changing

2013

The Report went largely unanswered. When one can unearth the lost Reports of 1921-23 we would be thrilled!

It was then a small A5 booklet, containing a couple of pages describing the Club’s activities during the year, the results of the Varsity Match and other competitions, and a comprehensive list of members and their addresses.

During the 1970’s and early 1980’s publication lapsed, and when we revived it in 1986 it was in A4 format. Over the years, as technology and my IT skills have improved I’ve sought to expand the content and refine its presentation, but always maintaining the style and identity of the Reports of the Club’s first 50 years. It has been, and continues to be, a labour of love, and a privilege.

A change of layout was overdue and I hope that you approve. The magazine style is actually more economical, permitting better use of page space, and allowing the same amount of material to fit into fewer pages, and are indebted to London Estate Agents Douglas & Gordon for printing it for us in colour.

Fixtures 2013

Saturday 16th February - Varsity Field Events & Relays - Lee Valley
23-24th February - BUCS Indoors - Sheffield EIS
Saturday 9th March – CUAC Dinner
13th-23rd March – OUAC Warm Weather Training - Portugal
24th-31st March – CUAC Warm Weather Training- Malta
3rd-19th April - Oxford & Cambridge US Tour

6th April - Oxford & Cambridge v Penn & Cornell - Cornell
15th April – American Achilles Foundation Dinner, at Harvard – contact Tom Bldyrett

16th April - Oxford 7 Cambridge v Harvard & Yale – Harvard
Saturday 27th April - Achilles: Kinannard/Sward Meeting – Kingston-UPon-Thames
Sunday 28th April - CUAC Sports - Wilberforce Road
4-6th May - BUCS Outdoors - Bedford
Saturday 18th May - Varsity Sports - Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

Achilles Dinner, at St Catherine’s. Chief Guest: Jon Ridgeway. Contact Tom Dowle

thehowze@btinternet.com

Wednesday 29th May - Achilles v Loughborough - Loughborough
Saturday 29 June - Achilles, LICC Round One - Allianz Park (formerly Copthall Stadium)
Saturday 27 July - Achilles, LICC Round Two - Allianz Park
Saturday 24 August - Achilles, LICC Round Three - Allianz Park

2014 - 150th Anniversary of the Varsity Sports. Save the date!

Big celebrations are planned at Oxford on 17th May, including a banquet at Oxford Town Hall

Changing Times 1

The format of the Achilles Annual Report went largely unchanged from 1930 until the 1960’s (and if any one can unearth the lost Reports of 1921-23 we would be thrilled!).

Changing Times 2

Tommy Macpherson has agreed to become the Club’s Patron, a post previously only held by our founder, Lord Philip Noel-Baker.

Tommy’s contribution to the Club over the last 60 plus years has been immense. Among countless initiatives, he organised a very high profile tour to

Greece and Italy in the early 1950’s, took over from Harold Abrahams as Chairman, set up the Achilles Trust when the US Series had all but collapsed through lack of funds, raised sponsorship for major tours to Australia in the late 1970’s and Hong Kong and China in the early 1990’s and has guided us with wit and wisdom throughout. Tommy is standing down from the post of President which he has held with such distinction since 1979. We are proud and happy that his close interest in the Club’s affairs remains undimmed.

Changing Times 3

While we are on the subject, it is now 25 years since I took over from Sandy Duncan as Honorary Secretary of this august Club.

Sandy had been in the post for 39 years—probably too long. I care too much for the Club to make the same mistake.

Who’d like to start taking over?

Very best wishes to all,

Paul Willcox
Hon. Sec.
Achilles Club
Several of the Club’s top performers enjoyed huge breakthroughs. Emma Perkins opened the year by radically revising her high jump pb with 1.89 indoors. Then Claire Hallissey built on her 2011 promise with a storming first ever finish in the London Marathon to secure her Olympic place. Meanwhile a big 10000m pb in the USA and a close 4th in the European 5000m heralded Julia Blesdale’s long awaited arrival in the highest world class, a position confirmed by her two 8th places finished in the Olympic finals at both distances. Jon Cook (right) scored his first international win at an event in Spain, and his competitive record earned him a 10th place ranking on merit from AW. Late in the year, Ben Moreau sliced a minute off his 10000m pb at an event in Australia.

Andy Baddeley shrugged off a series of injuries to return to the top of the Games rankings. He reached the Olympic semi-finals, and his blog on the Games is included later in this Report.

Mara Yamauchi, however, had a frustrating year. Carrying an injury into the Olympic marathon she had to drop out. She nevertheless ranked 3rd in the UK 10k road lists.

Hattie Archer was desperately unlucky to be excluded from a second Olympics through injury. In spite of holding the qualifying time and a brave run in the Europeans she fell foul of the UK’s draconian entry standards.

Louis Perrant was another to make a long overdue breakthrough, improving at 400m by almost a second. He narrowly missed Olympic selection, but time is on his side and he already has his sights set on Rio.

And in Other News....
I thought I should share with Achilles my attempt to explain the visceral appeal of the 100m in response to my co-author, Alex Mackinnon’s missing the point of it.

Dear Barnaby,

I know you are intelligent and an athlete. Can you therefore explain the 100m to me?

In terms of poetic prose, my take is:

- A bolt suffusing with fleeting and appealing as a 110 soundbite.
- A now strategically singular and tactically bereft.
- Only works for feral crowds, fabulously hype, and a frantic press.

- The fastest run, in the straightest line, over the shortest distance, requiring minimum attention span.

I stopped at the 10,000 metres on Saturday but went to bed after watching the boss on Sunday. Saw the 100 metres this morning and stifled a grin!

Please tell me why 100m is so popular! Now what Emma did: that was true athletics.

All the best,
Alex

Dear Alex

Yes, I can explain. It’s about terror and pity. We all three on drama, fright, and surprise. In the 100 there is fight and flight at all times, as you flee your fears (of being left at the start) and fight for supremacy. The ‘ural crowd’ loves this as they love a pack of dogs chasing a rabbit competing for the kill. The sprinterloves the adrenaline rush and the surge of hitting the ‘sweet spot’ of full stride and bearing a trail in a slightly crazed cavort to victory. It’s basic animal spirits. The terror comes in the interminable space between the crouch and the gun. The pity comes with the dejection and defeat for those who have pumped themselves up as victors. Above all, it’s a phenomenal dare in which each runner believes he can ratchet up his speed/strike rate to match and overhand the rest. You have to run to the race to know this. Ask Alan Wells if you ever come across him. He will say something very similar.

Your four descriptors are quite accurate. However, you have to see the 100 m as a circus act. The suspense is so brief it madens the crowd with its intensity, which is what makes them jump and shout. It’s a flash in the pan of eight men literally shot in the 100 in a showy display of flight and fight for one of them becoming the kindest of shooting star. By comparison, all other events are calm, measured, and rational. This what makes the 100m the Cinderella or standout event. It has all the drama and fascination of unbridled passion or a public execution. It’s a sport which allows an infinitesimal margin of error in avoiding sudden death. It’s the total focus and attention span allotted by the runner to the task which galvanizes, even hypnosis, the spectator. There you have it.

Having said that, I must say I agree with your suggestion that Jessica Ennis is the true athlete – which is quite another thing, of course. I took up the caledon in Spain rather like Don Quixote, after years of hundreds and long jumps and revelled in my spectacular failure (particularly in the pole vault) to achieve my entirely imaginary potential. But what I enjoyed anything quite so much. ATB – Barnaby

The Olympic Games

The Archive Olympic Cauldron at the Royal Over seas League was attended by our 2008 GB team of Mark Lewis-Francis & Harvind Bynoe, & compared by John Bryant.

Triathlon Gold Med all: Alison Brown lew in his one term at Giron he compet ed regularly for Clunet, and put his injury would have contested the Varsity Cross-Country.

