

Achilles Club 1992 Annual Report

ACHILLES WINS VANCOUVER TROPHY

At last we proved what we have always known: that when members turn out and compete Achilles is a match for any club in the land. The date of the Vancouver Trophy meeting, towards the end of season on Bank Holiday Sunday by when most of our athletes have returned from their summer wanderings, suited many members, and Shanker Singham did an excellent team manager's job in mustering a full complement at Woodford Green in spite of the stormy weather. The magnificent silver Trophy commemorates Derek Johnson's victory at the Empire Games of 1954, and it is appropriate that Achilles should finally be added to the list of winners. The only regret was that the match was for men only, although the support of many women members was appreciated. Now we must defend the Trophy in 1993. Shanker's full match report is to be found later in the Report.

With two members competing in the Olympics, Tim Berrett and Richard Nerurkar, and an athlete of Jon Ridgeon's calibre left at home, Achilles' star is rising again. Tim ranked 12th in the world this year at 50k walk (one place higher in his event than Jon in his debut at 400m hurdles), and is awarded one of the Achilles Medals for the year. The other is awarded to Tony Hatton, who is making steady progress into the UK top ten of our strongest field event, the javelin.

ACHILLES LUNCHTIME TRAINING IN THE CITY

Several Achilles members, including Jerry Barton and Paul Willcox, regularly train in the middle of the day at playing fields on the City fringes in London. If you are interested, call Paul Willcox on 071 247 8623.

THE 'VARSITY RELAYS

This traditional opening to the track season is re-emerging as a keenly contested and well supported event. Two match records were set in the Womens' Match, and the mens' 4 x 400 race was the second fastest on record. Full results are included in the Appendix to this Report.

The sense of occasion, which is always heightened when the match is held at home to Oxford and which is impaired when Cambridge (still no nearer to achieving an all-weather track) have to camp out at Bedford or Harlow, was increased this year by the restoration of a presentation ceremony. The remarkable silver batons, inscribed with the names of winning teams dating back over 60 years, have been neglected for a decade or more: even more significantly, the magnificent V.B.V. Powell Trophy for the winning team had been entirely lost to recent memory, until discovered, tarnished beyond recognition, in an OUAC locker this year. All are now polished (courtesy of the Hon Treasurer) and back in service, and will be presented annually at the match. It is to be hoped that the imbalance created by the present lack of womens' trophies can be corrected in the near future.

GRE/JUBILEE CUP

There were valiant efforts by both the men and women in the first round at Welwyn. In competition much stiffer than last year, when we progressed to the second round, the women were lying third through almost all the afternoon, until the fact that their team consisted of only three athletes proved an insuperable obstacle to participation in the relays, and they slipped to fourth by just one point.

The mens' event was even closer, with all six teams finishing within about 20 points of each other. Achilles placed fourth, but could easily have progressed to the next round with just a couple more athletes on the team: had we fielded a 53.5 400m runner and any 10,000m competitor we would have been second.....

The womens' team was Sarah Snell, Sam Aarvold and Allison O'Neill. Sarah won the high jump at 1.54m, placed 2nd in the 400m, and 3rd at 200m, 100m hurdles and long jump. Sam placed second at 400m hurdles, third at 100m, and 4th at 500m and shot. Allison was 2nd in the 3000m, 3rd in the javelin, and 4th at 1500m and discus. The true Achilles spirit

The mens' team produced several winners: Jon Kell finished strongly to snatch the high hurdles in 15.9; Segun Osuntokun, on the runway for the first time in a year, produced 14.35m on his first attempt; and Ibrahim Clark long jumped 6.43 before also placing third in the high jump. James Bobby was second at both 100m and 200m, as was Tommy Richardson at 5000m. Tom Ellacott was third in a tight 800m, and fifth at 1500m, while Mark Steed was third at 400m hurdles, fourth in the javelin, and jogged round 400m for the points. Another athlete returning after a lengthy absence was Simon Briggs who placed 4th in each of the three heavy throws. Ian Jackson placed fifth in the pole vault, and the line up was completed by Jon Crews, who did his duty as team manager by dragging himself round the steeplechase.

THE 'VARSITY MATCH

In spite of the late withdrawal through illness of Gerhard Cruywagen, who was selected to run 5 events, Oxford's men surprised and delighted their President, Chris Todd, by scoring a notable victory. Cambridge's President, Mike Cole, who had a miserable afternoon after his new pole snapped at his opening height enforcing a hospital check-up, was only partly consoled by Cambridge taking the womens' match and both second team matches.

