

N.U.T.S. - NOTES

Volume 2 Number 1

Edited by
Pat Brian

January 1964

EDITORIAL

At a Committee Meeting, which was all of six months ago, Les Crouch suggested that we re-commenced publishing N.U.T.S. Notes. A good idea was the general concensus of opinion - who's going to do it? Silence!

Where's Pat Brian? He's no longer Secretary, doesn't compile British lists anymore, can't fulfil his duties as Hon. Duplicator Operator 'cause he dropped it the other day and it is in for repair. What is he doing now?

Well, I'm pretty busy at the office these days but I'll have a go if you like, said I and so to N.U.T.S. Notes, Volume 2, edited by Pat Brian.

Although time is always an enemy, the past weeks have gone by at a terrifying rate and this issue is much later than was originally planned. However we have made it at last, thanks mainly to the continual persistence of Les Crouch, who, on the strength of this and by virtue of the fact that he has written quite a lot already, is duly appointed Assistant Editor. If he lived in Lewisham, he would be an automatic choice for co-editor!

Our policy for the new N.U.T.S. Notes is to create a chatty, informative newsletter, in which members will have the chance to say anything they wish (providing it's not rude or defamatory) on any subject (as long as it is within the realms of athletics or the N.U.T.S.) whenever they like.

We are hoping for a good response from members with articles and letters; the latter being, of course, a medium for 'letting off steam' and complaining about editorial policy. We await your letters.

We anticipate various anecdotes being received from old warriors like Stan (the pen is mightier than the sword) Greenberg; Andrew Huxtable, the indefatigable researcher; Mike Fleet, who is producing a compendium of mis-spellings in athletics journalism; Les Crouch, the original wooden spooner; and many more.

Finally, we leave you with our thought on the new N.U.T.S. Notes - it is written by the N.U.T.S. for the N.U.T.S. (and it is FREE to all members!)

PACE-MAKING by Les Crouch

Consider the case of the poor pace-maker. He must not run slow for fear of fouling up the race, he must not go too fast for fear the 'stars' will not follow him, or if they do, will be knocked out by the three quarter distance.

The tendency is for most 'hares' to go off too fast; it therefore follows that the hare will weaken before it was thought that he might. All this being considered, it is my contention that the 'star', or 'stars', should be prepared to follow him regardless of pace. The ability of this man, or men, should be enough to enable him, or them, to withstand the fierce early pace. As examples, I would cite the 1957 Ibbotson race plus the numerous Haegg-Andersson battles in the early forties. Despite ridiculous - by normal standards - early pace, such races produced unlooked-for final results.

However I believe it is also true to say that neither Snell nor Elliott tried such things - most of their good times were achieved with fast last halves or quarters. If they had tried a 56 first quarter, I contend the World Record would be around three fifty one or two.

Finally I consider that any race planned to produce personal best performances from the 'stars', should be run in such a fashion that the times were always in the 'black' and never in the 'red'. Any race, planned for say four minutes, which shows outside 2 minutes at the half distance, will fail if previously the contenders were only 4:03.0 or 4:04.0 performers.

My conclusion is therefore: if you have a pace-maker, use him; follow any pace short of the ridiculous.

(No doubt that this article will provoke some correspondence - Ed.)

THE ULTIMATE RECOGNITION by Andrew Huxtable

Have you seen 'British Initials and Abbreviations'? It's an excellent piece of research, but there's one rather serious omission - the N.U.T.S!

The following was compiler Ian H. Wilkes' reply to my list of amendments: "I was particularly pleased to get the address of the N.U.T.S., which was in my original list of organisations, but which I was never able to trace accurately."

Footnote: We will be sandwiched between N.U.T.G. (National Union of Townswomen's Guilds) and N.V.R.S. (National Vegetable Research Station) in the next edition.

NUTS IN HERTS (or He(a)rts of NUTS) by Les Crouch

The following members have lived, worked or studied in the County of Hertfordshire or are still doing so:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Harold Abrahams | Norris McWhirter |
| John Bale | Bob Phillips |
| Les Crouch | Bob Sparks |
| Peter Hopkins | |

Is this a record? (Anyone like to check on Surrey? - Ed.)

IT'S NOT TRUE by a staff reporter

That Charles Elliott is making a take-over bid for "Athletics Weekly" in 1964.

That Bennett and Williams (our new Welsh stats duo) were once a music hall double act.

