

# Achilles Club 1997 Annual Report

## 1998 FIXTURES

A midsummer weekend tour to **Guernsey** is planned: all will be very welcome to participate, whether competing or spectating.

In the longer term, a major tour to **Japan** is being worked upon: a return match against Waseda University, who competed against us at Stamford Bridge in 1928, is long overdue.

### CLUB KI

Most vests, sweaters, ties etc can be obtained from **Castell and Son**, Oxford, 01865-244000. They can also make the Club's traditional dark blue blazer, with turned cuffs.

**Ryder and Amies**, Cambridge, 01223-350371, carry a limited stock, and are the sole stockists of the material for making the Club's dazzling striped summer blazer. Their version of our Club tie carries a better rendition of Cambridge blue.

Tracksuits, T-shirts etc (see order form towards the back of this Report), are available by mail order from **Centresport**, 0181-464-6211.

Blazer buttons and cufflinks are available from the **Hon. Secretary**, Paul Willcox, 01473-652213.

## NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Achilles Club will be held in the pavilion at Iffley Road, Oxford, at about 6.15 pm on Saturday 16th May 1998, immediately after the Varsity Match.

### AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of last year's AGM.
2. To elect a Chairman of Committee
3. To receive Financial Reports from the Hon. Treasurer and the Clerks to the Achilles Trust.
4. To appoint auditors.
5. Any other business.
- 6.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

*Peter Crawshaw (Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary):  
18 Ringley Park Av., Reigate, Surrey RH2 7EU.  
Phone 01737-761626.*

## ***Achilles on the Internet***

The Club has joined the Information Technology revolution and has its own Site on the World Wide Web. Primarily designed as an information service. It will be possible to access the Club reports, match results etc. There will also be advertising for such events as the Achilles Ball and notices of matches and other events. The address for the club is:

[www.achilles.org](http://www.achilles.org)

Although the site is very basic at the moment, it will be refined over the next few months.  
email

Many members of the club now have email and it is hoped that an effective mailing list for email users can be set up. Available email addresses are listed at the Web Site as is a form to join the mailing list. If you have any queries or problems with the site please contact Richard Paige:

[richard.paige@bigfoot.com](mailto:richard.paige@bigfoot.com)

## ***ACHILLES REUNION DINNER***

The 1998 Reunion Dinner will return to Trinity, Oxford, on Saturday 16th May immediately after the Varsity Match. Please book early with [Simon Clarke](#), c/o Inorganic Chemistry Dept, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR, phone 01865-512594 (home), 01865-272600 (work), fax 01865-272690. Cost will be not more than £35, including wines and pre-dinner drinks.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

**I.R. Mann** (Jesus, Cambridge, 1927-29), on 13th November 1996. Ian Mann won the 120y hurdles at the 1929 Varsity Match, in which year he travelled to South Africa and America with the Achilles and Oxford and Cambridge teams respectively: he always maintained that hurdling, while 'rather poor sport', had given him a wonderful opportunity to see the world! As we reported last year, he had recently celebrated his 90th birthday at his home in Australia in the company of fellow Achilles hurdlers his nephew John Malcolm, who toured the USA in 1957, and former team-mate Bob Tisdall, the 1932 Olympic Champion.

**Sir T.G. Devitt, Bart.** (Corpus Christi, Cambridge, 1922-26), in December 1995. Sir Thomas Devitt placed second in the long jump in the Varsity Matches of both 1923 and 1924, to the great Harold Abrahams' match record (7.19m/23' 7 ¼", which was to last for 40 years) in the former. He also won Blues for Rugby Football in 1923, 1924 and 1925.

**Dr J.K. Hawkey** (University College, Oxford, 1935-39), on 22nd January 1997. John Hawkey was one of Oxford's leading distance runners in the years before the last war. He captained the cross-country team and competed for them in 1935, 1936 and 1938. In the Varsity Sports he contested the 3 miles in four consecutive years, placing second in 1937 and 1938, and winning in 1939. He toured the USA with the Universities in 1937. After serving in Burma he became a well liked and respected GP in Wantage.

**ACHILLES 1997**  
www.achilles.org

Forty years on, growing older and older,  
Shorter in wind, as in memory long,  
Feeble of foot, and rheumatic of shoulder,  
What will it help you that once you were strong?  
*Harrow School Song*

Global titles have recently been fewer and further between than they were earlier in the Club's history, and it is with considerable pride that we are able to congratulate **Nnenna Lynch**, who was crowned World Student Games Champion at 5000m in August, winning in a time of 15:47.61. The Club's roll of honour in this event now reads:

**World University Games/World Student Games**  
**GOLD MEDALLISTS**

<u>1928 Paris, France</u>	
200 metres	John Rinkel (Cambridge)
<u>1935 Budapest, Hungary</u>	
800 metres	Hamish Stothard (Cambridge)
1,500 metres	Jack Lovelock (Oxford) New Zealand
5,000 metres	Peter Ward (Cambridge)
<u>1937 Paris, France</u>	
400 metres	Godfrey Brown (Cambridge)
5,000 metres	Peter Ward (Cambridge)
4 x 100 metres relay	Godfrey Brown (Cambridge)
	Alan Pennington (Oxford)
	Sandy Duncan (Oxford)
	Dick Webster (Cambridge)
<b>Pole Vault</b>	
<u>1947 Paris, France</u>	
100 metres	John Wilkinson (Oxford)
200 metres	John Wilkinson (Oxford)
High Jum	Ivor Vind (Cambridge) Denmark
<u>1951 Luxembourg</u>	
200 metres	Robin Pinnington (Oxford)
5,000 metres	Chris Brasher (Cambridge)
<u>1953 Dortmund, Germany</u>	
1,500 metres	David Law (Oxford)
<u>1959 Turin, Italy</u>	
5,000 metres	Kevin Gilligan (Oxford)
<u>1963 Porto Allegre, Brazil</u>	
400 metres	Adrian Metcalfe (Oxford)
4 x 400 metres relay	John Boulter (Oxford)
	Adrian Metcalfe (Oxford)
<u>1970 Turin, Italy</u>	
110 metres hurdles	David Hemery (Oxford)
<u>1987 Zagreb, Yugoslavia</u>	
110 metres hurdles	Jon Ridgeon (Cambridge)
<u>1997 Catania, Italy</u>	
5,000 metres	Nnenna Lynch (Oxford) USA

