

ATHLETICS WEEKLY

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. AND E.C.C.U.



B. SHEPHERD (Walton) leading early in the R.W.A. 5M. Junior Race *H. W. Neale*



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INTER-CITY FLOODLIT MEETING

DESPITE the cold, wet weather, the attacks on World Records by British women were successful at the floodlit meeting sponsored by the "Evening News" on Wednesday evening, September 17th, at the White City Stadium.

Distinguished performance of the evening was that by Valerie Ball, who ran a great half-mile to break the World Record by 1.1 seconds. At the bell, Enid Harding, leading Miss Ball in a battle royal, was determined to keep her lead until they reached the tape, but 50 yards from the finish Valerie made her final challenge, striding home to win by five yards. Enid also beat the old world record set up by A. Larsson, of Sweden, in 1945, but did not better the figures she put up at the White City on the 30th August.

Sharing the limelight with Miss Ball was our W.A.A.A. team in the special 800 metres relay, who equalled the World Record of 1 min. 39.7 secs. set up a year ago by a Russian team at Bucharest. Shirley Hampton, who broke twice, led our team, but with the German girls challenging strongly it was a neck and neck struggle between both teams with the Empire team a little way behind until halfway. On the second change-over Christel Neukirch and Helga Klein made a poor change while June Foulds swiftly took the lead, which Sylvia Cheeseman held to the finish with Maria Sander in close pursuit.

WINT'S FAREWELL

Another star performance which added to the enjoyment of the evening was when Arthur Wint gave a sparkling display to lead the London team off in a medley relay by running 440 yards in 47.3, one tenth of a second outside the British record, for his final appearance in international athletics. After the relay, the spotlight followed him across the stadium while the crowd showed their appreciation of a **great** athlete. Finishing off the evening, Arthur ran a lap of honour, waving to the great audience as he went, with everyone standing and showing their gratitude and appreciation in bidding him farewell.

The 2,000 metres special invitation event saw Holland's Willi Slijkhuis pip D. R. T. MacMillan (Australia) on the tape by inches, in a thrilling race, both

recording the same time of 5:20.4. With Gordon Pirie leading on the first three laps, the fourth lap saw Don MacMillan at the front, leading Rolf Lamers (Germany), Willi Slijkhuis, and Len Eyre, with Gordon Pirie now in fifth position. It was evident that MacMillan intended to keep the lead on that very fast last lap, but Slijkhuis had other ideas and made a challenge on the last bend, only to find that MacMillan was very strong. With only a few yards left Slijkhuis just managed to win by inches. Pirie beat Lamers by inches for third place for a time which was the fastest ever run by a British athlete.

As expected, Bailey recorded a double in the sprints with Shenton second in both races. Although the track was rain soaked Mac ran a very fine 220, returning a time of 21.2.

Brussels produced the winner of the three miles in the form of Lucien Theys. After the 1½ miles mark he was leading the closely packed field of runners with P. R. Ll. Morgan coming up to take over the pace-making, only to find that Theys was soon back in front again. With only 700 yards to the finish, Theys opened up, running like a quarter miler, with A. Mahaut, of Paris, sticking to him like a shadow. The Frenchman passed Theys 300 yards from home, but the Belgian was still there, and on the last bend Theys made an extra effort to beat him by 20 yards. Ironically enough, the London champion, M. Whenman, who won the London championship in time only a fraction slower than the winner, was not in the London team.

The half-mile looked a certainty for London, when with a furlong to go and the runners packed well together, R. T. G. Day and B. S. Hewson shot into the lead, but Rene de Kersgieter, finishing strongly, passed Hewson and beat Day 30 yards from the tape. Jack Brown just got home in a closely fought out mile from Janssen after Badet had made most of the earlier running.

Alan Dick gave a grand performance in the "quarter" to win by about 9 yards from Terry Higgins to record a personal best time of 48.4. Jack Parker beat Peter Hildreth by inches in the 120 yds. Hurdles, but both were credited with the same time of 15 secs., and A. W. Scott easily took the 440 yds. Hurdles. Cole-

Continued on page 4

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EVERY SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 27th, 1952.

THE premature retirement of Arthur Wint is a blow which is bound to be felt on many of our tracks for years to come, particularly at the White City, where he has been a star attraction for so long.

Just as the great little Sydney Wooderson left his mark on athletics by his modesty and general attitude to the sport, so will the gigantic Arthur Wint. He set a great example for others to follow and his behaviour, both on and off the track, was something of which he and Jamaica should be very proud. For our part, we were proud to know you and to have you with us, Arthur. May we yet see you reach even greater heights on the track in years to come.

An Old Friend.

Many athletes, particularly Belgrave Harriers, will be interested in news of Dave Main, who was one of the most promising middle distance runners in the South during the latter part of the war period and just after. He won the mile at the British Games in 1945.

Dave has just written me from Killarney, Co. Kerry, where he has business interests. He wishes to be remembered to his old friends, including Doug. Wilson, Arthur Wint, Bill Nankeville and Les Cohen.

And a Sad Loss

I hear with great regret that Bill Achille, of Shaftesbury Harriers, passed away after a long illness on September 13th. Bill was Middlesex high jump champion in 1950 and '51, but was prevented by illness from defending his title this year. He had represented the A.A.A. and Middlesex on several occasions.

Just over 30 years of age, Bill Achille realised that his active career was coming to an end and qualified as an A.A.A.

ESSEX COACHING COURSE

Essex County A.A.A., in conjunction with the County Education Committee, held the first of this year's series of three residential courses for coaches and advanced athletes at Wicken Bonhunt w.e. Sept. 13th, dealing with hurdles and steeplechase.

There was a good attendance under the instruction of R. St. G. T. Harper, E. F. Housden, K. Bone and John Disley. Demonstrations were given by Disley, Jack Parker and John Davis, and instructional films were also used. Films of the 1948 Games were also shown and Guy Butler brought along some of his Helsinki films, some of these being shown for the first time.

The second course took place last week-end and the third, on throwing events, will be from 10th to 12th October. There are still a few vacancies and athletes wishing to attend should write A. Stokehill, 108 Mashiters Walk, Romford, Essex.

* * *

The A.T.F.S. Olympic Handbook and the A.T.F.S. International Athletic Annual can be obtained from the I.A.A.F. Offices, at 71 St. George's Square, London, S.W.1.

* * *

Bexhill A.A.C. are making a special effort to put their annual road relay on the map this year by increasing the prize value and giving second team prizes for the first time. This year's relay takes place on Saturday, December 13th.

