

**THE CIVIL SERVICE
ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION
TRACK & FIELD
1864 - 1914**

The CSAA Sports Day 1864 - 1914

1864 – 1881 The Civil Service Athletic Club

1882 – 2020 The Civil Service (Amateur) Athletic Association (CSAAA/CSAA)

The next section, using contemporary accounts, details many of the highlights of each Sports Day from 1864 – 1914 and it is surprising just how much attention the Newspapers gave to the event and the way it was portrayed. The Results Section attempts to highlight the winners of each event based upon these reports and papers held by the CSAA and Civil Service Sports Council founded in 1921 (CSSC).

The Club held its first meeting in 1864 at Brompton and moved to Lillie Bridge in 1870 and finally to Stamford Bridge in 1885. The Civil Service Athletic Club included several open events (named “Strangers”) within its programme which always attracted good entries from the best athletes of the day.

Many of the running events were Handicapped which meant that the fastest athlete in the race was not always the winner, hence the discrepancy that can occur in the reports and actual results. If the Handicap was too harsh the fastest athlete might not have caught and passed the slower athlete who started with a large advantage. This also seemed to occur in field events with athletes being “owed an inch or more”!

The Early Civil Service Track & Field Championships

From what can be gathered from periodicals and articles of the time, Athletics in the Civil Service began in the early part of the 1860's and together with a number of other sports, notably Football and Cricket, laid the foundation of our modern CSSC structure.

Many years before the formal setting up of the Civil Service Athletics Organisation, Pedestrianism was a feature of the sports calendar and a number of Civil Servants were known to be leading contenders. However, being predominantly professional competitions some of them raced under pseudonyms although many spectators knew who they were.

The CSAA held its first Championships in **1864** and were simply known as the Civil Service Athletic Sports. The events contested in this inaugural year were: 100 Yards, Hurdle Race, Quarter-Mile, Half-Mile, 1 Mile Challenge Cup, 3 Miles Walk, High Jump, Broad Jump, Pole Leaping, Cricket Ball, Putting the Stone, Throwing the Hammer, Hopping 50 Yards and Consolation Race 200 Yards.

In the next few years additional events such as 220 Yards Challenge Cup, 250 Yards, 300 Yards Handicap, 600 Yards Maiden Race, 2 Miles, Steeplechase, Vaulting and Strangers Race were added, but not always contested.

According to ‘The Official Centenary History of the AAA’ by Peter Lovesey the Civil Service held these first sports on 22nd and 23rd April at Beaufort House, Brompton, in West London and were to mark the tercentenary of William Shakespeare’s birth. Literary scholars would probably state that no one knows for certain on what day the Bard was born but they do know when he was christened.

It was less than 6 months after Guy Pym and his colleague first put their ideas on paper that the very first Civil Service Athletics Sports was scheduled to take place at the West London Cricket ground. However, for reasons unknown, this venue was changed at short notice and the new "palace" of Athletics was moved to Beaufort House, Walham Green in the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham by kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Viscount Ranelagh. With regard to the development of athletic meetings in the late Nineteenth Century members of the Stock Exchange, Civil Servants, Army Officers and Solicitors competed regularly at Brompton, Hackney Wick and Bow.

This is how the Sports Day was advertised in the **West Middlesex Advertiser and Family Journal - Saturday 16 April 1864**:

NOTICE.—By permission of Lt. Col. Lord Viscount Ranelagh, the Members of the "**Civil Service Athletic Club,**" will hold their meeting for Foot Races and **Athletic Sports** in the grounds of Beaufort House on Friday and Saturday next, the 22nd and 23rd instant.

The **Sporting Life - Saturday 16 April 1864** contained the following information for would-be competitors:

CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

These sports will be held on the 22nd and 23rd inst., at Beaufort House, Walham Green, instead of at the West London Cricket-ground, commencing punctually at two o'clock p.m. each day. Order of running:—

FRIDAY.—100 yards flat race, trial heats; high jumps (standing and running); quarter of a mile race, trial heats; putting the stone, throwing the hammer, and three miles walking race, to take place at the same time; 100 yards flat race, final heat; quarter of a mile flat race, final heat.

SATURDAY.—Leaping with a pole, half-mile race, broad jumps (standing and running), 200 yards hurdle race (twelve flights), hopping race, one mile race, throwing the cricket-ball, sack race, high hop, and 200 yards consolation race.

Starter, Mr. Page; referee, Mr. C. Westhall.

Entries will be received up to four o'clock this day (Saturday). About £100 will be distributed in prizes. Leaping-poles, sacks, &c., will be provided on the ground. Tickets of admission to be obtained, free of charge, from members of the general committee.

Astoundingly there were over 10,000 spectators at the inaugural Championships including many carriages, ladies on horseback and a large selection of the great and good all dressed in their best outfits with the ladies in their crinoline outfits complete with parasols to protect them from the sun. The menfolk were also "dressed to the nines" completing their attire with top hats.

Commentary at the time suggests that the ground surveyor and his staff worked wonders in a 3-week period "taking the turf to good going" and making the one third of a mile circuit very suitable for the activities. The reporter may well have been a horse racing correspondent on his day off!

The entry to Beaufort House was by ticket but no fee was charged and there were sections allocated to house the different types of attendee. A detailed programme was produced for both days of competition and the prizes distributed were valued at £100 and supplied by a well-known Regent Street Jeweller, Rowlands and Frazer. In 2020 terms the value equates to just less than £13,000.

History often repeats itself and it comes as no surprise to learn that spectators became raucous and on occasions spilled over onto the field of play. The entertainment was provided by a company of military musicians who would play stirring music to fire up the competitors and raise the spectator's spirits to a crescendo.

The standard of many races was mixed but provided athletes of all abilities with chances to win a prize. Guy Pym, one of the founders of the Civil Service Athletics Sports Organisation, was himself a fine athlete recording a decent time of 55.0 seconds in the 440 Yards. He also won the 1 mile in 5 mins 38 so was a competent all-rounder. Elsewhere there were Pole Leapers clearing just over 7 feet; Stone Putters hurling the 21 lb weight to 32 feet; Long Jumpers covering a shade more than 18 feet and a number of other multi event men (but notice no women competitors) taking their chances in the Standing High Jump (4 ft 1"); Hammer Throw (81 ft); High Hop, Standing Broad Jump (9 ft 3"); 200 Yards Hurdles over 12 flights; Sack Race (for belligerent employees); Cricket Ball throw (92 Yards); Hopping Race; 880 Yards; 3 mile Walk (27 mins 28); 100 Yards and Running High Jump (5ft). Indeed, something for everyone, if they were male.

The presentation at the end of the competition was made by Lady Albemarle and would have been introduced by the very first Honorary Secretary, Mr W Herbert.

Athletes of the day wore long trousers and, on their feet, would have worn something like a slipper, although likely to be firmer underfoot and more robust. Vaulting poles were wood and the landing area would have been grass with no cushioning at all.

Following a very successful inaugural Sports Day the year before, the **1865** enactment, was on an equal par but not quite as well supported by spectators. A mere 7,000 members of the public graced the ground.

Across the board the standard of competition was fair to good with slight improvements on some of the records. Guy Pym, was again prominent, picking up 3 first places from the 250 Yards to the Half Mile. Most Sports Days promote the odd fun event and the Sack Race appears to have been quite entertaining with one reporter commenting that this event, at all times, was provocative of mirth.

The Hammer Throw has been around since the times of Henry VIII but in amateur hands the implement could be lethal. In fact, it was almost cancelled because of the dangerous techniques being used but it went ahead and no-one was hurt.

The Programme for the day's activities contained a total of 322 athletes but how many individual athletes this might represent is not known. The Sporting Life, along with many other Periodicals, penned full details of most races and even for the Walk commented on who was leading at the end of each lap, the second and so on. In 1865, and not uncommon 155 years later, a number of walking aspirants of the heel and toe brigade were warned by the Walking Judges of potential indiscretions as they circumnavigated the 1/3rd of a mile circuit and even the eventual winner who lifted the title was the subject of an appeal. The second man in the 3 Mile event said the winner was "trotting" but this charge was dismissed by the chief judge.

The chief guest in this the second year of the Championships was Lady Clarence Paget and her speech appears to have met with loud applause. It went like this; "Gentlemen of the Civil Service, when a few days since I received an intimation that it was your wish that I should present the prizes to the successful competitors at these Athletic Sports I accepted the invitation to do so with great pleasure as it gave me the opportunity of testifying the interest I and so many others feel in these manly and graceful exercises - sports in which we are proud to know our countryman ever excel. We have to thank you for many cheerful and pleasant hours here at Beaufort House and I engage to say that there is no mother, wife or sister who has been present here but has looked with feelings of pride and pleasure on the feats we have witnessed and I think I may also venture that there are young ladies present here who perhaps would be inclined to say to the victors, like

Rosalind to Orlando "Sir, you have wrestled well and have overcome more than your enemies". This animated and graceful speech was most charmingly delivered and loudly applauded and the prizes were presented.

As the Sports Day format was developing certain events bid a fond farewell and joining them in 1865 were the Standing High Jump (record of 4 ft 3ins) and Standing Long Jump (record 9 ft 3 ins). This would be the final year the heavier Shot and Hammer were used so the old 21lb became just a memory.

Contemporary articles of the time mention that the running surface was now solid and in excellent condition and admirably adapted for the purpose. It seems that the surface laid 12 months earlier and although good enough for competition on the day may well have needed more time to settle and bed in.

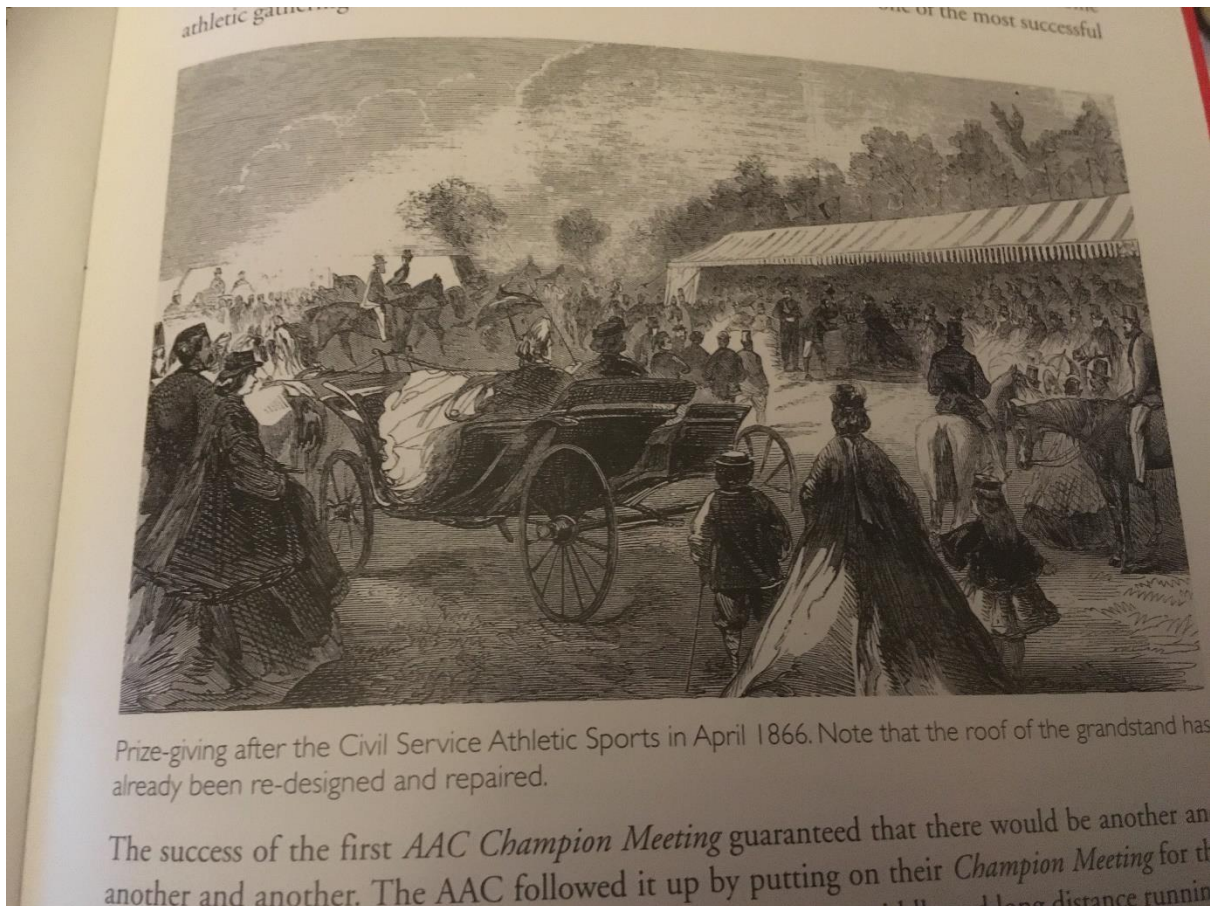
As in 1864 the prizes available to be won or contested were a costly assemblage of silver and/or silver-plated cups and goblets, again costing a small fortune.

In **1866** one of the main features of the 3rd Civil Service Athletics Championships was the presence of a number of titled guests including the Marquis of Downshire, Viscount and Viscountess Bury, the Honourable Mrs Scott, Lady Hartopp, Lord Arthur Hill, Lady Vincent, Lady Sebright and Sir Claude Scott with The Marchioness of Queensberry presenting the prizes. The local press described the long line of aristocratic equipages that stretched for a considerable distance along the course, whilst the prizes, which consisted of massive silver goblets and tankards were arranged in glittering display on a table in the grandstand.

Entries for the events were a little down on the previous year with 208 but the 10,000 spectators were entertained with some fine performances and some new records. The 1 Mile Challenge Cup race was won in a time of 4 minutes 55.5, over 20 seconds inside the old record.

A new event appeared on the programme entitled the Strangers 600 Yards, giving the opportunity to non-Civil Servants to compete on one of the country's most prestigious sportsgrounds. The first winner was W M Chinnery in a time of 1 minute 19.5.

The second day of the Championships was almost a washout as the rain fell so heavily that the sacks provided for those engaged in the sack scramble were at a premium and every available sheltered spot was crowded. A description of the sack race suggests it excited much amusement as several had not gone many yards before they fell. Mr W Hunt, however, managed to reach the end first, but no sooner had he done so than he had a "purler". Despite the bad weather the Ladies were dressed in light and elegant costumes.



A Picture of the CSAA Sports Prize Giving in April 1866 (from "1866 and all that" by Peter Radford)

Along with other annual events these Championships started to develop and in **1867** entry fees were made compulsory with the charge of 5 shillings for some and 2 shillings and 6 pence for others. Handicaps appeared for the first time and any winner in the previous 3 years would suffer such a "penalty". This applied to both track and field events.

Amongst the results there were some names coming to prominence, including Sydenham Dixon, about whom there is more to come. The winner of the 100 Yards was M E Jobling who not only showed a fine turn of speed with an 11 second clocking but also the 1 Mile where he lowered the record to 4 minutes 52 and 3/5ths.

In the Strangers 600 race the best time was reduced to 75 2/5ths secs as more prestigious athletes realised its value. In 1867 the winner was J Colbeck.

