

Our Centenary Cross Country event was badly hit by the weather, only 61 runners starting. Orion and Ranelagh could not complete teams because of the chaotic road conditions after the heavy snow; while the Oxford-Cambridge runners present were absorbed by other teams. Our continental visitors were not affected by the road conditions, but it was only by the lucky chance of Harold Thompson being in Paris on business the previous week that he could persuade Stade Francais to travel! The start was delayed thirty minutes (deliberately!) to give runners and others a chance to arrive, and luckily this meant the snow stopped before the race, but few spectators braved the elements. Bob Richardson kept us warm with a fine run second to Dai Francis most of the way, then Bob Holt went into the lead but our Bob "nosed" ahead and just stayed there for the last couple of hundred agonising yards; the rest of the team performed to their best, and thus took second to the E.C.C.U. Despite the empty places at the supper afterwards, due to the wretched weather, everyone there felt the meal and presentations a great success. Some details of the race are:-

- 1, E.C.C.U. (2 R Holt 34:10; 3 D Francis 34:18; 4 D Fownes 35:24;
12 D Holt 36:05; 14 P Baker 36:08; 15 M Barratt 36:15) 50 points.
- 2, B.H. (1 R Richardson 34:10; 7 I Wilson 35:36; 10 P Horwood 36:00;
13 C Woodcock 36:06; 17 M Willis 36:38; 18 R Hawtin 36:44;
also 22 A Dunnett 37:06; 24 A Mandeville 37:18) 66 points.
- 3, S.L.H. (5 Gevers, 16 Gilson) 117; 4, LoAise AV (8 Petters) 141; 5, Thames
(6 Braithwaite, 9 Valentine, 11 Carpenter) 151; 6, H.H.H. 212; 7 S.F. 284; 8 RMA.

The other Centenary event — or should it be non-non-event? I blush! — was the rugby match with Park House on Boxing Day when our team proved too strong and too fit, not to mention too numerous, for the Park House team which visibly grew in strength as the match progressed, and so we celebrated another Centenary victory.

In the Kent Championships our Boys won, with C. Wright first home 4th; our Seniors and Youths were each second, the seniors one point behind Cambridge Harriers while A. Dunnett was 1st in the youths race and Goodwin 4th; the Juniors were third, I. McIntyre first home 7th. The County team for the Inter-County race will include Ian Wilson (4th), Peter Horwood (7th) and Bob Richardson who missed the County race as he was still in Brazil after his 12th place in the Sao Paulo "Round the Houses" race. In December the club "Junior 5" was won by M. Athawes, the "Youth 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by A. Dunnett and the "Boys 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by C. Wright from nine others.

We also have since Newsheet Seven, Bob Richardson winning the G.L.C. Championships with the team but twelve points behind the winners, yet fourth! We had good numbers at Aylesford (Kent League) and at Crawley; the best of our three teams at Aylesford was equal third, while at Crawley our teams, one of seniors and juniors the other of youths and boys, each won their races, Tony Dunnett winning the latter race by a very large interval. For the "Mob" Match at Chingford we had 22 starters, hardly more than at either of the above matches, but still outnumbered and beat Orion; it must be added that on this day we also had a team in the Brickwood "5" at Portsmouth, where we were second to Portsmouth and Pete Horwood was sixth. Our only rowing rivals this year were Ranelagh, and about 30 'heathens cheered our crew to victory.

COMING EVENTS.

At Petersham on 17th January and a week later in the club "10", almost certainly over the real country, there are runs for everyone; if you really cannot manage "10" there is also a "5" at Hayes against Sevenoaks School, while if you cannot get to Petersham support our Youth and Boys at Sparrows Den running in open races organised by Kent A.C. We hope many 'heathens will go to Halstead Place School on 31st January to run or watch and so encourage the lads at this school. Veterans remember your club championship: on 14th February, and then on 21st February anyone over 18 is welcome to a "5" at Canterbury, same lap as the County Race, for the Kent League fixture. Both Southern and National are a week earlier than usual, the former on the 7th February at Parliament Hill, first race at 2.20 p.m., when our team deserves our full support. For the National at Blackpool on 28th February a special train leaves Euston at 7.50am returning there at 10.00pm., for a very reasonable £2. 10s., so if you can travel to watch the race, and only a couple of spectators in these Northern lands would be most welcome, please contact Chris Heines, Biggin Hill 4368, very soon. In the evenings of

both these events are the traditional suppers at Hayes; another social event that we want to be well supported is the "Locals Night" on 24th January, when friends of the club, not only farmers, will be entertained. Two amendments to the fixture list are:-