That Valerie Close is a female athlete from St. Albans City Athletic Club.

That the N.U.T.S. are behind a move to take-over the British Athletics Union (B.A.U.)

That Stan Greenberg has stopped writing to the 'Letters to the Editor' column of "Athletics Weekly".

That Melvyn Watman is making a take-over bid for "Athletics Arena" in 1964.

That Alf Wilkins (the NUTS Hon. Treasurer) has the money for all NUTS books sold by members. (see following article).

That Mike Fleet has never won a half-mile race - we have seen him do it.

That Dennis Cullum is making a take-over bid for the National Union of Track Statisticians.

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS by Alf Wilkins

There are still a lot of outstanding accounts for N.U.T.S. books as shown below. I would be grateful if all those concerned would action accordingly as soon as possible.

British Athletics, 1963

Money for books sold to be sent to Alf Wilkins, with a note of sales. Books not sold to be returned to Mr. H.T. Hitchcock.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 9 Roger Breese | 12 Len Gebbett | 2 Keith Morbey |
| 12 John Douglas | 6 Stan Greenberg | 6 Simon Pearson |
| 6 Mike Fleet | 15 Sean Kyle | 40 Melvyn Watman |

U.K. Best Performers of All Time, 1963

Money for books sold to be sent to Alf Wilkins, with a note of sales. Books not sold to be returned to Andrew Huxtable.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Roger Breese | 6 Reg Hook | 5 Adrian Metcalfe |
| 12 John Douglas | 6 Peter Hopkins | 3 Simon Pearson |
| 12 Charles Elliott | 6 Sean Kyle | 6 Ian Smith |
| 5 Mike Fleet | 100 Fat Mackenzie | 6 Bob Sparks |
| 24 Len Gebbett | | |

BEATLES, WATCH OUT by Peter Hopkins (on an idea by his wife, Joan)

Those members who have not been to the White City lately will not have seen the new 'group' performing along Wood Lane - "Charlie and the Arenas", featuring the maestro himself, Charles Elliott, accompanied by Mark Shearman and the man with the mike, Alastair Aitken.

MILERS AND MILING by Les Crouch

Most NUTS will recall the annual wager between the McWhirters and the Nelsons re- the average of their country's top ten milers.

From its early days, Great Britain ran out regular winners, but of late our men seem to have taken a semi-permanent back seat.

Our milers just do not seem to be capable of reaching the standard of performance which is now common place in America, viz sub four minutes.

I have long understood that one of the reasons for track men breaking through to the top level has been really sharp competition between athletes of similar ability. This tends to show up the one in a 100 who has it.

Yet, here in Britain, a comparison of the average best marks of the Top Ten, Twenty and Thirty marks for 1962 against a similar analysis of Americans shows us to be inferior down to twenty, but from then on our greater depth reveals our average to be better.

Our 'mob' of mediocrities (not meant unkindly) compete against each other regularly yet currently all we do is to add to the number of good but not great milers.

My own view - worth little - is that many of our milers have a physique much like my own - that's a real handicap - which is average height (5'7"/1.70m) and less than 140lbs/63½kg body weight. Whilst such attributes look good on the distance man, over four laps one needs a certain ruggedness to succeed in top-class miles. There are exceptions, Beatty, O'Hara and Jazy, but how many of the others look like men instead of boys?

I look forward then to the emergence of milers, who stand 5'10"/1.78m and scale around 150lbs/68kg - for these types, success is relatively easier.

<u>1962</u>	<u>U.S. Milers</u>	<u>G.B. Milers</u>
Average of Top Ten	3:59.16	4:00.79
Average of Top Twenty	4:01.58	4:02.42
Average of Top Thirty	4:03.63	4:03.59

(Another article which may well provoke correspondence - Ed.)

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES by Peter Hopkins

May I use the medium of N.U.T.S. Notes to thank all members for their good work in 1963 and to ask all of you to redouble your efforts this year which as we all know is Olympic year. By letting us know all marks and all relevant information (wind speed, flying start, fast gun, etc.) you can make a valuable contribution to seeing that the best possible team goes to Tokyo.

Since my last circular, we have elected the following new members:

G. Tanner (Graham)	7 The Green, Highworth, Nr. Swindon, Wilts.
C. Williams (Clive)	Flat 5, 102 Plymouth Road, Penarth, Glam.
K. Bennett (Ken)	20 Toftingall Avenue, Birchgrove, Cardiff.
P. Lovesey (Peter)	12 Bibby Close, Corringham, Essex.

