



# ACHILLES AUSTRIA TOUR



## Männer

### 100m

James, Alan 11,70  
Weaver, Matt 11,80

### 200 m

James, Alan 23,62  
Chidlow, Glyn 24,28  
Weaver, Matt 24,74

### 400m

Mytton, Oliver 53,02

### 1000 m

Talbot, Darren 2:31,92  
Mytton, Oliver 2:44,22  
Chen, Richard 3:07,82

### 3000 m

Talbot, Darren 9:19,08  
Mytton, Oliver 9:48,86

### Weitsprung

Chidlow, Glyn 6,58  
Weaver, Matt 5,98

### Diskuswurf

Booth, Steve n.a.

## Frauen

### 100 m

Ridgley, Clare 13,56  
Riordan, Liz 14,42

### 200 m

Rusman, Alexandra 30,42

### 800 m

Rusman, Alexandra  
2:32,40

### Weitsprung

Ridgley, Clare 4,70

### Kugelstoss

Beasley, Cassie n.a.

### Diskuswurf

Beasley, Cassie 29,42  
Ridgley, Clare 27,10  
Riordan, Liz

Two very important things happened on our first day in Salzburg; 1, It rained, a lot. 2, The girls proved just how competitive they were going to be by winning the salt mine slide race, the first important competition in the series. Fortunately the rain didn't last so competition resumed in its usual track and field setting (or so we thought...)

The week's competition involved athletes competing to see who could do the event they were most unsuited to – Steve Booth won by a mile or 7.5km to be precise. However, when competing in the correct events we did well...: well, at least Darren did, taking home enough silverware and beer to make the trip worthwhile.

Our training was hampered by attempts to watch the National Championships on German Eurosport (good language practice). However, by the end of the week enthusiasm waned and we still don't know who got disqualified from the 4 x 100m. This doesn't mean that our nights passed uneventfully: Dave and Oli as the X-county reps took it upon themselves (bless them!) to uphold tradition by drinking a couple of pints and then causing havoc: the girls were not amused by a 4 a.m. intrusion (why didn't we lock our doors?!).

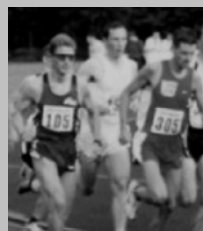
Nevertheless, ample revenge was gained by subjecting them to a few tequilas on the last night of fun. Once again the boys proved totally hopeless at either navigational skills or communication, failing to pass on even the simplest message regarding the whereabouts of tour members. Yet again Cassie and Clare competed out of their normal events in the downhill dash to find Vix who has been left behind.

Further amusement was gained from the wonders of modern technology via international SMS to Achilles members who became dutifully present in spirit if not in athletic body on tour.

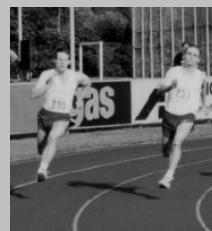
Of course we could fill you in on Matt's bar chat and ability to attract Austrian Blonds. Rumour has it that in this department he out-pulled all the women. But we are duty bound by that universal rule – what goes on tour, stays on tour.

Few escaped the trip without being munched by mosquitoes (NB don't drink too much beer and then forget the insect repellent!). The tour was riddled with the usual smatter of room-swapping – this time for completely legitimate reasons (honest). People came and went eager to join the merry band for as long as they could; but mainly to stretch Matt's logistical capabilities.

Many thanks to Martyn Bowen whose brainchild the trip was and whose invaluable help made it such a success and to Matt for organising everything from the UK end. They did a wonderful job of organising accommodation and splendid training facilities. In addition Martyn acted at various times as tour guide, chauffeur, translator and competition agent. Thanks also to Alexandra whose excellent language skills certainly helped the trip run smoothly.



Oli Mytton



Matt Weaver and  
Glyn Chidlow



Darren Talbot



# OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE FRESHMEN'S AND FRESHWOMEN'S MATCH

at Iffley Road, Oxford on 4 November 2001

## Men

<b>100m</b>	S. Stafford (O) 11.8, O. Brihuega-Moreno (C) 12.0, M. Scaife (O) 12.3, M. Holden (C) 12.8
<b>200m</b>	S. Stafford (O) 23.6, M. Holden (C) 24.3, M. Forseth (C) 24.8, M. Scaife (O) 25.5
<b>400m</b>	J. Lee (C) 52.9, M. Hollington (O) 53.2, M. Collins (C) 53.8, J. Hassell (O) 55.2, J. Hunt (O-guest) 57.6
<b>800m</b>	R. Hooper (C) 2:01.9, A. Owen (C) 2:03.1, O. Mytton (O) 2:09.2, R. Sinclair (O) 2:17.7
<b>1500m</b>	R. Hooper (C) 4:17.8, J. Onofrey (O) 4:25.4, A. Owen (C) 4:51.2, J. Hassell (O) 5:11.2
<b>3000m</b>	G. Davies (O) 9:07.5, J. Macke (O) 10:28.3, G. Bailey (C) 11:01.5, J. Millar (C) 11:43.2
<b>110mh (3'3")</b>	S. Green (C) 15.4, G. Wright (O) 18.3, A. Lancaster (O) 20.6, G. Bailey (C) 20.7
<b>400mh</b>	S. Green (C) 54.1 ( <b>record</b> ), G. Bailey (C) 63.3, A. Lancaster (O) 63.4, R. Sinclair (O) 63.5
<b>2000m steep.</b>	O. Mytton (O) 6:48.2, R. Sinclair (O) 7:25.2, J. Millar (C) 8:08.5
<b>4x100m</b>	Cambridge (-, -, -, Green) 45.6, Oxford 46.7
<b>4x400m</b>	Cambridge (- 56.8, - 55.4, - 55.6, Green 49.1) 3:37.0, Oxford (- 55.2, - 53.2, - 55.1, - 54.6) 3:38.1
<b>High Jump</b>	A. Rowe (O) 1.85, M. Scaife (O) 1.65, G. Bailey (C) 1.60, O. Brihuega-Moreno (C) 1.45
<b>Pole Vault</b>	R. Sinclair (O) 3.00, D. Palmer (C) 2.10, G. Bailey (C) no height
<b>Long Jump</b>	B. Biobaku (O) 6.52, O. Robertshaw (O) 6.34, M. Collins (C) 5.55, F. Hesse (C) 4.96
<b>Triple Jump</b>	B. Biobaku (O) 13.65, M. Collins (C) 12.42, M. Holden (C) 12.10, O. Robertshaw (O) 12.07
<b>Shot</b>	A. Abiola (C) 10.55, J. Sosnicky (O) 9.48, C. McKay (C) 8.16, G. Kazan (O) 7.41
<b>Discus</b>	A. Abiola (C) 27.79, J. Sosnicky (O) 27.59, L. Reynolds (O) 24.83, R. Williams (O-guest) 23.59, C. McKay (C) 22.81
<b>Javelin</b>	J. Macfarlane (O) 48.49, L. Reynolds (O) 39.59, F. Hesse (C) 35.94, M. Collins (C) 31.20