A report of the proceedings at Beaufort House on the Friday and Saturday was particularly enlightening. "As is always the case, on both days, great interest was evinced and the ground was crowded. It is not necessary to say much of what took place on Friday, for only one or two unimportant events were finally decided on that occasion. Saturday was the great day, as it was that which gave the palm of victory ultimately to one or other among the many who had been placed in the "heats" of the previous day. As a general rule, however, it may be said that this plan of spreading the sports over two days diminishes rather materially their attraction, especially on the first. The sports were resumed on Saturday, as we have said, under circumstances so favourable as to constitute a success hitherto unequalled in the history of these competitions. All the available positions from which a view of the course could be obtained were occupied, the stand in the enclosure was thronged, and the whole space between that structure and Beaufort House was so thickly crowded with vehicles it was difficult for those on foot to make way from the entrance gates to the racing ground.

The weather was glorious, so that the lady visitors had an opportunity of making a prominent display of varied colours of summer dress; flags of all sizes and designs were placed at frequent intervals along the course, the band of the Middlesex Rifles played on the green, so that no feature was wanted to make the scene more animated as well as picturesque”.

For the first time a 3-legged race was on the programme and it created a good deal of merriment. It was won by Messrs King and Aitchison, whose locomotive power seemed to be as sympathetic as those of the Siamese twins.

Guy Pym, one of the Association’s first “stars”, carried out judging duties at this Sports Day.

Whilst not exhaustive, the following periodicals carried either adverts or reports of the day - The Bridgenorth Journal (under Sports and Pastimes), Bells Life in London, The Morning Post and Evening Standard. Estimates of the spectator numbers were in the 6,000 - 7,000 region.

A contemporary publication (the forerunner of today’s AW perhaps) detailed all the major Track & Field Results in “The Athlete 1868” for 1867 by Anthony John Anstruther Wilkinson. With grateful thanks to the Athlos Library Collection:

Civil Service Athletic Sports.

On Friday, May 17, these sports were commenced at Beaufort House.

Flat Race, 100 yards—

HEAT 1.

T. D. Pigott (*War Office*) . . . 1
 J. Wearne (*General Registry*) . . . 2

Also ran — Hon. E. Thesiger, P. Francis, and R. Phillips. Won by 3 yds. Time, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ sec.

HEAT 2.

A. Baker (*Inland Revenue*) . . . 1
 C. M. Callow (*Admiralty*) . . . 2

The other competitors were R. D. Awdry, W. J. Maitland, and W. Butler. Won by a foot. Time, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ sec.

HEAT 3.

H. Tomlinson (*Customs*) . . . 1
 J. R. Aitchison (*India Office*) . . . 2
 J. Kirkpatrick 0
 J. G. Carew 0

Won easily. Time, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ sec.

HEAT 4.

M. E. Jobling (*Court of Probate*) 1
 C. J. Emery, owes 3 yds. (*War Office*) 2
 A. Pamphilon 0

Won easily. Time, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.

HEAT 5.

C. L. Williams (*General Registry*) 1
 J. Brewster, owes 3 yds. (*Royal Household*) 2
 J. W. Bawtree 0
 E. W. L. Hyves 0

Won by a foot. Time, 11 sec.

SECOND TRIAL HEATS.

First.

Pigott 1
 Tomlinson 2

Won cleverly. Time, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.

Second.

Jobling 1
 Emery 2

Won by a yard. Time, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.

FINAL HEAT.

M. E. Jobling . . . 1

T. D. Pigott } . . . 2

H. Tomlinson } . . . 2

C. G. Emery 0

Won by a foot.

Race, Quarter of a Mile—

HEAT 1.

S. Dixon (*Inland Revenue*) . . . 1
 W. F. Eaton (*Audit Office*) . . . 2
 R. Phillips 0
 J. Brewster 0
 C. M. Callow 0

Won by 2 yds. Time, 54 sec.

HEAT 2.

R. A. S. Lamb } 1
 M. E. Jobling } 1
 A walk over.

FINAL HEAT.

S. Dixon 1
 R. A. S. Lamb 2
 Time, 53½ sec.

Vaulting—

A. T. King (*National Debt Office*), 7 ft. 1
 W. A. Hunt (*War Office*), 5 ft. 11 in. 2

Race, Half a Mile—

W. R. M. Bethune (*Audit Office*) 1
 C. G. Emery (*War Office*) 2
 C. M. Callow 0

Twenty-one entered, six started. Also ran—E. C. Stebbing, E. H. Bowen, and C. Harding. Emery went away at a pace, but was soon headed by Bethune, who was never reached, and won by 3 yds. Callow ran through his men when half the distance had been compassed, and joined Emery at the top of the straight, and a splendid race for second place resulted in favour of Emery by a foot. The non-placed lot gave in at a quarter of a mile. Time, 2 min. 10 sec.

Hurdle Race, 200 yards, over 12 flights—

HEAT 1.

W. F. Eaton (*Audit Office*), and W. Lindsay (*India Office*), had a walk over and finished abreast.

HEAT 2.

E. Babington (*Admiralty*) 1
 E. Froeth (*Inland Revenue*) 2
 A. B. Cooke 0
 G. W. Bawtree 0
 R. Eyre Lambert 0
 Won easily by 8 yds. Time, 33 sec.

HEAT 3.

M. E. Jobling (*Court of Probate*) 1
 F. T. Follit 2

J. E. Bentley 0
 Hon. E. Thesiger 0
 W. A. B. Hamilton 0
 Won by a yard. Time, 33 sec.

HEAT 4.

C. J. Emery, owes 6 yds. (*War Office*) 1
 R. Phillips (*Post Office*) 2
 S. C. Spencer-Smith, owes 6 yds. 0
 A. Baker 0
 F. Lever 0
 Won by 3 yds., both taking it easy, as the rest were placed *hors de combat*. Time, 35 sec.

SECOND TRIAL HEATS.

First.

Eaton 1
 Babington 2
 Lindsay 0
 Froeth 0
 Won by a yard. Time, 32 sec.

Second.

Emery 1
 Follit 2
 Phillips 0
 Won easily. Time, 34 sec.

FINAL HEAT.

C. G. Emery (owes 6 yds.) 1
 R. Babington 2
 W. F. Eaton 3
 F. T. Follit 0
 Won by 3 yds. Time, 28¾ sec. Follit fell.

Match, 100 yards—

F. G. Faithful (receiving 5 yds.) 1
 H. Hawker 0
 Won by 7 yds. Time, 13 sec.

Challenge Cup, 220 yards—

HEAT 1.

T. D. Pigott (*War Office*) 1
 H. Tomlinson (*Customs*) 2
 J. Brewtey 0
 Won easily by 2 yds.; Brewtey gave up. Time, 24 sec.

HEAT 2.

C. G. Emery (*War Office*) 1
 J. G. Carow 2
 Won easily.

FINAL HEAT.

C. G. Emery . . .	1
T. D. Pigott . . .	2
H. Tomlinson . . .	0

Won easily; time, 24½ sec.

Two Miles Race—

J. A. Allanson (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	1
M. H. Holworthy (<i>Post Office</i>)	2
A. M. Allen (<i>ditto</i>)	3
H. H. Batten	0
A. C. M. Ashwin	0
W. Gibbons	0
H. B. H. Tytheridge	0
C. M. Callow	0
H. Strafford	0

Six laps. Commencing the third lap Allanson was leading Holworthy by 20 yds., and Strafford and Batten were some half-dozen yards behind, running abreast, the mile being completed in 5 min. 15 sec. They ran the next lap in this order, Batten, however, giving up; but in coming down the straight for the fifth time, Allanson slackened his pace, and Holworthy and Strafford came up, the latter showing in front by a great effort, only to drop away altogether. A most exciting race took place in the final round. Allanson struggled into first place in passing the post, and Holworthy passed him again in the back stretch, to be headed in turn by Allanson, who beat his opponent to a standstill 20 yds. from home. The rest were nowhere. Time, 10 min. 27 sec.

Race, 600 yards—

S. Dixon (<i>Inland Revenue</i>) . . .	1
W. F. Eaton (<i>Audit Office</i>) . . .	†
W. R. M. Bethune (<i>ditto</i>) . . .	†
Hon. E. Theisger	0
J. W. Bawtree	0
E. Dawson	0
H. B. Jones	0
H. A. Annesley	0

Dixon cut out the running to half way up the back stretch, where Bethune passed him; but coming again he came down the straight at a rattling pace,

and won by 2 yds.; Eaton collaring Bethune on the post, and making a dead heat for second place.

Sack Race—

F. D. W. Lindsay beat T. D. Pigott by a foot; some of the other competitors losing sight of the tape, lay where they fell.

Handicap, 300 yards—

HEAT 1.

E. U. L. Ryvos (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	1
C. E. Brady (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	2
T. C. Collett	0

Won by 6 in.; Collett fell; time, 35 sec.

HEAT 2.

C. L. Williams (<i>General Registry</i>)	1
J. Wearne (<i>General Registry</i>)	2
J. E. Bentley	0
T. A. Scott	0
A. T. King	0

Won by a yard; time, 35 sec.

HEAT 3.

J. A. Allanson (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	1
H. Tomlinson (<i>Customs</i>)	2
M. E. Jobling (<i>Court of Probate</i>)	0
E. Dawson	0

Won by 6 in.; time, 34 sec.

FINAL HEAT.

C. L. Williams (12 yds.)	1
J. A. Allanson (20 yds.)	2

Won by Williams, after a dead heat with Allanson.

Throwing the Cricket Ball—

W. J. Maitland (92 yds. 2 ft.)	1
A. D. Awdry (86 yds.)	2

Strangers' Race, 600 yards—

E. J. Colbeck	1
E. A. Hoare	2
R. W. Vidal	0
W. M. Chinnery	0

Won easily by 8 yds.; time, 75 sec.

High Jump— F. W. Smith 1 C. Guy Pym (owes 1 in.) } 5 ft. 5 in.	Handicap Race, 150 yards— (Open to all Gentlemen Amateurs.)
Walking Race, Three Miles— E. M. Williams (owes 45 sec.) 1 — Beauford 2 11 started. Won by 10 yds.; time, 23 min. 37 sec.	HEAT 1. E. V. Mackay (5 yds.) 1 W. Collett scratch) 2 Astley (7 yds.) 3 Also ran—C. P. Rhodes (9 yds.), F. Marshall (9 yds.) Won by a foot; good third; time, 15½ sec.
Challenge Cup, One Mile— M. E. Jobling 1 C. Williams 2 W. R. Botham 3 M. H. Holworthy 4 11 started. Won very easily; time, 4 min. 53 sec.	HEAT 2. C. Dixon (9 yds.) 1 Burke (8 yds.) 2 Also ran—G. H. Jupp (5 yds.), Chap- pell (8 yds.), F. T. Follitt (9 yds.) Won by a foot; time, 16 sec.
Three-Legged Race— King and Althison.	HEAT 3. S. Pike (8 yds.) 1 H. Stevenson (5 yds.) 2 W. Bennett (9 yds.) 3 Also ran—A. A. Smith (8 yds.), Mainprize (9 yds.) Won by 2 yds.; time, 16 sec.
Consolation Race— J. Brewtey.	HEAT 4. J. E. Bentley (10 yds.) 1 W. M. Chimmery (6 yds.) 2 Also ran—W. F. Eaton (4 yds.), Scull (9 yds.), J. S. Dixon (9 yds.) Won by a yard; time, 16 sec.
20th November.	HEAT 5. N. Bennett (9½ yds.) 1 A. King (9 yds.) 2 Also ran—A. D. Clarke (10 yds.), G. J. Sherwin (15 yds.) Won by a yard; time, 16½ sec.
Civil Service Handicap, 440 yards—	FINAL HEAT. S. Pike (8 yds.) 1 E. V. Mackay (5 yds.) 2 J. E. Bentley (10 yds.) 3 Also ran—C. Dixon (9 yds.), N. Ben- nett (9 yds.) Pike won, after a fine race, by a foot; but had Mackay been able to get through, the result would probably have been different; time, 15½ sec.
HEAT 1. W. F. Eaton (5 yds.) 1 T. C. Collett (22 yds.) 2 C. E. Brady (19 yds.) 3 Also ran—H. F. Bright (19 yds.), E. West (40 yds.) Won easily; time, 53½ sec.	
HEAT 2. C. G. Emery (11 yds.) 1 E. W. L. Ryves (16 yds.) 2 J. E. Bentley (18 yds.) 3 Won cleverly by 2 yds.; time, 55 sec.	
FINAL HEAT. C. G. Emery (11 yds.) 1 W. F. Eaton (5 yds.) 2 T. C. Collett (22 yds.) 3 Also ran—E. W. L. Ryves (16 yds.) Collett led to the straight run in, when Emery passed him and won by 2 yds.; time, 53½ sec.	

1868 witnessed the 5th Annual Civil Service Athletics Sports which will be remembered for different reasons than just the events taking place. Perhaps the most significant one being the appearance in the 5 mile walk of a red-haired giant of a man who as far as is known was never beaten in a walking race. At 6ft 2" this character would have drawn the crowds and so it was that, again, 10,000 or so spectators saw this experienced performer doing battle lap after lap with an adversary who he was unable to shake off. Given the size of the crowd and its proximity to the running track it is not surprising that the level of excitement amongst the populous spilled over onto the athletics track, so that with about one third of a mile to go the gloves were off and the "giant" tried to outwalk his immediate challenger. Unfortunately, such was the atmosphere amongst the assembled spectators that our bearded aspirant began to break stride and instead of maintaining contact with the ground with at least one foot each time found himself ignoring this walking rule and began running down the final straight. As he reached the finishing line in first position it was clear to the judges that an infringement of the rules had occurred and they disqualified the man mountain and his nearest adversary who was reluctant to see the title won by a "runner" so he too broke out into a run. Whilst this incident is a regular occurrence in walking races the name of the unfortunate "winner" remains to this day carved on the hearts of many fiction book enthusiasts and was none other than Bram Stoker, who at that stage was using his full name of Abraham. The author of Dracula may well have got his revenge on race day,