Although Andre Lill scored a fine 400/800 double for Cambridge, the latter in close to record time, for which he was deservedly awarded to Drake Digby Trophy, the duel of the afternoon was in the sprints, where freshman Warre Gilder of Cambridge was matched against the hugely improved Matt Keat of Oxford. Gilder snatched the 100 after being down at the start, and set the scene for an exciting rematch over 200. Keats came off the bend fractionally in front, increased his lead inch by inch down the home straight, but was not assured of victory until both had crossed the line in the same time, 21.7. Keats was awarded the Le Touquet Trophy for the most improved performance.

Oxford's Joanna Latimer attempted the 200/400/800 treble, made all the more difficult by the timetable which places them in reverse order. Having equalled her match record in her strongest event, the 800m, she was equally dominant in the 400, and again only just outside the match record which she shares with Sue Dalgoutte. It was asking a lot to get her legs moving again in the 200, but after a slow bend she stormed through powerfully to win convincingly: her efforts gained her the Susan Dennler Trophy.

The Paul Gomme Trophy for throwing events throughout the year was won by Tony Hatton of Oxford. Having won the BUSF championships earlier in the month with over 70m, Tony increased his own javeli match record to 67.14. Other fine performances in the field were recorded by Gareth Davies of Cambridge, whose 7.38m long jump puts him second on the all-time list in this match to Dwayne Heard, and by Malcolm Croad of Oxford, still a junior, who came close to the match record in the hammer with 56.48m.

For the women, Chris Tuerk of Cambridge scored a notable double at long jump and javelin, beating more favoured opposition in both events. The match depended on the 4 x 400 m relay and the Cambridge team of Su Burgis, Ainsley Normand, Charlott Cutler and Rachel Jordan succeeded in putting themselves far enough ahead by the final leg to hold off Latimer and lowered the match record to 3:54.9. Womens' triple jump and hammer were included as non-scoring events for the first time. Another innovation was to present the various trophies at the track immediately after the last event. This rounded off the active part of the afternoon nicely, and set the scene for the subsequent dinners. As is no necessary the first and second teams dined separately, with Michael Orrell-Jones chairing the Blues' gathering.

Sponsorship for the match was again provided by Price Waterhouse, through the good offices of Jon Crews, and we are duly grateful for their continued support.

Full results of both Blues' and Second Team matches are include in the Appendix.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Richard Nerurkar placed 19th in the International Cross Country, and as first Briton home underlined his status as one of our leading distance athletes, but later in the year had to be content with second place in the AAA I ,000m.

Emma Coleman achieved the distinction of selection for the World Student games Cross Country, and finished 35th: although she was outside the scorers, Great Britain won the team event.

Highest placed club member at the UK Championships was Sue Bevan, 5th in the 800m. Tony Hatton was 7th in the javelin.

Jon Ridgeon made a dramatic impact over 400m hurdles, having switched event midway through the season upon failing to gain selection for the Olympics at 110m hurdles. His enormous potential was underlined by a close 2nd in the World Cup to Matete, and a best time of 48.73.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Since 1968, when six members of the Club competed in Mexico, only two members were selected during all of the next five Olympiads. Davi Hemery won individual bronze and relay silver in Munich, and Jon Ridgeon placed fifth in Seoul. It is a mark of the Club's reviving fortunes, therefore, that we were represented, as at the World Championships in 1991, by two athletes, Richard Nerurkar and Ti Berrett. What is more there were several others who had realistic hopes of selection, including Jon Ridgeon, who was very unfortunate to miss out, Andre Lill, Sue Bevan and Simon Mugglestone.

Tim Berrett, representing Canada, finished 14th in the 20k walk, but was unlucky to be one of many (following controversy over the womens' race earlier in the week) pulled from the 50k, which is perhaps his stronger event. Richard Nerurkar qualified impressively for the 10,000m final, but had a poor run by his standards and could only finish 17th (against his 5th place at the World Championships).

Robert Stinson participated in the South African sense by presenting medals, but an audience of millions were disappointed when he failed, on prime time television, to embrace the lady shot putters (we don't recall such an excess of British reserve towards FloJo).

OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE V. DARTMOUTH/BROWN V. ACHILLES

Dartmouth and Brown are congenial opponents, and this year's contests was one of the closest against the American Universities in recent years. Although the men's match was conceded by a narrow points margin, Oxbridge won more individual events, and set 3 match records (Tony Hatton, Paddy Brice and Andy Lill) to Dartmouth/Brown's one. Larry Matthews' 5000/10000 double was exceptional. The inclusion of Achilles teams in the fixture for the first time was judged a success, with Chris Cholerton's breakthrough to 52.9 over 400m hurdles a notable feature.

Full results are included in the Appendix.

This may be an appropriate place to point out that we are having more and more difficulty accommodating our American visitors at Oxford and Cambridge each year: colleges are all now letting out their surplus rooms at commercial rates. We expect in the near future to have to revert to the practice of many years ago, when visiting touring teams were billeted with Achilles members around London. Help in due course will be much appreciated.

ACHILLES TOUR TO HOLLAND

Mark Steed mustered an enthusiastic band who took the ferry over to compete at an open meeting associated with Jon Rushman's home club. Mark can't remember what happened, so it must have been a good trip.

ACHILLES V. COMBINED SERVICES

Mens' and womens' matches were held on separate dates, which is to be rectified in 1993. The mens' event suffered from being mid-week, as we could not put out a full team, but the womens' was closely contested. Full results are included in the Appendix.

VANCOUVER TROPHY

Achilles' debut in the Vancouver Trophy Meeting was a resounding success. On a cold, wet and very windy Bank Holiday Sunday, Achilles won the trophy, sweeping aside such opposition as Woodford Green, Borough of Enfield and Old Gaytonians. There was hardly an Achilles man who failed to qualify for his final or place in the top six in his event. After a close contest throughout the afternoon we finally stretched our lead to 15 points over host club Woodford Green.

Warren Gilder and Matt Keats, teaming up for the first time after their 'Varsity match duels, finished second and fifth in the 100m final. Steve Booth secured 5th place in the high hurdles, and a brave 3rd in the 400m hurdles later in the afternoon when we had scented victory and every point was important: Chris Cholerton cruised home to win that event almost 3 seconds clear.

Simon Hall battled to third place in the 400m final on a day when the strength of the wind made times meaningless and caused the high jump and pole vault to be abandoned. His team manager had mixed feelings after the heats when he discovered that he had successfully qualified for the final barely an hour later: on no training and after 2 years of injury his 4th place points were useful (- and commendable: welcome back! - Ed.).

Dave Benton placed third in the 800m, and later at short notice and on a full stomach scored further points in fourth over 1500m, behind Paddy Brice's second. Achilles were a class apart in the 3000m steeplechase, with Kenny Stirrat and Kevin Johnson scoring maximum points. Simon Baines continued our good middle distance showing with second over 5000m, and John Herries stretched our lead further in fifth. Matt Keats and James Bobby placed 3rd and 4th in the 200m final, and then combined with Gilder and Cholerton to take the scalp of a Woodford Green 4 x 100 team which included Ayo Falola.

In the field Mark Middleton and John Moreland doubled in all the heavy throws, picking up a second place each plus a third and a fifth. The triple jump yielded our second maximum of the day, Andy Hodge placing first, and Segun Osuntokun second. Chris Price, fresh from 6 months' travelling, placed 3rd in the long jump. Tony Hatton, the day after his win in the final British League Division One match, threw over 60m into the teeth of the wind, while Danny Cullinane, who had earlier guested in the high hurdles, placed 6th.

All in all, it was a very successful and pleasantly surprising day. However, we can be sure that the quality of the opposition will be much improved next year when we defend the trophy. The competition suits athletes of all levels (even guesting vets - Ed.): but, in order to secure a repeat victory, support from even more of the Club's stars will be much appreciated. - Shanker Singham.

Results (winners and Achilles):

