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PRESIDENT REX CROSS

Hon. Treasurer:  
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Tel: Elmbridge 2425

Hon. Editor: A. J. Stirling-Wakeley, 26, Wyatt Park Rd., Streatham Hill, S. W. 2 (Tel: Tulse Hill 8043)

Dear Fellow Road Runner,

We hope that you will find this Newsletter both interesting and informative. Informative, because it is the sole medium whereby we can let you know what the club is doing and the lines along which we are working. Take for instance the report on the Council Proceedings. These are a digest of the minutes and will show you that much quiet work is being done behind the scenes, often by members who have commitments to their own clubs and to other bodies as well. Many of them are active athletes and hence must find time for their own training.

Your five bob subscription does not go far these days, and this Newsletter is the most economical way, both in money and in time, of letting you know what is happening. Take the letter to County and District Secretaries upon their appointment. This was originally intended as a personal letter but it was decided that by including it in this issue of the News Letter time and money would be saved. It will at the same time show our scattered Members what kind of organisation we are striving to build. Talking of support and contacts, believe me, our Hon. Secretary is very busy and is just the man to get things moving at a high level.

When you have read this issue, we feel sure that you will realise that much has been done since the formation of the Council three months ago.

We look forward to a bright future. Never before has there been such widespread support for our branch of Athletics, never before such a keen and enthusiastic band of experienced and well trained runners backed by energetic and hard working Officials.

We have to thank Arthur Whitehead and Arthur Penstone for producing this issue owing to the recent illness of our Hon. Editor, whom we are glad to see, is fit, training hard and trying to catch up with his many commitments.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON ROAD RACE,  
Saturday 26th September 1953.

We have heard that four South Africans, Hayward, Mekler, Goldie and Morrison, are making a special visit to this country to compete in this year's race. Hayward won the "Comrades" Marathon in 1930 and did not compete again until 1950 when he won it again. A year later he was successful in record time and finished tenth in the Helsinki Marathon. Although the 54 mile course is easier than it was in Newton's day, as the Road has been improved, it involves some 5000 feet of ascent and descent and is altogether harder than the Brighton road. Now, gentlemen, you know what you are up against so no slacking in your training.

Another very welcome visitor this summer will be Hardy Ballington who arrives on May 22nd and will stay with Arthur Newton at No. 9 to which enthusiasts come from all over the world.

We are delighted to hear that Lewis Piper is making good progress after his motor cycle accident. He was last seen tree climbing!

Would any Member who is prepared to put up a provincial competitor the night before the race or to act as Attendant to one of our visiting friends kindly write to the Hon. Secretary.

Members interested in forming a Sub-Committee for the sale of Programmes are invited to get in touch with H. A. Fry, 19, Gassiot Way, Sutton, Surrey, and Mr. Fry will also be glad to receive names of Members or their relatives who will assist in selling programmes on the day of the race.

OFFICERS

The following Officials were elected at a General Meeting of the Club: -

President:	R.E. Cross.	Hon. Secretary:	Ernest Neville.	Hon. Treasurer:	W.J.E. Mark.
Vice-Presidents:	J.E. Audsley,	J.C.G. Crump,	H.A. Fry,	S. Ferris,	G.L. Iden,
	J.C. Jewell,	S.F. Jones,	H.B. Lee,	L. Matthews,	F.W. Parker,
	T.C. Parrish,	L.E. Piper,	D.E. Reynolds,	T. Richards,	A.J. Stirling-Wakeley,
	A.P. Whitehead	and	T.W. Wood.		
Members of the Council:	J.C. Glass-Watson,		J. Pond-Jones.		

The first Council Meeting following the election of Officers was held at the Polytechnic, Regent Street on Friday the 16th of January, and the President, Mr Rex Cross being in the chair.

Amongst the many items discussed, you will be interested to learn of the appointment of the following in an effort to split up the work amongst members: -

J.C. Jewell: Hon. Secretary to the Council. To record the Minutes and notify Officials and Members of decisions taken.

A.P. Whitehead: Hon. Convener of Meetings.

A.J. Stirling-Wakeley: Hon. Editor of "The Road Runner".

J.E. Audsley: Hon. Press Secretary.

A.F.H. Newton: Hon. Coach.

H.B. Lee: Hon. Medical Officer.

You will now know who to contact for any particular need.

The type of organisation we are striving to build is evident from the appointment of the first District Secretaries made also at this Meeting. The complete list to date is given for convenience: -

Berkshire: L.H. Griffiths, 21 Rydal Road, Streatham, S.W.16.

Cheshire: A. Shepherd, 40 Old Road, Mottram in Longdendale, Cheshire.

Dorset: J.W.R. Hopkins, 69 Benbow Crescent, Wallisdown, Bournemouth.

Essex: A.E. Hefford, 75 Kimberley Road, Chingford, Essex.

