1997-1998
THE ACHILLES CLUB

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Team Managers
Andrew Hodge (Cambridge)
Simon Hall (Cambridge/Oxford) 0181-659-7628 (h), 0171-601-4417 (w).
Matthew Weaver (Oxford) 0171-603 4138 (h), 0171-227 2162 (w).
Joanna Cripps (Cambridge) 0117-9730042 (h), 0117-9266411 (w).
Karen Thacker (Cambridge) 0268 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), 88 Ringley Park Av., Reigate, Surrey RH2 7EU.
Phone 01737-761626.

Hon. Secretary
Paul Wilcox (Cambridge), Valley Farm, Sproughton, Suffolk IP8 3EN.
Phone 01473-652213. Fax 01473-652706. paul@wilcox.globalnet.co.uk
1998 FIXTURES

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

A midsummer weekend tour to Guernsey is planned: all will be very welcome to participate, whether competing or spectating. Cost will be about £100 per person for return sailing from Weymouth plus one night's accommodation.

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

CLUB 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, 01223-250371, carry a limited stock, and are the sole stockists of the material for making the Club's dazzling striped summer blazer. Their version of our Club tie carries a better rendition of Cambridge blue.

Track suits, 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 Willcoxon, 01473-652215.

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

AGENDA

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Achilles on the Internet

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

www.achilles.org

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

e-mail

Many members of the club now have email and it is hoped that an effective mailing list for email users can be set up. Available email addresses are listed at the Web Site as a form to join the mailing list.

If you have any queries or problems with the site please contact Richard Paige:

richard.paige@bigfoot.com

ACHILLES REUNION DINNER

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

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

Sir T.G. Devitt, Bart. (Corpus Christi, Cambridge, 1922-26), in December 1995. Sir Thomas Devitt placed second in the long jump in the Varsity Match of both 1923 and 1924, to the great Harold Abrahams' match record (7.19m/23'7 1/4"), which was to last for 40 years in the former. He also won Blues for Rugby Football in 1923, 1924 and 1925.

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

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

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

World University Games/World Student Games

GOLD MEDALLISTS

| Year | Event | Gold Medalist
|------|-------|----------------|
| 1928 | Paris, France | John Rinkel (Cambridge)
| 1935 | Budapest, Hungary | Hamish Stothard (Cambridge)
|      | 800 metres | Jack Lovelock (Oxford) New Zealand
|      | 1,500 metres | Peter Ward (Cambridge)
|      | 5,000 metres | Godfrey Brown (Cambridge)
| 1937 | Paris, France | Peter Ward (Cambridge)
|      | 400 metres | Godfrey Brown (Cambridge)
|      | 800 metres | Alan Pennington (Oxford)
|      | 1,500 metres | Sandy Duncan (Oxford)
|      | 4 x 100 metres relay | Dick Webster (Cambridge)
|      | Pole Vault | John Wilkinson (Oxford)
| 1947 | Paris, France | John Wilkinson (Oxford)
|      | 100 metres | John Wilkinson (Oxford)
|      | 200 metres | Ivar Vind (Cambridge) Denmark
|      | High Jump | Robin Pennington (Oxford)
| 1951 | Luxembourg | Robin Pennington (Oxford)
|      | 5000 metres | Chris Brasher (Cambridge)
| 1955 | Dortmund, Germany | David Law (Oxford)
|      | 1,500 metres | David Law (Oxford)
1957 Turin, Italy  
5,000 metres  
Kevin Gilligan (Oxford)

1963 Porto Allegro, Brazil  
400 metres  
Adrian Metcalfe (Oxford)

1970 Turin, Italy  
110 metres hurdles  
David Hemery (Oxford)

1987 Zagreb, Yugoslavia  
110 metres hurdles  
Jon Ridgeway (Cambridge)

1997 Cagliari, Italy  
5,000 metres  
Nneuma Lynch (Oxford) USA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2:08:36</td>
<td>Richard Nerurkar</td>
<td>Danielle Sanderson</td>
<td>Chris Cheeseman</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:09:47</td>
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<td>Becky Spies (USA)</td>
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<td>Larry Mathews</td>
<td>Dan Duke</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:10:42</td>
<td>Sarah Winckless</td>
<td>Rachel Smith nee Jordan</td>
<td>Pierre Faber (RSA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Jump</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>James Brierley</td>
<td>Clare Ridgley</td>
<td>Tom Richards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:55</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6:02</td>
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<td>1:16</td>
<td>Ruth Irving</td>
<td>John Mordock</td>
<td>Rachel Stott</td>
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VETERANS

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

The ever nimble Max Jones, having this year turned 70, continues to rewrite the record books and now holds the following World Age Group Records: M65 track 30 miles (3:57:13), 50k (4:05:56); M65 road 50 miles (6:51:22); M70 track 50k (4:16:11), 40 miles (5:49:44), 50 miles (7:34:31), 100k (10:31:30), 12 hours (109.95k), 150k (16:56:15), 100 miles (18:64:47), 24 hours (191.019/318 miles 1220 yards) - plus numerous other British and Commonwealth records. He aims to contest next year's Comrades Marathon (88k) in South Africa, plus of course the London Marathon, in which he is one of a very select few to have competed every year since its inception.