Andy Baddeley’s Olympic Blog

I felt incredibly proud to be a part of Team GB for a home Games. Whilst all of the athlete interviews from all the sports may have lent the “crowd were incredibly sentiment” an air of context, that’s simply because there is no way to describe how it felt. It was and still is, impossible to describe the wall of noise, the electric atmosphere of anticipation, or the feeling of going on the British vest. But suffice it to say, as a country we showed everything that is Great Britain. I arrived in the village ready to go, and to soak up the atmosphere. I moved into our apartment with Chris Tomlinson, Robbie Grabarz, Andrew Dougal and Ross Murray, where I was sharing a room with Chris Thompson.

Day one of athletics arrived, and it was finally time to don the vest and represent GB. It was a usual day of nervous waiting, coupled with an air of “this is real!” and “this is the Olympics!”. Time slipped by and suddenly I was at the warm up track, where I only really describe the atmosphere as the calm before the storm. By this point we all knew this wasn’t our normal major championships – watching a stadium roar on to a world heptathlon best in the hordes in the morning session made sure of it. I had a walk around the warm up track with my coach, and then lay down for a quick read to clear my head. Stretching, then a very early jog as we had to contend with an unusually long 50 mile call time. I did a few easy strides, grabbed my spike bag and headed into final call. For once, all the officials were speaking English, which was strangely comforting. For anyone wondering what goes on in there – our bags are checked to make sure spikes are the right length and that no one has an iPod or phone, or any branding that’s not allowed. The call room is basically a big room with dividing walls separating it into pens so that each heat is segregated from the others. Plain walls, and early quiet as each athlete goes through their routine. There is the occasional bit of banter to keep the tension, and the officials try to stop any digging around. Then it was time for the long walk through the tunnel to the main stadium – a minute of walking in silence feels like a long way. We were given our front name bibs with transponders attached (which provide 100m splits for all the distance athletes), leg numbers and it was time for spikes and a few strides on the short straight under the stands.

Then it was time for one of the most incredible moments of my life. We came out under the stands in single file, and there was a surge of blackening noise spreading outwards as the crowd spotted the Team GB colours. If I thought that was bad, I was in for a rude awakening as my name was announced on the start line. If I had clapped my hands in front of my face I wouldn’t have been able to hear it. The sound had such a physical impact, that I felt taller, I felt lighter. Then we were off, and despite tripping with 120m to go, I felt great and qualified in an automatic spot. After crossing the line, in a mixture of excitement and relief, there was a brief chance to soak up the atmosphere and to acknowledge the crowd before heading back to the warm up track via the longest ever mixed relay. A quick warm down and then the chance to talk to my coach whilst getting massage, then I hopped on the bus back to the village. I went straight into the (6000 seater) dining hall before heading back to Team GB medical HQ on an ice bath.

Fast forward less than 24 hours, and I’m sitting with the guys in our apartment in the village with no idea of what’s about to happen. Super Saturday. Need I say more. We watched three of our friends and teammates win the biggest prize in world sport, it was incredible. So incredibly I that I had to take myself out on a walk around the village to calm down and relax before trying to get some sleep before my own Olympic semi-final.

So then it was my turn again, but on Saturday, with much the same routine as Friday. I was drawn in the second semi-final, which was made up of 13 athletes after the reinstatement of Nevasa for the 400m (and selecting his 800m). 13 athletes from each semi would qualify automatically, with the next 2 fastest overall also progressing. I felt good in the warm up, nervous but ready to go. Then, I was out on the track and the lights were on. I’ve run out of superlatives for the place that it made me feel.

The gun went, and the rest is a blur. The pace felt incredibly fast, but what was not necessarily obvious was that it was fluctuating – always the toughest way to run. Not only was the pressure applied at the front consistent (by an obviously keen-to-stay-out-of-trouble Chesapeak) but the rest of us were scrapping for position and doing our best to avoid stumbles and falls. I felt I was going as hard as I could go right from the gun. So much so, I even really needed to make a move up out of the field I was already automatic, with the next 2 fastest overall also progressing. I felt good in the

The visceral appeal of the 100m - from Barny Powell

I'm absolutely thrilled off a thrilling year in which the brake through into world class by placing 6th in both the 5000m and 10000m, and under the season prone world records in the Cyprian 1500m and 3000m. Desmond Luke was our ‘missing members’ list for many years, and had evaded even the searches of the 1997/98 Team GB reunions when they organised a reunion. At the height of our celebrations at the Royal Overseas League, a Club resident, in London, for the Games, noticed our event listed on a board in the foyer, wandered in, and rather diffidently introduced himself.

Desmond Luke, welcome back! What a very happy coinci dance!
Over 170 Achilles Club members have competed in the Olympic Games since Grantley Goulding of Oxford (right) claimed a silver medal over the hurdles in 1896. They have won 51 medals, 20 of them Gold. The table shows that the heydays of the early 20th century gave way to periods in the 1970’s and 1980’s when the Club was completely unrepresented, but that there has since been a marked revival, a particular feature of which has been the emergence of women, and former track and field athletes excelling at other sports: members have won medals in cycling, rowing, modern pentathlon and triathlon.

After the Club’s 10-medal haul at the 1924 ‘Charlies of Fire’ Olympics, the most remarkable success was in 1932, when just 6 members made the long trip to Los Angeles and returned with 5 medals between them.

Large teams in the post war Games of 1948 and 1952 went unrewarded, but the late 1950’s and the 1960’s showed a recovery in fortunes. After 20 subsequent years of drought, members have brought back medals from each of the last 4 Olympics.

Douglas Lowe: 800m Gold Medalist in both 1924 and 1938
Michael Parker: UK record holder for the 110mH was poster boy for 1988 Games
European 800m record holder John Boulter (143) moved up to 1500m in 1972

David Hemery: Gold and World Record at 400mH in 1968

Wendell Motorley (B13): 400m Silver and 4x400m Bronze in 1964

Richard Nerurkar: 5th in the 1996 Marathon in Atlanta

1920. Bovil Rudd was serving as the first Hon Sec of the Achilles Club when he won Gold (400m), silver (4 x 400m) and bronze (800m)

Tom Hampson: 800m Gold and World Record in 1932, plus 4 x 400m Silver

Tim Barrett: competed in an astonishing Varsity Olympics

Sarah Winkleless: the Varsity discus record holder won bronze in the double sculls in 2004

Since her Beijing cycling Silver Medal, Emma Pooley has returned to contest the Old Blues Cross Country. In the London Olympics she finished 6th

Lord Burghley: 400m hurdles Gold in 1938, President of the IAAF and Member of the IOC

1924. David Hemery was selected 5th in the 110mH in 1932, moved up to 400mH 4 years later

1912 1500m. Arnold Strab Jackson (Oxford) – Gold. Norman Taber (Oxford & USA) – Bronze

1912 A. N. S. Jackson 1,500 metres
1912 H. M. Macinnes 4 x 100 metres relay
1920 N. S. Taber 3,000 metres team race
1920 G. M. Butler 4 x 400 metres relay
1920 B. G. d’U. Rudd 400 metres
1920 J. C. Airnsworth-Davis 4 x 400 metres relay

1924 W. E. Stevenson 4 x 400 metres relay
1924 H. M. Adams 4 x 100 metres relay
1924 D. A. Lowe 800 metres
1924 G. A. Lowe 800 metres

1928 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1928 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1928 D. A. Lowe 800 metres
1928 G. A. Lowe 800 metres

1932 T. Hampson 800 metres
1932 M. N. Tristall 400 metres hurdles
1932 D. A. Lowe 800 metres
1932 J. N. Butler 4 x 400 metres relay

1936 D. P. Hemery 400 metres hurdles
1936 A. G. K. Brown 4 x 400 metres relay
1936 M. W. Brasher 3,000 metres steeplechase
1936 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

1956 D. P. Hemery 400 metres hurdles
1960 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1960 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1960 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

1964 D. P. Hemery 400 metres hurdles
1964 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1964 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
1964 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

1972 D. P. Hemery 400 metres hurdles
1972 W. A. Motley 400 metres

1984 G. A. Lowe 800 metres
1984 H. M. Macinnes 4 x 400 metres relay
1984 D. A. Lowe 800 metres
1984 G. A. Lowe 800 metres