Gloucestershire: P. W. Johnson, 40 Hill Grove, Henlease, Bristol.

Isle of Man: W.H. Kelly, 46 The Pant, Onchan, Isle of Man.

Isle of Wight: J.W. Tait,

Kent: D.E. Reynolds, 129 Shooters Hill, Woolwich, S.E.18.

Lancashire: G.A. Bourne, 32 Hatton Hill, Litherland, Liverpool 21.

Middlesex: J.K. Pond-Jones, 6 Clitherow Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Oxfordshire: R.G. Plummer, 240 Herschel Crescent, Littlemore, Oxford.

Surrey: A.P. Whitehead, Lauriston House, South Side, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

Sussex: F.W.A. Moulder, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.2.

Wales: T. Richards, 59 Dinsmore Road, Balham, S.W.12.

Warwickshire: H.A. Reid, 24 Cecily Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry.

Yorkshire: T.E. Weatherhead, 14 Westfield Road, Heaton, Bradford, 9.

We require further willing helpers to cover the whole country. After the appointment of County Secretaries, representatives for smaller areas or particular cities may be considered.

Further items such as Discussion Groups, Films and Social activities generally were fully discussed and Council Members were asked to think them over and to report back with their own ideas. Training venues were also mentioned but it was felt that this must be largely an individual affair, but that the circulation to members of a complete list of members might be useful.

Further Meetings of the Council were held on the 27th February and 27th March and matters of special interest discussed included the question of the Club Badge. Mr Pond-Jones has been most active about this and the design and colouring of the badge have been decided upon. We hope to have the badge available shortly so that members can sport it on big occasions this season. It will be a small triangular badge designed to be worn as an addition on any Club vest.

Ernest Neville mentioned the big efforts he is making to persuade a newspaper to sponsor this year's London-Brighton run. He also reported that there was very little support for a proposed 40 miles road race in mid August on a lap course.

Lee of Orion Harriers has kindly agreed to represent the Club on the recently formed Federation Nationale Medicine Sportive.

It was also reported that Edgar Lloyd has presented to the Club the Cup he won in 1913 for his 50 miles Track Record. This magnificent gift was gratefully accepted by the Council and it was decided that the Cup would be a perpetual Trophy for successive 50 mile track races organised by or approved by the Club. It is hoped that Mr Lloyd will himself present this trophy to Derek Reynolds at the Club Meeting on the 10th of May mentioned in this letter.

After the second Meeting, Council Members were shown an interesting short cine film of last year's London-Brighton run and the 50 miles track record race in which several Members featured.

The next Council meeting will be held on Friday the 24th April at 6.30 p.m. at the Southwark Tavern, 22 Southwark Street, Borough Market which is two minutes walk to the South of London Bridge.

Ernest Neville suggests that as the Club and its Members received great help and encouragement from Road Walkers during 1952, Members may wish to reciprocate by  
(i) acting as Time Recorders during the 24 Hours race especially at night or  
(ii) acting as Attendants, Mobile or Static, during the Birmingham-London Walk. Any offers to Ernest Neville please.

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"THE NEWTON HUNDRED"  
by George Herbert

At Hyde Park Corner on 6th January 1928, Arthur Newton met the Relay Team and A.A.A. Officials who were to assist him on his run of 100 miles. We sorted ourselves into cars and were driven Westwards taking the route that Newton would run the next day. It was dark when we came to the Bear Hotel at Box and the Innkeeper was ready for us. Straightway Newton and the team: M.J. Terrett of Highgate H., H.G. Wickington of Woodford Green A.C., R. Norton of Surrey A.C. and myself of Polytechnic H. went into dinner. That over Newton said: bed. As a team we were vague about our purpose in the run, whether to stay with Newton to pace him or to keep him company, but he was definite that we were to run our 100 miles regardless of him. It was decided that I ran the first 25 miles, Terrett second, Wickington third and Norton the fourth.

Newton ordered cold roast lamb for breakfast. The Innkeeper blinked, but said he would see. Then Newton asked for a bath at midnight. We went up and I was shown into the same room as Newton.

At that time I was 22, had run three marathons, and was worried whether I could do 25 miles in the middle of the cross country season. Rather awed, I asked the great man about training and patiently he gave me his daily runs and mileage's, which made my three days training a week, sound silly.

After what seemed a short sleep, the Innkeeper was coming in with a candle, hip bath and pails of hot water. I watched Newton take that bath then got myself up. For breakfast, on the table, was cold lamb.

The Officials had been up all night playing cards - would they feel tired later? Swiftly came that call "Five minutes to go!" Newton and I were hustled out and for 2 a.m. quite a crowd had gathered. We were photographed and wished "Good Luck!", and then Mr Abrahams started us and side by side Newton and I took the first stride.

