

**THE CIVIL SERVICE
ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION
TRACK & FIELD
1919 - 1939**

With the commencement of the First World War the Civil Service Sports were suspended from 1915 – 1918 and re-commenced in a very different world in 1919.

This first post-World War Sports Day witnessed the absence of some of the old stars of yesterday who would have been called up to serve their Country and undoubtedly some of them lost their lives in the Service of their Country. This Sports Day is believed to be the first Meeting under the actual management of the Civil Service Athletic Association, rather than the Organising Committee who arranged the Sports Days before the War.

There were fewer spectators now, with estimates of some 2,000 at the Stamford Bridge ground, but they saw a good afternoon of Athletics. The best performance of the day was probably the 440 Yard victory of J A G Howell (off 18 yards) in an excellent time of 49 4/5ths.

Although most people would have been very glad to have survived the war it must have reminded them of harder times when the winning team in the 1 Mile Relay Race were the Machine Gun Corps from Grantham. The RNLI won the Tug O'War which may or may not have been quite appropriate on the day given the poor weather that often accompanied the sports.

The Report from the Daily Herald - Monday 21 June 1920 seemed more interested in the invitational race



In 1920 Stamford Bridge witnessed the 53rd celebration of the Sports and the introduction of an event for Women and the long march towards equality commenced. The winner of the 80 Yards Women's Race was Dora Leach who went on to retain the title for the next three years. The photo below shows her being congratulated by Price Albert.

Sunday Mirror - Sunday 20 June 1920



The highlight of the meeting was probably the 1 Mile Open Handicap where, A G Hill (Polytechnic Harriers), an Olympian in this year over the 800, 1500 metres and 3000 metres, ran a marvellous time of 4 minutes 20 4/5ths, but such was the handicap he was given he finished second behind R Webber. It is interesting to note that in the audience was Walter George, the amateur world mile record holder in 1880, who finished his career with an all-time best of 4 mins 12 ¾ secs. This latter time stood as a record for 30 years!

This year marked the final occasion on which the 600 yards would be run having been in and out of the Programme over the years and the winner of the event, B G D Rudd, sent it off in a blaze of glory as he recorded a swift 1 minute 12 1/5th.

The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 26 June 1920 summarised thus:

ATHLETICS.

THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.

MANY reminders of old times in the athletic way were forthcoming on the occasion of the Civil Service sports, last Saturday, at Stamford Bridge. But for the outbreak of war Saturday's gathering would have been the fifty-seventh of its kind, instead of, as it was, the fifty-third. Fifty years previously the prize-winners included Mr. Harry Tomlinson, to whose long term of office, as honorary secretary, the successes attendant on many bygone meetings were largely due; and he was present on Saturday, having never once missed a meeting. For several years past Mr. E. H. Pelling, whose championship wins were of the best, and some of whose records still remain unbeaten, has taken on the honorary secretarial duties, and in that capacity on Saturday he was as busy as the proverbial bee. Other ex-champions and past winners at Civil Service sports, who again put in an appearance, included C. L. Lockton, J. H. A. Reay, A. Ovendon, and A. S. Turk, but I looked in vain for Sydenham Dixon, whose five consecutive wins, from 1868 to 1872 inclusive, in the mile challenge cup race, has always struck me as being a wonderful achievement. Turk, who won the 100 yards in 1894 and the mile in 1895, turned out on Saturday in the veterans' race. He won his pre-

liminary heat quite easily; but was not speedy enough to beat E. M. Smith in the final. C. W. Reid ran well in the mile race for the Strathcona Cup, beating that promising young South London Harrier, R. Coulthard, into third place, after the latter had looked like winning. The open handicap mile, won by R. C. Webber, of the Ashcombe Athletic Club, with 75 yards start, was robbed of its chief interest through the champion, A. G. Hill, who had quite rightly been given the post of honour, being suddenly, by instruction of the A.A.A. Board of Handicaps, placed fifteen yards behind scratch. It would be instructive to ascertain why so drastic an action was adopted; and I understand the matter is not to be allowed to rest where it

when it was handicap, E. C. Bredin won from scratch in the still better record time of 1min. 11 2-5sec.—only two-fifths of a second slower than the present British amateur record, which E. H. Montague, of the L.A.C., accomplished on September 19th, 1908. The event was revived in the form of a level race on Saturday, in the hope that the Oxford blue, B. G. D. Rudd, would still further improve on those figures. But he failed to do so, although winning the race, the time occupied by him being 1min. 12 1-5sec., as against the 1min. 14 4-5sec. which was accomplished by the second man, E. J. Henley. Whether or not Rudd would have succeeded in establishing fresh figures if he had been set the task of running through a limited handicap it is impossible

is. If the idea was to justify the fixing of a standard of 4min. 22sec. for which the handicap was framed, it failed in its object; for Webber did 4min. 20 4-5sec. from his mark, whereas Hill, although running grandly, after covering his "net" mile in 4min. 23 2-5sec.—was fully thirty yards away when the winner reached home. The 600 yards race for strangers, originally introduced forty years ago, when the late J. D. Sadler won, has on several occasions been allowed to drop out of the programme. That was matter for regret, seeing that it always aroused great interest. In 1888, when it was a level race, H. C. Lenox Tindall, the champion and Cambridge blue, ran the distance in the then record time of 1min. 12 3-5sec., and, subsequently, in 1893,

to say; but the latter method might have given him a better chance. Even that, however, cannot be guaranteed; for some men do best in a field where the clean running-away effort is more to their liking, as in the case of Shrubbs, whereas other athletes, such as the renowned W. G. George, who was an interested on-looker last Saturday, are better suited by being put through the ordeal of overhauling opponents to whom some concessions have been made. J. E. F.-D.

WATERPROOF DRESSING for Oilskins, etc. Non-sticky.
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OIL Co., 22, Newgate-street, London.—[ADVT.]

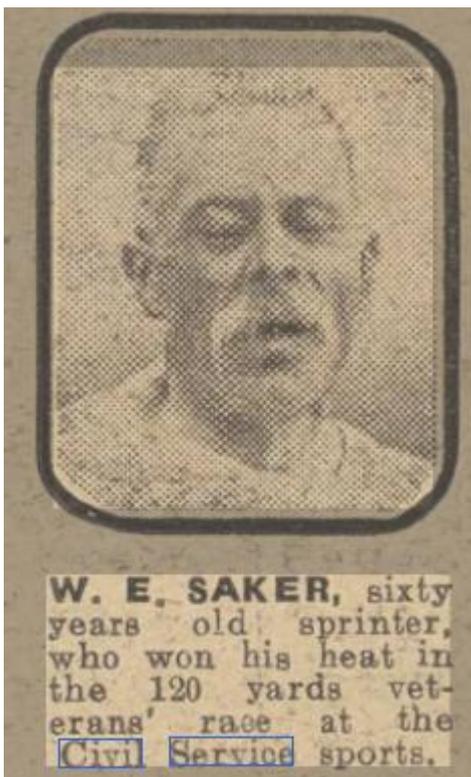
The 11th June **1921** saw the return of the big crowds to the Championships as 10,000 spectators converged on Stamford Bridge to see H J Nott, winner of the 440 yards, produce a speedy 49 2/5ths off 30 yards and W J Thomson produce a sharp 10 1/5th secs in the 100 yards off 4 ½ yards.

The 120 yards Hurdles has continued to produce talented newcomers and E F Housden's 18 2/5ths off 10 yards is not to be sniffed at. Both 1 Mile Races, the Strathcona and the Handicap were contested at a reasonable standard with finishing times of 4 minutes 38 4/5ths and 4 minutes 22 2/5ths (off 100 yards) respectively.

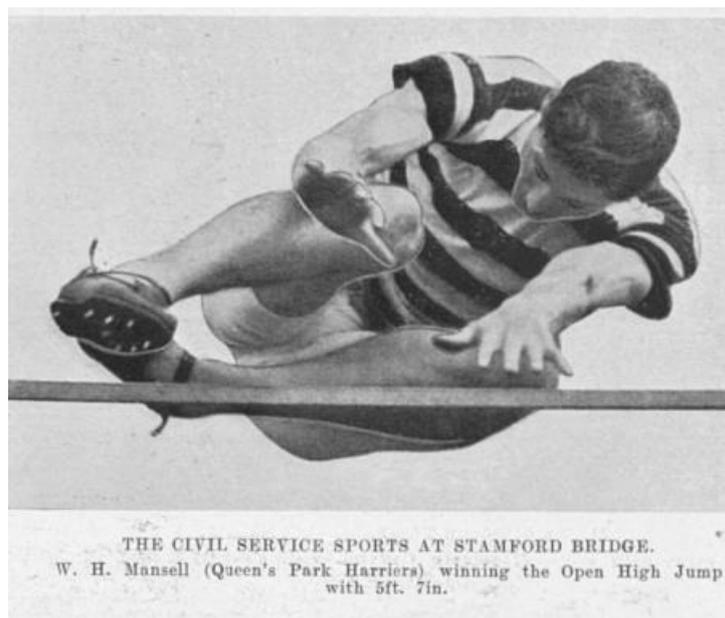
In **1922 The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News (Sat 24th June)** with the Headline: "**ATHLETICS. CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS INNOVATIONS**" reported "MANY years must have elapsed since the Civil Service Athletic Association's sports were attended by so large a gathering as that which was seen at Stamford Bridge last Saturday. In the old days at Lillie Bridge, and later on, at the Stamford Bridge enclosure as it used to be prior to the more recent remodelling, it was no uncommon thing to find the ground packed with an enthusiastic throng; and both in enthusiasm and numbers early history very nearly repeated itself last Saturday. The decision to throw the various events open to all classes and branches of the service, and the conversion of the Ladies' race to a sprint championship for female Civil servants, came as welcome innovations. Miss Dora Leach, of the Ministry of Health, again, as in 1920 and 1921, secured winning honours in the latter event, covering the stipulated 80 yards in 10 3-5sec. Veteran Civil Servants of the male gender ran their ISO yards race on handicap terms, and E. M. Smith, of the Board of Education, although penalised 3 yards for his success the year before last, again finished first. There was a sensational ending to the mile race for the Strathcona Cup. A rather slow pace was set at the start, and was continued for the next two laps, a method of running which looked to be all in favour of the Cambridge Blue and half-mile champion, E. D. Mountain, who is now a Civil servant. When the bell rang for the final circuit of the ground the pace was greatly increased. Mountain then forced his way to the front, and seemed a certain winner, but that vastly improved runner, W. F. A. Chambers, of the Inland Revenue, crowded on all speed down the home straight, and, catching Mountain in the last stride or so, seemed, to many of the onlookers in a line with the worsted, to beat the Light Blue by a few inches. The official verdict of a dead-heat evoked much adverse criticism. The 4min. 41 3-5sec. which the race occupied was mainly built up by the great pace in the last lap. The sprinting, hurdling, and long jumping

