

EDITORIAL

Back to normal! The special 10th birthday issue was well received particularly by foreign readers. Rooney Magnusson, Swedish A.T.F.S. member wrote: "...I am convinced it will prove one of the most inspiring statistics publications ever issued! I think it achieved its primary purpose of showing the athletics world that the NUTS is an extremely intelligent, articulate organisation.

The AGM, to be held on July 13 at the Guinness sports club, will be particularly important this year because several issues affecting the future direction of development of the organisation are to be discussed, and I urge you strongly to attend.

FROM THE SECRETARY

by Peter Hopkins

Although I have done so before, and will do so again in my annual report, I must thank Andrew most warmly for his magnificent job in producing the anniversary number of NUTS NOTES. It really was a masterpiece, if perhaps a little unwieldy. I like to think that my contribution to the success of the issue was by doing nothing! There is nothing much for me to say in this issue except to urge as many of you as possible to attend the AGM. The situation on British Railways might make things difficult for some of you, but at the time of writing the meeting is still on. I offer our apologies to the Scottish members at the choice of venue!

MISCELLANY

* The following amendments to the list of NUTS records appearing in the last issue may be noted:

6m	29:57.0 (2)	Clive WILLIAMS	6 Apr 68	Newport, Mon.
Mar	2:25:16.0 (1)	Dai DAVIES	12 Aug 67	Feltham
440yH	58.7 (3)	Ian STEEDMAN	7 Jul 59	Pitreavie
100y	10.8 (1)	Maeve KYLE	26 Sep 64	Dublin

* Cliff Temple is not only editing the new monthly 'Womens Athletics' but running his best 2M mark at 10:10.4. He has grown a fine head of hair and was sporting a splendid stetson at the Southern Womens Championships; he looked remarkably like Lee Marvin in Cat Ballou!

* Directory of members amendments

Geoffery G. Holmes, Croft Hostel, Heworth Green, York. (Home) 96 Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs Tel : York 24736 & Scunthorpe 3948.
 Peter May, 1 Gosford Way, POLEGATE, Sussex.
 Peter Martin - Tel Basingstoke 3141 (bus)
 Margaret Gould - Tel 01 - 636 9589 (home)

* It's good to see Scottish nationalism on the march in the field of athletics statistics, with the formation of SATS: already a 1968 list has been produced and distributed. Wales, too, is showing a national consciousness and Clive Williams and John Williams combined to produce duplicated ranking lists for 1967.

* 'British Athletics' - amendments

We hope to produce a consolidated list of amendments to the first ten editions of the annual. This will be particularly useful to compilers of the all time index. Please send them (the amendments, not the compilers) to the Editor at 78 Toynbee Road, London, S.W.20.

* Some readers may remember an item in this column in Vol.2, No.1 (January 1964), entitled 'Athletics Goonery', in which the editor wrote about 'The Runnin, Jumping and Standing Still Film'. Margaret Gould, you will be interested to know, has connections with it, because her husband Ron appears in it.

ANNUAL PENTATHLON AND DINNER - preliminary notice

Will members please note that this year, as in previous years, the annual p. and d. will be held on the Sunday preceding August Bank Holiday (August 31). Venues will be announced later. This year as an ovation we intend to hold an optional one mile walk in conjunction with the pentathlon. (Colin Young will probably be banned from this event).

INTERVIEW WITH PETER HOPKINS - No. 9 in a series

A.H. You have already completed over five years as secretary; over half, in fact, of the period in which the organisation has been in existence. What have you enjoyed most about this very arduous job, and how much longer (ideally) would you like to continue?

P.J.H. The stock answer to this sort of question is the hackneyed 'meeting people'. Quite honestly, it is the truth and there is no better answer. This is one of the fringe benefits of being secretary of the NUTS and has brought me into contact with athletes, officials, administrators and pressmen from all over the world; most are only fleeting acquaintances, but some linger on. Lajos Mecser, Janis Lusic and Hungarian team manager, Imre Nemeth are examples of lasting friendships I have made. In fact, one of my great 'moments in athletics' was being personally greeted by Janis as he came down from the rostrum after his second European Championship victory in Budapest. Without being pompous I have enjoyed being associated with the many ideas the NUTS have put forward during my term of office, and it always gives me great pleasure writing to tell somebody he has been elected a member of our organisation. Writing to Dave McJannett particularly comes to mind in this connection. Dave had tried unsuccessfully to become a member over a number of years and each time I had to put him off. It gave me quite a kick to finally tell him he had made it! I know he enjoyed getting the letter.