Earlier in the year Nnenna won the U.S. Trials for the World Cross Country Championships, where in Turin on March 23rd she placed 51st. Her season's best at 3000m, 9:02.74, would have ranked her second only to Paul Radcliffe in the UK, and her best at 1500m was 4:14.75.

**Craig Masback**, who at one time shortly after leaving Oxford ranked fourth on the world all-time list for the Mile, has been appointed Chief Executive of USA Track and Field, and thus becomes the latest of very many distinguished members to serve the sport in national and international administration.

**Daniell Sanderson** continued the Club's remarkable record at AAA Championships when winning the 1997 half marathon title in a time of 76:07. She was also awarded 2nd place in the AAA Marathon championship: although third Briton home in London in 2:39:02, she was the second to be wearing a club vest. Under the same ruling, **Richard Nerurkar**, 4th (we think but cannot quite recall) in London in a magnificent pb of 2:08:36, and first Briton, was denied the AAA title because he opted to wear his sponsor's vest. At the AAA track and field championships **Ruth Irving** won the bronze medal in the Long Jump, and **Clare Martin** was 9th at 1500m.

Race walking is a section of the sport where the club is at present particularly strongly represented at international level. **Chris Cheeseman** won the National 20 mile title, and was second Briton home in the IAAF World Race Walking Cup in Prague, in pb time for 50k of 4:10:23. **Tim Berrett**, competing for Canada in the same event, was disqualified while in about 10th place.

**Mara Myers** won her first GB vest, placing 38th in the European Cross Country Championships in Portugal, and helping the British team to 6th place.

**Larry Matthews** was part of Salford's victorious team in the National Road Relay, running one of the fastest long legs.

At the British University Championships in Antrim, titles were won by **James Brierley** (high jump), **Larry Matthews** (10,000m), **Clare Martin** (1500m - with **Becky Spies** a close second) and **Clare Ridgley** (pole vault).

At the British Championships, **Clare Ridgley** placed 5th in the pole vault, **Ruth Irving** 6th in the long jump, and **Jon Hilton** 7th in the triple jump. **Anders Lustgarten** progressed to the tougher semi-final in the 400m, and **Kheredine Idessane** placed 6th in his 800m heat. **Ellen O'Hare** and **Rachel Jordan** placed 4th and 5th respectively in their 800m heats, and **Clare Martin** 8th in her 1500m heat.

In the year end rankings, the following appeared in the British lists (athletes who, like **Tim Berrett** and **Nnenna Lynch**, did not compete in the UK are not included - apologies for any other inadvertent omissions):

1st	Marathon	2:08:36	Richard Nerurkar
3rd	Marathon	2:39.02	Daniell Sanderson
4th	50k Walk	4:10:23	Chris Cheeseman
(4th)	Decathlon	7542w	Pierre Faber (RSA)
5th=	High Jum	2.20	James Brierley
7th	Pole Vault	3.55	Clare Ridgley
14th	Long Jump	6.02	Ruth Irving
15th	Pole Vault	4.90	Tom Richards
16th	Triple Jump	15.37w (15.28)	Jon Hilton
(16th)	3000	9:29.1	Becky Spies (USA)
17th	Decathlon	6428	Steve Garland
(18th)	5000	16:33.89	Becky Spies (USA)
19th	1500	4:20.17	Ellen O'Hare
21st	Discus	44.36	Sarah Winckless
23rd	800	2:06.7	Rachel Smith nee Jordan
26th	10000m	29:55.9	Larry Mathews
27th	3000SC	9:08.33	Dan Duke
(27th)	Shot	15.33	Pierre Faber (RSA)
28th	400m	47.22	Anders Lustgarten
29th	1500	4:22.7	Rachel Smith nee Jordan
29th	800	2:07.74	Ellen O'Hare
29th	Triple Jump	11.61	Ruth Irving
30th	Discus	47.88	John Moreland
31st	Hammer	43.60	Rachel Stott
33rd	5000	17:01.67	Jo Dering
(33rd)	1500	4:23.0	Becky Spies (USA)
36th	Pole Vault	4.60	Matt Weaver
38th	Javelin	61.10	Steve Rogers
41st	3000SC	9:12.33	Andy Beevers
41st	3000	9:45.7	Jo Dering
42nd	Long Jump	7.06	Glyn Chidlow
42nd	1500	4:25.1	Clare Martin
43rd	Pole Vault	4.50	Matthew Buck
(44th)	Discus	45.42	Pierre Faber (RSA)
45th	3000SC	9:15.3	Kenny Stirrat
46th	100H	14.99	Rebecca Lewis
46th	3000SC	9:16.0	Andy Hennessy
46th	Long Jump	5.63	Rebecca Lewis
50th	400	56.4	Rachel Smith nee Jordan

#### VETERANS

Joan Lasenby won the bronze medal at 1500m (W35) in the European Veterans Indoor Championships, recording 4:56.17.