1996 D. P. Hemery 400 metres hurdles
1996 W. J. P. McLaughlin 1,500 metres
1996 J. N. Butler 4 x 400 metres relay
1996 M. W. Brasher 3,000 metres steeplechase

2012 W. A. Motley 400 metres
2012 A. Brownlee Triathlon

2000 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2000 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2000 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2000 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2004 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2004 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2004 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2004 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2008 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2008 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2008 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2008 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2012 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2012 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2012 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2012 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2016 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2016 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2016 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2016 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2020 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2020 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2020 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2020 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres

2024 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2024 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2024 Lord Burghley 400 metres hurdles
2024 H. J. Elliott 1,500 metres
The Varieties Field Events and Relays Matches

Lee Valley Sports Centre, Picketts Lock, London 18 February 2012

Men's relays, all outdoors (Oxford win 4-2)

60m (run as 2 heats with the 2 best, of 5, University times totals to deter-

2 Heat 1: S. Adekpeni (G) 6.96, A. Bardfield (G) 7.00

2 Heat 2: S. Adekpeni (G) 6.96, B. Keightley (G) 7.04

100m: O. Marais (Achilles) 10.25, A. Ogunleye (Achilles) 10.26

200m: O. Marais (Achilles) 21.40, B. Keightley (Achilles) 21.36

Relays (tie 3-3)

60m (run as 4 heats with the 4 best, of 5, University times totals to deter-

2 Heat 1: N. Phillips (O) 6.98, M. Phu (O) 7.01, J. Smith (O) 7.02

2 Heat 2: N. Phillips (O) 6.98, M. Phu (O) 7.01, J. Smith (O) 7.02

Women's relays (tie 3-3)

2 Heat 1: K. Howard (A) 7.93, E. Thomson (A) 7.93, S. Harland (A) 7.93

2 Heat 2: K. Howard (A) 7.93, E. Thomson (A) 7.93, S. Harland (A) 7.93

The Kinnaird and Sward Trophy Meeting

21st April 2012, Kingston-upon-Thames. UIAC and UIAC were out in force, fresh from back to warm weather training. Athletes carried off the Kinnaird without too much difficulty, but with Humphrey Waddington, Bilzen Ahmet and Andy Wakefield all scoring heavily for the hosts. The Kinnaird was outstanding of the afternoon were Didi Akiniyewo achieving the Blues standard for the first time in the meeting, and Caspar Eliot carrying off the RS Hawkes 400m trophy.

Kinnaird Trophy (90th Year)

3000 A+B+NS 1 Alex Tovey WSE 8.36 44 3 Peter Hodgson (Athletics) 9.09 89 4 Jamie Shad-

The London Inter-Club Challenge

The London Marathon

The highlight of the London Marathon was Claire Hallissey's brilliant 2:27:44, booking her Olympic place (believe, leading in the 204 Varsity Match).

Other notable runs included
- John Bryant (M65) and Matthew Bryant (M35) ran together in 5:59:01.

A week earlier Gabby Carnwath ran 3:01:52 to finish 6th woman in the Brighton Marathon.

LICC MATCH 4
ALLIANZ PARK (FORMERLY COPTHALL STADIUM)
SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2012
Hammer 2 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 20.91
1 Louise Stead Achilles SM 28.00
4 Ivo Johnson Achilles SM 52.49
Pole Vault 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 3.85, 3 Sam Hyatt-Turnham Achilles SM 3.50
High Jump 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 2.35
Long Jump Pool 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 1.55
Pole Vault Pool 2 Daniel Houlden Achilles SM 1.49
Triumph Jump 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 1.30
Three Boys Sprints 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 1.59
Javelin 3 Ivo Johnson Achilles SM 39.49, 4 Daniel Smale Achilles SM 40.65
Shot 1 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 9.33
5a Fun Run 1 Ben Carr Achilles SM 20.75, 3 Aaran Mason Asians SM 20.50
5a Fun Run 2 Billen Ahmed Achilles SM 22.50
10a 2.7 1 Tom Nevill Achilles U200 11.75
20a 2.4 2 Larry Spry Achilles SM 61.46

The third match in the series again suffered from indifferent weather.

The last match, late in the season, was poorly attended by athletes from all clubs, and there are question marks of what format the series may take in 2013.

The London Inter-Club Challenge

The London Inter-Club Challenge

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The London Inter-Club Challenge

The London Inter-Club Challenge

The London Inter-Club Challenge

The London Inter-Club Challenge
The Oxford v Cambridge Varsity Sports

19 May 2012, Iffley Road, Oxford
Honours were even, with Oxford winning both men’s matches, and Oxford both women’s. Victory was particularly sweet for OUAC’s women, as it turned the tide on two years of Cambridge clean sweeps in this match.

The Drake-Digby Trophy for the best performance in the Men’s Match went to Onakeno-Mario-Ghae (who high jumped 2.04. The busy Nadine Prill was a popular winner of Susan Deynel Trophy for the best performance in the Women’s Match, capturing a sprint treble with a storming 56.9 last leg of the 400m relay to secure the match for Oxford.

The Le Touquet Trophy, for the most improved athlete during 2010-11, went to Caspar Eliot (right, no. 46) who had a big breakthrough at 400m hurdles. On the flat, however, he suffered the embarrassment of having his brother run faster than him for the Countypedes: Ralph Eliot (no. 78) was duly awarded the Steve Stuart Trophy, for the most notable second-team performance.

The Paul Gomme Trophy, for the best throwing performance of the season, was presented to hammer thrower Helen Broadbridge.

The Achilles Trophy, for outstanding contribution to Oxbridge athletics, was awarded to Clara Blättler: her time at Oxford and in the UK has sadly come to an end and we will miss her participation in both Varsity and Achilles events.

### Men’s Blues Match

**100m (wind +2.2 m/s)** Mark Dyble (O) 10.90, Amin Ahmadnia (C) 11.14, Isaiah Adekanmbi (O) 11.22, Ross Elsby (C) 11.33

**200m (wind +1.0 m/s)** Christopher Morter (O) 22.79, Ross Elsby (C) 23.00, Sam Wareham (O) 23.11, Amin Ahmadnia (C) 23.28

**400m** Caspar Eliot (O) 50.38, Sam Wareham (O) 51.06, Christian Roberts (C) 51.46, Lloyd Hilton (O) 52.70

**800m** Jonathan Cook (C) 1:52.15, Adam Lewandowski (O) 1:54.46, Richard Felton (O) 1:55.31, Lloyd Hilton (C) 1:59.39

**Mile** Jonathan Cook (C) 4:13.09, Thomas Frith (O) 4:13.75, Jake

### Women’s Blues Match

**100m (wind +0.9 m/s)** Nadine Prill (O) 12.60, Eleanor Gatehouse (C) 12.95, Fran Thompson (C) 13.78 (Helena Wace (C) was disqualified for a false start)

**200m (wind +0.7 m/s)** Nadine Prill (O) 25.42, Helena Wace (C) 25.98, Eleanor Gatehouse (O) 27.24, Fran Thompson (C) 28.34

**400m** Nadine Prill (O) 57.84, Helena Wace (C) 59.82, Helen King (O) 61.23, Rose Penfold (C) 61.76

**800m** Rose Penfold (O) 2:18.46, Rebecca McLean (C) 2:18.97, Naomi Webber (O) 2:19.88, Emily Green (C) 2:20.68

**Mile** Joanna Klapotz (O) 5:07.99, Rachel Kitchen (C) 5:14.04, Naomi Webber (O) 5:28.13, Joanna Mobed (C) 5:32.30

**5000m** Jessica Chen (O) 16:56.42, Rebecca Moore (C) 17:06.40, Hayley Munn (O) 18:06.42, Kate Russell (C) 19:08.69

**100m hurdles** (wind +0.1 m/s) Clara Blättler (O) 15.65, Lizzie Thompson (C) 16.70, Emily Craven (C) 17.00, Katie Holder (O) 18.38

**400m hurdles** Clara Blättler (O) 63.60, Lizzie Thompson (C) 64.96, Katie Sandford (C) 66.70, Elise Waldon-Day (O) 70.85