of the Polytechnic Harrier. F. R. Gaby, of the Post Office, were noteworthy. Gaby did not win the Long Jump Championship of the Service, but he was a close second to G. F. Brockington, of the Inland Revenue, who cleared 21ft. 2 1/2in. As to that event and the open high jump, cleverly won at 5ft. 7in. by W. H. Mansell, of the Queen's Park Harriers, one can truthfully congratulate the executive in arranging to carry through these field events while some of the track racing was ongoing".

The one controversial aspect of the day, as reported above, occurred in the 1 Mile event where W F A Chambers and Edgar Mountain (Scratch) were given a dead-heat (see Picture below) much to the displeasure of many race watchers. Mountain was an Olympic athlete (800 metres in 1920) and he should have been given the victory so the balance of opinion goes.



International long Jumper, G F Brockington, brought some quality to this activity as he jumped out to a very respectful 21 ft 2 1/2. F R Gaby (photo below), International High Hurdler, took the 120 Yards Hurdles title with 18 4/5ths (off 18 yards) and was clearly hoping to put down a marker for a spot in the next British Olympic team. The photo below illustrates the Open High Jump Technique employed by W F Mansell.



The photos below were sent to me by a collector in Italy and illustrate a Medal won by R B Fleetwood in the Tug o'War representing Willesden Post Office. The hallmarks show that the Medal was Silver and cut in 1921 ready for the 1922 Championships and the engraving of the winner's names was probably undertaken on the day before being presented. Note the intricate engraving by the silversmith.



The **1923** Sports Day, on 9th June, had over 700 athletes entered, and Miss Dora Leach secured her 4th consecutive title in the 80m.

F R Gaby, the Hurdler, chose to extend his horizons by leaping a very competent 21 ft 3 ins in the Broad Jump. The 880 Yards was won by the scratch man, H L Smith, turning in a good 2 minutes 4 3/5ths. Whilst the 1,000 Yards replaced the now forgotten 600 Yards and the first winner of this title was T R Pratten, who recorded 2 minutes 31 secs, off 25 yards.

The High Jump standard remained respectable as R A Nicholls cleared 5 ft 8 ins off 1 inch. Both 1 Mile Races passed without incident and last year's probable runner up (W F A Chambers who was given a dead heat) took the title in the Members Race with 4 minutes 33 4/5ths.

The Sunday Mirror 10th June included this High Jump photograph (compare the technique to the photo from 1922):



1924 was Olympic year and Paris was the venue. The Civil Service Athletics Championships took place on 14th June and there were 2 Olympians competing along with at least one other International. Edgar Mountain, took the 880 yard title with a classy 2 minutes 2 2/5ths, an event he contested in Paris.

Edward Toms, Queens Park Harriers, won the Civil Service 440 Yard crown with a magnificent 49 3/5ths and went on 4 weeks later to win a Bronze Olympic Medal in the 4 x 400 Metres Relay.

It was likely that G F Brockington, International Long Jumper, would be somewhat overshadowed by Mountain and Toms, as he cleared an excellent 21 ft 6 ins in the Long Jump.

In the Ladies Events it was a Miss I Brereton who won the inaugural 100 Yards Race with a very fast 12 3/5ths. The Ladies 440 Yards Relay saw the record broken by over a second. Elsewhere, the Men's 100 Yards title was won in a very decent 10 secs even allowing for the 4 yards "off scratch start".

The 58th Annual Sports Day on 13th June **1925**, still held at Stamford Bridge, probably displayed the greatest quality of any previous Championships as it included a three way match against the Achilles Club and the Dominion Students. The finest 120 Yard Hurdler in Great Britain – Lord Burghley - ran a super-fast 15 3/5ths and had competed in the Olympic Games in 1924, but unfortunately did not make the final. Another very high-profile athlete who graced Sports Day was Arthur Porritt, a New Zealander, who won a Bronze in the Paris Olympic 100 metres and he won the Open 100 Yard in 10.0 but recorded 9.8 in his heat.

The 880 Yard Champion, V E Morgan (see photo which could be the same V E Morgan from the National Portrait Gallery collection), ran a fast 1 minute 57 2/5ths and who would know then that he would become an Olympian in 1928 in the 3000 metres Steeplechase. **The Daily Herald 15th June** describes a "Three Corner Match over 5 events" that was also included.

Splendid sport was provided at the annual gathering of the Civil Service A.A.A., at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

The tit-bit of the programme was a three-cornered match, over five events, in which the Inter-Varsity Athletic Board, comprising most of the younger universities, the Achilles Club, composed of Oxford and Cambridge athletes, and the Dominion Students' Athletic Union, took part.

The result was a win for the last-mentioned body, the most recently formed of the three. For them A. E. Porritt, the New Zealand Olympic sprinter and president of Oxford University A.C., won the 100 yards race in even time, and beat that fine all-round athlete J. London, a student of London University, who hails from British Guiana, but was representing the Inter-Varsity Board. Porritt also won his heat of the 100 yards handicap from scratch in 9 2/5 sec.

London was in the Board's winning team in the three-quarters of a mile relay race, but the most important factor in that success was the half-mile champion, H. B. Stallard.

Dr. R. St. J. Honner, the Australian Olympic long-jumper, won the long jump for the Dominion students, at 22ft. 9 1/4 in., and, in the open events, showed his versatility by winning the quarter-mile handicap, from 15yds., in 48 4/5 sec.

PEER'S PERFORMANCE.

Lord Burghley credited the Achilles Club with the hurdles race, in the match events, in the fine time of 15 3/5 sec., and N. E. Morgan in winning the half-mile for Achilles, did an equally good performance, his time being 1min. 57 2/5 sec.



While the track athletes stole most of the thunder here a 22 ft 9 ¼ Long Jump by R St J Horner, an Australian Olympic athlete, claimed some of the plaudits. How privileged the audience must have been with so much talent on display and at a CSAA Championship Meeting!

The Civil Service Sports Journal had the following article in August 1925 reflecting upon the 1925 Championships:



E. D. MOUNTAIN.

ROUND THE MEETINGS.

Mr. Edgar Mountain had a sudden attack of pneumonia at Easter. He is still convalescent, but managed to get round some of the meetings in Town. Below are his comments on three of the fixtures. Readers will note that the old bone of contention, the relay race, has attracted more than the passing notice of the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile ex-champion, who we all hope will soon enjoy his usual robust health. Mr. Mountain is not running this year.



P. A. GUMMER.



The most popular prize-winner.

Unlike those of last year the **Civil Service Annual Sports** this year were not characterised by any dramatic surprises. Instead everyone got what he paid for and expected, and considerably more. There was a record entry, a record gate and if no record performances some exceptionally fine ones. In the special match we saw Arthur Porritt, Henry Stallard, Lord Burghley, V. E. Morgan and Dr. Honner doing some wonderful things, and among our own people Fred Gaby, hurdling and jumping better than ever, was a delight to watch.

The most popular prize-winner was undoubtedly W. E. Saker, who is 63, and we feel that he has a great future in the athletic world. Greening, our champion walker, also received a fitting ovation. The results of the championships speak for themselves and are what we expected, but in the Strathcona for instance they do not explain that the fast time was largely due to Tye for doing the donkey-work.

As is customary, the Earl of Oxford, who distributed the prizes, was also called upon to start a race. This he did with apparent trepidation on two occasions under the supervision of Mr. Pippett, and with excellent results. The array of prizes was magnificent in the brilliant sunshine which throughout graced the meeting, and the fact that they were all cups, I think, was generally approved. However, there are two sides to this question.

The success of such a meeting depends largely upon the elaborate preparations and enterprise of the hon. secretary—and in this connection I would like to dissociate my own name—and the co-operation of efficient helpers. One might go a long way to find so many experts working together harmoniously without thought of reward—except perhaps a drink. They should all be congratulated.

H.M. Office of Works Sports.

The Office of Works Annual Sports are becoming one of the most prominent of our departmental meetings, for **athletics** would appear to be one of the works in question as far as the enthusiastic secretary, or rather hon. secretary, is concerned; and what is more, they all help. Sports meetings would improve with more Allens about. The meeting which took place at Raynes Park on the 6th of June was as usual of the village-fair type, and unfortunately a new track had to be marked over furrows which were somewhat unsatisfactorily filled in with gravel.



