his own accord and enjoys a freedom to do as he pleases so far as active participation is concerned. He can train undisturbed by "management" and develop his personality if he is so minded and realises he possesses a trait. Subject to an agreed code of rules to ensure fair competition, he is generally his own master.

MODEL MAKING

Amateurs come from all classes and the majority are that likeable kind who compete solely for healthy exercise and love of the game, and when not indulging themselves, will be found encouraging others and possibly the youngsters, even to swim. Working chaps, fellows from the various Varsities, blend together and these are the mainstays of our clubs, ready to work for and to represent the club whenever possible, paying their way as they go. Then all clubs have a percentage of those who generally, after a small degree of suc-

cess as a boy or youth, join a club with the sole idea of personal gain. This type has a disregard for all obligations and acts with an air of superiority, a strange type of arrogance, and generally is at the root of controversies which crop up around the committee table. How well we all know them, the pot-hunter is no myth. They are not entirely to blame for these unfortunate ideas. First impressions so often last longest and fashion lives. The youngster who arrives in a club which is conducted in a careless manner has little to induce him to change his ideas. Clubs anxious to increase membership take in such without real recommendation by either proposer or seconder, and payment of subscription is secondary to the opportunity of getting a new member. One false notion to be quickly dispelled is that all officials are other than honorary and give their time, not always exactly leisure time, to looking after the duties undertaken. The Honorary Secretary does not make a bean out of the new member and generally pays his own subscription. The tyro in club life needs to clearly understand that a request for his views on Coaching arrangements demands a reply just as much as an invitation to represent the club in a match. Some "stars" need to be reminded that any youngster off 8½ yards in the club handicap to-day, may be his team-mate in a representative match to-morrow. Distinctions among men are necessary to preserve the smooth running of any organisation and there must be captains, vice-captains, etc., so no eminence of achievement should cause any "star" to forget that all competing under the A.A.A. code have a common ideal—good clean and enjoyable sport which is a credit to competitor, club and community.



S. O. WILLIAMS long jumping at one of the British Games meetings sponsored by the "News of the World."

MORE SALES TALK

The way to sell athletics to the new member is to make them attractive from the start and to train the newcomer to appreciate that he has some measure of responsibility in the life of the club right from the day he joins.

The payment of subscription on joining and entry fees to club meetings should not be allowed to stand over. Nothing can be more disappointing to club supporters than to attend an evening meeting, purchase a programme and find it has practically no relation to the events taking place on the arena. The writer has attended several meetings this year where 60 per cent. of those on the programme have failed to turn out, the majority had not even entered and were put in by the Hon. Sec. in the hope they would turn up and to make a presentable programme, whilst quite a number turned up without prior notice and were allowed to run, making extra heats and finals not anticipated. Each

time this occurs it gives the newcomer the idea that nothing really matters, that there is no real control over finance and any old time is good enough for action and decision. Members should be advised that every time a name appears on a club programme for a Club Handicap or Championship, the Auditor has a right to expect the Hon. Treasurer to account for a corresponding entry fee. At more than one meeting where the fixture was a triple club match between three important and well-established clubs, supported by a useful crowd of spectators, there were no programmes at all. The actual competitors carried no numbers, many were not in club colours but plain white singlets, so it was impossible for any onlooker to take a lively interest in the proceedings. Quite a number of good Inter-Club Matches have caused disappointment to the paying public and fellow competitors this season, when the announcement has been made that the Hopeful Harriers were not

starting in a certain event. Reference to the programme indicated, of course, the athletes who had failed to make it, although entered. This sort of thing has not been confined to the Metropolitan Area or to Track Matches—it happens also to teams travelling for Cross Country Matches as well as the Championships.

In the next few months plans will be made for the seasons ahead. Good style matches are undoubtedly the premier attraction but it would be fatal to drop the popular handicap events everywhere. In general the "handicap" may well be confined to specified club meetings where members develop their ability and acquire necessary technique. Inter-Club matches between reasonably balanced teams presented in a decent style, are a top grade advertisement for the clubs participating but not always a possibility for provincial promotions. First and foremost, Clubs will desire to maintain financial security—a few only are companies with limited liabilities which gives a measure of security to those undertaking the responsibility of officers. Because expenses are already

very heavy, with a tendency to increase, subscriptions cannot be raised too much or the bulk of the youngsters coming in will not be able to afford to join ordinary clubs, as well as paying for their necessary outfits. A state of affairs which few would wish to encounter. It is a matter of concern to quite a number of Club executives that each year a percentage of membership, varying from 10 per cent to 33 1/3 per cent, either resign or have to be erased through failing to meet obligations. Such members are a drain on Club funds and not a contributing factor to its success.

