



Blackheath & Bromley Courier

March 2021.

President 2020-21. Nic Corry.

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Congratulations to Phil Sesemann who has been selected to compete for Great Britain in the 3000 metres at the European Indoor Championships between the 4th and 7th of March in Torun, Poland. It's always good to see athletes who have been with the Club since they were under 13s progressing all the way through to Senior international level.



He will be joined there by Mark Purser who has been appointed one of the starting team for these championships. Again it is always good to see former athletes putting their time back into the Sport.



Forthcoming events.

Keep an eye on the website for news on future competitions, the provisional Summer fixture list is constantly changing. The Wednesday Nighter's Lockdown Challenge continues and the AGM is scheduled for the 27th of March.

Bobsleigh news!

Two of the Club's top sprinters of recent times have been in action for Great Britain in February at Bobsleigh. Tremayne Gilling, who won the 100 metres at the England Championships in 2010, teamed up with Joel Fearon, Ben Simons and Lamin Deen, as the GB 4 man bobsleigh team finished 12th in the World Champs at Altenburg in Germany. Former British record holder for the 100 metres, Montell Douglas competed with Mica McNeill in the 2 woman bobsleigh finishing in 19th position.

Also taking a break from their running, Amelia Middleton and Lily Meers took time out to walk a marathon, and raised £809 for the Mind Charity. Good work, well done!



Results

6/2/21

Charlie Thomas Invitational, Bryan College Station, Tx, USA. 60. 6. Immanuela Aliu 7.45. Ht2. 2. Immanuela Aliu 7.44. 200. R5. 1. Immanuela Aliu 23.89. 400. R4. 3. Amber Anning* 53.10.

Hoosier Hills Invitational, Bloomington IN, USA. 60H. 3. Marcia Sey 8.62. Ht1. 2. Marcia Sey 8.65. SP. 5. Divine Oladipo 15.97.

12-13/2/21

Big Ten Invitational, Geneva OH, USA. SP. 4. Divine Oladipo 15.81.

Tyson Invitational, Fayetteville AR, USA. 60. 8. Immanuela Aliu 7.54. Ht1. 3. Immanuela Aliu 7.40. 200. R1. 1. Amber Anning* 24.14. R4. 2. Immanuela Aliu 23.86. 400. 2. Amber Anning* 52.89.

13/2/21

Loughborough Indoors Elite Track. 60H. R1. 2. Ethan Akanni* 7.85. R2. 1. Ethan Akanni* 7.78.

Bryggen Sports Invitational, Manchester. 800. 5. Alex Botterill* 1.53.52. 3000. 1. Phil Sesemann* 7.51.27.

H-Town Speed City Series. LJ. 1. Funminiyi Olajide* 6.16.

14/2/21

Loughborough Indoors Elite Field. HJ. 3. Kelechi Aguocha 2.12. TJ. Mx. 2. Jahisha Thomas 12.89.

19/2/21

UM B1G Silverston Invitational, Ann Arbor MI, USA. 200. 2. Marcia Sey 25.14. 60H. 1. Marcia Sey 8.41. Ht2. 1. Marcia Sey 8.51.

19-20/2/21

Heart Of America Conference Championship, Maryville MO, USA. 60. 1. Elizabeth Ibidunni 7.82. Ht1. 1. Elizabeth Ibidunni 7.89.

20/2/21

British Athletics European Indoor Selection Trials, Lee Valley. Men. 60H. R1. 2. Ethan Akanni* 7.81. R2. 2. Ethan Akanni* 7.78. **Women.** LJ. 4. Jahisha Thomas 6.12. TJ. 1. Jahisha Thomas 12.93.

20-21/2/21

British Athletics European Indoor Selection Trials, Manchester. 800. 3. Alex Botterill* 1.51.51. 3000. 3. Phil Sesemann 7.57.22.

21/2/21

British Athletics European Indoor Selection Trials, Loughborough. HJ. 5. Kelechi Aguocha 2.04.

25-27/2/21

ACC Championships, Clemson SC. HJ. 4. Rebecca Hawkins* 1.73.