100: I, Falola (Woodford) 10.6w, 2, Gilder 10.85, Keats 11.2w (ll.lw ht).
 200: I, Falola (Woodford) 22.03, Keats 22.6w (22.5w ht), 4, Bobby 22.9w. Willcox 25.lw ht.
 400: I, Smith (Woodford) 51.4....3, Hall 52.7 (52.6 ht), 4, Singham 53.4 (53.3 ht).
 800: 1, Downey (Enfield) 1:58.5....3, Benton 1:59.4.
 1500: I, Balogun (Woodford) 4:08.7, 2, Brice 4:09.0....4, Benton 4:11.4.
 5000: I, Mangleshot Woodford) 15:15.4, 2, Baines 15:21.6....5, Herries 15:45.7.
 3000 s/c: I, Stirrat 9:33.5, 2, Johnson 9:57.0.
 110h: I, Lambeth (Enfield) 15.l5, Booth 15.8w. Cullinane 15.6w ht, Martin 19.4 ht fell.
 400h: I, Cholerton 57.0...3, Booth 62.0.
 LJ: I, Iles (Old Gaytonians) 6.54....3, Price 6.24.
 TJ: I, Hodge 13.89, 2, Osuntokun 13.80.
 HJ/PV: abandoned.
 SP: I, Redman Woodford) 14.63, 2, Middleton 12.54, 3, Moreland 11.56.
 JT: I, Hatton 60.44....6, Cullinane 45.22.
 HT: I, Angell (Old Gaytonians) 53.56....5, Middleton 42.90. DT: I, Hayes (Havering) 49.04, 2, Moreland 46.04.
 4 x 100m Relay: 1, Achilles (Bobby, Cholerton, Keats, Gilder) 43.5.

ACHILLES BALL

Very many thanks are due to the Wheeler family, and in particular to Bridget's parents, for hosting the 1992 event. A record number of members and guests, almost 150, attended, and although it was bitterly cold everyone warmed up once the dancing started. Emma Howard and Jo Cripps also worked particularly hard to ensure the Ball's success: they wore Achilles sashes for the evening, prompting lecherous older member to remark that he was pleased to see them; some of the lady members came gift-wrapped. A particular feature arranged by the Wheelers and much appreciated was the specially labelled 'Achilles' wine of an appropriately golden hue.

O.U.A.C. ARCHIVES

We are delighted to report that archive material of OUAC, including the original Minute Book dating back to 1860 (the oldest athletics club in the world?), and much other fascinating memorabilia, has come to light, and is presently in the safe keeping of the current Senior Treasurer, John De'Ath. Cambridge's archives, maintained for many years by Allan Malcolm, are now in the hands of Chris Thorne.

ANY OLD SHOES ????

Juli Deegan and Tony Walk are teaching in Botswana, where they are coaching a number of very talented young athletes. Facilities, however, are very rudimentary, and most of their athletes lack even the basics of shoes. In response to their appeal, therefore, Achilles members have been sending out to Botswana their cast off spikes and trainers: shoes that we would consider worn out are prized and cherished by their new owners.

Any members who have some old shoes in the back of the cupboard are urged to send them c/o The Headmaster, Seepapitso Senior Secondary School, Private Bag 007, Kanye, Botswana.

Tony writes as follows:

"...Thanks very much for the latest consignment. It has made training and racing so much easier - and safer! - for our athletes.

"...in the Marathon Relay (72k, five leg relay, held in conjunction with the Kalahari 100) we had three boys teams and one ladies team (consisting of three students and two teachers, including Julie). We had great success in that the ladies came second in their category in a time of 5 hours 55 minutes, and our boys A team came 1st in the schools category, in 4 hours 1 minute (which put them 4th overall out of 46 teams, only 15 minutes down on the winning men ' team: the three teams ahead of them were all from the Botswana army).

"The boys teams have all really benefitted from being able to do some serious long distance training on the roads and tracks around the village and in the bush, using suitable footwear: it is possible to train on the dirt athletics track barefoot, but it is different matter on gravel roads! The ability to put in serious mileage helped the boys in their first marathon, run at Selebi-Phikua last month. Again they won the schools team event, with times of 2:51.21, 2:52.12, 2:53.01 and 2:54.55 (well grouped at the end, although they did not actually run together). Our first runner was 3rd student home, and 21st overall, particularly pleasing as the event doubled as the national championship.

"Thanks once again for the trainers: they have made a real difference to our athletes. Please pass our thanks to the Achilles members who donated them."

It is good to note that Tony, too, continues running, "not very convincingly" he says, over 200m and 400m in the Botswana National Championships, and in their Grand Prix series.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Nicholas Fellows has asked us to pass on his thanks for the support and sympathy he has received from many members of the Club.

Congratulations to Sir Malcolm Chaplin C.B.E., who was knighted in the Birthday Honours of 1991.

Congratulations to Steve Martin and Chris Tuerk, the latest of a growing band of members to marry within the Club!

Bob Young, a stalwart high hurdler for CUAC and Achilles during the late '60s and early '70s, is presently Professor of Polymer Science and Technology in UMIST, Manchester.