**2000m steeplechase** Kathryn Twyman (O) 7:20.32, Jocelyn Traylor-Clarke (C) 7:26.72, Polly Keen (C) 7:43.41, Emily Bartlett (O) 7:52.08

**High Jump** Lizzie Thompson (C) 1.55, Lucy Crossman (C) 1.55, Katie Holder (O) 1.40, Roxanne Sverdlov (O) 1.40
### Varsity Second Team Matches

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<td>Oxford</td>
<td>4 x 100m relay</td>
<td>Oxford (Tottenham, Blettner, Prill, Gatehouse) 50.57, Cambridge (Wace, L. Thompson, Peures, P. Thompson) 52.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>4 x 400m relay</td>
<td>Oxford (Brian Sutherland) 6.27, Craven 62.0, Mician 59.84</td>
<td>4:15.50, Oxford (Penfold 61.3, L. Thompson 59.94, Sanford 62.2, Wace 57.7) 4:00.45</td>
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### Fresher Varsity Matches

#### 4x100m Relay

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<td>4:15.50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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#### 4x400m Relay

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<td>3:19.60</td>
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#### 5000m Relay

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<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>15:59.11</td>
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#### 4x100m relay Cambridge (Lowe 66.5, Dandioso 67.2, Craven 62.0, Mician 59.84) 4:15.50, Oxford (Penfold 61.3, L. Thompson 59.94, Sanford 62.2, Wace 57.7) 4:00.45 | Result: Oxford 115, Cambridge Alligators 85. |
The 2012 University Cross Country Races

For the first time in six years, Cambridge took the honours in both of the University Cross Country Races at Roehampton Vale on Saturday 1st December. The pre race predictions were for Cambridge (Siobhan Coyle) and Oxford (Laurence Goater) in the women’s event, and for Cambridge (David Hodkinson) and Oxford (Jeff Botting) in the men’s event. However, in both hard and heavy testing conditions that were the polar opposites of 2011, it proved to be the case. In the 37th Ladies’ race, the Light Blues set off in determined fashion hoping to end a five race losing streak, and American fresh- man, Alison Gregor (King’s), soon started to make the running at the front of the pack. In fact, the sharp end was dominated by new runners, with Oxford’s Katie Niehaus (Trinity) and Cambridge’s Hanna Tarver (Fitzwilliam) tucking in behind her. Two more miles in, this order had firmly established itself. Although Oxford had Catrin Mullarkey (Trinity) in fourth, two Light Blues in fifteenth and sixteenth (Rebecca Moore (Magdalen) and Polly Kent (Downing)) meant that the race was in their group so long as they could hold it together over the trying last mile or so of the course, which takes in the infamous Bults. It was to be their year and with the runners fairly spread, there was no change in the order and the race went by them with Oxford taking individual honours in 23 minutes, 22 seconds, an excellent time given the conditions and only true five seconds slower than last year. The race saw the scoreline come to 32 wins for Oxford and 14 to Cambridge. The Gentlemen’s Race saw a special reunion for it marked the 60th anniversary of the famous “big race”, which was run in almost zero visibility in one of the last and severest winters of the London “peacemakers”. To mark the occa- sion, five runners from that day returned to Common to witness the 122nd race in the series. The two captains – John Best (Cambridge) and John Haddock of Oxford, plus Tony Weeks-Pearson (Cambridge) and Peter Miller joined Sir Christopher Chataway, who in 1952 won for the third time jointly with Weeks-Pearson and David Law. It was Chataway that set the current student generations’ way, but neither all 6 had given him a warm and lasting ova- tion. Prior to the race, it was felt that Cambridge had marginally the best team on paper, but that Oxford, with something to prove after a disappointing performance 12 months ago, had plenty of rea- son to feel that it could be their day. However, once the race had settled down after the usual mad rush to the water splash and subse- quent climb through the woods to Springtowel Cottage, it appeared that it would be the Light Blues’ who would emerge victorious again, and by a clear margin. De- spite a strong challenge in the leader race in Jacob Wiels (St. Cross), Oxford runners occupied the last four places and their chances looked fairly bleak.

By the Windmill at 4 miles, this appeared to have been confirmed as Cambridge led by 31 points to 48. Usually, a margin of 30 at this point signifies that the race is all over as a contest, however, it was not how it panned out this time. Slowly but surely, Oxford runners started to make inroads and as the runners emerged onto the Memorial Playing Fields, it was clear that the contest was not the foregone conclusion it had ap- peared to be just 15 minutes earlier.

Wiels, running in the race for the second time, finished in 38 minutes, 41 seconds. He was followed closely by the leader race runner in Sean Ledger (St. John’s), who had moved up from fifth place in the closing miles. He was followed by three Light Blues and with runners from each side, they were able to hold a lead of just one point. However, with Matthew Hamersley (Cambridge) closing their team in 11th and the sixth Oxford scorer, Adam Speak (Worcester), in 14th, it meant that they had just held off on by 38 points to 42, the narrowest winning margin since 1975. This result brought the series level once again, at 61 wins apiece and sets the scene for another Rebece battle in 2013. Earlier in the day, Oxford comprehensively beat 21st “Old Blues” Race by 96 points to 42 scoring 12 miles. From Thompson (Wotton & Pembroke) marked the tenth anniversary of the first of his three Varsity winning during the inaugural annual races. Oxford now leads this series 13 wins to 12.}

The 2017 Ladies’ University Cross-Country Race

In last year’s Annual Report, we asked for information on a Ladies’ Race in 1975 at Shotover, held in conjunction with the non-Bulbs races, and now for Andy Etchells, it has been confirmed that this race did take place and it was won by Oxford. However, we are still missing full information. If you can fill the gaps, please contact Simon Moiden (simon@scuold.co.uk).

Books by Members

David Miller’s updated version of ‘The Official History of the Olympic Games and the IOC’ is a hugely enjoyable and weighty tome packed with anecdotes across all sports and every Olympic Games all in David’s fluid and vivid prose. A masterpiece.

Equally accessible is Julian Goater’s down to earth training advice, leavened with personal reminiscences of the glory days of distance running in the 1970s and 1980’s. A must for every runner, even spectators.

Hugh Jones’ ‘Showdown in Moscow’ is another easy and enjoyable read, recounting the rivalry between Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe, and their epic confrontation at the 1982 Olympics.

The Art of RUNNING FASTER

Bennett, Mike M. & Peters, Kevin. Running: technique, training and performance. Lange, 2014. 410 pages

The American Athletics Foundation

Our year concluded with the usual sumptuous dinner on October 26 at the Harvard Faculty Club. Seventeen, including guests, were able to be present. We enjoy a sometimes hilarious account of the American team’s 1959 trip to Oxford Cambridge from one of the more approximate and amusing. A persuasive case for the life-long positive impact these matches have on those who participate. John Cross and his wife Barbara joined us from London. In his Toast, he emphasized the importance of our team. It is important for us to remember that the tradition of the Series, the oldest of its kind, began in 1944, continues to strengthen in importance, and to provide support for the four universities. We are grateful for this year’s contributions to the American Athletics Foundation. We will be bringing the Oxford-Cambridge team to the US and financing its travel and room and board for its competitions against Harvard-Yale and Penn-Comag again in 2013. For those of you who still want to contribute to this effort, please send your donation before day end and send it to me at P.O. Box 484, ND 01344.

We had a remarkable 1973 reunion among our dinner guests this year – four who competed on April 22, 1975 at Cuyler Field – Jeff Campbell 4:17.5, Bill Sherrman 1:55.5 of Harvard, and Tom Ahlken and 1:56.5, John G. Sherrman 14:46.4 of Yale. Dan, who resides in London, has offered to create origi- nal art for our individual memorable moments in track & field events of all kinds at no extra cost. If you are interested, get in touch with him via his email address. JGSherrman@gmail.com. Maybe this is for this in the run-up to our next dinner on April 25th in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We will therefore the H-Y O-C competition at McArthur Track.

I will close with a blast from the past, submitted by Tony Cope, who could not attend, but wanted to share his 1959 story, as follows.