I had the idea to keep just in front of Newton and went forward, but at once he passed me so I kept behind. Although lonely countryside, at ends of lanes and crossroads small groups of people were out to see Newton pass. It seemed no time when we reached 5 miles in 34m. 50s. Newton settled into a short quick stride. Joe Binks put his head out of a car window and gave a few words of encouragement to me. 10 miles in 67m. 40s. It grew very dark and very cold, and I wore only vest and shorts. Road runners did not possess tracksuits in those days.

Newton's times were 15 miles - 1h. 41m. 20 miles - 2h. 16m, and 25 miles - 2h. 53m. 18s.

I came along in 2h.54m. and Terrett went off at a cracking pace. I put on an overcoat and got in beside Mr. Abrahams who had a small Austin Mini. Having done my fastest run to that date I was satisfied.

Newton began to slow down and asked for hot tea, then it was found that the flask had not been filled and a car raced away to find some. At Newbury tea was waiting, and that revived Newton who picked up the pace and went ahead.

Mr Abrahams drove on to the 50 mile mark. Terrett finished in 3h.3m. so Wickington had a long start on Newton. Mr Abrahams Mr Jewell and I stopped for breakfast at an Inn. They were kindly impressed with my performance. We came out into a cold drizzle.

Newton's time for 50 miles was 6h. 41m. 13s. Through Reading he had a great reception. Just outside he had a really bad time, but he kept going. Here he was taking something like 180 strides per minute. Time for 60 miles was 8h. 7m. 13s.

At this point we left Newton to catch Wickington who finished the third 25 miles in 3h. 5m. The team were too far ahead of Newton so we followed Norton who did a comfortable 3h.1m.

At Hyde Park Corner a crowd was gathering and we waited getting rumours: Newton was suffering internally... at 90 miles his time was 12h. 35m... he was having difficulty getting through the crowds... a cyclist rode up saying he was coming through Hammersmith and we cheered and knew he would do it.

We heard cheering far-off and then word went round that he would finish outside because the Office of Works would not allow the Park route to be used. There was a stampede through the gates just as Newton came through Knightsbridge.

Followed closely by cars, cyclists, taxis and people running alongside, Newton arrived and finished. He had run 100 miles

He was taken to St. George's Hospital and the crowd surged up to the doors shouting, "We want Newton!" With a barricade of Police along the steps he came out, showed himself and spoke. In five minutes he had quite recovered.

Newton's time was 14h. 22m. 10s and the Team's time was 12h. 1m. 56s. and at the next meeting of the General Committee of the A.A.A. his run was accepted as a noteworthy performance.

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## OPEN LETTER TO PRESENT & POTENTIAL HON. DISTRICT & COUNTY SECRETARIES

Dear Road Running Enthusiast,

As a road running enthusiast you will be aware of how this Association came into existence and what we are trying to do. You will also realise that we are still in the stages of initial organisation, sounding our members for ideas as to how best to further the interests of all road runners and finding people to carry out these objects. Much has already been achieved.

Our sport is in such a flourishing state that what might appear to be our first aim i.e. the encouragement of long distance road running, is in itself scarcely of paramount importance.

There is already a heavy programme of fixtures and financially we cannot afford many promotions. It is not therefore our main object to promote races, except as and when there is a demand for them, for example special record attempts. Nevertheless there may be parts of the country in which long distance road running may be developed by new promotions.

We hope to gain the support of all the old and historic clubs responsible for promoting big races and we will in our turn do all we can to support them. Later we will may play a part in some scheme for correlating fixtures. In a nutshell, our aim is to bring together all those interested in long distance running and we are now working out how this is best achieved. As the Association grows new trends and objects will develop and we are always open to new ideas and will expect road runners wherever they may be to let us know what is wanted.

You will be able to act in these matters in the light of your own unique local contacts and experience.

Don't expect directives from London. You won't get them. You don't need them. The success of the venture in your own District will depend on your own initiative and enterprise. We must economise on time and money. Circulars cost money and we are all busy men, many active athletes with commitments to our own Clubs.

We consider the "Road Runner" an indispensable organ, through which you will be able to follow our activities and objects, and we in turn will expect to hear from you what is happening in your own area, for publication.

A summary of the Minutes of Council Meetings will appear in the "Road Runner".

A list of all members with their addresses will be circularised. This is a small service but it might have far reaching effects.

Further, we have selected a badge which is now being manufactured to sell at 5/- post free. It will bear the letters "R.R.C." and it is intended that members should wear it in addition to their own colours. We must get this badge out into the highways and bye ways of Britain this season. These two small points illustrate how we can work in the present initial stages. The direct material benefits in the way of facilities which the Association has to offer may not on the surface appear to be great at present, but we are nevertheless sure that you will appreciate what this Association can do, what it may become, and the benefits derived from membership.

