

EDITORIAL

The response to my request in the last issue for details of books and magazines on athletics in the possession of members has been quite encouraging and I should be pleased to hear from those who haven't yet written me. The forthcoming "Guide to British Athletics Literature" by member, Peter Lovesey and former member, Tom McWab could provide the basis for a cataloguing system.

It only remains for me to wish all members a happy and productive New Year.

FROM THE SECRETARY

I have been asked by our treasurer, Alf Wilkins, to point out that subscriptions of provincial members were increased to 10/- per annum from 1 January 1965. I realise that I am at fault here in not circularising the results of the results of the Annual General Meeting. There appears to be a crisis developing on the production side of our organisation as there is now more work than the present active London members can cope with. Members living in the London area will shortly receive details of a meeting to discuss this problem to be held on Sunday, January 23rd. I urge you now to attend this meeting as the whole future of the NUTS may depend on it. In the mean time, if any provincial member feels he can help as a compiler or in some other way will he please let me know as soon as possible.

MISCELLANY

Chris Barker of NUTS Notes, Vol 2, No.3 went to Japan to film the Olympic Games, but there he discovered, working for the Unifrance Film Office in Tokyo, a beautiful young Japanese girl called Kouniko. The foreseeable result is that the Olympic Games take up only a few minutes of the film. Filmed in colour with a crew of himself alone, 'Le Mystère Kouniko' is the latest instalment in the saga of Marker's one-man total cinema. Thus wrote Richard Roud in the programme for the 9th London Film Festival. Members will be interested to know, however, that Adrian Metcalfe appears in it briefly, haring up the home straight in the 4 x 400m relay final.

Catherine Martell looks to be the fleetest junior member of the NUTS (I take no responsibility for any subsequent legal actions over this remark - Sec): on August 14 she ran 880y in 2:40.1, when 10 days short of her 13th birthday.

Keen students of the "Guinness Book of Records" will note from the latest (12th) edition that the world crisp eating record was reduced drastically earlier this year by Akin Abintola (Nigeria) who consumed thirty bags in 29:50.0 without a drink, beating the previous best by a cool 29:10.0! One hopes that the rules allow salt to be dispensed with.

Vice-president, Len Gebbett, who almost fits the description of the "eternal student" Trotimov in 'the Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov, was successful in Parts 3 and 4 of the final examination of the Institute of Statisticians. He will apply to be elected a Fellow of the IS, which he thinks he has a fair chance of getting in view of his practical experience.

One of the many excellent short films produced by the National Film Board of Canada has yet to reach British screens: it is entitled simply 'Runner'; the script and direction are by Donald Owen and a verse commentary is spoken by W.H. Auden. "A beautifully paced film that catches the poetry in an athlete's work. The opening shots of Bruce Kidd training around the lake's edge are memorable, and so is the treatment of his victory in a race with Truex and Tabori. Notable jazz accompaniment: (International Film Guide 1964).

Change of Address

Dr. D.M. Davies, 140 Sheaveshill Avenue, Colindale, London, NW 9.

NUTS RECORDS

1m	4:16.3 (2)	Hedydd Davies	Oxford	29 May 65
3000m	8:39.8 (1)	Hedydd Davies	Helsinki	23 Aug 65
5000m	14:41.6 (4)	Hedydd Davies	Helsinki	24 Aug 65

## HOW BRIGHT IS OUR ATHLETIC FUTURE?

If you are not a teacher of physical education a visit to the English Schools Athletic Association's Championships or a study of the results of this meeting would indicate that the answer to the question posed as the title must of necessity be that the future is extremely bright, but on closer examination many doubts are aroused. Despite years of outstanding performances at these championships our International standards vis-a-vis World standards hardly changed indicating that at the highest level little of this outstanding talent develops to International and World standard, but if we look even more closely at the overall picture of the place and athletics generally in our schools then the picture becomes a great deal darker.

Those not closely connected with the teaching of athletics in our schools could fairly assume that the results obtained in the Schools championships were a direct result of a process of natural selection based on good teaching of our sport and extremely high overall standards in schools, and that the high peak of results at the Championships were evidence of a very broadly based pyramid of performance, but with notable minor exceptions this picture could hardly be more false. Still physical precocity, the bending of the physical education solely to the production of a very limited number of champions and finalists and the influence of the athletics clubs all conspire to obscure the true situation which exists in our schools.