1959 was the full year of athletics at Fenner’s. In 1960, attention turned to the Rome Olympics, and the transition to Milton Road, which opened in 1961, began. To see that Fenner’s is a unique place would be an under- statement. As some may know, the track for Fenner’s was laid out around the University cricket ground, where the ground had been played since the middle of the 19th century. As a result, the track was circular to square oval. In addition, for reasons (i) to accommodate, tradition was Clock- wise in the past; and (ii) the whole was essentially a circular track. As is common with oval track, the outside lane is always substantially longer than the inside lane, thus giving advantage to the outside runner. This provided the ideal conditions for any athlete to show his worth. It is also possible for athletes to gain experience on oval track that are not able to gain on straight track. This is why the Fenner’s track is such a valuable asset. The Fenner’s track is an oval in shape, with a circumference of 400 meters. It has 8 lanes, with a width of 1.22 meters. The inner lane is 150.1 meters long and the outer lane is 163.1 meters long. The track is 100 meters wide and 120 meters long. The track surface is made of synthetic material, which provides good traction and durability. The track is divided into lanes, allowing for multiple races to be held simultaneously. The track is surrounded by a running track, with a width of 1.22 meters. The running track has a circumference of 400 meters, with 8 lanes, similar to the track. The outer lane is 163.1 meters long and the inner lane is 150.1 meters long. The running track is used for sprints, middle-distance races, and distance races. Additionally, Fenner’s does not have any fixed seating, allowing for a larger capacity of spectators.

Running a quarter-mile at Fenner’s was an experi- ence that few can now imagine.

Running a quarter-mile at Fenner’s was an experience that few can now imagine. The race was run around three sides of the track. From the start, the first 150 yards or so were slightly uphill, followed by a fairly sharp 90° turn. After the diagonal, the track narrowed slightly, allowing the runners to run in a line, with their arms off the track. The final mile was a mixture of short and long straights, and the runners had to stay on the line throughout the entire race. The race was won by John G. Sherrman, a Harvard runner, in a time of 50.3 seconds.

To wrap up the race, Fenner’s track is a beautiful place to run, with a rich history and an amazing atmosphere. It is a place that has been a part of the Cambridge community for over 130 years, and it continues to be a place that is loved by many runners. The track is well-maintained and provides a challenging course for runners of all levels. It is a great place to experience the thrill of running at a high level, and it is a place that will always be remembered by those who have ran on it. Thank you for reading this story, and I hope you enjoyed it. I have enjoyed writing about Fenner’s track, and I hope you have enjoyed reading about it as well. Thank you for your time and support.

Thomas N. Lidster (Harvard & Cambridge)
Chairperson, American Athletics Foundation (aafa@mit.edu)
In Memoriam


Donal Gorrie won the 880y in the Varsity Sports of 1957, in which year he was President of OUAC. The two previous years he had finished 2nd. He was joint captain of the Oxford & Cambridge team which in 1957 were undefeated on their tour of North America, winning his races against Harvard, Yale, Penn & Cornell and the Boston Olympic Club.

During the 1980’s he took over the directorship of the Transatlantic Series, and led the US Tours of 1985 (right) and 1989, and lately served as one of the Club’s Vice Presidents.

Chris Thorne chronicles Donald’s athletic career:

‘In 1955 the races I know of is 3:53.7 in the Varsity match 880y (Johnson 1:53.5y) on April 16; 49.8 in a non-winning 400y at Oxford on April 26; 1:52.3y somewhere on June 11; 3:57.8y AAA 880 on July 16 (Johnson 1:51.4; Henderson 1:51.4; Douglas (Australia) 1:51.9; Gorrie 1:52.0). Then in the autumn the MCMC representatives reported that he ran at Oslo on September 5/6, 1955, where there was a world record 1500y by the Hungarian Laszlo Dobosi on the 6th, and on the previous day a very competitive 800y/B880. The Norwegians laid on timekeepers at both positions, because they were reported to have a 1000y, winner of 3000m (1:00), which I had decided to run over just 2 laps. Apparently I was supposed to win it if fast and the McWhistles say that on this second lap, “members of a touring Achilles team swept by”, and at the 800m point the result was Gorrie first in 1:51.5; then John Beeley 1:51.5; Donald Ray 1:51.4 and David Lawrence 1:51.8. But just after the 800m point, Gorrie was a great team man, a good training partner and fun to be with on tour.

Donal Gorrie was a leading light on the radical left of the Scottish Liberal Party, a prominent Edinburgh councillor for 26 years and ultimately Liberal Democrat MP for Edinburgh West and a member of the revived Scottish Parliament. Rangy, stooping and crotchety, Gorrie was an articulate and passionate advocate of decentralization. He founsonk Westminster for Holy- rood – aligning constituency ac- tivists by making the switch and having to find a seat as an MSP for Central Scotland.

Gorrie was one of three Lib Dem MPs who in 1989 refused to support the party’s Scottish leader, Jim Wallace, forming a coalition with Labour, distracting that party as centralist and corrupt. He also disagreed frequently with Wallace’s successor, Stephen, but insist- ed he was not an one- man “awkward squad”.

Donald Cameron Easterbrook was born in India on April 23, 1933, the son of Robert Gorrie, a forestry officer, and the family Sydney Easterbrook. The family moved back to Scotland when he was in Serbia and Czechoslovakia, and competed in the World Stu- dent Games. He qualified on the coaching staff, and would in later life be president of the City of Edinburgh Athletic Club and Canongate Athletic Club, valued both for his commitment to the sport and for his after-dinner speeches.

Gorrie fenced at Gordontoun, then in 1980 was appointed director of physical education at Marl- borough College. Among his charg- es was Mark Phillips, who was first in 1975 after challenging Russell Johnstone unsuccessfully for the leadership. The next year was a change of Edin-burgh English, but he main- tained his interest.

Gorrie was first elected to Edin- burgh Corporation in 1971. When its functions were split up in 1974 between the new local region and a district council, he became Liberal group leader on Lothian council and also, from 1980 to 1986, on the district council. When the city council was restored in 1995 after challenging Russell Johnstone unsuccessfully for the leadership. The next year was a change of Edin-}

Although we just failed to overlap at Oxford, I very much admired Donald, as the most recent winner in the Varsity sports of our event in common - the 800m - and he was always a great supporter and encouraged the Dark Blue track. We had great fun on a Swedish tour together in 1959 (narrowly failing to set a new European record for the 4 x 800m relay) and the following year, Donald hosted the Achilles team in Edinburgh when we called in at Fettes during the Summer Scottish tour. Ann and I, being of the same political persuasion, have long admired Don- ald’s work in that field, and when we moved up to Argill in 1992, Donald welcomed us to Scotland and hoped we would remember. I, however, have no real good memories of my Achilles friend and know much he was missed.

Very sincerely
John Boyd

We had the bond of being team mates, training, competing at White City and in North America, doing before matches, exchanging a few social visits at our digs in 1956-7. I had a very pleasant dinner with Don and Astrid in Edinburgh in 1999, when I was there to run Velz, and our 10-year American trip reunion in 2007 was our last meeting.

As far as I know, Donald and I were the only Parliamentari- ans from our vintage. I gave him a little publicity in our Member’s Journal after our 1959 meeting.

Donald was one of the memorable markers in an exciting part of my life and my passing causes sorrow for Achilles loss and for our good times past.

Don Smith, who ran second to Donald in 1957, and subse- quently broke the 880y record, will be here for the next week from New Zealand. We will talk fondly about Donald and honour his memory.

Bob Solomon

I was very sorry indeed to hear of the death of my old school friend and fellow athlete, Donald Gorrie (Croshi c 1952).

We had kept in touch over the years although we hadn’t met since 1954. The last occasion we were in touch was when a few years ago as member for Glasgow he sent his researcher to a member of The Galt- ben Park Support Group, whose probasic legal officer I was, at an Appeal for OLA.