Hon. Coach. He was a good club man and looked forward to assisting others to achieve success in his favourite event, being always ready to help a young athlete. His early passing is a great loss for Shaftesbury and Middlesex.

THE EDITOR.

INTER-CITY MEETING (contd.)

man won the walk after Hawkins had held on to the lead for $7\frac{1}{2}$ laps, and Hardy was once again disqualified at about the two mile mark.

The last event of the evening proved to be a victory for the German pair, Helmut Gude and Gunther Hesselmann. Leading almost from the start, it was Gude and Hesselmann all the way without any opposition. John Disley did well to finish third and take first place in the match event, as he was suffering from a recurrence of an old trouble which seriously affected his performance.

Match Events

100 Yds: 1, E. McD. Bailey (London) 9.8; 2, B. Shenton (London) 9.8 (equals Eng. Nat. record); 3, H. Brault (Paris) 10.0; 4, G. Guillon (Paris); 5, M. Wouters (Brussels); 6, Gosset (Brussels).

220 Yds: 1, E. McD. Bailey (L) 21.2; 2, B. Shenton (L) 22.0; 3, H. Brault (P) 22.3; 4, F. Linssen (B) 22.4; 5, J. Ver-crusse (B); 6, A. Plavonil (P).

440 Yds: 1, A. Dick (L) 48.3; 2, T. L. Higgins (L) 49.4; 3, J. Carral (P) 50.6; 4, Galland (P) 50.7; 5, A. Colemont (B) 50.9; 6, J. de Roy (B).

880 Yds: 1, R. de Kersgieter (B) 1:56.6; 2, R. T. G. Day (L) 1:57.3; 3, B. S. Hewson (L) 1:57.6; 4, Blavier (B); 5, Dupoux (P); 6, Abdel Krim (P).

1 Mile: 1, J. W. Brown (L) 4:18.4; 2, D. Janssens (B) 4:18.6; 3, R. Badet (P) 4:19.2; 4, R. H. Dunkley (L) 4:19.8; 5, Devothel (B) 4:25.4; 6, Com (P) 4:27.7.

3 Miles: 1, L. Theys (B) 14:11.8; 2, A. Mahaut (P) 14:15.4; 3, P. R. Li. Morgan (L) 14:25.0; 4, J. Braughton (L); 5, Rialland (P); 6, E. de Duytsche (B).

120H: 1, F. J. Parker (L) 15.0; 2, P. B. Hildreth (L) 15.0; 3, E. Roudnistka (P) 15.3; 4, J. Dohen (P); 5, R. Laermans (B); 6, Slabders (B).

440H: 1, A. W. Scott (L) 54.5; 2, A. Candau (P) 56.1; 3, M. Dits (B) 56.1; 4, J. Davis (L) 57.0; 5, J. Van Beneden (B) 58.0; 6, Mordet (P) 58.5.

Long Jump: 1, G. E. Broad (L) $21' 6\frac{1}{2}"$; 2, P. Linsenke (P) $21' 5\frac{3}{4}"$; 3, J. Epalle (P) $20' 9\frac{1}{4}"$; 4, R. Brancart (B) $20' 7\frac{1}{4}"$; 5, J. Dave (B) $20' 0\frac{3}{4}"$; 6, P. A. Whaley (L) $19' 10\frac{1}{4}"$.

High Jump: 1, J. Delelienne (B) $6' 2"$; 2, D. R. J. Cox (L) $6' 0"$; 3, L. Daniel (P) and E. L. Button (L) $5' 10"$; 5, C. Benard (P) $5' 10"$; 6, W. Herssens (B) $5' 0"$.

Weight: 1, J. A. Savidge (L) $52' 6\frac{1}{2}"$; 2, E. Vande Zande (B) $47' 2\frac{1}{2}"$; 3, J. Thomas (P) $44' 7\frac{1}{2}"$; 4, W. M. T. Holland (L); 5, R. Verhas (B) $42' 9\frac{1}{2}"$; 6, F. Barde (P) $37' 9"$.

Hammer: 1, P. C. Allday (L) $166' 1"$; 2, H. Haest (B) $159' 6\frac{1}{2}"$; 3, C. J. Reidy (L) $156' 8"$; 4, F. Barde (P) $155' 11\frac{1}{2}"$; 5, A. Mainella (P) $150' 0"$; 6, A. Lessire (B) $145' 5"$.

Medley Relay: 1, London (Wint 440, Johnson 330, Gibbs 220, Sexton 110) 1:56.2; 2, Paris 2:02.6; 3, Brussels 2:07.8.

3,000 M Steeple Chase: *1, H. Gude (Germany) 9:03.8; *2, G. Hesselmann (Germany) 9:12.8; 3, J. I. Disley (L) 9:34.8; 4, B. Hamza (P); 5, J. Claessens (B).

Result: 1, London 130 $\frac{1}{2}$ pts.; 2, Paris 81 $\frac{1}{2}$; 3, Brussels 70.

* not scoring in match

Special Events

2,000 Metres: 1, W. F. Slijkhuis (Holland) 5:20.4; 2, D. R. T. Macmillan (Australia) 5:20.4; 3, D. A. G. Pirie (S. London H.) 5:21.2; 4, R. Lamers (Germany) 5:21.2; 5, L. Eyre (Leeds Harehills) 5:26.4; 6, D. R. Burfitt (Oxford A.C.) 5:31.8; 7, D. G. Wilson (Poly H.).

5 Miles Walk: 1, G. W. Coleman (Highgate H.) 36:42.8; 2, B. Hawkins (Met. W.C.) 37:00.0; 3, F. W. Barrett (Camb. H.) 38:15.4; 4, B. E. Shepherd (Walton A.C.) 38:38.0; 5, H. T. Whitlock (Met. W.C.) 39:14.0; 6, A. L. Mash (Woodford Gn. A.C.) 39:25.0; 7, E. G. Barnes (Highgate H.).

80M. Hlds. (Women): 1, S. Strickland (Australia) 11.3; 2, M. Sander (Germany) 11.4; 3, P. Seaborne (Essex L.A.C.) 11.9; 4, I. Pond (London Olympiads); 5, C. O'Gorman (Mitcham A.C.); 6, D. Harper (High Wycombe L.).

880 Yds (Women): 1, V. Ball (Spartan L.A.C.) 2:14.5 (New World Record); 2, E. Harding (London Olympiads) 2:15.3 (also beats previous world record); 3, H. Needham (Camb. H.) 2:16.3; 4, G. Goullieux (France) 2:19.7; 5, P. Green (Ilford A.C.); 6, J. Dryden (Ilford A.C.). Time at 800 metres was —V. Ball 2:13.5 and E. Harding 2:14.2.