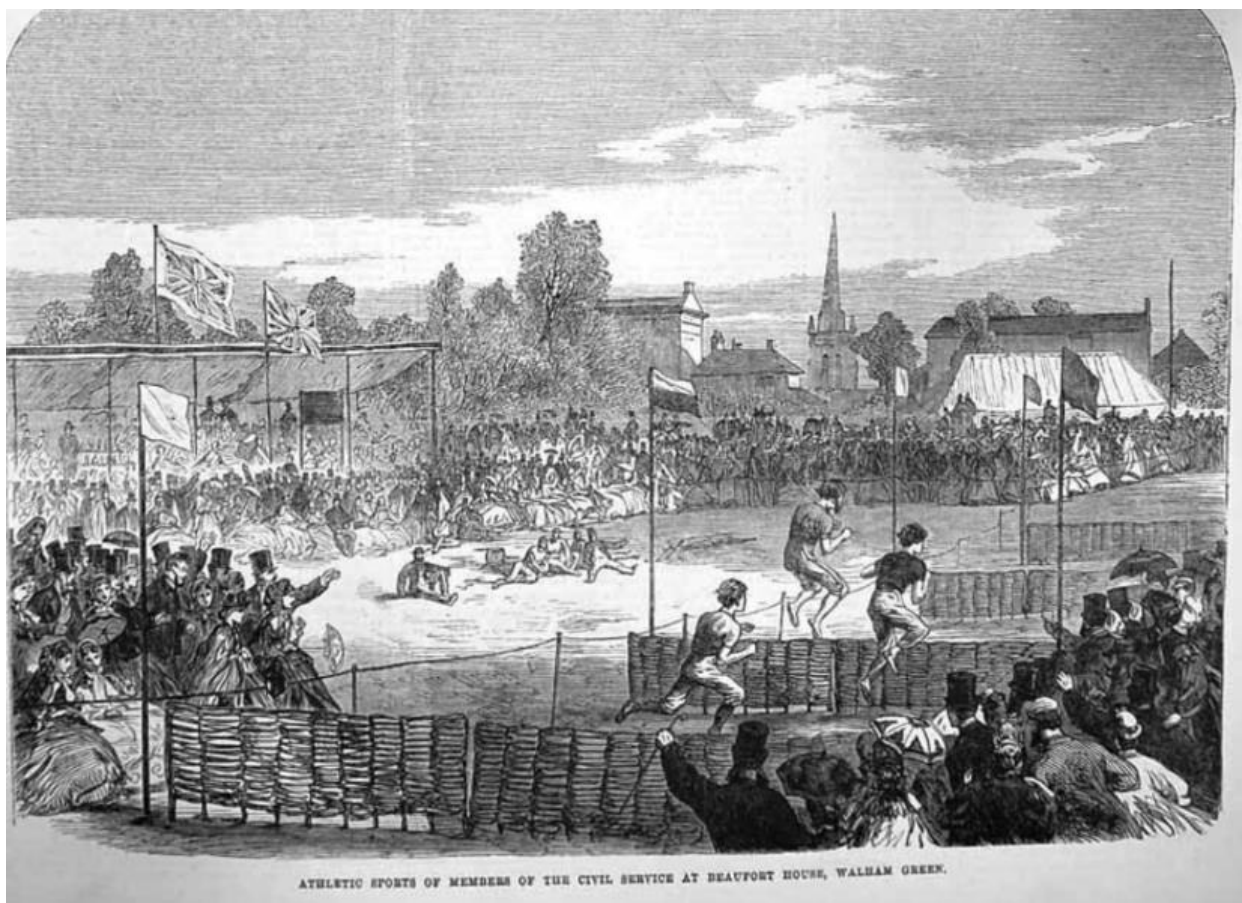
as that night London suffered a terrifically violent storm and several race walking judges may have had a sleepless night. Sometime afterwards committee members of the Civil Service Athletics Society decided to present Bram with a silver goblet to show their appreciation of his gallant struggle. It later came to light that Bram was not able to walk until he was seven years of age.

An interesting fact from 'The Official Centenary History of the AAA' states that "in 1868 Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula, came to London and competed in the Civil Service Championships. He finished first in the 5 mile walk and was only disqualified afterwards, presumably by a judge who preferred to remain anonymous." A footnote to the CSAA results from 1868 confirms that the 3 Mile Walk was in fact 5 miles and that A Stoker and R M Williams, who came first and second respectively, were disqualified.

The rest of the programme passed without incident but also included events not previously promoted at the Sports Day. The new additions were the Stranger's 1 Mile, Veterans 100 Yards, 700 Yards Steeplechase and 880 Yards Handicap.

The standard of competition began to improve with the introduction of Stranger's races and W M Chinnery, a previous winner of the 600 Yards, won the 1 Mile race in a quality time of 4 mins 29 1/5th. The Pole Leap, as it was then known, saw almost a foot added to the record and this in the day when the pole had no bend. The new height of 9ft 4" was very good in the circumstances and remember the landing area was just flat grass.

The newly promoted 700 Yards Steeplechase was a great success with the attendant water jump which caused much amusement. Whilst competitors in this event would have expected water to run through, the heavy downpour during the day left most athletes with at least 100 Yards of 2 inch deep water in their running events.



Civil Service Sports at Beaufort House

Whilst one can measure the success of the day by performances, scribes of the day had their own way of portraying events. One article began "Beaufort House itself, in the background, was well filled throughout the day by those whose inner man was not in a perfect state of cool repose and required refreshment, while for the brighter half of creation, who outshone in colours even the bright and gay trappings of the stand itself, a snug little tent with tea, ices etc was provided in a corner of the enclosure and considering that the admittance to the enclosure was only one shilling, there were very few who did not get their thorough twelpennyworth out in one way or the other. To the outsiders, however, the want of a good serviceable refreshment tent was much felt and later on in the day, when the ground was blocked with carriages more than one thirsty James bewailed his own super abundance of calorie and sighed for the happy corner publics in Belgravia or Tyburnia. The grandstand, (a facon de parler) not to be taken literally by the bye, faces the winning post for all races, and having its back well to the South West, its occupants were capitally protected from the sun, parallel to what is called the run in, a small tent had also been erected, but being uncovered it was not so well patronised. At the bend nearest the entrance a great number of seats had been placed in rows, and lining the side of the course from the starting place for the Quarter were rows of benches for weary legs. Not a few, probably excited by the rural nature of the adjoining cabbage grounds, which a great flight of imagination might picture as the lower grounds of Chamonix, seated the sloping Alpine embankment of the rifle butts, and from its halfway height, perhaps 15 feet, they surveyed the competition in a birds eye view and these individuals for the most part belonged to that proportion of creation that legally come under the title of infants. The arrangements of the course were well carried out, as the stewards and members of the press only were at first admitted within the enclosure but as the day wore on, however, either the laxity of the clerks of the course became more apparent or the exciting nature of the events required three or four representatives to each journal, but a large body of black coated but pencil-less individuals took up a position in skirmishing order at the lower end of the ground, wheeling every now and then on the telegraph board as a centre, or completely concealing the run in from sight by crowding round the winning post. The expostulations of the too kind hearted stewards were of no avail, "everybody but gentlemen of the press outside the ropes" had the effect of driving off, at the 6th attempt, three little boys, whose claims to a literary position were at last considered too ridiculous to be allowed. The standing order to the press to lie down was then given for the remainder of the day, and any inaccuracies in our description of the last races of the meeting must be attributed to the great difficulty of taking notes when stretched on mother earth at full length".

Once again, The Athlete for 1869 published details of the CSAA Results for 1868:

Civil Service Athletic Sports.

BEAUFORT HOUSE.

May 29th and 30th.

On the first day of these sports a great misfortune occurred: a tremendous thunder shower laid the path under water, and many of the events had to be postponed till the following day. Luckily no more rain fell, and the ground got into fair order.

FIRST DAY.

Broad Jump—

5 competitors.

A. P. Badcock (<i>Paymaster-Gen. Office</i>), 17 ft. 11 in.	1
F. W. Smith (<i>India Office</i>), 17 ft. 6 in.	2
B. E. Lambert (<i>Post Office</i>), owes 6 in., 17 ft. 3 in.	3

Throwing the Cricket Ball—

7 competitors.

G. Kneller (<i>War Office</i>), 99½ yds.	1
C. T. Parsons (<i>Post Office</i>), 89½ yds.	2

Hurdle Race, 200 yards (over 12 hurdles)—

5 competitors.

HEAT 1.

W. F. Eaton (<i>Audit Office</i>)	1
A. Graves (<i>Indian Service</i>)	2

A. P. Badcock (*Paymaster Gen. Office*) 0

Won easily from Graves. Time, 30 sec.

HEAT 2.

W. Lindsay (<i>India House</i>)	1
C. T. Parsons (<i>Post Office</i>)	2
G. T. Follitt (<i>Customs</i>)	3

Won by 4 ft. : a yard between second and third. Time, 31 sec.

FINAL HEAT.

W. F. Eaton	1
W. Lindsay	2
C. T. Parsons	3
A. Graves	4

Won very easily all the way. Time, 28½ sec.

Sack Race, 50 yards—

6 competitors.

T. Pigott (<i>War Office</i>)	1
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SECOND DAY.

Flat Race, 100 yards (heats)—

23 Entries.

HEAT 1.

W. F. Eaton (<i>Audit Office</i>)	1
A. P. Badcock (<i>Paymaster-Gen. Office</i>)	2
J. Wearne (<i>General Registry</i>)	3

Won easily by 4 yds. Time, 10½ sec.

HEAT 2.

T. D. Pigott (<i>War Office</i>)	1
S. Lynch (<i>County Court</i>)	2

A walk over.

HEAT 3.

W. Tomlinson (<i>Customs</i>)	w. o.
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HEAT 4.

B. Shortrede (<i>India Office</i>)	1
J. Walker (<i>Board of Trade</i>)	2
C. M. Callow (<i>Admiralty</i>)	3

Won by a yard. Time, 11 sec.

HEAT 5.

W. R. M. Bethune (<i>Audit Office</i>)	1
G. Kneller (<i>War Office</i>)	2
C. B. Harris (<i>Court of Probate</i>)	3

Won by 3 yds. Time, 10½ sec.

(SECOND ROUND.)

HEAT 1.

W. F. Eaton	1
T. D. Pigott	2
A. P. Badcock	3
S. Lynch	0

Won by a yard and a half. Time, 10½ sec.

HEAT 2.

R. Shortrede	1
W. R. M. Bethune	2
J. Walker	3

Won by 6 in. Time, 10½ sec.

FINAL HEAT.

T. D. Pigott	1
W. F. Eaton	2
R. Shortrede	3
W. R. M. Bethune	0

A splendid race, Pigott getting the best of the start, and Eaton moving rather slowly; when fairly moving, however, Eaton crept up, and was only beaten by 6 in. Time, 10½ sec.

Flat Race, 600 yards—

17 Entries.

(Open only to Members who have never won a Prize at the Civil Service Sports.)

S. Smale (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	1
T. C. Collett (<i>ditto</i>)	2
E. N. Alpo (<i>ditto</i>)	3

8 ran. Won by 4 yds. Time, 1 min. 23 sec.

Challenge Cup, 220 yards (heats)—

12 Entries.

HEAT 1.

W. F. Eaton (<i>Audit Office</i>)	1
T. D. Pigott (<i>War Office</i>)	2
A. P. Badcock (<i>Paymaster Gen. Office</i>)	3

Won easily. Time, 29 sec.

HEAT 2.

H. Tomlinson (<i>Customs</i>)	1
S. Dixon (<i>Inland Revenue</i>)	2
S. Lynch (<i>County Court</i>)	0
W. R. M. Bethune (<i>Audit Office</i>)	0

Won very easily. Time, 25½ sec.

FINAL HEAT.

T. D. Pigott . . . † 1
 W. F. Eaton . . . † 2
 H. Tomlinson . . . 3

A dead heat. On running off Pigott was clearly the fresher of the two (Eaton having been engaged in many other events), and won easily. Time, 24½ sec.

Handicap, 300 yards (heats)—

38 Entries.

HEAT 1.

S. Lynch (*County Court*), 25 yds. 1
 S. Smale (*Inland Revenue*), 23 yds. 2
 W. R. M. Bethune (*Audit Office*), 5 yds. 0
 C. Herbert (*Inland Revenue*), 26 yds. 0
 T. Gwyn (*Admiralty*), 29 yds. 0
 Won easily; time, 33½ sec.

HEAT 2.

R. Shortrede (*India Office*), 22 yds. 1
 C. M. Callow (*Admiralty*) . . . 2
 P. Gully (*Eccles. Com.*), 20 yds. 0
 C. Grey (*India Office*) . . . 0
 S. Bumby (*Inland Revenue*) . . 0
 Grey fell. Won by 1½ yd. Time, 33½ sec.

HEAT 3.

E. N. Alpo (*Inland Revenue*), 24 yds. 1
 E. L. G. Houndle (*Com-in-Chief's Office*), 27 yds. 2
 A walk over.

HEAT 4.

N. Grasswell (*India Office*), 20 yds. †
 W. C. Samuel (*Customs*), 24 yds. †
 A walk over.

FINAL HEAT.

N. Grasswell (20 yds.) . . . 1
 R. Shortrede (22 yds.) . . . 2
 C. M. Callow . . . 3
 Won by a yard; same between second and third. Time, 33½ sec.

Flat Race, Two Miles—

12 Entries.

C. L. Williams (*General Registry*) . . . 1
 H. Stratford (*Post Office*) . . . 2
 J. Bourdillon (*India Service*) . . 0
 W. Burridge . . . 0
 W. E. Napier (*Board of Trade*) 0
 H. H. Holworthy . . . 0

Won easily. Time, 11 min. 1½ sec.

Flat Race, 440 yards—

15 Entries.

HEAT 1.

J. Wearne (*General Registry*) . . 1
 A. P. Badcock (*Paymaster-Gen. Office*) . . . 2
 S. Lynch (*County Court*) . . . 3
 Won by a yard. Time, 58 sec.

HEAT 2.

W. F. Eaton (*Audit Office*) . . . 1
 F. W. Smith (*India Office*) . . . 2
 A walk over.

FINAL HEAT.

W. F. Eaton . . . 1
 J. Wearne . . . 2
 F. W. Smith . . . 3
 Won by 8 yds. Time, 54½ sec.

Pole Leaping—

4 Entries.

A. Graves (*India Service*), 9 ft. 4 in. 1
 R. E. Lambert (*Post Office*), owed 6 in., 8 ft. 9 in. . . . 2

High Jump—

5 Entries.

C. Guy Pym (*War Office*), owed 1 in., 5 ft. 8 in. . . . 1
 S. W. Abbott (*British Museum*), 5 ft. 6 in. . . . 2
 H. W. Murray (*Inland Revenue*), 5 ft. 4 in. . . . 0
 F. W. Smith (*India Office*), owed 1 in., 5 ft. 5 in. . . . 0