Southeastern Conference Championships, Fayetteville, AR. 60. 8. Immanuela Aliu 7.49. Ht3. 3. Immanuela Aliu 7.38. 200. Ht2. Immanuela Aliu 23.45. 400. 2. Amber Anning* 52.27. Ht3. 2. Amber Anning* 52.33.

Big Ten Conference Championships, Geneva OH. 60. Ht2. 4. Marcia Sey 7.59. 200. Ht2. 2. Marcia Sey 24.44. 60H. 3. Marcia Sey 8.27. HT2. 1. Marcia Sey 8.42. SP. 4. Divine Oladipo 16.20.

26-27/2/21

Big 12 Championships, Lubbock, Texas. 400. 1. Ethan Brown 46.62. Ht2. 1. Ethan Brown 47.22.

Championship at the Park, Colorado Springs CO. LJ. NM. Funminiyi Olajide*.

28/2/21

Loughborough Elite Winter Throws. DT. 4. Zara Obamakinwa 46.55.

EA Virtual Road Relay, 10-22/2/21

20. Blackheath & Bromley 3.50.45. (Ross Braden 24.41, Charlie Davis 26.13, Roger Vilardell 26.32, Angus Harrington 26.42, Zoe White 31.11, Ellie Osmond 31.16, Lily Meers 31.35, Ailbhe Barnes 32.35). Four men and four women to score.

Other performances. Men. Oliver Bright 26.50, Martin Richardson 26.59, Mark Cage 27.53, Ian Firla 28.33, Luca Ercolani 29.01, Greg Firth 31.44, Richard Byford 31.49, Tim Ayres 33.03. Women. Jess Keene 33.10, Ashley Pearson 33.13, Jennie Butler 33.36.

How long will it be before there is a National road relay for men and women? Hopefully it would be an additional race rather than one which replaces an existing event.

Virtual Club 10. 28/2/21

1. Luca Ercolani 66.27 (h/cap 4), 2. Iam Firla 68.34 (5), 3. Martin Richardson 76.37 (8), 4. Micah Evans 77.47 (3), 5. Greg Firth 78.30 (7), 6. Matt Bullen 79.57 (6), 7. Fintan Parkinson 80.27 (10), 8. George Shaw 83.56 (9), 9. Roger Vilardell 84.26 (1), 10. David Leal 92.12 (2), 11. Nic Corry 102.46 (11), 12. Steve Pairman 105.20 (14), 13. Iain Swatton 66.02 (12), 14. Will Brindley 106.35 (13).

100 years ago in February 1921

At the Southern Cross Country Championships “Glorious weather prevailed at Chingford, and a great crowd of spectators assembled early; they were rewarded by the finest race for leading positions that has ever been seen in this event... After a false start – during which “Ratty” who had been giving the team a little advice from in front, found him suddenly entangled in a running horde – the entire field were recalled; and almost immediately a fresh signal was given....” The team finish 11th. “A highly successful and enjoyable evening ensued, unique in that SLH, Ranelagh and ourselves were the guests of the Orion H. at their headquarters the New Forest Hotel”

Twenty one members compete over the 10 mile course for the Rowland Cup. Winner is A C Edwards in 58.57, from A C Telfer in 60.36.

75 years ago in February 1946.

The first Southern Cross Country Championships takes place since before the 2nd World War at Wimbledon. "The Club team.. was in cheerful mood, and this was enhanced with the failure of the twelfth man to appear and the consequent appareling of the reserve, in the person of a singularly untrained cross country captain...Our position of fourth was most satisfactory and there seems every reason to hope that next year, over ten miles, we shall be placed. We also retained the Camden Cup with little difficulty... After the race a considerable body of 'Heathens repaired quietly to a local hostelry. Here they came upon an equally considerable, but far less quiet, body of Orion Harriers, and quite naturally something of a party ensued...We believe that some Orionites were trying to consume a pint of liquid for every year of their age. Thus notably, came to an end a notable occasion"

A special presentation is made to Sydney Wooderson to commemorate his new best of 4.04.2 faster than the World Record he set in 1937.