## Result OUAC Freshman 96, CUAC Freshmen 90

## Women

<b>100m</b>	S. Lane (O) 13.6, Y. Abuin (C-guest) 15.0, A. Macaleenan (O) 15.2, L. Watson (C) 15.3
<b>200m</b>	A. Cooke (C) 27.9, K. Streatfield (C) 28.4, K. Perkins (O) 29.0, S. Lane (O) 32.2
<b>400m</b>	A. Cooke (C) 61.3, N. Coleman (O) 62.8, S. Watts (O) 66.1, P. Dudley (C) 74.4
<b>800m</b>	N. Coleman (O) 2:24.2, C. Willer (C) 2:30.7, B. Kreling (C) 2:31.0, G. Scott (O) 3:13.6
<b>1500m</b>	H. Dean (O) 5:01.2, C. Willer (C) 5:15.2, G. Sim (C) 5:28.6, R. Ward (O) 6:33.9
<b>3000m</b>	H. Dean (O) 10:36.4, K. Ellison (C) 10:56.9, E. Crowley (O) 11:12.0, E. Pooley (C) 11:28.6
<b>100mh</b>	S. Watts (O) 19.7, A. Russell (C) 21.2, L. Watson (C) 21.9, H. Barnes (O) 23.1
<b>400mh</b>	S. Watts (O) 70.6, A. MacKay (C) 80.7, A. Russell (C) 82.8, A. Macaleenan (O) 92.2
<b>4x100m</b>	Cambridge (Streatfield, Abuin, Watson, Cooke 54.3, Oxford (Perkins, Macaleenan, Barnes, Duthwaite) 57.2
<b>4x400m</b>	Cambridge (Streatfield 63.4, - 65.9, - 65.7, Cooke 61.9) 4:16.9, Oxford (- 66.1, - 60.8, - 70.9, - 67.1) 4:24.9
<b>High Jump</b>	C. Clarke (C) 1.45, S. Watts (O) 1.43, A. MacKay (C) 1.30, H. Barnes (O) 1.25
<b>Long Jump</b>	S. Lane (O) 5.17, K. Streatfield (C) 5.02, J. Bull (C) 4.50, H. Duthwaite (O) 4.31
<b>Triple Jump</b>	K. Streatfield (C) 11.37 ( <b>record</b> ), Y. Abuin (C-guest) 9.94, A. Macaleenan (O) 9.06, H. Barnes (O) 7.62
<b>Shot</b>	C. Kapande (O) 8.78, C. Inglis (O) 7.04, K. Digger (C) 6.24, J. James (C) 6.09
<b>Discus</b>	C. Kapande (O) 31.01, S. Stockdale (O-guest) 28.57, L. Herwood (O) 25.11, J. James (C) 17.52, P. Dudley (C) 16.25
<b>Javelin</b>	N. Horne (O) 27.06, A. Stone (O) 25.11, K. Digger (C) 24.24, J. James (C) 12.37

## Result OUAC Freshwomen 90, CUAC Freshwomen 76

*Note: No hammer events were held, due to the hammer circle being unusable, and the wish not to hold any events at a different site.*

CJRT  
13.11.2001

## SEVENTY YEARS ON....

### *Tony Leach recalls world record holder and 1936 Olympic Gold Medallist Jack Lovelock:*

‘We were a very friendly lot – Jerry Cornes, Jack, JC Mahoney, Michael Albery and I used to trot round the Iffley Road track chatting as we warmed up. Jerry would lead us all singing ditties: he was very outgoing cheerful chap and a great influence on us all.

‘Jack was a very agreeable companion, but reserved. He spoke very little about his New Zealand background, nor about his life in Oxford off the track. Although I knew he did a lot of boxing, swimming and squash he never really spoke about those activities, nor about his work and any social life, but in the context of athletics he often said how important it was to develop the shoulders as well as the legs.

‘Right from our first session on the track Jack seemed single-minded in his aim to be a great miler. He was clearly inspired by Jerry Cornes, and Bill Thomas [the renowned coach] at once recognised his potential and gave him every encouragement. I sensed quite soon that they were planning great things. I think that the AAA v OUAC match in June 1932 was specially set up to give Jack a chance to run a fast mile. He certainly plotted that with me and Michael



Albery and I knew that he wanted me to pace him for a really fast 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. During the race he urged me on 'Faster! Faster!', and I felt that he was running well within his limits and was really going for it when I dropped out.

'In his dark suit and bowler hat, Bill Thomas was always there encouraging and giving us training programmes. Although he had to look after those in other events we understood that he had been a fine miler in his youth and we felt that it was the event he really cared about. Jack clearly took to him from the start and I certainly got the feeling that they developed a special relationship. Bill didn't say much but one knew when he was pleased or disappointed with one's

performance: it is odd these days to remember the respectful approach to us 'young gentlemen', addressing us invariably as 'Sir'. In return we all like and trusted him. We didn't know his age, but I have a vague idea he celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with his usual jog of 5 miles round the track.