800 Metres Relay (Women): 1, Gt. Britain (S. Hampton, A. Johnson, J. Foulds, S. Cheeseman) 1:39.7 (equals world record); 2, Germany, (U. Knab, C. Neukirch, H. Klein, M. Sander) 1:40.3; 3, Empire Team (L. Hatton, V. Robbins, P. Wayne, V. Johnson) 1:43.7.

Letters to the Editor . . .

SUNDAY ATHLETICS?

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Dear Sir,

I feel sure that all athletes in the London area will welcome A. E. Blatchford's proposals for Sunday athletics.

Readers such as W. Davies who decry these suggestionss cannot possibly have experienced the frantic dash so common to so many metropolitan athletes bound for the far distant cross-country venues on the city's outskirts.

I can recall several instances of my own club's team being heavily depleted owing to too-late arrivals.

It's hardly correct for Mr. Webley to say we still preserve Sunday in athletics, as during the winter and summer the track I use is always packed with athletes training.

Continental countries all make full use of the Sunday break from work. I wish some of those who disagree with Sunday sport could see the open spaces around German cities packed with young and old alike getting every benefit from the sun and air in athletics, handball, gymnastics and swimming. And they haven't neglected their religious duties. Surely this opposition stems from pure narrow-mindedness on the part of a small section of our community.

I know full well that most service athletes would welcome the change, having ample time to get home even from the remotest parts.

Yours truly,

D. P. Ryder.
R.A.F., B.A.O.R.

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Sir,

A. E. Blatchford hopes it is not to be assumed that he is against religion but the theme of his letters rather suggest it.

I feel much more sorry for the uncharitable Mr. Ray Bott, who uses his literary skill in denunciation of the Bible in general and the Simon Webleys in particular.

This self-styled materialist who claims a capacity to detect "the typical Christian vanity and a narrow Sabbatarian outlook" in such a brief and rational

contribution as Webley's is, however, still within the province of Divine forgiveness.

Such judgment as his does not become one whose membership to a club demands that he should "play the game" in its broadest sense.

I have pursued athletics for thirty-two years and occasionally indulged in Sunday training, but it did not prevent me taking part in the act of public worship.

May I add my name to the few who oppose the idea of organized athletics on Sundays. Of course this will be called self-righteousness by a "mere materialist."

Yours sincerely,

Vic Lewis.

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Dear Editor,

Leaving aside the question of personal theology, so pleasantly and understandingly quashed by Mr. Bott, is there not an immediate difficulty in any proposal to initiate Sunday athletics?

If Sundays were to be used for meetings, it seems to me that an impossible situation would arise. Those who are able, and wish to compete on Saturdays would have to choose whether they should race only on Saturday, only on Sunday, or on both days; the sprinter might manage to cope with two consecutive days' racing, but I doubt whether the middle-distance man or the cross-country man (and certainly not the long-distance enthusiast) would either wish, or be able, to do so. Would he, then, be expected to go shopping on Saturday afternoon (presuming he is sensible enough not to train on the day before a race)? Or would the Saturday enthusiasts have to segregate themselves from the Sunday participants? Putting on the "National" in two halves, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, might cut down the field, but it certainly wouldn't simplify matters.

I suggest that we leave the business as it is, so that the stiff-in-the-legs marathon runner can stay in bed on the "morning after the day before." And (if Mr. Bott doesn't mind) the vain and narrow-minded Sabbatarians may even be allowed to stick to their values without

abandoning their athletics. Personally, I always play cricket on Sunday.

Yours faithfully,

B. Mitchell.

Maidstone H.

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Dear Sir,

By all means let us have more controversy on the question of "Sunday Athletics." Too long have religious dogmatists, not content with attacking the spirit of truth and scientific endeavour, attempted to interfere with the recreation, albeit organised or unorganised, of their less self-righteous fellows.

The "Puritan" element, so evident in this country, is largely to blame; in point of fact our continental neighbours, many of whose populations are nominally Catholic, abandon the sombre proceedings of the Sabbath morn to widespread sporting activities of every description, p.m.

To leave the wailings of the religionists for a moment, however, let us consider the problem, if it be a problem, from the point of view of the athlete, many of whom spend the first half of the day of competition under some physical or mental strain by reason of their occupations. I am sure that it is the hours immediately preceding competition which make or mar a performance, rather than the psychological effect of contemplation of Monday morning's discomfiture.

Yours sincerely,

Michael F. Porter.

Belgrave Harriers

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Dear Sir,

There is only one side of the question about Sunday Athletics that ought to be considered and that is whether it would or would not improve the sport. If improvement can be achieved by having Sunday meetings, then there is only one course left open for us to follow. The opposition will have to bow and make sacrifices.

Of all the advantages of Sunday Athletics the most important is the relief of the congestion of tracks, which is becoming a nightmare to fixture compilers and club officials. By having Saturday and Sunday meetings there would be a double number of meetings, at least week-end meetings, thus reduc-

ing the number of clashes of matches and sports so obvious during the summer.

The other advantage of course is that shop workers will be able to compete instead of finding themselves between a cleft stick—the job or the sport.

If the religiously-minded minority do not want to take part in the Sunday meetings they can compete only on the Saturday but please do not try to force people who are slightly more broad-minded and up-to-date to toe the line against their will and especially when progress and improvement is at stake.

Other advantages include — travelling time for Saturday morning workers (he can skip willingly the Saturday away fixture when he knows that he can compete on the Sunday); club trials and championships not clashing with other fixtures; two day matches easily arranged without waiting for a Bank Holiday. In other words, complete freshening up of the sport with shorter meetings and more of them and with a more balanced fixture list.

It is either build more tracks at a very great expense, or have Sunday meetings as well as Saturday ones.

For those who like to bring up the question of ethics, please remember that the A.A.A. does not think twice to toe-the-line in regard to 'out of Great Britain' fixtures.

I am not trying to say that it is wrong to think of Sunday as a day of rest, I am only stating that it is wrong, so very wrong, to think that what is good for one should be good for everybody. Let us have both Saturday and Sunday and enjoy fully our athletics.

Yours faithfully,

M. F. Flacke,

Herne Hill Harriers.

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Dear Sir,

Further to Mr. Blatchford's revolutionary and very thought provoking suggestion on Sunday athletics, might I add a few of my own.

