



# Blackheath & Bromley Courier

May 2020.

President 2020-21. Nic Corry.

Editor. Pat Calnan ([p.calnan@btinternet.com](mailto:p.calnan@btinternet.com))

Where we are at.

Clubhouse closed until further notice.

Athletics in England suspended until at least 30th of June. There is a possibility of some League competition starting at the end of July but nothing definite.

Norman Park track closed until further notice. Track car park being used for pre booked Covid Testing from 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Not much we can do about the above.

President's news takes place on the Club's Facebook page each Wednesday at 8pm.

New on Instagram on Sunday at 6pm BBHARRIERSAC Live

Quiz.

Answers to last months quiz.

B&B at the European Under 23 Track and Field Championships.

1. Which Club member won the mens 200 metres at the inaugural Championships in 1997? Julian Golding
2. Who is the only Club member to have competed in a mens field event? Emeka Udechuku 1999.
3. The Club has only ever had one female medallist at these championships. Name her and the event. Montell Douglas silver in the 100 metres, 2007.
4. Who competed twice at these Championships and is now ranked second on the UK all time list for their event? Lorraine Ugen, long jump.
5. The Club has had three winners of the mens 100 metres. Name them. Adam Gemili 2013, James Alaka 2011, Jonathan Barbour 2001.
6. Name the two Club members who competed at these Championships in 2019. Will Fuller and Divine Oladipo.
7. Which future Olympian competed at the 2005 Championships? Scott Overall.
8. Three Club members have won gold medals as part of the mens 4x100 teams. (Only one of them is an answer to questions 1 and 5). Name them. Julian Golding 1997, Mark Findlay 1999, Dwayne Grant 2003.
9. Who is the only Club member to have won two individual medals at these Championships? James Alaka 100 gold and 200 silver in 2011.
10. How many first claim members have competed at these Championships since 1997? 12.

Quiz on the European Indoor Championships. Answers next month.

1. The Club had two medallists at the 2015 Championships in Prague. Can you name them and their events?
2. The First European Indoor Championships took place in 1970. Which Club member competed?
3. Which first claim member competed in the 2019 Championships in Glasgow?
4. Who won bronze in the 200 in 2000?
5. Only one male and one female thrower from the Club has competed in these championships. Can you name them?
6. Only one Club member (second claim, previously first claim) has won gold in these Championships, setting a World Best in the process. Can you name them?
7. Which two future Olympians competed at the Championships in 2007.
8. Two Club members have competed at these Championships on three occasions. Can you name them?
9. Which two of the following have competed at these Championships? Phil Sesemann, Joyce Oladapo, Jennifer Stoute, Michael Skinner, Akinola "Lash" Lashore, Mohammed Sillah Freckleton, Liz Hughes, Gillian Stacey.

## Social Events

No events coming up so, as we won't be having any VE Day 75 year celebrations at the Clubhouse (maybe V-J Day later this year), here's a taste of the 50 year celebrations.





### 100 years ago in April 1920

The Blackheath Harriers "Reunion Dinner" takes place at Holborn Restaurant. "Proceedings commenced at the "bar" where all and sundry greeted each other, many after long years of absence and "perilous journeyings"..... Our Chairman opened the ball by giving "The King" followed by a quiet tribute to "Our Men," Crafter merely mentioning the fact that it would be their wish that we should receive this toast in happiness and pride, knowing full well that they have won the Victor's Crown." A three hour time limit on proceedings is unpopular, however, "we had a glorious reunion whilst it lasted".

### 75 years ago in April 1945

After a ten month break, Sydney Wooderson returns to racing taking part in a couple of relay races.

"The good news has reached us that C A Kidd who had been missing from air operations on August 14 in the Far East, was released when Rangoon was captured"

\* \* \*

S. D. GITTINGS had some exciting experiences getting out of Germany. He arrived back in this country on Good Friday, and in a letter to the Treasurer he says: "I was able to make my escape from the line of march when the Germans were attempting to evacuate Upper Silesia in the face of the rapid Russian advance. They moved us from our working camp E72 on Monday, January 22, telling us only that we would be marching for four days, and we saw that their intentions were to get us through a gap before the Russian pincer closed and made evacuation impossible. They headed us for Ratibor, which is on the Oder, but on the Tuesday evening having marched 24 hours I took the opportunity of escaping from the line. With a friend we hid in a farm, taking particular care not to be observed as there were a company of S.S. troops in the next village. With the small amount of food-stuff we had with us we were able to carry on until the Russians appeared in the village on Friday, January 26. We then made our own way back into Poland where we were finally assembled at Cracow. From there, taking 8 days, we travelled by rail to Odessa, and thence by sea arriving in England on March 30."

