CHANGE OF ACHILLES CLUB BANK ACCOUNT

You may recall that the Club changed its main bank account a few years ago from Hambros, Pall Mall to Barclays, Reigate: this was in order to minimize Bank Charges incurred in respect of payment of annual subscriptions by Standing Order. At that time, members were invited to write to their bank, asking that future payments be made to the new account. Many members have done so, but a substantial number remain making payment to Hambros. As a three-figure sum is involved in terms of Bank Charges, the Hon. Treasurer is keen to complete the process of migration to Barclays: once the Hambros account is closed the benefits of Barclays' lower Charges can be fully realised.

The Hon. Treasurer is therefore taking the following steps:
- writing to the banks of each of those members still paying to the Hambros account, advising them of the change and asking that future payments be made to Barclays (computerisation of the Club's records greatly facilitates this process);
- writing to Hambros to close the account, with a request that any amounts remitted to them (notwithstanding the above) be forwarded to Barclays.

He would be grateful if members could please note the above and, if their own 1994 annual subscription does not appear to go through properly, explain the position to their bank: the details of the new account are:

Barclays Bank Plc
Reigate Branch
The Gatwick Group
90/92 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex RH10 1BP

Account No. 10135674
Sort Code 20-23-97

These details have themselves recently changed, due to "clustering" of the Reigate Branch, but (thankfully!) members already making payment to Barclays need take no action.

1996-1997
THE ACHILLES CLUB

PRESIDENT
SIR THOMAS MACPHERSON (Oxford)

VICE-PRESIDENTS
K.S. DUNCAN, O.B.E (Oxford)
Dr. R.K. KENNEDY (Cambridge)
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J.P. FORD, C.B.E. (Cambridge)

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H.R.H. STINSON, LL.D HON (Cambridge)

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Dr. D.W. Roberts (Cambridge).............U.S. Matches
M.S. Steed (Cambridge).....................Schools Relays
J.K.L. Brooke (Oxford)..................Varsity Match
B.H.R. Wheeler (Cambridge)................U.S. Matches
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Karen Thacker...............................Past President CUAC
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J. Cordwell................................Hon. Secretary CUAC
Jacqui Street.................................Women's Captain OUAC
Rachel Stott.................................Women's Captain CUAC
Air Commodore J.G. De'ath, M.B.E..........Hon. Treasurer, OUAC
Dr C.J.R. Thorne..........................Hon. Treasurer, CUAC
T.M. Coker.................................Achilles Rep, CUAC

Team Managers
Andy Hodge (Cambridge) 0171-62505997 (h), 0171-269-2337 (w).
Simon Hall (Cambridge/Oxford) 0181-659-7628 (h), 0171-601-4417 (w).
Matthew Weaver (Oxford) 0171-222-8033 (w).
Gill Howard (Cambridge) 0171-828-7179 (h), 0171-312-4035 (w).
Jo Cropp (Cambridge) 0117-9248025 (h), 0117-9264611 (w).
Karen Thacker (Cambridge) 01268 757916 (h).

Clerks to the Achilles Trust
James and Susan Bevan (Cambridge), Bulby Hall, Bulby, South Lincs. Phone 01778-591382.

Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Peter Crawshaw (Oxford), 19 Belmont Road, Reigate, Surrey. Phone 01737-245207.

Hon. Secretary
Paul Willcox (Cambridge), Valley Farm, Sproughton, Suffolk IP8 3EN. Phone 01473-652213. Fax 01473-652706.
ACHILLES REUNION DINNER

Following the success of last year's dinner in Oxford, a Dinner for Club members will be held in Cambridge on Saturday 17th May 1997, after the Varsity Match, separately from the Teams' dinner.

To book, contact Jon Rushman on 0973 728862 (mobile) or 0171-345 5153 (work).

1997 FIXTURES

A full list of fixtures is set out in the Fixture Card enclosed with this Report.

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Achilles Club will be held in the Arthur Marshall Room at the Wilberforce Road track, Cambridge, at about 6.15 pm on Saturday 17th May 1997, 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 from the Clerks to the Achilles Trust.
4. To appoint auditors.
5. Any other business.

CLUB KIT

Most vests, sweaters, ties etc can be obtained from Castell and Sons, 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 of Club items, and are the only stockists of the material for making the Club's dazzling summer blazer.

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.

ACHILLES CLUB

1996

The momentum built up by the 1995 Harvard/Yale series Centenary was maintained, as the Club held a major overseas tour, a well attended reunion dinner after the Varsity Match, and a varied programme of competition.

Achilles Medals for the year were awarded to Richard Nerurkar, who placed fifth in the Olympic marathon in 2:13:39, and to Pierre Faber (South Africa) who scored 7584 points during the Gotzis international decathlon competition. Jon Ridgeon ranked first in the UK, over 100m hurdles, and Nerurkar and Chris Cheeeman (50k walk) ranked second. Other members ranked in the UK top 10 were Danielle Sanderson (marathon - 6th), Ruth Irving (long jump - 9th) and Mara Myers (10,000m - 10th).

THE THIRD ACHILLES TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA

A group of about 40 members, led by John Moreland and Sue Bevan, and supported by Robert Stinson and Keith Marsden and their wives, enjoyed 10 days of competition and training in and around Stellenbosch. It was a far cry from the pioneering days of 1929, when an intrepid team of only 12, including Bob Tisdall, Reg Revans and Ian Mann, travelled south by steamer and set a dozen new South African Records.

