

# **Achilles Club 1991 Annual Report**

## **THE ACHILLES CLUB IN 1991**

The Club took several firm and positive steps forwards, fielding teams in more matches than for twenty years. Following on from the hugely successful March 1991 tour to Hong Kong and China, of which a full account appeared in last year's Report, both men and women competed in two rounds of the GRE cup, against variously SCAA, Combined Services, Birmingham University and Marlborough, and undertook another tour, a weekend visit to Ulster. We were hosts to Harvard and Yale during June, and rounded off the summer with another memorable Achilles Ball.

1992 promises to be an even busier year for the Club, and we are pleased to enclose with this Report a Fixture Card, the first to have been produced for some years.

## **ACHILLES MEDALS**

Achilles Medals for 1991 are awarded, as last year, to Richard Nerurkar, a magnificent fifth in the World Championships at 10,000m in a time of 27:57.14, and Gill Howard, who high jumped 1.78m. Tim Berrett, who also competed with distinction in Tokyo and ranked in the World's top 20 at 50k Walk, again receives an honourable mention.

## **ACHILLES ELITE ATHLETES SCHEME**

In a new initiative aimed to help members of exceptional ability achieve International success, the following undergraduates have been selected for special assistance during 1992: Andre Lill (Cambridge), ranked 10th in the UK at 800m, with a best time of 1:47.54; Eleanor Cave (Oxford), ranked 13th in the UK at Heptathlon (4932 points, high jump 1.73) while still a junior; and Matthe Burchall (Cambridge), ranked first junior in the UK at 400m hurdles in 1989 and 1990, with a best time of 52.76.

## **GRE CUP - ROUND ONE - IPSWICH, 5TH MAY.**

Having lured together men's and women's teams with the promise of a post-match barbecue chez Willcox, it was perhaps inevitable that the gods would punish us with some of the worst spring weather on record. Nevertheless, the first round match was another important milestone in the resurgence of Achilles in inter-club competition: we won the men's match and placed second in the women's, thus progressing in both categories to the second round, to the surprise and delight of all concerned.

Both our teams included many members competing for the Club for the first time. They comprised: Alastair Munt (1st HT), Mike Cole (1st PV), Rob Calvert (2nd 400h), Jon Crews (1st HJ, 2nd LJ and TJ), Rob Beardsmore (2nd 800), Guy Chambers (1st SP), Jon Arnold (1st 110h, 2nd 100), Alastair Munt (1st DT), Tom Bent (2nd 400), Chris Daniels (1st 1500 and 3000 steeplechase - a notable double within 40 minutes), Alan Taylor (2nd JT), James Bobby (1st 200), Tom Richardson (1st 5000) and Pete Key (both relays, in combination with many of the above, 1st 4x100, 2nd 4x400); Hilary Lissenden (2nd HJ, 100 and LJ), Corinne Cummings (1st 400h and 100h), Ainsley Normand (2nd 800 and 1500), Victoria Barton (2nd DT and SP), Emma Johns (2nd 400), Allison O'Neill (2nd 3000 and JT) and Bridget Wheeler (2nd 200). Paul Willcox, Peter Crawshaw, Trevor Llewelyn, Lynn Davis and Chris Thorne completed the substantial Achilles contingent. And the barbecue? It moved indoors!

## **ACHILLES SCHOOLS RELAYS**

Peter Ford did duty as Referee on 11th May, noting that Epso were particularly successful this year. After many years of representing the Club's interests in this event (all the very fine trophies are owned by the Club), Tim Taylor is standing down. We owe Tim a great debt of gratitude for his contributions to the Club, as competitor, team manager and administrator. The Schools Relays are fortunate that he will now be succeeded by Mark Steed, who has moved from Radley to a new post at Oundle. One of the first labours that Mark has completed is to draw up a complete list of results since the Schools Relays were first held in 1963.

## **THE VARSITY MATCH**

Saturday, 18th May 1991, at Iffley Road. Notwithstanding last year's media attention and Simo Mugglestone's successful assault on Roger Bannister's historic track record, the attendance this year was equally high, and the overall standard of athletics if anything higher. Again, almost too many Members to mention were present, and it was a revelation to see crowds of spectators over by the long jump and pole vault areas beyond the back straight, and at the discus and shot putt areas.