In Dublin recently I saw the finals of the Amateur Athletic Union's graded track and field championships.

The position in Ireland is that only about six clubs are affiliated to the internationally recognised A.A.U. and all of these operate in the Dublin area. With such little support they have taken a really progressive step by instituting graded competition—a brief description

of which may lead to its being attempted in this country.

There are three grades in all events—A, B, C. Everyone commences in the C grade graduating to B on the production of a time, distance or height, better than the standard set. In this case 5 mins. is the standard to break in order to be promoted to grade B miling. The standards of course would vary from one area to another according to the level of competition.

The next step to A miling is, I believe, 4m.35s., and so on through every event. Racing in the graded classes takes place twice a week with an organised inter-club competition as further incentive.

It has many outstanding features, this type of competition. For a start everyone competes regularly, has an aim throughout the season, races against opponents of comparable ability and can try his hand at any event. Then, from the spectators' viewpoint the finishes are much closer than normal and much more fiercely contested. Further, the expense involved is trivial so every type of race and field event can be included.

A second revolutionary suggestion of mine concerns a type of race first witnessed by the writer at Eukirschen, Rhineland, during a recent athletic festival. The 2nd T.A.F. champions at 5,000 and 1,500 metres, George Scutts (Portsmouth A.C.) and Terry Learmonth (Essex Beagles) won an exciting twenty minute relay after a ding-dong struggle with pretty good German opposition. These relays are becoming very popular. Runners start as teams of two and can relieve one another at any time—the usual method being every half lap. The last minute is signalled by a whistle or gun and no changing is allowed up to the finish.

This type of racing is really a development of "interval" training which is in current popularity with most distance runners. I can envisage some great races of five and ten minute durations between noted star middle distance men as being just the thing to hold the spectator's attention. The longer distance men could tackle relays of up to half an hour.

In the example I have given, the winning pair covered 4 miles 660 yards.

There is a chance here for some enterprising club to initiate this type of racing—which for excitement beats the old medley relay into the ground.

Perhaps other readers have criticisms of these ideas, if so, they would make interesting reading.

Yours sincerely,

M. D. Coleman.

Queens Park Harriers.

The novel type of relay mentioned here is interesting, with many possibilities, but if only two runners take part, I cannot see how they can change over every half-lap.—Ed.

THE AMATEUR RULE

The Editor,
"Athletics Weekly,"

Sir,

We here in Britain run our Athletics under strictly amateur laws, as laid down by the governing body.

I am wondering if we are doing the right thing; are other countries doing as we are?

I think not. There is the recent story of Mal Whitfield, 800 metre Olympic Champion, who was to have run at the C.N.E. Stadium (Canada) but did not compete; instead he took the next plane back to U.S.A. Apparently he had asked for more expenses than had first been agreed upon.

No doubt athletes of the Whitfield class are a great draw at an athletic meeting; surely they should be compensated in some way for their efforts (apart from expenses).

He would not be actually competing for money, he would be compensated for showing his prowess.

It seems to me that the International body should revise the amateur rule, to be thoroughly understood by all nations, not so that they can apply the rule to suit themselves. If this cannot be done, then they should decide what pay an amateur should receive.

This question of amateur status has been a pain for a great many years, and I believe the time has come for a complete revision of the rule.

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Harker.

Hon. A.A.A. Coach

* * *

Manchester Y.M.C.A. Harriers are celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Club with a Dinner and Entertainment on October 25th, at the Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester 2.

1952 IN RETROSPECT

By MOVING FINGER

AS the days shorten and the autumn winds bring the first chill of winter into the cold bleak garret which serves as a roof for your shivering scribe, memories of the 1952 season warm the heart if not the body of all those who cast their minds back but a few short months.

Memories: the Olympic Games were the main feature—so successful yet so tantalising. If only . . . if only . . . And the supporting programme? Perhaps the best ever. At last Britain is producing good performers in quantity. Athletes like Gordon Pirie. Which brings us to the first “—of the year” on the list.

The Athlete of the year: Gordon Pirie. Remember his exploits, cross-country as well as his track successes. Runners-up: MacBailey, Roland Hardy and Chris Chataway.

Athlete o.t.y. (Ladies): I name two. Jean Desforges and Valerie Ball. The former on account of her 10.9 secs. hurdles time in Helsinki, and her consistently fast hurdling and sprinting. The latter for her 880 yd. world record in September (her ambition fulfilled at last after many set-backs). She managed this in spite of having had little competition this year. She got engaged just before the Olympics and, on behalf of “Athletics Weekly,” may I wish you and your fiancé every happiness, Valerie?

Runner-up—Shirley Cawley. That was a tremendous effort at Helsinki, Shirley. Well done!

Coach o.t.y.: Yes, Geoff Dyson gets it with Disley, Savidge, Elliott and Sheila Crawley on his books. And don't forget his work as one of the organisers of the coaching scheme. Runner-up: Franz Stampfl who, since his arrival from N. Ireland, has proved so popular and successful. Euan Douglas, Duncan Clarke, Jean Desforges, Mick Denley and Joan Linsell (who beat, several times, the English Women's Shot record during training) are but a few who have come under Franz's influence at one time or another. He also coached John Fisher School: remember the nine-day-wonder that caused?

Coached of the year: John Disley. You've certainly worked hard enough for your success, John. Runner-up: poor Jim Peters.

Veteran o.t.y.: Harold Whitlock. No doubt.

Semi-veteran o.t.y.: MacBailey. Was there ever such a 31 year-old sprinter? Runner-up: Dorothy Tyler who, if she had won that Olympic high jump, would have rocked athletic history! If only . . .

Best youngster o.t.y.: I'm going to put my neck out here, but I still say it: Suzanne Farmer. If she gets first class coaching, she'll beat the Russians at their own events. You'll see!

Most improved o.t.y.: Now which? Of these two, which to put first, Sando or Gracie. Both were terrific. Well done.

Most under-rated: David Law. Bad luck, David; but you'll show 'em in 1956 —and before!

Most surprising performance: Peter Hildreth's 14.4 secs. hurdles time. I never thought you had it in you. A wonderful effort; perhaps your new glasses made a difference?

Team Success o.t.y.: Now this is a difficult one. What about Ilford's 3 x 880 women's World record? M'yes, but I think the men's Olympic 4 x 100m. gets it. It really was a fast team. But don't let's forget Sheffield United's fifth success running in the Garnet Championship. Or should I say fifth success walking? No.