'Jack was very much a loner and didn't really say much about his plans and methods, but I learnt that he greatly admired Nurmi, and like him he ran with a stopwatch in his hand.

'Though engrossed in himself he was generous minded to fellow athletes. I got great encouragement from him, and although he never admitted it I'm sure that he slowed down deliberately at the end of the 1934 Oxford v Cambridge Varsity Sports mile so that I could catch him and dead heat at the finish: being equal first I was awarded a Full Blue instead of the Half Blue I would otherwise have had.'



*Lovelock (in the black of New Zealand), on his way to Olympic 1500m victory in 1936: Jerry Cornes (296), silver medallist in 1932, finished 6<sup>th</sup>.*



## FIFTY YEARS ON....

# 1951

general was highly successful for the Achilles Club, even though the threat of the First Claim membership was at hand, for even the OUAC Secretary, the writer of this article, was himself a South London Harrier.

Beginning with the Varsity Match itself [*see appendix for full results*], although the margin of victory (19 pts) seems large today, the horrible weather, combining as it did both cold, sleet and foggy conditions, somehow disguised this margin. The large and vocal crowd witnessed a whole succession of extremely close races, while the Field Events were equally closely fought. The two highlights on the track were the victory of Nick Stacey in the 220 yards in the record time (22.1 secs) and Philip Morgan's win in the 3 Miles also in record time (14.25.4 secs), both for Oxford, and perhaps a triumph for officialdom, since the two men were President and Secretary respectively. This was the year before the Olympic Games and these results raised the hopes of many participants. Who could have possibly guessed that a future Olympic Gold Medallist was only second in the 3 Miles!

The School Tour, though small in numbers, was again a happy and useful occasion during which long lasting friendships were made and still continue to this day. In the Sward Trophy at Chiswick, largely a Field Events meeting, Achilles did well to finish 2nd in an event with very curious methods of scoring, Henry Leader and Peter Hildreth winning their events. However, in the Kinnaid Trophy, intelligent selection by the Team Manager, Norris McWhirter, brought the reward of success, enlivened by an exciting race between Roger Bannister and Gordon Pirie in the Mile, the former winning by half a second. The Ryder Trophy, also with a very eccentric scoring system, brought further success in Southampton and saw the McWhirter twins triumph in the short sprints, with Rod Salmon, Paul Vine, Ossie Burger and Philip Morgan also recording satisfying wins.

In the AAA Championships, Roger Bannister set a new Mile Record in 4:7.8 secs, while Chris Chataway, Peter Hildreth and Angus Scott were all runners up in their events. Several other Achilles athletes played their part in keeping the Club in the forefront of athletic excellence. Two more results successfully rounded off the season when Achilles won the London Athletic Club Relays at the White City by a narrow margin from the Polytechnic Harriers in



July, perhaps the triumph of the hurdlers being the most satisfactory with the team of David Dixon, Hugh Lambert, Paul Vine and Ray Barkway putting on a most convincing performance. Four days later, the Club went to Birmingham for the Waddilove Trophy and again beat Polytechnic Harriers, the Holders, this time by only one point, Tony Hignell shining in the Javelin.

Oxford and Cambridge defeated Harvard and Yale by 9 events to 4 at the White City in June, being given a fine start when Robin Pinnington (see photo) won the 100m in 9.9 secs. In the two Hurdles events, Peter Hildreth continued the good work, supported by Nic Stacey, Chris Chataway, Philip Morgan and Ian Walker, all of whom won their events with some ease.

No less than 19 members of Achilles represented British Universities in the International Student Games in Luxembourg. Robin Pinnington won the 200 m and Ossie Burger the Pole Vault but perhaps the most spectacular result was in the 5000m when Chris Brasher, Philip Morgan and John Bryant in that order took all the medals. Silver Medals also were achieved by Robin Pinnington (100m), Chris Brasher (1500m)

Last year's Report on 1950 aroused much interest and comment. It was indeed a memorable season. The then 'Sporting Chronicle and Athletic News' of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1950 reported in detail on the Oxford-Cambridge v Princeton-Cornell match at the White City under the banner headline

### PINNINGTON EQUALS RECORD

#### *Miler Bannister Has Form of World Beater*

Incidentally, the starter at that meeting was the celebrated Harry Grindall, doyen of the trade in his day, so the jocular suggestion in last year's Report that Robin Pinnington might have got a flyer was misplaced and out of order. Robin in 1950-51 had other 9.9s times and even a wind-assisted 9.7: we hope no-one took the comment seriously. He has reminded us that the 200m at the Athens Olympic Stadium of 1896 consists of 100m straight followed by a 180° turn in the space of 15m and then another straight of 85m: quite a test for a chap with what looked like terminal 'flu – but he won!

- RTSM



and Paul Vine (110m Hurdles) while Alan Dick and Edward Robinson ran exceptionally fast legs in the 400m and the 800m relays.

The evening matches around the London area will not be forgotten by those who took part, many meeting unusual tactics of a physical kind on the track for the first time. Ian Borland, who inveigled members into competing with a mixture of bonhomie and cunning, was a tower of strength on these occasions and the Master of Ceremonies for all activities, Sandy Duncan, made sure that even in adversity, a rare commodity for Achilles athletes, he continued to take snuff as if to show that no disaster could move him. He possessed the gift of persuasion and in a kind and generous way managed to convince the writer that it was his task to write a booklet outlining the duties of the OUAC Secretary, a copy of which is still extant somewhere.

**-Philip Morgan**



**Peter Hildreth (above in full flight) invokes the 50-year rule to explain a long-hidden mystery:**

"Though there must still be a few Light Blues who remember the appalling handicap under which they were forced to compete on that foggy day March day at White City, they have of course never talked about it. Only now do I feel it is my duty to posterity to divulge the real reason for the otherwise inexplicable result of the 1951 Inter-Varsity match.