<p>Veterans' Race, 100 yards— (Lowest age 40 years; one yard allowed for each year over 40.)</p> <p>G. Wyatt (<i>General Registry</i>), owed 15 yds. 1</p> <p>R. E. Lambert (<i>Post Office</i>), owed 26 yds. 2</p> <p>W. W. D'Albiac (<i>Inland Revenue</i>), owed 11 yds. 3</p> <p>Won by 4 yds. Time, 13½ sec.</p> <hr/> <p>Handicap, 880 yards— 24 Entries.</p> <p>R. Shortrode (<i>India Office</i>), 55 yds. 1</p> <p>W. Burridge (<i>Indian Revenue</i>), 52 yds. 2</p> <p>G. T. Follitt (<i>Customs</i>), 50 yds. 3</p> <p>C. M. Callow (<i>Admiralty</i>), 12 yds. 0</p> <p>J. Bourdillon (<i>India Service</i>), 32 yds. 0</p> <p>H. Strafford (<i>Post Office</i>), 35 yds. 0</p> <p>H. Tomlinson (<i>Customs</i>), 40 yds. 0</p> <p>G. W. Bawtree (<i>Charity Com.</i>), 95 yds. 0</p> <p>A splendid race; won by 6 in. Time, 2 min. 7 sec.</p> <hr/> <p>Strangers' Race, One Mile— 10 Entries.</p> <p>W. M. Chinnery (<i>L. A. C.</i>) . . . 1</p> <p>E. Hawtrej (<i>Eton Coll.</i>) . . . 2</p> <p>A. Maddock (<i>L. A. C.</i>) 3</p> <p>C. Dunt (<i>South Norwood A. C.</i>) 0</p> <p>R. G. Woodthorpe (<i>Royal Engineers</i>) 0</p> <p>W. E. Milliken (<i>Trin. Hall, Cambridge</i>) 0</p> <p>H. St. J. Kneller (<i>Clayton C. C.</i>) 0</p> <p>R. E. Hannis (<i>Eton Ecclesiastical Club</i>) 0</p> <p>H. C. Riches (<i>Stella R. C.</i>) . . 0</p> <p>This splendid performance of Chinnery's requires little description, for he almost immediately took the lead, and was never again approached, winning by 25 yds. The rest were absolutely nowhere. The time was 4 min. 29 sec., the second fastest amateur time on record, the fastest being W. C. Gibbs', over the same course, in the Inter-Uni-</p>	<p>versity Mile, which he won in exactly 4 min. 28 sec. The Editor timed both races himself with one of Hancock's unerring stop chronometers, and can vouch for the accuracy of the times given.</p> <hr/> <p>Walking Race, Five Miles— 13 Entries.</p> <p>D. Eccles (<i>British Museum</i>) . . . 1</p> <p>H. F. Wilkinson (<i>Audit Office</i>) . 2</p> <p>J. E. Bentley (<i>Queen's Bench Office</i>) 0</p> <p>F. Maudesley (<i>Inland Revenue</i>) 0</p> <p>W. C. Samuel (<i>Customs</i>) 0</p> <p>E. W. L. Ryves (<i>Inland Revenue</i>) 0</p> <p>H. C. Garrett (<i>Registry of Seamen</i>) 0</p> <p>R. M. Williams (<i>Eccles. Com.</i>), owed 120 sec. 0</p> <p>A. Neighbour (<i>Customs</i>), owed 60 sec. 0</p> <p>A. Stoker (<i>Chief Sec. Office, Dublin</i>) 0</p> <p>This was a sad business. Williams, owing 2 min., gradually caught and passed all his men except Stoker. The pair raced home all alone, and in the excitement of the finish both broke. The Committee very rightly decided to disqualify them; but in recognition of their fine walking up to this unfortunate finish, presented both with cups. Williams's time was 40 min. 7 sec; Stoker's, 42 min. 7 sec.; Eccles's, 44 min. 53 sec.</p> <hr/> <p>Three-Legged Race, 100 yards— Post Entries.</p> <p>A. F. Brereton and J. Wearne . . 1</p> <p>Collett and Townsend 2</p> <hr/> <p>Challenge Cup, One Mile— 14 Entries.</p> <p>Sydenham Dixon (<i>Inland Revenue</i>) 1</p> <p>W. R. M. Bethune (<i>Audit Office</i>) 2</p> <p>M. E. Jobling (<i>Court of Probate</i>), the holder 3</p> <p>F. Medwin (<i>Admiralty</i>) 0</p> <p>M. A. Allen (<i>Post Office</i>) 0</p> <p>W. Burridge (<i>Inland Revenue</i>) . 0</p> <p>Won easily by 30 yds. Time, 4 min. 43½ sec.</p>
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<p>Steeple Chase, 700 yards— Post Entries.</p> <p>S. W. Abbott 1</p> <p>F. W. Smith 2</p> <p>6 ran. Won easily. Time, 1 min. 45 sec.</p> <hr/> <p>Consolation Race, 200 yards—</p> <p>J. E. Bentley 1</p> <p>G. W. Bawtree 2</p> <p>6 ran.</p>
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In 1869, whilst the list of results tells the tales of success and comparative failure the description of a Sports Days ambience paints a somewhat different complexion. A sports reporter in May 1869 penned the following paragraphs about the proceedings at Beaufort House.

“Of the many gatherings of a sportive character which take place on the grounds of Beaufort House few are more largely attended or more generally attractive than those conducted by the gentlemen of Her Majesty’s Civil Service. Last year the programme was extended over two days, but owing to the well-remembered thunderstorm on the first, which happened to be Oaks Day, little was done, and it was then found possible to compress all the events into one day.

Last Saturday’s list of entries filled a 12 paged pamphlet, and included many of the noted champions of former anniversaries. Beginning at eleven o’clock, on a raw and unpromising morning, with scarcely anyone present, they ran off the trial heats, and it was not until two that the more important contests for actual prizes were begun. By that time the ground had begun to assume its usual Civil Service aspect. The muster of well-dressed people was, in spite of the cold weather, as large as ever, the deep block of carriages showed

no diminution. Two brass bands of a military character relieved each other in providing constant music, and so contributed in no small degree to heighten the pleasure of the sports”.

Another scribe, possibly an off duty religious correspondent, decided to make his contribution to a sketch of the atmosphere. There are believers in muscular Christianity among the Civil Servants of the Crown. The annual celebration of the Civil Service Athletic Sports took place on Saturday. We are told that all went well. It was pleasant in the Veterans race to see the eldest competitor come first; pleasant to note this gentleman - grey, wiry and 56 years of age - finish his work artistically and without distress. The steeplechase, too, occasioned infinite merriment. An artificial lake with a stiff fence in its front had been prepared, and this had to be taken in its turn after a succession of jumps, and three times in the course of a mile run. The racers here were all finely built, muscular men, who in their gaily coloured silk breeches, bare legs, and tightly fitted skin jackets recalled the pictures of Spanish matadors about to wage war with the bull. It had a droll effect to see their respective friends - some old, some young and all in the ordinary costume of the gentlemen of today – putting the runners naked legs through an amateur shampooing process just before the start. The wind, as we have said, was cold, and so the calves and ankles were rubbed and pinched assiduously – a friend to each leg, in order that their owner might be ensured his maximum of elasticity when the word was given and he bounded off. The floundering into the water at the great jump, and the splendid way in which it was cleared each time by the winner of the race, were all watched breathlessly, and as if persons present had a personal stake in the result.

So, with the Pole Jumping, when active gentlemen threw themselves some nine feet into the air, and alighted comfortably on the other side of the bar as coolly as if it were a stile; so, with the hurdles, so throughout the day our Civil Servants seemed to distinguish themselves in all they tried for and there was a social side to their gathering especially pleasant to see. A family party-minus the cavilling fashionable entertainment where neither performers nor spectators were bored; a competition in which those left behind shared the sweets of the successful- such were the athletic sports”.

Prizes totalling £200 were supplied by Messrs Hancocks of Bruton Street (London) and times taken for the races by Benson’s Chronograph.

Guy Pym was the chief judge, W M Chinnery did the Handicap adjustments, W F Beaufort was the starter and W Morse was the event secretary. There were 32 races (heats and finals) and 250 entries. A lot of late arrivals missed their events.

Several times on Saturday the ladies and gentlemen assembled appeared to treat the ground set apart for those actively engaged in the sports as if it were designed for a promenade to the detriment of order and the increase of delay. It was an essentially brilliant scene, its only drawbacks being the dilatory grounds obstructiveness of the workmen and attendants connected with the grounds and the impulsive enthusiasm of some of the spectators.

The present was the last occasion on which this favourite meet will be held at Beaufort House since the arena is to be sacrificed to the inevitable cockney march of bricks and mortar during the ensuing autumn.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.						
EVENT.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
100 Yards	R. Norton	J. Brewtey	C. G. Emery	M. E. Jobling	T. D. Pigott	W. F. Eaton
Hurdle Race	S. Smith	C. G. Emery	C. G. Emery	C. G. Emery (od. 6 y.)	W. F. Eaton	W. Lindsay
220 Yds. Chal. Cup	—	—	—	C. G. Emery	T. D. Pigott	W. F. Eaton
250 Yards	—	Guy Pym	C. G. Emery	—	—	—
300 Yds. Handicap	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quarter-Mile	Guy Pym	Guy Pym	Guy Pym	—	—	—
600 Yds. Maiden R.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Half-Mile	R. Norton	Guy Pym	M. E. Jobling	W. R. M. Bethune	—	—
1 Mile Chalge. Cup	Guy Pym	E. C. Stebbing	M. E. Jobling	M. E. Jobling	—	—
2 Miles	—	—	—	J. A. Allanson	—	—
3 Miles Walk. Race	A. Neighbour	A. Neighbour	R. M. Williams	R. M. Williams	—	—
Steeplechase	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Jump	R. E. Lambert	H. W. Murray	Guy Pym	F. W. Smith	—	—
Broad Jump	J. Macnamara	J. Macnamara	R. E. Lambert	J. Macnamara	—	—
Pole Leaping	R. E. Lambert	R. E. Lambert	Phillips	—	—	—
Cricket Ball	A. F. Brereton	J. Kirkpatrick	J. Kirkpatrick	W. J. Maitland	—	—
Putting the Stone	Harran	J. Macnamara	J. Macnamara	—	—	—
Thrw. the Hammer	J. Macnamara	R. Norton	R. Norton	—	—	—
Vaulting	—	—	Phillips	A. T. King	—	—
Hopping R. 50 Yds.	T. D. Pigott	T. D. Pigott	J. J. Adams	J. Brewtey	J. E. Bentley	E. N. Ruddock
Consola. R. 200 Yds.	W. A. Hunt	A. C. M. Ashwin	W. M. Chinnery	E. J. Colbeck	W. M. Chinnery	W. M. Chinnery
Strangers' Race	—	—	600 Yards	600 Yards 75½ sec.	One Mile 4m. 29s.	Half Mile

* After a dead heat with J. A. Allanson, 20 yards.
† This year the race was made a handicap
‡ This year the race was five miles, and A. Stoker and R. M. Williams, who came in first and second respectively, were disqualified.

Results 1864 - 1869

In 1869 there were fewer field events at this Sports Day and across the board the standard of race winners was fairly decent. The new hurdles distance of 120 Yards appeared and the winner clocked a time of 17 3/5ths secs, not particularly fast but hurdles of this time were somewhat different to their modern-day counterpart. The veterans 150 Yards saw the winner clock a fast 16 1/5th secs and W M Chinnery, the official Handicapper for the meeting, won the 880 Yards (hopefully not a handicap). It would appear that the sports organisers were beginning to include new events to keep the audience entertained and perhaps include a younger section of society, and more specifically the sons of serving Civil Servants.

Soon after the CSAA Championships the following report appeared in the London Evening Standard - Saturday 22 May 1869 showing that Representative Matches were starting to take place:

“ATHLETIC SPORTS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE. The first athletic competition under this title was held yesterday on the Amateur Athletic Club grounds, and from the success that attended this first meeting, there is every chance of this competition becoming one of the most fashionable gatherings of the athletic season. The admirable position of the grounds adjoining the West Brompton Station renders it far superior for approach than any other near London, and so convinced do most cricket, football, and school clubs become in the necessity of an athletic contest among their members each year, that if the muscular movement continues in such force as it has done of late, there seems a likelihood of some large meeting coming off weekly. Though quite an idea of but a few weeks, the joint committee have succeeded in a marvellous manner in bringing men to the post, when we consider the disadvantages under which the military labour for practice with good men, and at different meetings. Yesterday their confidence in those competitions that required prompt and ready impulse, was not near so marked as in those of the civil service, who may justly lay claim to veteranship. Nerve and judgment in racing is as necessary as training, and many a good man has now been beaten by an inferior owing to want of nerve. Of the running contest the military

only secured one out of six, while in the contests which require strength the military were to the fore with three out of four. The competitions were eleven in number, so that the odds should fall to one side. Of these the Civil Service were seven to the Military four. Some of the racing was very exciting, especially the 100 yards, in which at the finish the three Civil Service men were within a yard of one another before Pym fell. The Civil Service men having just completed their own sports, had no difficulty in selecting their proper representatives, but with the Military there was much difficulty in deciding on the runners, and at the last moment several fresh entries were allowed to compete; this, to a certain extent, caused some confusion in the spectator's mind as to the runners, as the numbers could not be hoisted on the telegraph, but the question as to which side had won was in every case set at rest by a coloured flag being run up at the end of each contest, a red flag for the Military, and a blue and yellow for the Civil Service. The Guards' Band, under Mr. Dan Godfrey, have seldom played so well and so often, and the situation of the ground, sheltered well by the rifle butts, enabled every quaver of the melody to be heard. The Sports began at two p.m., at which time there was a very fair attendance, but later on the numbers were much increased, so that by four p.m. there were quite 3,000 people present, and a great number of carriages. The committee were Lieut. Colonel Hanimersley, Lieut. Colonel Bathurst, Captain H. D. Stracey, Messrs. F. Eaton, W. Morse, and C. G. Pym, Messrs. J. G. Chambers and R. E. Webster acting as starter. "

Following the 1869 Meeting the following appeared in Saunders's News-Letter - Friday 18 June 1869:

"CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETIC SPORTS. The spirited conduct of the Committee of this fine club in determining to hold their next meeting in the Exhibition Palace grounds will, we doubt not, secure for them large measure of the support they so well deserve. We have been afforded an opportunity of inspecting the handsome prizes, which are now on view at Mr. Lawrence's, 39 Grafton Street, and can answer for it that they reflect credit on the Committee."

1870 ushered in a new era for the Civil Service Athletics Sports as the organisation moved its annual championships from Beaufort House to the Amateur Athletics Club Ground, Lillie Bridge at West Brompton. A very healthy crowd of some 11,000 spectators viewed the proceedings but it was noted that most arrived in the afternoon, some of whom, began to take advantage of the much improved rail services.

The band of the South Middlesex Regiment provided the music but rather than play between races decided to entertain when the events were being run. This was put down to inexperience at such functions. Apparently the 11,000 strong "army" of supporters were as many as 4-deep around the track with the Pavilion crowded, as was the Amateur Athletic Club stand. Indeed, a large covered stand had been created and 1,500 chairs were distributed around the running path.

As the Veterans were now allocated a one yard start for each year over 40 in several events, both track and field, the handicap system was thus incorporated. New records were set in Shot Putt (38 ft 9 ins) and 100 Yards (10 2/5ths). Sydenham Dixon became the first athlete to win one of the Challenge Trophies made of solid silver for his third victory in the 1 Mile.

The photographs below were provided by Jerry Dixon, the Great Grandson of Sydenham, and show the salver that was presented to Sydenham after his third victory and is still in the family's possession which is a real link back to the very early years of the CSAA's history. It is not certain what happened to the actual Trophy.



A local newspaper summed up the day as follows: "These sports were held on Saturday last at the Lillie Bridge Ground and were as thoroughly successful as they usually are. There must have been a crowd of 6,000 – 7,000 present, a large proportion of the spectators being ladies whose summer costumes gave a charm to the scene which it must otherwise have lacked, the picturesque being an element of which the new enclosure of itself is utterly deficient, especially when compared with the old Beaufort House Ground. For the various contests there were as a rule, large fields, and for some of the events the number of entries extraordinary. The day's proceedings, which were of unusually long duration, beginning at 11 in the morning and going on till six in the evening, produced the best Weight Putting performance on record, though the High Jump was rather below Civil Service form, notwithstanding Mr Guy Pym was one of the competitors. Mr Sydenham Dixon, a winner of the mile race, becomes the absolute possessor of the very handsome Challenge Cup, having won the same event, three years in succession." The same writer continued to comment on each and every race adding observations about tactics and performance.

On this occasion the prizes, manufactured by Hancock and Co (Bruton Street) were distributed by Mrs Cardwell, wife of the Secretary of State for War. In fact the times of the races were taken specially by a representative of the firm and fortunately, all athletes warranting a handicap were shown in the results with their starting mark to ensure the reader was not imagining some of the faster times.

In **1871** the eighth annual meeting "for athletic pursuits by the gentlemen connected with Her Majesty's Civil Service" was held on Saturday afternoon last at the enclosed ground of the Amateur Athletic Club at Lillie Bridge, West Brompton. The weather, although somewhat chilly and dull, did not prevent an immense number of ladies and gentlemen from attending the "scene of action" and as the day wore on more than half the ground was covered with well filled carriages. In consequence of the great length of the programme a start had to be made shortly after 11 o'clock, when the 600 Yards race, open only to those members who had never won a prize at these sports was decided.