A Pipe and Mr. Smallwood.



Lord Burghley moves in high circles.



Arthur Porritt killing time.



Gaby jumped magnificently.



After starting a ladies' Race the Earl of Oxford gave things.

Open Events.

18.—120 Yards Hurdle Handicap.

19.—100 Yards Handicap.

20.—440 Ditto.

21.—One Mile Handicap.

JUBILEE CHALLENGE BOWL offered for Competition among Civil Servants in events Nos. 1—9 inclusive, to commemorate the 60th year of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria's Reign.

Scale of Points and Regulations for the Challenge Trophy Competition:—

Events Nos. 1—9, 1st 10; 2nd 5; 3rd 3 points.

(1) No points for 3rd place in any event if less than 5 start.

(2) No points will be given in any event if less than 3 start.

(3) The scorer of the highest number of points to be the holder of the Trophy for the year.

All Challenge Trophies are the property of the Association and cannot be won outright.

Entrance Fee, 2s. each event. Relay Race 5s. Tug-of-War 5s.

All correspondence except entries for the races, should be addressed to the Hon. Asst. Secretary, **E. D. MOUNTAIN, 165, Putney Bridge Road, Putney, S.W.15.**

All Entries must be sent with Entry Fees to the Hon. Sec., **G. C. SMALLWOOD, 17, Manorgate Road, Kingston-on-Thames**, by whom they will be immediately acknowledged.

CLOSING DATE, FIRST POST, MONDAY, 7th JUNE, 1926.

Entries must be made on proper forms, to be obtained from the office representative, or from the Hon. Secs.

It is particularly requested that all members will

In the August edition of the Civil Service Sports Journal the following photos and results of the 1926 Championship appeared:



- 1 Miss D Uglow wins the 100 yds. Ladies' Championship Final from Miss V Streater
- 2 J F McGlennon (Air Ministry) and H Titherley (C&E) in the 880 yds.
- 3 J E Hoskins (WDO) wins the Mile Championship
- 4 Ladies' Inter-Departmental 440 yds. Relay Championships – the first change
- 5 F R Gaby
- 6 Finish of 220 yds. Members' Handicap – won by E J Johnson (HMOW)
- 7 W E Saker, aged 64, winning the 120 yds. Veterans' Race
- 8 Start of 880 yds.
- 9 Start of One Mile
- 10 The Ministry of Labour Ladies' Relay Team – winners of the 440 yds Inter-Departmental Relay
- 11 Lady Symonds presents the prizes
- 12 Start of a heat in the Ladies' 100 yds. Championship



C.S.A.A. 59th MEETING.

THE FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL Meeting of the C.S. Athletic Association was held at Stamford Bridge grounds on Saturday, 12th June. The weather proving kind, and the organisation living up to its very high reputation, a great success was scored. Overhead conditions were favourable but the track itself was on the heavy side.

A good crowd assembled to witness the sports, which had obtained a numerous entry. Amongst the spectators was Mr. H. Tomlinson of the Paymaster-General's Office who was attending the meeting for the 57th consecutive time. Is not this a record? Now eighty years of age, he is one of the oldest members of the London Athletic Club and began running in 1866.

The Long Jump Championship was fraught with consequence and excitement, for the holder, F. R. Gaby (G.P.O.), had to prove successful again in order still to retain an interest in the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Bowl, given each year for the best points performance in the championships and which Gaby has won for the past four years. Gaby had scored five points by securing second place in the high jump and he proceeded to win the long jump at 20 ft. 8 ins.; so he finished level with H. Tye (S.W.D.O.) who, in addition to winning the cross-country race at Wimbledon during the winter, secured the second place in the mile championship.

The "open" events attracted some notable athletes, including R. A. Rose, the New Zealand middle and long distance champion, A. W. Driver (Woolwich Polytechnic), H. J. Storey (East Herts. A.C.), H. B. Kellett (Bank of England), and V. T. Rudkin (L.A.C.). J. E. London, the famous coloured runner, was, unfortunately, unable to be present.

The presence of competitors from Devonport Dockyard was very welcome and it is hoped other centres will take the hint for future years.

A tribute must be paid to the splendid running of the Customs and Excise Relay team. The finish was a gallant win and provided the most thrilling sport of the day.

Sir Aubrey and Lady Symonds very kindly presented the prizes at the conclusion of the meeting.

Detailed results follow:—

Members' Events.

880 Yards Championship.—J. McGlennon (Air Ministry), 1; W. C. Colegate (Customs and Excise), 2; H. Titherley (Customs and Excise), 3. Won by 4 yards; three yards. Time 2 min. 4 2-5 sec.

100 Yards Championship.—J. Gillis (G.P.O.), 1; D. Crowley (holder), Admiralty, 2; L. F. Northam (Ministry of Health), 3. Won by 2 yards; 1 yard. Time 10 1-5 sec.

High Jump Championship.—D. C. Wright (G.P.O.), 5 ft. 2 in., 1; F. R. Gaby (holder) (G.P.O.), 5 ft. 1 in., 2; W. G. Wootton (Board

of Trade), 5 ft. 1 in., 3. Gaby won the jump-off for second place, clearing 5 ft. 3 in.

100 Yards Ladies' Championship.—Miss D. Uglow (Post Office Savings Bank), 1; Miss V. Streater (Ministry of Labour), 2; Miss M. Pope (Home Office), 3. Won by inches; two yards. Time 12 1-5 sec.

Inter-Departmental Tug-of-War Championship.—Final: Devonport Dockyard beat E.C. District Office by two pulls to nil.

120 Yards Veterans' Handicap.—W. E. Saker (P.O. Stores), 24½ yards start, 1; F. Stevens (Board of Trade), 2½ yards, 2; T. H. Needs (P.M.G.), 3 yards, 3. Won by 2 yards. Time 12 3-5 sec.

220 Yards Handicap.—E. J. Johnson (H.M.O.W.) 43 yards, 1; A. W. Ansell (H.M.O.W.), 18 yards, 2; L. F. Northam (Ministry of Health), 5 yards, 3. Won by 2 yards; 1 yard. Time 22½ sec.

One Mile Championship (for Strathcona Challenge Cup).—J. E. Hoskins (W.D.P.O.), 1; H. Tye (S.W.D.P.O.), 2; A. O. Elliott (holder) (H.M.O.W.), 3. Won by 30 yards; 5 yards. Time 4 min. 37 4-5 sec.

Long Jump Championship.—F. R. Gaby (holder) (G.P.O.), 20 ft. 8 in., 1; G. H. Lee (Ministry of Labour), 20 ft. 2½ in., 2; A. C. Cook (Air Ministry), 19 ft. 8 in., 3.

Two Miles Walking Championship.—A. H. G. Pope (India Office), 1; R. H. Cook (W.D.P.O.), 2; C. O. Peacock (N.D.P.O.), 3. Won by 40 yards; same. Time 14 min. 52 2-5 sec.

Yacht Handicap.—H. W. Hunt (Royal Ordnance Factories) (1 min. 15 sec. start), 1; Cook (15 sec.), 2; Peacock (18 sec.) 3. Handicap time, 14 min. 21 2-5 sec.

880 Yards Handicap.—E. S. Harrington (W.C.D.O.), 25 yards, 1; J. E. Hoskins (W.D.P.O.), 15 yards, 2; D. C. Wright (G.P.O.), 40 yards, 3. Won by 15 yards; 10 yards. Time 2 min. 3 2-5 sec.

440 Yards Ladies' Inter-Departmental Relay Championship (four at 110 yards).—Ministry of Labour "A" (Misses Donnelly, Tasker, Hillier, and Streater), 1; Savings Bank, 2; Air Ministry 3. Won by 15 yards; 5 yards. Time 55 4-5 sec.

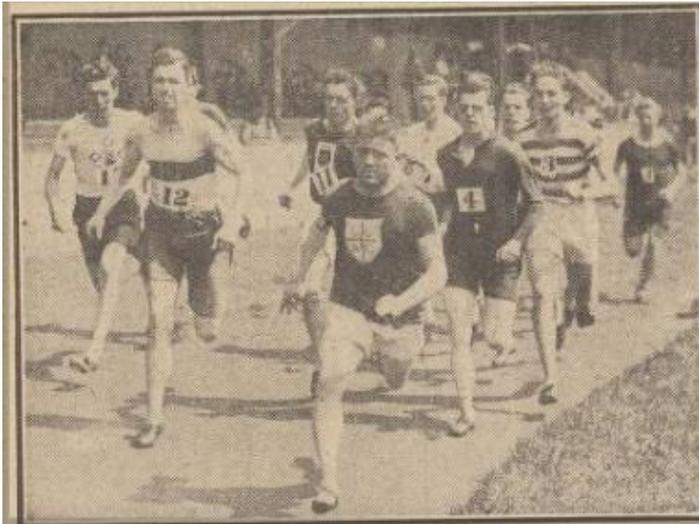
Inter-Departmental Relay Championship (One Mile) (880 yards, 220 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards).—Customs and Excise (W. C. Colegate, R. C. Jarvis, W. M. Quimby, and H. Titherley), 1; Air Ministry, 2; Devonport Dockyard, 3. Won in an exciting finish by a foot; 5 yards. Time 3 min. 49 1-5 sec.

Open Events.