The ever nimble **Max Jones**, having this year turned 70, continues to rewrite the record books and now holds the following World Age Group Records: M65 track 30 miles (3:57:13), 50k (4:05:56); M65 road 50 miles (6:51:22); M70 track 50k (4:16:11), 40 miles (5:49:44), 50 miles (7:34:31), 100k (10:31:30), 12 hours (109.95k), 150k (16:56:15), 100 miles (18:64:47), 24 hours (191.019k/118 miles 1220 yards) - plus numerous other British and Commonwealth records. He aims to contest next year's Comrades Marathon (88k) in South Africa, plus of course the London Marathon, in which he is one of a very select few to have competed every year since its inception.

Max points out that the **Bruce Davidson** who has won medals at national and European veterans level at distances from 1500m up to marathon represented Cambridge at 880 yards in 1938-9: the war curtailed his running career until he took up the sport again after all of 50 years later.

**Chris Melluish** continues to head the British M50 Hammer rankings. **Sarah Owen** ranked 2nd in the W40 shot, and 3rd in the long jump. **Bruce Tulloh** is still running half-marathons in under 1 hour 20 minutes, and tops the M60 lists.

### **THE 1997 VARSITY MATCH**

A glorious day at Wilberforce Road saw an afternoon of sustained high quality athletics. Highlights were **James Brierley's** new match record of 2.20 (7' 2½") in the high jump, eclipsing **Trevor Llewelyn's** 14 year old mark, and **Ellen O'Hare's** front run 2:08.7 in the 800m, beating **Joanna Latimer's** previous record, followed by a win in the 1500m: these two won the Drake Digby and Susan Dennler Trophie respectively. Another match record was set by **Rachel Stott** in the hammer, displacing **Allison Woods'** 1994 distance, and following her excellent form during the USA tour she was awarded the Paul Gomme Trophy (for the best throwing performance during the year). The Le Touquet Trophy for the most improved performance was deservedly won by **James Trapmore**, who rounded off some excellent progress during the season with substantial new pb's in winning both the 800m and 1500m. The 3000m walk (the only event in which women may be selected to compete against men) produced its most exciting competition for some years, not least because **Fiona Rose** went one better than last year and pulled away over the last three laps to win the men's race, with team-mate **Helen Ford-Dunn** holding on to third place. Another significant record was **Rebecca Lewis'** 5 individual wins, matching **Jon Ridgeon's** achievement in the 1988 men's match, in the 100m, 100m hurdles, long jump, javelin, and high jump (she also ran legs of both relays): the previous record in the women's match was 4 individual wins, most recently by **Emma Westlake** in 1991. Other multieventers on display were **Pierre Faber**, with wins in shot, discus and pole vault, and Cambridge's **Stephen Rogers**, who won both the 110m hurdles and the javelin. **Anders Lustgarten**, moving down from the 400m, his parade event, won both the 100m (in a decision which even he disagreed with over an unlucky **Dave Gardiner**) and the 200m.

Cambridge emerged victorious in all 4 contests, although margins in the Blues matches were narrow: Oxford men might have secured a tie if performances in the minor placings of the high jump and javelin could have been shuffled with the Centipedes.

The meeting was enlivened by the presence of **Peter Matthews** at the microphone, and the organisation of the meeting by **Chris Thorne**, **Jon Brooke** and **Mark Steed** was impeccable.

At the Blues' Dinner afterwards at Magdalene, Michael Beloff spoke movingly of his own exploits in the Centipedes, and captured the spirit of the occasion with his sensitive references to many of the day's most memorable performances

### **ACHILLES REUNION DINNER**

About 75 members attended this successful Dinner at Robinson College, admirably organised by **Jon Rushman**, and an enjoyable evening was presided over by **Robert Stinson**. It is worth noting for the future that colleges are becoming reluctant to allow dinners in hall within 3 weeks of the start of examinations, and early booking is essential, but we were extremely fortunate on this occasion to be able to draw on the good offices of the former CUAC Hon. Treasurer **Basil Shone** and secure the hospitality of his college with its good food and relaxed atmosphere.

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### **ACHILLES v. COMBINED SERVICES v. HANTS v. SURREY**

A strong mens' team was always in close contention, and at the end of a sunny afternoon in Portsmouth on 20th July just 15 points separated Achilles 3rd place from Hampshire's winning total. Highlights of the

afternoon included **James Trapmore's** fine win in the 1500m, a dominating 1-2-3 led by **Andy Hennessy** in the steeplechase, and a rousing 4 x 400m victory which included an eye-opening first leg of 49.5 from blocks by **Steve Rogers** (what could he achieve if he trained for the 400m hurdles?).

**Andy Hodge** is to be congratulated on raising such a strong team, and on covering so many events himself until the rest of it arrived (the timetable having been advanced without notice).

The womens' events again suffered from lack of our support, although at least this year Achilles were able to make their presence felt in most events. Our strongest showing was in the hammer, a non-scoring event which was won by **Rachel Stott**.

The 1998 match will be hosted by the RAF and held at Cosford, probably on Saturday 18th July (can any member suggest a suitable nearby venue for our traditional post-match informal barbecue?).