The racing on the whole was exceedingly good and in many of the contests, in which some of the well-known athletes had to contend the warmest interest was made manifest. As usual the number of entries were numerous and as the path was in capital order some very creditable times were made. In the course of the afternoon the band of the Coldstream Guards, under the direction of Mr Dan Godfrey, and the band of the Civil Service alternatively lent an additional charm to the proceedings by the performance of many exquisite pieces of music".

This description of the Sports Day provides a bit of atmosphere for the reader at the time. There were estimated to be 13,000 spectators despite a very cold North Easterly wind. Sydenham Dixon made it 4 in a row recording a good 4 mins 41 secs in the 1 Mile.

Most performances were on a par with previous years with new faces occasionally turning over the more established athletes. The Pole Vault record of 9 ft 6 ins was equalled and the winner of the Strangers 1 Mile Handicap recorded a time of 4 mins 24 ½ secs but off a 135 yard start. The scratch man who had to complete the full 1,760 Yards ran an excellent 4 mins 32 4/5ths secs. The 1 Mile Steeplechase continued to entertain the masses with athletes having to clear numerous hurdles and furze jumps. The eventual winner, R Nevins of the Post Office, appears to have won easily but did have a 65 yard start.

The reporter who provided the opening remarks above suggests the 600 yard event should have its name changed to the Inland Revenue Cup as the winner is almost inevitably from the Inland Revenue. However, it never was renamed!

By **1872** and amongst other communications appearing in local and national newspapers and periodicals the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Sports Association issued a request to all Heads of Department to

support this year's Championships and to establish an annual reunion. It was also noted in one newspaper that the Duke of Edinburgh was due to attend so perhaps this might have affected the response they wanted.

The largest ever crowd so far for the sports, estimated at some 13,000, enjoyed some fine weather with nearly 30 races. It was suggested that the Duke's supposed attendance inspired the increase in spectator numbers.

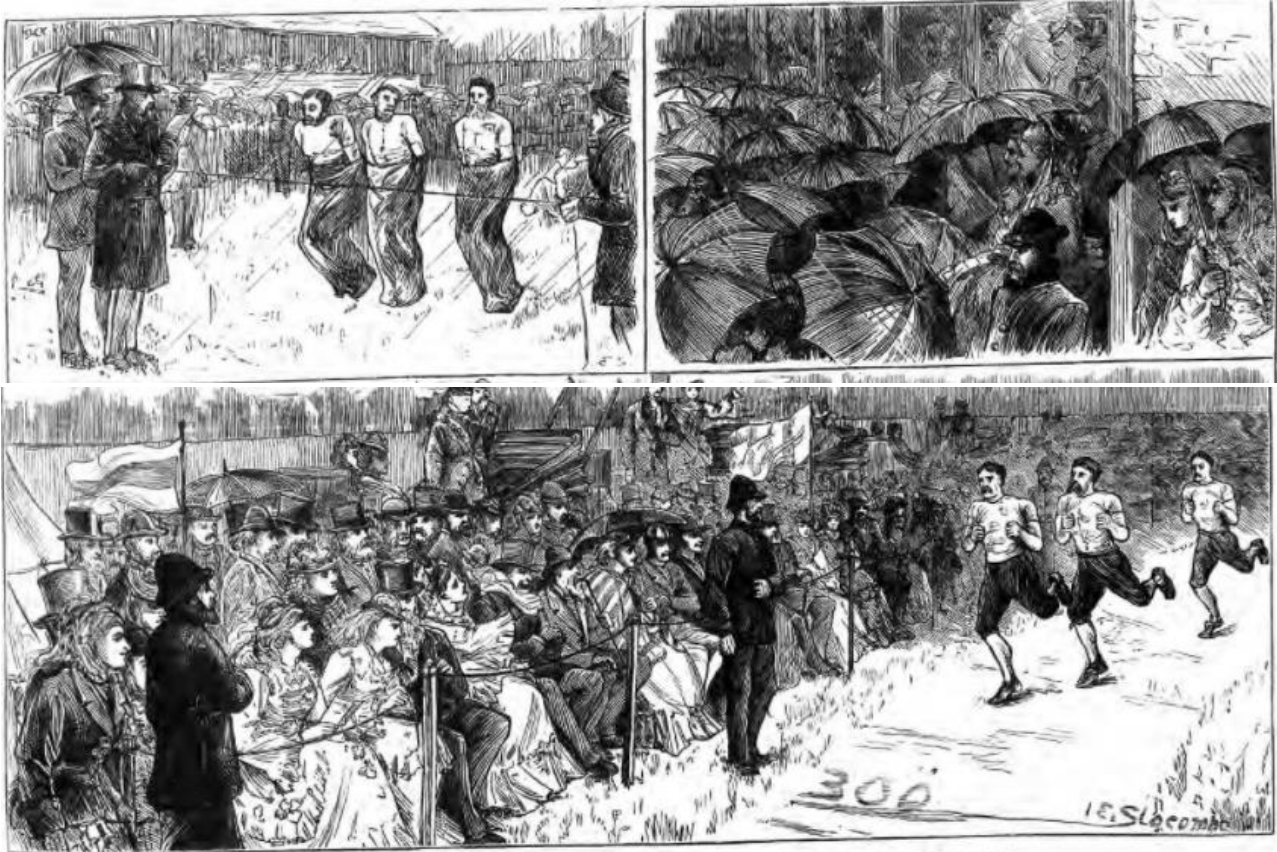
New records were set in the High Jump with 5ft 8 ½ ins (was it 3 1/2ins see London Evening Standard - Monday 27 May 1872?), 1 Mile Challenge (4 mins 34), 120 Yards Hurdles (16 4/5ths) and a further one equalled, the 100 Yards (10 2/5ths). Across the board the standard was good and a few new faces made their debut who were to be very prominent in later years. As with earlier Sports Days it appears that some events were dispensed with and others introduced.

Visitors to the Sports were always highlighted in the press and the appearance of the American Atlanta rowing crew caused some excitement. This foursome was actually in London to challenge some of the UK's best foursomes in the boat.

For the **1873** Championships The London Daily News provided an excellent summary of the day recounting the proceedings as follows: "Though the sports are always fixed for the middle or end of May, the Service has never yet been fortunate enough to have a thoroughly bright day, and on Saturday it had to contend with the double disadvantage of steady rain and a bitterly cold east wind. Notwithstanding these terrible drawbacks, upwards of 5,000 spectators were on the ground at one period of the afternoon, though many left when the weather showed no sign of improvement. The sport, on the whole, was decidedly poor, the fields being small, and close finishes quite the exception. It is not, however, very difficult to account for the falling off in this respect. In the first place, very few men have joined the service in the last 3 or 4 years and then owing to the large number of Athletic Meetings which take place in the course of the season, every man's form is so well known that those who have no chance do not care to run and lastly with a few honourable exceptions, the men will not take the trouble to train properly.

Despite the poor conditions a number of new records were set including the Long Jump (19ft 8ins), the 220 Yards (22 4/5ths secs), 440 Yards (52 3/5ths), Throwing the Hammer (90ft 4 ins) and the Stranger's 1 mile (4mins 31 1/5th secs). The hero of the day was J H A Reay who won 3 events, 220 Yards, Long Jump and 120 Yards Hurdles. Clearly the quality was improving and new stars were emerging.

From the **Graphic - Saturday 31 May 1873** came the following:



CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETIC SPORTS AT LILLIE BRIDGE

RUNNING IN SACKS

THE TWO-MILE RACE

THE GRAND STAND DURING A SHOWER

In **1874** for the very first time in the Civil Service Athletics Sports electronic timing was used with Benson of Ludgate Hill providing this equipment. The act of firing the signal set the clock in motion with the pistol being connected with the timepiece by galvanic wire. The act of passing the tape which was affixed to the battery had alike the simultaneous effect of staying in motion. The whole machine was automatic with a large dial showing the minutest fraction of a second so that the races could be timed to a nicety and in future matches there could be no cause for controversy on the subject of time. The contrivance was most ingenious, worked well, and stood the severe test admirably, though a little more time was required for regulating it so as to ensure greater accuracy. Before leading into this description of how it all worked the author of the article wrote that the timing of many races has always proved a source of great difficulty, as the several watches employed were found to vary considerably and strange discrepancies arose. This could almost be a description of today's events!

Last year's hero of the day J H A Reay added another Gold Medal to his collection but even he was outclassed by a newcomer whose all-round ability was such that he won the 440 Yards (52.0 new record), 220 Yards (23 4/5ths), 300 Yard Handicap and the 600 Yards Steeplechase (1 mins 17 3/5ths). The latter time reflecting 57 second 440 Yards pace over the longer distance and incorporating a water jump and some obstacles! G F Griffin, the talented all-rounder, managed to record a faster time than the winner of the straight 600 yard race. Although a number of winning times elsewhere looked ground breaking a fair number were in handicaps and the winner would have had a start of some distance.

In the Strangers' Open Mile Walter Slade lowered the Amateur Mile Record to 4 min 26 sec when he won from scratch and as quoted in "Athletics and Football by Montague Shearman in 1887" this event "has always, indeed, been one of the classic handicaps of the year. In 1868 Chinnery won this race in 4 min 29 sec, then a

record; after Slade's time W G George, the now famous professional, won the same race from scratch in 4 min 19 2/5 sec and the year afterwards W Snook won the same race from scratch in 4 min 20 sec."

The Musical entertainment was again provided by a Military Band and a decent crowd of some 5,000 souls were in attendance.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
100 Yards	A. J. Eames	A. P. Badcock	G. R. Johnston	W. L. Clague	H. Tomlinson
Hurdle Race	W. Lindsay od. 3 y.	W. Lindsay (od. 6 ya)	J. H. A. Reay	J. H. A. Reay(od. 3 yds.)	J. H. A. Reay od. 6y
220 Yards Chal. Cup	A. J. Eames	Arthur P. Badcock	G. R. Johnston	J. H. A. Reay	G. F. Griffin
200 Yards	---	---	---	---	---
300 Yards Handicap	S. L. Dixon, 18 yds.	G. R. Johnston 12 y.	W. G. Butler 12 yds.	G. F. Griffin(10 yards)	G. F. Griffin, ser.
Quarter-Mile	H. E. Wood	H. W. Murray	Sydenham Dixon	W. L. Clague.	G. F. Griffin
300 Yards Malden R.	K. W. L. Ryves	W. P. Bremner	J. H. A. Reay	H. B. Longmore	A. Farmer
Half-Mile	C. Herbert, (20 yards)	A. P. Powell 23 yards	T. C. Collett 24 yds.	R. W. Reay (35 yards)	A. Ashwin 35 yds.
1 Mile Chalge. Cup	Sydenham Dixon	Sydenham Dixon	Sydenham Dixon	G. F. Congreve.	G. F. Congreve
3 Miles	M. W. Whitmore	H. B. H. Tytheridge	G. F. Congreve	G. F. Congreve (scrub.)	E. O. Otter 100 y.
3 Miles Walk. Race	J. E. Boppley	A. Williams	C. M. Callow	F. Salisbury	W. Nops
Steeplechase 600 Yds.	---	R. N. Alpe	S. Smale	R. N. Alpe (od. 20 yds.)	W. L. Clague
1 Mile Steeplechase	F. W. Smith	*R. T. G. Nevins 65 y.	S. Smale (180 yards)	A. C. Ashwin (140 yds.)	G. Y. Lagden 90 y.
High Jump	H. N. Stuart	A. Christie	H. W. Murray	W. H. Lucas	T. G. N. Bower
Broad Jump	F. W. Smith od. 6 ins	W. H. Lucas	W. H. Lucas, R.N. Alpe	J. H. A. Reay	J. H. A. Reay od. 1.
Veterans' Race	---	R. Eyre Lambert	H. H. O'Farrell	H. O'Farrell	K. Fry
Pole Leaping	(W. H. Horley (H. N. Stuart)	A. H. Maude	Did not fall.	---	---
Cricket Ball	---	---	---	---	---
Putting the Stone	W. Bullock	---	J. F. C. Burgess	W. A. D. Evanson	W. A. D. Evanson
Throw the Hammer	H. R. Newport	---	J. Comrie	H. R. Newport	J. Comrie
Vaulting	---	---	---	---	---
Hopping H. 60 Yds.	---	---	---	---	---
Consigns. R. 200 Yds.	H. Tomlinson	G. W. Bawtree	H. C. H. Houndie	W. G. Butler	G. H. Hardy
Strangers' Race.	F. Richardson, 120 y. (One Mile Handicap)	W. C. Collins, 125 y. (One Mile Handicap)	F. J. Burt (60 yards) (One Mile Handicap)	W. Slade (scratch) (1 M. Hand. 80 yds. lim.)	(W. Slade (scratch) mile handicap F. T. Esborough 7y. (1/4 mile handicap) J. Ford (80 yds.)
Boys Race	J. A. D. C. Houndie (3 yards)	M. T. La Thangue (scratch)	H. Tilsley (10 yds.)	B. G. Mitford (80 yds.)	---

* This year the steeplechase was made a handicap.
 † In 4 min. 20 sec. the fastest amateur time on record up to May, 1874. Mr. Slade eclipsed this performance by running the same distance in 4 min. 24 sec. at a Meeting of the L.A.C. at Lillie Bridge, on the 18th June, 1875.

Results 1870 - 1874

For the 1875 event one of the main newspapers of the day, the FIELD, covered Sports Day in great detail including an introduction which painted a great picture of what it must have been like at this big occasion. The Report states: "During the last two or three years we have had to chronicle a falling-off in the éclat the above meeting was once celebrated with. However, on the occasion of the twelfth annual fixture, held at Lillie Bridge last Saturday afternoon, we are happy to be able to state that all the old prestige was thoroughly resuscitated, and the attendance of fashionable and gaily dressed spectators which crowded the course on all sides reminded us forcibly of the old Beaufort House days. Although, as usual at this meeting, the reserved enclosure was not so full as on London Athletic Club days, there was a goodly ring of carriages round the other three sides of the ground and by 4.00 pm there could scarcely have been less than twelve thousand people inside the gates. Luckily the April showers of the morning had cleared up by noon, or they would undoubtedly have kept many intending visitors away, and the only drawback in the weather was a fresh breeze from the southward and westward, which caused the dust to sadly spoil the ladies' toilettes, and inconvenienced the competitors along the railway and orchard stretches. The sport, too, was by no means so despicable as many of the croaking division in the course of the week had led us to suppose it would be. In the closed events J H A Reay carried off the lion's share of honours by scoring no less than 4 firsts, viz the 100 Yards, 120 Yards Hurdles, 220 Yards and Quarter Mile. As, however, he was only allowed to take three first prizes, he resigned the trophy in the last named to Nops (runner up in the 440 Yards). The Inland Revenue Department likewise secured both the long-distance items through C Herbert, who, though he sadly

lacks pace, is well able to stay “all the way and back again” if he wanted to do so. A W L Reddie, of the Exchequer and Audit, showed promise of future good form and pace in the Novice’s spin and half mile handicap. Had he but started for the mile he would, we think have been very near to, if not absolutely in front of Herbert, at the finish. In the Walking Race we were greeted with the sight of an old face from the same Department, viz G F Henson, whom many of our readers may recollect as finishing as indifferent third in this race in 1869. On the present occasion none of the penalised men were able to get on even terms with him, so he had it all his own way and won arms down. Three open events were this year included in the programme, viz a Quarter Mile Handicap, One Mile Handicap and Pole Jump. As a limit is always imposed on the two former at this meeting they are always popular events amongst really first-class men. In the Quarter the redoubtable Elborough would probably have done 50 secs had it not been for the gusty breeze mentioned above”.