Best “double” o.t.y.: This goes to ‘double’ expert MacBailey. His two sprint placings in the Games and his two wins in the A.A.A. Championships for the umpteenth time. What next year Mac? Quarter miling? Or have you considered the long jump? Mind you, I'll wager that in two years time you'll still be running a 9.7 100 yds.

Most disappointing o.t.y.: Let's face it. Euan Douglas, who had been doing such great things in training, and Alan Paterson. Doesn't Canada agree with you, Alan? No, **not** Roger Bannister! He did run the fastest 1500m. ever run by an Englishman.



GEOFF IDEN (Victoria Park H.) winning the S.L.H. 30 Miles Road Race

H. W. Neale

Most Undeveloped Potential o.t.y.: I name two, both field events men. Horn, the Army weight putter and John Savidge as a discus thrower. I heard one high responsible coach say the latter is capable of 200 ft. It is possible, you know!

Roughest Luck o.t.y.: Roland Hardy and Lol Allen. You have borne with the most exemplary restraint what turned out to be a tragic farce. John Parlett had bad luck too — of a different sort. We missed you in Helsinki and after, John.

Roughest Luck o.t.y. (Ladies): Enid Harding's 880 yards World record. It was not allowed because she ran second in a handicap race. And when she *did* lower the record, she was pipped by Valerie Ball!

Retirement o.t.y.: Arthur Wint. Few athletes are more popular. Why don't I see you at Blackfriars any more? Are you qualified now? Another thing: since you used to clear 6ft. with the scissors back in 1944-5, why not take up high jumping again, this time with a Roll?

We'd like to see you around the tracks for another year or two!

Race of the Year: Jim Peters' marathon — even if it did come a few weeks too early. If only . . .

Most Missed athlete o.t.y.: Derek Pugh. We all sincerely hope we'll see you running again in 1953. May your come-back equal your knitting in quality!

The Prodigal Son o.t.y.: Peter Wells, back from New Zealand. 6ft. 8in. next year, Peter! How's Harold Moody, by the way? If you read this, Harold, you may like to hear we haven't forgotten you.

Most Desirable Innovation: The "News Chronicle" indoor meeting at Harringay. We want more indoor meetings.

Worst Organised Meeting: The Triangular International at the White City in July. Man, that *was* something! And why is there no discus event at this meet?

Nostalgic memory of the year: Alistair McCorquodale's 1948 sprinting. The runaway combine harvester!

Now let's take a breath before finishing on a slightly more serious note.

The "Black" o.t.y.: Without doubt, the way certain sections of the Press built up our Olympians into a team of Nurmis, Steers' and Iso Hollos. Then we had to put up with their enraged squeals when they were proved wrong. I cannot believe that the British public is as cretinous as the cheap Press imagines. Must every item of news have a "story," an "angle" or be a "sensation?"

Which brings us to the **Speech of the Year**—Jack Crump's denunciation of these so-called sports writers after their Games performance, early in September. He had every relevant fact at his finger tips and he "put it over" beautifully.

It is a pity that speech can't be printed and circulated to every newspaper in Britain. The Man-in-the-street would find it most edifying. A Big Hunk of the Real Gen.

The Most Injurious Suggestion o.t.y.: That the LAC Schools Challenge Cup meeting should be abolished. No names mentioned. Surely we must develop and expand the coaching of our young talent? And where you have coaching, you must have competition. It's only human nature.

And 1953? **The Event of the coming year** should be the proposed 24 hour track walk in July, organised by the Surrey WC. That I *must* see!

If I might be so bold as to make the suggestion of 1953, I would move Heaven and Earth to get the International Cross-Country really International. Can't we get the Swedes to compete, the Americans and—shhh—perhaps even Zatopek?

A.W. had something to say about this earlier in the year.

Finally, there is one way in which we can put our own house in order. It will be a most difficult thing to achieve for it's largely a question of human nature. I refer to that "feeling" which exists—in certain restricted circles only—between Oxford and Cambridge athletes on the one hand and non-university men on the other.

Now I'm not saying who started it or who is responsible for the continuance of this "feeling": I merely say it's there. A minor example at the Southern Championships last year; (which coincided with the Harvard-Yale v. Oxford-Cambridge match); "Ruddy miracle if we even get a mention in the papers tomorrow what with the glamour boys running at the White City." And Bannister's training methods! The storm in a teacup of 1952; I detected in a lot of the criticism levelled at him a fair slice of this "feeling" I'm talking about.

But it's by no means one sided. One or two knowledgeable athletics writers who should know better quite openly favour the 'varsity boys, and this fans the flames of ill-feeling. But enough. Doubtless you are as conscious of it as I am.

Let's be stopping it in 1953, shall we?

Postscript. I saw a hatless Sydney Wooderson in the City the other day. His step was as springy as ever but I was shocked to see that he's beginning to get a little thin on top! It made me feel so old: it seems only yesterday that he won the Schools' mile!

ENGLISH CROSS-COUNTRY UNION A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the E.C.C.U. took place at Birmingham last Saturday, when Mr. J. G. Stubbs (S. London H.) was elected President. John Stubbs was one of the best cross-country and track runners in the South in the late 1920's and early 30's. In later years he went on to marathon running and was a great help and inspiration to many of the younger runners or novices at the marathon. Mr. L. N. Richardson and Mr. H. P. T. Phipps were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mr. C. J. Munro was appointed International Championship Team Manager.

Alterations to rules included "In the

event of a tie, the team whose last scoring member finishes nearest the first place shall determine the result." This ruling was long overdue, races being decided after a tie by as many as three different ways on the same day.

It was also agreed that the waiting period shall be dispensed with where it concerns an athlete who has resigned from a club and not been a member of a club for a period of not less than 14 months.

In future, age qualification will be decided by a fixed date, to be October 1st, September 1st will, however, still be regarded as the commencing date of

Continued on page 15

THOUGHTS ON TRAINING METHOD

THROWING—1

By L. H. WARD, Hon. Chief Coach W.A.A.A.

BEFORE detailed consideration of specific training method for Discus-throwing, Javelin-throwing or Shot-putting, it is essential to recognise that successful results can only be achieved when technique is effective, strength established and speed developed—furthermore, each of these factors is equally important.