AIDS FOR AGENCIES

It does seem, therefore, that Clubs, in conjunction with the County Association and possibly also with the A.A.A., should build up their strength within their own particular area by regular promotions of inter-club matches. All Clubs in association, directly or indirectly, with the A.A.A., have some pride in the claim of being *English Clubs* anxious to advance *English standards* within their



A section of the vast crowd which invariably attends the British Games at the White City.

own domain by the use of their own talent.

There is a lot of support for the complaint that first-class athletes are being worked too strenuously for other concerns when our own need building up. The European Championships certainly establish that our athletes have acquired as much experience as they need of foreign competition. One newspaper correspondent has already published "In future, instead of seeking matches against Continental countries and sometimes being refused, Britain's team will now be the most sought after outside America."

Scarcely true in any respect, the very apt reply was quickly forthcoming from several quarters. "*English* athletes have done quite enough to build up Continental athletics, it's time *English Clubs* received help from the Continental. If they want to meet our best they can always enter our A.A.A. Championships—which are open to them."

To such as are thinking along the lines of first-class promotions, whether Inter-County or International in character, it is just as well to be aware that under the Local Government Act of 1948, local Authorities have power to assist with the provision of entertainments for the benefit of the local community within the area of that authority, either by providing for an entertainment of any nature, and may for the purpose, enclose or set apart any part of a park, or pleasure ground belonging to the authority or under their control, not exceeding 1/10th of the area of the park or pleasure ground.

There is certainly now a very substantial following for the winter side of athletics judged by the enormous crowds who supported the International at Reading, and the E.C.C.U. Championships at Sheffield, Birmingham and Aylesbury. Each of these produced a

handsome three figure profit. The established Clubs, too big to be handled by one or two men, and finding it increasingly difficult to induce good men to undertake the work in an entirely honorary capacity, may have to consider a system of compensation by HONORARIUM.

Shall we ultimately be forced to realise that clubs of 260-600 members may be too large to be managed to the best advantage for themselves and generally for athletics? For Clubs of this size to be handled efficiently by Honorary officials demands a tremendous sacrifice from the energetic few who willingly take office. The size of the job and the limitation of funds so often necessitates actions which follow the line of least resistance and, more often than not, the club members do not co-operate to the degree which one would expect, and which would make a voluntary job so much lighter and give those officials the real pleasure they expect to find in the job.

Ineffective leadership can cost a club quite a lot of members and lose tremendous interest in Athletics all along the line. Leaders do not come along every day. Good men exist but they will not devote time and energy on behalf of others, in an honorary capacity, just to be fooled around. We have courses for Coaches and Athletics, lectures for Starters, Timekeepers and Judges. Do we need a course for CLUB secretaries or is the answer more and smaller Clubs of the OLD BOYS type, founded on the friendships they are making in their Schools Meetings? Maybe the problem will solve itself. But certainly, tackled and handled properly—carefully planned, organised and presented in clean style—THIS BUSINESS OF SELLING ATHLETICS is a good proposition all over the country—Summer and Winter, but it must be handled as BUSINESS.

BIRCHFIELD FLOODLIT SPORTS

The third joint Floodlit promotion of the Birchfield Harriers and Birchfield Cycling Club, attracted 14,000 paying spectators to the Alexander ground on October 4th, for a meeting that was generally agreed as being the best ever witnessed in the Midlands. There can

be no doubt that it has set the seal on floodlit promotions, which promise to grow in importance.

The A.A.A. team proved too strong for both the North and the Midlands, yet there were never any dull moments. I voted the best run of the evening to

be that in the half mile in which Angus Scott and Albert Webster had a really great tussle. First Scott went, then he was overhauled by the new Midland champion, only for the Cambridge man to come along to gain a dramatic win.

