



# Blackheath & Bromley Courier

December 2020.

President 2020-21. Nic Corry.

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It had already been a tough year for the passing of Club members and now we have lost Past President Ian Wilson. As always his obituary will appear in the Gazette and it will need to be a bumper edition, but briefly...

Joined the Club in 1959

Best of 7<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Junior Cross Country Champs.

Best of 16<sup>th</sup> in the National Junior Cross Country Champs.

Best of 11<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Senior Cross Country Champs

Best of 70<sup>th</sup> in the National Senior Cross Country Champs.

Finished in the scoring 6 in all 15 Nationals he ran for the Club  
Finished in scoring 6 in 15 of the 17 Southern he ran for the Club.  
A regular in the Club's road relay teams and a British League track athlete

Pb for 5000m – 14.47.4

Pb for 10,000 – 30.26.6

Pb for 10 miles – 50.49

Pb for marathon – 2.28.16

Club President 1981-82, one of our youngest ever Presidents

President of the Southern Counties Cross Country Association 1982

President of the South Of The Thames Cross Country Association 1982

Southern CCCA team manager

England Cross Country Union Junior mens team manager

England Cross Country Union Senior mens team manager

Great Britain Senior Mens Cross Country team manager 1989 – 1995 including 7 World Cross Country Championships

Blackheath Cross Country and Road team manager

Active coach since 1964 and to, amongst others, 10 time world record holder Angela Copson, the first over 65 woman in the world to run under 6 minutes for the mile. (Read "The Runners Year" by Ian on the website)

Level 2 starter and marksman.

Vice President of Leicestershire and Rutland AA.

News of his passing has brought tributes from former National cross country champions Tim Hutchings, Dave Clarke, John Nuttall and Andrea Whitcombe; from many whose first experience of International competition was under his charge; from Ian Byett on behalf of the ECCA, from marathon legend Bill Adcocks; from International athlete, announcer and father of Jake, Geoff Wightman; and from many others whose lives he touched.

Although he had been ill for a while, and lived at a distance from Hayes, he was still closely following Club matters. One of his articles is in the can for the next Gazette and he had contributed to Agata Cieniala's MA research.

Laughter was never far away when Ian was around and he is going to be missed by a lot of people, who will be thinking of Pauline and sons Mark and Ben and their families.



## News

We all know it anyway, but, at the London Regional Volunteer Awards, Blackheath & Bromley were named Club Of The Year. In addition Claire Austridge was named Volunteer Of The Year; and there were runners up spots for Holly Platt (Young Volunteer Of The Year), Dave Liston (Coach Of The Year) and John Baldwin (Services to Athletics). It was a great evening that can be viewed online. Dave Liston should have received an award for best dressed, and there was great chat between Lorna Booth and Dave Clarke in which Lorna acknowledged her debt to Wigmore and Bromley Ladies President George Stratford.

Kelechi Aguocha was third in the Athletics Weekly Junior Athlete Of the Year awards.

Subs are due, you know what to do.

## Forthcoming Fixtures.

There's nothing shaking but the leaves on the trees.

## Results

As above, but if you have results please send them in.

## Social.

Not a lot happening so here's a few old ones...





### **100 years ago in November 1920**

Nicholls Cup Day. "The usual pea-soup fog prevailed in Town.... and it stretched out a thin white, misty hand as far as West Wickham. Those who were unfortunate or careless enough to find a 1.55 train barred to them by closed gates and irate railway officials had to find their way down by the later train, which arrived at four o'clock... Fifty three S.L.H. and thirty-two BH men turned out for the start, which was witnessed by a large crowd of supporters that had gathered outside the Swan." SLH win which means each club has now won 11 races each. "A great crowd sat down to the repast in the long room of the Swan, and an overflow meeting was held in an adjoining room."

### **75 years ago in November 1945.**

"The strange sounds heard in the Club Room on November 17 turned out to be the greetings exchanged in Hindustani occasioned by C. A. Kidd, D. K. Saunders and J. C. Taylor meeting again and discussing their adventures in various parts of India and Burma".