Bryan Wardley and his wife are now permanently based in Oxford, where he works for ICI.

Professor R.W. Evans sends greetings to the Club. He is living in Altrincham

Alistair Edgar is on a year's research appointment at Harvard.

Ian Buchanan is President of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

Jan Ariens is the chairman and founder of Lifelines, whose members write to prisoners on death row in America. His book 'Welcome to Hell', a collection of writings by prisoners, is published by Ian Faulkner Publishing, £9.95.

Tim Soutar, who lives in Hong Kong and who took part in our 1991 tour match, placed second in the inaugural Hanoi Marathon, in 2:50.4.

60 YEARS ON....

Several members with long memories have pointed out errors in last year's Report. The Presidents of OUAC and CUAC at the 'Varsity match of 1931 were respectively Stuart Townend and Bob Tisdall: Jerry Cornes and Forbes Horan were elected for the 1931/1932 season.

In writing from Queensland, Australia, to note these points, Professor James Mahoney, who ran in the Mile for Oxford in 1932, correctly identified Sydney Wansey as the CUAC Hon. Sec. that year. Wansey ran in the Half Mile in 1931, and James Mahoney adds that he served in the 2/26 Bn AIF during the war and endured several years as a prisoner of war after the fall of Singapore: he died in 1970.

Ted Cawston spotted the mistakes, too: he remembers the match well because Bob Tisdall selected him for the 220 yds hurdles in his own place, feeling that he might be taking on too many events if he did five. "He was one hell of an athlete", notes Ted. Bob had won the low hurdles at both the two previous matches, and although his selection judgement proved impeccable (Ted won his race for Cambridge) it is interesting to speculate that Bob could well have increased his tally to five wins in one match that year, a feat achieved so far only by John Ridgeon almost sixty years later. And Bob Tisdall went on to win the Olympic 400m Hurdles title....

Another member of OUAC's 1932 team, Robin Hammond (H.T. Hammond), has sent us a marvellously vivid account of his own race, the high hurdles, that year:

".....the four of us, J. St. L. Thornton and I.S. Ivanovic for Cambridge and C.A. Lee Steere and myself for Oxford. It was a fine day with little wind in the White City Stadium. The track had been newly laid, and it was quite clear in a preliminary warm-up that the track was springy and well-suited for hurdlers. The hurdles were good solid wooden structures, not so heavy and damaging as those at Iffley Road, on which Lee-Steere and I were accustomed to race and train.

"The start of the White City race was fast, and the four of us more or less matched each other for hurdle after hurdle. In the run-in the result was very close between Thornton and Lee Steere; so close that there was a buzz of excitement among the judges and timekeepers. The result was not announced at once and judges and timekeepers kept in a huddle, whilst we waited. I knew that Ivanovic had just beaten me for third place. At last the announcement came that Thornton had won the race in a record time of 14.9 seconds, and Lee Steere was second, beaten 'by inches'. I just wonder whether Lee Steere's time should not be included as 14.9 or 15.0 secs in the All-Time Lists.

"It has always been a matter of idle speculation to me to wonder how the modern hurdler would fare over the old hurdles which we used to face. The 1931-33 hurdles at Iffley Road were designed apparently not to blow over in the stiff winds which used to blow down the track there. Bill Thomas, the trainer, used to put a match box on the top of the hurdles on calm days. We were supposed either to crush the match-box or sweep it off with our backsides. The object was to take the hurdles low. My memory of certain training days was of picking cinders out of my hands and knees, and being patched up by Jack, the masseur."

1932 was Olympic year: six members of the Club competed in Los Angeles, and won two gold medals and three silvers. A remarkable achievement. They were:

Tom	1st 800m 1.49.8: World Record	2nd 4 x 400m Relay	
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Hampson			
Bob Tisdall	1st 400m hurdles 51.8 (not ratified as World Record)	8th Decathlon	
Jerry Cornes	2nd 1500		
Lord Burghley	2nd 4 x 400m Relay	4th 400m Hurdles	5th 110m Hurdles
Jack Lovelock	Finalist 1500m		
Roly Harper	Semifinalist 110m hurdles		

Of the inter-club events contested, it was notable that after holding the Kinnaird Trophy for six years, Achilles entered two teams: this successfully opened up the competition, and LAC won by just four points from Oxford Achilles, with Cambridge Achilles only another half point behind. Another highlight was the win over Warszawa Club of Poland in the last event to secure the Thornton Cup in Antwerp.