Full results from 1929, Dick Webster's reminiscences from 1935, and John Moreland's report on the 1996 tour are all appended. Unfortunately we are still waiting for our hosts to forward us official results: could those members who participated therefore please forward to Paul Willcox their own performances, and the performances of any team-mates which they are able to recall, and we will attempt to recreate listings for publication here next year.

This was the Club's second major overseas tour in five years, apart from the universities' regular four-yearly visits to the USA. Further regular tours, accessible to members of varying standards and age, and interspersed with annual Achilles warm-weather training camps, will restore the focus for the club's competitive aspirations which has been lacking since our withdrawal from league events. The camaraderie engendered overseas will create renewed enthusiasm for domestic matches, and a sense of identity with Achilles will be instilled in new generations of athletes.

RELAYS MATCH AND FIELD EVENTS MATCH

For the first time in the history of the events (a history which dates back to 1920 in the case of the Relays), the Varsity Relays and Field Events Matches were held concurrently, at Oxford on 3rd March. Oxford won both the men's and the women's Relays; the men's Field Events was tied (although Oxford would have won had they but found a fourth competitor with the strength to hurl a discus 5m/16 ft), and the women's Field Events was won by Cambridge. Achilles teams guested with enthusiasm. The combined format was a great success, as was the staging of the events on a Sunday, and will be continued.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nenna Lynch, having become the first Member to win the women's English National Cross Country, joining some distinguished members who have won the men's event in the past (Richard Neurukar has won three years in succession recently, while Julian Goater still holds the record for the greatest winning margin in the race's long history, set at a time when it was still the trial race for the World Cross Country and all the major contenders were competing), had the frustration of being subsequently disqualified on a technicality: OUAC were mortified to discover that they had not registered any of their foreign members for competition in the UK.

Having placed third in the USA championships, Nenna was selected to represent her country at the World Championships; and Beverley Gray was a late selection for the U.K. Junior team: unfortunately neither was able to compete.

At the AAA Championships, Jon Ridgeway's miraculous return continued: his win in the 400m Hurdles came 9 years after his previous AAA title over the high hurdles. Chris Cheeseeman placed second in the 10k walk (and later in the season won the BAF 20 miles and 50k titles).

ATLANTA 1996

Club members had the most successful Olympics for 30 years. Richard Neurukar ran magnificently to achieve 5th place in the marathon. Tim Berrett placed 10th in the 50k walk. Jon Ridgeway continued his welcome comeback in the 400m hurdles. And Matthew Juniper placed 4th in the Paralympic 200m, barely 18 months after losing a leg in a rugby accident, the first time that a Club member has competed in this section of the Games.

VETERANS NEWS

The instable Max Jones set World age 65-69 records for 30 miles, 50k and 50 miles in difficult conditions on a shale track. He was first over-65 in the London Marathon (where he is one of only 42 who have run all 16 races since 1981), and continues to seek new worlds to conquer.

Chris Melluish competed in the World Championships.

Richard Healey, who has recently taken up a new Professorship in Geography at the University of Portsmouth, won the British M40 Shot title in 1995, and placed second in the discus. Hampered by injury in 1996 he is planning to be back in competition in 1997.

KINNAIRD AND SWARD

Conflicting fixtures on the same day for both universities forced Achilles' depleted but enthusiastic team to relinquish their grip on both trophies. Matt Weaver showed impressive early season form, winning the pole vault at 4.50, recorded a pb in the 100, and picked up points in many other events. Steve Booth was another athlete busy throughout the afternoon, while Jon Rushman, after disappointing runs in both 800m and steeplechase, delighted himself with victory over 1500m. Evergreen Chris Melluish placed third in the hammer; Simon Hall doubled in the 400/400; Tom Richardson ran a well-judged 3000m; Andy Robinson did his duty over 1500 and 3000m; Andy Morrod won the high jump; Mike Cole pulled on his spikes for the first time in 6 years to run a brave 400m; and our Chairman generously noted from the stands that your Sec. was 'not last' at either 100 or 200m.

THE VARSITY MATCH

In the worst weather for many a year, cold and wet, Oxford were victorious in both Blues matches and both second team events. In the mens' match they won all but four events: Pierre Faber scored 4 individual victories (high jump, pole vault, shot and discus, plus second in the javelin), a feat only surpassed by Jon Ridgeway or equalled by 3 others in the history of the match, while Anders Lustgarten (moving down in distance), Chas McCaw (moving up) and Seb Rosato all scored significant doubles.

The Drake Digby Trophy was won for the second time by Gareth Davies.

The womens' match was closer, but double wins from Afi Amaku, Becky Spies and Carolyn May laid the foundation for a solid dark blue victory.

Talking point of the afternoon was the discus cage, which was declared unsafe by the Referee. After some hasty and frantic deliberations, the discus competitors were transported to Abingdon, where each took two throws. History was also made in the (mens') 3000m walk: Fiona Rose, Cambridge's first string but indeed a woman, placed second.