Gittings is looking forward to meeting his pals in the Club again, particularly any other returned P.O.W's, and would like to have news of his old friend Laurie Hammill. He mentioned also what a god-send the cigarette parcels were to him, although a non-smoker, and says, "I may truthfully say that my ability to keep myself so wonderfully fit rested in no small way on the cigarettes I received from the Club. With them I was able to purchase food."

*Saturday, April 21, 1945.*

ANOTHER fine afternoon encouraged a good attendance of members.

Reed, Williams, Brooks, Mountford, Coldwell, Childs, Mann and Franklin, all went for runs over varying distances.

Our Services visitor to-day was Tapper who accompanied the Chief Trail Layer's pack on another "invitation" run. Further additions to the party this week were Taylor and Cockburn.

Holwood Park was the first objective, thence towards Farnborough, skirting Broom Bank and Farnborough Reservoir, where unsuccessful search was made for objects marked on the map as "Stones." On the way to High Elms estate a small boy shouted "Is this a race?" The implications of this remark were not lost on the pack. Presently High Elms Farm was reached. Turning left we made our way into the depths of Cuckoo Wood, carpeted with bluebells, where Crafter showed us, at the roots of an old beech tree, a Dene Hole, a large chalk cave with tunnels apparently leading from it, an extraordinary sight. Turning again we made off in a direction north of Downe and were soon at Farthing Street. Returning again through Holwood Park, Syd Taylor drew attention to another phenomenon, an oak tree and a yew tree apparently growing from one trunk. Across Hayes Common and we were home again after yet another splendid run.

Tapper was the "distinguished guest" at supper and with him and the President were eight other members.

## 50 years ago in April 1970

The Club finish 8<sup>th</sup> in the Southern 12 stage road relay at Wimbledon Common and qualify for the National event. Fastest long leg is Bob Richardson while Nigel Bailey is quickest over the short stage. The squad miss the start at the National and set off five minutes behind. Fastest long leg is Ian Wilson with Peter Horwood the quickest short leg.

01.

*Saturday, 18th April, 1970.*

### **A.A.A. NATIONAL ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP, AT SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Due to late arrival the Club began some five minutes after the start.

**CLUB PERFORMANCES**—R. Hawtin, 35:42; P. Horwood, 15:36; C. Haines, 28:45; I. McIntyre, 16:25; I. Wilson, 27:40; N. Bailey, 16:12; J. Clare, 29:00; C. Woodcock, 16:40; J. Baldwin, 28:03; P. Shephard, 16:41; A. Mandeville, 28:25; J. Boswell, 16:23.

**TEAM RESULT**—1, Coventry Godiva H., 4:13.52; 21, Blackheath H., 4:35.32.

*Saturday, 25th April, 1970.*

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Although this was something of a nostalgic occasion for members signifying the end of an extremely eventful year, there was, unlike the meeting twelve months previously, an air of expectation regarding who would be filling the Presidential chair for the next eighteen months.

There were some forty members present when the Centenary President, Sydney Wooderson, opened the meeting and called upon Harold Thompson, as convenor of the Centenary Management Committee, to give a report on the centenary activities during the year. In his report, reproduced elsewhere in the *Gazette*, Harold Thompson gave, in his usual lucid style, a very comprehensive and interesting survey of the various events the Club had organised to commemorate the year.

In introducing his successor, Sydney Wooderson said no introduction was really necessary, perhaps it would suffice to say that he was well-known to cross-country runners over more than two decades for his handicapping acumen. Amidst enthusiastic applause the new President, George Brooks, received the badge of office and was installed in the Chair. In reply George Brooks spoke of the year of memories that had just ended, but said that that was all over and the Club must now look to the future. He appealed for the co-operation and assistance of all, particularly the younger members, reminding those present that the strength of the Club is in its members.

Dudley Child rose to express thanks to the immediate Past President and in reply Sydney Wooderson said that he had thoroughly enjoyed all the diverse activities during the past year.

Closing the meeting, the new President invited members to accompany him on a twilight walk to Hayes Common to inspect "our tree". Returning to the Club members sat down to an excellently prepared supper, rounded off with vintage (1945) Port.



## 25 years ago in April 1995.

Third in 1994, Blackheath Harriers win the National 12 stage in emphatic fashion. They take the lead on leg two and stay there. No Club has ever held the lead for that long. It is the fifth fastest in the history of the event and they may have gone faster had they been pushed. They finish nearly three minutes clear of runners up Bingley Harriers.



Legs 1 to 3. Phil Hogston, Steve Dodd and Tim Dickinson.



Legs 4 to 6. Alan Guilder, Darrell Smith and Simon Baines.



Legs 7 to 9. Dave Taylor, Mark Steinle and James Harrison.



Legs 10 to 12. Spencer Newport, Bill Foster and Dave Lee.