For sheer interest, however, the three-quarter-mile was the plum, particularly as three of the contestants had indicated their intention of attacking Sydney Wooderson's figures for the distance. Conditions were against them, unfortunately, but nevertheless they gave a great show with Bill Nankeville running strongly to get the better of Len Eyre, who tired along the home straight.

Another splendid win was that of Freddy Green (Birchfield) in the two miles, after a stranger, Bunker (North) had 'made' the event after having asked to be included in the event.

But whatever the male athletes did to please the big crowd, there can be little doubt that women performers stole the plunder. I don't say this because of the appearance of Fanny Blankers-Koen, who thrilled with two easily gained wins in the 100 metres flat and 80 metres hurdles, but it is certain that the Olympic champion instilled a spirit among the other girls on view to such a degree that they excelled themselves.

Valerie Ball (Spartan) had a great reception when she covered the half-mile in 2 mins. 19 secs. to knock 7/10ths of a second off Olive Hall's world figures, as did Joyce Heath (Small Heath) when with conditions all against her she easily bettered her own Midland one mile walk figures, but was well outside the 'impossible' British record.

Dorothy Tyler was outstanding in the high jump, an event included in the programme to show that field games can play their part in these floodlit meetings.

B.B.

Details—

Triangular Match

100 Yards:

1, B. Shenton (N) 9.9. sec.; 2, K. Anderson (N) 10s.; 3, C. N. Gibbs (A.A.A.) 10.2s.; 4, S. MacDonald (M).

220 Yards:

1, E. D. Macdonald Bailey (A.A.A.) 21.9s.; 2, B. Shenton (N) 22s.; 3, C. N. Gibbs (A.A.A.); 4, K. Anderson (N).

440 Yards:

1, A. S. Wint (A.A.A.) 49s.; 2, H. Whittle (N) 51.1s.; 3, A. B. Watts (A.A.A.) 51.3; 4, F. E. Hicks (M).

880 Yards:

1, A. W. Scott (A.A.A.) 1m.55.9s.; 2,

A. Webster (M) 1m.56.2s; 3, F. Evans (N) 1m.56.2s.; 4, W. R. Beckett (A.A.A.)

1320 Yards:

1, G. W. Nankeville (A.A.A.) 3m.1.9s.; 2, L. Eyre (N) 3m.2.6s.; 3, D. G. Wilson (A.A.A.) 3m.7.4s.; 4, A. B. Parker (N).

Mile Medley Relay

1, A.A.A. (E. D. McDonald Bailey, C. N. Gibbs, A. B. Watts, A. S. Wint); 2, North (H. Whittle, B. Shenton, K. Anderson, F. Evans), 3m.34.6s.

Midlands did not finish.

Two Miles:

1, F. Green (M) 9m.17.2secs; 2, L. W. Herbert (A.A.A.); 3, J. H. Wood (A.A.A.).

Teams: A.A.A. 9 pts. Midlands 14 pts.

Match result:

1, A.A.A. 57 pts.; 2, North, 40 pts.; 3, Midlands 26.

Women's Events

100 Metres:

1, F. Blankers-Koen (Netherlands) 11.8 secs. (following wind); 2, J. Desforges (Essex L.A.C.) 12.4s.; 3, M. Erskine Birm. Atalanta) 12.5s.

80 Metres Hurdles:

1, F. Blankers-Koen (Netherlands) 11.4s.; 2, J. Desforges (Essex L.A.C.); 12.2s.; 3, D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.) 12.8s.

880 Yards (record attempt):

1, I. P. Williams (West Bromwich H.) (77yds.); 2, V. Ball (Spartan L.A.C.) (scr.); 3, Z. White (Birchfield H.) (75 yds.). Winner's time 2 mins. 18.18 secs. Miss Ball's time of 2 mins. 19 secs. new world's record.

One Mile Walk (record attempt):

1, M. J. Heath (Small Heath H.L.S.) (scr.); 2, S. D. Ashton (Birchfield H.) (95 yds.); 3, Jean Coley (Harborne H.L.S.) (155 yds.); 8 mins. 8.2 secs (new Midland record).

High Jump:

1, D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.) 5ft. 4in.; 2, P. Threapleton (Airedale H.) 4ft. 10in.; 3, D. M. Russell (Walsall L.A.C.) 4ft. 7in.