"Calculating that all that his team required to brace them up and bring them to London in unbeatable form was a breath of seaside air, Cambridge President C.W. Brasher had arranged for a coach trip to Eastbourne for a relaxing weekend.

**Yawning**

"Having stopped in Surrey on the way, we had not long been on the road after lunch when one unhappy athlete, who did not travel well, suffered a sudden emergency. There was no time to stop the coach so acting as he believed in the best interests of the team he opened a window and leaned well out, relieving himself of what was not at all a bad pub lunch. Unfortunately the emergency did not end there. Further back in the coach other windows were open. In the rearmost seats highly-trained Cambridge athletes sat relaxing.....yawning.

"I spare readers explicit details of what ensued but they will understand that as a consequence of this mishap there was an outbreak of food poisoning in the Cambridge team, giving rise to calamitous loss of form. Despite this they turned out, uncomplaining, to face an Oxford side who probably never dreamed how fate played-into their hands, delivering an overwhelming victory which included almost all the track events".

(I was **not** sitting at the back of the coach - PH).



### Extracts from the Christmas 2001 note from Gwyn Bevan to his CUAC contemporaries of 1951

*"This is to wish you well and to tell you about our reunion at last spring's Varsity Match at Cambridge. Contacting the team was great fun and I managed it for all those extant except 3. It was very encouraging to find that our survival rate was 23 out of 28 (assuming that the 3 missing were irretrievably so). I've just finished a similar exercise for the 1951 Rugby Team and find that only 8 of us survive.*

*"...Remarkably, four of us were able to wear our Achilles reefer blazers (watch out Weight Watchers!) and this was by buttoning them in the double- not single-breasted configuration. Chris [Brasher], who of course has done rather well, had a new suit and a rather distinctive hat which quite correctly he did not wear at the table; I forgot to look at his boots. You can imagine that although we were few in numbers we were not short of conversational topics having two accomplished professional erstwhile sports journalists with us. I write the word 'erstwhile' because I think that it is such an attractive one, generally to do with distinguished people. I'm sure that both Chris and Peter [Hildreth – see above] still make literary contributions. Chris has not unreasonably gone in for delegation, not of writing but of running: he now owns racehorses. They are not steeple chasers however which shows his consideration for animals in not inflicting on them what he was willing to undergo himself; how very British. Peter is staunch in his views of drug abuse and it is clear that his outspoken stance on the subject has done much to reveal what had been previously swept under the carpet. (One of my Cambridge surgeon friends is President of the World Transplant Olympics and he humorously declares that with these athletes they have no difficulties over drugs... they are all on them!)*

*"... The new track at Wilberforce Road is beyond the wildest dreams of our generation; and that's just the track, they've got girls there too, running, but then when 'up' in the 1950's that's what I found all the girls seemed to do, but not at Fenners!... Further building plans are envisaged to improve the spectator viewing at Wilberforce Road; already the tearoom is very good but there is no good track viewing facility....*

*"Who won? As the afternoon went on I got the feeling that the opposition were moving ahead and in rather a cowardly fashion I left before the match result was declared. Coming second can be an encouraging result, as several of the team hinted in their letters to me. I assure you that we did no worse than that. Terry Clark's letter made me laugh both because of the comment itself and its wider appropriateness. He declared 'I have never felt fitter – which probably explains why I was running like a 70 year old in 1951!'*

*"...You may imagine that being in touch with so many of the team has brought me much pleasure and entertainment. It has brought me some sadness too. I'd been very pleased to catch up with Simon Brooks after last seeing him at a wonderful party he gave in Newcastle in the early 1950's. Following a long telephone conversation with him in which he sounded extremely well and full of interesting views, I'd planned to visit him, Father Cyril, at his church not too far from me near Preston. Sadly Peter H. rang me not long ago to say that Simon had suddenly died [see obituaries, above].*

*"...The three names for which I cannot find addresses are Michael Jackson, Ivor Jones and John Oliver: any thoughts? Some people seem to go to great lengths to safeguard their privacy. Ivor Jones was remembered at his school but the school had burnt down and records were lost! An address for John Oliver was a pub in Westmoreland which was subsequently flooded in a reservoir scheme. I'm not altogether convinced that providing water for people instead of beer can be considered as progress but then that's the rugby coming out in me again..."*

An enquiry from **Derek Fathers** into the composition of the mile race in the 1949 Varsity Sports, in which he 'came an inglorious 4<sup>th</sup>' behind **Roger Bannister**, has highlighted the fact that the Club does not hold copies of Varsity Match programmes prior to 1957 (since when a complete set has been maintained). **Copies of pre-1957 Varsity Sports programmes would be greatly appreciated by the Club's archivist** (as would any other items of memorabilia - even including old Achilles kit, blazers etc).

Meanwhile can anyone else clarify if **Peter Avery** or **PB Lumb** (who appeared in the results) was 3<sup>rd</sup> Oxford runner that year?

**Gwyn is hoping to arrange a further reunion at the 2002 Varsity Match**



*Where are they now? The CUAC team of 1951 included 2 men of the cloth, a professor, 2 Ph.D.'s, a Doctor of Medicine, a Chairman of the Stock Exchange, a Knight, a Peer, and (not in shot) an Olympic Gold Medallist and a thrice Olympian (the latter two presumably training)*

## MISCELLANY

### FURTHER REMINISCENCES FROM MEMBERS' CORRESPONDENCE WITH PETER CRAWSHAW, THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

**Philip Morgan** recently revisited Helsinki during a Baltic cruise. He recalls "I was ADC to **Sandy Duncan** at the Olympic Games but the city has hardly changed and I went into the cathedral there, where the Duke of Edinburgh read

### THE ACHILLES TRUST

The Achilles Trust was established some years ago; its aim is to assist with the **expenses of the student members of the Achilles Club** in their athletic endeavours. In recent years the help has been mainly targeted towards the Oxford-Cambridge-Ivy League Series, particularly to relieve the high costs of accommodating the American Universities' teams in Britain, and the travel expenses of the Oxford and Cambridge students when they fly to the USA. Thus £6,315 was used to help the USA trip in April 2001.