100 Yards Handicap.—V. T. Rudkin (L.A.C.) (7 yards), 1; G. E. Haddon (Civil Service) (7 yards), 2; J. T. Lemon (S.L.H.) (6½ yards), 3. Won by a yard; foot. Time 9 4-5 sec.

440 Yards Handicap.—W. W. Craner (Herne Hill H.) (16 yards), 1; G. B. Westoby (Blackheath H.) (9 yards), 2; R. F. Baker (Polytechnic H.) (16 yards), 3. Won by a foot; same. Time 50 sec.

In 1926 the New Zealand Mile and Long Distance Champion R A Rose competed in a specially framed Invitation Mile Handicap just for him. The **Sunday Mirror - Sunday 13 June 1926** made special mention of this fact whilst also highlighting some of the other achievements:



Several **handicap** **events** were held yesterday at Stamford Bridge. Above, the 880 yards, shortly after the start.



R. A. Rose, the New Zealand runner, finished last in one mile invitation handicap at C.S. **venue**

MILE RACE BATTLE

New Zealand Champion Beaten In Handicap at Stamford Bridge

The appearance of R. A. Rose, the New Zealand middle and long distance champion, at the **Civil Service** A.A. **sports** at Stamford Bridge, yesterday, created special interest.

He took part in a special invitation mile handicap from scratch and conceded starts up to 80 yards.

Rose, as he stood at the mark inhaling deeply, appeared in excellent condition, and his early running showed power and grace, but the absence of anyone on a middle mark gave him too much to do in overhauling the limit men, and he soon realised the hopelessness of the task.

Covering the first quarter in 60 4-5s., though not appearing to travel so fast, he accomplished the half-mile in 2m. 8 3-5s., and the three-quarter mile mark was passed in 3m. 20 1-5s.

Meanwhile the leaders, bunched, had been fighting among themselves for the lead, and eventually A. E. Driver (Woolwich Polytechnic) (75 yards) broke away to win by fifteen yards from H. J. Storey (East Herts A.C.) (80 yards) in 4m. 17 4-5s. Rose was the last of the six who finished, his time being 4m. 32 3-5s.

The early part of the programme consisted principally of members' events, among which were the 880yd. championship, won by J. F. McGlennon.

The 100yd. championship was secured by J. J. Gillis, G.P.O., in 10 1-5s., with the holder, D. Crowley, Admiralty, second. The one mile championship was taken by J. E. Hoskins, W.D.P.O., and the two miles walking championship was secured by A. H. G. Pope, India Office.

D. C. Wright, G.P.O., was the high jump champion at 5ft. 2in. F. R. Gaby, the A.A.A. hurdles champion, tied for second place at 5ft. 1in. with W. G. Wootton, and won the jump-off by clearing 5ft. 3in., and thus exceeding the actual winning height.



THE NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: R. A. ROSE AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS AT STAMFORD BRIDGE.



THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS: LADY SYMONDS
STARTS THE LADIES' 440 YARDS RELAY RACE AT
STAMFORD BRIDGE.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Championships was celebrated on **11th June 1927** and some old favourites, such as F R Gaby, A H G Pope and B C V Oddie all took part and won the High Jump, 2 Mile Walk and 1 Mile respectively.

Sunday Mirror - Sunday 12 June 1927



The Athletic News (Monday 16 May 1927) printed the following article prior to the Championships which provides background on the Presentation of the “Queenborough Trophy” and the perceived place of CSAA within athletics in England:

PRINCE'S AID.

Civil Service A.A.A. Turns
Sixty.

JUNE CELEBRATION.

By UBIQUITOUS.

A VERY handsome cup has been presented to the Civil Service A.A.A. by the Marquis of Queenborough for competition, to mark the attainment of the Association's Diamond Jubilee Year of sport promoting thought to be unique in the history of English track athletics.

The "Queenborough" trophy, valued at over £100, is to be awarded to the "Victor Ludorum" department, both individual and team scoring to count. Points will be gained for the cup in track, road walking, and cross country championships of the Civil Service, both team and individual scores being added together to find the champion department.

As the Civil Service A.A.A. sports year runs from June of one year to June of the next, the cross-country championship of the Association last December will count for the "Queenborough" Cup.

For the past thirty years the C.S. A.A.A. has had a "Victor Ludorum" Cup for individual competition in the shape of the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Bowl. Fred Gaby, the A.A.A. hurdles champion, the present holder, has won the trophy in each of the past three years.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION NEED.

It is intended to put on a special event at the Service Sports on June 11 by way of marking the unusual period in the Association's existence.

In spite of the keen competition for public favour and to turn out good men being waged in Southern athletic life, the C.S.A.A.A. is stronger to-day than it has ever been, and the hundreds of athletes owning allegiance to it are all of the right type and of a higher calibre than ever before.

The fact that Prince Arthur of Connaught will honour the 60th sports meeting next month with his presence has afforded joy to the C.S. Committee.

If there is one thing more than another which the C.S.A.A.A. must fight for, it is to regain representation directly on the A.A.A.

This has been denied the organisation ever since the retirement of Mr. Pelling, and it would seem a thousand pities that an association with a big history behind it like the C.S.A.A.A. cannot on the Club vote, get a chance to send a representative to John-street, while clubs doing less for the sports appear to get their nominations returned year after year.

HON. SECRETARY'S ATTAINMENTS.

Mr. G. E. Smallwood, who took over the hon. secretaryship of the Civil Service A.A.A. seven years ago, is the right man in the right place. Athletic sports has, in late years, increased tremendously in the Service, and one may be sure that, with an ever-growing membership of the association, he has plenty to do in building up the association and increasing its usefulness.

Entering the Civil Service 23 years ago Mr. Smallwood later took up track racing in the colours of the association, and subsequently attached himself to the Surrey A.C.

I seem to remember that he was pretty successful in open competition. Anyway, he was a runner who had to be seriously reckoned with, for although he had us to think the half-mile, which he could run in 1min. 59sec., was his best distance, Mr. Smallwood was able to run 100 yards in 10 3-5sec., a quarter-mile in 51sec. or a little worse, and a mile in just outside 4½min. He was, therefore, no mean track performer. His experience to him in athletic games has been a great help to him in his secretarial work for the C.S.A.A.A., and it is fitting that he should now be attached to the Ministry of Health.

PRODUCED PELLING.

The first chairman of the Civil Service Sports Council, Mr. Smallwood has long been known as a swimmer. In 1908 he was chosen by the Royal Life Saving Society to be one of a party of six to traverse the length of the Thames to teach the lock-keepers life-saving.

Like Charley's Aunt he is still running, and occasionally winning a veteran's race.

After all, Mr. Smallwood is only one of many famous athletes who have been turned out by the Civil Service A.A.A.

Quite recently one of them was entertained by way of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his winning the A.A.A. hurdles championship.

Then there was E. H. Pelling, probably the greatest sprinter ever known in the Service, and whose old-established records for 200 yards and 250 yards have withstood all attacks in recent years.

At the 1928 Sports Day the Sports Argus reported on the following winner in an Invitation Race! J E Webster (Birchfield H), the AAA Champion, won the 3,000m Invitation Steeplechase starting from scratch with E H Oliver (Reading AS) 2nd and V E Morgan (Achilles & LAC) 3rd. Webster won by 12 yards in 9min 58 3/5 sec.

However the Civil Service Sports Journal provided the following write up in July 1928:

ATHLETICS.

C.S.A.A. 61st ANNUAL MEETING.

The Civil Service Athletic Association held their sixty-first annual gathering at Stamford Bridge on 9th June. Many well-known athletes were competing.

P. A. G. Gummer (Customs and Excise) retained the 100 yards championship and also won the newly-instituted 220 yards championship. B. C. V. Oddie, who won the South of the Thames cross-country championship and is the present holder of the Bedfordshire title, had no difficulty in retaining the honours in the mile race.

One of the most interesting events of the afternoon was the special invitation steeplechase handicap which was run over 3,000 metres, the distance of the Olympic race. This resulted in a victory for the famous Birchfield Harrier and National cross-country champion, J. E. Webster, who was on scratch.

The Queenborough Challenge Cup, an inter-departmental points trophy, was won easily by Customs and Excise, with a score of 57 points. Air Ministry were second with 38 points, and the India Office third with 19 points. The individual competition for the Jubilee Challenge Bowl was won by P. A. G. Gummer with 15 points, B. C. V. Oddie and A. H. G. Pope tying for second place each with 10 points.

Results:—

Half-Mile Championship (Inverforth Challenge Cup).—H. Titherley (Customs and Excise), 1; P. C. Smart (G.P.O., In. Sect.), 2; J. F. McGlennan (Air Ministry) (holder), 3. 2 yds. Time, 2 min. 4 3-5 sec.

100 Yards Championship (Bentley-Tomlinson Cup).—P. A. G. Gummer (Customs and Excise) (holder), 1; W. Quimby (Customs and Excise), 2; R. C. Jarvis (Customs and Excise), 3. 2 ft. Time, 10 2-5 sec.

100 Yards Open Handicap.—L. O. Large (Lyons A.C.), 7½ yd., 1; H. Bowthorpe (Herne Hill H.), 8¼ yd., 2; W. H. Game (Poly. H.), 7½ yd., 3. Yard. Time, 9 9-10 sec.

100 Yards Ladies' Championship (Victory Challenge Cup).—Miss M. Pope (Ministry of Labour) (holder), 1; Miss E. M. Hiscock (Foreign Office), 2; Miss H. Middleton (Ministry of Pensions), 3. 3 yd. Time, 11 4-5 sec.