After the rigours of the weather it was a relief to repair for dinner, the teams to the Randolph Hotel, where Dewi Roberts took the chair, and about 90 members of the Club to Trinity, where Tommy Macpherson, introducing speeches from Paul Willcox and Norris McWhirter, launched the major new appeal on behalf of the Achilles Trust.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE V. DARTMOUTH AND BROWN

Following our recent strong performances against other American universities, confidence ran high, and we hoped to avenge the last meeting against Dartmouth and Brown in the USA, when Oxford and Cambridge were robbed of victory by dubious judging on the final relay. Dewi Roberts mustered another keen and focused team, kitted out in fine new tracksuits sponsored by View From, who had also so generously supported our South Africa team.

However, opinion in America is that Dartmouth and Brown are currently the strongest pairing in the Ivy League, and this was borne out in the course of the afternoon, as more and more of the events which we had expected to win went the way of the opposition. Their womens' team was especially successful, setting five new match
records, although mens’ match records from Matt Weaver (48.40 pole vault) and Anders Lustgarten (an unpressed 49.2 400m) lifted home spirits.

Nevertheless this was a fine and enjoyable afternoon’s athletics, hosted admirably by Chris Thorne and CUAC, whose arrangements were impeccable. In a brief ceremony after the match, Sir Arthur Marshal declared open the room named after him in the new Cambridge pavilion, and regaled us with anecdotes of the Paris Olympics of 1924, when he was a member of the British team.

Robert Stinson took the chair at the teams’ dinner at St. Catharine’s the same evening. The warmth and sincerity of our guests responses demonstrated the success of the tour from their point of view, and Oxford and Cambridge now look forward to their 1997 trip to the USA.

ALVERSTONE OUTING

The Alverstone Club of CUAC had been asked to send a team to celebrations at the village of Alverstone on the Isle of Wight commemorating the life and works of Lord Alverstone. A lusty deputation of Achilles members, including not a few Oxonians, granted honorary membership of Alverstone for the day, duly appeared. Full details of proceedings have not yet emerged, but it is known that Chris Chellerton won a flat race of about 300 yards, and that Chris McGrady won an event which involved throwing a weight.

ACHILLES V. BANK OF ENGLAND AND OTHERS

An immaculately manicured grass track in Roehampton on a balmy July evening stirred memories of school sports days for a handful of members who thoroughly enjoyed a low key mid-week outing. Achilles results: 100m A: 2, M Weaver 11.8: B: 3, P Willcox 12.7. 200m A: 1, S Booth 24.0 (3, G Clifford, B of E, no time taken). B: 3, Crosthwaite 24.8. 400m A: 1, T Stewart 55.5. B: 1, Wilcock 60.0. 800m A: 1, S Hall 2:08.0. 1500m A: 1, (Clifford 4:12.9) 4, J Herries 4:32.1. 3000m A: 2, Herries 9:27.1. HJ A: A Hodge 1.75. B: 3, M Weaver 1.40. SP A: 4, Booth 10.17. B: 3, Hunt 8.07. JT A: 2, Hodge 44.58. B: 3, Booth 37.00. 4 x 400m 1, Achilles (Stewart, Crosthwaite, Booth, Hall) 3:44.8.

Match: 1, Achilles 85; 2, Hercules Wimbledon 81; 3, Twickenham 77; 4, Bank of England, 40; 5, Kingston Poly, 10.

ACHILLES V. COMBINED SERVICES V. KENT V. SURREY V. HAMPSHIRE

Although this fixture moved from Aldershot to Portsmouth, it saw the best Achilles mens’ team turnout for many years. The opposition was as always very strong, and fourth place, comfortably ahead of Surrey, was no mean achievement. Matt Weaver (winner of the Jon Crews Mars Bar for most points in individual events), Anders Lustgarten, Marc Paulin, Chas McCaw and John Moreland all finished close seconds. However, we relied heavily on our decathletes Dave Gardiner (a welcome return),

Steve Garland and Steve Booth to fill in the gaps, and with just a few more specialists we could even have won.

Our womens’ turnout, in contrast, was the worst for many seasons.

Results (winners and Achilles):

Men:

100 A: 1, Lashmore, 10.8 ...-5, Alan Dunwoodie, 11.5. B: ...-5, Matt Weaver, 12.9.
200 A: 1, Nolan, 21.6 ...-5, Matt Weaver, 23.8. B: ...-4, Simon Hall, 23.7.
400 A: 1, Fairclough, 47.3, 2, Anders Lustgarten, 47.3. B: ...-4, Robert Trezona, 53.9.
800 A: 1, Dupuy, 1:52.4, 2, Chas McCaw, 1:53.4. B: ...-3, Donald Naylor, 2:00.4.
1500 A: 1, Fiedler, 3:49.4, ...-4, Dan Leggate, 4:00.4. B: ...-2, Dave Benton 4:03.0.
15000 A: 1, Fiedler, 3:49.4, ...-4, Dan Leggate, 4:00.4. B: ...-2, Dave Benton 4:03.0.
400H A: 1, Barch, 52.6 ...-5, Steve Booth, 61.1. B: ...-4, Simon Hall, 62.3
HJ A: 1, Turner, 1.95 ...-5, Steve Garland, 1.80. B: ...-3, Dave Gardiner, 1.75.
PVA: 1, McDermott 4.60, 2, Matt Weaver 4.60. B: ...-4, Nick Woodmansey 3.40.
DT A: 1, Newman 47.32, 2, John Moreland, 47.10. B: ...-3, James Kindon, 36.82.
4 x 100: 1, Combined Services, 42.4 ...-3, Achilles 45.9.
4 x 400: 1, Hampshire, 3:16.2 ...-4, Achilles, 3:25.3.