I have not thought about giving up the secretaryship, primarily because I am sure I would make a lousy lister, which is what I would no doubt become. After about seven or eight years in this sort of honorary spare-time(?) job I think I would want a rest. Things get taken too much for granted, one gets stale and the organisation would want a new broom to guide it. Also, after all this time it would be a treat to sit down and enjoy a good book, without having to worry about NUTS NOTES or Top Twenty's. Still, if required, I am prepared to carry on for at least another twelve months.

A.H. What do you feel have been the major achievements of the organisation, and its main weaknesses? How would you like to see it develop during the next ten years?

P.J.H. The major achievement of the organisation has been its acceptance as THE statistical body in British athletics. Our opinions are readily sought and more often than not listened to with respect, if not actually acted upon.

BRITISH ATHLETICS is the achievement for which we are best known, and despite the fact that it is published by the Board, is always known as the NUTS BOOK. Paradoxically, this is one of the weaknesses of the organisation: being bound to the Board in the publication of the annual. We are eternally grateful to Harold and the Board for their willingness to publish the book, thus saving us the worry of finding £500 or a sponsor, but the fact that the book does not contain championships results, etc. etc. is, I feel, its major weakness. (I do not think I am betraying confidences when I say that even this might be overcome next year)

Our annual promotion of a track and field meet is also a major achievement, as is our readiness to include experimental races (330y hurdles, 2000m steeplechase) in the programme. Our sometimes unnatural haste in cancelling meetings is one of our weaknesses. Our initiative in making this year's meeting at Leicester a two-day event is probably the boldest step we have ever taken. I regret that all the members did not give the meet their full support.

The Birds Eye trophies for the clubs of the year is now accepted as the unofficial club championship of Great Britain. Our main aim in organising these competitions was to stimulate interest in an official club of the year competition on the track - the only real way of deciding which is the top club. The formation of the AAA Pilot League scheme has gone some way in our aim as far as the men are concerned. I appreciate that the method of selection used by us is not everybody's cup of tea, but I feel it is as good a method as any.

Other achievements of which we can be proud are the setting up of club relay records, the widening of the AAA championships relay events, and the introduction of junior age records.

The main weakness of the organisation, and I feel very strongly about this is the desire of members to retain their individuality and carry on some project without obtaining, or even in blunt defiance of, committee authority. To be an effective body we must always present a united front. The committee thinks very carefully about ~~every~~ every matter brought before it and members should respect its judgement. This criticism does not, of course, apply to all members, some of whom would not dream of acting without committee approval.

As to the future of the organisation I do not want to be labelled as a man of no vision, but I do not feel that we can develop any further as we are at present constituted - as a spare time organisation. We are already functioning at our fullest capacity and I do not think any future development is possible. Several grandiose ideas have been put forward for the future of the organisation. As Secretary I think they are impracticable - a full time organisation might be able to implement them - we certainly can not.

A.H. You have had the benefit (apart from a very understanding wife) during your stint as secretary, of a duplicator and addressograph; do you think there are any other items of equipment which would be useful?

F.J.H. The use of the duplicator and the addressograph have made the secretary's life as easy as it probably ever can be made. I must say here that a very understanding wife (or mum) is essential, and I must pay tribute to Joan for the help and understanding she has given me over the years. A keen knowledge of athletics has been a great help here, and the fact that Joan knows what the NUTS is all about and how the organisation works does make life easier when she can deal with mysterious phone calls in my absence. She can also cope with NUTS queries when I am engaged on Verlea AC or Herts AAA matters or vice versa. Yes, an understanding wife is a very desirable piece of equipment. One who is prepared to do the gardening herself, or does not object when the cabbage patch looks like a wilderness.

To be a little more serious the major task that mechanisation would make easier is the physical task of folding up circulars, NUTS NOTES, Top Twenty's, etc, putting them into envelopes, sealing them if necessary and stamping them. Unfortunately, there is no machine that can do this, and this is another example of the necessity of a helping wife. I did think about the possibility of a franking machine, but upon enquiry this seems impracticable. I would point out that the duplicating of NUTS NOTES and Top Twenty's is not a five minute job. That is the time the actual running off takes, but the aforementioned tasks take the best part of an evening, even when the envelopes have been prepared in advance. Try collating some 70 sheets of paper in three piles, stapling them together, putting them in envelopes and stamping them and you will see what I mean. Still, with my warped sense of humour I enjoy it.