220 Yards Championship.—P. A. G. Gummer (Customs and Excise), 1; W. Quimby (Customs and Excise), 2; R. C. Jarvis (Customs and Excise), 3; 6 yd. Time 22 3-5 sec.

100 Yards Veterans' Handicap.—F. Stevens (Custor Excise), 10¼ yd., 1; H. Hayes (Ministry of Labour), 2; S. G. Ereaut (Inland Revenue), 4 yd., 3; 3 yd. Time

One Mile Championship (Strathcona Challenge Cup).—V. Oddie (Air Ministry) (holder), 1; W. G. Webb (Custor Excise), 2; T. H. Pritchard (H.M.O.W.), 3; 30 yd. 4 min. 34 3-5 sec.

High Jump Championship (holder F. R. Gaby).—L. Sta (Nat. Phys. Lab.), 5 ft. 5 in., 1; W. G. Wooton (Bo Trade), 5 ft. 4 in., 2; J. R. Williamson (Customs and Excise), 5 ft. 3½ in., 3.

Inter-Departmental Tug-of-War Championship (Curtis-B Challenge Cup).—Plymouth C.S. beat Air Ministry (Kidb (holders) by 2 pulls to 1; Streatham P.O. beat P.O. (Holloway) for third place.

Long Jump Championship.—G. J. W. Oddie (Air Min 21 ft. 1 in., 1; G. H. Lee (Ministry of Labour), 20 ft. 6½ in. G. F. Brockington (Inland Revenue) (holder), 20 ft. 6 in.

Two Miles Walking Championship.—A. H. G. Pope (Office) (holder), 1; G. R. Woodyard (India Office), 2; Peacock (Northern Dist. Office), 3; 120 yd. Time, 14 49 4-5 sec. **Yacht Handicap**: H. W. Hunt (Royal Ord Factories) (1 min. 10 sec. start), 14 min. 32 2-5 sec., 1; Woodyard (India Office) (50 sec.), 14 min. 33 1-5 sec., 2; Peacock (55 sec.), 14 min. 41 1-5 sec., 3.

220 Yards Handicap.—B. A. Chivers (South-Western Office), 4 yd., 1; W. F. Dearing (South-Western Dist. O 5 yd., 2; H. W. East (Inland Revenue), 25 yd., 3; 2 yd.

23 1-5 sec.

Half-Mile Handicap.—E. S. Harrington (Western Dist. O 25 yd., 1; T. R. Pratten (Inland Revenue), 48 yd., 2; V Waters (Govt. Lab.), 35 yd., 3; 4 yd. Time, 2 min. 1 4-5

Quarter-Mile Open Handicap.—L. O. Large (Lyons A.C.) 30 yd., 1; D. B. Anderson (London A.C.), 30 yd., 2; P. Cook (Kensington A.C.), 23 yd., 3; inches. Time, 49 4-5

3,000 Metres Invitation Steeplechase Handicap (Oly distance).—J. E. Webster (Birchfield H.), scratch, 1; E Oliver (Reading A.C.), 80 yd., 2; V. E. Morgan (Achilles London A.C.), 80 yd., 3; 15 yd. Time, 9 min. 58 3-5 sec.

120 Yards Open Hurdles Handicap.—S. J. Peckham (En A.C.), scratch, 1; J. R. Vernon (Unattached, London, S. owes 5 yd., 2; L. Yorke (East Herts A.C.), owes 9 yd., 3; 2 Time, 17 2-5 sec.

Quarter-Mile Ladies' Inter-Departmental Relay Champion (Atalanta Challenge Trophy).—Ministry of Health (Mi Houghton, Maude, Bissett-Smith, Steggall), 1; Board of Tr (holders), 2; Ministry of Pensions "A," 3; 12 yd. Ti 54 4-5 sec.

One Mile Inter-Departmental Relay Championship (Tur Challenge Salver).—Customs and Excise "A" (holders) Titherley, R. C. Jarvis, P. A. G. Gummer, W. Quimby), Customs and Excise "B," 2; Air Ministry, 3; close fin Time, 3 min. 49 sec.

One Mile Open Handicap.—J. Smith (Mary Ward A. 90 yd., 1; J. Cavanagh (Erith A.C.), 165 yd., 2; H. T. Ce (Hampstead H.), 100 yd., 3; 6 yd. Time, 4 min. 19 3-5 sec



Some of the successful Customs and Excise runners:—P. A. G. Gummer W. Quimby, R. C. Jarvis, F. C. Tucker, A. E. Ife.

Drawn by Elliott.

In 1929, with few contemporary reports, B C V Oddie, the multi-national Civil Service Cross Country Champion added another title to his name with a crisp 4 minutes 30 1/5th in the 1 Mile Race whilst J L Harris added the 100 Yard crown to his name. However, there was a prestigious Triangular Match held at the same time, over 6 events, between United Hospitals, Achilles Club and Dominion Students which was won by Achilles.

The 1929 July Edition of the Civil Service Sports Edition reported on the Championships thus:

C.S.A.A. ANNUAL MEETING.

Fine weather again favoured our premier athletic meeting and, though the condition of the track did not favour fast times, some very interesting sport was witnessed by the good attendance assembled. Everyone was pleased to welcome Sir Warren Fisher, who was present throughout the afternoon and who presented the trophies and medals at the close. Harry Tomlinson was also again with us—his 60th consecutive effort, a notable world's record. During the afternoon a photograph was taken of the five men now living who have been consecutive secretaries of the C.S.A.A.: an historic group.

An additional attraction was the triangular match between the Achilles Club, United Hospitals, and Dominion Students.

Achilles Club won with 30 points over the Students' 16 and Hospitals' 8. They provided the first two in both the mile and high jump.

The Service championships provided the best two finishes of the afternoon. H. Titherley, holder of the half-mile title, was beaten by a foot in 2 min. 1 1-5 sec., and B. C. V. Oddie retained the mile in an inches finish with W. G. Webb in 4 mins. 30 1-5 sec., one of the faster times recorded in the event.

P. A. G. Gummer again won both the sprint events with a good margin, and assisted the Customs to retain the relay, but B. C. V. Oddie dead-heated with him for the Jubilee Bowl, of which he was the holder, each scoring 15 points.

Customs and Excise had no difficulty in retaining the Queenborough Cup and this Department achieved the unusual distinctions of securing 1st and 2nd places in the Departmental Relay and all three winners in the 100 yards championship.

Civil Service Championships.

880 Yards.—D. W. S. Ireland (Post Office S. Bank), 1; H. Titherley (holder) (Customs and Excise), 2; P. C. Smart (General Post Office, I.S.), 3. Inches; four yards. Time, 2 min. 1 1-5 sec.

100 Yards.—P. A. G. Gummer (holder) (Customs and Excise), 1; R. C. Jarvis (Customs and Excise), 2; W. Quimby (Customs and Excise), 3. Yard;

three yards. Time, 10 3/4 sec.

Long Jump.—G. F. Brockington (Inland Revenue), 20 ft. 4 1/4 in., 1; G. H. Lee (Ministry of Labour), 20 ft., 2; J. H. Hope (Post Office, Southampton), 18 ft. 10 1/4 in., 3.

Women's 100 Yards.—E. Scott (Ministry of Labour), 1; M. E. Brown (Ministry of Health), 2; M. Pope (holder) (Home Office), 3. Half a yard; two yards. Time, 11 4-5 sec.

220 Yards.—P. A. G. Gummer (holder) (Customs and Excise), 1; L. F. Northam (Ministry of Health), 2; P. J. Gummer (Ministry of Health), 3. Ten yards; three yards. Time, 22 4-5 sec.

One Mile (Strathcona Challenge Cup).—B. C. V. Oddie (holder) (Air Ministry), 1; W. G. Webb (Customs and Excise), 2; R. Ramsay (Inland Revenue), 3. Inches; fifteen yards. Time, 4 min. 30 1-5 sec.

Inter-Departmental Tug of War (Curtis-Bennett Challenge Cup).—Admiralty (Plymouth) beat Office of Works by two pulls to nil.

High Jump.—J. R. Williamson (Customs and Excise), 5 ft. 2 in., 1; H. W. Ansell (His Majesty's Office of Works), 5 ft. 1 in., 2.

Two Miles Walk.—A. H. G. Pope (holder) (India Office), 1; A. H. Salter (Western District Office), 2; V. J. Peacock (Customs and Excise), 3. Won very easily. Time, 14 min. 22 sec.

440 Yards Women's Inter-Departmental Relay.—London Telephone Service (V. J. Bannister, D. Rosier, A. Fear, and D. Uglow), 1; Ministry of Labour, 2; Ministry of Health, 3. 1 1/4 yds.; 2 yds. Time, 54 2-5 sec.

One Mile Inter-Departmental Relay (Turner Challenge Salver).—Customs and Excise A (H. Titherley, R. C. Jarvis, P. A. G. Gummer, and W. Quimby), 1; Customs and Excise B, 2; Air Ministry, 3. 4 yds.; 3 yds. Time, 3 min. 46 4-5 sec.

THE Athletic Championships of the Civil Service at 440 yards and three miles were held on 22nd May, by the courtesy of Woodford Green A.C., at their evening meeting at Essex County Cricket Ground, Leyton.

The 440 yards produced nine entries and the 3 miles twelve.

The final of the former produced a splendid race, won by Gummer by 2 yards from Titherley, the other two runners being about three yards further away and inches apart.