If track and field athletics is to remain or more possibly to become a mass participation sport in this country, then the responsibility for developing an athletics culture, at the moment completely missing, rests solidly upon the shoulders of the physical education teachers. At the moment many of the children in our schools have never had an opportunity to take part in any form of athletics competition and this in a sport where competition is its veritable lifeblood. Many coaches who staff our Young Athletes Courses can give further evidence of the paucity of athletics teaching, if one assumes that these youngsters are the keenest and probably the best young athletes from our schools, and yet these are often found to be lacking even the most basic physical fitness and skills, then what of those who have not the interest or enthusiasm or have never been encouraged to attend such a course? What pleasure and satisfaction have they ever received from athletics? Might there not be a potential International amongst those 'also rans' but what is of far greater importance is that they should if possible have gained pleasure from their efforts at Track and Field.

Already due to the influence of 'statistics', track and field (a sport where comparison by stop watch and tape is so easy and so invidious) has become probably the only sport which can be enjoyed at a low level of performance in company with others of similar interest and ability, this in direct contrast to such sports as 'Coarse Rugby'. Perhaps this is why Cross Country with all its discomforts still attracts large fields and great interest, and defies accurate ranking lists, although both these and attempted curtailment of fields are often mooted.

Can the future of our sport really be healthy when a boy or girl of 15 can become a 'failure' by failing to place at the National Schools Championships, and where competition is fast being restricted to those with outstanding natural talent? To try and answer this question would take far too long for this short article which has attempted to indicate some of the deeper problems affecting our sport, but those who wish to read further on this I suggest that you obtain a copy of Tom McNab's article in the March 1965 issue of the Scottish Bulletin of Physical Education entitled 'The Teaching of Athletics'.

### MEMOIRS OF A YOUNG NUT by Dave Martin.

Being quite honest it was with delight that I became a member of the N.U.F.S. some fourteen months ago. There always had been a habit among my friends to refer to me as being N.U.F.S. (adjective form) and quite frankly it was with relief when I was in a position to acknowledge the compliment (this did cause quite a stir among my fraternity).

Quite frankly though I realised that now I was a member of the most 'exclusive brethren' I had problems and two stood out - 1) how to get the athletes interested in having their performances ranked; 2) how to get the officials to co-operate in taking more than the first three times which was a legendary aspect of North-East athletics.

They were problems for many athletes did not realise that they had attained the necessary standard for inclusion in "British Athletics"; while some officials still regarded me as Guy Fawkes trying to blow up the District Committee.

My athletics column in a regional newspaper provided the main assistance. By publishing a Best Performers List I was able to compile as many as fifty hundred yards performances ranging from R. Nicholson 9.9 to M. Taylor 11.2'. Now that I had the performances I thought it would be useful to publish a booklet..... but I was thwarted. The printing costs in the desolate and poverty stricken North are tremendous and after venturing into mathematics I realised I just couldn't balance the books.

This was a disappointment... but on a happier note my friends on the District Committee decided that a statistician amongst their ranks was required and so I duly joined the ranks of officialdom, the junior (by about twenty years) member of the set.

The 1964 season was over and I had all of '65 to look forward to...but it hasn't been my year; six months solid work for the South Shields Sports taking up my leisure time and the N.U.F.S. suffered. I resolved however to get to 'action stations' in July but the removal of my appendix on the 7th has been followed by two further stays in hospital with a stoppage of my bowels (We all send you best wishes for a complete recovery, Dave. FJH)

However, I can say progress has been made in the area; the chief timekeeper, now a great pal of mine, has been known to take twenty times in a three miles race. Progress indeed!