The Pole Jump record was broken by two competitors who levered themselves over 10ft 3 ins. J H A Reay, who won 4 events on the day actually had a walkover in the 120 Yards Hurdles.

The prizes were, on this occasion, presented by the Right Hon Ward Hunt MP, Secretary of War.

Fine weather will always affect the support for a Sports Day but the London Evening Standard writer of the day was somewhat taken aback to report that over 20,000 spectators attended the 13th Civil Service Athletics championships at Lillie Bridge in **1876**.



A Contemporary Picture of Lillie Bridge

The proceedings began at 2.00 pm and almost from the off the old rivalries were set in motion. Benson’s Chronograph was on duty but despite this, times appear to have been recorded under the old system (i.e. 5^{ths} of a second) and the new. Two athletes achieved a trio of victories, one being the nationally renowned John Hay A Reay whose reputation centred on hurdling. He won the running Broad Jump (18ft 3ins), 220 Yards challenge cup (24 ½ secs) and remarkably, the 1 mile (4mins 59secs). The other, a talented all-rounder, W A D Evanson, picked up the 100 Yards (10 4/5ths secs), 300 yard handicap (33 ½ secs) and the Shot Putt (36 ft 6 ins). Outside of Athletics Wyndham Alwyn Daubeny Evanson played International Rugby for England, along with his brother, and was a member of Richmond RUFC.

On the basis that new events regularly appeared on the Programme, 1876 was no different. Tug O’War which subsequently became a regular feature at the AAA’s championships took place for the first time with 6 men to a team. First winners were the India Office Number 1 Team. The second brand new event was the 3 Mile Bicycle race which took place on the running track with aspirants atop the penny-farthing which from local

reports were difficult to manage and it comes as no surprise to learn that many came to grief. The winning time of 11 minutes 30 sounds decent in the circumstances. Times taken at the 1, 2 miles and the finish suggest a gradual slowing down as each mile point was reached.

The winner of the Pole Vault cleared a fine 10ft 6ins, one inch short of the amateur record for the time, and apparently made a good stab at 10ft 9ins. The winner of the 3 mile Walk heel toed around in a useful 25 mins 30 but the scribe who covered the race for his editor suggests it was well short of the national record of 22 mins 15.

The Penny Illustrated felt it appropriate to title their article the "Un-Civil Service Sports". They pointed out that the large crowd were attracted to Lillie Bridge last Saturday to witness the sports of young men who so superciliously and arrogantly conduct the business of the many circumlocution offices in London. The sport was far above the average of Civil Service Athletics for the last 3 or 4 years, but the entries were not so numerous as might have been expected from a large body of young men who apparently have so much idle time on their hands. Apparently, he did not sign the article, "Disgruntled of West Brompton".

In 1877 Bell's Life in London covered the 14th Annual Sports Day and although it said the day was gloomy and most certainly looking like raining, 16,000 persons passed through the gates, which of itself speaks volumes for the hold Athletics now had with the better class of society, and as rather more than a third were ladies, the sight indeed was imposing in every sense of the word.

The starters were much too lenient with the competitors, as in every sprint race an advantage of the pistol (when used) was tried on, thus making time taking a far more than ordinarily difficult task. The sprinters ran on the new path in the centre of the ground and this gave all in the Grandstand a much better view than the old path would have done. As the wind was in the runners' favour, it made them without doubt faster than the more sheltered position occupied by the original track would have done. Be that as it may, the 100 Yards race and the 200 Yards Open Handicap were fast with the latter producing the fastest on record from J Shearman of LAC in 20 2/5ths secs.

The first 20 foot Long Jump was recorded on this day by C L Lockton who also won the 100 Yards in 10 2/5ths. His 20ft 4 ins jump would have eclipsed the previous record by 8 inches with the promise of even longer distances in the future. C L also won the High Hurdles title (20 3/5ths) and was the new High Jump champion. An interesting fact about Charles Langton Lockton is that he was born in Tasmania on the 2nd July 1856 and was the second son of the Reverend Philip Langton Lockton. In 1864 the family returned to England, and the eldest son, Philip, became a pupil at Merchant Taylors' School in London with Charles joining him in 1866.

Charles was not an exceptional scholar but did develop into a fine natural athlete, outstanding at school and in nationwide competition. In 1873 and again in 1875 he won the National Long Jump Championship and at 16 he became the youngest English Champion on record. Charles retained his connection with sport by qualifying as an Official Starter, a position he filled at most athletic championships between 1890 and 1911, including the 1908 Olympic Games in London. From 1877 to 1881 he worked in the library of the India Office, moving on to a position as a Clerk in the House of Commons, where he remained until retirement in 1921.

Times were improving in the Stranger's events and F W Freeman recorded a class 49 4/5ths admittedly off 22 Yards in the 440 Yards. The Race Walk "lost" the 3 miles and the winner, E A Smythe, clocked 16 minutes 21 for 2 miles which would become the regular Sports Day distance for some years. The bicycle race also dropped some distance and this too was reduced to 2 miles. The shorter race produced a better quality time and as far as is known fewer cyclists bit the dust.

W A D Evanson, the previous year's joint "athlete of the day", pushed the Shot record out to 38ft 4ins as well as getting his name on the 440 yard trophy.

In **1878** The Sportsman Newspaper advertised the Civil Service Athletic Championships and incorporated the entry fee for several of the events. The 100 Yards Handicap, Quarter Mile Handicap, 1 mile Handicap all cost 5 shillings and the Pole Vault 2 shillings and sixpence. All entries had to be made by letter, presumably to give the Handicapper time to sort out the starting marks.

Just like modern times athletes were still arriving late and on the occasion of the 15th annual gathering three athletes missed the start of the Stranger's 150 Yards Handicap. They were permitted to run in a separate heat. Athletes who had already qualified objected to any of the latecomers making the final and their objection was accepted.

Although the standard across the board at the Championships has been consistently good this Sports Day would see the best yet. C L Lockton, who as an 18 year old schoolboy could jump 22 feet, leapt to a new record of 22 ft 3 ½ ins, adding some 23 inches to the old record. As mentioned above he was a prestigious talent and added the 100 Yards (no time taken) and 220 Yards (23 1/5th) to his daily tally. Research suggests that he became a painter in later life and found it a relaxing hobby. See

<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/people/artists/lockton> for further information.

J H A Reay, added another event to his tally of different challenges with a throw of 80ft 9ins in the Hammer. It wasn't a record but record at the sports. The 2 broken by H A Venables with

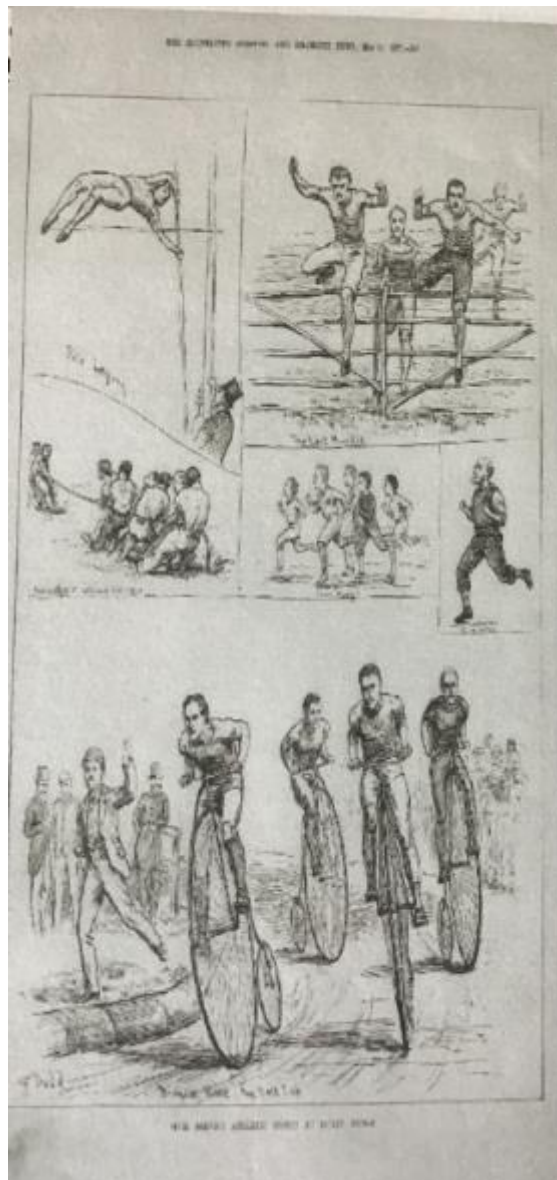
In **1879** C L Lockton went one Gold titles at Lillie Bridge magnificent long jump of 22 ft performed one further jump present and did 22 ft 9 ins.

The press was quick to relate the best all round athlete in indeed privileged to see him spectators was deemed to be they too would have

The Duke and HRH The Duchess of Teck, presented proceedings and it was also

It was in 1880 that the Association was established world's oldest National the CSAA pre-dated this event Governing Body. However, it were instrumental in the the following decades as the General Committee that was representatives from various Service Club.

From 1880 the names of prizes were added and they



certainly one of the best on mile Bicycle record was a 2 mile time of 6 mins 36.

better than his previous 2 amassing 5 wins including a 6 ins. He apparently in front of the royalty

that Lockton was perhaps England so they were compete. The number of in the 12-13,000 range and recognised his talent.

Princess Mary Adelaide, the prizes at the end of the the Queen's birthday.

Amateur Athletic and is stated to be the Governing Body. Obviously but was not a 'National' is clear that Civil Servants development of athletics in AAA was managed by a composed of bodies including the Civil

those who presented the include: Mrs W E

Gladstone, The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, The Earl and Countess of Granville, Montague Sherman (competed in the first ever International Match on 5/6/1876), The Speaker of the House of Commons and Mrs Peel and The Duke and Duchess of York.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879-18
100 Yards	J. H. A. Reay	W. A. D. Evanson	C. L. Lockton	C. L. Lockton (ow. 3 yds.)	C. L. Lockton (ow. 6 yds.)
Hurdle Race	J. H. A. Reay (w. n.)	W. Lindsay	C. L. Lockton	† W. A. D. Evanson	C. L. Lockton (ow. 7 yds.)
200 Yds. Chal. Cup	J. H. A. Reay	J. H. A. Reay	J. H. A. Reay	C. L. Lockton (o. 6 y.)	C. L. Lockton
300 Yards Handicap	Henry Leach (14 yds.)	W. A. D. Evanson, scr.	A. G. Babington (18 y.)	R. B. Firminger (22 y.)	R. B. Firminger (13 yds.)
Quarter-Mile	* J. H. A. Reay	A. W. L. Reddle	W. A. D. Evanson	F. B. Montague	J. H. A. Reay
500 Yards Maiden R.	---	---	W. T. M. Murtele	R. B. Firminger	H. S. Thompson
600 Yards Maiden R.	A. W. L. Reddle	G. S. Wright	W. H. Baighon	J. P. Bate	T. E. Salmon
Half-Mile	H. M. Smith (48 yds.)	F. G. Nott-Bower (50 y.)	H. F. Drew (14 yds.)	J. Bell (33 yds.)	F. B. Montague (scr.)
1 Mile Chalga. Cup	C. Herbert	J. H. A. Reay	M. Sharpe	M. Sharpe	M. Sharpe
2 Miles	C. Herbert (20 yards)	F. B. Montague	L. Strange	G. P. Shephard	---
3 Miles Walk. Race	G. F. Henson	† P. Salisbury (scratch)	H. A. Smythe (10 a.)	J. Bell (36 s.)	G. P. Beckley (15 sec.)
Veterans' Race	E. Fry	E. Fry (owed 14 yds.)	H. Fry (14 yards)	† A. F. Anley (scr.)	W. Batty (9 yds.)
Boys' Race	J. W. H. Foord (70 y.)	J. W. H. Foord (80 y.)	W. L. Bradford (80 y.)	L. W. Bathurst (35 y.)	W. G. Pridmore (scr.)
Strangers' Mile	A. E. Ball (35 yards)	{C.C. Bryden, 188 y.}	W. Stevenson (45 yds.)	J. J. Archer (110 yds.)	J. A. Voelcker (70 yds.)
Strangers' Quarter	F. W. Todd (20 yards)	{M. Preston, 85 y. †}	---	---	---
Strangers' 150 Yards	---	R. J. Stephens (21 yds.)	F. W. Freeman (22 yds.)	A. A. Barker (22 yds.)	S. H. Baker (11 yds.)
Pole Jump	* R. W. Sabin	H. W. Strachan	† J. G. Wylie (13 yds.)	R. H. Dudgeon (11 1/2 y.)	A. C. Colledge (9 yds.)
High Jump	F. G. Nott-Bower (owed 1 inch)	---	C. L. Lockton	H. W. Strachan	H. W. Strachan
Broad Jump	---	J. H. A. Reay (owed 1 ft.)	C. L. Lockton	C. L. Lockton	** C. L. Lockton (ow. 1 in.)
Putting the Shot	W. A. D. Evanson	W. A. D. Evanson (owed 3 ft.)	W. A. D. Evanson (owed 3 feet)	W. A. D. Evanson (owed 3 feet)	** C. L. Lockton (ow. 1 ft.)
Thrw. the Hammer	J. Courie	---	---	J. H. A. Reay	W. A. D. Evanson (o. 3 ft.)
Concord. R. 300 Yds.	W. A. R. Batcher	H. P. Clarke	F. W. B. Godrich	W. T. McMurtrie	---
Hoyals Race (3 m.)	---	J. J. D'Oliver	E. J. Deer	H. A. Venables	W. H. Baighon
Tug of War	---	India O. No. 1 Team	India O. No. 1 Team	India Office No. 1	F. Rendell (40 yds.)

* Mr. Reay having won 4 first prizes, and no competitor being allowed to take more than 3, gave up the Quarter-mile to Mr. B. Nops.
† Mr. Sabin tied with Mr. Leeds and won the toss. The Pole Jump was this year thrown open to strangers.
‡ The Walking Race was this year made a handicap. § The distance of the Walking Race was this year altered to 3 miles.
¶ In the 1st heat of this race Mr. J. Sheerman (scratch) ran the distance (200 yds.) in 29 2-5th sec. The fastest time on record.
** This year the Hurdle Race was made a handicap. † The lowest age for the Veterans' Race was this year reduced from 40 to 35 years.
†† Mr. Lockton having won 2 other Prizes gave up the High Jump to Mr. F. G. Nott-Bower, and the Broad Jump to Mr. R. B. Firminger.
‡‡ In 1879 the Prizes were distributed by H.R.H. The Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck. ††† Dead heat.

Results 1875 - 1879

1880 and the first championships of the new decade saw a large crowd of some 10,000 souls and more "Strangers" competing for prestigious titles. The Daily News recalls that "the most remarkable achievement was that of W S Phillips in the 150 Yards Stranger's Race, which he won from scratch in the grand time of 15 secs, thus beating the record". Clearly the wider Athletics community were targeting high profile races and in later years world record holders would appear at the Civil Service Athletics Sports.

