

# NUTS NOTES

Volume 3 Number 2

Editor: Andrew Huxtable

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## EDITORIAL

Members should by now have received their copy of "British Athletics 1965"; enclosed with this newsletter is an order form for further copies. It should be sent, with remittance, to the A.A.A. Publications Sales Centre which as from this year will handle orders for all NUTS/BAAB publications. This should eliminate much confusion which has existed in the past, particularly with regard to payment.

On another page will be found an assessment by Bob Sparks on the system he introduced last year, together with an explanation of the requirements for this season. A list of standards which were agreed at the last Executive Committee Meeting in the light of trends over the past few years is also enclosed.

It is felt by the Committee that any criticism of other members in letters to "Athletics Weekly" (or other journals) however innocuous, should be avoided. It is suggested that in the first instance you air your criticisms and grievances in NUTS Notes and/or raise them for discussion by the Committee.

The AGM has been provisionally fixed for June 5 at the Central Y.M.C.A. Great Russell Street, W.C.1; all members should make every endeavour to attend. Full details will follow later.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Tom McNab, at a dinner attended in the main by members of the Committee and their wives, spoke - among other (more flippant) things - of his attempts to obtain films of every one of the Olympic Games, including those of 1896! He has viewed at the BFI National Film Archive a record of the 1924 celebration, which he thinks possesses considerable merit. He thought that the AAA should have a documentary archive (including film) but said that he had received a cold, or at best lukewarm, response from top officials.

Our readers in Northern Ireland (three, if Shauna is allowed to see it!) may have wondered why the number of births registered in their part of the U.K. wasn't given in the last issue; the simple reason was that the figures for the last quarter of 1964 did not appear in the January "Monthly Digest of Statistics". The final total was 34,400. It should be pointed out that the number of registrations is not necessarily (or even usually) the same as the number of occurrences (births) in the same period.

Congratulations to Keith and Susan Morbey, married on March 20; a greetings telegram was sent from all at Hurlingham together with a gift cheque. Keith, unfortunately, failed to escape the 1965 punishment - a job at the annual track and field meeting, which was postponed until April 11. As last year we received mentions in the 1964 Annual Reports of both the AAA and WAAA. In the first named report we are included appropriately under specialist clubs as follows:

"The administration of British athletics benefits considerably through help from many people with specialist knowledge or qualifications. Amongst these may be mentioned the officers and members of the National Union of Track Statisticians, whose ranking lists and records of performances are of great assistance in the selection of AAA and BAAB teams."

In the second report we are thrown in the Coaching section:

"Members of the NUTS give us a lot of help at our Championships, and I would particularly like to thank Mr. Martin James in this connection. During the whole of the athletic season, Mr. James sends me the full results of all meetings held."

The last sentence is perhaps a little over enthusiastic, since even Martin doesn't claim to do this!

As some members will have heard, the NUTS was the subject of a quiz question on the BBC Light Programme's "Sporting Chance" (February 23); regrettably none of the so-called BBC 'experts' could state what organisation the abbreviation applied to.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCES

(Supplement to the list published in Vol. 2, No.3)

440y	52.4	(2)	Clive Williams	Barry	3 Aug 63
880y	1:58.0	(5)	Clive Williams	Cardiff	27 Jul 63
	1:58.4	(7)	<del>Kenneth</del> Bennett	Cardiff	27 Jul 63
1M	4:24.7	(2)	<del>Kenneth</del> Bennett	Cardiff	22 May 63
	4:25.6	(1)	Clive Williams	Cardiff	26 Jul 63
2M	9:42.0	(1)	Clive Williams	Cardiff	19 Aug 63
6M	30:25.0	(3)	Victor French	Exeter	2 Apr 64

NUTS INDOOR RECORDS (as at 4 Apr 65)

60y	6.6	(2)	Adrian Metcalfe	Stanmore	11 Feb 61
3000m	8:48.0	(4)	Hedydd Davies	Wembley	17 Apr 64
2000mS/C5	45.0	(2)	Hedydd Davies	Cosford	23 Nov 63
60yH	8.3	(1)	Patrick Mackenzie	Feltwell	10 Mar 64
200yH	27.1	(2)	Patrick Mackenzie	Feltwell	10 Mar 64
HJ	6' 7	(1)	Patrick Mackenzie	Stanmore	2 Nov 63
LJ	21' 8 $\frac{1}{8}$	(1)	Patrick Mackenzie	Feltwell	7 Apr 64
TJ	41' 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	(1)	Patrick Mackenzie	Leeming	18 Feb 64
SP	40' 8	(3)	Patrick Mackenzie	Feltwell	7 Apr 64

Woman

30y	4.2	(1)	Maeve Kyle	Belfast	3 Jun 55
35y	4.6	(1)	Maeve Kyle	Belfast	22 Nov 55
440y	58.3	(1)	Maeve Kyle	Wembley	17 Mar 62
HJ	4' 11	(1)	Maeve Kyle	Belfast	18 Mar 59
SP	30' 11	(1)	Maeve Kyle	Belfast	22 Nov 55

Any additions or corrections to the above compilation will be gratefully received by the Editor.