An approximate list of some of those present included: George Churchill, Rob Kennedy, Dick Webster, Sandy Duncan, Keith Fraser, Tommy Macpherson, Richard Posnet, Gwyn Bevan, Tim Anderson, John Harvard, Michael Orrell-Jones, Norris McWhirter, Robert Stinson, John Holt, David Donaldson, Chris Thorne, Peter Hildret, Frederick Aldridge, Dave Barton, Roger Bannister, Bryan Wardley, Simon Lamont Smith, David Loade, John Loney, Richard Moorby, Mike Turner, Allan Malcolm, Derek and Zalpha Steel, Jeremy Ball, Tony Shiret, Allison O'Neill, Dom Emery, Giles Clifford, Peter Crawshaw, Steve White, Henk Altmann, Bill Cooper, Adrian Thiemicke, Shanker Singham, Lynn Davis, Ian Coleman, Lynne Allen, Jon Brooke, Simon Briggs, Jon Crews, Andrew Fischer, Joan Lasenby, James Bevan, Sue Bevan, Bridget Wheeler, Andy Millett, Martin Borrett, Hilar Lissenden, Paul Willcox and many other.

Stars of the match were Jo Dering, who set magnificent new match records at 3000m and 1500m, and Andre Lill, who was close to Phil Lewis' match record at 800m, and also won the 400m: these two were awarded the Susan Dennler and Drake Digby Trophies respectively. Notable, too, was Emma Westlake's four individual wins (equalling the record number in one women's match), at 100m, 100mh, long jump and high jump (plus second place in the shot!). This brings her total to nine individual wins over three years, a new outright record for the women's match, and a feat never achieved over three years in the men's match. Simon Mugglestone also again rewrote the record books, completing the taxing 1500/5000m double for the fourth year in succession. Other double winners were Bob Ryan in the sprints, Gerhard Cruywagen over the longer hurdles and Joanna Latimer at 400 (equalling the match record) and 800m, while Louisa Bayles finally broke Marjori Willey's long-standing record in the shot.

There were good performances in other events, too: the long jump saw four men over 7 metres, including Simon Clark of Centipedes. And Cambridge throwers, Munt and Sheasby, achieved better distances than for several years in the discus and shot.

Cambridge won the men's match by 120 points to 103. Oxford's women proved that they have put behind them Cambridge's dozen years of superiority by allowing the light blues to win only 3 of the 15 events, and winning their match for a second successive year, by 95 points to 62.

Standards in the second team matches were higher than ever: Alverstone beat Centipedes by 131 points to 92, and Alligators beat Millipedes by 88 points to 67.

## **MARLBOROUGH**

A dedicated team of seven duly won, and enjoyed themselves thoroughly in the process. Having two decathletes, Mark Steed and Danny Cullinane, on parade certainly helped, and both proved to be in particularly fine form. Trevor Llewelyn, a loyal supporter of the event, did not disappoint, and new convert Laurence Coen reported that he had fun in spite of missing the first half of the programme. Gary Pitts Martin Borrett and Sean Macgrady completed the busy line-up.

## **GRE CUP ROUND TWO**

No fairy tale ending to our first season's campaign in this event, but another very good day for all who turned out. The women were unlucky to have what started out on paper looking like a full team ruined by last minute injuries. Opting not to exert themselves by filling each event they placed last in the match. The men, always struggling to find enough first-claim members to field a complete team, but determined not to go down without a fight, scored in every event bar the steeplechase. Hero of the day was Tom Bent's room-mate, a rower called Tom (we still don't know his surname), who had come along to watch but was drafted in to run the 10,000m, and finished strongly in a shade over 37 minutes. Jon Crews placed second in the high jump, and then did his duty by filling in for the points in the 1500 and 4 x 400, as did the Hon. Sec. in the 800 and (never again) 5000. Simon Clark was our only winner of the day, in the long jump, also contributing points in the 100m and relays. Top scorer was Steve Booth, with solid performances in the pole vault (3rd) and 110mh (3rd), plus more valuable points in the triple jump.