### **50 years ago in November 1970**

Scoring 46 a side the Club lose to South London Harriers for the first time in five years. Bob Richardson is 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chris Haines(4<sup>th</sup>), Ian Wilson (5<sup>th</sup>), Bob Hawtin (8<sup>th</sup>), Joe Clare (9<sup>th</sup>) and Pete Shephard (10<sup>th</sup>) all finish in the top ten but Ted Pepper in 16<sup>th</sup> is the only other Blackheath runner in the top 22.

The Wigmore Ladies AGM takes place in lecture room G55 at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Officers for 1970-71 are President – George Stratford, Secretary and Treasurer – Daphne Reed; and Club captain Miss H Minting.

### **25 years ago in November 1995.**

Dave Taylor, representing England, wins the South Of England Margate International race to secure selection for Great Britain for the European Cross Country Championships. Tim Dickinson also representing England is 11th. In the younger age groups Matt Hill wins the under 13s race and Steve Holmes the under 15s. Mike Skinner is 9th in the under 17s.

Tim Dickinson finishes 5<sup>th</sup> and Mark Steinle 10<sup>th</sup> in the Belgian Cross Cup in Roeselare, Belgium.

Spencer Newport wins £650 as he finishes second behind Kenya's Sammy Bitok in the Safeway International cross country meeting in Gateshead.

At the London Heathrow Games, Abdi Madar wins the under 15 boys race. Will Bolton leads the Bromley Under 13 team to victory as he finishes runner up, one second behind Hounslow's Mo Farah. The youngsters are back in action the next day at the Kent Young Athletes League at Canterbury and Madar wins the under 15s race to lead the Blackheath team to victory. Team manager Steve Baker is full of praise for second placer Peter Tucker who has his best run for the club so far.

On the roads Darrell Smith wins the Crowborough 10km, and Roy Smith sets a new best of 2.30.12 at the Frankfurt Marathon.

Mark Watling wins the Club 7.5 Mile Championship as he leads Blackheath to victory in the Orion Mob Match at Chingford. Also in the team is Alan Stevens, New Zealand's delegate to the IAAF, who is in the Country for a short spell. He joined the Club while a student in the 1950s and this is his first Mob Match for nearly 40 years.

At the AAAs Of England annual awards, Emeka Udechuku wins the Jack Crump Memorial Trophy as the top under 17 athlete in the country in 1995. Blackheath win the Ruth and Dick Taylor Trophy for being the English club with the highest aggregate of points in finals of all under 17 outdoor track and field championships. They are also awarded the "Girls" trophy for being the top English club in the under 15s age group.

Myrtle Augee finishes fifth in the 83kg class at the World Weightlifting Championships in China. (Myrtle won a bronze medal in the clean and jerk in 1994 and it would be 25 years before Britain won another medal at these championships in 2019. That person was also a Club member Emily Muskett (nee Godley)).

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

Dave Taylor finishes 5th in the Reebok International cross country race at Margate and is selected to represent Great Britain at the European Cross Country Championships at Malmo, Sweden in December.

At the British Veterans cross country relays the M50 team of Jim Phelan, Ken Daniel, Peter Hamilton and Hugh Morten finish with silver medals.

Principle guest at the Club Dinner is Adam Walker, Director of Development at UK Athletics, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley David and Mrs Helen Crowe.



### 15 years ago in November 2005

A busy month for Michael Skinner. He wins the opening race of the UK Cross Challenge at Senneleys Park, Birmingham, despite taking a bath on the way. He also runs the third equal fastest leg of the day at the National Cross Country Relays at Mansfield. He finishes November by gaining selection to represent Great Britain at the European Cross Country Championships after coming 4th in the Trials race in Liverpool, a race won by Mo Farah.

Nanette Cross represents Northern Ireland in the Masters Home Countries International Cross Country meeting in Dublin. She was first scorer for her team in the over 55s race.