## **THE FRESHMENS' MATCH**

Cambridge won both the mens' and womens' matches, on a typically blustery November day in Cambridge. The quality of the pole-vaulting would have been outstanding in any conditions. **Tom Richards'** personal best of 4.90m was a match, Cambridge undergraduate and ground record, and lifted him well

## **THE ACHILLES BALL**

All who attended will want to thank **Joanna Cripp** for having promoted and organised such an enjoyable evening to round off the Achilles year on another high note. Her own report on the occasion follows:

*A Dinner-Dance was held at the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, London, on 6th December 1997. Despite the fact that this date clashed with the Varsity Cross-Country Match, the event was well supported by Achilles members of all ages and their guests: in fact some late requests for tickets had to be declined as maximum numbers had been reached. Over-Seas House was a splendid setting, and the efforts of the banqueting staff ensured that the evening ran very smoothly. After dinner finished at about 9 pm, dancing continued into the night, interrupted only by the Bottle Game led by **Dewi Robert** (did he win? - if so I'm sure he cheated!). The evening was a great success, with many members catching up with old training partners and team colleagues whom they had not seen since student days: thank you to everyone who has kindly written to express their appreciation. I would in turn like to thank **Emm Hooper** for her help in the organisation. She was very unfortunately prevented from attending herself owing to a sudden case of food-poisoning the night before: was this her husband's last attempt at avoiding the Achilles Ball for the nth year?!*

## **NEWS OF MEMBERS**

Congratulations to **Chris Cholerton** (Oxford) and **Gill Howard** (Cambridge) who were married in May 1997: perhaps the first inter-Varsity Achilles wedding?

**Richard Dillon** celebrated his 50th birthday in style in Melbourne during November: master of ceremonies was fellow former CUAC Hon. Sec. **Professor Neville Norman**.

Congratulations to **Donald Gorrie, M.P.**, who won his Liberal Democrat seat at the general election. **Denise Wang** (nee **Bush**) is currently living in China.

## **CLUB ARCHIVES**

We are most grateful to **John Lockwood** (winner of the long jump in the 1939 Varsity Sports), for securing for us the athletics memorabilia of his late brother-in-law, **Duncan Clarke**. R.D.Clarke (Hertford, Oxford) competed in the mile in the Varsity Sports of 1910-12, placing second in 1911 to **Philip Baker** (later Noel-Baker, the 1920 Olympic 1500m silver medalist, founder member of this Club, Nobel laureate and long time Achilles President). He was also a cross-country Blue, and he competed for Oxford and Cambridge versus Harvard and Yale at Queen's Club in 1911.

Intriguingly, it seems just possible that Duncan Clarke competed in the very first 'London Marathon' (indeed the first marathon at the modern standard distance of 26 miles 385 yards), the Olympic event of 1908 from Windsor Castle to White City: among the fascinating photographs and dinner menu of his memorabilia there is a wonderful original programme for that race, and among those listed as representing Great Britain and Ireland there is a "Clarke" - but no initials. Top of the list of Italian competitors is "Dorando, P.", whose disqualification after being helped, exhausted, across the line in first place made the race famous. The programme has been lodged with the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

**Norris McWhirter** has studied the programme and submitted an article to the journal of the respected and authoritative National Union of Track Statisticians (which he and Ross founded) on this 'fascinating piece of ephemera', as he describes it, of which the following are extracts:

## **MARATHON MYTH LAID TO REST**

**The organization of this Olympic event was clearly amateurish in both senses. Errors in the programme abounded...Of the five Italian entries, two are shown identically as No. 20, U. Blasi and No.21, U. Blasi. The wrong listing of No. 19, Dorando P. is compounded by the entry No. 23, Durendo, P., seemingly the self-same luckless entrant. The third (or was it proclaimed the fifth?) Italian, rejoiced in the name Cocoa.**

Wearing No. 8, South Africa's Charles Hefferon is listed as 'Befferon, C.'. He led the race from Eastcote Post Office (14 miles) to Wormwood Scrubs (25 miles), but had foolishly accepted a glass of champagne from a spectator. He was passed shortly after by Dorando Pietri and Johnny Hayes (the American winner, listed in the programme as J.J. Bayes), but bravely finished second.

The United States' Fred Lorz is listed as F. Lorz. He was the man who took a car ride for almost half the distance at the previous Olympic Marathon in 1904, run at St. Louis: he had entered the stadium well ahead and unsurprisingly fresh compared with those toiling through the Missouriian dust-bowl.

The most significant fact revealed by this surviving programme is that the surveyed distance was 26 miles 385 yards from the start at the East Terrace of Windsor Castle to the winning post at White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, West London. The oft-told story that Britain's beautiful, rather deaf and notoriously unpunctual Danish-born Queen Alexandra, who had 'consented to present the prizes', stamped her dainty foot and insisted the winning post be moved to finish in front of the Royal Box is at last conclusively proved to be a myth. Dorando Pietri did not collapse because he could not manage the extra distance added on by the Queen's insistence: he was just too exhausted to be able to reach, unassisted, the pre-advertized winning post within the Stadium, having bemusedly first turned right instead of left.

The length of the course could easily have been adjusted to 26.0 miles ....by moving the start within the grounds of Windsor Castle. Why then was not this done? It requires further research. Sixteen years later, in Paris in 1924, the IAAF adopted 26 miles 385 yards as the standardized length for all future marathons... Deferential foreigners appeared to accept this odd distance perhaps as an integral part of England's to them already incomprehensible system of weights and measures.

Although they both turned professional, both Hayes and Pietri ended their lives in straightened circumstances, Pietri as a taxi driver and Hayes as the beneficiary of an AAU Testimonial Lunch. Sic transit gloria.