Busiest of the ladies was Jeanette Thompson, doing both sprints and both jumps. Allison O'Neill, shamed by the publication in last year's report of her times in Hong Kong, had clearly been training hard, and was back in competitive form over 3000m. Emma Coleman had trouble with the timetable, but did run a hard 400m. Ruth Waters and Corinne Cummings contributed good points in the throws and hurdles respectively, and it was a pity that the team lost heart towards the end of the afternoon: by failing to appear for the relays the women slipped to last in the match.

## **UK CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Achilles seems more prominently represented every year. No winners, however, this time, and Richard Nerurkar was unfortunate to lose his AAA 10,000m title on the last lap of a race held during the same programme. Andre Lill (800), Simon Mugglestone (5000) and Andy Geddes (3000) all achieved third places, and Sue Bevan (800) fourth. Other finalists were Paul Rowbotham (7th 800), Larry Matthews (19th 5000), Jon Ridgeon (a welcome return in 5th in the high hurdles), Tony Hatton (14th JT), John

Moreland (15th DT ) and Simon Walker (15th LJ), while Richard White, Kheredine Idessane, Danny Cullinane, Dave Benton, Sian Pilling and Jo Latimer all performed well in their heats.

### **OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE V. HARVARD AND YALE**

It was unfortunate that our guests had to visit this year during examination time: the Gulf War having jeopardised their tour, arrangements had to be made at the last minute. We were thus unable to give them either the hospitality or the competition which they deserved. However, there is great enthusiasm on both sides of the Atlantic for major celebrations here in 1995, to mark the 100th anniversary of this series and the 75th anniversary of the Achilles Club. Not only is the series the oldest international meeting still held regularly, but the Yale v. Oxford match in 1894 was the first international match ever.

With so many of our best athletes unavailable, the Americans inevitably won both men's and women's matches, but nevertheless we put up a number of good performances. Gill Howard set a new match record of 1.71 in the high jump; Sue Burgis won the 400m; and Simon Mugglestone and Larry Matthews dominated the 5000m, as did Kenny Stirrat the Steeplechase. Although the outstanding performance of the match was a discus throw of 55.78 by Sweeney of Harvard, the trophy for the best men's performance was awarded to Wemple of Yale for his record run in the 1500m, a choice perhaps influenced by diplomacy and the fact that the equivalent women's trophy went to Griffin of Harvard for her new discus record.

### **ACHILLES LADIES v COMBINED SERVICES v SURREY**

For the second year Achilles Ladies took part in the match against Combined Services and Surrey, hosted by the Army. This took place on a cool afternoon in Aldershot on Sunday 13th July. We had an enthusiastic team but were without some of our World Student Games' stars, nevertheless we managed to defeat a depleted Surrey side fairly convincingly, and gave the Combined Services a run for their money.

Notable performances included a repeat victory by Gill Howard (having returned from her U.S. athletic scholarship) in the high jump at 1.75 metres. Sarah Owen, recently having achieved a World Veterans Indoor Best for the heptathlon, and on the eve of her return to International duty for Wales, won the shot competition with a convincing 11.25 metres, and also covered the discus and javelin events. Dwayne Heard's long jumping ability seemed to have rubbed off on his wife Ann who came a creditable second with 5.38. Chris Tuerk struggling to recover from injury, was placed 5th in the long jump but threw the javelin 33.28 for second place.

On the track Emma Howard failed to repeat last year's double but secured two strong second places behind the fast improving Donna Burkma of Surrey, and was well supported by Jeanette Thompson. Sian Pilling, also on the eve of call up for Wales, competed well in the 800 metres placing third ahead of Emma Coleman. Diane Cheeseman, turning down a Surrey vest, placed third in the 1500 metres. The 4 x 100 relay proved the closest event of the day; an early lead established by Achilles was rapidly eroded in the final leg when Jeanette Thompson held off Donna Burkma by 0.2 seconds. The 4 x 400 was also a thrilling event, with a very competitive leg by Jo Cripps in the middle of the order taking us right back on terms with the Combined Services who only pulled away on the final leg.

After the match there was the customary social event with the other teams and Peter Crawshaw replied to the welcoming speech from the Combined Services. With the rediscovery of the Achilles Trophy previously awarded to the match held at Southwark Park some ten years ago, we shall be offering that next year for this match, and there is even talk (radical talk) of amalgamating this fixture with the men's Southern Counties fixture....

