



# Blackheath & Bromley Courier

February 2021.

President 2020-21. Nic Corry.

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# CLUB OF THE YEAR

Not a bad way to start 2021 as we are named England Athletics Club Of The Year. I must admit that with the current pandemic, I have lost track of what precise twelve month period the award was for, (it doesn't matter), but it is testament to the Club's ability to deliver year on year for athletes and members of all ages and abilities. It is thoroughly deserved and a cause for celebration. Congratulations to us and thank you to all who made it happen!

We know what it is like to finish second in this category so well done to West Cheshire who were runners up and who are clearly doing some great work in the North West, aided by one of our former members Graham Patterson, who is an endurance coach at the club.

The EA Award ceremony also rewarded Michael Skinner's former coach Conrad Milton who received the Dave Sunderland Coaching Award in recognition of his 57 years of coaching. Among the athletes he has coached are former European Cross Country Champion Hayley Yelling and Mo Farah in his younger days. Some will remember Conrad visiting the Club a few years ago to host a cross country coaching clinic for our athletes.

Time was taken to remember those who passed away over the last year and along with names we have already recorded was one of our former members Jack Miller, who for some years was Chairman of the British Athletics Supporters Club. Jack was a great friend of Past President Graham Botley and through him joined the Club. Although he did go on an officials course, he did not have much of a chance to use his qualification or get involved in Club life, as he was always off around the world supporting athletes at major championships. Rest in peace Jack.

We were also greatly saddened to hear of the death of Lloyd Cowan who has coached some of our athletes over the years including Club record holders Ethan Brown, Serita Solomon and Mohammed Sillah Freckleton. Rest in peace.

**Results!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** (\* = 2<sup>nd</sup> claim)

**16/1/21**

**Ted Nelson Invitational, College Station, Tx, USA. Men.** 3000. 8. Lewis Mills 8.45.04. **Women.** 60. 1. Immanuela Aliu 7.40. Ht1. 1. Immanuela Aliu 7.38.

**UM B1G Simmons Harvey Invitational, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. Women.** 200. 1. Marcia Sey 24.57. 60H. 2. Marcia Sey 8.39. Ht1. 2. Marcia Sey 8.42.

**23/1/21**

**Aggie Invitational, College Station, Tx, USA.** 60. Ht3. 1. Immanuela Aliu 7.43.

**Penn State Invitational, University Park, PA, USA.** 60. 5. Marcia Sey 7.71. Ht1. 1. Marcia Sey 7.68. 60H. 2. Marcia Sey 8.40. Ht2. 1. Marcia Sey 8.49. SP. 2. Divine Oladipo 16.05.

**24/1/21**

**American Track League, Fayetteville, AR, USA.** 60. Ht2. 7. Adam Gemili 6.81.

**29/1/21**

**World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold, Karlsruhe, GER.** 60. 1. Dina Asher Smith 7.08. Ht2. 1. Dina Asher Smith 7.11.

**H-Town Speed City Series 11 (Women), Houston, Tx, USA.** 60. Ht2. 4. Funminiyi Olajide\* 7.74. LJ. 1. Funminiyi Olajide\* 6.17.

**Louisiana State Invitational, Baton Rouge, LA, USA.** 60. 2. Amber Anning\* 7.51. Ht1. 2. Amber Anning\* 7.55.

**29-30/1/21**

**Texas Tech Invitational and Multis, Lubbock, Texas, USA. Men.** 200. Ht3. 1. Ethan Brown 21.90. 400. Ht3. 1. Ethan Brown 46.69. **Women.** 60. 2. Immanuela Aliu 7.39. Ht3. 1. Immanuela Aliu 7.42. 200. Ht2. Immanuela Aliu 23.78.