The walking fraternity did nothing to help their cause and the race report begins: "with a complete farce, all the competitors, with the exception of the scratch man (who after he settled down went in much better style than usual) trotting nearly all the way. The Judges, however, did not like to disqualify the lot, and consequently let them "make the best of their way". Callow winning by 40 Yards, whilst 150 Yards divided second and third. C M Callow would become one of the most remembered of all competitors in Civil Service Sports history but for good reason.

C L Lockton continued to collect his armful of prizes and in an era when event names were changed quite regularly, he won the Wide Jump! There were actually 4 Strangers Races at the Championships over 150 Yards, 440 Yards, 1 mile and 600 Yards and all were handicaps. At this point in time it appears that all "Novelty" events had been dropped from the programme so the event was moving more towards a conventional Track and Field timetable.

The Prizes for 1880 were again presented by Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck

However, in **1881** no lesser person than the wife of the Prime Minister, Mrs Catherine Gladstone, presented the prizes – see illustration below from The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News:



1881 Presentation by Mrs Gladstone (wife of the Prime Minister William Gladstone)

These championships were poorly supported when a mere 5,000 spectators poured on to the grounds at Lillie Bridge. The overall standard was not seen as being too enterprising, however, the writers of the day chose to highlight two individuals whose performances were of particular merit. The name of G P Beckley was mentioned as the winner of the 2 mile Walk in a very good time of 15 mins 8 1/5th secs. This gentleman was actually winner of the AAA's Title a number of years before but by default. His main adversary, H Venn, a well-known walker, was told after crossing the finishing line in first place that he was DQ'd for "unfair" going. Like most walkers at top level there was always a chance that a borderline incursion could bring disqualification. The decision naturally gave rise to some unpleasantness and when the prizes were given away at the AAA's there was a noisy demonstration.

Charles Langton Lockton, who now worked in the House of Commons, and was a permanent fixture at the Civil Service Sports Day was surely one of the "star" attractions and it would not be too surprising to learn that the crowds would come to see him compete and by all accounts, aside from G P Beckley, the remaining competitors were ordinary.

The Press was aware about forthcoming competitions and made mention of a future race between the 1880 Civil Service Sports Day Strangers 150 yard winner W P Phillips and Lon Myers, the American flyer. This athlete

held every American record from 50 Yards to one mile and whilst setting the world quarter mile record ran the last 150 Yards without his right shoe! Mr Phillips would have his hands full as Myers had a personal best at this latter distance of 49.4 on grass.

Hopefully the quality would return to the championships in later years.

In **1882** Walter G George (see Photo below with 1886 WR time) set a mile record of 4 min 19.4 sec and had won every honour open to him in the amateur ranks holding the world record from 1 mile to 10 miles. It is probably true to say that not many 19th Century athletes are remembered by the general public, but most runners of a certain age will recall the name of Walter George. He began his sporting career by cycling and walking at the weekends and entered the world of Athletics in 1878 and quickly came to the attention of the handicapping fraternity as having run 4 mins 29 for the mile off 45 Yards he was destined not to get another one.

Seemingly part of his training involved running in place with high knee lifts and springing and to take baths in brine. In 1880 he had set what was then a new World Amateur Mile Record of 4 mins 23 1/5th. At the same time the Professional Mile Record was being lowered and at 4 mins 16 1/5th was comfortably better than its amateur equivalent.

The atmosphere at Lille Bridge on 3rd June 1882 would have been electric with many thousands of spectators wanting to see the World Record holder perform a bit more magic. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the announcement that the Duchess would present the prizes to successful candidates attracted more folk than for the sake of the sport alone. The reserved seats on the flagged and early decorated terraces and raised lawns were literally thronged with ladies whose summer toilettes presented a pleasant contrast to the fresh verdure of the trimly-kept enclosure of the Amateur Athletic Club. The Band of the Coldstream Guards was present and added considerably to the general enjoyment. To the lovers of athletics, however, perhaps the chief attraction of the afternoon was the grand performance of W G George, of the Mosseley Harriers, amateur champion, who in the open Mile Handicap, running from scratch, accomplished the distance in 4 mins 19 2/5ths secs and thus eclipsed all previous records achieved by amateur runners.



He thus beat his own best time by 3 3/5ths secs and accomplished a most remarkable and unprecedented record. In the Open Mile on the Saturday George placed at scratch, was opposed by no less than 15 competitors, the limit man being on the 120 yard mark. George, however, ran quickly through the field, and at the half mile was leading. He was never afterwards approached and although Birkett, who had started from the 20 yard mark, made one determined spurt, he was unable to close with George, who ran right away and won by 20 Yards. As he won so easily it is only fair to assume that the victor did not finish "all out" and that had he been pressed in the last half mile such a possibility as equalling the best professional record of 4 mins 16 1/5th secs by W Cummings of Paisley, might have happened. The successful athlete was loudly cheered as he returned to the pavilion.

One novelty event appeared to entertain the military types at the championships with the introduction of a 600 Yards for volunteers in marching order! The rest of the Sports Day was probably a bit flat as this was the first occasion a World Record had been set at the Civil Service Athletics Sports Day.

In this year, Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, future Great Grandmother of Queen Elizabeth II, husband of King George V, presented a Trophy for the 150 Yards Veterans Handicap, in recognition of her visits to Sports Day in 1879 and 1880. This Trophy was recently "found" during a family clear-out and queries raised with CSSC and CSAA as to its provenance, which was all too clear from the research undertaken and a great find as the photos illustrate. It is believed that a new trophy was donated in subsequent years.





In **1883** whilst spectators were still talking about the world record set by Walter George the year before, another superstar was about to take to the stage. This was William Snook of Shrewsbury, a runner of very remarkable physique who was described as being: “a short, thick set man with tremendous legs, shoulders and chest who certainly looked most unlike a runner of longer distances”. However, he to, like George, trained his strength and staying powers to an extraordinary pitch of excellence and although most unlike George in build, resembled him in striding straight from the hips, and thus covering more ground in each stride than would have been thought possible from his height and make. When at his best Snook was very little inferior to George at any of his distances.

Given the lack of opposition on the day it came as a surprise to see Snook powering his way to a time, which if ignoring George's 1882 time, would have been a world amateur record. The clocking of 4 mins 20 secs was exceptional and Montague Shearman wrote that "a hard race on that day would, we think, have made him do an astonishing performance". William Snook, also Mosseley Harriers, won eight AAA titles and was a National Cross Country Champion but was also the first man to be suspended by the AAA! Others who had competed in the 1876 International also competed in Civil Service Sports events around this time.

The Queen's weather favoured the 20th Annual Sports Day celebrations and so sultry was the weather that, in the words of Sidney Smith, "one wished to sit upon a rock on one's bones".

As usual, the West Brompton Ground assumed its customary animated appearance, the assemblage being one of the largest ever gathered together on this important occasion. Indeed, as an enthusiastic "Service" man remarked to us, "The Derby was a fool to it; and see what a lot of fine ladies we have into the bargain! Both Pavilion, Stand and enclosure were crowded to excess, whilst a ring of some three deep encircled the ground with every point of vantage being eagerly seized upon. As a proof of the outside interest taken in the proceedings, it was mentioned that some enterprising gravediggers had conceived the idea of erecting a miniature grandstand on the catacombs of the adjoining cemetery. Judging from appearance, its occupants accepted the situation with evident satisfaction. With regard to the arrangements for the sports, everything was well managed, and nothing forgotten. Mr Harry Tomlinson's (Hon Secretary) bump of order must be as big as a hen's egg. But the racing - Well it was good all round".

C M Callow, a regular medal winner in the Walk, added another to his collection and would have been known by many spectators for traditionally wearing pink attire. The leaders had powered through the first mile in a swift 7 minutes 28 and maybe tried too hard early on and it was Callow who held something in reserve and at one day into his 48th year was a worthy winner with a finishing time 16 mins 15.

The veterans 150 Yards brought together some of the oldest competitors of the day and the gay youths referred to in one article about the race gave the ages of the silver and bronze medallist as 73 ½ and 69.

The Field Events appear to have taken a back seat with only the High Jump contested. There were now two categories in the Tug O'War, the Lightweight and the Heavyweight with the War Office winning both.

In **1884** the disappointment of the day was undoubtedly the sad sight of Walter George finishing 5th in the 1 mile Open Handicap where he had coughed incessantly throughout the race.

The Sporting Life journalist eloquently described the mood of the day beginning with: "Rather dreary was the outlook on Saturday morning, the portentous signs of the atmosphere promising nothing less than a regular damper. Nevertheless the company at Lillie Bridge on the occasion of the Twenty First Annual Athletic Meeting promoted by the members of Her Majesty's Civil Service was a fashionable one and to reward the staunchness of those who had prepared to set the weather at defiance, the mist about the east gradually gleamed with faintly diffused light, that spread, and widened, and grew stronger, till at last a ray of slanting sunshine pierced through the wavering vapour, and soon after the bag dell overhead the sky was bright and clear. Naturally the stands then commenced to fill and the fair sex came out strongly in Horticultural show toilettes. Poor entries at the Civil Service are generally as rare as icebergs in the Mediterranean, but we must confess that we are not prepared to find such a decided weakness in the numerical strength of the fields as regards the open events on the occasion under notice. To catch a weasel asleep has hitherto been considered by curious philosophers a different matter, but A E Saunders (Post Office) off 45 Yards, certainly caught that peculiar vermin in a comatose condition by getting in at Yards more than his merits demanded in the 880 Yards Handicap."

The year the prizes were presented by the Viscount and Viscountess Bury.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
150 Yards	J. H. A. Reay	C. L. Lockton (s. 6 yr.)	E. P. Weber	C. L. Lockton (s. 8 yds.)	M. J. Jackson
Hurdle Race	W. A. D. Evanson (1 yd.)	C. L. Lockton (s. 17 yrs.)	F. G. Nott-Bower, sen.	W. H. Angle (s. 4 yds.)	A. Prole (s. 6 yds.)
250 Yds. Chal. Cup	C. L. Lockton	—	J. O. Bradfield (18 ya.)	W. Denison (18 yds.)	M. J. Jackson (6 yds.)
350 Yds. Handicap	J. H. A. Reay (10 yds.)	J. O. Bradfield (25 ya.)	—	—	—
440 Yds. Handicap	—	—	C. L. Lockton	M. J. Jackson	W. L. Smith
440 Yards Level	—	—	E. P. Weber	J. M. Haslam	W. L. Smith
500 Yds. Maiden R.	W. North	W. Denison	A. R. Taylor	M. J. Jackson	G. T. Plowman
600 Yds. Maiden R.	J. G. Hamilton	J. B. Lawrence	J. Cotter (18 yards)	T. W. Howard (48 yds.)	A. E. Snunders (45 yds.)
600 Yds. Handicap	F. B. Montague (scr.)	J. Cotter (30 yards)	S. Edwards	T. W. Howard	J. Cotter (s. 20 yds.)
1 Mile	F. B. Montague	J. Cotter	G. P. Beckley (scratch)	C. M. Callow (45 secs.)	G. P. Beckley (scr.)
1/2 M. Walking H'cap	C. M. Callow (28 secs.)	G. P. Beckley (scratch)	G. P. Beckley (scratch)	H. Whitmore (34 yds.)	W. Mills (51 yards)
Veterans' Race	J. Mitford (134 yds.)	W. B. Carter (scratch)	J. W. Parrott (314 yds.)	J. H. Gill (6 yds.)	J. H. Gill (6 yards)
Boys' Race No. 1	A. G. Le Maître (5 yds.)	A. G. Le Maître (scr.)	W. H. Tucker (44 yds.)	R. E. Tucker (6 yds.)	A. S. Morse (14 yards)
Boys' Race No. 2	—	—	—	W. Snook (Scr.)	E. O. Carter (18 yds.)
Open Mile H'cap	A. H. Davich (48 yds.)	J. H. Clark (54 yards)	W. G. George (scr.)	H. T. Chalou (27 yds.)	J. P. Musgratt (6 yds.)
Open 400 Yds. H'cap	A. H. Stocham (32 yds.)	C. D. Nuttall (28 yds.)	C. Holden-White (13 y.)	J. Jenkin (13 yds.)	J. A. Jenkins (8 yds.)
Open 150 Yds. H'cap	W. F. Phillips (scr.)	C. D. Nuttall (9 yds.)	S. H. Baker (5 yds.)	—	—
Open 600 Yds. Level	J. D. Saffler	S. H. Baker	—	—	—
Open 1 Mile Bicycle	—	—	H. A. Speechly (70 yrs.)	—	—
Pole Jump	E. A. Strachan and G. Callow, tied	—	—	—	—
Broad Jump	C. L. Lockton (s. 18 in.)	C. L. Lockton (s. 18 in.)	—	—	—
High Jump	—	C. L. Lockton	F. G. Nott-Bower	F. G. Nott-Bower	A. E. Nuttall
Putting the Shot	W. A. D. Evanson (sowed 3 feet)	—	—	—	—
Bicycle Race—2 m.	(H. A. Vanshlee (25 yds.)	H. C. Tattam (180 yds.)	H. C. Tattam (35 yds.)	A. G. Gladwyn (125 yds.)	—
Volunteer Race	—	—	F. B. Montague	F. B. Montague (s. 70 ya.)	—
Tag of War	India Office	India Office	War Office	War Office	War Office
Tag of War, Lt. Wts.	—	—	War Office	War Office	War Office
Consolation Race	F. W. B. Godrich	F. B. Montague	O. H. Steward	A. Mason	J. K. Lawrence
Distribution of Prizes	H. R. H. The Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck	Mrs. W. E. Gladstone	T. R. H. The Duke & Duchess of Connaught	The Earl & Countess of Granville	Viscount and Viscountess Bury

† Mr. George ran the mile in 4 m. 15 2-8th secs., the fastest time on record. ‡ This year the distance was reduced to 150 yards.
 ¶ This year the Hurdle Race was made an open handicap. †† The High Jump was this year thrown open.

Results 1880 - 1884

The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 13 June 1885 had this picture depicting the Civil Service Sports at Lillie Bridge



CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETICS AT LILLIE BRIDGE.

However, in 1885, the Championships moved to Stamford Bridge, and for probably the first time in its existence the Civil Service Athletics Sports entertained one of the century's finest athletes in Lon Myers (New

York Manhattan AC) who was to contest the 440 Yards Open Handicap. Myers held every American record from 50 Yards to one mile and on one day he won the AAU national titles over the 100 Yards, 220 Yards, 440 Yards and 880 Yards. His bests for those distances were 10.0 secs, 220 Yards (22.75), 440 Yards (48.6) and 880 Yards 1 min 55.4. He could also break 4 mins 23 for a mile.

The Press in England, seemingly doubted Lon's ability to run the times he had, saying that his races were not timed properly. He thus arrived at Stamford Bridge hoping to prove a point. Running from scratch in the 440 Yards he ran from gun to tape in a magnificent 48 4/5ths secs. Reports of the race suggest that Scotsman, J M Cowie, a member of London Athletic club, was giving Lon some real competition up to 300 Yards when his shoe came to pieces and some observers thought it would have been close at the finish. Both Myers and Cowie shared the 100 yard best of 10 secs flat. Myers eventually turned professional and in the course of his short career and changing creeds had regular races against Walter George, the latter winning less of the exchanges but being a little stronger over the longer distances. The Americans brought over a number of athletes who competed in this Sports Day and one of them picked up the 120 Yards Open Handicap. The prizes, this year, were presented by Lady Lingen.