SYDNEY WOODERSON PRESENTATION

We have pleasure in giving below the wording of the Illuminated Address presented to our champion, S. C. Wooderson, on February 2, 1946, at Hayes, in the presence of a large gathering of members, and marking the occasion of the fastest mile of his brilliant career on the track. The address is beautifully executed on vellum and incorporates the Club badge and motto in the correct colours, the date of the Committee resolution, and Sydney's initials, incorporated in a border of oak leaves and acorns based on an original design by John Scott.

Tribute was paid to our champion by Past-President A. D. Thwaites, who made the presentation, and, needless to say, Wooderson received a great ovation.

PRESENTED TO SYDNEY CHARLES WOODERSON

by his Friends and Fellow Members of the Blackheath Harriers to place on record their admiration of his brilliant performance at Gothenburg on September 9, 1945, when he ran one mile in 4 minutes 4.2 seconds, a faster time than the World and British Record of 4 minutes 6.4 seconds which he established in 1937, and a feat unparalleled in the history of British Athletics.

It is also desired to express keen appreciation of the most valuable services rendered by him to the Club by his outstanding performances on the track since he became a Member in 1931.

By his running during these fourteen years, and by his conscientious training and personal character, he has not only earned fame for himself, but also enhanced the prestige of British Amateur Athletics throughout the World.

A. D. THWAITES,
President.

Club Headquarters,
Hayes,
Kent.

"J. H. Allanson is now home from the Far East... He sends us an interesting cutting from the Ceylon Daily News about the Club's presentation to S. C. Wooderson. The headline reads "British Runner Honoured – Blackheath's tribute to Wooderson," so we are not unknown out there". The Club 10 is also back and there is a win for Dick Choat.

Past Events

Saturday, February 9, 1946.

ROWLAND AND KING-MORRISON CHALLENGE CUP RACES.

We have always considered the Rowland Cup to be the most important and most sought after of our Cross-Country Cups. There is something about winning a ten-mile race which brings more gratification and satisfaction than is to be obtained from a shorter distance. The more so is this true over a course like ours which, if it does not contain all the plough the old stagers love to tell us of, can nevertheless be relied on to be thoroughly testing.

With these thoughts in view, it was gratifying to find an entry of 24—not so far off the number of some pre-war years. The course was in good condition and the weather fine, if dull. There had been a lot of rain earlier in the week, but our country had, as usual, dried off rapidly—due, no doubt, to the nature of our subsoil, but we won't go into that as it is a subject beloved and treated extensively heretofore by one of the most eminent of our correspondents.

The race started on the Common, and our first viewpoint was at the top of Fox Hill. Smith had evidently

ORDER OF FINISH.

ROWLAND CUP.

Place.	Name.	Time.	Start.	Handicap Time	Handicap Position
1.	R. R. Choat	61.40	0.15	61.55	5
2.	D. W. Smith	62.17	Scratch	62.17	11
3.	H. N. Nunn	61.27	Scratch	61.27	17
4.	A. C. J. Poole	65.29	2.45	62.84	12
5.	A. Dale	65.55	4.45	61.10	2
6.	D. E. Reynolds	66.02	3.15	62.47	14
7.	A. D. Kennedy	67.43	6.30	61.13	3
8.	W. F. Dew	68.28	6.15	62.13	10
9.	G. Ness	69.51	7.00	62.51	15
10.	D. J. Tingey	69.57	7.50	62.07	8
11.	R. H. Thompson	70.18	1.55	68.23	21
12.	A. N. Daniel	70.43	8.00	62.43	13
13.	C. G. Davies	72.34	8.30	64.04	19
14.	S. G. Twyford	72.44	10.45	61.59	7
15.	H. W. Coldwell	74.01	11.00	63.01	16
16.	L. G. Towers	74.35	13.30	61.05	1
17.	J. H. Rhodes	75.10	11.15	63.55	18
18.	H. J. J. Reed	75.10	13.00	62.10	9
19.	F. D. Holt	75.22	15.00	61.22	4
20.	A. G. V. Allen	76.24	12.00	64.24	20
21.	T. F. Mountford	77.45	9.00	68.45	23
22.	L. G. Toms	79.34	11.00	68.34	22
23.	V. M. Lake	80.10	7.50	72.20	24
24.	M. A. Walker	81.52	20.00	61.52	6

KING-MORRISON CUP.