Women:

400H: ...5, Suzanne Barrington, 64.2.
200 A: ...5, Jo Cripps, 29.2. B: ...4, Suzanne Barrington 27.8.
JT A: ...5, Karen Thacker, 30.28. B: ...4, Ruth Wyndow, 29.94.

Result: Surrey 228, Kent 212, Hampshire 211, Combined Services 196, Achilles 30.

ACHILLES TRAINING

A party of 28 members, almost all of them still students at the Universities, spent a week or more training in Lanzarote in mid December. It is intended to make this a regular Achilles winter activity, and although in most years it would take place in the spring, as preparation for the summer season, this year it was held early in anticipation of the tour of the USA which starts in March.

Andy Hodge and others are also planning regular training sessions at the Battersea Park track in London and at Crystal Palace. All will be welcome.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Ian Mann celebrated his 90th birthday on 4th May in Australia in the company of fellow Cambridge hurdlers Bob Tisdall, his team mate on the 1929 tours to South Africa and the USA, and Ian's nephew John Malcolm, who toured the USA in 1957, and who has kindly sent us a photograph of the gathering for our archives. All are reported to be fit and well. Ian still gets about his sheep station in Western Victoria, Bob, who is now the world's senior Olympic Gold Medallist, plays tennis and still runs (and a few years ago made his first parachute jump at the age of 85!), and John participates in road races.

Samantha Aarvold is still based in Ethiopia if anyone is interested in altitude training with a difference!

George Brown, retired from his distinguished career teaching at Eton, has continued to exploit the literary talents which made his chemistry text books the standards against which others were judged, and has just published his Guiness History of Inventions.

ELITE ATHLETES BURSARIES

The Trustees of the Achilles Trust, which funds these awards, have decided to make them towards the end of each academic year (rather than towards the beginning as has been the case in the past), in order to be able to take into account performances at the 'Varsity Match and other early season events. Minor awards may also be made on the strength of performances in the Freshmen's Match.

50 YEARS ON

Although unofficial matches continued between the Universities during the war (the results of which are reproduced in the Appendix), official 'Varsity Matches resumed in 1946. The Club also resumed its activities, although sadly without its first President, Lord Deborough, who had died during the intervening years, aged 80. We also reproduce the names of all members who died or laid down their lives during the war.

Philip Noel Baker took over as President, and the Committee comprised Bevil Rudd (Chairman), Evan Hunter (Secretary), Roly Harper (Treasurer), Sandy Duncan (Team Manager), Godfrey Brown, Roger Leigh-Wood, Jack Lovelock, Arthur Porritt and Bill Tatham. Although standards had not yet recovered, the Club managed to win the Kinnaird Cup, and a tour of Scottish schools was undertaken.

P.J.M. Trollope and J.D.J. Havard were Presidents of OUAC and CUAC. Cambridge won the 'Varsity Match by 65 points to 43 (full results in the Appendix).

25 YEARS ON

In 1971, the Club was still hanging on to its place in the British League (which had started in 1969) and after beating Bellahouston Harriers by just 2 points in the final match of the season at West London Stadium, retained its place in Division IV. We also took part in an inter-counties match hosted by Oxfordshire AAA at Iffley Road, and placed a close second to Buckinghamshire.

Peter Crawshaw's reminiscences of 1971 follow:
Bob Steele and John Eliotcokwere Presidents of OUAC and CUAC. Paul Dennis and Ben Bolton-Maggs were Hon. Secretaries but, sadly, were unable to compete. The Varsity match was held on 15th May, at Crystal Palace for the second time. The occasion also marked the first time that the second team match (in which Alverstone overwhelmed Centipedes 115-71) was held in conjunction with the Blues' match, though the Blues' dinner was still held separately (at the Hurtingham Club). The track referee (and dinner Chairman) was Roger Bamforth.

The Blues' match was the most keenly contested for a number of years, with the result in doubt until virtually the last event. Oxford eventually winning 96-91 and thus taking their winning streak to seven. Only one record was broken; by John Eliotcok with a fine (straddled) high jump of 2.02m, for which he was awarded the Drake Digby Cup. Double victories were recorded by Peter Thompson in the Pole Vault (3.65m) and 110m Hurdles (13.6), by Steve White (as a freshman) in the Long Jump (7.10m) and 200m (22.3), and by Steve Nussey in the 200m Hurdles (24.4) and 400m Hurdles (54.3). The latter event (which was then the penultimate track event in the timetable) proved to be effectively the deciding event of the match and was a close race between Steve and Cambridge's Tom Farrell, a veteran of the 1956 Olympics who made an impressive return to the track while studying at Ridley Hall.

Cambridge fielded two athletes who were later to become well known in the world of Racing; John Gosden competed in the Discus and Richard Burnidge in the 110m and 200m Hurdles. There was also a distinctly military flavour to the Cambridge team, with John Eliotcok, Rees Ward and Anthony Routledge all noting their ranks in the Dinner Book. Richard Gyles contested five events for Oxford, but had to wait until the last of these (Triple Jump 14.21m) to register his first victory.