#### CORRECTIONS TO "BRITISH ATHLETICS 1965"

- Page 4. W.M. Night
- Page 8. 4 x 220y (title omitted); 2nd performance s,b marked with\*; 4 x 860y 7:19.0 by Oregon State University; 4 x 440y 3:04.5 was on 27.4.65.; 4 x 1 mile National Record is 16:24.8 by N. Counties team on 17.7.61 at Dublin.
- Page 9. Hammer: 231'10 at Palo Alto; Decathlon Yang's score was 3089.
- Page 10. 100m 11.2 by Rudolph on 19.7.61; A-C record 11.6 Leone (Italy) on 9.7.60 at Brighton; 80mH 10.5 Birkmeyer on 24.7.60, 10.5 Balzer at Leipzig.
- Page 11. 4 x 200m National record is 1:38.4 National Team White City 21.9.55; 4 x 220y A-C and National Record is 1:39.9 National team White City 30.9.53; Ex 300m National Record is 6:32.0 by same team 30.9.56.; 3 x 880y 8:56.2 on 21.7.54; Long Jump 21'11 1/2 was at Moscow(!)
- Page 20. 100m Lynn Davies 10.7.
- Page 21. 50km W 4th was Leuschke.
- Page 24. 9.7. Melvyn Cheskin.
- Page 26. 10.6. Geoffery Read; Colin Danks (10.9 at Leamington)
- Page 28. add 22.0 (1) Peter Carvill (J) 1.8. at Pontypool (delete from windy section).
- Page 29. 22.2 Howard Davies; 22.3 Leslie Northington; 22.4 David Grant, David Harries.
- Page 31. 49.6 Graham Cowburn; 49.9 Basil Tomlinson; 49.8 Handsome (25.7, Walton); 49.8 Blacksley (-.7, Southall).
- Page 33. add 1:54.0 Colin Lavey; 1:54.1 Alan Small.
- Page 36. 4:10.3 Geoffrey North (delete 4:12.0); 4:11.8 Meldrum Edwards (see also 8:55.4 and 15:48.6); 4:12.7 Tagg was at Mendon.
- Page 40. 13:50.0 Macgregor (also at 28:42.0).
- Page 44. delete 49:42.0; 50:23.0; 51:14.0 (road race).
- Page 45. 2:33:35.0 Lyn Hughes.
- Page 46. 5:47.4 Horriott was at Blackburn; 6:03.6 by Sandford.
- Page 48. 9:40.8 Michael Fearon; 9:44.8 Trevor Taylor.
- Page 52. 55.8 (1) Strange 4.7. at Woodford.
- Page 56. 14'9 1/2 (1) Stevenson 5.8. at Brussels.
- Page 57. delete 11'6 George Fymps; delete 11'6 F. Wilson.
- Page 58. delete 11'0 Evans to be deleted; also delete 11'0 P. Evans; at 11'0 Anthony Evans (also Fj - 44:10 1/2).
- Page 59. 22'10 1/2 Albert Huber.
- Page 60. delete 22'4 Jon Lewis (v.a.).
- Page 62. 45'10 Graham Hamlyn; Wote + J. Engmann; 44'14 Norman Rice.
- Page 63. 44'2 Jack Waters; 47'11 Lucking in qualifying round.
- Page 64. add 49'5 John Watts, Singapore; 49'2 Richard Guest 27.6, Montreal; 45'6 Derck McCorquindale 6.6., Calgary.