Place.	Name.	Time.	Start.	Handicap Time	Handicap Position
1.	D. F. E. Hogg	39.06	0.30	39.36	2
2.	D. Holland	31.19	0.00	31.19	1
3.	J. Wiltshire	31.28	Scratch	31.28	3
4.	P. F. Mann	37.50	4.00	33.50	4

Descending the slope of the common towards the river

50 years ago in February 1971

Graham Gower and Tony Wadhams are selected to represent Great Britain in an indoor International against East Germany in Berlin. Graham is second in the 50 metre hurdles, Tony fourth in the triple jump. They follow this with a match against France at Cosford where Tony is first in the triple and Graham third in the 60 metre hurdles.

It is not a great day at the Southern Cross Country Championships at Parliament Hill. In fact “The less said about the Senior race the better... the Club could only manage eighth place compared to last year’s third place. Even Cambridge Harriers beat us! The day’s running over, an excellent meal was had by many who returned to the Clubhouse for the Southern Supper” At the Veterans Cross Country Championships at Hull, Albert Keepax is second in the over 60s race in 46.44. Blackheath win the final Kent League fixture of the season with a team of Bob Richardson, Chris Haines, Bob Hawtin and Peter Horwood, which helps them to a “face saving seventh” in the final league positions, “at least ahead of any second teams”.

25 years ago in February 1996.

Bromley Ladies’ Debbie Marti wins silver in the high jump at the AAAs Indoor Championships in Birmingham. Her 1.85 is the same as the winner but she misses out on countback. Later in the month she represents Great Britain in the indoor International match against France in Glasgow and clears 1.89 for victory.

Tim Dickinson wins the British Students Cross Country Championships at Wigmore Park, Luton, helping Loughborough to team gold. This secures selection for the British team for the World University Cross Country Championships in Portugal in March.

Blackheath’s Marvin Bramble wins the triple jump at the AAA’s Indoor Under 20 Championships in Birmingham with a leap of 15.04 and Bromley’s Liz Gibbens wins the womens event with a distance of 12.20. This secures them selection for a forthcoming International against France and Italy in Paris. Also chosen are Emeka Udechuku who was 2nd in the shot and Mark Findlay who is picked for the sprints squad. In the under 17s there are silvers for Adrian Cluskey (shot) and Peter Francis (triple jump). In the under 15s Dwayne Grant is third in the long jump.

Matthew Hill (U13s), Abdi Madar (U15s), Chris Moss (U17s), and John Marks (U20s) make it a clean sweep of victories in the final Kent Young Athletes League match at Sparrows Den.

Blackheath win ten gold medals at the Kent Indoor Championships at Crystal Palace.

The Club win the Centenary Mob Match against South London Harriers making it 43 victories each. 100 Club members start with scoring 83 a side.

Past President George Brooks dies. He had held numerous offices over the years. In 1987 he received a Bromley Sports Council Award for his “exceptional services to Athletics during a period in excess of 50 years. His work has made him almost indispensable to the Club and he is one of the rocks upon which Blackheath Harriers has been built, enabling it to reach such a status that it is an essential element of Sport in Bromley Borough and also highly respected throughout the Country”

From Athletics Weekly March 20th 1996

George Brooks of Blackheath Harriers died on February 5 aged 71. In his 60 or so years with the club, he was athlete, president and official. It is for his timekeeping that he will be best remembered in the latter years.

There are countless examples of George’s good deeds but I’d like to outline just one. I was team managing young athletes in the Herne Hill Cross Country League at Brockwell Park five or maybe six years ago.

The weather was appalling — cold and wet. Just before the first race George suddenly appeared.

He was not expected but had spent two hours travelling from West Wickham by bus. He then spent the afternoon officiating. I vowed to find him a lift home and in the post-race turmoil he slipped away unnoticed. I left the course distressed at the thought of him spending another two hours on the bus.

Fortunately George was spotted standing at a bus stop and we were able to persuade him to accept a lift.

How many 85-year-olds do you know who would willingly spend up to four hours travelling alone to stand on a cold, wet course timekeeping for youngsters they did not know?