In the three miles no one was capable of extending Oddie, who won as he liked, although Webb had a good go at him for the first half mile.

The results are appended.

440 Yards.

Heat 1.—1, P. A. G. Gummer (C. and E.); 2, P. C. Smart (G.P.O., I.S.); 3, J. F. McGlennan (Air Ministry). Time, 54 2-5 secs.

Heat 2.—1, H. Titherley (C. and E.); 2, W. Quimby (C. and E.); 3, B. A. Chivers (S.W.D.O.). Time, 54 4-5 secs. Final.

1, Gummer; 2, Titherley; 3, Smart; 4, Quimby. Time, 52 3-5 secs. All four beat standard time (54 secs.).

3 Miles.

1, B. C. V. Oddie (Air Ministry); 2, W. G. Webb (C. and E.); 3, H. E. Thomas (P.O. Stores); 4, E. T. Wessell (C. and E.); 5, F. W. Jude (Air Ministry). Time, 15 min. 9 3-5 secs. First five beat standard time (16 min. 15 secs).

One interesting point to note is that the 440 Yards and 3 Mile Championships were held on a different day and at a different venue.

The following photos were also included some of which appeared in the National Newspapers of the time with the Women featuring quite prominently.



The **Daily Mirror** - Monday 10 June 1929 highlighted the Triangular Match that was held within the Civil Service Track and Field Championships:

ACHILLES TRIUMPH

Athletic Victory in Three-Cornered Match

The **Civil Service** A.A. sports at Stamford Bridge on Saturday were noteworthy for a triangular contest in which, in six events, Achilles Club, with 30 points, beat the Dominion Students A.U. (16 points) and the United Hospitals A.C. (8 points).

Lord Burghley, who was beaten at Fenner's by I. R. Mann, a Dominion Student, in the hurdles, now had his revenge, the Cantab being defeated by a yard in a fine race on rather dead turf in 15 1-5sec.

A fine victory for the Students was scored in the mile relay, in which W. N. Harrison (Australia), A. Gonin (South Africa), H. V. Warren (Canada) and W. C. Wentworth (Australia) beat the Achilles Club (F. L. Firebrace, A. J. Williamson, G. C. G. Watson and E. H. Fryer) by six yards in 3m. 36 2-5s.

H. B. Stallard ran the half-mile and the relay for the hospitals.

The hospitals' solitary success was in the 440 yards, in which W. W. Craner (London) was not unduly pressed to beat G. C. C. Watson (Achilles) and R. M. N. Tisdall in 52 1-5sec.

The track was on the heavy side, weather and speedway racing combined being the cause, and the mile won by F. S. Franklin, of the Achilles Club, took 4m 35s. A. S. Pumphrey (Achilles) was second, and D. M. Wilson, a Free State Student at Cambridge, third.

H. V. Warren (of Canada), who is sprinting in remarkable form, scored another victory in winning the hundred from H. G. Cohen (Achilles) and J. R. Hill in 10 1-5sec.

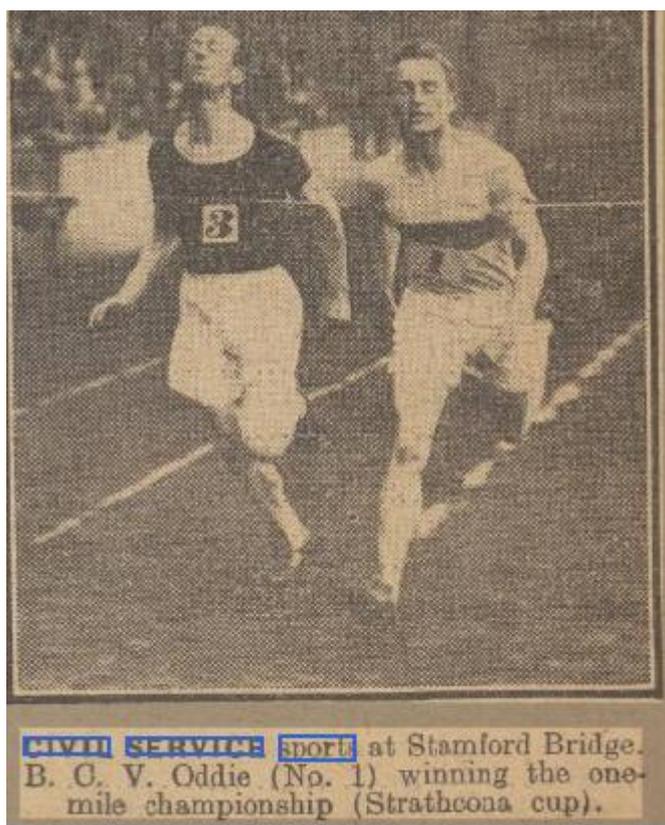
F. R. Bradbrooke cleared 6ft. in winning the high jump for Achilles.

In the **Service** events P. A. G. Gummer, who had won the 440 yards, which was decided previously, finished up with a score of 15 points. This total was equalled by B. C. V. Oddie, who, to his cross-country and three miles victories earlier in the season, added another win in the mile.



B. C. V. Oddie.

Sunday Mirror - Sunday 09 June 1929



The Daily Mirror - Monday 10 June 1929



In May 1929 The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer (Friday 24 May 1929) printed the following but it is not known which Championships they were referring to as the main Sports Day was held in early June (see above)

CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The Civil Service held two athletic championships at the Army Sports Ground, Leyton, with the following results:—

440 Yards.—P. A. Gummer (Customs), 1; H. Titherley (Customs), 2; P. C. Smart (G.P.O.), 3. Time 52 3-5s. Won by 3 yards.

Three Miles.—B. C. V. Oddie (Air Ministry), 1; W. G. Webb (Customs), 2; H. E. Thomas (Post Office Stores), 3. Time 15m. 16s. Won by 200 yards.

Prior to the 1930 Sports the Daily Herald (Friday 13 June 1930) described what the Jubilee Challenge Bowl was and for and those in contention:

Civil Service Sport

ATHLETIC BATTLE

ODDIE OR GUMMER FOR THE JUBILEE BOWL?

By "Whitehall"

One of the most attractive competitions of the Civil Service sports meeting at Stamford Bridge to-morrow is that which carries as its prize the Jubilee Challenge Bowl.

This bowl was put up for competition to commemorate the 60th year of the reign of the late Queen Victoria. It is decided on a points-scoring system by the results of the 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, half-mile, mile, three miles long and high jumping, and two miles walking championships, and the 10 miles road walk and five miles cross-country races.

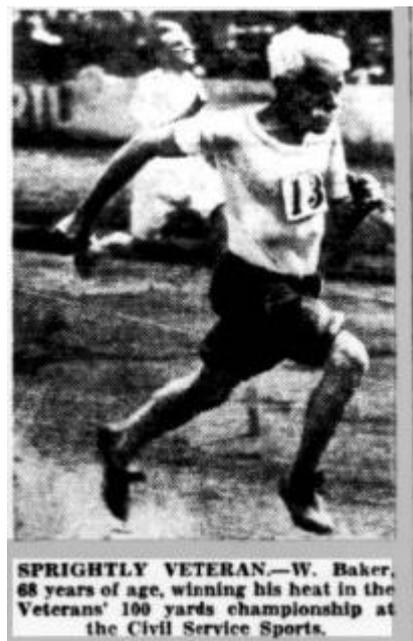
Last year the trophy was won jointly by P. A. G. Gummer, of the Customs and Excise, and B. C. V. Oddie, the famous Air Ministry athlete. Oddie had the distinction also of winning the "Warren Fisher" cup as the best individual performer in the Service.

Already a fierce war is being waged between Gummer and Oddie, for when the quarter-mile and three miles championships were held at Leyton recently Gummer secured the shorter distance race, while his opponent took the three miles title. Some time ago Oddie won the cross-country event.

Another interesting competition is that for the Queensborough Challenge Cup, for the departmental championship.

Following the 1930 Championships the Newspapers seemed more interested in fashion and age than the Results with the Daily Herald showing a picture of two Women athletes for hair styles rather than sporting

proress but rightly recognised the benefit of competing for as long as possible. The Daily Herald for Monday 16 June 1930 had the following pictures:



However, they did follow up on their piece from Friday:

TIE FOR CUP

B. C. V. Oddie and P. A. Gummer the first-named with a victory in the one mile championship and Gummer by winning the 100 yards and 220 yards events, shared possession of the Jubilee Challenge Cup in the Civil Service meeting at Stamford Bridge, their points being added to those gained earlier in the year

Customs and Excise won the Queenborough Challenge Cup, and Polytechnic Harriers beat South London Harriers in the one mile Southern League team race, which was included in the programme.

1931 witnessed a National Record, albeit in the Three Quarter Mile Race, and the **Daily Herald (Monday 15 June 1931)** described the race as follows. It is interesting to note as well the comments made about a near 70 year old competing in the Veterans Sprint Handicap and the benefits of health exercise!

MIRROR OF SPORT

CONDUCTED BY CORINTHIAN

HOW THOMAS BEAT A 10-YEAR-OLD RECORD

ONE of the most admirable phases about R. H. Thomas's record three-quarter-mile run at Stamford Bridge was the fact that he ran on a crumbling track, into which his pumps sank deeper than he could have wished. The track was heavy without being wet.

This was the factor which accounted for the absence of that wonderful dash which Thomas usually shows at the end of his mile races. I have seen him finish just as strongly at the end of a fourth lap, as he did near the finish of the third in this attempt.