- Bridget Wheeler

### **INTERNATIONALS**

Pride of place goes to Richard Nerurkar, who is to be warmly congratulations for his determined 5th place in the 10,000m World Championships. With two National Cross-Country titles to his name, and good showing at last year's European Championships, Richard is now arguably the country's leading distance runner.

Tim Berrett also achieved the distinction of selection for Tokyo, representing Canada. After placing 22nd in the 20k Walk, he finished a fine 15th in the 50k, to complete a hard week's work: he was almost the only walker to contest both events. Earlier in the summer he smashed (by over half an hour!) the Canadian record for 50k on the track, recording 3:56:13 (some nine minutes inside the current UK record).

Sue Bevan had a splendid season, winning a GB vest against the USSR, and breaking 2:02 for the first time. She was very unlucky to miss out on a place in the World Championships team, failing by just one place in the trials, but has her sights set on 1992.

Although the World Student Games were held in Sheffield, the British team found themselves having to pay substantially for the honour of representing their country: the Club was pleased to be able to give some financial assistance to each member competing. Andy Lill placed a good fifth in the final of the 800m: also representing the UK were Claire Lavers (who started as one of the favourites over 10,000m but had a wretchedly bad day), Vicki Vaughan and Andy Geddes: Jo Dering was injured and could not compete.

### **WASEDA UNIVERSITY, JAPAN**

We were very pleased to be visited by Akira Kazama, a representative of the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation, and a graduate of Waseda University. Achilles had a match against Waseda in 1928 at Stamford Bridge: several of their team, notably Mikio Oda (1928 Olympic Gold Medallist in the Triple Jump), Chuhei Nambu (1932 Olympic Gold Medallist in the triple Jump, and Bronze Medallist in the Long Jump) and Shuei Nishida (1932 and 1936 Olympic Bronze Medallist in the Pole Vault) still remember the match with nostalgia. Regrettably, none of the Achilles team on that occasion are still alive. Mr Kazama was amazed to find that we had dug out from the Achilles archives Waseda's large 1928 pennant, barely touched by moths! Both sides agree that another fixture, either in the UK or Japan, is long overdue. Tony Shiret reciprocated the visit while he was in Tokyo for the World Championships, and we have since received Waseda A.C.'s yearbook and a handsome volume commemorating their 70th anniversary.

### **ACHILLES V. SCAA V. COMBINED SERVICES**

In ideal conditions on a balmy evening, Chris Cholerton finally set the 400h pb that had been narrowly eluding him since the tour to Hong Kong and China, placing a close second in 52.78. Tom Bent was close to his best, too, in spite not having competed for 6 weeks, and with Trevor Llewelyn enjoying a return to form which saw him well clear in the high jump at 2.00m, the tone was set for the rest of the evening. Richard White is probably the club's most consistently successful competitor in this fixture, although seldom a winner: this year his persistence was rewarded with a fine win at 800m. The sprints have not been our strongest event here since Dave Roberts retired 10 years ago: although Tony Underwood was not able to sustain his advantage to the finish, his exceptionally fast start put him ahead at 30m against very good opposition, and augurs well for the future.

(We regret that in the absence of a set of results a full report on this match is not possible).

### **ACHILLES TOUR TO NORTHERN IRELAND**

The tour was, on the one hand, a great success in terms of organisation and the fun that was had by those who travelled, but, on the other hand embarrassing in terms of our performance in the match. The weekend summed up the recurring problem for Achilles, that an Achilles team on paper is NOT the same as an Achilles team in practice.

The match, kindly arranged by Robert Stinson and Les Jones, was against a Northern Ireland national team who won all but three events. Our only individual winners were Paul Rowbotham (800m), Davina Manship (3000m) and Claire Tomkinson (1500m). John Moreland won the discus, too, but having recently set a Northern Ireland record he opted for their team.

Season's bests were record by Emma Howard (100m and 200m) and Jo Cripps (100m), while David Benton ran competitively over 1500m. Many athletes excelled themselves in tackling events they had rarely done before, Tony Hatton showing particular promise over 100m for a javelin thrower: Jon Crews covered all three jumps and Tim Stewart completed four races in the course of the afternoon. Performances were gallant all round, with everyone doing their utmost to save face against a significantly stronger Irish team.