George did not like fuss and therefore we should celebrate his life rather than mourn his passing.

If you have a George in your club, treasure him for his like cannot easily be replaced.

Maybe we should all aspire to be like George but few of us will ever have his commitment.

Although you may not reach his standard, just ask yourself — could I do just a bit more?

Forget international and professional athletics. Without people like George, this sport will die.

Simon Parsons

Pat Calnan wins the Club 10 Mile Cross Country Championship, ten years after his last victory in the event, preventing Mark Watling from a grand slam of Club titles. Mark has the consolation of writing it up for the Gazette.

It is a long time since anyone won all three Club cross country championships in the same season, and for the third time in five years, Mark Watling found out why. It isn't easy to be fit and well on three widely-spaced occasions through the winter, as well as persuade all the Club's more talented runners not to turn up. On this occasion, however, it was different, because it was one of the Club regulars, on course for later Road Relay glory, who stormed away up the Chicken Run to lift the Rowland Cup. One Patrick Calnan, not normally noted for his preference for 10 miles of cross country, had been not-so-secretly training with the Hamlin squad and it was he who took full advantage of the wilting Watling to take his first cross country championship in many a year. Smiling amiably at the assembled masses, he said "er, um ... quite pleased, really ...". Giles Clifford, customarily rounding into form just in time for the national, was 2nd; Watling 3rd.

YES, IT'S FEBRUARY. IT MUST BE QUIZ NIGHT TIME.
 N in its 8th year, with Anatomy, Food & Drink and Landmarks of London the evening continues to be a success, although not a sellout this year. Perhaps the 16th was too close to Valentine's. 1996 brought the "Choker", halving a team's score for a nominated round. The trick was to guess from the title which round you were going to do badly on. Stan Ridgewell's table were in jubilant mood as they got answer after answer right on the Pop Music - Instrumental. But they'd played their "Choker". The announcement of Round 7 as being Anatomy brought a huge cheer from Simon Parson's table. With John Beck's wife Lucy, a doctor, in the team they scented victory. However, judging by the number of correct answers from the other teams there was more than one doctor in the house.
 Going into the last round it was anybody's team title, the closest QN ever. Bursting through in the final round (Films) and playing their Joker came Mick Hamlin's team. They took the team prize and chose the bottled beer - what a surprise.
 As ever the driving force behind the evening was Heather & Dave Hassall. Unfortunately Dave's job has now moved to Stevenage so we will be seeing a lot less of him around the Club.

Julian Golding makes his indoor debut at the RICOH Games in Birmingham. He is third in the B 200 in 21.39.

20 years ago in February 2001.

Michael Skinner captains England at the Home Countries International match in Cardiff and he wins the 1500. Also in the team are Katy Porter who sets a pb in the 60 metre hurdles and Sam Singer who is part of England Junior team who set a Welsh All Comers record in the medley relay.

Dwayne Grant and Sam Singer are selected to represent a Great Britain under 20 team in a match against France, German and Italy.

At the National Under 20 Championships there are bronze medals for Dwayne Grant in the 60 metres and Katy Porter in the 60 metre hurdles. Fabian Collymore wins silver in the under 17 mens 60 metres.

Michael Skinner wins the 3000 metres at the British Universities Championships.

Bob Minting wins the M50 200 and 400 metre titles at the British Masters Championships. His sister Helen Godsell of Bromley Ladies wins the W45 60 and 200 metres. Other wins come from Peter Hannell (M50 3000 walk), Jim Day (M65 Pole vault) and Nanette Cross (W60 60m and triple jump).

Rob Wallace of Bromley sets a Championship best of 11.41 to win the under 15 boys triple jump at the Kent Indoor Championships at Crystal Palace. There is also a new Championship best for Layla Hawkins as she wins the under 15 girls long jump with a leap of 5.16. She also wins the high jump and the 60 metres.

