

SEPTEMBER - 1969

The only Centenary Event since the last newsheet has been our match, at Crystal Palace, won by the Southern A.A.A. team, from our team, with the Kent A.A.A. third. Our invitation events were well attended, and of high standard; additionally several athletes were persuaded, at the A.A.A. championships the previous day, to compete as guests. We had fine weather, good athletics, plenty of officials (on time too, so that the programme ran almost to time!), a fair number of spectators and reasonable coverage in the press; the only adverse fact was the cost, some £170 at a first reckoning - Gordon Monshall, 1 Wentworth Close, Farnborough, Kent, is still treasurer of the Centenary Fund if you wish to further show your appreciation of the day. The barbecue afterwards was well attended on a luckily fine evening, and I'm sure all who attended had a good time.

From New Zealand we had the news that Scottish Harriers ran a 100 x 1 mile relay as promised, when on 6th July the British High Commissioner, Sir Ian MacLennan of Thames Hare and Hounds, started the race and then ran, as last minute substitute, the second mile. The conditions sound terrible with gusts of up to 72 m.p.h. recorded during the race; their time, just over $\frac{3}{4}$ hour slower than ours in April, was 9 hours 25 minutes 7.6 seconds.

The other major athletic event in which we have appeared since the last newsheet was the second National League Division One fixture at Crystal Palace where we again came sixth, in spite of the fact that we arrange for the communications on the field and the recording of the results. At quite short notice we had been asked to man the gates, and our officials were duly carded, but then the plans were changed and our members redeployed on arrival. The trophy we have given to the league has been presented to its first holders, regrettably not Blackheath, at Cardiff on the 13th of this month. Photographs of the trophy have been prepared for the press and the Club; the design is modern and the rumour is "it grows on you" !

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS.

Our annual Road Relay is on the 20th September starting at 3.15 p.m. in Windermere Road, a five minute walk from the Club. Editing the the organisers essay savagely, it seems he hopes to see you there as a member of one of our ten hoped for teams, officiating, or just watching.

On the following Tuesday evening is another annual fixture, our swimming race. If you can swim two lengths you are expected to race, our target number is but you've guessed. The heats will be at 8.15 p.m. As this is Centenary Year there is a change of venue, from recent years, to Lewisham Baths, a new building in Lewisham High Street opposite Ladywell Road very near the old Ladywell Baths. This move is to recognize the early connections, and dual membership of several of our more senior members, with Lewisham S.C., on whose splash night the race is to be held. If nothing else come and support the event.

The swim will relax you for the following Saturday's Commemorative Run. The details are as in the last newsheet but the Blackheath - Ladywell legs have been increased by a mile or so. A non racing run may sound simple to arrange, but reflect a few minutes, think of the pitfalls and possible sources of dissatisfaction, so do contact Norman Dudley, 01-460-9659, to let him know your plans. He will be at the Road Relay, tell him then! If you are not running but have a car you will be most welcome at Hayes, 10.00 to 10.30 a.m., if you can ferry runners and/or kit; but if possible let Norman know in advance to reduce the unknown factors.

For our third consecutive Saturday run at the Clubhouse we have, in true Blackheath style, our "opening" run, followed by a Treasure Hunt at 7.00 p.m. involving motor vehicles (impossible in 1869!) as advertised in the last newsheet; please bring your own Ordnance Survey Map, sheet 171.

The next day we have, at 3.15 p.m., our Thanksgiving Service at St. John's, "the church on the hill" where there is ample car parking space, alternatively the 119 goes to the cross roads by Sparrows Den from where it is a short walk to the church. It is hoped that members, and of course their families, will return to the Clubhouse

where arrangements will be available. On the same day Arthur Nye will be the first of the winter's coaching days for our younger members, when he plans after the training morning to replace the usual afternoon talk, or further work, with the opportunity for his group to attend the service.

So to the 18th October when all active 'heathens will parade, see rule 20, at 2.30 p.m., ready for the Club Photograph, to be taken this year by Barry Shapcott with perhaps some less formal photographs being taken in addition to the traditional one. Those who can no longer run will be welcomed in the photograph, even without entwined squares. We then depart for the common and the club "5" before our A.G.M.'s in the evening.

October 25th is the Saturday nearest our century date, when we hold the Veterans Mob Match followed by the "Vintage" Wine and Cheese Party which should be rich with memories. Also on this day, at Crystal Palace, the inaugural A.A.A. 6 x 4½ mile Road Relay takes place. The next day an 8 to 10 mile stroll, genuine, none of this athletic kit stuff, starts at 11.00 a.m. at the Brighton section of London Tridge Station, look for "D.K." Saunders or Jack Sims. The stroll is through Bermondsey, where our earliest members lived, Peckham, with detours to local high points One Tree and Blyth Hills, to Blackheath. A lunch is planned on route and Jack Sims, 44 Northampton Road, Croydon, must know numbers very soon: if you fail to book lunch you can of course take sandwiches, but you carry them!

On to November, and our dinner at the Mansion House for which tickets, 5gns each, will be available when printed from Richard Edmonds, 60 Brabourne Rise, Beckenham. Only cash reserves tickets, and 50 are so reserved already! At the end of the month we have our Centenary Cross Country fixture at Sparrows Den, and as another newsheet will be issued by then I will simply whet your appetite by saying that we have sponsorship to bring two continental teams over for the race, so that in addition to the clubs already named we have the prospect of the champion clubs of North France and of Belgium attending. Their national associations have agreed and we are now waiting confirmation from the clubs concerned, Paris Police and F.C. Liegeois.

In the period covered above it is hoped to hold a hockey match at Crystal Palace on a date to be arranged but Alan Brent, 16 Abbots Way, West Wickham, needs more players of any standard urgently.

FIXTURE LIST.

You are reminded not to wait to be carded but if you need more details of any fixture contact Chris Haines, Biggin Hill 4368, or come to Hayes, and train, any Saturday afternoon and/or Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening; incidentally high speed gas showers have been installed at the clubhouse to save preparing the boiler for small numbers - Saturday baths will still be there - but at the time of writing the high speed slot for coins is not available, but soon will be it is hoped.

SEPTEMBER

20th Sat Club Road Relay (Hayes). County Decathlon (Erith).
21st Sun Decathlon and County Track Relay Championships (2 p.m. Erith).
23rd Tue Club Swim (Lewisham Baths).
27th Sat COMMEMORATIVE RUN. Maidstone "6". Maidenhead Road Relay. Open Night (Hayes).
28th Sun Johnston Road Relay (Hornchurch).

OCTOBER

4th Sat Opening Run. Walton Road Relay. Car Treasure Hunt.
5th Sun THANKSGIVING SERVICE. Coaching Day.
11th Sat V.R.M.A. v Orion (Sandhurst). Dance Hayes 8.00 Bar extension. 5/-
Kent C.C. League (Cambridge H. H.Q. Glenview Road Bexley). Wimbledon "10".
18th Sat Club Photograph. "5" C.C. Championship. A.G.M.'s.
19th Sun Ridgeway Relay (Swindon).
25th Sat A.A.A. Road Relay. Vets Mob Match v Ranelagh v Orion v S.L.H. (Hayes).
Boys C.C. Relay (Maidstone). Vintage Cheese and Wine Party (Hayes).
26th Sun CENTENARY STROLL (London Bridge).
NOVEMBER (selected events)
3rd Mon CLUB DINNER.
15th Sat v S.L.H. Mob Match (Hayes), we need 100 this year! Games Evening.
29th Sat CENTENARY CROSS COUNTRY EVENT.

The Newsheet Editor still lives at 4, Christchurch Road, Dartford.