Anyhow to knock 4-5sec off a record which has stood for ten years (Albert Hill's at Salford in 1921) must be regarded as the performance of one who is a great runner.

• • •

Judiciously Run

▶ **F**ROM the quick way Thomas knocked off the 20 yards start of Hampson, the half-miler, one thought that the record-beater would run himself out. He did not do that, but that early effort to beat the man nearest to him told its tale later in the race.

When Thomas got level with the men handicapped at longer starts, there was no obvious endeavour to make room for him, and leave him to get the inside position.

It was a judiciously run race, and all the participants ran with the idea of winning, so that Thomas was compelled to run round his men in order to get in front of those he passed.

• • •

That Initial Spurt

▶ **H**OW the quarters were run tells an eloquent tale in support of my opinion that Thomas commenced a trifle too fast. He completed the first circuit in 59 3-5sec., the second in 62 4-5sec., and the last in 62 3-5sec.

That the third quarter should have been done in less time than the second is clear evidence that Thomas had to go a little easy after his initial spurt.

I am confident that Thomas can improve upon his figures of Saturday, good as they were. No one in Britain, at present, can give Scrimshaw 75 yards in 1.320 yards. Scrimshaw is one of the best half-milers now running, and has improved immensely. His time from the mark mentioned was 3min. 3 3-5sec.

• • •

Hale Veteran

▶ **A** PART from the reception given to Thomas, the greatest cheering heard at the Civil Service Sports was that which greeted the victory of P. Stevens in the 100 yards veterans.

Within a few weeks of 70 years of age, this old fellow never faltered in his run from the 22½ yards mark to the tape, and won both heat and final quite clearly, but not by much.

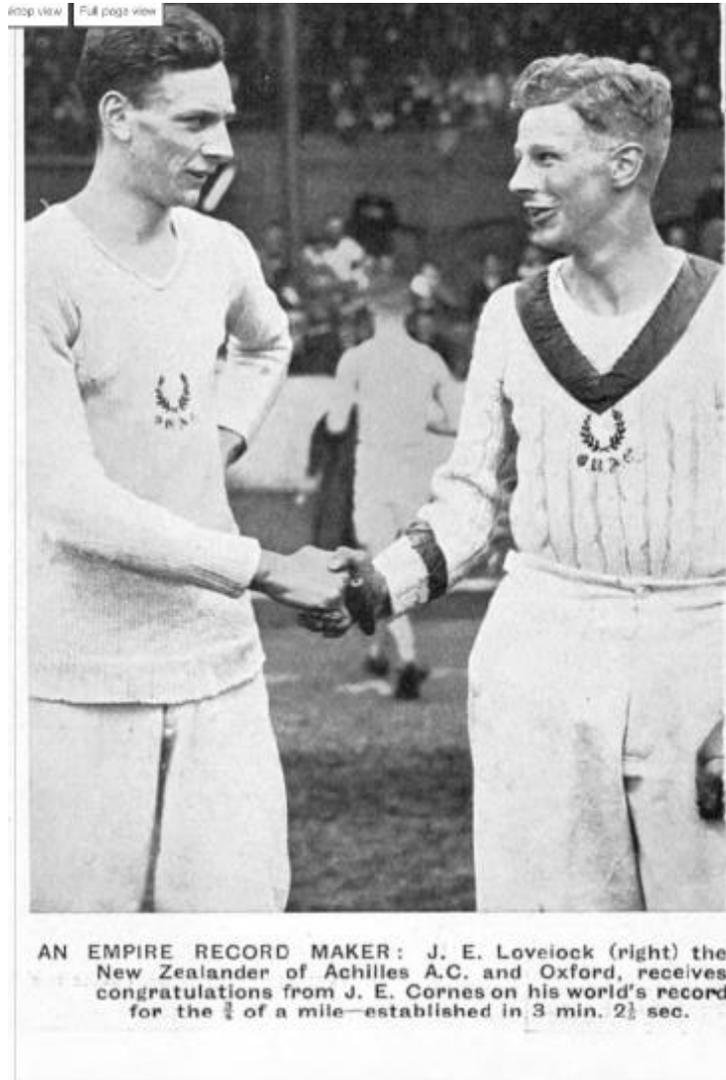
His performance was a deep argument in favour of the value of athletics to the health of those who do not overdo things.

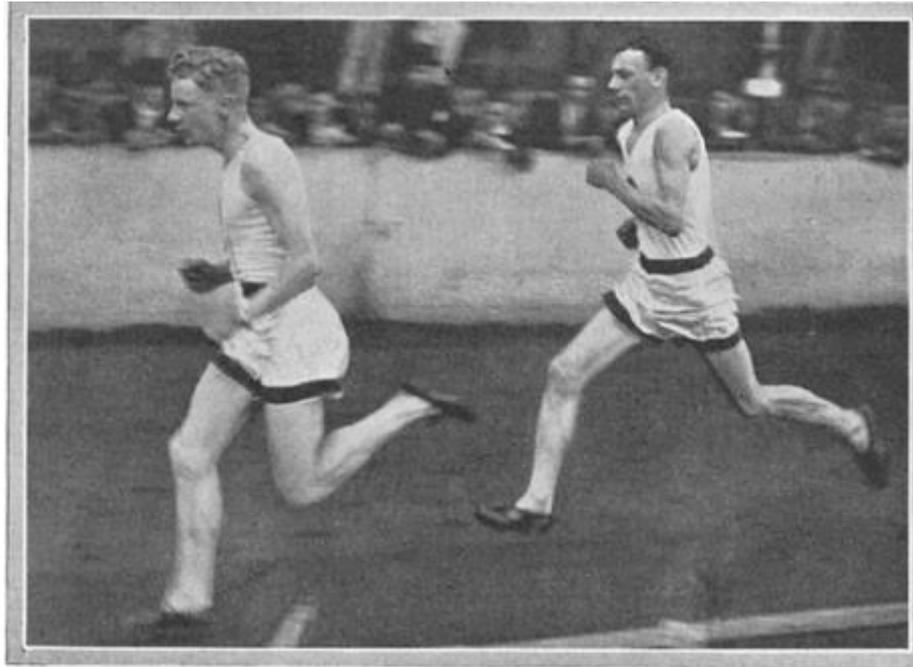
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The highlight in 1932 was the appearance of Jack Lovelock from New Zealand, who was studying in England, and set a World Record in the Three-Quarter Mile Invitation Race.

Jack Lovelock at the 1932 Championships after Setting a World Record for the $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile

The Sphere - Saturday 18 June 1932 along with other event Photos





A WORLD'S RECORD AT STAMFORD BRIDGE: J. LOVELOCK LEADING CORNES WHEN RUNNING THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE IN 3 MIN. 2½ SEC.

Sunday Mirror 12th June 1932

WORLD'S RECORD ECLIPSED BY OXFORD ATHLETE

J. E. Lovelock Beats 37 - Year - Old Official Time

BRILLIANT LOVELOCK

Wonderful Feat by Athlete Who Once Broke Leg

J. E. Lovelock, the brilliant New Zealand runner of Achilles and Oxford University, broke a world's record when he clocked 3m. 21-5s. in a specially-framed handicap for three-quarters of a mile at the ~~local~~ ~~meeting~~ meeting at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

A remarkable fact about Lovelock is that it was only a few years ago that he broke a leg when playing Rugby. After this he decided to give up football and concentrate on running.

He started from scratch with J. P. Cornes, the former Oxford president, whose intention it was to break R. H. Thomas's British record of 3m. 5s., and finished fourth to J. V. Powell (L.A.C.) 65 yards, T. H. Schrimshaw (Belgrave) 65 yards, and J. W. Moore (Southgate) 50 yards.

The previous best time for the distance was made by an American athlete, T. P. Conneff, whose figures of 3m. 24-5s. have stood since 1895.

J. Ladoumergue, the French athlete, last year ran the three-quarters of a mile in 3m. 03-5s., but, so far, the figures have not been accepted as a world's record.

It was only a month ago that Lovelock broke Thomas's mile record.

A. A. Cutler, of the Inland Section, G.P.O., scored a double in the 880 yards and mile members' races.

Miss E. M. Hiscock the well-known England athlete, who is attached to the Foreign Office, was successful in the women members' 100. Her time was 112-5s.

L. C. Ford, of the Streatham Post Office, carried off the men's event in 101-10s.



The Sunday Mirror - Sunday 11 June 1933 highlighted why spectators should attend the Sports Day on 17th June:

CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETES

The special attraction at this year's Civil Service A.A. sports, at the White City next Saturday, is an invitation 600 yards scratch race, for which acceptances have been received from Lieutenant G. L. Rampling, the A.A.A. ex-champion, J. V. Powell and F. F. Wolff, the brilliant London Athletic Club runners, H. S. Townend, the former Oxford Blue, and C. P. N. Reilly, the Australian and London University athlete

Miss E Hiscock (Foreign Office) won her 4th consecutive 100 yards title and would make it a 5th in 1934.

CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS

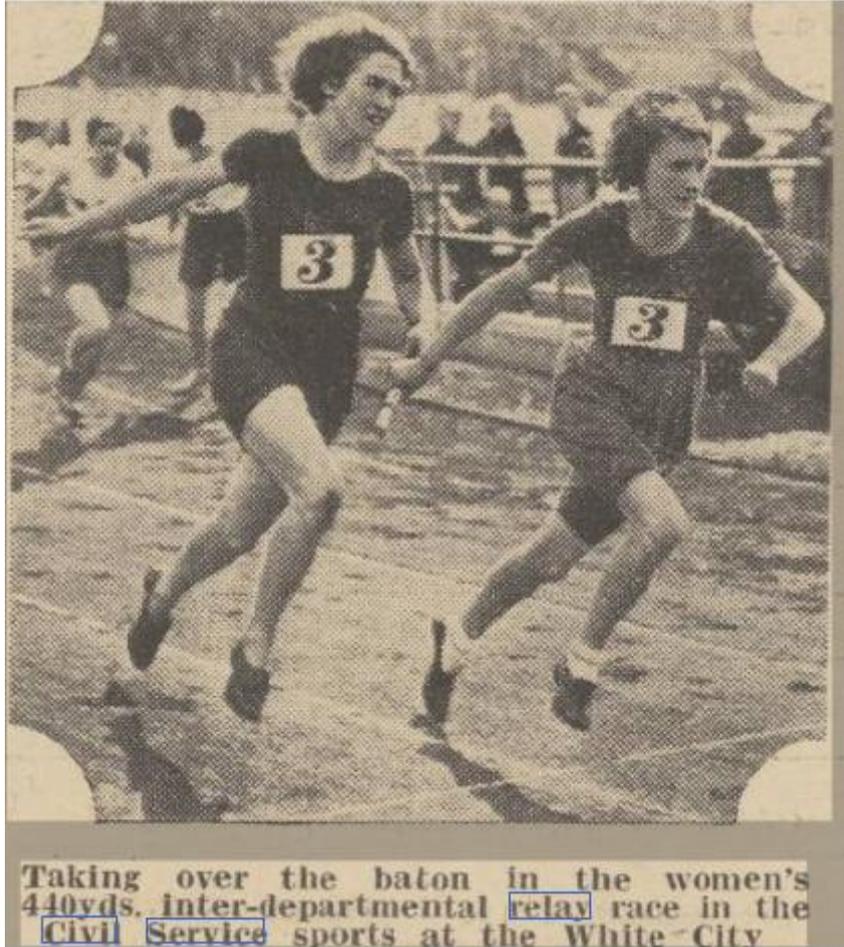
Winners at the Civil Service Sports at the White City, yesterday were:—

- 880 Yards.—H. Green (P.O., Birmingham).
- 100 Yards.—Miss E. M. Hiscock (P.O.).
- 100 Yards Open Handicap.—A. R. Hill (Finchley H.).
- 100 Yards.—G. L. Pallett (Scotland Yard).
- 600 Yards (Invitation).—J. V. Powell (London A.C.).
- 220 Yards.—A. G. Routledge (C. and E.).
- 440 Yards.—H. Green (Birmingham P.O. Stores).
- 220 Yards (Ladies).—Miss J. M. Thompson (I.R.) (24 yards).
- Two Miles Walking.—A. H. Cotton (P.O.S.B.).
- High Jump.—Von der Heyde (Inland Revenue).
- Long Jump.—O. L. Pallett (Scotland Yard).
- Southern A.A. League One Mile Team.—Herne Hill H. 41 pts. A. V. Reeve (Poly.) was first man home.
- 880 Yards.—R. H. Barratt (I.S. G.P.O.).
- Inter-departmental Tug of War.—Natural History Museum beat H.M. Office of Works "A."
- One Mile.—O. H. Perkins (Kensington A.C.).
- 440 Yards Open.—R. E. Moor (Poly.).
- 440 Yards Women's Relay.—Inland Revenue.
- One Mile Relay.—G.P.O. (L.E.D.).

The Queenborough Challenge Cup was won by Inland Revenue with 24 points, and Diamond Jubilee Challenge Bowl by G. J. Pallett, of Scotland Yard.

1933 – The Winners at the Sports Day:

How pleasing to see the Daily Mirror publishing a picture of the Women's Relay



G. J. Pallett, of Scotland Yard, breaking the Civil Service long jump record with a leap of 22ft. 4in. at the White City on Saturday.

POWELL FAILS IN RECORD BID

Green Wins Big Northern Walk for Fifth Successive Year

Although he failed by three seconds to equal Douglas Lowe's world record, J. V. Powell, of the London Athletic Club, did well on Saturday to win the 600 yards invitation scratch race at the Civil Service sports at the White City in 1m. 13 2-5s.

Powell won by one and a half yards from F. F. Wolff (London A.C.), while T. H. Scrimshaw (Belgrave H.) was third, two yards further behind.

R. H. Thomas, the R.A.F. athlete, who formerly held the British one-mile record, ran from scratch in the one-mile open handicap, finishing eleventh, about 180 yards behind the winner, O. H. Perkins (Kensington A.C.) (156 yards start), whose time was 4m. 16 2-5s.

Pallett won the 100 yards championship and also retained his long jump title. H. Green (Birmingham P.O. Stores) won both the quarter-mile and half-mile championships.

British Girls

For 1934 a special Walks event was arranged and reported by the on **Daily Mirror - Monday 28 May 1934** along with some of the other events:

G. T. Galloway (Surrey W.C.), the twenty-six-year-old Scottish ex-champion, claimed three of the four world's and British walking records which were established at the White City on Saturday in a special three hours' race.

Galloway beat the twenty miles and twenty-one miles track records, and in the three hours covered 21 miles 868 yards 2ft. 7in. to eclipse H. V. L. Ross's 1913 record of 21 miles 347½ yards.

H. H. Whitlock (Metropolitan W.C.) was also inside the previous best times for twenty miles and twenty-one miles, and he, too, bettered the old three hours' record by walking 21 miles 568 yards.

F. J. Redman (Metropolitan W.C.) set up the other new record by covering ten miles in 1h. 14m. 30 3-5s., as against G. E. Lerner's 1h. 15m. 57 2-5s., which had stood for twenty-six years

CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETES

The walk was included in the events arranged by the Civil Service A.A. for their sixty-seventh annual meeting, and was held prior to the usual programme of members' championships and open races.

Customs and Excise won the Queenborough Cup with a total of 26 points, with the holders, Inland Revenue, second with 20½ points, while the Jubilee Bowl was retained by G. J. Pallett (New Scotland Yard).

Pallett, who is a member of the Herne Hill Harriers and an international runner, retained his 100 yards and long jump titles, and in addition was successful in the inaugural race for the 220 yards championship.

S. C. Morgan (Board of Education), who won both the half-mile and one mile championships, was runner-up to Pallett.

Belgrave Harriers beat Polytechnic H. by a margin of one point in the Southern A.A. League one mile team race, which was also included in the programme.



A cooling spray for A. H. G. Pope during his attack on world walking records at the

Daily Mirror - Monday 28 May 1934



The Meetings of 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 barely received mention on the Press, apart from when a Championship Best Performance or double was achieved. In 1935 S C Morgan retained both the half-mile and mile titles as well as setting new records in both. Then in 1936 D Pell (New Scotland Yard) broke both records with another splendid double as he was to do four years running (1936 – 39 but not the records!) His colleague, George Pallett, took the sprints double for the third year in succession.

For 1937 the only report found is a very short one in the **Sunday Mirror - Sunday 13 June 1937**

Beat His Own Records

Feature of the Civil Service meeting at the White City was the fine running of the young Herne Hill Harrier, D. B. Pell, who retained both his half-mile and one mile titles, beating his own records for both events.

New Scotland Yard were awarded the Queenborough Challenge Cup for the third successive year.

J. G. Barnes (London) won the quarter-mile hurdles in 55.2 s., J. McG. Dalenz did 142 ft. 4 in. in throwing the hammer, and E. W. Harrison won the three miles in 14 m. 48.4 s.

In 1939 Civil Servant, Elaine Forster, was setting British Records, and the article below by Stan Patchett is an interesting contemporary account of the Women's AAA Championship at White City.

1939 Elaine Forster sets British Mile Record in 5.15.3

desktop view | Full page view

By STAN PATCHETT

I TOOK my wife and my binoculars along to the White City yesterday to get the proper slant on the women's A.A.A. championships.

My wife changed her opinion that athletic women were masculine creatures, minus make-up and completely without dress-sense. Most of the girls wore curly bobs, there wasn't an Eton crop in sight, and looked completely feminine in spite of their drab sweat suits.

My wife soon picked out the brightest star of the meeting, the poised body and cameo feature of Dorothy Odam, the girl with that indefinable something possessed also by Kay Stammers and Cecilia Colledge.

Maybe it's just plain charm, but whatever it is the owner stands right out from the crowd. Dorothy Odam didn't have to wear her white Olympic sweater for you to sum her up on sight as the tops in any language, including the Chinese.

She won the high jump with a clear, clean leap of 5 ft. 5 in., then doffed her sweater to try and better her own world's best of 5 ft. 5½ in. The bar was raised to 5 ft. 6 in., but conditions were against it, she literally had to fight her way through photographers, so she failed.

Given the right conditions, Dorothy will push that record up well out of reach of her European rivals. The August Bank Holiday meeting would be just the setting for the job, there's nothing quite so stimulating as a packed house at the White City. Ask Jack Doyle if you don't believe

me.

E. Forster, the Civil Service athlete, created a new British record by winning the mile in 5 m. 15.3 s. and dark and determined Betty Lock, she of the classical legs, brought off a brilliant sprint double in the 60 and 100 metre dashes. Her 60 metre time of 7.6 s. equalled the British record.

I Mean to Say

By GEORGE CASEY

A VERY pleasing statement reached the ears of this department soon after the news came through that Sydney Wooderson had been beaten in the special 1,000 yard