4th April S.C.A.A.A. and Belgrave Road Relay
12th April Brighton Sea Front Relay and Youths "2¹".

The track section come out of hibernation briefly on 15th of both February and March. On the first occasion to organise a Paarlauf at Ladywell, on the second to organise our Winter Track Meeting at Crystal Palace (note change of venue). Only organisation is sectional, of course, and all active and semi- (or should it be demi- in this age of metrication?) active members are expected at the second of these when all types of distance will be run, and for that matter jumped and thrown! This meet is to be advertised as an open meeting with entry fees to defray the cost of hiring the track, and since we expect a large entry Bob Taylor, 01-464-4868 must have entries before the day.

Our walkers will bring attention to the club on 11th April when our Centenary will be celebrated with a walk against not only Surrey W.C., as is usual, but also Cambridge Harriers, Herne Hill, London Vidarians and a Belgrave team; the fate of the Johnson Bowl will be decided at the same time. Before this however, on 28th February, the Kent 10 mile Road Walk is to be held from our clubhouse using the Kent "20" lap; R.W.A. judges for style will be brought in by the County, the rest is up to us, so Norman Dudley, 3 Pinewood Road, Bromley, needs about 20 offers to help, so please contact him as soon as possible - say now! Needless to say he predicts our team will be even stronger than usual.

Coaching Days continue on the first Sundays of February and March, to the climax at St. Mary's Bay with the Easter Week-End coaching and pre-track season get together. Arthur Nye, 14 Croft Way, Sevenoaks, has to finalise his numbers soon but still has room for you as coach, coaches helper, coached or general supporter; he can even arrange double or family rooms. For exact details contact Arthur, but the approximate cost per person will be £3, leaving Hayes at 10.00a.m., Friday 27th March, and leaving St. Mary's Bay at 4.00 p.m., on Sunday 29th.

CENTENARY NOTICES.

The scrapbook is becoming a reality, but ideas are still welcome; photographs and other documents are of course invaluable. The sub committee is Harold Thompson, Norman Dudley and Richard Edmonds.

There are still a large number of Centenary sweat tops (36" and 38" chests only) available at 4/6 from Bob Hawtin; the Newsheet Editor and the Bar both have Centenary Ties available at £1. The Centenary Committee would like to see both these items sold, so if you have not already done so, buy now! The Centenary Photograph should be ordered, if you have not already done so, directly now from Barry Shapcott, a call to 01-674-4361 will secure, the cost will be 10/6 a print.

The Club History is regrettably not available yet. This ambitious scheme has had more than its fair share of snags, but at least we have longer to save up the 2 guineas necessary, although the committee would be happier to have your firm order, with cash, in the hands of Richard Edmonds, 60 Brabourne Rise, Beckenham.

Members who attended the Centenary Dinner will have had a letter from Richard asking for donations to reduce the deficit on that function. Money is coming in quite well, but if anyone forgot over Christmas and now feels he can respond, Richard will be very pleased to hear from him.

OTHER NOTICES.

The 200 Club, only publicised at the A.G.M. and in the Newsheet, has as yet only about twenty members. The first subscription is due on 15th January, but if you miss this deadline still send your standing order to Colin Brand, 21 Hawthorn Drive, West Wickham, and be in time for the second draw which will be in March.

The address of the Newsheet Editor is 4 Christchurch Road, Dartford, Kent.

STOP PRESS: Special General Meeting to close Centenary Year Saturday 25th April.