It might appear that the Association has a distinct Metropolitan bias, but this is only because it was founded in London. We aim to build a National organisation, each unit of which will be largely self supporting.

Many of our County Secretaries are near at hand and old friends. Others are further afield. We hope in the course of time to meet all our local organisers and thus establish an indispensable personal link in this widely scattered organisation.

Thanking you for your co-operation and wishing you the best of luck in promoting our great sport in your district.

Yours,

ERNEST NEVILLE.

JOHN JEWELL - Council Hon. Secretary.

17 King's Avenue, Ealing, W.5.

Anyone willing to undertake the duties of a District or County Hon. Secretary is invited to write to Mr. Neville or to Mr. Jewell.

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### FIXTURE LIST

- April 18th Finchley 20 at Ruislip.
- May 2nd Radcliffe Harriers' 21 miles road race. (T.E. Lees, 26 Stockport Road, Ashton-on-Lyne. 2/-)
- May 2nd Southern and Surrey 20 at Mitcham. (J. Lemon, 13 Hoppingwood Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.  
Southern - (V.C. Sealy, A.A.A., Crown Chambers, 118 Chancery Lane, W.C.2.)
- May 9th Chichester - Portsmouth 16 miles.
- May 16th Kent County and Open 20 at Chislehurst. (J.R. Cockburn, Homesgarth, Sevenoaks Road,  
Farnborough, Kent)
- June 6th Woolwich 10 miles. (Sec. Sports Committee, Woolwich Borough Council, S.E.18.)
- June 13th Polytechnic and Southern Marathon from Windsor.  
(A.E.H. Winter, Polytechnic Harriers, 309 Regent Street, W.1.)
- June 27th Belgrave 20. (A.P. Whitehead, Lauriston House, South Side, Wimbledon Common, S.W. 19. 3/-)
- July 4th Heathfield 15 at Walton-on-Thames.
- July 4th Oxford 15. (D.G. Gathrow, Pressed Steel Social & Athletic Club, Cowley, Oxford. 1/6d.)
- July 25th A.A.A. Marathon at Cardiff.
- August Liverpool Marathon (Date to be decided)

Aug 15th Little Common 16 miles Bexhill-on-Sea. (G.M. Payne, 1 Barnhorn Road, Little Common, Bexhill, Sussex)

Sept 5th S.L.H. 30 (A. Pirie, 7 The Medway, Coulsdon, Surrey)

Sept 26th London-Brighton run

The Brotherhood Works Marathon at Peterborough will not be run this year owing to a rush of Coronation work at the Factory, but it is hoped that it will be held as usual in future years.

Details of further fixtures will be welcomed from Club Secretaries.

### THE LONDON-BRIGHTON RUN

Ernest Neville has just received a letter from Jackie Mekler, which gives us some further information about our visitors from South Africa:

W.H. HAYWARD (Age 44) (Not Hayward as mentioned earlier. Our apologies): -  
1930 1st in "Comrades" (Durban-Maritzburg) Marathon (54m. 1120yds.)  
1938 4th in Empire Games 3 mile Championship.  
1938 6th in Empire Games 6 mile Championship.  
1949-1952 Four times Winner of the "Pieter Korkie" (Pretoria-Germiston) Marathon (38½ miles) Time: 4h.7m.  
1951 1st "Comrades Marathon" in record time: 6h.14m.8s.  
1952 10th in the Helsinki Olympic Marathon.

Hayward has twice won his National Marathon Championship and has incidentally never been beaten in a race longer than the normal Marathon.

F.J. MORRIS (Age 41) Responsible for the Germiston Callies being the premier long distance road running Club in South Africa.

JACKIE MEKLER (Age 21) 1952 - 7th in the "Comrades" Marathon.  
3rd in the "Pieter Korkie" Marathon.  
1st (In Hayward's absence) in the South Transvaal Marathon. Time: 2h. 42m. 55s.  
Mekler has altogether run seven marathons.

J.M. GOLDIE (Age 22) We are told that Goldie has been showing very considerable promise.

H. GEZORKE It is possible that Gezorke who has completed a "Comrades" and a "Pieter Korkie" Marathon may also make the trip.

This year's "Pieter Korkie" Marathon is on the 24th of May and the "Comrades" Marathon on the 13th of July.

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### RE-UNION AND DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, 10th MAY, 1953 at 4.0 p.m.

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All Members are cordially invited to River Hill Sports Ground for an informal discussion on training for road racing and ancillary matters.

Tea will be served by the Social Committee of the Surbiton Town Sports Club at 4 pm.

Ladies and children are especially invited as it is recognised that Sunday is a "Family Day" and that a visit to River Hill may be accepted as an "outing".

The Ground (32 acres) is in the Worcester Park Road, Tolworth and is not far from Tolworth Station.

Will Members who intend being present please send a post card with number to Ernest Neville.

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