It's 125 anniversary of the first National Cross Country Championships which took place at Buckhurst Hill in 1876, a race which was declared void as the hare ran out of scent. The 2001 race takes place at Durham despite the country being blighted by foot and mouth disease. The top 125 in the senior mens race receive a special commemorative glass. Roy Smith is the only Club member to receive one as he finishes in 124th. Best performance of the day comes from Dan Ayrton who is 10th in the under 20 mens race. (Below the under 13 girls and Dan Ayrton battles with Kent's Jermaine Mays)



The Blackheath name change saga continues....

THE NAME CHANGE SAGA

No doubt most of you will have read, or heard, about the prolonged struggle we have had to get the name change approved at last years AGM accepted by the South of England AA, following an objection by Bromley AC.

Eventually an Appeal Meeting was set up on 31st January, at which the Club was represented by Chris Haines and John Baldwin, with two representatives from Kent AA and Bromley AC. This was the first opportunity we had to put forward our reasons for wishing to change. A meeting, well controlled by Peter Ogle the SEAA Chairman, gave all parties a fair chance to put their views.

The final judgement found predominantly in our favour. It did concede that there had been some confusion, but this had not been deliberate on our part, and had been due to "people jumping to erroneous conclusions". The main reasons for supporting our appeal were those put forward at last years AGM, and it is best to quote clauses 4.2.2, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 from the Judgement as follows:

4.2.2 UK Athletics continually emphasise that the sport depends on a strong club structure, so that it behoves clubs to be active and raise their profile in their local communities, and particularly, strive to obtain commercial sponsorship.

4.2.3 It would be quite unreasonable to expect local businesses to sponsor clubs if their local connections were not prominently displayed. For this reason it is acceptable for the designation "Bromley" to appear in the club's name.

4.2.4 However, in order to alleviate confusion, the club is asked whether a modified designation such as "(Bromley)", ",Bromley" or "in Bromley" would serve its purpose.

Clause 4.2.4 was discussed at the February Committee meeting and it was agreed to put forward option 2, with the added comma, as a proposal to the AGM on 24th March 2001. However it is known that Bromley AC have now submitted a counter appeal.

John Baldwin (Hon. Secretary)

15 years ago in February 2006

Scott Overall breaks the Club 3000 metre record with 7.56.58.

Montell Douglas wins gold in the 60 metres at the British Universities Championships. She is also third in the 200 as is Katy Benneworth in the long jump.

Scott Huggins wins the Under 20 mens pole vault at the Scottish Indoor Championships.

The Senior Men win the Kent League for the first time. The League has been in existence for over 40 years.

At the Southern Counties Vets AC Championships there are wins in the pole vault for Allan Williams (M50s) and Jim Day (M70s).

Paul Sutherland wins the 800 metres at the Scottish Masters Indoor Championships in Glasgow. (Paul has rejoined the Club and has his eye on a few Club records, watch this space!)

Scoring 44 a side the Club suffer a narrow 39 point defeat in the mob match against South London.

At the National Cross Country Championships at Parliament Hill, Phil Sesemann is 196th in the under 13 boys race. Siobhan Budd is first home of the nine starters for the senior women in 39th as the team finishes 21st. Alex Gibbins is first home for the men in 136th as they finish a lowly 53rd.

10 years ago in February 2011

Michael Skinner finishes in 2nd place in the Senior Mens race at the National Cross Country Championships at Alton Towers, another former under 13 who has come good. Sydney Wooderson remains the only Club member to have won the Senior Mens race. Both the senior men and women finish in 8th place in the team race as do the under 20 Women. The senior women are led home by Elaine Murty in 51st with Shavaun Henry, Bryony Proctor and Jennie Butler all in the top 100. It's

their highest ever team position. Phil Sesemann is 122nd and Ross Braden 138th in the under 20 mens race but the Club has not team. Neither does it have teams in any of the younger age groups.



Shaunagh Brown wins the silver medal in the shot at the European Indoor Trials.

Serita Solomon and Jermain Olasan win gold medals at the British Universities Indoor Championships in the 60 metre hurdles and long jump respectively.

There are plenty of medals for the Clubs athletes at the England Athletics Under 20 Championships. In the under 20 mens triple jump Joe Lawrence wins gold and Jonathan Ilori bronze. Sarah Abrams takes bronze in the long jump.