I think his first political act was to vote for me when Donald was my first Liberal in 1950. I always wonder if this helped trigger his political career. The race then was very competitive, the 880 together the last number one. My chief recollection is a wild competitive race with a wild plea in the Mike, so everybody else grabbed it on the line and he had to settle for 3rd and me 4th. He was a year younger than me, and I’m afraid I had been working all my life to win any races, but I felt I would win a friendly council race at Shandwick in 1954. However a voice suddenly said “What are you doing here?” and then Donald Iaras, at the time the world record was 1:54.1. As the Old Douglasian recorded, he had been watching briefly after Scottish fans were asked to pay over £500 for his record (toechch). When I asked, the question the Scottish Lib-Dem Graham Watson put to the Commission, which declared the challenge to be plan unlawful. The Scots bought their tickets in the French streets, often after the Professor of European Law at Oxford had com- plained to the organiser, who ignored him, it is odd that in the whole of Europe were the other only two to notice that it must be a breach of Article 82 not to offer their tourist tickets to the public.

I had expected to meet him at the Scottish Parliament elections a few years ago. Kevin Lang, the Commons反映or of the issue, has been my daughter’s election agent in 2014. However we had both been called to code and could not meet. I thought it was always a regret that for nearly 60 years our contact was only by post. Sadly at 81 with a disabled wife I cannot go to the funeral but my thoughts will be with you.

I feel very sad.

Deirdre Cule (Bremington 1950)

Donal Gorrie was a leading light on the radical left of the Scottish Liberal Party, a prominent Edinburgh councillor for 26 years and ultimately Liberal Democrat MP for Edinburgh West and a member of the revived Scottish Parliament. Rangy, stooping and crotchety, Gorrie was an articulate and passionate advocate of decentralization. He founsonk Westminster for Holy- rood – aligning constituency ac- tivists by making the switch and having to find a seat as an MSP for Central Scotland.

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Susan Stinson, in October 2012. Robert Stinson, now one of the Club’s Vice-Presidents and sadly not in good health, was the driving force behind Achilles for several decades from the mid 1950s as Team Manager and subsequently Chairman: Sue was a constant support, fondly remembered by very many members, a number of whom attended her memorial service. In recent years she had devoted herself to nursing Robert at their home in France.

OGD Chamberlain (Selwyn, Cambridge, 1936-9) about 3 years ago. Dan Chamberlain competed in the 1939 Varsity Cross Country, and place 3rd in the Mile at the Varsity Sports

WOL Fox-Pitt (Trinity, Oxford 1953-56) on 9th January 2012

Oliver Fox-Pitt competed as a hurdler, and went on to head of one of Britain’s best known equestrian families and enjoyed a successful career in the City.

Achilles Schools Relays

The Milocarian Trophy. The Milocarians have enjoyed a long and distinguished history which has run parallel to that of Achilles. Over the years we have enjoyed much friendly rivalry. These days, Milocarian activity is largely confined to cross country, and we are very gratified that they thought to ask that one of their prestigious and historic trophies in future be awarded at the Achilles Schools relays. A team from Radley were the inaugural winners.

Paul French of Milocarian AC, pictured, made the presentations this year, accompanied by Mark Steed, who has been the driving force behind the meeting for many years.

Dr AG Donald (Corpus Christi, Cambridge, 1945-48) ‘a few years ago’. Alastair Donald placed third the long jump at the Varsity Sports of 1946 and 1947

R Dunkley (St John’s, Cambridge, 1955-58) in January 2013. Roger Dunkley won the 3 Miles in the Varsity Sports of 1957 and 1958, and was second in 1956, and competed in the Cross Country matches of 1957 and 1958. At the age of 17 he was selected to represent the AAA against CUAC, finishing third in the mile in a World Junior Record time of 4:12.8 (which lasted about 6 months until broken by the young Herb Elliott). Roger came up to Cambridge himself after doing National Service in the RAF.

I was sad indeed to read of the death of Gwilym Roberts (2011 Report), the more so because of the needless circumstances of his death. The first thing Gwilym ever said to me revealed a surprisingly intimate knowledge of my taste in women: a snatch of nervous pre-match talk that had reached the Cambridge changing room, adjacent to Oxford’s, as we waited to compete at the ‘55 White City meeting.

I didn’t know him well, Cambridge and Oxford are not just-down-the-road apart. But when we met we always talked.

I seem to recall talking to him most on the Achilles tour of Norway and Sweden. He is another athlete, more 220 than 100 (as the distances then were) about whom I wonder what he would have achieved with today’s training. What he would have done over 440 yards.

- David Henderson


Richard Ashenheim became one of the world’s foremost track & field statisticians. He was a holder of the IAAF Veteran’s Pin, President of the Jamaica Amateur Athletics Association, Chairman of the Commonwealth Records Committee, Member of the Executive Committee AT&F, a board member of the Carreras Sports Foundation and a Member of the IIAF Arbitration Panel.

He covered many Olympic and World Championships for Jamaican’s newspaper ‘The Gleaner’ from Jamaica’s debut in 1948 in London until the Athens Olympics in 2004.

Group Capt CP Green, DSO DFC AE FRGS (Trinity, Cambridge, 1932-35) on 10th April 1999.

Paddy Green is long overdue this tribute. He paced 2nd to AG Pilbrow in the 220y north hurdles in the Varsity Sports of 1935 and was 3rd in 1934. Both he and Pilbrow (110m)h became Olympians in 1936, but Paddy’s sport by then was bobsleighing, and he won the Bronze medal with the British 4 Man Bob team at the Winter Olympics.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society whilst still an undergraduate, and was wounded several times during distinguished service with the RAF.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following:–

Dadi Akinluyi - Christ’s, Cambridge
David Allwood - St Catharine’s, Cambridge
Sam Ashcroft - Jesus, Cambridge
Hugh Baker - Hertford, Oxford
Roydh Bhyat - Christ Church, Oxford
Julia Blasdale - Pembroke, Cambridge
James Charleton - Fitzwilliam, Cambridge
Justas Dauparas - Girton, Cambridge
Alistair Davies - Girton, Cambridge
Owen Drage - St Catharine’s, Cambridge
Caspar Eliot - New, Oxford
Ralph Eliot - Exeter, Oxford
Richard Felton - Pembroke, Oxford

Elly Flanagan - St Catharine’s, Cambridge
Matthew Fried - Jesus, Cambridge
Emmanuel Gbegi - Emmanuel, Cambridge
James Griffith - Emmanuel, Cambridge
Tom Heslop - Clare, Cambridge
Lloyd Hilton - Jesus, Cambridge
Miles Horn - St Catharine’s, Cambridge
Zaamin Hussain - Jesus, Cambridge
Fiona James - Jesus, Cambridge
Andrew Lanham - Corpus Christi, Oxford
Matt Leach - Churchill, Cambridge
Adam Lewandowski - St Cross, Oxford
Kena Mario-Ghaz - Girton, Cambridge
Oliver Maskell - Christ’s, Cambridge
Adam McBrand - Jesus, Oxford

Doug Morton - St Edmund’s, Cambridge
Pranav Nanda - Clare, Cambridge
Devin O’Brien - Girton, Cambridge
Jon Phillips - St John’s, Oxford
Barry Powell - Christ Church, Oxford
Luke Samuel - St John’s, Oxford
Cecilia Sauron - Oriel, Oxford
Vartan Shadarevan - University, Oxford
Will Smith - Girton, Cambridge
David Szabo - Churchill, Cambridge
Peter Townsend - Caius, Cambridge
Helena Wace - Peterhouse, Cambridge

The large influx of new members elected for the 2013 US Tour (see poster by Dan Nesler, left) will be listed in next year’s Report.

Michael Carrington (Christ Church, Oxford, 1953-56) on 23rd March 2012.

At Oxford Michael studied English and was joined by his younger brother, the high hurdler David. He would claim that in May 1954, while playing cricket he gave away his wicket so that he could make the short dash to Iffley Road: he had heard that Roger Bannister would be making an attempt on the 4 minute mile! For much of his life Mike was very involved with Sussex athletics serving as Sussex Schools Secretary, Championship Secretary and Team manager for more than a quarter of a century, and secretary of Horsham Blue Star Harriers. Varsity Sports competitors will remember him as a caring, enthusiastic and fair field official.

JWA Loney (St John’s, Cambridge, 1960-63).

John Loney competed in the 120y hurdles in the Varsity Sports of 1963.