Crystal Palace was also the venue for the match against Harvard & Yale, held on 14th June. Despite wins from Ado Conetti, Phil Lewis, Bob Steele, Tony Moore, John Eliotcok, Steve White and Brian Hull, the Americans triumphed by 9 events to 7, though the result would have been a tie had Frank Brown, who was ruled out of the match, been eligible to compete. The discus was won (with an outstanding 50.56m) by Tom Neville of Yale, later to win Blues for both Athletics and Rugby at Oxford.

In the autumn season, Cambridge narrowly won the Freshmen's match (95-91) at Iffley Road, despite three wins for Oxford from John Hemery. Best race of the day was a close win for Willie Bogan over Jamie Moyes in the 200m. The relays were held a couple of weeks later at Milton Road, and saw Oxford averge their defeat the previous year, with a convincing win by 6 events to 1, with Cambridge averting a whitewash in the 4x1600m. The powerful 4x200m Hurdles team of Aylward, Gyles, Hemery and Nussey might have threatened the record, but for a fall by Hemery, though they still won the race. The Cross-Country race finished level on points for the second time in three years, but Cambridge again prevailed by dint of their sixth runner finishing before Oxford's. Tony Moore repeated his individual victory of the previous year.

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In Memoriam

The Right Rev. F.T. Horan (Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1929-33), on 11th May 1996. Forbes Horan, following in the footsteps of his father (who was Honorary Secretary and then President of CUAC in 1894 and 1895, and who was one of the few British winners in the Cambridge v. Yale match in New York in 1895), was elected to the same CUAC posts in 1931 and 1932 respectively. He also specialised in the same event, the half mile, at which he placed 2nd in the Varsity Match each year from 1931 to 1933. He toured the USA with the Oxford/Cambridge team of 1933, and partnered Jack Lovelock in the mile race in which Lovelock broke the world record at Princeton. Forbes Horan was Bishop of Truro from 1960 until his retirement in 1973.

H. Whittle (St. John's, Cambridge, 1932-3), in about 1990, Harry Whittle, winner of the long jump and second in 220y and 220y hurdles at the Varsity Match of 1953, in which year he was a member of the Oxford and Cambridge team which toured the USA, was a gifted all rounder. He captained the British athletics team at the 1952 Olympics, where he placed fifth in the 400m hurdles. He won 6 AAA titles, at the long jump in 1947 and 1949, 440y in 1947, decathlon in 1950, and both 220y and 440y hurdles in 1953. He worked for ICI throughout his career, becoming chief engineer of their Fine Chemicals Manufacturing Organisation.

N.F. Burt (Jesus College, Cambridge, 1919-21), in about 1994, Frank Burt was effectively a founder member of the Club, and travelled to the USA in 1921 as part of the Oxford/Cambridge team. It is to Frank that we are indebted for preserving the magnificent poster, signed by both teams, which featured on the cover of the Transatlantic Series Centenary. His main event was the hammer, and in spite of his comparatively slight build at under 12 stone he placed second in the 1921 Varsity Match to the great Malcolm Nokes (the last time the event formed part of the Varsity Match programme until restored in 1975). He was also an accomplished hurdler and a boxing Blue.

J.T. Boon CBE (Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1935-38), on 12th July 1996. John Boon joined the publishing firm of Mills and Boon established by his father, and developed the very successful market niche for which it is known today.

D.M. Borland (Brasenose, Oxford, 1930-33), on 12th March 1996. David Borland ran the 100 in the 1933 Varsity Match. Two brothers, I.M. and C.M. Borland, were also members of the Club.


Dr N.L. Mills (St Catharine's, Cambridge, 1935-38). Norman Mills was elected in 1938, in which year he joined Jack Lovelock and others on a tour of schools in S.E. England led by Reg Reavens.
Professor James C Mahoney
6 Tenth Avenue
SAINT LUCIA 4067
Queensland  Australia
2 May 1996

Paul Wilcox Esq
Honorary Secretary, Achilles Club
Brodell House, Middlesex Street
LONDON El 7NW

Dear Paul Wilcox,

It is always a pleasure to receive the Achilles Club Annual Report and the 1995 Report offers a great deal of interesting reading. It is very good to have the descriptions and results of meetings, the descriptions of outstanding events such as the Centenary Banquet, the accounts of tours, the reminiscences of members and much other news. Please accept my congratulations on an excellent production.

The inclusion of an enrolment form for this year's Achilles South Africa Tour in the 1995 Report and the mention of an earlier tour in Ian Mann's letter remind me that at the time of the 1929 tour I was in a ship of the Blue Funnel Line, travelling from Australia to England by way of Durban and Cape Town. I did not see any of the Achilles matches but a Queensland friend of mine, W. H. L. Harrison, was on the tour.

He had been up at Queen's College, Oxford where he was a contemporary of Edward Bradbrooke, whose name is included in the IN MEMORIAM section of the 1995 Report. Harrison competed in the Long Jump against Cambridge in 1927, 1928 and 1929. He later became a Professor of Law within the University of Queensland.