The A.G.M. of the Orion H. was held at Chingford on 7th October, and Messrs. D. K. Dyall, H. W. Shipway and W. L. Walton were re-elected in their respective positions as Captain, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

* * *

Shaftesbury L.A.C. Club Championships: 100: P. Morgan; 220: P. Tinsey; H.J.: E. Holland; L.J.: B. Moxon; Jav: T. Leonard; Dis: J. Hestler.

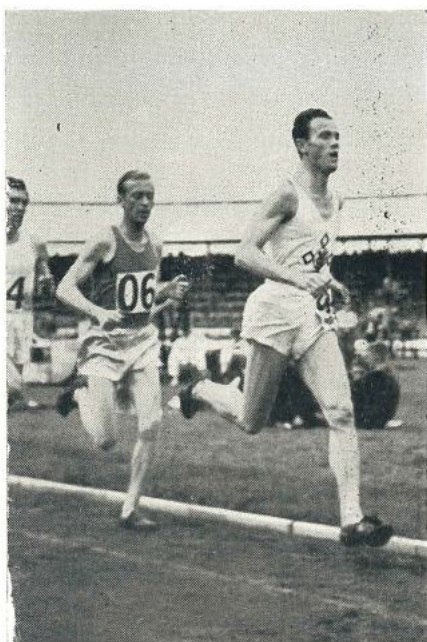
IMPROVEMENTS AT PADDINGTON REC.

Improvements have recently been carried out at the Paddington Recreation Ground, including the provision of a new Pole Vaulting pit. First class equipment, up to Olympic standard, is available for all normal athletic events. Clubs and other organisations wishing to make use of the facilities should write to: W. E. Roberts, Esq., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Borough of Paddington, Town Hall Paddington, London W.2.

U.A.U. CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.A.U. Cross-Country Championships will be held in London on Saturday, February 17th, under the auspices of the London University Cross-country Club. They were last held in London in 1924, when only 8 universities took part, London winning the title for the second successive year.

The U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. Joint Athletic Championships will be held at the Alexander Stadium at Perry Barr, Birmingham, on Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th. They have not been held out of London since 1931. The White City Stadium is not available on the dates in question.



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DOUG WILSON

Answers the A.W. Questionnaire

- Name (surname first):** Wilson, Douglas Gordon
Club: Polytechnic Harriers
Occupation: Journalist
Age: 30
Height: 5ft. 11ins.
Weight: 10st. 12lbs.
Educated at: Walthamstow College
First started athletics (at what event): 880 yards and mile
Favourite events now: One and two miles
Brief details of athletic successes: Middlesex Junior mile champion 1937. Southern Junior mile champion, 1938. A.A.A. mile title 1946. Six internationals since 1945. 1½ miles English Best Performance 1944.
Best performances: 880 yds. 1m.55s. Mile 4m.11.4s. 1,500 metres 3m.51.6s 3,000 metres 8m.26.0s. 2 miles 9m.9.6s.
Performance which gave you most personal satisfaction and why: 1,500 metres in 3m.51.6s. on a cold evening, Sept. 1950, in Sweden, which proved that at 30 and after 14 years of active competition I am still improving.
Have you any particular objective or ambition in athletics? What part do you consider coaching has played in your success? To beat 4m.10s. for the mile.
How many days a week do you train? As a junior under Albert Hill, I should not have had any idea of how to train, and his advice and encouragement helped enormously too. For the last three years under Bill Thomas, his counsel and shrewd observations have been invaluable.
When do you train? Sometimes five times at the beginning of the season and maybe once only at other times.
How long do you spend on each training session? Generally evenings.
Have you any special ideas on training? 15-90 minutes.
Are there any particular features or reforms you would like to see in athletics? I believe in making it as interesting and as varied as possible. Consequently, I enjoy Fartlek—when I have the time. But I consider that track work for speed twice a week essential in the middle of the season.
What advice would you offer to the novice? More international club matches.
Take your sport seriously, but don't make yourself a martyr to training. Endeavour to cultivate an interest outside of athletics. If you have a bad race and are beaten hands down, don't make excuses, don't let it upset you for the rest of the day. And remember, although winning races is very satisfying, the best part of athletics is the companionship of others.