25 YEARS ON

In 1967 we begin to enter a murky period of about 20 years during which the Club's archives are far from complete. The Annual Report ceased publication during this time, and almost the only regular information we have relates to the 'Varsity Matches and the American Series. We know, however, that the Club was very successful in the opening years of the British League. After this early flourish, during the early 1970's we slipped down through the divisions and into the Southern League, before concluding that, the club network in Britain having become so well developed that most athletes already had a home club before coming up to university, we no longer had enough first claim members to continue to participate.

Tim Taylor and J. Smith were the 1967 Presidents of OUAC and CUAC, with Mike Hauck and Jan Arriens their Secretaries. The 1967 'Varsity match was dominated by Oxford, who won by 101 points to 52. Hauck and Martin Winbolt-Lewis embarked on a three year duel over 100, 220 and 440. Chris Pardee set a match record in the high jump of 6' 7" / 2.00m.

IN MEMORIAM

We are very sorry to report the deaths of the following Members, including two of our 1928 Olympians: V.E. Morgan, OBE, ODM (Christ Church, Oxford, 1923-25), on October 23rd 1992. Peter Ford writes: "Vernon Morgan won the 3 miles v. Cambridge in 1925, was in the Oxford Cross Country team in 1924 and 1925, ran for Britain in the Steeplechase at the 1928 Olympics, set a South African All-Comers record for the mile, and won a bronze medal at the inaugural Empire Games of 1930, all in addition to achieving a second Blue at Soccer. His whole life was in sport as Sports Editor of Reuters, and he was a great friend of many of the 1920/1930 generation of Achilles members. Vernon was the most likeable character, about whom I never heard anyone speak an unkind word." Further obituaries are included in the Appendix.

Lord Miles (Sir Bernard Miles) (Pembroke College, Oxford, 1926-29), in 1990. The distinguished actor and founder of the Mermaid Theatre was elected in 1929, in which year he competed at 220y for the Club in a match against Wales.

Major General S.E. Large, MBE (Caius College, Cambridge, 1935-38), in May 1991. Stanley Large competed in the mile in the 'Varsity Match of 1937.

Dr. G.D. Walker (Queen's College, Oxford, 1933-36): Geoffrey Walker competed for Oxford in the Relays Match of 1934 in the 4 x 110y.

Wing Commander E.R. Smouha, OBE (Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1926-29, on 1st April 1992. Teddy Smouha was a member of Great Britain's bronze medal winning team at the 1928 Olympics, in which year he also placed 2nd in the 'Varsity Sports 100y. The McWhirters record that he was noted for turning up for training wearing his monocle. His address used to be simply and impressively 'Smouha City, Egypt'.

D.J. Wenden, MC (Wadham College, Oxford 1940-47, Fellow of All Souls and St Catherine's Colleges). Charles Wenden won the half mile at the Wartime Oxford v. Cambridge Sports of 1942. He served as Hon. Treasurer of the International Federation of University Sports (FISU) from 1963 to 1985.

The Very Reverend J.H.S. Wild (Brasenose College, Oxford, 1924-27, Chaplain Fellow of University College 1933-45, Master 1945-51, Honorary Fellow 1951-92). John Wild ran in the 3 miles for Oxford in 1927. An obituary in the Independent notes that he was very much an Oxford man, but also closely associated with Durham, where he was Dean from 1951 until his retirement in 1973.

R.D.H. Harmer (King's College, Cambridge, 1925-28), during 1991.

Dr. R.G. Macbeth FRCS (Oriel College, Oxford, 1922-26), in December 1992. Ronald Macbeth captained the Oxford Cross Country team against Cambridge in 1925, and also competed in 1924. His

son, Alastair, also an Achilles member, writes that he retained his interest in athletics throughout his life, which is confirmed by the correspondence with the Club which ensued when he was in recent years invited to assist in judging at the 'Varsity Match.

VETERANS

Sarah Owen equalled (with remarkable precision) her own World Indoor Best for the Pentathlon. At the National BVAF Championships Sarah won the W35 100m hurdles, triple jump and high jump titles: Paul Willcox reached the finals of the M40 200m. Bob Treadwell has been making a big impression over the country and on the roads. Julia Goater had been hoping in 1993 to compete on the US road racing circuit, but his plans have been hampered by injury.