## **40 YEARS ON...**

**Harold Abrahams** took over in 1947 from **Bevil Rudd** as the Club's Chairman of Committee, a post he was to hold for fourteen years. **Philip Noel-Baker** was in only the second of his thirty three years as President, while **Evan Hunter** was in his last of twenty five as Hon. Secretary, and **Roly Harper** in the last of sixteen as Hon. Treasurer. **Kenneth Bailey** and **Russell Grice** were the OUAC Officers, and **John Mark** and **Arthur Willis** their Cambridge counterparts. Other Committee members included **Godfrey Brown**, **Sandy Duncan**, **Roger Leigh-Wood**, **Jack Lovelock**, **Vernon Morgan**, and **Rex Salisbury Wood**.

Cambridge beat Oxford at White City Stadium by 68.5 points to 57.5 (full results are appended). Although no wins were recorded by members at the AAA championships (except by **Harry Whittle** who was elected some years later), the Club was gradually regaining its strength, and were victorious in the Kinnaird.

## **THE CUAC POST-WAR REVIVAL - by 'Claude' Havard.**

As soon as the 1939-45 war was over the CUAC, with much enthusiasm, set about the task of re-establishing the pre-war status of Cambridge track and field athletics. Athletic fixtures had continued throughout the war with the 'unofficial' Varsity Sports being held each year alternatively at Fenners and Iffley Road and with wartime 'colours' awarded instead of blues. However the finances of all the university sporting clubs had been seriously depleted during the war by greatly reduced gates and the cost of maintaining their grounds. A return to pre-war locations for the annual contests against Oxford was regarded as a key factor in restoring their status and was eagerly anticipated.

The Varsity Sports were a special problem because the cost of hiring the White City Stadium, where they had been held in 1939, would have been enormous and the Senior Treasurers of the CUAC and OUAC ruled it out of the question. This was all rather depressing for the enthusiastic group of athletes training at Fenners during the Michaelmas term of 1945, consisting of old Blues who had returned from the war to complete their studies, wartime colours remaining in residence, and freshmen.

We knew that London had already been chosen to host the 1948 Olympics and that there was strong competition between the White City and Wembley to hold the athletic events. We also knew that the Varsity Sports had been recognized in the pre-war athletics calendar as a prestige event and we

suspected that the White City management would be anxious to hold as many such events as possible in order to stake its claim. I therefore went to see the Chairman of the Greyhound Racing Association, which owned the White City, together with the CUAC Secretary, **John Mark** (who was to light the Olympic flame in 1948). Having put our case, we were told that we could have the White City for the `Varsity Sports free of charge.

The first post-war `Varsity Sports, which was held there in March 1946, received considerable publicity and attracted a gate of nearly five thousand, which did much to restore the finances of both university clubs. It proved what we had suspected, namely that the public was hungry for spectator sports after nearly six years of war, and that, a properly advertized track and field meeting, could attract sizeable gates and more than pay for itself. This was confirmed two months later when there was such a large gate for the Oxford & Cambridge v AAA meeting at Fenners that spectators had to be allowed on to the centre of the track, much to the displeasure of the university cricket club.

Meanwhile CUAC had received an invitation to compete against Paris University Club in Paris. In my enthusiasm to accept this invitation, I had overlooked the need for AAA permission to be obtained before a British team could compete in a foreign country. This was just as well as I was told afterwards that the AAA might well have refused permission because they suspected that we would be heavily defeated. But although we did not win on points, we did win every track event but one, obtaining both first and second place in some of them. Afterwards **Jack Crump**, the British Team Manager, was gracious enough to write and congratulate us, adding that he hoped we realized that the Paris team, which included past as well as present students, had contained several internationals who had competed against Great Britain the previous autumn.

Although CUAC performances were not up to 1939 standards, they were relatively good at the time. Because several Blues were taking the Tripos, and were unavailable, we entered a team for the 1946 UAU championships as Alverstone instead of CUAC, a decision which attracted much adverse criticism as it won the cup.

The improvement in CUAC performances was the outcome of a letter I received from **Harold Abrahams** early in 1946 informing me that the pre-war coach of the Austrian Olympic team would shortly be arriving from Australia where he had been interned during the war. Would we like him to stay in Cambridge and coach the CUAC team for two weeks during the vacation. **Franz Stampfl** had a remarkable effect on the CUAC team, which soon learnt what training was all about. Having got over his astonishment at our having to run the wrong way round a track with three laps to the mile (Fenners), not to mention a sharp bend round the Master of Magdalene's tree, he proceeded to make the shot putters, discus and javelin throwers do interval training including sprinting.

Such a thing had never been heard of before, and it only added to the outrage which had been caused by my announcing that I would not be including in the team anyone who had not trained at Fenners at least three times a week! Franz regarded this as highly amusing. Needless to say he soon had the team training hard every day. Meanwhile we had been receiving strong support from of the Achilles Club officers, **Sandy Duncan** (Team Manager), **Evan Hunter** (Secretary), and **Bevil Rudd** (Chairman), paradoxically all Oxford men, who attended almost every CUAC event during the season.

It would be fair to say that the CUAC revival made an important contribution to the post-war success of the Achilles Club, which won the Kinnaird Cup Trophy for the next three years, adding in 1948 the Sward, Waddilove and Ryder trophies, the Victory Mile relay and the AAA 4 x 110y relay championship. But by that time the Club had already begun to suffer seriously from the deprivations of the first claim rule.