**31/1/21**

**ISTAF Indoor Dusseldorf, Germany.** 60. 1. Dina Asher Smith 7.12. Ht2. 1. Dina Asher Smith 7.15.

**Meeting Aura No5 – Athletes sur Listes Ministerielles, Lyons, France.** TJ. 1. Zara Asante 11.93.

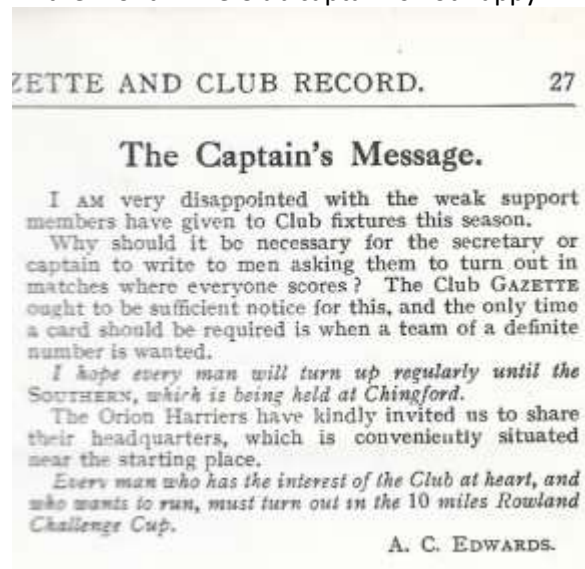
### **EA Virtual Road Relay**

The Club have qualified for the National Round having finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the first round. Our team was Charlie Davis 24.25, Ross Braden 24.37, Martin Richardson 27.33, Angus Harrington 27.57, Ellie Osmond 31.00, Jessica Keene 31.12, Zoe White 31.18, Lily Meers 32.53. The National round takes place between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **100 years ago in January 1921**

The Club lose the tenth Mob Match against Ranelagh at Putney fielding 40 runners to the hosts 56. Since the first race in 1907 each Club has had five victories. "After the race an adjournment was made to the Fox and Hounds, where about a hundred representatives of the respective clubs sat down to dinner."

An away defeat to Orion follows later in the month. The Club captain is not happy.



But there is victory in the whist match against Bellingham Golf Club.

The Annual Dance takes place at the Midland Grand Hotel. "Some 170 members and faire ladyes attended"

### **75 years ago in January 1946.**

Blackheath win the Senior Mens team race at the Kent Cross Country Championships at Dartford..."the most brilliant team success since January 1930.... The running of G. F. Brooks, (who finishes 9<sup>th</sup>), calls for special comment. It was a remarkable performance for a runner now in his early forties. I can only say with the poet of antiquity, "I do not envy, rather I marvel"". H H Nunns claims the individual title and Dudley Child the Junior title. Of Child, the Gazette observes "Nature has endowed him with the hips of a quarter-miler and the thews of an Alpinist".

"The seventh and possibly last of the austerity Mob Matches resulted in another victory for the Club against the combined forces of SLH, Orion and Ranelagh." Nunns wins again.

### **50 years ago in January 1971**

At the National Indoor Championships at Cosford, Wigmore Ladies second claim member Margaret Beacham wins the 1500 in a World Indoor Best of 4.20.5. (Margaret Moir joined Wigmore Harriers in the early 1960s as a sprint hurdler but her coach George Stratford felt she was better suited to middle distance). Tony Wadhams wins the triple jump and John Watts the shot. Graham Gower is second in the 60 metre hurdles.

Blackheath win the Senior Mens race at the Kent Cross Country Championships at Maidstone. "The team was led in by Richardson evidencing something of his old form, and was well backed up by the others with near veteran Baldwin completing the scoring six." Richard Coles wins the boys race.

Individual success at the Kents and consequent selection for the Inter Counties denies the Club of half a dozen runners for the mob match against Ranelagh. The race at Hayes results in victory for the visitors.

Bob Richardson wins the Club 10 though he and runner up Ian Wilson take a wrong turning at halfway and run a shortened course. "Despite the first two runners taking a short course it was decided to let the championship stand...The handicap was won by Wally Hill from Ted Pepper with Dudley Child gaining yet another bronze spoon"

### **25 years ago in January 1996.**

Tim Dickinson finishes in 3rd place at the Inter County Cross Country Championships at Luton. Gemma Viney is second in the under 13 girls race, her first defeat of the Winter. Will Bolton is 4th in the under 13 boy race, one place behind Mo Farah, with Matt Hill 8th as Kent place 3rd.

At the South of England indoor champs at Horsham Emeka Udechuku (15.42) and Adrian Cluskey (14.00) win the under 20 and under 17 mens shot titles. Aaron Harris wins the under 17s 60 metre title at Crystal Palace. At Haringey, Marvin Bramble wins the under 20 mens triple jump with 14.37 and Peter Francis the under 17s with 13.16.