- Page65. 44'4 Brian Penny; 46'10 $\frac{1}{2}$  (i) John Watts.
- Page67. 138'4 (1) Salter at Chester; add 138'0 Richard Guest 27.6, Montreal, 136'0 John Watts at Singapore, 131'0 $\frac{1}{2}$  Roger Florence (-.9, Wimbledon); 130'4 Andrew Kendrew.
- Page68. 1738 $\frac{1}{2}$  Culhane; 163'0 Seddon in Germany; 151'5 $\frac{1}{2}$  Macaulay, Loughborough; 150'1 Lazarides, Loughborough.
- Page69. 136'0 $\frac{1}{2}$  Anthony O'Neill.
- Page70. 199'4 Timothy Elsdale; 192'5 $\frac{1}{2}$  Michael Foster; 190'5 $\frac{1}{2}$  Brian Hartley; add 190'3 Herbert ('Jim') Bowron.
- Page71. 184'2 by Church at Feltham; 183'4 Francis Brown; add 184'1 Malcolm Marradine at Southgate, 182'0 C.J. Butterworth, Dublin.
- Page76. 11.3 Christine Parker.
- Page96. Archer J.M. (15.4.40) OUAC.
- Page98. Blackshaw S.M. (20.5.42); Blacksley C.C. -440, 49.8; add Bowron H.A. (20.7.39) Swindon/RAF JT, 190'3; Brown F.F. (1.8.44) Brown R. (9.4.42).
- Page99. Bucknall J.R.; add Butterworth C.J. Trinity C., Dublin JT, 182'0 Caine J. (7.6.46); add Carvell I.J. (27.5.45) Newport H 220, 22.0
- Page100. Craig F. (28.3.36).
- Page101. Danks C.L. (28.11.41); Davey C. add 380, 1:54.0; Davies H.G. (5.8.44); Davies I. (13.11.36); Draper J. (29.11.44).
- Page102. Elsdale T.S.; Evans David (14 12.43) CUAC/Brighton; Evans J. Cardiff T.C./Birchgrove; delete Evans P. (= Evans J.)
- Page103. Feast W.J. (25.6.38); Florence R.C. (17.9.32) add DT.131'0 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- Page104. Gingell J. (29.7.39); Gorham M.F.; Graham D.A. (5.9.41); Grant D.I. (1.9.44).
- Page105. add Guest R.M. (23.6.32) Army/LAC SF 49'2 (51'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -61); DT 138'0 (139'7-59); Hall E.W. (15.9.32); Handscombe S.A. - 440, 49.8; add Marradine H. (19.3.34) TWH 184'1 (217'11-56); Harry T. (13.4.45); Hartley D.B. (7.6.43); Head N. (22.3.38).
- Page106. Humberstone T.W. Barry H.
- Page 107. James J. (27.1.38); Jones D.E. (6.8.41)
- Page108. Knight D.K. (30.12.43); delete Lewis J. (22'4 w.a.).
- Page109. add McCorquindale E.H. (1.6.33) ex-Met. Police SF 45'6 $\frac{1}{2}$  (51'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -59); delete McEvans (= Evans M.C.); Macgregor D.F. (not McGregor).
- Page110. Markham F. (11.7.35); Marlow P. (20.4.41); Miles M.A. Twickenham AC
- Page111. North Geoffrey A. - 1, 4:10.3; North Gerald A. - 1, 4:14.5.
- Page112. Fugh D.R. (7.9.40).
- Page113. Quinn K. (3.10.41); Read G.P. (9.1.39); Robertson H.C.; Ross E.C. (28.9.40).
- Page114. Russell D.J. (13.9.38); Salter D.P. - DT, 138'4; Seddon P.O. - HT, 163'0; Shepherd G.D. (23.11.44); Sinclair C. (27.9.40).
- Page115. Small A.J. (13.3.41); Snipp R.G. Thanet AC; Stacey B. (25.11.40); Stafford H.R. (17.11.35); Stevens R. Maidenhead AC; Strange H.T. - 440h, 56.8.
- Page116. Taylor A.B. (5.6.31); Thomas A.H.B. (13.12.35); Thomas T. (10. 2.40); Tingay G.R. (22.10.42); Tomlinson B.M. (20.10.43); Treharne W.F. (13.136); Trimming C.H. (26.11.45).
- Page117. Veitch F. (19.7.42); Wadhams A.E. (16.5.44); add Watts J.T. (23.4.39) RNAC SP, 49'5; DT, 136'0.
- Page118. Wilkinson W. Longwood HAC; delete Wilson F.; Wilson R.F. (13.4.38) Wigan & District H.
- Page123. Parker C.H. (11.8.47).
- Page124. none discovered.
- Page125. Cohen S.B. (14.3.39) - 57'10 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 1964; Healion P.B.I. (28.4.42); Huber A. (14.10.40); Lazarides D. (17.5.42) - HT, 150'1.
- Page126. Macaulay D. (17.1.37) - HT, 151'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; McCullagh P.J. (5.9.39).

This list does not include the late additions shown on page 127.

Also corrections to the women's lists (with one exception) and Club ranking lists have been left to the respective compilers.