To this end, the Trust holds investments (sadly somewhat reduced in value during the last twelve months) and its annual income comes from dividends on these and from the gift aid (formerly covenanted) donations from generous Achilles members and others. We are very grateful to these, particularly to **Derek Grayson, Elizabeth Hobson, David Lloyd, Bryony Lovett, James Macnair, Anthony Moger, Prof Anthony Moore, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Sir James Scott and Marion Stevenson**, who made new contributions during 2001, as well as to those **several longer established donors**, who have been giving annually.

*As Clerk to the Trust, I will be happy to provide any new potential donors with all necessary information. Please contact me at St Catharine's College, Cambridge CB2 1RL (phone 01953-210566 or email [cjrt@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cjrt@cam.ac.uk)).*

**Christopher Thorne**



a lesson and I read the second lesson. The Olympic Games were quite religious in those days but not very ecumenical. Sandy is a Roman Catholic and so reckoned that he could not take part in this Service."

Philip goes on to allude to his own participation in the 1949 US series: "I also ran in 1951 and only did not do so in 1950 because of injury or I might have defeated young Brasher again!"

Various others (including **Roger Bannister**) sent their best wishes for the New York dinner.

**John Holt** recalls that recently "**John Boulter** and I were going through the OUAC/Achilles album of photos, and picking out his break through at Harvard, where he ran 4:6 or 7 smashing his PB to win the mile. I ran with **Herb Elliott** in the 800m in

that match, and he was a true gent, courteous to all and obliging to all spectators (he had just won the Olympic 1500). **Allan Malcolm** kept us all in check and I flew back to do exams (Dip. Ed.) before the rest went on a Canadian tour."

**Allan Malcolm** was also particularly mentioned in a similar email from **David Harrison**: "he was a wonderful coach and is a dear friend".

As regards the Centipedes/Alverstone records/results, **Bill Cummings** (W.A. Cummings of Christ Church, now Dean of Battle) seems to confirm that it is he who ran 9.29.4 for the 2 miles: "My records show that in July 1960 I ran the 2 miles at some other venue in 9.17.9, and so was clearly running at that kind of pace during that summer. It was in fact the best year of my running career, for in the December of 1960 I ran in the Varsity Cross-Country match, and the following May I ran in the 3 miles in the Blues' match against Cambridge at the White City. I was definitely running for the Centipedes in 1960." He concludes that "9.29.4 doesn't seem a very distinguished time - 4.45 per mile - but it fits the profile of my performances at that time." He cannot remember the location of the match. "I am confident however that it must have been at Iffley Road, in spite of having been held at Iffley Road in the previous and successive years, because I have a clear recollection of remarking to myself with surprise that I never ran at Cambridge, either at Fenners or at Milton Road. Could it be that 1960 was the year when Cambridge had vacated Fenners but had not yet taken occupation of Milton Road?" Perhaps some CUAC person can confirm or deny this?

Peter also tried Bill on the identity of the unnamed athlete who ran 10.0 for 100y in 1959: he can't remember, but says that the name **Douglas Hahn** haunts his memory. Maybe others can comment.

**Michael Powell** (Lincoln 1963-66) writes (on being asked if he is the Powell who ran 10.0 in 1965): "I certainly ran in 1965, and was kept out of the Blues team by Archer and Metcalfe. To be honest I cannot remember my time in 1965 but was running 9.9 or 10.0 in 1964 and 1965, so could well have posted that time. I was so disappointed not to make the Blues team that I ran in the relays and Centipedes teams on and off for a couple of years, before gaining a water polo half blue in 65 and 66. I may well have been the Powell in question, although I know there was a **Barney Powell** who ran from time to time in the same era." (Peter asked **John Bryant** if he could remember anything of that event, and his immediate reaction was to mention Barney Powell. We don't have an address for Barney, but Peter just about remembers him being in the Achilles British League team in the early '70s).

**Neil Bliss** confirms he won the Alverstone/Centipedes 440 yds in 1956 in a time of 49.6 secs at Fenners and recalls that second was Michael Orrell-Jones, already a full blue. Like **Sidney Miller**, who equaled the time in 1963, he is surprised to hear that he set a match record, let alone that it still stands! Sidney writes "I do remember my best time - don't we all? It was representing Eastern Counties in summer 1961 before I went to Cambridge. I was 18 and managed 49.2 for the 440 yards - it was recorded as the second best by an under 19 in Athletics Weekly - that I shall always remember!" Sidney went on to teach at Eton, and was part of the training group which fired the Hon Sec's enthusiasm for the sport, without which you would not be reading this Report! He continues "I remember racing **David Hemery** on the Eton



*The above appeared prominently in The Times recently, illustrating an article containing a gratuitous reference to medicine balls: do any former OUAC members recognise their younger selves?*



track [in 1970] - even with a heavy handicap he beat us all! I much enjoyed meeting him - he was unassuming and a most encouraging teacher- just what we needed from Achilles!"

**Chris English** is now based in Geneva, working for the UN, and has recently done an intensive course learning Chinese in Beijing. His involvement in athletics at home in Zimbabwe, where he was once national coach for PV and HJ, diminished as the sport became increasingly politicised, and now he is worried that he and his family may not be able to return there.

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS ON...

### CRYSTAL PALACE. WET, WINDY, COLD – CUAC WIN.

Beware the call of the Club secretary for vivid recollections of events 25 years ago! I cannot even remember the Dinner (Hurlingham Club, probably a draw) or my own glorious contribution to either, so this could be difficult....

According to the record CUAC swept home in the Men's Blues Match by 113 – 94 points. The Women's match (OUAC ? points – CUAC ? points – PW please fill in the gaps) appears to have been an extended multi-event exercise between Gill Smith and Sarah Bull for CUAC and Gill Suttle and Rona Slator for OUAC, obviously desperate measures to avoid freezing in SE London in early May.