Firstly, then, several general points relative to technique noted during this season's competition:

- (a) Having "warmed-up," many sit and wait, often for a considerable period, for their turn to throw or put—the wise thrower will make opportunity for several minutes mild activity before being called upon to perform to ensure she is physically and mentally ready. Such preparation should always include use of a piece of rag to dry the implement.
- (b) Many athletes would be surprised if they could see the obvious pause between shot-glide or discus-turn and putting or throwing action and at the commencement of the javelin cross-step cycle and the cause may often be traced to excessive throwing (or putting) from the standing position. In training, therefore, emphasis should be on performance of the full pattern of movement although javelin-approach may be limited to, say, five or seven strides according to individual performance.
- (c) A critical attitude of individual performance should be cultivated in that after every effort, discus-throwers and shot-putters will find value in inspection of footmarks on the surface of the circle for determination as to whether advantage has been taken of use of maximum distance across it and movement has followed a straight line. Javelin-throwers will need the assistance of an observer who should watch that, throughout footwork and movement of javelin to throwing position, the implement moves in a straightforward line of direction.
- (d) Throwing (or putting) action must be regarded as a combination of leg-drive, trunk-thrust and arm-

punch on the basis that the stronger but slower-moving parts of the body are used to establish the motion of the implement while the arm, the weakest yet fastest-moving part, adds to the speed developed and is responsible for direction on a most effective path of movement. So often, the arm is used too early; it should be delayed until shoulders and hips are almost, if not completely, facing line of throw (or put).

It will be readily realised that, once method of performance has been mastered to reasonable degree of efficiency, physical strength will not be sufficiently developed only by practice of the movements of the event. Thus, activity from other events must be introduced, care



M. C. WHENMAN (Aylesford P.M.) leading in the London 3 Miles Championship which he won in 14min. 13.6 secs.
E. D. Lacey

being taken to ensure that performance of the movements does not interfere with that of the event in which it is intended to specialise.

The vital necessity of speed both of reaction and in movement demands that sprinting (including starting) be included in the training programme and, incidentally the crouch-starting activities will be of considerable assistance to the development of strength in various parts of the body.

Some interesting FACTS & FIGURES from details of this year's National Championships:—

- (a) Including the wind-assisted times, best 100-yard marks and number of times recorded were:
10.9 secs. (1); 11.1 secs. (2); 11.2 secs. (2); 11.3 secs. (2); 11.4 secs. (1); 11.5 secs. (7); 11.6 secs. (6); 11.7 secs. (11).
- (b) High Jump styles of the first six competitors: Western Roll—Straddle Straddle — Straddle — Scissors—Scissors.
Surely a sign of progress in the right direction.
- (c) Another step in the right direction: Eleven competitors recorded Discus-throws of more than 100 ft.
- (d) Two efforts in Pace Judgment from the 880-yard heats:
E. Harding (London Olympiades) 72.1 and 72.0 secs.
J. Dryden (Ilford A.C.) 71.2 and 70.4 secs.

QUIZ:

1. What is the principle on which tracks are measured?
2. May a 100 yard sprint record be established when there is a following wind?

3. A long-jumper, realising that she will not be able to hit the take-off board with her jumping foot, swerves to one side and finishes alongside the pit. What will be the judges' decision?
4. What is the present World Record High Jump and when was it established? What was the previous record and when was it created?
5. A discus lands exactly on the sector line and the mark on the ground is partly inside and beyond the sector line. Is the throw a good one?
6. How far short of the British record was the 1952 best Southern Championship Shot-Put performance of 40ft. 3½in.?

ANSWERS:

1. Measurement is at a distance 8in. outwards from the inside edge, except where a board or kerb is used to mark the inner edge, when measurement is at a distance of 12in.
2. Yes, provided that the wind-gauge does not show a recording greater than 2 metres per second or 4.474 m.p.h.
3. The effort will be recorded as a "no jump" and will be counted as one of the athlete's trials.
4. 5ft. 7½in. by Sheila Lerwill in July, 1951.
5ft. 7¼in. by F. E. Blankers-Koen in May, 1943.
5. No, the discus must land completely within the sector if the throw is to be measured and recorded.
6. 2½in. short; British Record was 40ft. 6in.

RESULTS

City of Rochester A.C. Championships. 880: L. A. Smith 2:0.0; Mile: C. A. Hills 4:48.0; 2M. Walk: R. Botting 18:25.4; 3 Miles: D. Channon 15:41.8; Juniors: 440: Ponter 56.0; 880: Batty 2:11.6; Mile: White 5:7.4.

September 13th

SURREY ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP At Woking

P. B. Driver (S.L.H.) running the third of the six stages in 13min. 58sec., beat the 1950 record of 14:02.0 set up by Chris Chataway. Another S.L.H. runner

D. A. G. Pirie, made an extraordinary effort on the fifth stage when he smashed the new record with a time of 13:26.0, and made up nearly 1½ minutes on the leader. T. E. Keegan gave Walton A.C. the lead on the first lap, but B. T. Barrett, a junior runner, put Surrey A.C. in front on the second stage. G. Scotting kept Surrey A.C. ahead over the third stage and J. Heywood sent Herne Hill H. into the lead, which they retained to the end.

1. Herne Hill H. (E. A. Kerridge 14:36, J. C. Green 14:50, A. F. Newson 14:48, J. Heywood 14:06, R. S. Clark

14:29; M. R. Maynard 14:18) 87min. 07 sec.; 2, S. London H. 87:45.0; 3, Walton A.C. 88:00.0; 4, Surrey A.C. 88:19.0; 5, Belgrave H. 88:19.0; 6, Mitcham A.C. 91:52.0; 7, Guildford and Godalming 95:52.00; 8, Epsom and Ewell H. 95:34.0; 9, Croydon A.C. 96:14.0; 10, Woking A.C. 100:09.0.

Cambridge H. Club Championships, at Charlton Park. — **440**: I. Walker 57.9 (club rec.); **120H**: Jun: G. Downes 17.2; **HJ**: J. Rawlings 5'5"; **HJ**, Jun: B. Rolls 5'0"; **HJ**, Boys: V. Coleman 4'8". **H'eps**: **Vet**, 2 Miles: 1, K. Millington (400); 2, J. Stormer (150); 3, A. Slack (250); 10:20.6; **440**: D. Holden (33) 51.4; **440** Jun: D. Fotherby (20) 55.8; **Dis**: A. Maggs (20) 112'1".

September 14th

Walton A.C. Hexathlon Champ.—1, M. Pharaoh 2,780 pts. (club rec.) 100m. 12.2; **HJ**: 5'5"; **Wt**: 43'7" (club rec.); **200m**. H: 28.0; **Jav**: 151'7"; **1,500m**: 5:34.0; 2, K. L. Wilmshurst 2,695 (also beats rec.); 3, J. Groves 2,259. **Junior**: 1, R. Cawsey 2,755 (club rec.); 100m: 12.6; **HJ**: 5'0"; **Wt**: 40'8½" (club rec.); **200m**. H: 26.1; **Jav**: 129'6"; **1,500m**: 5:02.0; 2, P. Sellick 2,578; 3, D. Humphreys 2,383.