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

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

THE 1997 VARSITY MATCH

A glorious day at Wilberforce Road saw an afternoon of sustained high quality athletics. Highlights were James Brierley's new match record of 2:20 (7:2-1/2") in the high jump, eclipsing Trevor Llewelyn's 14 year old mark, and Ellen O'Hare's front run 2:08.7 in the 800m, beating Joanna Latimer's previous record, followed by a win in the 1500m: these won the Drake Digby and Susan Dennler Trophies respectively. Another match record was set by Rachel Stott in the hammer, displacing Allison Woods' 1994 distance, and following her excellent form during the USA tour she was awarded the Paul Gomme Trophy (for the best throwing performance during the year). The Le Touquet Trophy for the most improved performance was deservedly won by James Trapmore, who rounded of some excellent progress during the season with substantial new pb's in winning both the 800m and 1500m. The 3000m walk (the only event in which women may be selected to compete against men) produced its most exciting competition for some years, not least because Fiona Rose went one better than last year and pulled away over the last three laps to win the mens' race, with team-mate Helen Ford-Dunn holding on to third place. Another significant record was Rebecca Lewis' 5 individual wins, matching Jon Ridgeon's achievement in the 1988 mens' match, in the 100m, 100m hurdles, long jump, javelin, and high jump (she also ran legs of both relays): the previous record in the womens' match was 4 individual wins, most recently by Emma Westlake in 1991. Other multiveenters on display were Pierre Faber, with wins in shot, discus and pole vault, and Cambridge's Stephen Rogers, who won both the 110m hurdles and the javelin. Anders Lustgarten, moving down from the 400m, his

parade event, won both the 100m (in a decision which even he disagreed with over an unlucky Dave Gardiner) and the 200m.

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

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

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

ACHILLES REUNION DINNER

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

The 1998 Reunion Dinner will return to Trinity, Oxford, on Saturday 16th May immediately after the Varsity Match. Please book early with Simon Clarke, c/o Inorganic Chemistry Dept, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR, phone 01865-512594 (home), 01865-272600 (work), fax 01865-272690. Cost will be no more than £35, including wines and pre-dinner drinks.

ACHILLES v. COMBINED SERVICES v. HANTS v. SURREY

A strong mens' team was always in close contention, and at the end of a sunny afternoon in Portsmouth on 20th July just 15 points separated Achilles 3rd place from Hampshire's winning total. Highlights of the afternoon included James Trapmore's fine win in the 1500m, a dominating 1-2-3 led by Andy Hennessy in the steeplechase, and a rousing 4 x 400m victory which included an eye-opening first leg of 49.5 from blocks by Steve Rogers (what could he achieve if he trained for the 400m hurdles?).

Andy Hodge is to be congratulated on raising such a strong team, and on covering so many events himself until the rest of it arrived (the timetable having been advanced without notice). His own report is appended.
The women’s events again suffered from lack of our support, although at least this year Achilles were able to make their presence felt in most events. Our strongest showing was in the hammer, a non-scoring event which was won by Rachel Stott.

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

THE FRESMEN’S MATCH

Cambridge won both the mens’ and womens’ matches, on a typically blustery November day in Cambridge. The quality of the pole-vaulting would have been outstanding in any conditions. Tom Richards’ personal best of 4.90m was a match, Cambridge undergraduate and ground record, and lifted him well into the UK top twenty, while Matthew Buck cleared 4.50m (another pb) for second.

THE ACHILLES BALL

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

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

NEWS OF MEMBERS

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

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

Congratulations to Donald Gorrie, M.P., who won his Liberal Democrat seat at the general election.

Denise Wang (nee Bush) is currently living in China.

CLUB ARCHIVES

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

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

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

MARATHON MYTH LAID TO REST

The organisation of this Olympic event was clearly amateurish in both senses. Errors in the programme abounded... Of the five Italian entries, two are shown identically as No. 29, U. Blasi and No.21, U. Blasi. The wrong listing of No.19, Dordino P. is compounded by the entry No. 22, Dordano, P., seemingly the same luckless entrant. The third (or was it proclaimed the fifth?) Italian, rejoiced in the name Cocoa.

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

The United States’ Fred Lorz is listed as F. Lors. He was the man who took a car ride for almost half the distance at the previous Olympic Marathon in 1904, run at St Louis: he had entered the stadium well ahead and unsurprisingly fresh compared with those toiling through the Missouriur dust-bowl.
The most significant fact revealed by this surviving programme is that the surveyed distance was 36 miles 385 yards from the start at the East Terrace of Windsor Castle to the winning post at White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, West London. This is told story that Britain's beautiful, rather deaf and notoriously unpunctual Danish-born Queen Alexandra, who had 'consented to present the prizes', stamped her dainty foot and insisted the winning post be moved to finish in front of the Royal Box. As a result, the distance from the start to the winning post is at least conclusively proved to be a myth. Dorando Pietri could not manage the extra distance added on by the Queen's insistence: he was just too exhausted to be able to reach, unassisted, the pre-authorized winning post within the Stadium, having hemmedily first turned right instead of left.

The length of the course could easily have been adjusted to 26.6 miles... by moving the start within the grounds of Windsor Castle. Why then was this not done? It requires further research. Sixteen years later, in Paris in 1924, the IAAF adopted 26 miles 385 yards as the standardized length for all future marathons. Deferential foreigners appeared to accept this odd distance perhaps as an integral part of England's to them already incomprehensible system of weights and measures.

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

40 YEARS ON...

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

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

THE OUAC POST-WAR REVIVAL - by 'Claude' Havard.

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

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

We knew that London had already been chosen to host the 1948 Olympics and that there was strong competition between the White City and Wembley to hold the athletic events. We also knew that the Varsity Sports had been recognized in the post-war athletics calendar as a prestige event and we suspected that the White City management would be anxious to host as many such events as possible in order to stake its claim. I therefore went to see the Chairman of the Greyhound Racing Association, which owned the White City, together with the CUAC Secretary, John Mark (who was to light the Olympic flame in 1948). Having put our case, we were told that we could have the White City for the 'Varsity Sports free of charge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 YEARS ON...