CUAC won because they apart from the 5000m and not being very fashionable in was more even with OUAC taking 5 of the 8 throws/jumps.

# 1976

took every individual track event Steeplechase – distance running Cambridge at the time. The Field

CUAC's star man on the day was Gordon Wood who triumphed in both sprints and the 400m Hurdles. 'Nellie' (ask him, it's just too embarrassing) had also caned the opposition in 1975 and, therefore, deserved the award of the Drake Digby Trophy by his own admission. The big event of the day was the 400m where CUAC's international, Brian Jones battled to a narrow win over Axel Salander, who would go on to represent West Germany in 400m Hurdles and who took the Long Jump as his warm-up for the big one.

The middle distance events were won by former England Schools three time winner Martin Wilson and former OUAC 1500m star Charlie Monk (well, 1400m jog and an impressive last 100m generally). I won both the short hurdles but no detail stirs my memory. The OUAC track victors – Warwick

Warwick Ewers (5000m) and President Andy Etchells (3000m S/C) – both defied the weather to produce strong times in bad conditions (it was probably quite a nice day if you were a cross-country runner).

The field events were enlivened by OUAC's Pete Edwards besting CUAC's ultra-cool Harvard import Blayne Heckel in the Pole Vault with a pb of 4.20m, Blayne clearly not being too keen on the equivalent of vaulting through the Niagara Falls. Other hardy souls to produce wins of note were Adrian Brown (HJ) and John Slaney (TJ). OUAC's javelin winning President-to-be John Crosse now appears often on the TV in his guise as Assistant Chief Constable for Humberside [see below. And fourth in the shot was John Goodbody, voted Sports Reporter of the Year in 2001 – see page 7 – Ed.]

### Intense competition

This was the last Varsity Match to be held in London with Iffley Road's all weather surface opening in 1977 (thankfully the Hon Sec has not asked for that one yet) and so probably marked the point where Oxbridge athletics took a more realistic view of its place in the sport's calendar. This point was reinforced by the introduction the following year of synthetic stormproof shorts with rounded edges to replace the square cut pure cotton ones so favoured by Lord Burghley et al. between the wars. That said, I joined (Newham &) Essex Beagles in 1978 and in my subsequent unbroken association with them the British League rarely gets close to the intensity of those wet days early in May.

- **Tony Shiret**

(CUAC President 1977: for **Julian Ellis**, President in 1976, a 'Gone Away')



The Varsity Match in 1976 was a key moment in my athletics life. I had gone up to Magdalen in 1975, and quickly recognised that I could win the Javelin in the Varsity Match with some work. I became involved in the training and early season competitions, encouraged and coaxed by the likes of Captain Mack! After a setback in the Hilary Term when I decided to change from PPE to PPP (which the College graciously permitted me to do), the build up to the Match was an element of continuity. I don't remember the detail of the match, except the scores being close when the Javelin began in the late afternoon. The Javelin competition itself was fairly unremarkable, but I do recall the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> we got being of some use in the final score! I was also delighted, of course, to have won. I am sure that it was during that afternoon, with the sights, the sounds and the feelings of the event, that I decided to give more time than ever to the sport over the coming two years. It was through this, and the ups and downs of training, competition and teambuilding that I became Secretary and then President of OUAC in the next two seasons. It was also through this that I learnt valuable lessons for transfer to my next two careers [RAF and Police Force – ed.] Precise memories fade, the feelings remain.

—John Crosse



John Crosse

## FIVE YEARS ON...

### THE ALL ENGLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1996

Oxford and Cambridge athletes enjoy the competition and rivalry that university athletics provides. Do they appreciate that some of these rivalries may go back to schools competition? A look at All-England Schools' Championships from five years ago (Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield: 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1996) reveals some up and coming names which have since surfaced at university level. The following performances are of note:

	<u>Event</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Nick Talbot	Senior Boys' 2000mS/C	7 <sup>th</sup> , Final	6.11.14
Steve Melber	Senior Boys' Javelin	6 <sup>th</sup> , Final	55.54m
Chris Snook	Senior Boys' Hammer	14 <sup>th</sup> , Final	44.88m
Finlay Wright	Inter. Boys' 100m hurdles	5 <sup>th</sup> , Heat	14.03
Richard Gawthorpe	Inter. Boys' Long Jump	8 <sup>th</sup> , Final	6.49m
Jonathan Crawshaw	Junior Boys' 80m hurdles	2 <sup>nd</sup> , Final	11.47
Will Senbanjo	Junior Boys' Triple Jump	4 <sup>th</sup> , Final	13.05m
Adrian Hemery	Junior Boys' Hammer	5 <sup>th</sup> , Final	46.90m
Ellen O'Hare	Senior Girls' 1500m	1 <sup>st</sup> , Final	4.32.44
Emma Brooker	Senior Girls' 3000m	3 <sup>rd</sup> , Final	10.02.53
Rebecca Lewis	Senior Girls Long Jump	1 <sup>st</sup> , Final	6.03m
Tommie Kemp	Inter. Girls' 1500m	2 <sup>nd</sup> , Final	4.38.64
Rosie Curling	Inter. Girls' Long Jump	20 <sup>th</sup> , Final	5.03m
Harriet Dean	Junior Girls' 1500m	7 <sup>th</sup> , Final	4.45.74
Jennifer Duff	Junior Girls' Discus	5 <sup>th</sup> , Final	30.16m

If anyone has been missed off the above list, please let us know. If this is felt to be of interest, we will try to make this an annual article (continuing next year with the 1997 Championships, again at Sheffield).