September 20th

RECORDS BEATEN AT DORKING

The annual athletics festival sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dorking in conjunction with the Dorking St. Paul's A.C., was held at Dorking, when the major portion of the programme comprised a match in which a team captained by A. S. Wint defeated a side raised by W. J. Wareham by eight pts. over 15 events. The meeting produced a crop of record performances, most of which were all-comers' records for the ground, but the best was accomplished in the field events by J. A. Savidge, the A.A.A. Weight-putting champion, who beat his own British national and English native records with 54ft. 9½in.

100: 1, B. Shenton (Wareham's team); 2, K. A. B. Olowu (Wint's team); 3, E. Knight (Wm); 4, K. K. Korsah (Wm); 10.1.

220: 1, B. Shenton (Wm); 2, C. N. Gibbs (Wt); 3, E. Knight (Wm); 4, A. Grieve (Wt); 22.6.

440: 1, A. S. Wint (Wt); 2, A. Dick (Wt); 3, L. C. Lewis (Wm); 49.0.

880: 1, B. S. Hewson (Wt) 1:57.9; 2, G. A. Maxted (Wm) 1:59.2; 3, R. T. G. Day (Wt); 4, T. L. Higgins (Wm).

Mile: 1, D. R. T. MacMillan (Wt); 2, P. B. Driver (Wt); 3, I. H. Parr

(Wm); 4, R. W. Howell (Wm); 4:18.0. **3 Miles**: 1, J. Braughton (Wm) 14:32.8 (ground rec.); 2, R. H. Dunkley (Wm) 14:36.4; 3, P. J. Pirie (Wt); 4, J. Butler (Wm).

120H: 1, F. J. Parker (Wt); 2, C. E. Higham (Wm); 3, P. A. L. Vine (Wm); 4, J. B. Duffy (Wt); 15.4 (ground rec.).

220H: 1, F. J. Parker (Wt); 2, C. E. Higham (Wm); 3, K. K. Korsah (Wm); 4, J. B. Duffy (Wt); 25.3 (ground rec.).

HJ: 1, P. E. Goldsmith (Wt) 5'10"; 2, E. Button (Wm) 5'10"; 3, D. R. Buxcey (Wt) 5'8".

LJ: 1, K. A. B. Olowu (Wt) 23'1½" (ground rec.); 2, P. E. Goldsmith (Wt) 21'2½"; 3, A. G. Larter (Wm) 20'5½"; 4, B. Shenton (Wm).

Wt: 1, J. A. Savidge (Wm) 54'9½" (Brit. Nat. and Eng. Nat. Records); 2, H. Cox (Wm) 45'1½"; 3, M. Pharaoh (Wm) 43'10"; 4, A. W. Silbery (Wt).

Dis: 1, M. Pharaoh (Wm) 150'7½" (ground rec.); 2, J. A. Savidge (Wm) 139'9½"; 3, A. W. Silbery (Wt); 4, H. Cox (Wm).

Jav: 1, D. E. Tucker (Wt) 183'5"; 2, D. Fleming (Wm) 163'11"; 3, M. Ruda (Wt); 4, P. Jones (Wm).

13 Miles Road Race: Wint's team beat Wareham's. **Individuals**: 1, A. E. Heford (Wt) 1hr. 12m. 13s.; 2, S. F. Jones (Wm) 1:13:45; 3, T. Richards (Wt); 4, G. L. Norman (Wm); 5, J. F. Fitzgerald (Wt); 6, R. Bott (Wm).

Relay: 8 competitors on each side each ran half a lap (1/10 mile), Wareham's team won.

Result: 1, A. S. Wint's Team 66 pts.; 2, W. J. Wareham's Team 58.

September 21st

Walton A.C. 6M. Championship.

1, T. E. Keegan 31:01.2 (club and ground rec.); 2, J. M. Addington 31:51.0; 3, A. Llewellyn 31:54.0; 4, B. Judd 32:22.0.

Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club ANNUAL ROAD RELAY

(6 x 2½ miles)

Saturday Dec. 13th, 1952—2.30 p.m.
from the

Sports Centre, Bexhill-on-Sea

1st Team—Victory Challenge Trophy (holders, Aylesford P.M.) and prizes totalling £20.

2nd Team—Prizes totalling £4/10/0.

First Three Fastest Laps—Prizes.

1st Sussex Team—Bexhill A.A.C. Challenge Trophy and set of medals.

Entries—6/- per team; 10/- two teams.

To—F. E. WICKS, Hon. Sec. Athletics,
Ashdown Road Bexhill-on-Sea.

CLOSING DATE, NOVEMBER 29th.



D. R. COX (Eton Manor) winning the London high jump championship at 6ft. 4in.

E. D. Lacey

HERNE HILL HARRIERS IN HOLLAND

Sunday, 31st August. Versus S.V.V. Schiedam and Sports Club of Rotterdam Combined and Lyra of Belgium, at Schiedam. **100m:** 1, Gibbs (HHH) 11.4; 2, Naularts (LYRA) 11.9; **400m:** 1, Richards (HHH) 54.2; 2, Quayhaegebs (L) 54.4; **800m:** 1, Bridge (HHH) 2:01.2; 2, Boyd (HHH) 2:03.24; **3,000m:** 1, Maynard (HHH) 8:59.8; 2, Kerridge (HHH) 9:22.0; **200m:** 1, Gibbs (HHH) 23.1; 2, Naularts (L) 23.9; **1,500m:** 1, Towl (HHH) 4:23.8; 2, Verwerft (L) 4:25.2; **Wt:** 1, Ramsden (HHH) 33'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Oudenaarden (SVV) 33'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; **Dis:** 1, Ramsden (HHH) 108'2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Oudenaarden (SVV) 102'0 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; **Jav:** 1, Pickering (HHH) 156'2"; 2, Cosh (HHH) 146'9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; **400m. Relay:** 1, HHH 47.0; 2, Lyra 47.8; 3, SVV 47.9; **1,600m. Medley:** 1, HHH 3:51.0; 2, SVV 3:52.0; 3, Lyra 3:57.2. **Result:** 1, HHH 101 pts.; 2, Lyra 54; 3, SVV 54.