As a tour, however, the weekend was a resounding success. The Irish treated us superbly, with accommodation provided for everyone at the Greenmount Agricultural college near Antrim. Saturday night comprised a trip round some of Belfast's pubs, while Sunday took us up the Antrim coast to the Giants' Causeway and Portstewart Strand.

Men:

100: 3, Tony Hatto 11.63  
400: 4, Tim Stewart 51.47  
800: 1, Paul Rowbotham 1:52.87  
1500: 2, David Benton 3:54.94  
3000: 2, Andy Roninson 8:29.13  
3000sc: 3, Adrian Thiemicke 9:48.39  
400h: 2, Tom Bent 57.00  
HJ: 3, Jon Crews 1.80  
PV: 3, Mike Cole 3.40

JT: Tony Hatton 57.20  
DT: I, John Moreland (competing for N.I.) 46.84  
Women:  
100: 3, Emma Howard 12.45, 4, J Cripp 12.89  
200: 4, Howard 25.95, 5, Cripp 27.15  
400: 3, Catherine Bristol 61.14, 4, Sam Aarvold 65.60  
800: 2, Nilla Karlsson 2:17.06  
1500: I, Claire Tomkinson 4:40.84  
3000: 1, Davina Manship 9:50.7  
400h: 3, Sue Burgis 71.64  
LJ: 2, Chris Tuer 5.33  
JT: 4, Tuerk 33.34, 5, Ruth Waters 28.58  
HJ: 3, Burgis 1:50

- Allison O'Neill

### ***THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH***

A very windy November day and the mossy cinders of Milton Road produced some surprisingly fine performances. Warren Gilder equalled Steve White's 100m Match Record of 10.9w, and similarly dominated the 200m, also contributing to both relays; Matthe Burchall was only one tenth of a second outside John Hemery's 400m Hurdle Match Record, Tom Ellacott burst away impressively in the last third of the 1500m and Oxford have found in Eleanor Cave an outstanding heptathlete to replace Emma Westlake.

### ***THE 'VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY MATCH***

Oxford gained their revenge for last year's narrow defeat with a convincing 25-55 win, led home by Simon Baines and Andrew Weir, with only Duncan Clark, Cambridge's captain, able to split the first six Oxonians. But Cambridge's women turned the tables, too, and inspired by individual winner Emma Coleman, who clawed back a deficit on Nina Askeland and edged ahead in the final straight, packed tightly to win by 17 to 19.

The Old Blues' race was another success, and featured points scoring by age group. Andy Robinson held off veteran Bo Treadwell to win, with John Herries third, while Sara Springman was first woman home.

### ***THE ACHILLES BALL***

Michael Orrell-Jones and his family generously gave of their time and hospitality to host the 1991 Achilles Ball, and the Club owes them a great debt for such a resounding success. As Robert Stinson noted in a brief address, it was particularly pleasant that the event was so well supported by younger members: the latter contingent, in the modern manner, dossed down en masse wherever there was vacant floor space, and needed only topping up with orange juice and coffee the next morning before proceeding happily on their way. Members came from far and wide to attend, but none further than Phili Pybus, who was in the UK on holiday from Johannesburg.

Such was the evening's success that the Committee is under pressure to restore to the Ball its former status as an annual event: we only hesitate to exhaust too quickly the list of volunteers willing to shoulder the burden of being hosts. Certainly there will be a Ball in October 1993, and 1992 is still a possibility.

### ***'VARSITY MATCH PROGRAMMES***

We are happy to be corrected by Ted Powell (President OUAC 1976-77) in describing 1977 as 'dark days' and saying that no match programme was published. He points out that the year was in fact a new dawn for the Match, being the first to be held on the newly opened all-weather track at Iffley Road. And to prove his point he has supplied a photocopy of the programme, which fills a gaping hole in Achilles' otherwise complete bound set of match programmes dating back to 1938. It is now important that we obtain at least one ORIGINAL copy of the 1977 Programme: if anyone is willing to part with theirs in the interests of prosperity we would be most grateful.

