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NUTS NOTES

Vol.4, No.3

Editor : Andrew Huxtable

July - Sept 1966

EDITORIAL

The fourth annual dinner was held at the Hostaria Romana Restaurant, 70 Dean Street, W.1 on the evening of 21 August; not only did we enjoy superb Italian cooking but also the delightful presence as guests of honour of Iris and Rita Lincoln, who the previous day had recorded their best ever times of 2:07.8 and 2:08.2 respectively for 800m. (It is perhaps interesting to note that while Iris ran 2:08.6 the following evening in Dublin over 880y, i.e. to equal her best, Rita 'lost' 1 sec in recording 2:10.0!) We must extend our thanks to our "World Sports" men, Bob Phillips and Cliff Temple, for making the detailed arrangements for this highly enjoyable fixture.

FROM THE SECRETARY

We have now got a fresh supply of NUTS ties and these can be obtained from me price 15/-, cash with order, please. For those who have never seen one they are of blue terylene with a multi-nut motif in silver - the nut being of the engineering type and not of the eating variety.

On the afternoon of the day previously mentioned by Andrew we held our annual members pentathlon at Hurlingham Park. This was won by Bob Phillips with a score of 2118 points, 2nd was Pat Mackenzie with 1794 and third Dai Davies with 1672. This is different to the scores announced on the day by the official recorder, A.Huxtable, who for probably the first time in his NUTS life made a mistake, discovered no need to say by the afore-mentioned Mackenzie. Full details of this equally enjoyable fixture will appear later in this issue.

15 members attended the European Championships at the Népstadion, Budapest as well as our President and vice-President, Neil Allen. Morris McWhirter may also have been there, but I did not see him. For my part I enjoyed my stay in the Hungarian capital immensely, even if we did not have much to cheer on the track. First impression of Budapest is of a dull, bomb-scarred town, but on the second or third trip round the place you discover a very well laid out City with magnificent old buildings, particularly on the Buda side. Enough has already been written about the Athletics, but I shall always cherish Lynn Davies's remarks about Hungarian officials with red flags, made to me almost as soon as he had made his winning jump.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Keith Morbey, 5 Ian Road, Billericay, Essex
- Clive Williams, 28 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Glamorgan
- Dr. Malcolm Bright, The Doctors' Villa, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex
- Richard Szreter, 30 Phillip Victor Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MISCELLANY

* Bob Phillips ran the anchor leg for Watford H. in the AAA 4 x 880y relay at Crystal Palace on 23 July in 1:55.6; at Watford on 7 July he had recorded his best 3M time of 15:45.0.

* Cliff Temple took over recently as editor of the TVH Club magazine 'The Interval'.

* Malcolm Warburton, who goes up to Merton College, Oxford, in October has returned the following excellent times this year :-

440y	51.9 (2)	Stretford	4 August
880y	1:57.2 (3)	Stretford	26 July
1M	4:30.6 (3)	Farnsworth	18 June
3M	15:37.8 (3)	Warrington	13 July
2000M SC	6:47.2 (5)	Stretford	23 August

SALES CORNER

Those of you who haven't had copies of the ATFS Handbook on Women's Track and Field and the ATFS European Track and Field Handbook should send 15s for one 30s for both to A.Huxtable, 78 Toynbee Road, London, S.W.20

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ATHLETICS STATISTICIANS - NO.2, ITALY

AISAL (Associazione Italiana Storici-Statistici dell'Atletica Leggera) was formally inaugurated at Verona on April 11, 1965. The 27

rules (articolo) approved in this meeting parallel closely those of the NUTS (on which they are modelled PJH). The membership currently totals 59, of whom 7 form the executive committee (Consiglio Direttivo), including president Gianfranco Colasante, vice president Emanuele Carli, and secretary Luciano Lamberti. The honorary president is Dr. Roberto uercatani (3.5.22).

Two issues of the equivalent to NUTS NOTES (Atti e Memorie) have appeared so far. The March issue published the result of a referendum among members to decide the Italian 'athletes of the year' (Elivia Ricci-Ballotta and Antonio Ambu), a survey of Italian long jump record-holders from Arturo Despoli (6.76 in 1922) to Attilio Bravi (7.66 in 1958), and article discussing the "crisis in Italian walking" and another on the regression of Italian women (athletes, of course!) vis a vis world standards, and a compilation of every 400mH performance by Salvatore Morale. The May issue reported on the first AGM held at Verona on March 19.

The NUTS send fraternal greetings to AISAL and wish them success in their work. I should like to acknowledge my thanks to Luciano Lamberti for supplying most of the above data.

A.H.

INTERVIEW WITH PETER MARTIN - No. 5 in a series

A.H. Your intermediate and junior women's lists for the last three years have been published in booklet form; David Kemsley reviewing the latest edition in "World Sports" said: "Athletics Arena" is certainly performing a valuable service for what must be an extremely limited field of enthusiasts! Since this must apply to a greater or lesser extent to all NUTS compilations have you any suggestions as to new material which could be included and which might widen the appeal.