## TRINITY GREAT COURT RUN: THE FACTS

*Chris Thorne wrote this article for the NUTS Journal 'Trackstats' in 1989, partly because, as one who twice succeeded in a Great Court Run during the late 1950s [clothed – allegedly. Ed] he was offended by the hype associated with the 1988 Coe/Cram attempt. Since he wrote the article, Great Court Run attempts have become a regular, although somewhat clandestine, fixture within the CUAC calendar, and there are undoubtedly several Achilles members who have succeeded. If they make themselves known to the Hon. Sec. perhaps a Roll of Honour will emerge....*

The release of the film "Chariots of Fire" in 1981 brought to the attention of a wider public a hitherto little publicised endeavour, namely attempting to run round the perimeter of the Great Court of Trinity College, Cambridge within the time taken for the College clock to strike twelve. The cinematic treatment was, of course, not entirely factual and further inaccuracies were published on the occasion of the most hyped, only televised, but nevertheless ultimately unsuccessful, attempt by Messrs Coe and Cram (on 29 October 1988). Some notes, as accurate as I can make them, on this peculiar event might be of interest.

### The distance

Trinity Great Court contains six rectangular plots of grass, edged with raised cobbles, or in places by kerbing. These plots together form a larger rectangle, and it is around the outside of the combined rectangle that a Great Court runner must proceed. The distance around this rectangle, measured hard up against the edging, is 298 meters, but of course no runner could keep so close; furthermore the ground surface immediately outside the edging is cobbled, and not easy on the feet. About 5 meters out from the edge (although this distance is not maintained exactly all the way around) is a flagstone path. The distance around this path, measured at the inside edge of the flagstones, is 341.6 meters. It is difficult (as Coe and Cram discovered) to keep to the flagstones, because of the four right-angled



corners. A compromise route involves keeping to the flagstones for most of the four straights, but cutting inside, on the cobbles but outside the grass, at the corners. This route measures a minimum of 320 meters.

#### The time

Trinity College's clock bells mark twelve by ringing a "preamble" of 8 short notes (taking about 9 seconds) and then striking 12 at one pitch (about 15 seconds), followed by another 12 more slowly and at a higher pitch (about 20 seconds). The overall time taken by the bell, from the first note of the preamble to the initial sound of the thirty-second and final stroke, is currently 42.5 to 44.5 seconds. Qualifications concerning the time taken by the bell are important, because it has to be understood that the clock's mechanism is variable and not altogether predictable. The present clock was installed in 1910, by a bequest from the first Lord Grimthorpe, and incorporates features of his own design. It was intended then to set it to take 47 seconds to mark 12 o'clock, which was the normal time of the clock it replaced, but in fact it began its life taking nearer 49 seconds to do so. Timings between the two World Wars are not known, but indirect reports suggest that the earlier "long" times changed, after a repair, to shorter ones, closer to those of the present day. The 1927 striking time was, judging from Lord Burghley's finishing time, about 44.5 seconds. Roberts, however, writing at about the same time, said that the clock took 43 seconds. Accurate measurements in June 1982 gave 44.6 to 45.2 seconds, and in January 1984 44.8 to 46.5 seconds. After a renovation in 1986 some much faster times were noted (as short as 42.5 seconds), and a little later the clock stopped and required repair. In summer 1988 the timings were 43 to 45 seconds, still variable and unpredictable; in summer 1989 the range was 42.5 to 44.5 seconds. A factor in the time variations has recently been shown by the present Master, Sir Andrew Huxley, to be the state of winding of the clock, the time being shorter when the clock is fully wound. Temperature and humidity may also have an effect.

#### The strategy

There are three important considerations in any attempt at the Great Court run: what route to take, where to begin (and obviously therefore to end) and whether to run at midday or at midnight.

(i) On the matter of route, it may be supposed that the "gentlemanly" choice would be to keep to the flagstones, but I believe that all those who have ever succeeded in the attempt have cut the corners to a greater or lesser extent. A high speed "corner cutting" run will usually cover more than the minimum 320 meters, because of centrifugally veering wide on the straights.

(ii) The most favourable position to start is at a corner, because then only three further corners have to be negotiated before a runner returns to his starting location (on some runs this was marked by a coin left on the ground). But Burghley's run began at the Hall steps, two thirds of the way along the western straight, making his effort appreciably more difficult. Coe and Cram made things even worse by starting in the middle of the shorter northern straight, in front of the Chapel.

(iii) A decision on whether to run at midday or midnight may depend on external considerations. Television required midday in 1988; College gate hours probably demanded midday for David Burghley in 1927 because, as a Magdalene man, he could not legally have been in Trinity at midnight (incidentally, at this point it may be noted that Harold Abrahams was an undergraduate at Gonville and Caius College from 1919 to 1923 and was therefore not a contemporary of Burghley, who was up from 1923 to 1927. Abrahams never essayed a Great Court run).

The attempts, successful or unsuccessful, by Trinity undergraduates have been almost always at midnight, often following a formal dinner, for example the Commemoration Dinner in March, and therefore frequently in (partial) evening dress. In the 1950s the run was usually anticlockwise, starting in the south-west corner, near Bishops Hostel (as far away from the Great Gate, and from interference by the Porters, as possible). More recently, and since the liberalisation of College gate hours, midnight after-dinner attempts have continued, including mass efforts after Freshmen's dinners and other premeditated or unpremeditated assaults by groups including non-Trinity men. Midday attempts would normally be very difficult because of the tourists, and would also be thought rather presumptuous.

#### The results

Prior to 1910 any runs against the clock may have been something of a lottery. The pre-Grimthorpe clock was installed by Richard Bentley during his Mastership (1700-42), and towards the end of its life was taking about 47 seconds to mark twelve. But it is reported to have varied in its striking time from 37 to 52 seconds, so some successes must surely have occurred. A letter writer to the Times (9 September 1938) recalled that "those of us who periodically foregathered at the (Trinity) Annual Gathering dinners in June will well remember how that fine athlete, the late Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, often used to run round the Great Court while the clock was striking (twice over) the midnight hour on those occasions - no mean feat". Alfred Lyttelton gained five Blues at Cambridge (but his only athletics one was for throwing the hammer) in 1874-78, played cricket for England in the 1880s and became Secretary of State for the Colonies - his exploits around the Great Court are thus likely to have been near the end of the nineteenth century. At much the same time Walter Morley Fletcher (Trinity 1891-95, High Hurdles Blue 1895 and later Sir W.M. Fletcher F.R.S.) also succeeded in performing the Great Court run but "allowed himself to cut corners on the cobbles and did not restrict himself to the flagged path".