By the way, the obituary notice for Edward Bradbrooke states that he tied for first place in the High Jump in 1928 with "C. B. S. Gordon of Cambridge". Gordon was up at Christ Church, Oxford. He competed in the High Jump against Cambridge in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930. He was last (ex aequo) in 1928 and won the event again in 1929 and 1930 (the year in which he was OUAC President). He later became Headmaster of one of the best-known schools in Adelaide, South Australia. I hope you won't mind my supplying these details.

I have been a member of Achilles since 1932, the year in which I ran an third string in the Mile for Jerry Comens and Jack Lovelock, the future Olympians, at the White City.

With best wishes, sincerely yours, James Mahoney.
Dear Wilcox,

Fortunately I have a certain amount of information about the 1935 tour, as I have recently completed Vol 4 of my family history/diary; unfortunately all my athletic cuttings books, which my father (F.A.M. Webster) kept up for me, have been destroyed or lost.

The team consisted of 'Judders' Judson, Ashleigh Pilbrow, 'Bono' Howland (team captain) and a don at St Johns College: Godfrey Brown. Dick Webster, Mallory Sullivan, Bevellor (RAF and member of the Achilles Club), but we were short of a good sprinter, and "Will" Squires.

It was a small team, considering that one of our matches was against the South African national team. The only match we lost. We did all the events between the nine of us. We also competed against all the Province's, the national police team and a South African Combined Universities team, beating all of them except the South African National team, who only beat us by very small margins.

We travelled to South Africa in the Union Castle ship "The Edinburgh Castle" and returned by the "The Winchester Castle".

It was on the Edinburgh Castle that I met my future wife, Beryl Otley, who was returning to South Africa with her parents. We were both very young and did not marry until 1940. In South Africa I took her to a dance, I think it was near Bloemfontein: after the dance I took her to the farm house of some friends of her parents, where she was spending the night. It was way out in the country. We knocked on the door and were greeted by a hand holding a revolver:"

As far as I remember the first match of the tour was against the Eastern Province on September 4th, 1935, where I made an Eastern Province record in the pole vault. We won that match. We had flown to Port Elizabeth; we missed our first landing, the attempt was bumpy but successful. The first time I had flown. Not a good introduction. From there we next competed on September 7th against Western Province, any near Pretoria at "Treme" the farm of General Bantu and his wife. It was a great honour for us to be invited to this private party at the home of such a great soldier and statesmen. He had of course links with Cambridge having graduated from Christ's College, my own college. It was a most enjoyable though strenuous tour which we had all thoroughly enjoyed.

I noted your remarks with interest about the performance of Oakbark Brits. I would, however, point out that in my day we only had bamboo and lateral aluminum poles. The present technique would have been impossible with such poles. Nevertheless it is a magnificent performance. I hope this will be of some help though a lot of it concerns my own performances.

With best wishes

Yours,

Dick Webster

---

On Monday, 18th March, the Achilles convoy rolled into Stellenbosch for the match against Stellenbosch, the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape. We began with a match against Stellenbosch. The highlight of the match was when our team of three produced a 300m win over the Stellenbosch team. The match was highly competitive, and a strong performance was put on by both teams. The event was watched by a large crowd, and the atmosphere was electric.

As can be seen from the results - table they arrived yet, it was an interesting match and many of the events were closely contested. The "Bantu" handle James Boland joined the discus as did Steve Clarke in the hammer. Clarke finished second behind the "Bantu". We drove, moderately successfully, to our accommodation.

The next and by a variety of local restaurateurs, the most delightful day was our "Bantu" visit to the town. The "Bantu" visit was followed by a two-day visit to the chief of the local tribal councils, the Bantu. These visiting finds, soon followed themselves in the middle of the local tribal council, the Bantu. After a very successful visit, the highlight of the day, the collapse of the team, the "Bantu" job was to be our base for the next two days and a very outside Stellenbosch, the Bantu County. This was our "Bantu" visit to the town, which was more difficult for the "Bantu" job. We arrived at the "Bantu" job on the 26th March, and the "Bantu" job was quickly realised.

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At the conclusion of the tour to South Africa was a tremendous event and everyone who participated in the tour was greatly delighted with the preparations work done by Paul Wilcox and Robert Slater. That it was a huge success was greatly due to the commitment and dedication of the tour's organizers. The tour, which was well received by all, was a fitting end to the historic tour to South Africa.
won, there was no way they were going to let a two feet high silver trophy leave their cabinet for any longer than absolutely necessary. We had our revenge in the speeches and in the beer race afterwards though: Having received plaudits from our hosts (because we lost I assume), I gave away some Achillies cuff-links to a few of the key officials and Achillies tour ties (hopefully that is the last we’ll see of those ties) to the men’s captains and tour T-shirts to the ladies’ captains. In my best Afrikaans I promised Stellenbosch that we would beat them the next time - apparently they understood my opening comments well enough though I can’t quite remember a translation for these pages.... Needless to say Achillies men put on the best performance in the drinking match. The middle distance quartet of Rushman, Herries, Benton and somebody else (?) easily came last and then happily stripped off for a lap of the track wearing only shorts and carrying beer cans. Our hosts were well impressed, but I pity them if we repeat this event in the UK during March! Claire Martin missed this particular lap but all four of the lads gave her a repeat performance later, though she shut her eyes and screamed for help!

