

MARCH - 1970

The period since the last Newsheet has had no Centenary events, but it has included considerable success. First we had the "Mob" victory over Ranelagh on a pleasant afternoon in Richmond Park; on the same day Kent, with Bob Richardson, 26th 38:39, Peter Horwood, 85th 39:56, and Ian Wilson, 96th 40:07, were 6th in the Inter-Counties Cross Country. The Club "10", over a new course generally agreed to be one of the toughest and muddiest ever, made the course at Parliament Hill a fortnight later seem by comparison almost dry when our team was our best since 1947 in the Southern, in third place. Bob Richardson 7th, 25th Ian Wilson, 49th Peter Horwood, 54th Mike Willis, 61st Chris Haines and 63rd Joe Clare were our scorers, then we had 80th Bob Hawtin, 94th Nick Mandeville, 124th John Baldwin, 168th Rod Barker, Gary Botley and 253rd Chris Woodcock. Our junior team was seventh, Ian McIntyre 29th; only three Blackheath youths started, but a certain Tony Dunnett of St. Dunstan's was 15th. In the National Tony, 30th, led our youths to thirty fourth place, while Nigel Bailey, 64th, led our juniors to nineteenth, still seventh Southern team. The seniors did well to come ninth, third Southern team, although Bob Richardson at 32nd was further back in the 993 field than we had hoped, our other places were 70th Ian Wilson, 154th Nick Mandeville, 156th Chris Haines, 163rd Peter Horwood and 170th Joe Clare (what packing!) then 232nd John Baldwin, 238th Bob Hawtin and 415th Gary Botley.

Between winning the club "10" and his strong run in the Southern Bob Richardson was the first Briton, in fourth place, in the annual International Race at Hannut; the same week-end Graham Gower was third in the Indoor A.A.A. Championship 80 metre hurdles. 'Heathens listed, in February, in the Commonwealth "Top Ten 1969" were Bob fifth 10,000 metres, Tony Wadhams third triple jump, and John Watts seventh in both weight and discus.

Roy Morley won our Vets. Championship when in third place in a match against Belgrave over snow covered country; handicap winner Len King forecast his time to 4 seconds, Roy, second, was 21 out! Next day about a dozen teams, mostly Blackheath, ran in our Paarlauf won by Graham Taylor and Keith Penny of Cambridge Harriers, Tony Dunnett and Graham Martin being second. A week later our forces were split, at Canterbury in the Kent League Bob Richardson and Ian Wilson were first and second and the team was second to Medway both then and in the final league result; at Southampton our team was second to Reading in a Cross Country Relay, Chris Haines running third fastest leg. In a Young Athletes race at Southampton M. Goodwin ran fifth fastest, and the team was fifth. Another week on and a bitterly cold afternoon saw the Kent County 10 mile Road Walk at Hayes with many 'heathens as officials. Our team was only fourth of four, but Dave Berry walked very well to be second to top road walker Peter Fullager, and was selected to walk for Kent in the Inter County Road Walk, while Roger Michell is a reserve. Most recently Tony Dunnett easily won our schools race; Chislehurst and Sidcup narrowly won the Parrish Cup on the last scoring position, Eltham College retained the "Rags" Trophy.

COMING EVENTS. The final special athletic event of Centenary Year is the inter-club walk, incorporating the Johnson Bowl race, on the 11th April. The start will be at 3.00p.m. from the clubhouse and with all the local walking clubs it should be a good race to watch. The other Centenary date is 25th April, last day of "The Year", and the many diverse Centenary and other events are grouped together here. A Jumble Sale is to be held in the clubhouse at 10.30a.m. and items for sale are urgently required by the previous evening; helpers and customers will be very welcome. A new club championship is to be held, a 20 mile Road Walk for our members in the Kent Championship at Mitcham. In the afternoon the first trophy meeting of the season is at Erith Track, for Seniors the Gordon Pirie, for Juniors the Hercules. It is hoped to have a tree planting ceremony on the Common, with an appropriate plaque, to commemorate our association with this land, the exact details are not finalised but the party will probably leave the clubhouse soon after 2.30p.m. In the evening the Special General Meeting, at 7.00p.m., when in addition to the official agenda the secretary of the Centenary Management Committee hopes to give a short report on "The Year". There will follow the Vintage Members Night which will be a good time for the informal showing of photographs taken during the year, so bring your few, or hundreds; please ease the Wine Committee's burden by giving advanced notice to Roy Morley if you expect to attend the supper.