It was the Master of Trinity, J.J. Thomson, who probably gave Lord Burghley the idea for his attempt, by remarking to him at the beginning of June 1927 that "it had been an exploit to run round the court, without leaving the flagstones to cut off the corners, at twelve o'clock; but that repairs had been made to the clock, speeding up the striking, and he doubted if it were still possible" (Cambridge News, 21 April 1981). S.C. Roberts' book, "The Charm of Cambridge" was published in 1927, and the author says there that Trinity Great Court "is associated with certain traditional tests of athletic capacity. One of these, only rarely accomplished, is to run round the court (outside the grass plots) while the clock strikes midnight. It is true that the striking is an elaborate process, involving 32 strokes and occupying 43 seconds, but the distance is about 380 yards (i.e. 347 meters), and the track is a cobbled one with sharp corners". It seems unlikely that Roberts, when he wrote, could have known of Burghley's run, so his remarks, together with those of Thomson (who almost certainly knew of Fletcher's exploit), show that successful runs prior to 1927 had been made and were recollected.

Lord Burghley's own run, authenticated by a number of reputable witnesses, was at midday on 7 June 1927. His time was 42.5 seconds, and his diary reports that he had just over a stroke to spare (so the clock took about 44.5 seconds). He ran in shorts, began



#### Advertisement spied on the internet:

*"We are offering for sale a good quality sterling silver goblet, which was presented by the O.U.A.C. SPORTS (Oxford University Athletic Club).*

*"It measures 6.9" high, has a diameter at the top of 3.3", and the circular base measures 2.9" diameter.*

*"The inscription reads: 'O.U.A.C.SPORTS 1894 100YDS HANDICAP HR SYKES 2<sup>ND</sup>'. The Coat of Arms in the centre of the inscription is a blue (represented by horizontal shading) shield, an open book with the words 'DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA', with two crowns above and one below. The hallmarks are for London 1882, by the maker JW, and include the Queen Victoria head duty mark. The marks are all in good order. Presumably the goblet had been kept for some years before being presented."*



at the foot of the Hall steps, and ran on the flagstones. He recalled later that "sticking to the slabs was very difficult. You had to just about stop at the corners and start again" (Sunday Times, 23 October 1988). There is a suggestion that he may have "hurdled each of them, slightly cutting each corner" (Athletics Weekly, 4 November 1988 and comments from one of the witnesses). Burghley himself believed that his run was not the first, but that he had been preceded by someone many years earlier (presumably this was Fletcher). Lionel Elvin, who won the Varsity match 880y in March 1927 and was a contemporary of Burghley's on the CUAC committee, tells me that the 1927 run became reasonably well known at the time, and was briefly written up in the "motley notes" column of "The Granta" of 10 June 1927, but did not stimulate any particular attempts to repeat it.

Around 1950 (Cambridge News, 15 November 1988) midnight attempts at the run by Trinity men were not uncommon; but some of these were only aimed at touching all four sides of the Court within the clock's time, a rather lesser achievement. During the 1950s and 1960s several post-dinner corner-starting and corner-cutting runs are known to have succeeded, occasionally by margins as great as Lord Burghley's. And at least one midday run (on 21 March 1950 in 43 seconds by Gordon Jones - Sunday Times 6 November 1988) was also successful. In the 1970s and 1980s there were also successful runs, but the mass attempts in the post Chariots of Fire years have only produced failures, because of mutual interference amongst the runners. Light relief has often been provided by those who believe that extra conditions need to be imposed, such as the Harvard University Rugby team's nude attempt in March 1976.

Sebastian Coe's time on 29 October 1988 was reported by Norris McWhirter to have been 45.52 seconds, but it was actually 46.0 seconds (confirmed by the video tape), while Cram's was 46.3 seconds. The clock on that day took 44.4 seconds (i.e. a "long" time, probably two days after the last winding) and the video film confirms that Coe was some 12 meters short of his finish line when the fateful final stroke occurred. The television commentators were more than a little disingenuous in suggesting that the dying sounds of the bell could be included in the striking time, thereby allowing Coe's run to be claimed as successful. Trinity men know different.

#### **The ancillaries**

The Great Court run is not the only challenge offered by the largest court in an Oxbridge College. The "Caucus Race" involves circumnavigating all six of the grass plots individually and in all their rectangular combinations with other adjacent plots. The total distance covered is substantial, and it requires a mathematical brain to plan; it is mainly the province of the Archimedeans and may take much of an afternoon, with refreshments, although it has been accomplished in 14 minutes or less. And Whewall's Leap requires the ability to jump up the eight Hall steps in one bound - the distance is about 2.75 meters horizontally and 1.2 meters vertically. The Marquess of Exeter is also claimed to have been the first to succeed at this (although Roberts again knew of it) .....

*I am grateful to Mr. Henry Button for access to his great fund of knowledge of this and other matters, to Drs. Richard Glauert and Brian Mitchell for much pertinent information, and to the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, for the award of a Scholarship (1957).*

*Christopher Thorne*



## NEW MEMBERS

Name	College	University
Navid Childs	Churchill	Cambridge
Siobhan Dennehy	Pembroke	Cambridge
Jenny Duff	Keble	Oxford
Emilie Giles	Keble	Oxford
Jacqui Le Geyt	St John's	Cambridge
Steve Melber	St Anne's	Oxford
Ellen Migo	Sidney Sussex	Cambridge
Oli Mytton	Jesus	Cambridge
Daz Talbot	Darwin	Cambridge
Katy Taylor	Caius	Cambridge
Ailsa Wallace	Jesus	Oxford