A.H. What have been your great moments as a spectator - that is on the few occasions on which you were actually able to watch a track meet?

P.J.H. Early memories seem to stick in the mind more than later ones, and I can well remember seeing Denis Watts leap 7.26/23"10" in the Herts Champs at Clarence Park, St. Albans in 1946. This, incidentally is still the Herts record, and will remain forever a track record as Clarence Park is now only used for Primary schools meets. Army service ruled out the 1948 Olympics, and my next memories were of Maureen Gardner gracefully floating over the hurdles in the old DA ILY MIRROR trophy meets, again at Clarence Park. This must have been in about 1950. How anyone who ever saw her in action can ever omit Maureen from a list of memorable experiences as a spectator I shall never know. Such fluidity has never been since.

My first visit to the White City was the AAA champs in 1951. Entering an already half-full stadium at about 1.10 p.m. (happy days) I heard a great shout and was just in time to see a discus thrown by Tosi touch down at 53.58/175'9½ for an all-comers' record. The BE v USA match in 1952 provides many memories - Marjorie Jackson, Shirley Strickland, Mal Whitfield, John Landy, and that incomparable Jamaican quartet - George Rhoden, Herb McKenley, Les Laing and Arthur Wint.

It is an impossible task to nominate the best race I ever saw. Neil Allen used to nominate (and may still do) the first Emsley Carr in 1953 when Gordon Pirie beat Santee in a breathtaking burst down the home straight in 4:06.8. I might incline to agree with him, but more recent epics must have their claim. Clarke's first sub-13 minutes, Keino in 1965 or Ryun last year. Two visits to European Championships (Belgrade and Budapest) have also provided exciting moments. Tulloh's 5000 metres victory in Belgrade probably moved me more than any, although the nervous tension in Budapest between Lynn Davies' 7.98/26'2¼" and the final jump by Cochard - I think it was - should not be repeated more than once in a lifetime. Any Davies/Boston encounter is memorable, none more so than that last year at White City (what I saw of it).

I also recall the Scottish championships in 1960 (I was on holiday at the time), when I saw a young D. Stevenson win the junior pole vault at 3.71/12'2". This prompted me to forecast that here was a lad with the potential to do 14'0/4.26 within two years and to be Britain's first ever 15 footer. The 14'0 followed two years later, almost to the day, but Trevor

Burton proved me wrong about the 4.57/15'0 by about three weeks. Still, as David said later, he was the first Briton to EXCEED 15'0, which was what I really meant, wasn't it.

Two decathlons come to mind. Firstly the never-to-be-forgotten European championship at Belgrade when Kuznyetsov retained his title by four points from Von Moltke. Secondly, Derek Clarke's 7001 in winning the AAA title in 1966. Being official recorder at the meet I probably knew more about what was going on than most, but everybody knew what Derek had to do to get 7000 points - the European qualifying standard. The tension was great as the seconds ticked away as Derek struggled towards the tape in the 1500 metres. Strangely enough, Derek did not think he could do it at the start of the 1500m and was only aiming to beat the championship best performance.

One other memory from 1967 - John Sherwood's superb quarter mile hurdling. Potential Olympic medal material if ever there was. (This was written before this season began. Hemery makes Sherwood like quite ordinary, or at least like any other American. They should both place in the first six - the mind boggles at what Hemery might do. PJH)

PETER JAMES HOPKINS was born at St. Albans (Herts), November 9, 1927; employed by Greater London Council (in company with Len Gebbett and Stan Greenberg); 1.74/5'8½; 82.5/182 lbs; Interests : Classical music, opera, reading (especially travel in Europe), Ancient Order of Foresters; Educated: St. Albans CS; Married.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS AND PROJECTED

This is a new feature intended to indicate particular interests and avoid wasteful duplication of effort. Offers to co-operate on particular projects should be addressed direct to the compilers.

Shaun Adair - UK Track Directory.

Andrew Huxtable - Best sisters (world);

Best married couples (world and UK).

Peter Matthews - Best 5 marks average (world)

Peter Pozzoli - UK all time best performers, age records and county records by birth (women)

Bob Sparks - Conversion tables (English/metric measurements and equivalents in track events);

Wind assistance in 200m/220y (revised);

Growth-curve analysis.

Peter Martin - WAAA junior and intermediate championships before 1957; all time bests and dates of birth for juniors and intermediates.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ATHLETICS STATISTICIANS. - No.3 South Africa

The South African ATFS/SA Vereniging van Atletiek-Statistici was formed during the national championships at Johannesburg on April 18, 1954, and is the oldest body of its kind in existence.