Prior to 1938 we have programmes for 1936 and for 1932. Can anyone else push our archives further back in time?

## **MEMBERSHIP**

When we consulted our records during the year we found that the Club currently has 795 First Claim Members, of which 88 are women. The club is catering more and more for active First Claim members, through competition in the GRE Cup. Total membership is about 1300.

## **NEWS OF MEMBERS**

The Club's President, Tommy Macpherson, has been knighted in the New Year's Honours: he is currently Chairman of the National Employers Liaison Committee. We send him sincere congratulations on behalf of our whole membership, and acknowledge with thanks the work that he does for the Club behind the scenes, making possible, for example, the recent tour of Hong Kong and China.

Ronald Macbeth (Oriel, Oxford, cross-country Blue in 1924 and Captain in 1925) was sorry to have been prevented at the last moment from officiating at the 'Varsity Match: he had been buffing up his Achilles blazer buttons especially for the occasion. We hope to see him in '92.

Harold Harley, his successor as Oxford's Captain in the Cross-Country match the following year, 1926, has also been in touch, sending some very interesting archive press-cuttings of the event.

Peter Batterley (Brasenose, Oxford, 1938-41), an AAA Hon. Coach since the early 1950's, is still able, in his 70's, to run 1500m in under 5 minutes (and thus would have run faster than the Achilles representative in the GRE Cup Round Two match!).

Dr. Cecil Walkley (Downing, Cambridge 1948-51) hopes to be visiting the U.K. from his home in Western Australia to run the London Marathon in March.

## **HISTORY CORNER - THE POST-WAR YEARS**

We are grateful to 'John' (V.P.) Sams for much interesting archive material from the late 1940's and early 1950's, a period of which he writes as follows:

"I entered Queens' College (Cambridge) in 1947 and soon joined the Athletic Club as a very moderate performer which we all were in those days. There was very little coaching, and as I had done an AAA coaching course at Loughborough, sent by Sussex County in 1947, I was asked to help out in this way, and was entirely responsible for the Cambridge team the following year, with Bob Edwards as President.

"One of my fondest memories is of providing accommodation for Geoff Dyson, the AAA Chief Coach, in the digs where my wife and I were living, and providing him with my wife's bike to get about Cambridge, while I went to my lectures during the day. I think he thought it was all a bit of a comedown, but he took it all in good part.

"In those days one could get away with a casual approach, and very little real training was done, hence the remarkably low standards. Nevertheless I persuaded Chris Brasher to switch from cross-country and long distance running to steeplechase with no little success. Also I am proud of the standard Angus Scott reached in those days, only to give up through the necessity of earning a living.

"Of course it didn't help running round Fenners and trying to work out lap timings over a one third of a mile track running in the wrong direction. Rationing, which was still on for a while after the war, didn't help to build up 'bonnie' athletes, and most of us had done little athletics for the last few years to build up our skills. However, morale was high and enjoyment a priority, even if we were rather amateurish.

"One could do a shortened degree in those days, and I went up to Manchester University to do my Teachers' Diploma and ran for the university there in the 440 hurdles."

Christopher Gowan (OUAC 3 miles, 1933) refers to the same period:

"I read with interest your report of the opening of the new track at Eton, where I was Master in charge of Athletics 1936-40 and 1946-53.

"Lord Justice Lloyd's memory must, I think, be slightly at fault. He left Eton in 1948, and it is unlikely that he could have been in the Achilles team in 1949. The facts are that, owing to a small outbreak of polio, all inter-school Athletics fixtures were cancelled in March 1949. However, I got in touch with the McWhirter brothers who nobly raised a small Achilles team of themselves, Peter Hildreth, Llewellyn-Morgan, Roger Bannister and one other jumper, whose name I cannot recall. It was naturally not a true match, but it gave the Eton athletes an outing; and I shall never forget the roar of astonishment as Roger Bannister - still five years short of his 4 Minute Mile - set off to give the Eton milers 300 yards start, and beat them [Julian Goater performed a similar feat in about 1979 - Ed.]. We had never seen a stride like that.

"In 1950 we had a proper match, and I think it must have been then that Tony Lloyd was in the Achilles team. The track of those days [which is the one that has just been replaced] was laid by Bill Bowles and the Eton ground staff, and was made of cinders from the school laundry!"