WOMEN'S BEST BRITISH PERFORMANCES

1950

By Armour Milne

Outstanding performers in British women's athletics in 1950 were June Foulds (100 yards), Valerie Ball (400 metres to 880 yards), Maureen Dyson (hurdles), Sheila Alexander and Dorothy Tyler (high jump) and Diane Coates (javelin).

It is impossible to obtain a complete record of women's athletics as quite a number of best performances are achieved in inter-club matches, the results of which are often not published.

But the rankings given here are probably the most comprehensive ever got together for any one season in women's athletics.

I take no great credit for research in this direction. I merely happened to have noted them down as the season progressed and the list grew of its own accord.

Times done for 220, 440 and 880 yards have been, where this was warranted, included in the 200, 400 and 800 metres lists respectively.

Best performance of the year was, in my humble opinion, Sheila Alexander's high jump record of 5ft. 6½ins.

Two girls stood out on the track as unbeatable, June Foulds at 100 yards and 100 metres, and Valerie Ball at any distance from 400 metres to 880 yards.

60 Metres

- 7.7 Q. Shivas (Aberdeen U.)
- 7.8 J. Foulds (Spartan L.)
- 7.8 D. Batter (L.O.A.C.)
- 8.0 B. D. Schofield (Leics. C. of A.)
- 8.1 J. Penn (Essex L.A.C.)

100 Yards

- 10.9wJ. Foulds (Spartan L.)
- 11.1 L. Chalmers (Portsmouth)
- 11.2 B. Brickwood (Mitcham A.C.)
- 11.3 Q. Shivas (Aberdeen U.)
- 11.3 S. Cheeseman (Spartan L.)
- 11.3 B. M. Turner (Spartan L.)
- 11.4 D. G. Hall (Essex L.)
- 11.4 D. M. Phillips (Essex L.)

100 Metres

- 12.2 J. Foulds (Spartan L.)
- 12.4 M. Erskine (Atalanta)
- 12.4 E. Hay ("Q" A.C., Dundee)
- 12.5 D. G. Hall (Essex L.)
- 12.6 B. Foster (L.O.A.C.)

- 12.7 Q. Shivas (Aberdeen U.)

200 Metres

- 24.6 D. G. Hall (Essex L.)
- 25.3 S. Cheeseman (Spartan L.)
- 25.3 M. Brian (Essex L.)
- *25.5 Q. Shivas (Aberdeen)
- 25.5 E. Hay ("Q" A.C., Dundee)
- 25.7 B. Foster (L.O.A.C.)
- 25.8 B. M. Turner (Spartan L.)
- *25.9 S. Burns (Edin. S.H.)
- *26.1 V. Robins (Spartan L.)
- * 220 yards

220 Yards

- 25.5 Q. Shivas (Aberdeen U.)
- 25.6 D. G. Hall (Essex L.)
- 25.8 S. Cheeseman (Spartan L.)
- 25.8 M. Brian (Essex L.)
- 25.9 S. Burns (Edin. S.H.)
- 26.0 B. M. Turner (Spartan L.)
- 26.1 V. Robins (Spartan L.)
- 26.2 P. M. Gunn (Mitcham A.C.)
- 26.2 D. Walker (Leeds Univ.)

400 Metres

- 57.5 V. M. Ball (Spartan L.)
- 60.1 M. Taylor (Birchfield H.)
- *60.1 J. Upton (Spartan L.)
- *60.2 M. D. Rae (Glasgow U.)
- * 440 yards

440 Yards

- 58.8 N. Smalley (Portsmouth)
- 59.1 V. M. Ball (Spartan L.)
- 60.1 J. Upton (Spartan L.)
- 60.2 M. D. Rae (Glasgow U.)
- 62.1 D. Hibberd (Harrogate)
- 62.2 P. Walker (Bellahouston H.)
- 62.6 P. Germain (Selsonia A.C.)

800 Metres

- 2:17.4 V. M. Ball (Spartan L.)
- 2:20.5 M. K. Hume (Essex L.)
- *2:22.6 E. Harding (L.O.A.C.)
- 2:22.9 M. J. Taylor (Birchfield H.)
- *2:26.4 M. Webster (Appleby-Frodham)
- 2:27.2 M. Keirle (Cambridge H.)
- * 880 yards

880 Yards

- 2:21.6 V. M. Ball (Spartan L.)
- 2:22.2 M. K. Hume (Essex L.)
- 2:22.6 E. Harding (L.O.A.C.)
- 2:26.4 M. Webster (Appleby-Frodham)
- 2:32.8 D. R. Haines (Bristol A.C.)
- 2:34.9 M. Bott (London Univ.)
- 2:35.0 B. Miller (Glasgow U.)
- 2:35.0 M. Day (Mitcham A.C.)