Dina Asher Smith wins the under 17 womens 60 and 200 metre titles while Rachel Dickens takes silver in the 300 and Anton Daly bronze in the mens 60 metres.

In the under 15s Maya Brunej is second in the 200 and third in the 60.

At the British Masters Indoor Championships, Allan Williams wins the over 55s pole vault with Clem Leon third in the high and triple jump. Ken Daniel wins the over 60s 800 and is third in the 1500, while there are silvers for Peter Hamilton (3000) and Peter Hannell (3000 walk).

Allan Williams breaks the M55s British Record for the pole vault twice in a day finishing with 3.91. This is the 33rd time he has broken a British Record.

The last Courier reported on the Kent Championships in 1971, and Chris Haines has supplied this press cutting showing the start. Name that lot!



The Club 10 in 1932 was a bit of an occasion. It was the trial race for the Southern Cross Country Championships, when it was run over 10 miles (The National used to be over 10 miles as well). It was also the focus of a great social reunion. Among those attending is Walter George "the greatest runner the world had ever know"; Ernest Page (1931 AAAs 100 yards champion); Ernest Pelling (1889 AAAs 100 yards champion); and Albert Hill (1920 Olympics 800 and 1500 metre champion)

A MEMORABLE REUNION.

SATURDAY, February 13, 1932, was a notable day in the history of the Blackheath Harriers, for it was the occasion of an unprecedented gathering of members and friends amid scenes of extraordinary enthusiasm. Before the 10-miles race was started there was a large crowd and this increased steadily all through the afternoon and evening.

After the Rowland Cup race and the race between a junior team and one from Allyn's School, an adjournment was made to the Club House, and before distributing the prizes, the President said that the day would ever be memorable in the annals of the Club, for they had had a gathering such as neither the Blackheath Harriers nor any other Club had ever known. It was composed of many distinguished and treasured friends and of a vast number of men whose length of membership ranged from 57 years to a few weeks, many of whom were ex-champions and record-holders and all of whom had rendered service to the cause of amateur sport. He said that the appearance of so many of the older members provided a striking illustration of the way in which "Blackheathenism" enters into the souls of men; their interest in and love of the Club had been unmistakably evident throughout the afternoon, and he was certain that they would all agree that their presence that day had not done them any harm, while he was prepared to assert that it had done the Club an immense amount of good. He referred to the visits paid to the Club's headquarters by these members before 1913, and pointed out that one of the many evil results of the war was the creation of a huge river, so to speak, which had the effect of separating the generations of the Blackheath Harriers. After the cessation of hostilities those who laboured to restore the activities of the Club were so busily engaged in trying to infuse new life into it that they appeared to have regarded the river as impassable and those on its farther side as beyond reach, with the result that communications between the old and young generations had never been completely restored. To-day, however, had seen the river spanned, while those who had for so long occupied its opposite sides had been happily united to the accompaniment of general rejoicing and thanksgiving.

Then followed a pleasing ceremony, the President introduced to the young and active members their "oldest brethren," each of whom stood for a few seconds as his name was mentioned and his deeds of fame briefly recounted. The final scene of this act, the greeting of E. L. Page (the present sprint champion) by E. H. Pelling (sprint champion of 1889 and 250 yards record holder) and of A. G. Hill (the mile champion of 1921) by W. G. George—whom the President described as the greatest runner the world had ever known—stirred great enthusiasm.

After dinner the loyal toast was followed by "Those who joined the Club during last Century," which was proposed by the Hon. Sec., who in a maiden speech (which made a great impression) laid stress upon the wonderful co-operation between all the members, one result of which was the wonderful meeting that day. He expressed deep appreciation of the invaluable help which was continuously rendered to him by the older ones. The toast was responded to by the President, Sir Harry Barclay, W. W. Davis, C. A. Morgan, J. F. Ponsford and W. F. Esse, each of whom spoke feelingly of his devotion to the Club and of his thankfulness in having been privileged to take part in the great reunion.

The toast of Lady Barclay—who accompanied Sir Harry—was then submitted by the President and was responded to in a most charming little speech.