Tuesday, 2nd September, v. D.O.S., of Rotterdam at Rotterdam. **100m:** 1, Gibbs (HHH) 10.9; 2, Aret (DOS) 11.1; **200m:** 1, Gibbs 21.8; 2, Aret 22.6; **400m:** 1, Steward (HHH) 51.6; 2, Richards (HHH) 52.3; **800m:** 1, Boyd (HHH) 1:56.0; 2, Bridge (HHH) 1:56.2; **1,500m:** 1, Knop (DOS) 4:07.0; 2, Groen (DOS); 4:10.2; 3, Fowle (HHH) 4:16.0; **3,000m:** 1, Maynard (HHH) 8:44.0; 2, Kerridge (HHH) 8:56.2; **Wt:** 1, Knop (DOS) 36'1"; 2, Hal (DOS) 33'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 3, Ramsden (HHH) 33'4"; **Jav:** 1, Diessen (DOS) 150'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Pickering (HHH) 146'9"; **Dis:** 1, Levy (DOS) 107'2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Ramsden (HHH) 105'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; **LJ:** 1, Pickering (HHH) 20'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Jong (DOS) 17'

0"; **Relay (440x300x200x100m.)** : 1, HHH 2:03.7; 2, DOS 2:04.6. **Result:** 1, HHH 59 pts.; 2, DOS 45 pts.

Thursday, 4th September, v. Combined Clubs of Leiden and District at Leiden. **100m:** 1, Gibbs (HHH) 11.1; 2, Beers (LC) 11.3; **200m:** 1, Gibbs (HHH) 22.4; 2, Grep (LC) 22.8; **400m:** 1, Venetien (LC) 53.1; 2, Tas (LC) 53.2; 3, Steward (HHH) 53.3; **800m:** 1, Boyd (HHH) 2:03.6; 2, Towl (HHH) 2:07.8; **1,500m:** 1, Bridge and Maynard (HHH) equal 4:11.8; **3,000m:** 1, Kerridge (HHH) 9:12.4; 2, Kilby (HHH) 9:20.4; **400m. Relay:** 1, HHH 45.3; 2, LC 'A' 45.6; **LJ:** 1, Pickering (HHH) 20'8"; 2, Es (LC) 18'11"; **Dis:** 1, Ramsden (HHH) 112'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 2, Gieske (LC) 108'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". **Result:** 1, HHH 61 pts.; 2, Leiden Combined 35 pts.

WOMEN'S

September 13th

Phoenix A.C. Pentathlon Championship at Ladywell. 1 M. Theakstone 2,076 pts.; 2, M. Mathews 1,886; 3 P. Griffiths 1,759. **Junior Tricathlon Championship:** 1 P. Delamare 1,586 pts; 2, M. Stringer 1,425; 3, J. Kingdon 1,395.

SCHOOLS A.A. NOTES

THE annual revision of "Standards" for the 1953 S.A.A. Tables to be published on January 1st, reveals the fact that we are reaching more or less static figures in most events and that these figures bear a definite relationship to the Junior Standards of the A.A.A. The figures for some of the field events, as would be expected are still fluid, but time will obviously solve this problem.

Adjustment this time is called for throughout the boy's weight where the general tendency is upwards and both Javelin and Discus for girls will probably be slightly upgraded. The High Jump in the Senior girls' division is still a problem for the figures definitely indicate that the ability to jump better at the higher age is not upheld. In an all-age competition for girls the prize would probably go to a junior entrant.

Standards for the Pole Vault, a new event in the 1953 Championships, and graduated tables will be published as tentative figures for experiment and observation.

The question of "numbering" which has caused some serious headaches for the officials this year has been keenly discussed and steps are to be taken to put this matter right in the schools

where, from the early stages, more onus is placed on the competitor. E.C.

E.C.C. UNION A.G.M. (contd.)

the Cross-Country season.

The Eastern Counties will, in future, take their turn in staging the English Championships and will stage the 1955 races.

This season's Championships will be held at Caversham, Reading, on March 7th, with Mr. F. E. P. Orton (Reading A.C.) as the Championships Hon. Secretary. The International race will be held at Vincennes Racecourse, Paris, on March 21st. From 1954 onwards this race will revert to the fourth Saturday in March and the English Championship will then be held on the second Saturday in March, as before.

Race Walking

By F. W. BLACKMORE

THE inclusion of an attempt on the World's 5 miles walking record as a special event at the London-Paris-Brussels floodlit meeting was a real service to "big" track walking (under a cloud since Helsinki, and regrettably omitted from the France-Great Britain match in Paris, after long negotiation and several really stimulating contests in this match had justified it as a permanent fixture) and an opportunity for R. Hardy, the present record holder, to wipe out the Helsinki blemish by improving on his existing record under the customary severe scrutiny of our foremost judges.

Unfortunately, there were only four of the latter — insufficient for so important an event. Equally unfortunate was the lack of sufficient competitors near to Hardy's class to prevent it being other than a time-trial as far as he was concerned; he had to race against himself and the relentless watches. Worst of all, of course, were the appalling weather conditions, a cold night, and teeming rain. Although other world records were equalled or excelled in somewhat similar conditions (although by no means as bad as during the walk) there was really no hope from the start that Hardy had a chance to better his own figures over the distance of 5 miles.

Then, to crown a truly dismal affair, he was disqualified.

From this point of view, considering certain possible repercussions, it were better that the event had never been

staged in such a sad chapter of circumstances.

However, it afforded G. W. Coleman, Highgate Harriers, our fifth in the Helsinki 10,000 metres, the opportunity to win with a really fighting performance after he had got the better of several duels with B. Hawkins, Metropolitan W.C. I particularly appreciated the tactics by which he finally passed his unyielding opponent. With the last of several attempts to go by, he "sold the dummy" of appearing to give it up, and then, in the brief breathing space, going by at a furious pace. More than twenty years ago, I worked the same one on a fellow judge officiating at last week's Meeting. It made the difference between a canteen of cutlery—and nothing!

R.W.A. Annual General Meeting

Affairs of the R.W.A. should be in good hands for 1952-53 with G. R. Goodwin (2nd in Olympic 10000 metres 1924) installed as President, Harold Whitlock (Olympic champion 1936) continuing as Hon. Secretary A. A. Harley, the retiring President, now reverting to single office as Hon. Treasurer, and G. G. Swan still Championships Hon. Secretary.

Elected Life Members were R. C. Mawbey, for many years the driving force of the valuable Judges' sub-Committee, together with the writer of these notes.

An annual report recording much useful development, led to various propositions designed to secure further progress.

ATHLETES NEED

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