1842.0x1191.0

In Memoriam

The Reverend AC Markby (Emmanuel, Cambridge, 1934-37) in September 2011

Archie Markby was among the Club’s oldest members. He was a friend and contemporary of Godfrey Brown and Rob Kennedy. During the 1960’s Archie from time to time appeared on TV delivering the ‘Epilogue’.

Oxford, 1953

Richard Ashenheim was among the Club’s oldest members. He was a friend and contemporary of Godfrey Brown and Rob Kennedy. During the 1960’s Archie from time to time appeared on TV delivering the ‘Epilogue’. Richard Ashenheim was among the Club’s oldest members. He was a friend and contemporary of Godfrey Brown and Rob Kennedy. During the 1960’s Archie from time to time appeared on TV delivering the ‘Epilogue’.
Achilles promo which and Lewis (200 and long jump) and John Hen- emy who took all three hurdles races, a feat only previously achieved by Mike Hogan of Oxford in 1964 and 1965. The most exciting events were the middle distances, which saw some fine duels, notably John Valentine’s victory over Doug God- ston 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 Wold.

Achilles Contend is a member of our Appeal Court which consists of a panel of four Judges. This court comes to Cayman once every quarter. I met Abdulai shortly after he was appointed and I am aware that he is a distinguished member of the Achilles Club and won the 100 metres in the Varsity Sports in the early 70’s. I do not see him as often as I would like so I retired from active practice as a Barrister at Law at the end of 2009 after 60 years of doing so! Whenever I see Abdulai, I advise our Achilles Club and have great pride in possessing Winner’s Medals from the Varsity Sports. I recently read a very wonderful article about Roger Bannister in the Inde- pendence. I was able to say with much pride that we were friends and that I was a member of the 1949 Joint Oxford and Achilles team of which he was the Captain!

I am delighted that the Club continues to flourish.

All the best, As ever

Raman Aberra

I came to Cambridge from Australia to do PhD (Economics) in 1970, after my Olympic- training stint with Franz Stampfl to come to a ‘sudden end’ through injury a few months before. I was lucky to be able to jump at all in the 1970s. I met John Ellicott soon after arriving and that began a long and lovely friendship that endures to this day.

For the 1971-72 season, John Rix was suc- ceeded as CUAC President by John Ellicott and I was Hon. Sec. Things happened quickly in 1971-72. Hectic it was, because I was thrown into the deep end as the main organiser to oversee the visit.

I recall going to Allan Malcolm’s office at Fenners and being given the drill in his friendly but military style. He stressed that I had to get all arrangements in place, liaise with Oxford, London and the Americans, then send out a note with What, When, Where, Who, etc. The result was a document that included my wife Margaret’s magnificent Cambridge map, dinner menu, billeting arrangements and location of each stop on the route. The name meant much to me, that was of the Track Referee Harold ABRAHAMS, who spent considerable time with me at the dinner.

At the end of the 1971/2 sea- son, John Ellicott went down, as did a number of key athletes. Chris Thorne and Sandy Duncan asked me to take over as Achilles Team Manager for 1972/3, my last year. I did that and attended Achilles Committee meetings. I have detailed recollections from them, especially Tommy’s leadership and Sandy’s administrative skills, the wonderful contribution Chris Thorne and others playing vital roles, often behind the scenes.

I recall it as a difficult year as we had lost too many good athletes, the excitement and challenge to inspire people to stay on, attend track meetings, communicate with me, co-ordinate transport, get expense claims, etc. I do re- member this being hard work and much hard-writing was necessary to invite athletes, chase up laggards, be the go- between amongst athletes and the com- mittee, maintaining a professional presence throughout the season.

- Neville Norman


Achilles Club members who have existing dictionary entries include Chris Brasher, Godfrey Brown, Doug- las Lowe, and Ross McHirther. To these the new update adds Guy Montague Butler (1899-1981), a 400m specialist, whose British tally of four track medals at Antwerp (1920) and Paris (1924) was un- equalled until 1944. His entry, by sports historian Wim Stimpelen, records his membership of a famous Cambridge dynasty: his grandfather was master of Trinity and his father, a Cambridge cricket and ath- letic star, forged him. He made his mark as an athlete at school, but it was as a Cambridge under- graduate that he gained national standing, winning the AAA 440 yards title at his first attempt, aged just nineteen. His Oxford rival, the South African Rhodes Scholar Berl Rudl, beat him to take gold in the 400m at the Antwerp Olympics in 1900, but Butler gained some consolation with gold in 400m relay. Butler spent nine seasons in top-flight athletics, but gave it up after the 1928 Amsterdam Games, having also left school teaching following a nervous breakdown. He later wrote of the nervous strain which he experienced, and never overcame, in high- level competition. His wider impact on athletics was as a journalist, and coach, pioneering the use of mo- tion picture photography.

An Oxford neo-contemporary of Butler also included in the release is the Magdalen chemist Malcolm Cuth- bert Nokes (1897-1986) who was England’s first men’s high jumper throwing at Paris in 1924, the last British long jumper medal until 1944. He was Britain’s flag-bearer at Am- sterdam (1928), an important figure in the history of the National Union of Track Statisticians (of which Harold Abrahams was founder president) places Nokes in context among a small group of pioneers who sought to raise the profile of throwing events within British athletics. He trained at Cambridge while an undergraduate. Unlike Butler, he made a world-disappearing start in his first appearance in 1927, rep- resenting the Achilles Club, went on to win the AAA title for four consecutive years (1923-7). Nokes was sig- nificant in the history of the sport for his work in improving technique in field events. He tu- tored at the Loughborough summer school in ath- letics where it was said that on one his hammer got tangled in the overhead power cables, causing Lough-borough to lose its electricity supply. He wrote on hammer throwing in the Achilles Club’s coaching book, Athletics (1938), recommending that in England ‘The throwing events are regarded as rather tedious, sometimes dangerous, and slightly comical’ (p. 227), and that lack of interest, rather than lack of skill, was the reason for England’s absence of success in the events. ‘A long, a very long, career is ahead of them, though in the cold war era became a nuclear scientist, with a post at the Institute of Nuclear Science at the University of Leuven, in Belgium.

The dictionary contains the life stories of over 58,000 noteworthy figures in the British past, and is freely available through many academic institutions around the world, and to public library members in most of the UK.

Mark Curthoys, Research Editor, Oxford DNB
Back in 1986, I kept a diary. Understandably, this is never to be shared in public (I) but here is an extract from Wednesday 21 May:

‘Memorable day that I’ll always hold special. Build up all day to CUAC AGM, feeling really nervous and apprehensive. | Funny how lots of people come out in favour who I’d never expected | and great as I had big majority. Scared to be too happy though, as I knew what a huge job I’ve taken on. But I just know it’s going to be brilliant!’

And brilliant it was... a wonderful year. Club membership continued to boom, particularly for women, building on the momentum of the previous 12 months. There is no doubt that by 1986 CUAC was one of the most talked about clubs in the University, friendships, parties, tours and training camps created a powerful sense of “belonging” to something special.

A particular six week period during April / May 1987 cemented many life-long friendships, spanning an unforgettably tour to Heidelberg, a joint CUAC/OUAC training camp in Portugal, an overall second place for CUAC at BUSF (behind the mighty Loughborough), not to mention the excitement of the Varsity Match itself. But it wasn’t all about having fun! The introduction for the first time of ‘event squad’ leadership was a powerful sense of belonging to something special. (such as Bob Cobb for jumps, Nigel Speyie for throwers, and Bridget Wheeler for women’s sprinters) gave a new focus and structure to training, resulting in a rise in standards across the board.

A first CUAC ‘Open Day’ in November 1987 featured many stars of 1980s athletics, including Kris Akabusi, Usain McDonald, Eugene Gilkes, and coach John Anderson (latter of Gladiators fame)! National Coach, Frank Dick, visited Cambridge twice during the year, while Dame Mary Peters was an inspiring guest speaker at the CUAC dinner. It would take another year before this translated into a long-awaited Varsity Match victory for the Cambridge men, to match the CUAC women’s dominance of the 1980s, but much of the ground-work was laid in ’87.