Its executive committee (bestuur) numbers 14, with such well known ATFS members as Harry Beinart as Hon. Life President, Gert le Roux as Honorary Editor of the SA Athletics Annual, Allister Matthews as Honorary Treasurer and Arrie Joubert. There are 41 other members. Beinart is the veteran (born Latvia 7.11.09), followed by Joubert (10.11.19), who recently returned to South Africa after a period in the London office of 'DIE BURGER', Matthews (18.10.26), whose daughter Colleen is a 5'0 high jumper, and le Roux (19.6.35). Quintus van Rooyen, proposed for election to the ATFS, was born on 12.12.35.

The main object of the association is to compile and publish annual South African ranking lists, and this has been fulfilled admirably in the latest edition (which, be it noted, sold about 3,300 copies!!). Its 100 pages contain 1967 and all time lists for men, women and juniors and a list of (white) Springbok athletes.

The association also awards a badge and certificate to every South African athlete gaining a place among the worlds top 30.

Thanks go to Gert le Roux for supplying the above information.

STOP PRESS by Peter Hopkins

The AGM passed off without incident. I was re-elected Secretary, but as a willing volunteer was found in Andrew Huxtable, it was decided that I should hand over to him at the end of the current track season, probably in about October. Brian Nott replaces Alf Wilkins as treasurer, and Margaret Gould was elected to the committee vice Cliff Temple. Andrew's proposition was lost on an amendment from Bob Sparks calling for one class of member, with the committee looking into the possibility of opening a subscription list.

Intermediates		1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
100	11.6	27	21	24	29	34	39	35
150	17.7					31	36	29
220	26.5	10	9	14	21	19	32	30
440	67.0			10	8	27	41	50
880	2:27.0	3	9	9	16	19	25	36
Mile Walk	10:30.0	4	3	3	8	12	11	9
80mH	12.7	12	13	18	28		31	41
HJ	4'10"	12	11	26	23	33	33	31
LJ	16'9"	20	11	21	25	31	31	39
4k SP	1:10"	4	6	14	21	25	28	36
DT	93'0"	19	19	20	27	36	35	37
JT	97'0"	17	14	27	27	35	38	34
Pen	2800	1	2	8	16	28	34	41
440R	52.0				10	13	19	19
<u>Juniors</u>								
100	11.9	35	24	28	24	33	38	65
150	17.9	22	21	22	19	20	31	53
80yH	12.1	17	9	21	24	19	25	49
HJ	4'8"	33	26	26	24	30	45	57
LJ	16'0"	27	21	28	24	24	23	38
71b SP	30'6"	6	13	14	20	34	28	41
DT	85'0"	23	14	26	19	32	24	44
JT	84'0"	27	26	26	29	33	36	38
Jun Pen	2700			7	5	15	27	49
Mile Walk	11:00.0				15	13	19	17
440R	52.7				6	14	17	27

The above table shows the number of athletes reaching 1968 WAAA Grade I Standard.

PETER VINCENT MARTIN was born at Banstead (Surrey), January 18, 1932; 1.765/5'9½; 68.0/150lbs; Interests :- Philately; Educated: Redhill TC; Married 1s.

 The Dinner has now been arranged for September 1 at the Hostario Romano, Dean Street, London. Will those who intend to attend please let Bob Phillips know, and how many not later than August 23rd.
 At the National Film Theatre on that afternoon Harold Abrahams will present OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS with film of 1896, 1904, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1964 games. The pentathlon has therefore been postponed and will be held later.

L A T E N E W S

We must apologise for the late production of this issue. It will be seen that the early pages were typed before the Annual General Meeting was held. It was hoped to be able to publish before that event but pressure of work on all fronts made this an impossibility. This typifies the amount of work the secretary has to undertake at the moment and is a good example of why he would like to be relieved of the secretarial duties as soon as possible. Pressure of all kinds of work is building up considerably and he feels that it would probably be in the best interests of the organisation if he can hand over at the end of the present track season. He is indeed grateful to Andrew for agreeing to take over such an onerous task.

Will all members please note that John Walsh has joined the vast army of those who have changed their address. He can now be located at : 58 St.Christopher's Drive, St.Martin's Estate, CAERPHILLY, Glam.

News has also filtered through from the Principality that Ken Bennett has taken a wife. We wish them both every happiness.

Members will be sorry to learn that Mel Watman is not too well at the moment. We all wish him a speedy return to good health.