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

*Oxford 99 Cambridge 94*

It was the eighth consecutive victory for Oxford, though the match was a closer run thing than in some previous years. On the day, the real difference between the two teams was Oxford's multiple event winners: Phil Lewis (800 and 1500), Steve White (200 and long jump) and John Hemery who took all three hurdles races, a feat only previously achieved by Mike Hogan of Oxford in 1964 and 1965. The most exciting events were the middle distances, which saw some fine duels, notably John Valentine's victory over Dong Guinstone in the 5000 and an outstanding 1500 in which Phil Lewis had to run a 55 second last lap to shake off an inspired Rees Ward.

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

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

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

The match marked the introduction of a 4 x 100m relay, won by the Cambridge quartet of Dave Roberts, Ada Conch, Mack Dale and Steve Williams in the excellent time of 41.9, which still stands as a Blues' Match record (though inferior to the Relays Match record of 41.6, set by the 1966 OUAC squad of Archer, Barry, Hauck and Ronay). No other match records were set, though the fine performances of John Valentine (returning to the fixture after a relaxation in the Blues' rules) in the 5000m (14.04.2) and Steve White in the Long Jump (7.27m) had only been bettered at the time by the existing match records. John might have run faster still had he not been recovering from a 2 Miles EB of 8:39.8 in the Ceylon Tea Meeting the previous evening. Rugby Blues continued to make an impact, with CUAC's Dave Williams finishing second to Matt Dixon in the 400, and OUAC's Tom Neville winning the Discus and placing second in the Shot (to Cambridge's American, Dave Rea). Oxford fielded two Soccer Blues in the Triple Jump. Kevin Raine partnering winner Brian Hull.

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

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

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

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

As for Achilles, 1972 was notable for the success of our British League team, which, under the team management of Jonathan Peacock, won the Fourth Division with a series of superb performances. Although Martin Wimbush Lewis was the undoubted star, generally providing at least one individual win as well as anchoring the 4 x 400m relay team to victory, this was very much a team effort from a squad that
62 YEARS ON... THE 1935 TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

Thanks to David Thurlow of the National Union of Track Statisticians, we have now received copies of reports on this tour as they appeared in contemporary issues of The Times. As no account of this tour has previously been filed in the Club's archives, these reports are reproduced below. Although billed as an Oxford and Cambridge team, it included A.W. Sweeney of the RAF, while team captain 'Bonzio' Howland had gone down from Cambridge some seven years previously. The tour was notable for the blossoming quarter-mile talent of Godfrey Brown, who here displayed his great range by dividing his attention between the 100 yards and the half-mile, a year before Olympic gold and silver medals in Berlin.

Port Elizabeth, Sept. 4 - The combined team of Oxford and Cambridge athletes opened their tour of South Africa when they beat Eastern Province by 10-1/2 events to 1-1/2, breaking five Eastern Province records. Sweeney, who is included in the team, won the 100 in 10.1 and the 220 in 21.8. Pillbrow won both hurdles events. There was a dead heat in the quarter between Stammers (Eastern Province) and J.A. Jodon (Oxford) in 52.8. Other winners were: Brown (half mile), Squires (mile), Webster (pole vault) and Howland (discus and weight); Oxford and Cambridge won the relay race.

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

| 100y | 1. J.J. Schumann (S.A. Universities) 9.8 sec. Won by a yard | 2. A.W. Sweeney (RAF) | 3. J.I. Ever (S.A. Universities) |
| 440y | 1. Ever 51.0 sec. Won by inches | 2. Visser (S.A. Universities) | 3. J.C. Howells (Cambridge) |
| 880y | 1. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge) 1:56.6. Won by 8 yards | 2. E. Hall (Western Province) | 3. S. Morgan (Western Province) |
| One Mile | 1. W.T. Squires (Oxford) 4:33.4. Won by a yard | 2. Van der Merwe (S.A. Universities) | 3. Goode (Western Province) |
| 120 hurdle | 1. S. Kim (Western Province) 15.0 sec. Won by a foot | 2. A.G. Pillbrow (Oxford) | 3. Jorgensen (Western Province) |

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

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

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

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

100y 1. E. Grimbeek (Transvaal) 9.8 sec. Won by 6 inches.
2. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge)
3. A.W. Sweeney (RAF)

2. Sweeney
3. Howells (Transvaal)

2. Lyell (Transvaal)
3. Rees (S.A. Police)

2. D.R. Jacobs (S.A. Police)
3. Meyer (Transvaal)
4. R.T. Squires (Oxford)

120 hurdles 1. Lavery (Transvaal)
2. Stiekos (S.A. Police)

Pillbrow (Oxford) finished first in 15 secs but was disqualified.

Shot 1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge) 46' 10-1/2".
2. Fouche (Transvaal) 44' 3-3/4"

Discus 1. Howland 127' 6-1/2"
2. van der Linden (S.A. Police) 127' 7-1/2"
3. Stewart Wayne (Transvaal) 127' 7"

Pole Vault 1. J. van der Welt (S.A. Police) 12' 3-3/8"
2. F.R. Webster (Cambridge) 12' 2"

Relay 1. Oxford and Cambridge
2. Transvaal
3. S.A. Police.
Johannesburg, Sept. 14 - South Africa won the athletic match against Oxford and Cambridge here today by nine events to one. The only English victory was that of M.W. Sweeney who won the half-mile in the good time of 1:53.7.