Last summer, as Mo Farah won his second gold in the Olympic Stadium, I was again sitting next to Mary P and the first thing she said to me was what a great time she had had visiting Cambridge in ’87. The Varsity Match was all about how we could compete with Jon Ridgeon. Captain Mack had delivered a great speech to the team the day before, so everyone was fired up. We started well winning the walk, and it was close for the rest of the day. I told Ken Cruse who was a giant American short putter that his event at the end was critical, and he just prevailed by less than 2cm. With Oxford being disqualified from the 4 x 100m we knew we had just had to get the baton round in the 4 x 400m: I picked myself for the last leg to make sure … we did finish, but I think both behind both the Centripedals and Alverstone teams.

I remember the OC: match vividly, competing against Scott Peterson from Yale, with whom I had stayed when on tour in the US. I just managed to outprint him to win. He later married an English girl, living in East Africa and I think the Telegraph correspondent for the region.

Later that year on Achilles cheering group (Rowbo, Allison, Coker, Cobb, Chris Thornie, and others), with a homemade banner that said ‘Jon Ridgeon, Cambridge Blue’, watched Jon come 2nd in the World Champs in Rome.

- Jon Brooke, CUAC President

OUAC 1987

113th Varsity Match

Iffley Road, 16th May 1987.

No fewer than 5 Match Records, and 4 League Match Records, were set or equalled, and for the first time a second team ‘ladies’ match was included in the programme.

Cambridge’s Rob Rider, the clear favourite, was unfortunate not to have been disqualified in the first event of the day, and, by the end of the afternoon, this early loss of points proved crucial. The long-awaunted Rowbotham/Geddes clash at 800m lived up to expectations, Paul Rowbotham prevailing by the narrowest of margins. Andy Geddes returned later to record a very fine win in the 1500m. Bob Madson added substantially to his PB in setting a new Hammer Record, and also won the Discus. Derek Wilson won both the longer hurdles events, Nigel Clark produced his finest form to equal the Match Record in the Pole Vault, and Richard Neururker was supremely dominant in the 5000m.

A highlight of the day was the tussle between Jon Ridgeon and Dwayne Heard for the Drake Digby trophy, awarded for the best performance in the Men’s Match. Ridgeon opened by clearly winning the 100m, with Heard second, but positions were reversed in the long jump: Dwayne broke his own match record in the first round with 7.41 (the third year in which he has equalled or broken the record), and though Jon closed with every round he ended with 7.35 (the third best jump in the history of the match: only Dwayne has jumped further). Between jumps, Jon had found time to equal the match record in the 110 hurdles with 14.2 seconds into a headwind, matching the 1982 performance of Tom Bridgott. He then took the 200m in a very fine 21.5, but in the triple jump BUSF champion Heard set his second record of the day by adding 22 cm to Mike Ralph’s mark of 27 years’ standing, with 5.31. This brought Dwayne’s individual wins in Varsity Matches to a record-equalling NINE (five Long Jumps, three Triple Jumps, and one 200m). Jon stormed through the second leg of the relay short, to set Cambridge on the way to a victory which would have been theirs even had Oxford not dropped the baton at the last change; and at the end of the day the Committee reached the happy decision that both protagonists should share the trophy.

As the afternoon unfolded, Oxford’s supremacy in the field and distance events began to tell over Cambridge’s in the sprints and hurdles. Oxford seemed to have built up sufficient cushion to allow them to lose both relays, but even they must have been worried when they scored no points at all in the 4 x 100. The final score, one of the closest in the history of the match, was Oxford 111.5, Cambridge 107.5.

Oxford University Athletics Club
1. R. MADSEN (O) 56.90 (Record); 2. P.Q. Deelely (C) 56.52; 3. S. Briggs (O) 56.02; 4. J.M. Edwards (O) 55.94; 5. G. Johnstone (C) 54.30; 6. E.M. Scott (O) 54.25; 7. J.H. Tevenson (O) 53.82; 8. Sue Jopling (O) 53.48; 9. T. English (C) 53.45; 10. E. Jowett (O) 53.41; 11. J. Smiley (C) 53.09; 12. G. Harris (O) 52.89; 13. J. Evenshaw (O) 52.53; 14. J. Tevenson (O) 52.22; 15. J. H. Brown (O) 51.92; 16. S. Miller (O) 51.92; 17. J. H. Brown (C) 51.60; 18. J. E. Tevenson (C) 51.53; 19. J. H. Brown (C) 51.42; 20. J. H. Brown (C) 51.40; 21. J. H. Brown (C) 51.20; 22. J. H. Brown (C) 51.09; 23. J. H. Brown (C) 50.98; 24. J. H. Brown (O) 50.96; 25. J. H. Brown (O) 50.92; 26. J. H. Brown (C) 50.90; 27. J. H. Brown (C) 50.80; 28. J. H. Brown (C) 50.70; 29. J. H. Brown (C) 50.60; 30. J. H. Brown (C) 50.50; 31. J. H. Brown (C) 50.40; 32. J. H. Brown (C) 50.30; 33. J. H. Brown (C) 50.20; 34. J. H. Brown (O) 50.10; 35. J. H. Brown (O) 50.00; 36. J. H. Brown (C) 49.90; 37. J. H. Brown (C) 49.80; 38. J. H. Brown (O) 49.70; 39. J. H. Brown (C) 49.60; 40. J. H. Brown (C) 49.50; 41. J. H. Brown (C) 49.40; 42. J. H. Brown (C) 49.30; 43. J. H. Brown (O) 49.20; 44. J. H. Brown (O) 49.10; 45. J. H. Brown (O) 49.00; 46. J. H. Brown (O) 48.90; 47. J. H. Brown (O) 48.80; 48. J. H. Brown (C) 48.70; 49. J. H. Brown (C) 48.60; 50. J. H. Brown (C) 48.50; 51. J. H. Brown (C) 48.40; 52. J. H. Brown (C) 48.30; 53. J. H. Brown (C) 48.20; 54. J. H. Brown (C) 48.10; 55. J. H. Brown (C) 48.00; 56. J. H. Brown (C) 47.90; 57. J. H. Brown (C) 47.80; 58. J. H. Brown (O) 47.70; 59. J. H. Brown (C) 47.60; 60. J. H. Brown (C) 47.50; 61. J. H. Brown (C) 47.40; 62. J. H. Brown (C) 47.30; 63. J. H. Brown (O) 47.20; 64. J. H. Brown (C) 47.10; 65. J. H. Brown (O) 47.00; 66. J. H. Brown (C) 46.90; 67. J. H. Brown (C) 46.80; 68. J. H. Brown (O) 46.70; 69. J. H. Brown (C) 46.60; 70. J. H. Brown (C) 46.50; 71. J. H. Brown (C) 46.40; 72. J. H. Brown (C) 46.30; 73. J. H. Brown (O) 46.20; 74. J. H. Brown (C) 46.10; 75. J. H. Brown (O) 46.00; 76. J. H. Brown (C) 45.90; 77. J. H. Brown (C) 45.80; 78. J. H. Brown (C) 45.70; 79. J. H. Brown (O) 45.60; 80. J. H. Brown (C) 45.50; 81. J. H. Brown (C) 45.40; 82. J. H. Brown (C) 45.30; 83. J. H. Brown (C) 45.20; 84. J. H. Brown (C) 45.10; 85. J. H. Brown (C) 45.00; 86. J. H. Brown (C) 44.90; 87. J. H. Brown (C) 44.80; 88. J. H. Brown (C) 44.70; 89. J. H. Brown (C) 44.60; 90. J. H. Brown (C) 44.50; 91. J. H. Brown (O) 44.40; 92. J. H. Brown (C) 44.30; 93. J. H. Brown (C) 44.20; 94. J. H. Brown (O) 44.10; 95. J. H. Brown (C) 44.00; 96. J. H. Brown (C) 43.90; 97. J. H. Brown (C) 43.80; 98. J. H. Brown (O) 43.70; 99. J. H. Brown (O) 43.60; 100. J. H. Brown (C) 43.50.