Bromley Ladies Debbie Marti is 4th in the high jump in the GB v Russia International in Birmingham.

Scoring 52 runners a side Blackheath defeat Ranelagh in the Mob Match against Petersham. Making a rare appearance on the country, Dave Heath is the individual winner.

An outstanding day for Blackheath at the Southern Cross Country Championship at Parliament Hill. Not only do they win the senior mens title for the fourth successive year but they also provide the individual winner in Tim Dickinson. Spencer Newport is 3rd, Mark Steinle 13th, Darrell Smith 18th, Paddy Brice 33rd and Phil Hogston 45th. They also win the under 15 and under 13 boys team races and are fourth in the under 17s and sixth in the under 20s. Furthermore, Gemma Viney wins the under 13 girls race. There is plenty to celebrate back at the clubhouse in the evening.

In the under 13 boys Matt Hill is second with Will Bolton fourth. Between them is Mo Farah in third.



*Matt Hill tracks the leaders Mo Farah (87) is just behind.*





*Winning team. Smith, Steinle, Newport, Brice, not Hogston (or is it?) and Dickinson.*



*Gemma on her way to victory and .Gemma and Tim at the Clubhouse in the evening.(Bonus ball was 28)*

The Blackheath Young Athletes coaching scheme signs a sponsorship deal with Survey Express Services. The £1500 deal is being matched pound for pound by Sportsmatch. The scheme operates on Wednesdays at Norman Park and Monday at Crystal Palace.

Past President Don Gillate gives his take on the Membership figures in the January Courier.

**LETTER to the EDITOR**

*Dear Editor,* Your words of Editorial wisdom under "Fellow Members" in the January Courier struck a chord and I dare to offer comfort thus:

1. Older members will possibly regard restoration of membership towards manageable numbers as Good News. If Big was necessarily Beautiful no other Commonwealth countries would hand England such a consistent caning at cricket, Kenya see the rest of the world off so convincingly at distance running or New Zealand dominate Rugby and snaffle the Americas Cup. They would recall that when membership floated between 550 and 750, the Club was generally a more chummily personal place (well, they would wouldn't they?) because everyone had a sporting chance of knowing everyone else. For them the development of road and marathon running and of unisex status during the past 15 years has seemed to render management increasingly unwieldy and expensive, and members increasingly anonymous. It has further confused the Club into believing that we should enter every event in sight whether we could afford it or not, so that if a Running Backwards London-to-Brighton Race were sponsored tomorrow there would be heavy pressure to enter a team or perish. Incidentally, it is worth noting that our current athletic successes are in our traditional activities, upon which the least money is spent, and that it is not they that have caused financial difficulties.

2. Associate Membership has always been vague and in the circumstances surrounding its birth could hardly be otherwise. At the AGM where it was born questions were asked as to what its rights and functions were to be but answer came there none. We were told that we must hurry it on to the statute book first and worry about that afterwards. However, its initial conception is fairly reliably traceable to the Young Athletes' track. It was argued that parents who were prepared to watch their children perform there might be further persuaded to pay £10 p.a for the privilege of wielding sand rakes and hurdles in support. It was hoped thus to create at a stroke both a money-spinner and an inexpensive labour force but it is not clear whether serious thought was entertained that enthusiasm for associate membership might rarely outlast the youngsters' interest in athletics. However, any punter betting that for the vast majority of young girls in particular that interest will not outlive their teens is on a likely winner and nobody is going to keep up a membership of which they have tired just to damn that punter with artificial statistics.

Yours 'heathenly, Don Gillate

**20 years ago in January 2001.**

Michael Skinner is second in the 1500 metres at the AAA's Indoor and World trials, just one hundredth of a second behind the winner. Eighteen year old Mark Awanah is third in the long jump.

At the Southern Cross Country Championships Dan Ayrtton is third in the under 20 mens race.

At the Southern indoor Championships there are wins for Mohammed Sillah Freckleton in the Senior mens 60 metre hurdles and for Katy Porter in the under 20 womens 60 hurdles. Tom Robinson is third in the under 17 mens pole vault.

Bromley Ladies' Layla Hawkins wins the South of England under 15 girls pentathlon title. Liz Hughes wins the Senior Womens pole vault title with a clearance of 3.70.