The Club qualify for the National 12 Stage by winning the Southern title by the smallest margin in History, just four seconds separates them and runners up Shaftesbury Barnet.  
 Bill Foster finishes 18<sup>th</sup> in the IAAF/RICOH World Marathon Cup in Athens. He is part of the Great Britain team who finish in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

James Harrison is the Club's first finisher at the London Marathon in 33<sup>rd</sup> place in a time of 2.21.30. This is his Maraton debut. Second is Alan Guilder in 2.24.41 with John Beck third in 2.36.44. Abdi Madar wins the mini marathon race for 11 to 13 year olds. The Club's runners are raising funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Emeka Udechuku breaks the UK Under 17 discus record with a throw of 57.18.

Steve Holmes finishes second in the Schools Home Countries Cross Country International at Dungarven, County Waterford.

The Blackheath under 15s team of David Farnham, John Baker, David Baker and Steve Holmes win bronze medals at the National Young Athletes road relays at Sutton Coldfield. Holmes runs the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest leg of the day. The under 13 boys are 5<sup>th</sup> with Abdi Madar third quickest of the day.

The Club win the first National Junior Athletics League match of the season at Norman Park, defeating Birchfield, Telford, Gateshead, Peterborough and Middlesbrough. There are A string wins for Mark Findlay (100 and long jump), Marvin Bramble (triple jump), Emeka Udechuku (shot and discus) and Andrew Benn (hammer and javelin).

The Youngsters win their opening McDonalds Young Athletes League match at Deangate.

Steve Harrison wins the javelin at the British Universities Championships in Edinburgh.

A team of Bob Minting, Doug Cocker, Ken Daniel, Peter Irvine, Richard Coe and Dennis Wallington win the veterans race at the Ostend Relays. They lead from start to the finish where they are over 50 metres clear.

Bromley Ladies win the opening Kent Womens League match of the season at Norman Park. Star performer is Uju Efobi who wins the senior 100, shot, discus and javelin.

### **20 years ago in April 2000.**

Mark Steinle is first Briton home in the London Marathon in 11<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 2.11.18, well inside the Great Britain Olympic qualifying time of 2.14.00. It gains him automatic selection for the Games in Sydney. He also wins the AAAs title which is incorporated in the race and his time is a new Club record. The Club finish third in the AAAs team race with Dave Taylor, Nick Kinsey and Richard Parrott completing the scoring quartet. The Club's runners are raising funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Bromley AC'S Ella Fisher wins the 11-12 year olds race in the Mini Marathon.

Emeka Udechuku breaks the 30 year old Championship best for the discus at the British Students Championships at Stoke On Trent with a distance of 56.83. He also wins the shot with a throw of 17.43. It's gold to for Lash Lashore who wins the 100 in 10.38. He is also third in the 200.

The Senior Men finish 14<sup>th</sup> in the National 12 stage relay at Sutton Park, having qualified with an eighth place at the Southern Championships.

The Senior men finish third in the Ostend Relays in Belgium with the veterans team fifth.

The men win the opening match in the Kent Vets League. The youngsters win the Parkinson Trophy Meeting.

Blackheath women win their opening Southern Womens League Div 3 match at St Albans.

### **15 years ago in April 2005**

The under 13 girls team of Amy De Matos, Danielle Critchley and Rebecca Smith win the Nike Young Athletes relays at Sutton Coldfield.



The Senior Men finish 13th in the National 12 stage road relay.

Dave Taylor finishes 18<sup>th</sup> in the London Marathon in 2.18.47 at the age of 41. He is the first over 40 to finish. Second home for the Club is Nick Kinsey with Rob Hall third. First woman home is Annie McDonough in 3.30.21 with Nicole Sullivan second and Sally Herd third. The Club's runners are raising money for the Evalina Children's Heart Organisation (ECHO).



In the mini marathon, Danielle Critchley is second in the 11-12 year olds race with Phil Sesemann third for the boys. The junior women win their opening Southern Premier match defeating reigning national champions Woodford Green. Christine Lawrence breaks both the junior and senior javelin records; and there are also Club Records in the 4x100 (Kara Graham, Serita Solomon, Amy Godsell and Montell Douglas) and 4x400 (Kara Graham, Vanessa Nakangu, Ella Fisher and Katie Murray). The men are third in their match just six points of winning. This is good news with the League going joint scoring in 2006.

The Club wins the Alpha Beta Trophy Meeting at Haringey.

The Senior men qualify for the National 12 stage by finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the Southern event at Milton Keynes. The women finish 18<sup>th</sup> in their 6 stage race.

### 10 years ago in April 2010

Alex Gibbins is the Club's first finisher in the London Marathon in 110<sup>th</sup> in 2.36.00. Nick Kinsey is second and Richard Hall third. First woman is Julie Reynolds with Kate Pratten second and Angela Cook third.



And from the mini marathon



The Senior men win the Kinnaird Trophy.  
Mark Steinle marries Gemma Viney.



Highlight of the first Kent Young Athletes League match of the season was a double victory for Dina Asher Smith in the under 15 girls 100 and 200.