Graham is the coach of pentathlete Brenda Gill, Clive and Ken are both experts on the Welsh scene, and Peter is a well-known historian. He has recently been collaborating with Bob Sparks and Melvyn Watman in producing the progressive world records, which are currently appearing in a certain athletics magazine.

There are also the following changes of address to note:

Bob Sparks	15 Mayfair Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.
Malcolm Bright	The Medical College, The London Hospital, Turner Street, London, E.1.
Ian Smith	70 Railway Road, Adlington, Nr. Chorley, Lancs.

THE LAST INCH AND A HALF by the Editor

Have you ever edited a magazine, newspaper, newsletter or the like? If so, you must surely have come up against the inevitable last inch and a half of a page that you are always left with - just like I have been left with here.

And have you ever noticed how Editors put in any old bit of nonsense to fill it up - just like I have here?

If you have noticed it (especially here), I shall be pleased, because it means you are still reading this edition of N.U.T.S. Notes!

MISCELLANY by Andrew HuxtableDr. G.M. Carstairs

Did you listen to the 1962 Reith Lectures originally broadcast on the B.B.C. Home Service, repeated on the Third Programme, and now published by the Hogarth Press at 10/6d? Entitled 'This Island Now' (from the poem by W.H. Auden, published in 1938, 'Look, stranger, at this island now'), they were given by Dr. G.M. Carstairs, Professor of Psychological Medicine, University of Edinburgh, and Honorary Director of the M.R.C. Unit for Research on the Epidemiology of Psychiatric Illness.

George Morrison Carstairs was born at Musscorie, India, 18 June, 1916, was educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University where he read arts and medicine, graduating in 1941 as M.B. and Ch.B., and represented G.B. internationally in 1938 on three occasions, including 6th place (14:51.3) in the European 5,000 metres. He served in the R.A.F. during the war, later becoming increasingly interested in anthropological work. He led a two-year field study in Rajasthan, north India. He lists 'Aldermaston Marching' as one of his recreations in "Who's Who, 1963 Edition".

Professor Carstairs sparked off some controversy with his third lecture on 25 November, which dealt primarily with sexual behaviour. His interesting - and amusing - account of the repercussions appeared in "New Society", 30 May issue.

Athletics Goonery

'The Running, Jumping and Standing Still Film' (U), which contains some typically English (i.e. light-hearted) hammer throwing, should be seen by all connoisseurs of 'The Goon Show'. Directed by Dick Lester, it was devised by Peter Sellers, who has described it as "a study in 'abstract humour'".

The B.F.I. Monthly Film Bulletin (May 1960) had this to say: "In style it lies somewhere between the anarchic surrealism of Bunuel and Dali (see footnote), and the quainter, more humane fantasies of Carroll and Lear. The touch of the Victorian, however, is fortified by the use of a muddy sepia tone in printing the film."

Apart from Sellers, others involved were Spike Milligan, Leo McKern, David Lodge, Graham Stark and Mario Fabrizi.

Footnote: Intellectual cinéastes are probably aware that this is a reference to 'Un Chien Andalou', written, directed and produced by Luis Bunuel and Salvador Dali in 1929, an early example of the French avant-garde movement in the cinema.

R.W. Revans

It was surprising that nobody looked up R.W. Revans (23'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " LJ, 46'10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " TJ) in "Who's Who, 1963 Edition" for his year of birth when information was being assembled for "U.K. Best Performers of All Time".

Reginald William Revans (14 May, 1907), Ph.D., M.I.Min.E., is Professor of Industrial Administration at Manchester College of Science and Technology and President of the European Association of Management Training Centres (1962-64).

He is the author of "Report on Education for the Mining Industry" (1945), "Education of the Young Worker" (1949) and numerous articles (see for example "New Society", 22 August, 1963 issue).

He reveals that his best long jump mark was made at Battersea in June, 1929.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF NUTS NOTES

Although we are not going to give you a date for publication of the next issue of N.U.T.S. Notes, we can divulge that included in the contents will be a list of N.U.T.S. Athletic Records, compiled by the "incomparable" Huxtable. We shall be asking for any "addenda and corrigenda" at the same time, as even Huxtable doesn't know everything!

In the mean time, we look forward to hearing from all of you.....
.....and we hope to print all you say.

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