## **25 YEARS ON...**

1972, and the Oxford Officers were **Brian Hull** (still today in his forties a first class triple jumper) and **Steve White** (a stalwart long jump official at Varsity Matches these days, but the 100m record holder looks as fast as ever); at Cambridge were the high jumping duo of **John Ellicock**, whom your Hon. Sec. last encountered on an early morning run in Hong Kong, and for whose fitness he can therefore vouch (having been shattered for the rest of the day), and **Neville Norman** (see under News of Members). **Richard Saunders** recalls a closely fought Varsity Match as follows:

### **Oxford 99 Cambridge 94**

It was the eighth consecutive victory for Oxford, though the match was a closer run thing than in some previous years. On the day, the real difference between the two teams was Oxford's multiple event winners: **Phil Lewis** (800 and 1500), **Steve Whit** (200 and long jump) and **John Hemery** who took all three hurdles races, a feat only previously achieved by **Mike Hogan** of Oxford in 1964 and 1965. The most exciting events were the middle distances, which saw some fine duels, notably **John Valentine's**

victory over **Doug Gunstone** in the 5000 and an outstanding 1500 in which **Phil Lewi** had to run a 55 second last lap to shake off an inspired **Rees Ward**.

Despite the presence of Lewis and other class athletes like White, **Adu Conteh** and **Brian Hull**, "Athletics Weekly" observed that it was sad to witness the decline of the fixture. A comparison with the winning performances ten years earlier shows 1962 and 1963 beating 1972 in the majority of events, but by no means all and usually by modest margins. No, the "AW" comment probably reflects a rising ambition in British athletics which was leaving behind the Corinthians at the universities. David Bedford had been setting world records at the new national stadium at Crystal Palace, and a new, more professional approach was being fostered by a generation of forward-looking coaches. Already athletes like Steve Overt and Sebastian Coe were rising through junior ranks who would change the face of the sport.

But, as we would see the following year, the Varsity Match was still capable of producing its own fireworks.

Cambridge gained a measure of consolation when Alverstone beat Centipedes, 103 points to 89. A Dark Blue perspective on the same year is given by **Peter Crawshaw**:

The match marked the introduction of a 4 x 100m relay, won by the Cambridge quartet of **Dave Roberts, Adu Conteh, Mick Dal** and **Steve William** in the excellent time of 41.9, which still stands as a Blues' Match record (though inferior to the Relays Match record of 41.6, set by the 1966 OUAC squad of **Archer, Barry, Hauck and Ronay**). No other match records were set, though the fine performances of **John Valentine** (returning to the fixture after a relaxation in the Blues' rules) in the 5000m (14:04.2) and **Steve White** in the Long Jump (7.27m) had only been bettered at the time by the existing match records. John might have run faster still had he not been recovering from a 2 Miles PB of 8:39.8 in the Ceylon Tea meeting the previous evening. Rugby Blues continued to make an impact, with CUAC's **Dave William** finishing second (to **Matt Dixon**) in the 400, and OUAC's **Tom Neville** winning the Discus and placing second in the Shot (to Cambridge's American, **Dave Rea**). Oxford fielded two Soccer Blues in the Triple Jump, **Kevin Raine** partnering winner **Brian Hull**.

**Vane Ivanovi** was Track Referee and later presided as Chairman of the dinner held at the Cafe Royal: for the first time this was a mixed Blues' and second teams' dinner. **Phil Lewis** was awarded the **Drak Digby Trophy**, a narrow decision over **John Hemery**.

Oxford had again prepared for the track season with a training/cultural visit to Poland, under the auspices of their erstwhile coach, **Captain Mack**.

The Freshmen's Match took place at Milton Road on 25th October 1972, OUAC winning by 88 points to 77. Oxford were much stronger on the track, where **Bob Munn** won both sprints against fellow English Schools Gold Medallist **Ton Gershun**, although Cambridge benefited in the field from the efforts of American decathlete **Jim Reill**. There was no Relays Match in 1972, which marked the year of transition to an early spring date to coincide with the inaugural Varsity Games [in the promotion of which **Matt Dixon** played a significant role] in March 1973. The Field Events match was, however, held at Iffley Road on 1st November, Oxford winning by 4 events to 3, despite another busy afternoon for Reilly. Canadian international high jumper **Wilf Wedmann** made his debut for Oxford: sadly injury problems were to prevent him from displaying his full potential at a time when his PB exceeded the UK record. The match finished in near darkness, with the Javelin presenting a danger to officials, and having to be illuminated by car headlights.

In the Cross-Country Match, Oxford, despite fielding freshman **Julian Goater**, were unable to prevent Cambridge recording their fourth successive victory, 37-42. Crucial to the result was the timely return from overseas of **Chris Garforth**, the individual winner for Cambridge.

As for Achilles, 1972 was notable for the success of our British League team, which, under the team management of **Jonathan Peacoc**, won the Fourth Division with a series of superb performances. Although **Martin Winbolt Lewis** was the undoubted star, generally providing at least one individual win as well as anchoring the 4 x 400m relay team to victory, this was very much a team effort from a squad that included **Henk Altmann, John Bryant, Ed Forman, Chris Kidd, David Knight, Nick Nops, Neville Norman, Tony Shoebridge** and **Bob Young**. Achilles also organised a successful West Country tour, in addition to the traditional schools matches at Eton and Marlborough, and fielded a strong team in an inter-Counties fixture at Iffley Road.

## **62 YEARS ON..... THE 1935 TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Thanks to **David Thurlow** of the National Union of Track Statisticians, we have now received copies of reports on this tour as they appeared in contemporary issues of *The Times*. As no account of this tour has previously been filed in the Club's archives, these reports are reproduced below. Although billed as an Oxford and Cambridge team, it included **A.W. Sweeney** of the RAF, while team captain **'Bonzo' Howland** had gone down from Cambridge some seven years previously. The tour was notable for the

blossoming quarter-mile talent of **Godfrey Brown**, who here displayed his great range by dividing his attention between the 100 yards and the half-mile, a year before Olympic gold and silver medals in Berlin.