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

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

_100y_
1. E. Biukaboo (SA) 9.15 sec. Won by 4 feet.
2. M.W. Thenuimso (SA)
3. A. W. Sweeney (RA)

_200y_
2. Sweeney
3. Biukaboo

_Quarter-mile_
2. Laidlaw (SA)
3. Bhandarkar (SA)

_Half-mile_
2. S. O. McDill (SA)
3. Hali (SA)

_Mile_
2. D.R. Jacobs (SA)
3. R.T. Squiers (Oxford)

_120y hurdles_
1. S. Karl (SA) 14.5 sec (SA record). Won by a yard.
2. A.G. Pilbrow (Oxford)
3. H. Viljoen (SA)

_220y hurdles_
1. A. Burton-Daniher (SA) 24.1 sec (equal SA record). Won by 5 yards.
2. Pilbrow
3. Davie (SA)

_Long Jump_
1. Gehrke (SA) 22' 10-3/4".
2. J.C. Horsfall (Cambridge) 22' 1-3/4"
3. N.J. Viljoen (SA) 21' 9-1/2"

_Pole Vault_
1. A. van der Walt (SA) 12' 7-1/4"
2. J. van der Walt (SA)
3. F.R. Webster (Cambridge) 12' 5-1/8"

_Shot_
1. H. Hart (SA) 48' 2-1/2".
2. R. J. Howland (Cambridge) 46' 11-1/2"
3. van der Merwe (SA) 44' 7"

_Relay_
1. South Africa
2. Walkers

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

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

Durham, Sept. 21 - The Oxford and Cambridge team won their match against Natal here this afternoon by eight events to two. Great interest was taken in the sprint races, in which A.W. Sweeney and M.W. Thenuimso were opposed: they each won one. Sweeney won the 100y by 10 feet, a good time into a strong wind, and Thenuimso won the 220y by 22.4 secs. The universityers actually won only seven events, but D.V. Brown, the South African champion, was competing on an individual in an attempt on the South African quarter-mile record, and although he won easily, J.A. Judson was given the event for the purpose of the match. R.L. Howland, the captain of the British team, scored his usual double by winning both the putting and the discuss.

_100y_
1. A.W. Sweeney (RA) 10.0 secs. Won by a yard.
2. M.W. Thenuimso (Natal)
3. Golder (Natal)

_220y_
1. Thenuimso 22.4 secs. Won by 6 inches.
2. Sweeney
3. Johnson (Natal)

_Quarter-mile_
1. D.V. Brown (South Africa) 49.2 secs. Won by 5 yards.
2. J.A. Judson (Natal)
3. Marshall (Natal)

_Half-mile_
1. A.G.K. Brown (Cambridge) 2:00.6. Won by 3 yards.
2. Lindo (Natal)

_Mile_
2. R.T. Squiers (Oxford)
3. Squier (Natal)

_120y hurdles_
1. A.G. Pilbrow (Oxford) 15.2 secs. Won by 2 yards.
2. Snider (Natal)
3. Elliot (Natal)

_Shot_
1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge) 46' 11-1/4"
2. Roedl (Natal)

_Discus_
1. Howland 120' 7"
2. Roedl
3. Snider

_Pole Vault_
1. R.L. Howland (Cambridge) 11' 6"
2. de Villiers (Natal)

_Mile relay_
2. Natal

**THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES**

Since our first article on the origins of Cambridge Blue, which appeared in the 1900 Report, and drew exclusively on an account which appeared in 'World Sports' in 1939, further detail has reached us from, strangely enough, Australia, where John Hartley (see 1995 Report) is in close touch with Sydney University, who adopted the awarding of their own Blues in 1892.

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

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

Paul Wilcox
January 1998

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB.

ATHLETIC FIXTURES.
Michaelmas Term, 1909.

NOVEMBER.

Thu 1 FRESHMEN'S SPORTS 300 Yards Hurdles.
Fri 2 Queen's Mile Hurdles.
Sat 3 Two Miles Long. Open in Fresher.
Sun 4 B.N.C. 300 Yards Hurdles.
Mon 5 Woolwich. Nothing to be
Tues 6 Hertford 300 Yards Hurdles.
Wed 7 Trinity. Open 100 Yards Hurdles.
Thurs 8 Magdalen. 100 Yards Hurdles.
Fri 9 St. John's, Christ's, Cambridge.
Sat 10 Morton. One Mile Hurdles.
Sun 11 New College Long Jump Hurdles.
Mon 12 Keble. 100 Yards Hurdles.

DECEMBER.

Fri 13 Lincoln. One Mile Hurdles.

N.B.—At a Committee Meeting held November 30, 1908, it was decided that in future:
1. No Strangers' prize should be awarded unless there were at least 5 entries.
2. A second prize should not be awarded unless there were 8 entries.

All Entrants for Strangers' Races must be in Mr. Bowell's High Street, Oxford, three days before the date fixed for each Race. Entrance Fee—One Shilling—is to go towards the Second Prize.

By order of the Committee.

L. C. HULL, PRESIDENT.

VARSIY MATCH  17 MAY 1997
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

MEN. Blues Match

100m  A. Lustgarten (O) 11.0, D. Gardiner (C) 11.0, A. James (C) 11.4, J. Harrison (O) 11.5
200m  A. Lustgarten (O) 21.6, D. Gardiner (C) 21.9, G. Wolf (O) 22.5, A. James (C) 22.9
400m  C. McGaw (O) 49.2, A. Taylor (C) 49.7, J. Dempsey (O) 49.8, R. Trezona (C) 50.5
800m  J. Trapmore (C) 1:53.7, M. Reed (O) 1:54.2, R. Griffiths (C) 1:55.3, G. Maxwell (O) 2:01.9
1500m  J. Trapmore (C) 3:49.7, D. Kirk (O) 3:51.0, A. Hennessey (O) 3:52.4, M. Godling (C) 4:07.7
5000m  D. Leggate (C) 14:58.0, J. Punter (O) 15:02.9, M. Shore (C) 15:26.0, J. Bradley (O) 16:09.4