Mile

- 5:25.8 M. J. Heath (Small Heath)
5:26.5 H. M. Needham (Cambridge H.)
5:28.5 E. Garritt (Ilford A.C.)
5:30.0 I. Kibbler (Birchfield H.)

1,600 Metres Walk

- 8:17.0 M. J. Heath (Small Heath)

Mile Walk

- 8:49.4 Z. White (Birchfield H.)
9:04.2 A. Douglas (Cambridge H.)
9:10.6 M. Verbiner (L.O.A.C.)

80 Metres Hurdles

- 11.1w M. Dyson (Oxford L.A.C.)
11.5 S. Pratt (Orpington A.C.)
11.6 J. Desforges (Essex L.)
11.6 I. Pond (Middlesex L.)
11.8 D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.)
12.0 I. Robertson (Spartan L.)
12.3 J. Upton (Spartan L.)

High Jump

- 5' 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " S. Alexander (Spartan L.)
5' 5" D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.)
5' 3" B. Crowther (Middlesex L.)
5' 3" J. M. Cowan (L.O.A.C.)
5' 2" M. Hynes (Birchfield H.)
5' 1" S. J. King (L.O.A.C.)
5' 1" S. Shea (Middlesex L.)

Long Jump

- 18' 6" V. Webster (Mitcham A.C.)
18' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " S. Cawley (Croydon H.)
18' 3" S. Hampton (Orpington A.C.)

- 18' 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ " B. Crowther (Middlesex L.)
17' 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.)
17' 11" L. Lee (Tonbridge A.C.)
17' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " M. Erskine (Atalanta)
17' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " P. Devine ("Q" A.C., Dundee)

Shot

- 36' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " J. Linsell (Essex L.)
34' 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " G. Buddle (Mitcham A.C.)
34' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " E. Higgins (Reading U.)
33' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " K. S. Dyer (Mitcham A.C.)
33' 4" P. Barnes (Spartan L.)
32' 10" J. Page (L.O.A.C.)

Discus

- 115' 3" S. J. Needham (Cambridge H.)
110' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " M. Kernohan (Queens U., Bel.)
108' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " J. M. Smith (Middlesex L.)
105' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " G. Buddle (Mitcham A.C.)
104' 0" S. Farmer (Sussex)
102' 4" J. Hesselwood (Essex L.)
101' 4" M. Wyndham (Poole)
101' 0" J. Welsh (Dunlop A.C.)

Javelin

- 139' 2" L. D. Coates (Oxford L.)
108' 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " G. M. Clarke (Birchfield H.)
107' 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " D. Tyler (Mitcham A.C.)
106' 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " M. Hoskins (Herts Schls.)
103' 8" B. McInnes (Glasgow U.)
102' 11" C. Macdonald (Harborne H.)
102' 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " J. M. Smith (Middlesex L.)
100' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " M. Bennion (Middlesex L.)
100' 2" J. Elliott (Northumberland)
100' 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ " E. Anderson (Dumfries A.C.)

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(By R. L. Quercetani)

The Italian Athletic Championships of 1950 were held at Turin's Communal Stadium—the same site of the first European Championships (1934)—from Sept. 29th to October 1st.

Armando Filiput, European 400 m. hurdles champion, again broke the Italian record in his event with an excellent 51.8—third best ever by a European. His race on this occasion was a most impressive one and technically superior to his 51.9 championship run in Brussels, for he went over the hurdles in flawless manner from start to finish. Ottavio Missoni, the Olympic finalist of 1948, equalled his best ever (53.1) in finishing second. Missoni obviously lacks the speed which once distinguished him (48.8 for the 400m. at 18 and 47.8 at 20), yet he is to be lauded for his gallant "come-back" after years of athletic inactivity on account of the war.

Baldassarre Porto won the 400m. in 47.8, defeating Paterlini 48.6, who reached the final in Brussels.