P.M. I feel that to widen the appeal means getting back to the old club spirit and encouraging the athletes by constant prodding at their consciences. In order to do this my first idea would be to produce a club ranking list which can be published, up to date, at very frequent intervals in the season. Regretfully the present Birds Eye system does not lend itself to this and neither did the original Peter Pozzoli method, which was very difficult for clubs to understand. Moreover, I suggest the system described below is far more practical; it works on the Football League system of scoring. By splitting up the country into areas and having Area Champions, this cancels out the bias which may otherwise creep in and relies on selecting a number of Trophy meetings on which the points are scored. I have no wish to be drawn into the arguments for and against the systems 'as was' but feel we must get some prestige back and make it infiltrate to the general public. Regretfully they require nothing less than a four minute mile and I cannot suggest how to overcome this (other than a year's ban on mile races or setting up attacks on 'baggy' relay races which are still recognised, but rarely run!).

The other suggestion is complementary to the surveying problem which has been milling around in my mind for some time and which I hope to expound later in the interview. It was advocated in the last issue of NUTS NOTES by Cliff Temple - that of a U.K. Arena Directory. I say "arena" rather than "track" as it concerns the field events to the same degree. I am dubious about including arena records due to the doubtful authenticity of many. The fact that wind assistance and downhill pits plus 'chalked-out' circles also come into it and such are usually accepted automatically, would not cause meheart failure if left out of our new publication.

It would probably take years to produce but would be of use to almost every athlete, so sales could be high. For instance all clubs would buy if they the cost buy if the cost were high, as a reference book, even if the general athletes did not. Then, in a compact form it could be available to all, travel directions being the most important and may provide the interim publication.

A.H. As a follow-on from the first question are there any publications or projects you would like to see the NUTS initiate?

P.M. For many years I have been studying methods of obtaining an analysis of actual track conditions throughout the country.

This was started possibly by an article many years ago which suggested a central source for track records and certainly brought to a head by marks in recent years which were downhill and hence unratifiable at least.

As with all true NUTS members, many ideas were mulled over in my mind and most discarded as unpractical. It is our duty - I think that is the right term - to give athletes the best possible conditions for competition. To this end I considered going to the extreme of checking each registered track (and field) for flatness, though this was only one aspect of the exercise. Distances between known and used marks, circle sizes, etc. coming into mind whilst on the subject.

Naturally even I, being one of the few interested in such a fastidious pastime, could possibly hope to check EVERY arena in country. However, once I made a start, I felt others may follow in my footsteps. It was my intention to scout around for a surveyor or articulated surveyor to operate the instruments, or at least teach me the rudiments.

Having had some excellent service from Boroughs' Surveyors where the All-England Schools Championships are concerned in supplying area surveys (and there is certainly need for them as recent correspondence in Athletics Weekly has shown); I feel sure some arenas might be covered by the authorities when our serious intentions were noted and offers of assistance from local NUTS suggested.

Armed with this tremendous pile of correspondence, graph sheets and reports, it would be a shattering resume that would be offered our Minister of Sport I feel sure. "Barely one arena in the country flat" may be the conclusion. When one considers the accuracy required for track and field in the direction of participation, namely 1 inch in 35 feet maximum fall how can anyone be positive that even the White City is infallible? When it comes to grass tracks the mind boggles at the discrepancies that might ensue.

Having given you the background to my ideas, can I now explain why, (reluctantly I add but realistically) I have not pursued this.

Imagine the chaos to the NUTS, their ranking lists back to the year 'dot' (1960), athletes, officials - you name it -. If our publication were given the publicity such a project should warrant, it would almost topple the Athletic Administration in the country.

Theoretically, I would like to see such a project undertaken, then every mark would be legal on one score. With the weight of our results to back us up it may be possible to get fields skimmed, circles moved to opposite ends of stadia, etc. and eventually track surfaces built up where necessary. It would impress on everyone we were serious in our work, though one can imagine the curses and costs involved.

Rome was not built in a day and so the country's present economic situation should not be a consideration. Also, like it or not, our sport has to be more organised and assisted or we can never hope to compete on a par with subsidised nations. Therefore, is such a project impossible? We have the tenacity to cover it, though it may take years to complete and if, as is possible, 90% of the tracks are downhill (or is it uphill) and nobody cares, why do they insist that 2.05 metres per second following wind is wind assistance?

A.H. Which are the outstanding performances and perhaps, meetings, and performers you have witnessed?

P.M. I will probably surprise you by putting as the most outstanding performer Sydney Wooderson. Everyone knows me as a specialist in womens athletics and most of them think I cannot have lived in his era. Luckily, I did and considering the disadvantage of height and stature, plus steamed-up spectacles; what a truly great man he was. The thing that typified him was a remark the great Andersson made after one of their track battles, to the effect "I felt sure I could beat him at the beginning of the race, but no matter what I did he stayed just a stride behind me. Then when I needed my concentration most, I heard this pitter-patter behind me, it broke my stride and he beat me to the tape".