LETTER FROM BOB SPARKS

You will shortly be sent a supply of "information return forms", similar to those used last year; please throw away any of the old forms you may still have, to avoid confusion. Before listing the requirements for completing the forms, I would like to make a brief analysis of the system as it worked last year.

You will recall that last season's men's lists were compiled by a consortium, comprising Bob Phillips (sprints and hurdles), Les Crouch (880 - 2 miles), Roger Breese (3 miles and above), Keith Morbey (jumps) and myself (throws), with Stan Greenberg providing overall checking coverage. In that this distribution of effort enabled some of us to get the occasional night's sleep, besides do a day's work every now and then, it certainly served its purpose. An adequate method for circulating information is obviously essential to ensure that nothing goes astray, and to this end the system worked well, with the form leaving little room for doubt as to our requirements.

The only confusion in the use of the form last year occurred because they were ruled off at one-inch intervals, this being done to permit typing or a variety of writing styles to be employed without restriction; however, some members assumed that only one entry should be made per section, which was extremely wasteful, so this year lines will be drawn at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " intervals. One other point which should be borne in mind: some members used up a great deal of effort and ink in repeating names, clubs, venues, even birth-dates many times on the same sheet; but of course repetition is always better than omission.

The success of our work tends to be measured by the number of books we sell; I feel we should be careful not to lose sight of one of our original objectives - namely 100% accuracy in the contents of our books. Regrettably, this is a standard which will never be reached under Britain's present haphazard system, but we must continue to aim high. One of our major problems remains the large number of meetings which go completely unreported; how much we miss is a matter for conjecture, but it is probably quite a significant amount. In an attempt to close this particular gap in our coverage, there will be a small change in our system. We have been fortunate in managing to persuade Pat Brian to return to the fray, and he

is taking over the throws from me. As chief compiler for some years, Pat's experience will be invaluable, as will his characteristic attention to detail which is so essential in our work. I shall now be able to concentrate on the task of hunting out meetings which take place in the strictest secrecy, as well as sorting out queries on results which are reported.

One source of information which I have found invaluable for several years is entry forms for championship meetings. I have spent many fruitful hours (thanks to the co-operation of the A.A.A.) scouring through A.A.A. and Southern Counties entry forms, besides B.A.A.B. questionnaires, and I know Martin James has tapped similar sources for women's results. The sort of information we obtain is Christian names, dates of birth and results which are otherwise unreported, for athletes who reach our standards. It would be a great help if some members could arrange to get access to entry forms held by the Midlands, Northern Counties and other areas (and even counties, to a lesser extent) which we in London cannot reach.

It may be appropriate to mention here one problem which is causing us some concern. It is quite clear that several provincial members are not pulling their weight; some did not send in a single result last year, others produced considerably less than many of our "non-NUT" correspondents. The contrast with some of our more active members is very striking; Ian Smith, for example, sent in dozens of forms and letters throughout the season - on top of his duties as Junior compiler, which is a full-time occupation in itself. Simon Pearson continued with his invaluable Scottish lists, without which the National lists would have many omissions, and there are, of course, many other members who do excellent work. We could do with a good many more true NUTS like Ian and Simon, who would be prepared to compile lists for a specific region, such as the North, Midlands, South-West, etc. My own dream is for every county to have its own NUT compiling lists to sufficient depth, on the lines of John Martell's Surrey lists, with all clubs in the area being questioned.

As far as completing the forms is concerned, there is very little I need say; I think the requirements should be self-evident, but please be careful with the spelling of names. Clubs are not required if they are obvious, similarly with Christian names. (a) Frequency of reporting will obviously depend on the amount of information you have to submit, but the guiding factor must be the periodic Top-20 lists. If you have recorded results which are good enough for the current list, please send in your report to reach Stan in time for inclusion in the next list (i.e. 2 - 3 days before the next publication date). Otherwise you can submit reports at your own convenience. Please sign and date each form.

Bob Sparks

(a) (In this connection could you please send any programmes, particularly area and county championship ones, to Stan Greenberg, as these form an easily accessible source of clubs and initials. Bob spent much time wading through back issues of "Athletics Weekly" when he was pulling the threads of "British Athletics 1965" together, time which could have been more fruitfully employed. - Ed.)

#### EMBARRASSING SITUATION FROM LES CROUCH

Some years ago, during the course of the area Police Championships, I approached a competitor whose performance was good enough to make the book that year.

The scene went like this:-

Me: "I say old chap, would you tell me your Christian names and date of birth?"

He: "I beg your pardon?"

Me: "I say old chap, would you tell me your Christian names and date of birth?"

He (loudly to friends): "Alf, Tom, come over here. I've got one of those!"

It took red-faced me all of 30 minutes to wriggle out of that!!

(Strong case for going through entry forms. - Ed.)

NATIONAL UNION OF TRACK STATISTICIANS

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