The rest of the tour consisted of a mixture of training, touring in the Microbuses, eating and drinking Cape Point, local beaches, the Wine Route, an Ostrich farm, Cape Town, the Waterfront all featured as the various groups hit each of the main spots in turn. The groups in the VVs had more or less formed by this stage - the ESP van had at least 10 occupants each time and who knows where they went; the Old Farts hit the wine route a lot and were always back first. I drove that one a fair bit: the young heavies led by James Hurion took one van off and always came back on autopilot, very late and thankfully in one piece. God almighty knows how their van survived the week; and the fourth van mopped up all the others. A few people floated but no-one got left behind which was the main thing.

There were highlights in the rest of the tour of course. On Wednesday 20th March Stellenbosch hosted the Bonnita Prestige meeting, which had Olympic qualifying performances in the 110m hurdles, men’s 800m, 1500m, 3000m chase, javelin and pole vault. A number of our athletes ran and got good times but the field in every event was classy and it was a pleasure to watch. Unfortunately for us Okkert Brits did nothing special in the vault, even though he had cleared 6.01m the day we arrived.

On Saturday 23rd March the World Cross Country Championships took place in Stellenbosch and we were there to watch the Kenyans strut their stuff. The course was rather different from anything that might be seen at home in March but it produced some fast times. Our athletes ran in the mob races afterwards and they too suffered in the heat, but enjoyed their chance to run on the course.

On Sunday 24th March we drove in a convoy into Guguletu Township, on the outskirts of Cape Town, and that was an entirely different experience. We arrived at the so-called stadium - a grass and gravel surface, sometimes by a wall, with a disintegrating, makeshift stand - and met the local club. Whilst three burly men armed with shotguns watched the vehicles we ran round the Township with our hosts (well, I drove a VW of the infirm, elderly and simply unfit...). What an experience that was, as we left behind the solid dwellings around a brick or concrete walls, and encountered the more familiar sight of the wood and tin dwellings we are used to seeing on television. Everywhere we went there were smiles and laughter and danger seemed a thousand miles away, but clearly the new South Africa has a long way to go before memories of Apartheid and everything it stood for are finally eradicated. Jon Rushman organised the visit and hopefully we’ll co-ordinate continued links with the club and the Township, there is much good that Achillies members could do there.

And so the Tour was nearly over. Most of the group enjoyed fantastic views on a sunset cruise from the Waterfront; some got to run with Curtis Robb, others got to watch Zeelenbury hurl the javelin, or Gunnell to train or Regis, Jarrett, Braithwaite and friends warm up (did anyone see them train?), Keith Marsden shared memories of past Achillies matches and tours with us and happily joined the Old Farts on a number of occasions. Simon Hall, Claire Martin and Sue Bevan provided me with much needed support and Sue too was happy to join the Old Farts - can we stay at her hotel the next time we

do this? the Lanzarac, a five star hotel in Stellenbosch is so much handier for the track.... Sadly, two of our party got to see the snarler side of the new South Africa as Steve Oxlade and Karina Hijashi were mugged and stabbed in Capetown on our second Friday. Karina was not badly hurt, but Steve suffered a punctured lung and had to stay behind an extra week before BA would let him fly back. The incident marred our final weekend, but it could have easily been worse. That and the visit to the Township certainly informed our discussions about Cape Town’s bid for the 2004 Olympics and I for one wonder if they can possibly hope to stage it.

On Tuesday 26th March we left South Africa behind, having all made lots of new acquaintances and lots of new friendships. It is a country worth visiting and we all had a fantastic time, they have a long way to go but I am sure that everyone who went there would want the Gugulet’s of this world to be sorted out and their inhabitants to be given an even chance.

As for Stellenbosch University, we need to persuade them to bring a team to the UK so we can even the scores....

John L. Mortland

NEW MEMBERS

Elections to the Club since the date of the last Annual Report are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matt Albright</td>
<td>St Catharine's, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Hakan Aysan</td>
<td>Corpus Christi, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Vanessa Boag</td>
<td>St John's, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Esther Casson</td>
<td>Clare, Cambridge</td>
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<td>James Cordwell</td>
<td>Caius, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Pierre Faber</td>
<td>Keble, Oxford</td>
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<td>Jane Falcione</td>
<td>Churchill, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Helena Fuller</td>
<td>Queens', Cambridge</td>
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<td>Beverley Gray</td>
<td>Newnham, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Mark Hatton</td>
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<td>Jon Hilton</td>
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<td>Matthew Juniper</td>
<td>St John's, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Dan Leggate</td>
<td>Emmanuel, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Michael Liu</td>
<td>Corpus Christi, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Anders Lustgarten</td>
<td>Magdalen, Oxford</td>
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<td>Alan MacPherson</td>
<td>University, Oxford</td>
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<td>Dai Martin</td>
<td>Keble, Oxford</td>
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<td>Clare Martin</td>
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<td>Chas McCaw</td>
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<td>Mara Myers</td>
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<td>Robert Osborne</td>
<td>St Catharine's, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Bethan Page-Jones</td>
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<td>Don Piggott</td>
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<td>James Reynolds</td>
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<td>Fiona Rose</td>
<td>Lucy Cavendish, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Craig Shepherd</td>
<td>Jesus, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Naomi Siddall</td>
<td>Selwyn, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Jacqui Street</td>
<td>Pembroke, Oxford</td>
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<td>Gordon Wilson</td>
<td>Jesus, Cambridge</td>
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<td>Nicholas Woodmansey</td>
<td>Caius, Cambridge</td>
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ACHILLES CLUB KIT ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Colours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Tops</td>
<td>50/50 poly-cotton. Crest front, &quot;Achilles&quot; back</td>
<td>D, S, W</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-Shirts (Short sleeve)</td>
<td>50/50 poly-cotton. Crest front, &quot;Achilles&quot; back</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-Shirts (Long sleeve)</td>
<td>50/50 poly-cotton. Crest front, &quot;Achilles&quot; back</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorts</td>
<td>&quot;Viga&quot; type, nylon with cotton inner. Small crest</td>
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<td>Jog Pants</td>
<td>50/50 poly-cotton. &quot;Achilles&quot; on thigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweatshirt</td>
<td>&quot;Aetex&quot; type. Small crest on breast</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>Crest front</td>
<td>W</td>
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**Colour Code:**
- D = Dark Blue
- S = Silver-grey
- W = White