**Port Elizabeth, Sept. 4** - *The combined team of Oxford and Cambridge athletes opened their tour of South Africa when they beat Eastern Province by 10½ events to 1½, breaking five Eastern Province records. Sweeney, who is included in the team, won the 100y in 10.1 and the 220y in 21.8. Pilbrow won both hurdles events. There was a dead heat in the quarter between Stammers (Eastern Province) and J.A. Judson (Oxford) in 52.8. Other winners were: Brown (half mile), Squires (mile), Webster (pole vault) and Howland (discus and weight): Oxford and Cambridge won the relay race.*

**Capetown, Sept. 7** - *The Oxford and Cambridge team won their match here today against a combined universities team from Capetown and Stellenbosch and rest of Western Province. They won by 7 events to 4. Four Western Province records were broken.*

100y	1. J.H. Schoeman (S.A. Universities) 2. A.W. Sweeney (RAF) 3. J.J. Erwee (S.A. Universities)	9.8 secs Won by a yard
220y	1. Schoeman 2. Sweeney 3. Erwee	22.1 secs Won by inches
440y	1. Erwee 2. Visser (S.A. Universities) 3. J.C. Horsfall (Cambridge)	51.0 sec Won by inches
880y	1. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge) 2. R. Hall (Western Province) 3. S. Morgan (Western Province)	1:56.6 Won by 8 yards.
One Mil	1. W.T. Squires (Oxford) 2. Van Heerden (S.A. Universities) 3. Goodes (Western Province)	4:33.4. Won by a yard.
120y hurdles	1. S. Kiel (Western Province) 2. A.G. Pilbrow (Oxford) 3. Jurgensen (Western Province)	15.0 sec. Won by a foot.
220y hurdles	1. Pilbro 2. Kiel 3. Jurgensen	25.7 sec. Won by a yard.
Shot Putt	1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge) 2. P.K. van der Merwe (S.A. Universities) 3. Bekker-Smith (Western Province)	47' 11¾"
Discus	1. Howland 2. Coetzee (Western Province)	118' 3½" 115' 2"
Pole Vault	1. F.R. Webster (Cambridge) 2 = Irvin (S.A. Universities) Coates (Western Province)	11' 1½"
Half-mile relay	1. Oxford and Cambridge 2. Stellenbosch and Capetown 3. Western Province	1:29.5

**Pretoria, Sept. 11** - *Oxford and Cambridge won their third match of the tour here today, when they gained a narrow victory in their triangular match with the Transvaal and South African Police. The touring team won the contest by one point from the Transvaal with 13 points against 12. The S.A. Police scored 5 points.*

*R.L. Howland won both the shot and the discus, and has so far won every event during the tour in which he has competed.*

*E. Grimbeek, the South African sprint champion, won the 100y and 220y, in the good times of 9.8 and 21.4, but perhaps the outstanding performance of the day was that of A.G.K. Brown, the Cambridge quarter miler. Previously during the tour he had taken part in half-mile races: today he left the half-mile to M.J.K. Sullivan and ran in the 100y. In this he not only beat A.W. Sweeney, the British Empire sprint champion, but he ran Grimbeek to 6 inches and beat even time.*

*In the 120y hurdles, A.G. Pilbrow of Oxford knocked down three hurdles in winning the event in 15secs and was accordingly disqualified. The visiting team won the relay for the third successive time, and this gave them the victory.*

100y	1. E. Grimbeek (Transvaal) 2. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge) 3. A.W. Sweeney (RAF)	9.8 secs Won by 6 inches
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220y	1. Grimbeek 2. Sweeney Lotriet (Transvaal)	21.4 secs. Won by 2 yards
880y	1. M.J.K Sullivan (Cambridge) 2. Lyell (Transvaal) 3. Roux (S.A. Police)	1:57.2 Won by 7 yards.
One Mil	1. N.J.Wessels (Transvaal) 2. D.R. Jacobs (S.A. Police) 3. Meyer (Transvaal) 4. R.T. Squires (Oxford)	4:24.4. Won by 30 yards
120y hurdles	1. Lavery (Transvaal) 2. Sirakis (S.A. Police) Pibrow (Oxford finished first in 15 secs but was disqualified.	
Shot Putt	1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge) 2. Fouche (Transvaal)	46' 10½" 44' 5¾"
Discus	1. Howland 2. van der Linder (S.A. Police) 3. Stewart Wynne (Transvaal)	126' 6½" 122' 7½" 120' 7"
Pole Vault	1. J. van der Walt (S.A. Police) 2. F.R. Webster (Cambridge)	12' 3¾" 12' 2"
Relay	1. Oxford and Cambridge 2. Transvaal 3. S.A. Police	

**Johannesburg, Sept. 14** - South Africa won the athletic match against Oxford and Cambridge here today by nine events to one. The only English victory was that of M.J.K. Sullivan who won the half-mile in the good time of 1:55.7.

The visitors, however, had very bad luck with injuries and sickness. A.G.K. Brown pulled a muscle in the first event, the 100y, when going very well. This not only robbed him of the chance of winning the event, but lost him the opportunity of going for the quarter-mile record as he intended to do: the tourists were unable to be represented in this event as J.A. Judson was taken ill. Then J.C. Horsfall pulled a muscle while long-jumping, and although he obtained second place through an earlier jump, he lost any chance of beating the winner.

These misfortunes prevented Oxford and Cambridge from taking part in the relay, which they stood a very good chance of winning.