Dave Taylor wins the Surrey Cross Country Championships. At the Kents, Rebecca Taylor wins the under 13 girls race despite having two further years in the age group. With Aimee Boyle and Bryony Proctor, Blackheath win team gold. In 16<sup>th</sup> place Emily Godley continues her journey to 2018 Commonwealth Games Weightlifting gold.



Emily Godley. John and Margaret Baldwin, Tony Weeks Pearson, Chris Haines and Brian Boulton, a wealth of experience supporting the troops.



### 15 years ago in January 2006

Michael Skinner is 2nd in the short course race at the Great Edinburgh International. Scott Overall is 5th and Andy Rayner 12th. Later in the month Michael, represents a Commonwealth Select at the Norwich union International at Kelvin Hall finishing third in the 1500 metres. James Alaka is third in an Invitation 60 metres for under 17s.

Two British records in a minute at the South Of England Championships at Brunel. Serita Solomon, still an under 17 wins the Under 20 60 metre hurdles title. This is the fastest over the 2.9' by a 15 or 16 year old. Almost immediately Allan Williams sets an over 50s record of 4.20 for the pole vault. Alex AlAmeen wins the under 20 mens 60 metre hurdles.



*Allan Williams sets a British record in the vault and future British 100 metre record holder Montell Douglas is third in the 60m*



*All golds. Serita Solomon, Alex AlAmeen (flanked by Jade Castell Thomas and Anike Shand Whittingham) and Allan Williams.*

Three sets of medals at the South Of England Championships at Exeter. Under 15 girls Bronze (Amy Smith, Amy DeMatos, Rebecca Smith, Catherine Chambers). Under 13 girls silver (Michelle Fewster, Danielle Critchley, Sophie Gordon, Emma Hook). Under 20 men, bronze (James Poole, Andrew Conway, Richard Daniel, Dale Willis)

Amy Smith retains her Kent Under 15 cross country title and leads the team to victory. Gold also for the under 17 men and women.

## 10 years ago in January 2011

Scott Overall represents Great Britain at the BUPA Edinburgh International at Holyrood Park against the USA and Europe Combined. Michael Skinner is 8<sup>th</sup> in the short course race.

Club members win six gold medals at the South Of England Indoor Championships. Tremayne Gilling (senior mens 60 metres), Shaunagh Brown ( Senior Womens Shot), Liz Hughes ( Senior Womens Pole vault, 10 years after she last won it), Jonathan Ilori (U20 Mens triple jump), Rachel Dickens (U17W 200), Anton Daly (U17M 60). Dina Asher Smith wins silver in the under 17 womens 60 metres in her first year in the age group.

Serita Solomon represents England in the 60 metre hurdles at a meeting in Bratislava while Jonathan Ilori is part of the England under 20 team who compete in the Celtic Cup in Cardiff. Michael Skinner is a member of an England team who compete in the UK Cross Challenge meeting in Antrim.

At the London Indoor Games Dina Asher Smith runs the fastest time in the country by an under 17 so far this year over 200 metres.

Alex Bruce Littlewood is the highest placed Club member in any age group at the Southern Championships at Parliament Hill. He is 21<sup>st</sup> in the Senior Mens race.



The Senior Women win the 3 and 6 to score races at the Kent Cross Country Championships at Wilmington.



*Four of the six, Fran Green, Shavaun Henry, Bryony Proctor, Jane Bradshaw.*

Gold too for the under 15 girls and under 13 girls.



As Graham Patterson was mentioned at the start of this edition, it felt only right to include a picture. Taken at the 25x1 mile relay at Crystal Palace in 1986, here are some of the team.



**Standing.** Stan Ridgewell, Neil Colvin, the late Paul Betts, Steve FitzCosta (now retired and running for Halifax Harriers), Jim Phelan, Pete Davis (where is he now?), Nigel Keogh (Irish International 400 hurdler), Tim Foulger (former UK record holder for the high jump with 2.18). **Front.** Graham Patterson, Pete Barlow, Alan Tilley (short time editor of the Courier).

**Montell is a Master!** Hard to believe Montell Douglas turned 35 in January. Below, back in 2008 the British 100 metre record holder presents an award to her future successor.