110m hurdles  S. Rogers (C) 15.6, O. Odudu (C) 15.7, P. Faber (O) 16.0, [D. Hughes (O) disqualified]

200m hurdles  Q. Odudu (C) 25.0, S. de Berry (O) 25.2, G. Hodgson (C) 25.9, G. Wolf (O) 28.1

400m hurdles  R. Osborne (C) 55.7, G. Hodgson (C) 56.3, J. Collins (O) 57.1, A. Beardsall (O) 63.4

Steeplechase  H. Lobb (O) 9:17.8, M. Poulin (O) 9:32.5, E. Malloch (C) 9:33.4, N. Talbot (O) 10:02.7

3000m walk  Fiona Rose (C) 15:16.3, W. Ashby (O) 15:52.9, Helen Ford-Dunn (C) 16:57.8, R. Kitchen (O) 16:14.6

High Jump  J. Britterly (O) 2.20 (record), T. Coker (C) 1.85, T. Costello (O) 1.85, R. Osborne (C) 1.30

Pole Vault  P. Faber (O) 4.40, S. Rogers (C) 4.00, N. Woodmansey (C) 3.70, P. Coventry (O) 2.40

Long Jump  H. Jenkins (O) 6.71, M. Dunbar (O) 6.68, T. Ball (C) 5.87, C. Ainsley (C) 5.85

Triple Jump  M. Croskell (O) 13.59, R. Jenkins (O) 13.33, T. Ball (C) 13.28, L. Phiri (C) 12.55

Shot  P. Faber (O) 14.80, S. Burman-Rey (C) 12.83, S. Rogers (C) 12.36, P. Tyley (O) 11.27

Discus  P. Faber (O) 45.42, S. Rogers (C) 42.50, M. Conerney (C) 41.26, P. Tyley (O) 36.66

Hammer  B. Durrant (C) 50.90, P. Tyley (O) 45.46, N. Marston (C) 41.14, P. Dunwoodie (O) 22.66

Javelin  S. Rogers (C) 61.20, P. Faber (O) 56.30, R. Price (C) 49.58, P. Tyley (O) 49.06

4 x 100m  Oxford (Thompson, Beer, Harrison, Lustgarten) 43.2, Cambridge (James, Gardiner, Taylor, Rogers) 43.4

4 x 400m  Oxford (Dempsey 50.7, Faber 50.7, Hennessey 52.3, Lustgarten 46.7) 3:20.4, Cambridge (Osborne 50.8, Cordwell 50.9, Trezona 50.6, Taylor 50.8) 3:23.1

Result  Cambridge 113, Oxford 109
WOMEN, Blues Match
100m  R. Lewis* (C) 12.7, J. Street (O) 12.9, D. Rowe (O) 13.3,
      A. Stevens (O) 13.4
200m  J. Street (O) 26.3, D. Rowe (O) 27.5, A. Stevens (C) 27.8,
      C. Saunders (C) 28.6
400m  E. Casson (C) 59.6, K. Williams (O) 61.6, V. Goodwin (O) 62.1,
      V. Boag (C) 63.4
800m  E. O'Hare (O) 2:08.7 (record), E. Casson (C) 2:13.0, D. Lee (O)
      2:13.0, S. Dillon (C) 2:28.5
1500m E. O'Hare (O) 4:59.0, D. Lee (O) 4:40.8, K. Haylock (C) 4:48.6,
      A. Tomkinson (C) 4:54.0
5000m S. Cook (O) 18:18.4 (inaugural record), R. Currie (O) 18:24.4,
      E. Brooker (C) 18:36.1, K. Haylock (C) 18:51.6
100m hurdles R. Lewis* (C) 15.6, M. Gibbello (C) 16.2, C. Ridgeley (O) 17.0,
        D. Martin (O) 17.4
400m hurdles M. Gibbello (C) 67.6, K. Williams (O) 68.1, V. Goodwin (O) 69.4,
         V. Boag (C) 70.8
High Jump C. Boulton (O) 1.60, L. White (C) 1.60, M. Gibbello (C) 1.55,
        D. Martin (O) 1.50
Long Jump R. Lewis* (C) 5.43, A. Stevens (C) 5.23, C. Ridgeley (O) 5.01,
        C. Boulton (O) 4.84
Triple Jump J. Bukhova (C) 11.06, B. Page-Jones (C) 10.85, C. Ridgeley (O)
        10.54, D. Martin (O) 9.36
Shot  R. Lewis* (C) 11.31, S. Winckless (C) 10.24, C. Henham (O) 8.97,
      J. Galey (O) 8.10
Discus S. Winckless (C) 44.36, J. Galey (O) 31.52, S. Hanley (C) 31.18,
       M. McCutcheon (O) 25.62
Hammer R. Stott (C) 41.28 (record), M. McCutcheon (O) 34.10, M. Wong
       (C) 29.46, J. Nightingale (O) 22.62
Javelin R. Lewis* (C) 35.12, C. Henham (O) 34.22, J. Bukhova (C) 30.18,
       M. Teo (O) 27.42.
4x100m Oxford (de Villiers, Street, Hutchinson, Rowe) 51.0, Cambridge
       (Stevens, Lewis, Gibbello, Page-Jones) 51.2
4x400m Oxford (Hutchinson 62.3, O'Hare 61.4, Lee 61.5, Williams 59.6)
       4:04.8, Cambridge (Boag 63.8, Dillon 63.7, Casson 59.5,
       Lewis 62.3) 4:09.3

Result Cambridge 93, Oxford 86

[*Rebecca Lewis' five victories in the match constitutes a new record]
WOMEN, Millipedes v Alligators