100y	1. E. Brimbeek (S.A.) 2. M.W. Theunissen (S.A.) 3. A.W. Sweeney (RAF)	9.5 secs. Won by 4 feet.
220y	1. Theunissen 2. Sweeney 3. Brimbeek	21.1 secs. (S.A. record). Won by 1 foot.
Quarter mile	1. D.V. Shore (S.A.) 2. Liddell (S.A.) 3. Barkhuizen (S.A.)	48.8 secs. Won by 10 yards
Half mile	1. M.J.K. Sullivan (Cambridge) 2. R.G. McMillan (S.A.) 3. Hall (S.A.)	1:55.7 Won by 3 yards
Mile	1. N.J. Wessels (S.A.) 2. D.R. Jacobs (S.A.) 3. R.T. Squires (Oxford)	4:26.8 Won by 110 yards
120y hurdles	1. S. Kiel (S.A.) 2. A.G. Pilbrow (Oxford) 3. H. Viljoen (S.A.)	14.5 secs (S.A. record) Won by 5 yards
220y hurdles	1. A. Burton Durham (S.A.) 2. Pilbro 3. Davis (S.A.)	24.1 secs (equals S.A. record) Won by 5 yards
Long Jump	1. Gerber (S.A.) 2. J.C. Horsfall (Cambridge) 3. N.J. Viljoen (S.A.)	22' 10¼" 22' 1¾" 21' 9½"
Pole Vault	1. = A. du Plessis (S.A.)	12' 7¼"

	J. van der Walt (S.A.)	
	3. F.R. Webster (Cambridge)	12' 5-1/8"
Shot	1. H. Hart (S.A.)	48' 2½"
	2. R.L. Howland (Cambridge)	46' 11½"
	3. van der Merwe (S.A.)	44' 7"
Relay	1. South Africa	Walkover

**Bloemfontein, Sept. 18** - The Oxford and Cambridge athletic team, strengthened by A.W. Sweeney, beat the Orange Free State here today. Of the athletes who were injured in the match against South Africa all but J.C. Horsfall were able to turn out. A.G.K. Brown, however, was troubled by his injury and had to drop out of the half-mile, the event being won by M.J.K. Sullivan of Cambridge.

J.A. Judson (Oxford) was well enough to compete in the quarter mile today, but he left his sprint just too late and was beaten by Barnard of the Free State in 50 seconds dead. The relay was the only other event won by the home team.

**Durban, Sept. 21** - The Oxford and Cambridge team won their match against Natal here this afternoon by eight events to two. Great interest was taken in the sprint races, in which A.W. Sweeney and M.W. Theunissen were opposed: they each won one. Sweeney won the 100y in 10secs, a good time into a strong wind, and Theunissen won the 220y in 22. secs. The universities actually won only seven events, but D.V. Shore, the South African champion, was competing as an individual in an attempt on the South African quarter-mile record, and although he won easily, J.A. Judson was given the event for the purposes of the match. R.L. Howland, the captain of the British team, scored his usual double by winning both the putting the weight and the discus.

100y	1. A.W. Sweeney (RAF)	10.0 secs Won by a yard
	2. M.W. Theunisse (Natal)	
	3. Galder (Natal)	
220y	1. Theunissen	22.4 secs Won by 6 inches
	2. Sweeney	
	3. Johnson (Natal)	
Quarter mile	1. D.V. Shore (South Africa)	49.2 secs Won by 5 yards
	2. J.A. Judson (Oxford)	
	3. Marshal (Natal)	
Half mile	1. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge)	2:00.6 Won by 3 yards
	2. Lindeque (Natal)	
Mile	1. R.H. Hallows (Natal)	4:25.4 Won by 35 yards
	2. R.T. Squires (Oxford)	
120y hurdles	1. A.G. Pilbrow (Oxford)	15.2 secs Won by 2 yards
	2. Sirakis (Natal)	
	3. Elston (Natal)	
Shot	1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge)	46' 11¼"
	2. Roodt (Natal)	
Discus	1. Howland	126' 7"
	2. Roodt	
	3. Sirakis	
Pole Vault	1. F.R. Webster (Cambridge)	11' 6"
	2. de Villiers (Natal)	
Mile relay	1. Oxford and Cambridge	3 min 37 secs
	2. Natal	

### **THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES**

Since our first article on the origins of Cambridge Blue, which appeared in the 1990 Report, and drew exclusively on an account which appeared in 'World Sports' in 1939, further detail has reached us from, strangely enough, Australia, where **John Hartley** (see 1995 Report) is in close touch with Sydney University, who adopted the awarding of their own Blues in 1892.

Firstly, the originator of Oxford versus Cambridge sporting contests, Charles Wordsworth of Oxford, who arranged the first cricket match of 1827, was the poet William's nephew. Secondly, although it is likely that light Blue was adopted by Cambridge in the second Boat Race of 1836 because of the presence in their boat of three Caius men, including their coach and cox T.S. Egan, whose college colour it was (the first race of 1829 saw Cambridge in sashes of the pink of St. John's, their President's college), we now have a name for the Christ's man, not a member of the crew, who was despatched at the last minute to buy a ribbon to fly at the bow of the Cambridge boat: he was a Mr Phillips, and as he was an Old Etonian the alternative explanation has it that he chose the colour of his old school. Whatever the

reason, the happy contrast of light blue with the dark blue of Oxford (the origins of which are themselves obscure) was immediately apparent, and C.U.B.C. adopted it thereafter.

It was not until 1862, following an application by the C.U. Cricket Club, that the Boat Club by a small margin voted in favour of allowing other Cambridge sports to use their colour. The first Varsity athletics match was held two years later, in 1864.

*Paul Willcox*  
*January 1998*