BBC Athletics Commentator Paul Dickinson is the Guest Speaker at the Club Dinner.



## 10 years ago in November 2010

At the National Cross Country relays at Mansfield the Senior mens team of Scott Overall, Alex Bruce Littlewood, Michael Skinner and Andy Rayner finishes 2nd. Scott runs the third fastest individual leg of the day. Michael Skinner presents the awards at the Bromley Primary Schools Cross Country races at Crystal Palace and then wins the Orion Mob Match in the afternoon. Bill Foster represents England at the British Masters Home Countries International. He is 12th in the over 50s race. Ken Livingstone, former Mayor Of London, is guest at the Club Dinner



BLACKHEATH HARRIERS' GAZETTE AND CLUB RECORD

98.	R. F. Cross	...	B.H.	62.15	12.00	50.15	65
94.	G. A. C. Morton	...	B.H.	63.03	14.55	48.08	54
95.	K. N. Wilcockson	...	B.H.	63.14	14.00	49.14	58
96.	F. J. Pearce	...	B.H.	63.46	14.00	49.46	63
97.	W. H. Hefford	...	B.H.	63.51	14.35	49.16	59
98.	V. G. Kent	...	B.H.	64.48	12.00	52.48	68
99.	W. H. M. Vercoe	...	B.H.	65.54	14.30	51.24	67
100.	F. W. Holder	...	S.L.H.	66.25	—	—	—
101.	C. A. Wiard	...	B.H.	68.09	14.00	54.09	69
102.	C. A. Spink	...	B.H.	71.56	12.00	59.56	71
103.	J. R. Lowes	...	B.H.	73.27	18.00	55.27	70

W. J. Traer did not finish.  
 RESULT (scoring 28 a side)  
 1. Blackheath Harriers ... 686 points.  
 2. South London Harriers ... 1,065 points.

Saturday, November 23, 1946.

1ST TEAM v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY H. & H. AT OXFORD.

It is very gratifying to all concerned that the Club were once again able to resume the fixture with the University and to send up a really well-balanced team to Oxford. All ran exceedingly well over a course which in parts was waterlogged; it seems a great pity that it is no longer possible to run over the old familiar Shotover Trail. To-day the course is comparatively flat; starting at New College Sports Ground the trail leads out over the weir and along the footpath to Marston, traversing Mill Lane to the Inn at Marston Ferry, alongside the banks of the River Cherwell (to-day in spate and in parts over the bank), crossing the river and rejoining the footpath at Parsons' Pleasure Bathing Pool and finishing after a half-mile of road at the Senior Training Corps Headquarters.

Oxford University H. & H. are to be congratulated on their excellent organisation of the race, the pioneers performed their duties with zeal and great ability, nobody lost the way in the floods and gathering gloom of late November, and all enjoyed a first-class race. It is noteworthy that just over 3½ minutes covered all 16 men.

R. R. Choat led his team with great judgment and skill to win by the narrow margin of four points.

The team was accompanied by A. D. Thwaites and R. F. Cross.

ORDER OF FINISH.

Position.	Name.	Club.	Time.
1.	G. D. C. Tudor	Christ Church	38.06
2.	R. R. Choat	B.H.	38.13
3.	H. N. Nunnis	B.H.	38.21
4.	W. F. Spencer	B.H.	38.52
5.	J. H. Robertson	Balliol	39.06
6.	D. E. Reynolds	B.H.	39.25
7.	R. G. Richardson	Brasenose	39.39
8.	E. N. Mackay	Wadham	39.45
9.	H. Mowat	Queens	39.50
10.	A. C. I. Poole	B.H.	39.56
11.	J. D. Bates	Balliol	40.06
12.	T. D. Kinahan	Magdalen	40.29
13.	A. E. Korpax	B.H.	40.58
14.	P. C. Jocelyn	Keble	41.19
15.	A. Dale	B.H.	41.27
16.	W. F. Lake	B.H.	41.42

RESULT.  
 1. Blackheath Harriers ... 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 12 = 37 pts.  
 2. Oxford University H. & H. 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 = 41 pts.