100m
M. de Villiers (O) 13.2, V. Hull (O) 14.0, C. Hurelbrink (C) 14.2, J. Clothier (C) 14.3

200m
R. Gilpin (C) 28.2, V. Hull (O) 28.3, S. Hutchinson (O) 28.7, A. Rusman (C) 29.5

400m
S. Hutchinson (O) 62.4, S. George (O) 63.2, A. Rusman (C) 65.8, S. Dixon (C) 70.2

800m
J. Rickards (C) 2:28.1, E. Mayne (C) 2:34.5, F. Barrett (O) 2:35.7, P. Wilcox (O) 2:45.1

1500m
J. Rickards (C) 5:03.0, M. Clark (O) 5:04.1, E. Mayne (C) 5:31.3, P. Wilcox (O) 5:46.9

5000m
M. Birdsall (O) 19:19.5, M. Clark (O) 19:23.9, L. Calderhead (C) 19:46.1, F. Whitehouse (C) 20:28.0

100m hurdles
N. Siddall (C) 15.8, A. Phillips (C) 18.2, M. de Villiers (O) 18.5, A. Whitby-Smith (C) 19.7

400m hurdles
N. Siddall (C) 1:18.5, S. George (O) 1:20.8, N. Green (O) 1:21.5, G. Watts (C) 1:26.6

800m
P. Lewin (O) 81.0

High Jump
A. Richardsen (C) 1.45, E. Mayne (C) 1.30, A. Whitby-Smith (O) 1.25

Long Jump
N. Siddall (C) 5.25, C. Hurelbrink (C) 4.63, S. George (O) 4.46, G. Blair (O) 4.26

Triple Jump
N. Siddall (C) 11.07, T. Sheridan (C) 9.63, C. Clifford (O) 9.58, G. Blair (O) 8.70

Shot
S. Hodgkinson (C) 9.81, E. Littler (C) 8.23, K. Johnstone (O) 6.96, J. Heron (O) 6.05

Discus
C. Beasley (C) 27.60, E. Littler (C) 24.78, K. Johnstone (O) 21.86, S. Hutchinson (O) 15.36

Hammer
E. Littler (C) 31.08, C. Beasley (C) 23.26, S. Hutchinson (O) 15.76, K. Johnstone (O) 15.24

Javelin
K. Johnstone (O) 27.38, C. Taylor (C) 26.16, C. Rusby (C) 23.86, J. Heron (O) 23.38

4 x 100m Cambridge Alligators (Clothier, Siddall, Hurelbrink, Saunders) 54.1, Oxford Millipedes (Mason, Hull, Boulton, Lewin) 55.7

4 x 400m Oxford Millipedes (Goodman, Dixon, Hull, Martin) 64.3, Cambridge Alligators (Hutchinson, Rickards, Rusman, Dent) 66.7, Tomkinson 66.9, Siddall 66.0/4:25.0

Result
Cambridge Alligators 105, Oxford Millipedes 74
VARSITY RACE
Wimbleden Common

LED home by the Canadian University championship after medallist Alex Hutchinson, Canada's two-year-old thousand, as they recorded their 54th win in the series to give them a one race lead over Oxford, Peter Moultrie reports.

Clouded out of the notorious Beverley Brook water splash 900m after the start Nick Tahboul hit the front closely followed by Ian Lewis and Andrew Hounslow to give Oxford two in the first two.

OMINOUSLY arriving seconds later to single file were the powerful Cambridge trio of Hob Lob and Dan Leggat, second last year and Nick Mapp the 00 12 international, while tracking these three were the Australian Even Foot and Hutchinson.

Through the narrow confines of the breast-rack the Cambridge pack began to gather as Lob, Leggat and Hutchinson got among the leaders.

On to the open spaces of the golf course at the mile-mark three decided to take the race and they stepped up a gear to leave the main pack trailing with the first Oxford runner also making the pace into fast for his liking.

Pass the windmill almost halfway into the race, Leggat, Lob and then the second, together as the rest of the field followed 300m later but was a cluster of Oxford vests packing well the race team was still a close call.

Up and over both the Alps and the Butts, Leggat, Lob and Hutchinson were still inseparable but with Newnham fourth and Founten fifth, Oxford were fighting back.

On the downhill toward the final field Leggat determined to retain his title, hit the front closely followed by Hutchinson as the increase in pace began to tell on Lob.

At the turn with 300m to the finish. Hutchinson went clear and for one who owned a 1500m best of 3:42, he wasn’t to be denied as Leggat fell back second and with Lob alone in third Cambridge had the race in its pockets.

Hutchinson, who when a student in Montreal, was aware of the rivalry between the two English universities said afterwards, “I’ve worked hard for this one and I’m proud to lead the team home.”

Leggat, although finishing second, was even more elated than winning last year. “Besting Oxford has made me happy,” was his only comment.

The women’s race was a more clear cut affair as Katie Skorupka lived up to her pre-race favourite tag to win a home convert crown. With Ellen O’Hara, a European junior and 1500m representative, using her speed to cut out the early lead. Skorupka didn’t hit the front until the mile point as the usual American Kelley Willet won second and Claire Martin third as these three from Oxford put the Dark Blues in an unassailable position.

Just as the pace and running together were the Cambridge pair of Nenad Kay and Esther Cashion who were closing down on O’Hara.

Skorupka, who afterwards admitted “the course was muddy,” appeared to revel in the conditions as she skipped over the surface untroubled to lead Oxford to their fifth consecutive win.

Wider, an American National Collegiate Junior three champion - indoors and outdoors - came home in second, with Martin repeating her third place of 1994. “I found the course a bit longer than I thought,” said Skorupka, who now heads for the European Championships full of confidence.