It will always be with me the Wooderson/Andersson and Wooderson/Wilson (Doug, of course) tactical battles. Perhaps it could be likened to the Chataway/Nuts race which my father contends to be the greatest race he ever witnessed - and he was running with Willie Applegarth. However, I was NUTS at the time and missed it.

Next, Fanny Blankers-Koen and associated with her as one of

the meetings emblazoned on my mind - Wembley Olympics. Being at the most impressionable time of my active athletics career this really does stick in my mind. Thirdly and jointly, Arthur Mint and Valerie Ball two outstanding long distance sprinters, the latter by far the most attractive of any and whose times I tried to match.

One could continue with great names but one regret is not seeing Marlene Mathews-Willard, a pen friend from the time she was 13 until after her world records, in action many times - or Jesse Owens at all in person.

My two outstanding performances, these are easy to relate but again surprises I expect. Firstly, Carole Quinton-Barr's 80 metres hurdles record of 10.9 at Brighton in July 1960 versus Italy. I will not have to recount the story of the rain. It came down in torrents, the race was held up half an hour waiting for a lull, then right in the middle of the race the clouds opened up. The athletes were barely discernable through sheets of rain falling directly down, no wind assistance, though and so bad was it that the runners continued through the tape to the dressing rooms. The second was only this year at the inter-territorial WAAA pentathlon when, under the careful gaze of two other WATS besides myself, Vivien Knowles, only just 15 and competing for the Midlands cleared a personal best of 5'10". Not that this was such an exceptional height, but the method by which it was achieved and the style used was possibly the best I have ever seen. As she had been impeded in the hurdles and scored no points she was miles behind: thus the desperation gave her the incentive to clear. A great performer and someone who will be a great asset to Britain in years to come - her diary too is more complete than many top athletes and will be of inestimable use to us later on!

Regards top meetings, the Edinburgh Highland Games and the All England Schools Championships must have this spot. I have had the honour of officiating at the former and to see how Willie Carmichael organises sprinting on the centre track races, field events 'way out', Scottish field events, dancing and band concerts plus an international has to be seen to be believed.

Anyone who has been to the BSAA championships will know the organisation is terrific, they could never get through so much with so many athletes, otherwise. Agreed it is getting too much now and restriction must be applied, but the atmosphere is akin to Wimbledon tennis fortnight.

MEMBERS OF BRITAIN - HURLINGHAM PARK - AUGUST 21st 1966

Twelve members took part, but it was a disappointment that so few members from outside the London area took part. For most of us we were pleased to meet Mike Hayes for the first time. We used the official IAAF scoring tables and the official events = long jump, javelin, 200 metres, discus and 1500 metres. Winner with 2118 points was Bob Phillips, thanks mainly to great efforts in both track events.

1st	-	Bob Phillips	-	18'5, 57'9, 23.5, 55'11, 4:14.6	=	2118
2nd	-	Pat Mackenzie	-	18'5, 119'3, 28.1, 104'10, dnf	=	1794
3rd	-	Dai Davies	-	14'11½, 88'0, 27.7, 62'6, 4:29.7	=	1672
4th	-	Hobby Clarke	-	15'11½, 70'1, 26.2, 59'2, 4:42.8	=	1638
5th	-	Bob Sparks	-	16'4, 102'9, 28.0, 63'0, 5:37.0	=	1477
6th	-	Stan Greenberg	-	15'7½, 107'10, 28.5, 82'2, 6:55.5	=	1341
7th	-	Mike Hayes	-	15'9½, 73'1, 29.6, 79'9, 5:50.2	=	1251
8th	-	Shaun Adair	-	16'2½, 61'2, 26.6, 52'0, 6:03.5	=	1119
9th	-	Les Crouch	-	9'8, 74'9, 28.4, 49'8, 5:02.9	=	970
10th	-	John Lusardi	-	12'10½, no throw, 27.2, 45'8, 5:22.8	=	807
11th	-	Pat Brian	-	13'7½, 81'11, 30.5, 53'1, 6:15.0	=	761
12th	-	Peter May	-	14'4, 51'2, 30.4, 42'8, 5:41.0	=	652

The results of the various heats were as follows :-

200metres	<u>Heat 1.</u>	<u>Heat 2</u>	<u>Heat 3</u>	<u>Heat 4</u>
	Phillips 23.5	Clarke 26.2	Lusardi 27.2	Crouch 28.4
	Davies 27.7	Adair 26.6	Greenberg 28.5	May 30.4
	Mackenzie 28.1	Sparks 28.0	Hayes 29.6	Brian 30.5
1500 metres	<u>Heat 1</u>	<u>Heat 2</u>		
	Phillips 4:14.6	Sparks 5:37.0		
	Davies 4:29.7	May 5:41.0		
	Clarke 4:42.8	Hayes 5:50.2		
	Crouch 5:02.9	Adair 6:03.5		
	Lusardi 5:22.8	Brian 6:15.0		
		Greenberg 6:55.5		