In the immediate future we have our Winter Track Meeting on 15th March at Crystal Palace on a larger scale than our previous ones, so if you intend competing do 'phone Bob Taylor 01-464-4868; by 28th February he had over 100 names in two or three times that number of event entries! If you have not been asked to officiate but can help out please turn up before 2.00p.m. and offer your services to Tony Nash. The only 'heathen excused attendance is Tony Wadhams, one of the dozen British athletes selected for the European Indoor Championships in Vienna that weekend.

The next few weeks are largely dominated by Road Relays, where support is always welcome, and excitement guaranteed. In March on 14th at 3.00p.m. in Bexley, Cambridge Harrier's, on 21st at 2.45p.m. in Cranford, Thames Valley's; in April on 4th at noon at Wimbledon the Belgrave and Southern Relay, on 12th at 3.00p.m. in Brighton the Sea Front Relays, and on 18th at noon, in Leicester, the National Relay. On 28th March the closing "5" will be at Hayes, while the coaching weekend will be in top gear at St. Mary's Bay. Incidentally Arthur Nye can probably still arrange more accommodation so contact him at 14, Croft Way, Sevenoaks, if you wish to go as athlete, scrubber, coach, coaches assistant or general supporter, the cost from Friday 27th to Sunday 29th is £3.

On Sunday 26th April, exactly one year after our 100 x 1 mile relay, Croydon Harriers and Mitcham A.C. are organising a 50 x 1 mile relay, also at Croydon, to celebrate their half centuries. We intend to support this venture and Chris Woodcock, 1 Riverside, Church Street, Edenbridge, is keen to hear from those fit and able to run so that he can select our best team.

The track season starts with club trials incorporating a match with Kent A.C. at Ladywell, 3.00p.m. on 11th April, while our traditional many sided, all age group, match is a week later, also 3.00p.m. at Ladywell. For these and other matches contact John Philip or Bob Taylor for details, or just turn up. On April 29th the club 2000 metre Steeplechase Championship will be incorporated in a match at 7.00p.m. with L.A.C. at Crystal Palace. We have trophy meetings at Epsom and Woodford on 2nd and 10th May respectively, while on 16th May at Sale is the first National League match and at Ashford that of the Kent League. The Kent County Championships will be at Crystal Palace on 6th June, though County teams, presumably containing several 'heathens, will be in action before this, on May 9th at Motspur Park v Sussex and London University, and on 25th/26th May at Leicester in the C.A.U. Inter-Counties.

On the domestic scene we hope to entertain various schools at Ladywell on 20th and 27th May and 10th and 17th June; it is hoped to include a new club championship over 10,000 metres on 27th May. Our Evening Meetings are on 13th May, 3rd and 24th June at Ladywell, and the fourth is at the National Provincial Bank ground on 15th July. Note these dates now! At the first of these meetings, for which Bob Taylor would appreciate entries in advance, the championships will be senior and youths 100 metres, the 5,000 metres which will also have a sealed handicap, the triple jump, the junior long jump, the weight and junior discus; the handicaps will be 200 and 800 metres, while for schools there will be a 4 x 200 metre relay and a 1500 metres.

CENTENARY NOTICES. This is the final Newsheet in Centenary Year, although there will be one more issue, in May, to round the year off, so for the last time in Centenary Year donations please to the Centenary Fund direct to Gordon Monshall, 1 Wentworth Close, Farnborough, Orpington, or to the Newsheet Editor. Other reminders: ties at 20/- and sweat tops (36" and 38") at 46/6 from the Newsheet Editor; Club Photos from Barry Shapcott; buy your Ball tickets soon!

The Club History is in the final stages of publication, though no date is available just yet, however Richard Edmonds is taking orders, with 2 guineas, now. The more informal Scrapbook for the club library needs any contributions you can make, to Harold Thompson 33, Links Road, West Wickham, please.

OTHER NOTICES. The dance on the 28th March is cancelled, but a Wine and Cheese party will be held instead at the Clubhouse.

25th April

JUMBLE SALE

25th April

The Newsheet Editor remains at 4, Christchurch Road, Dartford.