In the Old Blues race it was a unique family double as Richard and Galen Rourke took off from packing before travelling to Kenya the next morning, to run out as respective winners.

Richard, winner of the Varsity race in 1986, is a well known former Oxford Blue in athletics while Galen admits to being a half-blue in gymnastics, having never run at university, “I only started running after I met Richard,” she confessed.

Turn away in seventh place in the same race was Simon Muggleston, time winner of the Varsity race and still holder of the course record of 36.57 set in 1990.

Muggleston, European junior champion over 5000m in 1987, said: “Today was my first win by six years.”

Healing ABC successfully operated Muggleston gave up the sport last year. Commenting shortly just six weeks ago in the company of his Fatmate Club, Stanley, Muggleston said: “The next appears all right at the moment but I’m taking it easy. No more than 30 miles per week, “Men 7.5M.”

T. M. Hutchinson (Cambridge) 5th, 6th Leggat (Oxford) 4th, 5th, 6th, Mapp (Oxford) 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th; E. F. E. Martin (Oxford) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th; Skorupka (Oxford) 1st, 2nd; Martin (Cambridge) 4th, 5th, 6th; J. P. B. Cockroft (Oxford) 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th; J. B. H. Hounslow (Oxford) 2nd, 3rd, 4th; G. R. Willet (Cambridge) 5th, 6th, 7th.

TEAM: 1 Cambridge University 3:32 T. M. Hutchinson 3:32; 2 Oxford University 3:36; T. M. Hutchinson 3:36; 3 Oxford University 3:43; 4 Cambridge University 3:43.

Achillies v. Combined Services and Others, Portsmouth

Bright and sunny day saw the mighty Achilles sweep down the A3 to Portsmouth on a wave of optimism. After several hiccups in and around Victoria coach and train stations the teams were assembled.

The mens team, captained gloriously by my good self, got off to a great start by arriving at the exact start time of the first events; the organisers having deemed it appropriate to adjust the programme without mentioning it to the competing teams.

However, a cunning Achilles plan found the majestic John Moreland and friends happily launching heavy blunted objects across the field at the appropriate hour.

The early start to the Long Jump also played into Achilles favour as many of the athletes from other competing countries had not yet arrived, and good points were earned.

After the panic had subsided the afternoon continued with excellent performances throughout the side, and it would be unfair to mention any names, but I will anyway.

Thanks must go to Graham Edmonds and Pierre Faber, both for their unending team spirit which saw Pierre compete in any event his battered body would allow him to, and Graham travelling down to Portsmouth to find he wasn’t required in the team, due to overwhelming strength (Although, after drinking as much ‘team spirit’ as he could, we did find him a place in the relay after all, and much to his credit, ran well).

Trampore must also get a mention as a great talent that must be nurtured by this club and aided in any way we can. Despite being run very close by some excellent athletes, time and time again I have seen him defeat them, not only has he the physical athleticism which can also be said of those he regularly beats, but he has the nerve required to succeed.

Once again, despite our excellent efforts, as Achilles grows from strength to, hopefully former, strength, we managed only to secure a second to last again, showing the strength of the teams we compete against, although this year we were closer still to that elusive break through, and so it is with great hope that we move into another academic academic year, looking for those athletes who will take us to greater success.

Thanks to Paul Wilcox and family for hosting a wonderful BAR-B-Q which I know was appreciated by all of the athletes and supporters alike.

Thanks also to the Presidents and Captains of the Universities for their continued support of the Achilles Teams and I look forward to next years competition with even more hope of and Achilles victory.

Andy Hodge

NB Vancouver Trophy once again was not held.
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### Combined Services Results - Ladies

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<td>Burgh</td>
<td>11:33 secs</td>
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<td>J Reed</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
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<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>11:37 secs</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>L Whipp Hambley</td>
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### 200 Metres A & B String

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Place</th>
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<th>Distance (m)</th>
<th>Time</th>
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### 400 Metres A & B String

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>B Skinner</td>
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### 800 Metres A & B String

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<td>W Andrews</td>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>1:15.45 min</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>R S relaxing</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>1:18.34 min</td>
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</tr>
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### 1500 Metres A & B String

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>S Daniellou</td>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>4.30.05 hrs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Bell</td>
<td>Burgh</td>
<td>4.30.10 hrs</td>
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<td>E Bell</td>
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### 5000 Metres A & B String

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>17.32.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>17.40.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>J Brooks</td>
<td>Athletics AC</td>
<td>18.10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>J Sinton</td>
<td>Athletics AC</td>
<td>18.20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>J Carter</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
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### Combined Services Results - Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Distance (m)</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>J Bennett</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>17.13.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>J Smith</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>17.32.45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>17.40.47</td>
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### MvJmp

<table>
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<th>Club</th>
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### HgJmp A String

<table>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Brooks</td>
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<td>1.60m</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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### HgJmp B String

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Brooks</td>
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<td>1.60m</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
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</table>

### Triple Jmp A String

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>J Bennett</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Brooks</td>
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<td>1.60m</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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### Triple Jmp B String

<table>
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<th>Distance (m)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Brooks</td>
<td>Athletics AC</td>
<td>1.60m</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
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</table>

### Combined Services Results - Combined Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Distance (m)</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>J Bennett</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>17.13.36</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
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<td>3</td>
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### Discus A String

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>4</td>
<td>J Smith</td>
<td>Combined Services</td>
<td>38.35m</td>
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</table>
VARSITY FIELD EVENTS MATCH
WILFORD ROAD, CAMBRIDGE 2 MARCH 1997

MEN
High Jump
T. Costello (O) 1.75
I. Cook (O) 1.65
T. Murashayada (O) 1.65
R. Schmidt (O) 1.65
6.65 win