Saturday, November 23, 1946.

2ND TEAM v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY H. & H. II AT HAYES.

The race started in a squall of rain and the whole way to Layhams the runners had to battle against a strong south-westerly wind. Conditions over the course, after a week of rain, were bad. Pylon Field was particularly heavy going and spike shoes were a definite advantage.

There was a fast start with Curry, Staig and Bannister getting away in front for Oxford, followed by Monshall, Brent and Wooderson with Goldsmith in close attend-

ance. Running off the Common these seven were in front, followed by Graham and Olsen of Oxford, Stillman and Crozier of Oxford running together, and Starns and another Oxford man.

Along the road running past Blackness Farm, Curry, Wooderson, Monshall, Brent and Staig were in front with only yards between them, followed by Bannister and Goldsmith with Crozier and Stillman running strongly fifty yards away. Graham had dropped back behind Starns and Olsen.

At Layhams Wooderson and Monshall took the lead and opened a fifty yards gap which they held until Fox. At Fox, Curry, who was not wearing running shoes, and had therefore done well to maintain his position owing to the slippery going, came up and went ahead to open a lead of almost one hundred yards. At the top of Fox, Monshall went after Curry but, although he reduced his lead, he was unable to catch him.

Meanwhile Brent had maintained his position ahead of Bannister and did well to finish fourth. Goldsmith had a great tussle with Stillman, and Crozier came up to join Staig and Bannister, but failed to hold them after Fox. Graham came up late to run in with Goldsmith to share ninth place. Starns was just beaten into eleventh place by Olsen, with whom he had run the whole way, while Clark was a few yards behind.

Fine packing in the middle section gave Oxford a very well merited victory by one point which was a good result to a keenly fought match.

ORDER OF FINISH.

Position.	Name.	Club.	Time.
1.	T. P. E. Curry	Oriel	46.45
2.	G. E. Monshall	B.H.	46.52
3.	S. C. Wooderson	B.H.	47.45
4.	A. J. Brent	B.H.	48.31
5.	D. Staig	Trinity	48.50
6.	R. G. Bannister	Exeter	49.10
7.	R. A. Stillman	Oriel	49.18
8.	F. R. Crozier	St. Edmund's Hall	49.24
9.	R. W. Goldsmith	B.H.	49.50
10.	D. S. Graham	B.H.	49.50
11.	P. D. Olsen	Balliol	50.33
12.	H. E. Starns	B.H.	50.52
13.	J. P. Clark	B.H.	51.04
14.	E. W. Williams	Jesus	51.12
15.	A. C. Dashwood	B.H.	53.53
16.	C. Busby	B.H.	54.32
17.	D. K. Crole	Keble	54.39
18.	A. Monage	Worcester	55.15

RESULT.  
 1. Oxford University H. & H. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14 = 52 pts.  
 2. Blackheath Harriers ... 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13 = 53 pts.

Saturday, November 30, 1946.

1ST TEAM v. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY H. & H. AT CAMBRIDGE.

The team gathered at Liverpool Street Station soon after midday with three supporters. Pat seemed to be after a pair of goloshes. D. K. Saunders may have been on an official visit to a seat of learning, whilst H. A. Wilkinson went up with the team. The L.N.E.R. provided spacious accommodation for us labelled "Not for Public Use," which may or may not have been complimentary.

With stops at most stations and some lengthy ones in between we reached Cambridge half an hour late and the race was consequently run in the gathering dusk. The start was a good mile from the changing rooms and the teams went away at 3.45. Five of the Cambridge team took the lead and it was some time before they were broken up by Choat, who ran a well-judged race.

An innocent-looking ditch provided a mud bath for the lower half of several runners; though it is hardly necessary to comment on one feature of a wet and muddy course.