The "official" Achilles tracksuit consists of the Dark Blue hood/sweatshirt and the Dark Blue pants. Apologies to the Cambridge contingent, but the lettering shows up much more clearly.

**Sizes:**
These tend not to be generous for upper body garments, although the jog pants are quite baggy in cut. Men will probably require XL tops. If in doubt, give as full a set of measurements as possible, or call Centresport/Centrewest on 0181-464-6211.

**Ordering:** Fill in the form below. State the colour in the left-hand column, and the number of garments required in the appropriate size column. Complete The "Total Cost" column and fill in the "Amount Enclosed" box.

Send the completed form to Centresport, National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, London SE19 2B8. All prices include postage and packing within the U.K. For overseas mailing please add £3 per garment (Europe) and £5 (Rest of World). All payments in Sterling please.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Colour</th>
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**Total Amount enclosed (incl. overseas post)**

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<th>Phone/Daytime:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
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**Payment:** I enclose a cheque/P.O. made payable to Centresport.

Please debit my credit card account:

Access / Visa (delete as necessary)

Card No: [Blank]

Cardholder Name: [Blank]

Expiration: [Blank]
Flagbearer for golden age of sport

1932 Olympic silver medal-winner looks back on pay day of memories

The aura and mystique of sport is not to be taken lightly. The 1932 Olympic silver medal-winner, with his unique experiences, provides a glimpse into the grandeur of the Olympic Games of 1932. His journey from the starting line to the finish line is a testament to his dedication and perseverance.

IN MEMORIAM

Sixty-two members, whose names appeared in the 1938 Annual Report, which was issued in January, 1939, and who have since died or lost their lives in the war.

A. A. ALLAN.
E. J. BEAUMONT-NESBITT.
D. R. BELL.
R. A. A. BERESFORD.
W. W. BOLTON.
R. N. BOND.
E. A. H. CHAPPLE.
LORD CHATTISHAM.
A. L. CLARKE.
I. A. CLARKE.
L. J. CORNISH.
F. C. COXHEAD.

THE REV. E. A. DAWSON.
LORD DISBOROUGH.
S. L. DORMAN.
DR. E. R. ELLIOTT.
C. A. EMERSON.
K. FARNES.
A. J. FITZGERALD.
A. GIBSON.
F. A. C. GIBSON.
H. D. GILROY.
SIR CHARLES DES GRANZ.
H. HALL.
REV. J. M. HAWKER.
W. HERBIGHT.
W. E. B. HENDERSON.
C. HOWARD SMITH.
E. P. R. JOURDAIN.
E. D. B. LABORDE.
W. L. LANG.

J. LE FLEMIN.
A. G. LE MAÎTRE.
REV. H. C. LENNOX-TINDALL.
J. G. O. MILLER.
P. T. MILLER.
P. MUNRO.
H. NEILSON.
P. H. NEWSOM-SMITH.
C. P. S. NORTH.
M. H. PAINE.
R. A. PALMER.
D. A. PATTERSON.
J. S. PEAES.
J. D. S. PENDLEBURY.
J. E. ROBINS.
F. C. SCHULE.
R. C. DE LA C. SHIRLEY.
J. W. MCLE.
S. H. SKINNER.
W. L. STALLWORTHY.
G. A. STRASER.
R. C. SWINGLER.
G. S. TAYLOR.
H. F. THOMSON.
J. ST. L. THORNTON.
A. VASSALL.
G. C. VASSALL.
P. F. WELLS.
A. J. WILLIAMSON.
D. M. WILSON.
P. T. G. WITTHYCOMBE.

ELEVEN MEMBERS ELECTED FROM 1939 TO 1945 WHO HAVE DIED OR LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR.

A. R. CLAYDON.
M. G. HEATH.
K. HOPE-JONES.
P. J. KENWARD.
R. B. MARTIN.
M. G. HEATH.
R. M. W. MURDOCH.
M. WOODHOUSE.

J. G. MARGA.
R. M. W. MURDOCH.
M. WOODHOUSE.

J. G. MARGA.