## **BOAT RACE**

No prizes for spotting the error in last year's Report: yes, the University Boat Race was first held in 1829, not 1929.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Sarah Fellows. Sarah's tragic death in a road accident has deeply shocked all the many friends who she and Nick had made in Achilles since their time at Oxford together where they met in the early '80's. Our hearts go out to Nick and their young baby.

P.W. Allsebrook, CBE DL (Brasenose, Oxford, 1937-39), in early 1991. A hurdler in his Oxford days, Peter Allsebrook became Chairman of TNT (UK) Ltd, part of the Worldwide Transportation Group.

Colin Macpherson (Trinity, Cambridge, 1948-51), who competed in the high jump in the 1949 'Varsity Match.

Ian Scott-Kilvert (Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, 1936-40), in October 1989.

The Right Reverend Edward Welles (St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 1928-30), on 15th April 1991. Ordained an Episcopal priest in 1931, Edward Welles was fourth Bishop of West Missouri from 1950 until his retirement in 1972, and a pioneer of the ordination of women. His autobiography, 'The Happy Disciple', was published in 1977.

P.R. Fraser, MC (Clare, Cambridge 1934-37). Peter Fraser was a miler, and competed against Oxford in the Relays Match.

J.P. Broadbent (Jesus, Cambridge, 1951-53), in February 1990. Peter Broadbent competed for Cambridge over distances from 100y to 440y.

## **60 YEARS ON...**

Having covered all the war years in the last issue we are turning the clock back another 10 years to 1931.

Jerry Cornes and S.M.B. Wansey were Presidents of OUAC and CUAC. Lord Desborough was President of the Achilles Club, a post he had graced since the Club's inception, and other members of the Committee included Philip Noel Baker, Harold Abrahams, Lord Burghley, Roger Leigh-Wood, Douglas Lowe, Rex Salisbury-Woods, Roly Harper and Evan Hunter.

Cambridge won the 'Varsity Sports by 8 events to 3, thanks largely to 4 wins by Bob Tisdall in the 440y, 120y hurdles, long jump and shot, a year before his Olympic 400m hurdles victory. Harvard and Yale prevailed at Stamford Bridge by seven and a half events to four and a half.

Controversy over the 'scrapping of athletic underwear' in favour of sleeveless (gasp!) vests (presaging recent comment on the immodesty of some lycra garments) raged: however, the Achilles Club Report noted '...that those who wear those funny new zephyrs are immensely impressed by the energy and added abandon that results from them!'

Bill Milligan (later Lord Chief Justice) led a successful tour of south-western schools: 'although he gained his Blue in 1920, his running in 1931 was quite as fast as any of the schools needed for close competition'. 'Very jolly matches', led by Messrs Vargas and Abrahams, were held against Sussex and Essex.

The Kinnaird Trophy was won for the sixth successive year, but the Club suffered its first defeat ever in the AA 4 x 440y relay. There was a fine end of season match against Berliner-Deutsche and Stade Francais. 'Douglas Lowe took the chair at the subsequent dinner and spoke so many languages eloquently that he even charmed Paavo Nurmi into his first oratorical demonstration.'

Highlight of the season was a win in a what was in effect a European Clubs Championship track only match in Antwerp, against teams from Poland, Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Belgium. Achilles won five of the six events.

## **25 YEARS AGO ...**

Jeffrey Archer and Wendell Mottley were the Presidents of OUAC and CUAC respectively. Oxford won the 'Varsity Match by 87 to 66: Mottley was awarded the Drake Digby Trophy for the second time and his astonishing match record of 45.7 for 400m (46.0 for 440y - one-tenth outside the Commonwealth Record at the time) may never be broken.

Penn and Cornell visited the UK, being accommodated at the homes of Achilles members in the London area. Their match against Oxford and Cambridge at Crystal Palace was won by the hosts, 9 events to 7, and in an international invitational race at the same meeting, John Boulter was part of the British team which broke the World Record for 4 x 880y relay.

The Kinnaird Trophy was won by a clear margin, and later in the year the 'Varsity Cross-Country Match was won by Oxford, led home by Godding, Altmann and Waterhouse.