In the 100m. Siddi showed marked improvement after his recent crisis, nosing out Franco Leccese, who was runner-up in that event at Brussels. Siddi's winning time (10.7) sounds excellent, if one considers that it was returned on a rain-drenched surface. Leccese did 10.8 in finishing second but "came back" the following day to win the 200m. in 21.8.

Tosi had been expected to defeat Consolini in the discus, this for two reasons: (1) a practice mark of nearly 183ft. three days before; (2) his traditional "good luck" in Italian Championship meets. But Consolini again upset all "dope-sheets" with a last-minute mark of 173ft. $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Tosi did 171ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. These marks too were good, considering the rain-soaked circle from which they were throwing.

Teseo Taddia won the hammer title at 183ft. 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in., after a series of excellent throws.

Other winners notably include the following: 110m. hurdles, Albanese 14.9; pole vault, Romeo 12ft. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; shotput, Profeti 48ft. 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

RESULTS, October 7th

Polytechnic H. 3½ miles scratch race and handicap, Roehampton Vale. 1, J. H. Wood 18.28 (course record); 2, R. W. Howell 18.47; 3, C. Stewart 18.54; Handicap: K. J. R. French (4.0) 15.56.

Shaftesbury H. 3 miles novices' race, Totteridge: 1, R. J. Stratton 19.32; 2, L. Bailey 20.16; 3, N. Smith 20.19. First unplaced Youth: B. M. O'Regan 20.43.

Orion H. 5 miles handicap, Chingford. 1, L. H. Robertson (3.30) 29.51; 2, H. W. Shipway (6.30) 30.26; 3, G. S. Deer (5.0) 30.56. Fastest time: D. K. Dyall 33.16.

WALKING

October 7th

"Lewis's Trophy, Leicester: 1, R. Hardy (Sheff. Utd.H.) 51m.59s.; 2, G. Ruston (Sheff. U.H.) 56m.5s.; 3, A. Staines (Leics.W.C.) 56m.23s.; 4, R. Lees (Leics.W.C.) 57m.11s.; 5, R. Turney (Cov. Godiva H.) 57m.35s.; 6, R. Clay (Sheff. U.H.) 57m.58s.; 7, M. Greasley (Sheff. U.H.) 58m.0s.; 8, G. Thompson (Sheff. U.H.) 58m.13s.; 9, W. A. Cooke (Leics. W.C.) 58m.35s.; 10, C. E. Chaplin (Cov. Godiva H.) 58m.48s.; 11, R. Jeaynes (Cov. Godiva H.) 58m.49s.; 12, I. Williams (Cov. Godiva H.) 58m.53s.

Team Placings: 1, Sheffield United H. "A" (R. Hardy 1, G. Ruston 2, F. Clay 6, M. Greasley 7) 16 pts.; 2, Leicester W.C. "A" (A. Staines 3, R. Lees 4, W. A. Cooke 9, W. L. Moule 16) 32 pts.; 3, Coventry Godiva H. "A" (R. Turney 5, C. E. Chaplin 10, R. Jeaynes 11, I. Williams 12) 38 pts.; 4, Leicester W.C. "B" 101 pts.; 5, Birmingham W.C. 138; 6, Derbyshire W.C. 150; **Handicap:** R. Lees (Leic. W.C.) 8m.30s.; 48m.41s.; **Team Handicap:** Coventry Godiva H. 3h.20m. 55s.

Metropolitan W.C. 48 pts. beat **Enfield A.C.** 59 in a 5 mile Road Walk—1, A. W. Marler (E) 40m.22s.; 2, J. H. Lelyveld (M) 40m.39s.; 3, R. L. Hutchinson (M) 41m.55s.; 4, F. J. Redman (M) 41m.57s.; 5, S. S. Oliver (E) 42m.8s.; 6, W. F. Tanner (M) 43m.5s.

Woodford Green A.C. 126 pts. beat **Metropolitan Police** 131 in a 7 miles Road Walk. 1, A. H. Cotton (W) 56m.55s.; 2, F. Guy (M) 58m.24s.; 3, A. L. Mash (W) 58m.54s.; 4, R. F. Goodall (W) 58m.54s.; 5, A. Woods (M) 58m.58s.; 6, A. Readman (M) 59m.34s.

F. W. Blackmore's "Race Walking" will be resumed next week.

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