T. K. Grant proposed "Past Champions," and in his wittiest vein told how the Club had produced a regular crop of champions during the past 50 years and was still producing them. He referred to the Club's victory in the Relay Championship of 1911 in record time and to the fact that one of that victorious team, F. T. Browne, was present; he mentioned S. C. A. Schofield's wonderful performances and told of his 25-miles walking record which still stands; and he spoke of W. G. George, the champion of champions, as one who appeared to have monopolised all the Championships from 1879 until 1884. The responses of F. T. Browne, S. C. A. Schofield and W. G. George were all delightful and maintained the high level which was characteristic of all the speeches at a function which will ever live in the memories of all who took part in it.

The following were among those present, the figures (in parentheses) denoting the completed years of membership:

W. W. Davis (56)	E. J. D. Ratcliff (36)	E. V. Norman (28)
T. Crafter (50)	W. S. Smith (36)	A. G. Fentiman (27)
C. W. Bache (48)	G. Hoare (30)	E. H. Pelling (26)
C. A. Morgan (48)	J. Metcalf, Jun. (36)	R. W. Pattison (26)
Sir H. J. Barclay (47)	A. Metcalf (36)	E. V. Hollinsworth (25)
J. F. Ponsford (47)	Dr. H. A. Munro (34)	F. L. Gilbert (24)
W. F. Esse (47)	W. H. Manning (34)	S. J. Wickham (24)
E. W. Brewerton (46)	J. H. Williams (34)	N. Beyfus (24)
T. C. Davis (44)	C. R. Berry (33)	W. D. Whiter (23)
H. W. G. Haslegrave (43)	W. C. Pinhey (32)	T. K. Grant (23)
H. E. King (42)	F. Cannon (32)	S. C. A. Schofield (23)
E. Allanson (42)	H. C. F. Cordery (31)	F. T. Browne (21)
G. E. West (41)	G. H. Bull (31)	B. H. Lymbery (20)
C. Waller (40)	J. C. Johnson (30)	H. J. Dryball (19)
H. W. E. Sercombe (39)	M. P. S. White (29)	W. R. J. Clarke (19)
	J. E. Fisher (29)	S. D. Taylor (19)
	T. E. Hammond (28)	H. A. Wilkinson (18)

Expressions of regret at unavoidable absence were sent by:

J. Metcalf (59)	E. F. Nicholls (40)	J. P. Mountjoy (27)
W. Birkett (56)	B. Baldry (40)	H. L. Sparrow (24)
N. L. Jackson (50)	E. R. Harvey (40)	I. W. Nicholson (24)
F. W. Robinson (50)	R. R. Conway (39)	A. P. L. Johnson (22)
E. H. Godbold (47)	J. Rampley (38)	C. N. Seedhouse (22)
C. G. Wood (47)	J. C. Stevens (35)	Rev. J. T. Soutter (20)
R. B. Baldry (45)	J. A. Buck (34)	H. W. E. Leslie (19)
C. T. W. Hickman (44)	H. E. Lucas (29)	W. R. Moir (19)
J. E. Fowler-Dixon (42)	A. S. C. Henshaw (29)	W. H. Brooker (19)
H. R. Hopper (41)	E. H. Neville (28)	A. C. Teller (18)

Past holders of the Rowland Cup who were present:

W. G. Suffield (1897), G. Hoare (1899), W. H. Manning (1900), S. T. Pyke (1901), T. C. Davis (1902, 1903 & 1904), H. W. E. Sercombe (1905), M. S. White (1906), D. J. Mobbs (1924-5).

FEBRUARY THIRTEEN.*

Yet once again we fly our colours high!

We welcome home these men of former fame,
Whose mighty conquests lit the undying flame
(For our inheritance can never die)

Of Blackheath's prowess. We can only strive—
We poor descendants of that deathless team—
To hold our rivals to that firm esteem,
Which they, in labour, bore, and kept alive.

Yet one shall come, as others have before,
And over country and around the track,
This one shall proudly carry on his back
Our azure, sable vestment to the fore.

Their blood is in our veins. We'll not deny
The claims of they who first did lay the trail.
We have to follow—Need we fear to fail
While still our banner taunts the wintry sky?

* Inspired by the famous who revisited us on this date.