Pole Vault
G. Chilow (O) 3.00
N. Thomas (O) 2.80
P. Coweney (O) 2.54
T. Costello (O) 2.00
19.30 12.30 win

Long Jump
G. Davies (O) 6.82
H. Jenkin (O) 6.99
M. Darby (O) 6.36
G. Chilow (O) 6.36
D. Stone ( adversely guest) 5.36
26.33 win

Triple Jump
H. Jenkin (O) 13.69
D. Darby (O) 12.65
N. Dickens (O) 11.99
J. Cook (O) 51.02 win

Shot
P. Faber (O) 14.48
T. Tyler (O) 11.40
P. Cartney (O) 8.62
T. Leary (guest) 11.67
43.25

Discus
P. Faber (O) 41.92
P. Tyler (O) 35.74
G. Chilow (O) 27.68
P. Cartney (O) 26.46
J. Mollison (Adversely guest) 47.46
T. Leary (guest) 32.02
J. Mollison (O guest) 20.40
D. Clark (O guest) 28.24
131.80 135.96 win

Hammer
P. Tyler (O) 44.68
D. Darby (O) 24.22
P. Faber (O) 23.78
J. Mollison (O guest) 15.84
J. Mollison (Adversely guest) 37.30
108.52 142.82 win

Javelin
P. Cartney (O) 51.52
P. Faber (O) 48.26
P. Tyler (O) 45.28
D. Clark (O) 31.32
J. Mollison (O guest) 23.94
176.69 185.86 win

Cambridge men won by 5 events to 3

WOMEN
High Jump
C. Bottun (O) 1.55
D. Rowe (O) 1.55
G. Novokska (O) 1.30
P. Lewis (O) 1.15
4.20

Long Jump
D. Rowe (O) 4.54
C. Bottun (O) 4.48
S. George (O) 4.44
G. Blair (O) 4.13
13.46 12.05 win

Triple Jump
D. Novokska (O) 9.10
V. Goodwin (O) 8.90
P. Lewis (O) 8.10
27.69

Shot
J. Stent (O) 8.34
M. McCutcheon (O) 8.09
C. Wendaan (O) 8.04
J. Galey (O) 7.58
24.47

Discus
M. McCutcheon (O) 27.94
J. Nightingale (O) 24.00
J. Galey (O) 23.20
K. Johnson (O) 14.26
76.94 85.86 win

Hammer
M. Novokska (O) 24.24
M. Novokska (O) 16.10
J. Mollison (O guest) 18.52
J. Galey (O) 17.78
61.86 88.22 win

Javelin
C. Wenham (O) 27.18
R. Johnson (O) 22.74
C. Mollison (O guest) 13.64
J. Galey (O) 12.43
63.56 87.64 win

Cambridge women won by 7 to 0

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE RELAYS
MEN
Men's Relays
Oxford 6.01 sec
Cambridge 6.02 sec

WOMEN
Women's Relays
Oxford 6.01 sec
Cambridge 6.02 sec

Oxford and Cambridge tied with 3 events each
School fit for nothing but survival of the fattest

Julian Goater sees children's health dip due to lack of competitive sport.

These days schoolchildren are incredibly unfit. Too many of them flog around in front of television or play with their computers all day and, it seems to me, they will grow up to become adults afflicted by obesity and cardiovascular disease.

In February 1994, I was hired by Braunhild Forest Borough Council to do athletics coaching mainly in primary schools, as part of their "Young People in Sport" scheme.

My job was to show youngsters, most with no previous experience of competitive athletics, that running can be fun. Since then, I am glad to say, about 2,000 children have got involved, many taking part in inter-school championships, after-school running clubs and mini-triathlons.

But when I started the sessions, I was amazed at how unfit and unsoftware a lot of them were. When I got them to try to touch their toes, I found that many could not even sit up with their legs straight in front of them without supporting themselves with their hands behind their backs.

A lot had been diagnosed as severely asthmatic and given medicine they did not need. They had been stopped from doing sport, mainly because they were unfit and get out of breath when they tried to do any exercise.

Some had no idea of how to throw or catch a ball because they had never even thrown a tennis ball around.

Modern-day children are carted to school in cars and they don't leap about or climb trees as they used to. It is also too risky for most parents to let them play outside unsupervised.

In a lot of the state secondary schools, hard-pressed teachers will not give up their weekends to organise Saturday morning matches while many youngsters now want a lie-in or work part-time.

There is a lot of peer pressure on teenagers not to be seen to be trying too hard. It is 'cool' to get away with doing as little as possible.

By the time they leave school, the chances are these bad habits will be so ingrained that they will stay that way for life. This is a real problem for them, both physically and psychologically.

The National Curriculum is not helping either. In the secondary schools, for example, a block of six weekly sessions is allocated to athletics — springing one week, hurdles the next, javelin and discus the week after and so on.

In each session, there is just about time to teach the basics of the event. But it is a major mistake to think that they will be able to do the event at all at the end of the six weeks.

In my lessons, though, I concentrate on passing and catching as a team game which is a much more enjoyable way to build ball skills. What these sessions have shown me is that almost all Under 11s are desperate to let off steam and learn new skills.

When we are preparing for the cross-country relays, I teach them specific skills, like pacing themselves during a three-minute race, so they do not run out of steam.

It was especially satisfying to see how one gawp 10-year-old called Hayley, who is severely asthmatic, has been totally transformed by training in the gym and going for two-mile runs. She does not win any races but running has given her a large morale boost.

Except in the private schools, inter-school sports have died a death across much of Britain, but we have still got loads of talented, motivated children who simply need the chance to compete.

It's up to us to give them that chance. 

Julian Goater, 44, was national cross-country champion in 1981 and now works in Berkshire, giving athletics training to children in about 30 state schools.