In **1886**, after becoming more familiar with seeing the Civil Service Records broken over the middle distances and the 440, the sprinters took pride of place at this the 23rd Annual Championships. W Lyle Smith ran a blistering 26 2/5ths for the 250 Yards lowering the English record and added the 100 Yards and Open quarter mile handicap to his tally.

The Open 1 mile Handicap winner H C Mabey ran a decent 4 mins 26 secs off 25 Yards. Not content with a traditional Bicycle Handicap there was a 1 mile Tricycle Open Handicap with the winner, A Thompson, completing the 3 circuits in 3 mins 10 1/5th secs.

In **1887** over 8,000 spectators attended the 24th Annual Sports Day in delightfully fine weather which with the capital playing of the Royal Artillery Band, greatly added to the enjoyment of the day. This year the Secretarial duties had fallen to that sterling old athlete C L Lockton, and were admirably discharged, despite the very heavy nature of the programme containing twenty-one events, 323 entries and 246 competitors. Every event went off without a hitch and apparently in good time.

There were now 12 Handicap competitions on Sports Day which would, in theory, give more athletes a chance to medal and win prizes. There were only 2 winners from the running events in 1886 who also won in 1887.

Before introducing a report of the **1888** Sports Day, a little aside regarding an incident that occurred some 3 months after the 1887 Sports Day and which came to the attention of the national public becoming known as the "Lillie Bridge Riot", which fortunately was the previous ground used for these Championships. The Press Association Bulletin of the 20th September 1887 read as follows: "Further particulars of the Hutchens-Gent affair show that those well-known sprinters had decided to run 120 Yards for £200 a-side and the Championship of the World. Considerable interest had been taken in the event for some time past and Gent was a hot favourite until today, when it became known that in a private trial he had failed to make the championship time, and consequently the betting went round in Hutchens favour. Several thousand assembled in anticipation of seeing the match and were intensely disappointed. Gent and Hutchens, after showing themselves on the track, retired, and at first the spectators could not understand what had happened, but it speedily became known that the race had been declared off with Gent forfeiting the stakes, obviously to save his backers. The expressions of disappointment from the crowd were of a most angry nature, and were intensified for the refusal of those who had control of the ground to return the admission money.

A scene of the wildest excitement was witnessed, which is unparalleled in the history of sporting disturbances in England. The greater number of bookmakers took advantage of the confusion, and bolted without settling.

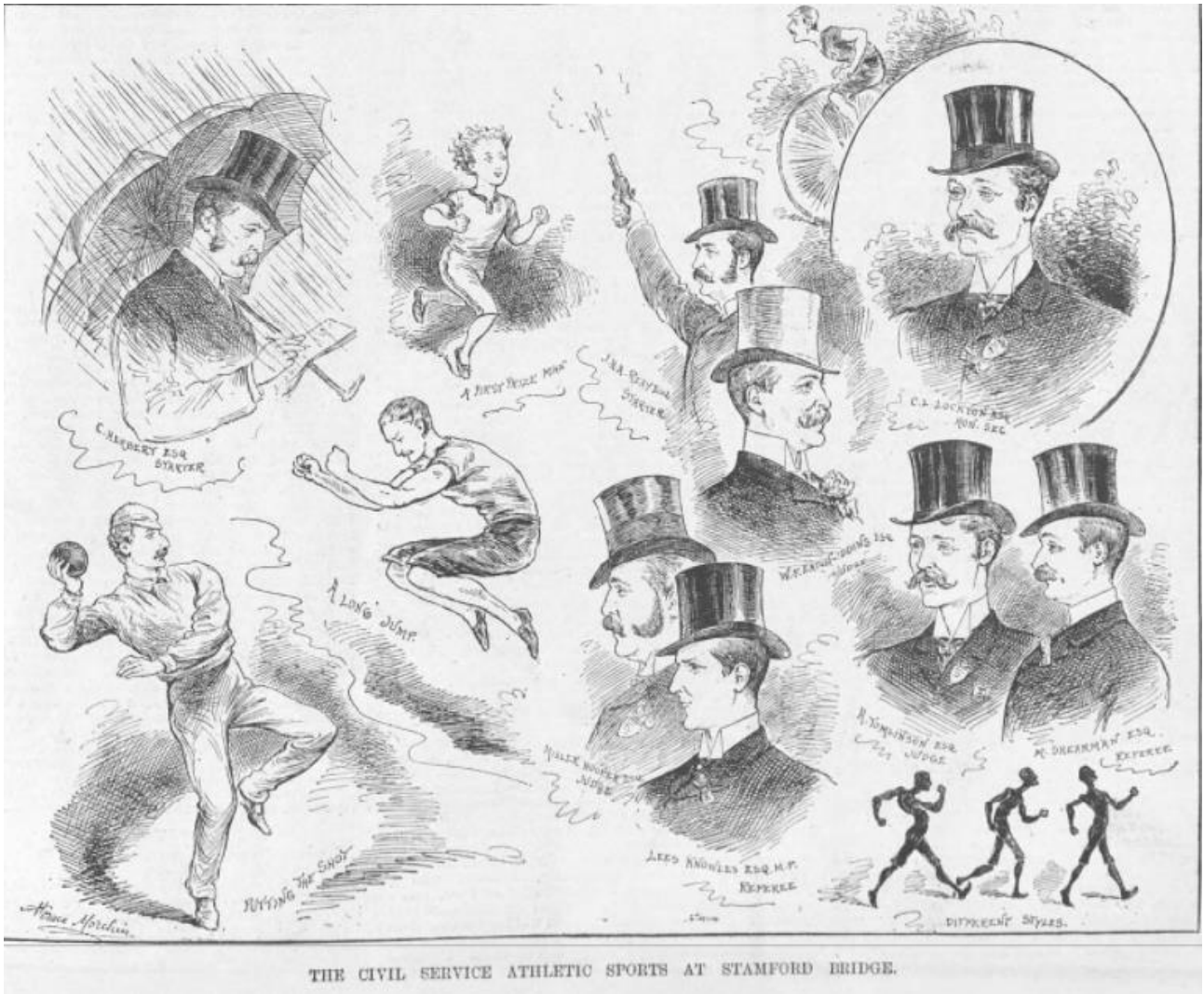
The enraged crowd, in satisfaction of the non-return of their money and their disappointment over the match, proceeded to wreck everything in the ground. The outbuildings, two grandstands, and a dancing hall were speedily demolished, and an immense bonfire was formed of the debris. All liquor saloons were looted. An attempt was made to burn down the Compton Station. The infuriated body of people were recruited by hundreds of roughs outside the ground and proved too strong to be held in check by the police stationed in the vicinity. The mob remained masters of Lillie Bridge for fully three hours, when reinforcements of police were brought from all parts of London and suburbs, and the place eventually cleared of rioters. During the time the riots lasted many persons were seriously injured in the fights with police, who were endeavouring to prevent the wholesale wrecking of the buildings. One man dropped dead from excitement. Hutchens and Gent, alarmed at the threats of a number of betting roughs, escaped from the grounds at the commencement of the disturbance, to avoid personal injury to themselves.”

As with the last 2 Annual Sports Days one event in **1888** captured the imagination of the crowd. The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News wrote of Championships that in spite of the dull and threatening weather, there was a large company of spectators present. As usual, besides the numerous closed events, there were several open competitions, but the feature of the lengthy programme was an invitation 600 Yards for which most of the best amateurs of the day at the distance competed. Those who started were:- H C L Tindall of Cambridge U A C, who held the record for 600 Yards up to last year, A G Le Maitre, Oxford University AC, who beat Tindall's record last season and won the quarter mile race at the Inter-University sports, W Madeley, OUAC, E Douglas Robinson of SLH, the ex-champion half miler and T T Pitman, of Eton and Sandhurst. The greatest interest was evinced in the race, which resulted in a performance quite worthy of the competitors. Robinson led for about 300 Yards, with Madeley lying second and Tindall third, Pitman and Le Maitre sticking closely to the last named. Then Tindall dashed through his men and took the lead in the straight for home, Le Maitre and Pitman being his attendants. The old Cambridge runner drew out as they neared the end and running strongly at the finish won with a yard or two in hand by four Yards from Le Maitre, who beat Pitman by two Yards for a place. The time was 1 minute 12 3/5ths, which is the best time ever made by an English amateur, and nearly approaches the 1 minute 11 2/5ths by the American runner, L E Myers. The path was decidedly heavy after the rain, and Tindall's achievement was a most remarkable one.

The relatively poor weather affected the attendance despite the high-profile races. The crowd of 4,000 spectators made the effort and were suitably rewarded. The prizes were presented by Mrs Montague Shearman, whose husband, was the author of the Classic Guide to Athletics covering all aspects of the sport from the time of Henry V111. This book became the Athletics bible of its day and it is to him we owe an immense debt of gratitude for tabulating the progression in the sport across the 300 plus year window.

Standards of performance on the day were good and aside from the 600 Yard English record the next best performance was probably the 49 4/5ths 440 Yards by W Lock, running off a 10 yard start. E H Pelling added his name to those very few athletes who have achieved a triple win as he collected the 100 Yards, 440 Yards and 250 Yards handicap crowns. The 250 Yard Record would last at least 40 years.

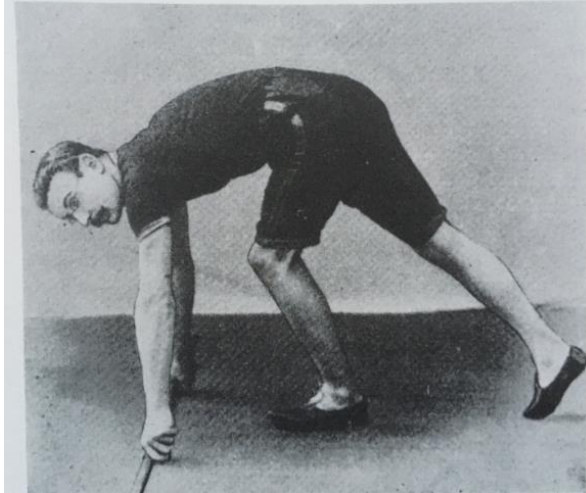
The **Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 16 June 1888** illustrates some of the stars of the Sports Day acting in Official Roles – C Herbert, J Reay, C L Lockton and H Tomlinson for example



The Track Events have usually gained most of the attention but in **1889** it was the High Jump which hit the heights. Generally, the event was won with somewhere between 5 ft 4 ins and 5 ft 8 ins, however, the spectators were now just ½ inch away from witnessing the first ever jump of 6 feet. T Jennings (Cambridge University) cleared the bar at 5 ft 11 ½ ins to set the only record on the day. The Turk “family” managed to pick up 5 titles between them so this too could have been a sort of record.

Peter Lovesey in his book “The Official Centenary History of the AAA” records the following: “A civil servant in spectacles, Ernest Pelling, caused a small sensation at the Championships of 1889 (AAA, this is) by getting on all fours for the start of the 100 yd and won the race by a yard in 10.4. Previous to 1889 Pelling recalled that he was one of the slowest starters in London”.

Ernest Pelling, the first man to use the crouch start in the Championships. (University of Birmingham)



Included amongst the audience at Lillie Bridge were the Speaker of the House of Commons and Mrs Peel, the spouse of Sir Robert. The "famous" J H A Reay, had now become an official at Sports Day and shared the starting duties with Mr C Herbert. In the fine detail of the race results it appears that H C L Tindall, hero of the 600 yard race in 1888, recorded a time of under 50 seconds in the 440 Yards from scratch, but was beaten by an athlete starting with a 20 yard advantage. R Allen, the veteran, recorded his 4th successive win in the 150 yard event with an ever reducing Handicap. Estimates suggest a crowd of 7,000 attended this the 26th Annual Sports Day.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
100 Yards.....	W. Denton	W. Lyle-Smith	E. H. Pelling	E. H. Pelling (o. 3 yds.)	G. W. Turk.
Hurdle Race.....	S. Joyce (o. 10 yds.)	E. V. Phillips (o. 4 yds.)	S. O. Purves (o. 12 yds.)	S. Joyce (o. 10 yds.)	S. Colman (o. 8 yds.)
350 Yds. Handicap.....	W. Denton (3 yds.)	W. Lyle-Smith (scr.)	E. H. Pelling (7 yds.)	E. H. Pelling (scrich.)	G. W. Turk (7 yds.)
440 Yds. Level.....	W. Denton	W. Lyle-Smith (o. 20 y.)	H. O. Grandison (w.o.)	E. H. Pelling	E. H. Pelling (p. 10 yds.)
500 Yds. Maiden Rl.....	I. Corfield	J. Purcell	R. J. Pocock	T. M. Plunkett	A. S. Turk
500 Yds. Maiden Rl.....	W. Ayling	H. A. Sturman	W. A. Lamb	T. J. Ruskin	A. S. Turk
800 Yds. Handicap.....	G. T. Plowman (18 yds.)	A. E. Saunders (22 y.)	V. Waterhouse (40 y.)	V. Waterhouse (2 yds.)	T. M. Plunkett (20 yds.)
1 Mile.....	J. J. Cooper	M. Mahony	M. Mahony (o. 22 yds.)	W. Y. Chorley	T. D. Dutton.
2 M. Walking H'cap.....	F. Salisbury (30 secs.)	C. M. Callow (28 secs.)	W. C. Wild (22 yds.)	W. J. Tucker	A. Titchener (30 secs.)
Veterans' Race.....	W. Mills (21 yds.)	R. Allen (40 yds.)	R. Allen	St. Allen (pen. 8 yds.)	R. Allen (pen. 8 yds.)
Weight.....	—	—	E. J. Timothy	E. J. Timothy	W. Murray.
Boys' Race, No. 1.....	Peroy C. Buck (4 yds.)	E. G. Turner (21 yds.)	R. G. Turner (12 yds.)	F. Francis (25 yds.)	R. G. Turner (scrch.)
Boys' Race, No. 2.....	C. E. McLaughlin (9 y.)	C. E. McLaughlin (4 y.)	F. Francis (scr.)	H. S. Kennedy (3 yd.)	E. R. Turner (12 yds.)
Bicycle Race, 2 m.....	—	W. Lee (212 yds.)	H. A. Speechly (scr.)	J. P. Stoute (200 yds.)	J. D. Pratt (200 yds.)
Tricycle Race, 1 m.....	—	C. Cooper (70 yds.)	A. L. Brewer (20 yds.)	A. E. Langley (70 yd.)	L. Stroud (110 yds.)
Open Mile H'cap.....	F. Pothan (35 yards)	H. C. Mabey (25 yds.)	A. R. Bailey (100 yds.)	S. R. Atkins (25 yds.)	H. W. Thomas (30 yds.)
Open 440 Yds. H'cap.....	L. E. Myers (scratch)*	D. Susan (9 yds.)	R. Dwyer (10 yds.)	W. Lock (10 yds.)	J. P. Shuter (20 yds.)
150 Yds. Handicap.....	L. P. Smith	F. Owen (8 yds.)	H. J. Wood (3 yds.)	S. Joyce (8 yds.)	S. Colman (3 yds.)
600 Yds. Invitation R.....	—	—	—	H. C. L. Tindall	—
High Jump.....	A. E. Nuttall	E. J. Wade	S. O. Purves	C. W. Howard	T. Jennings.
Long Jump.....	—	—	—	S. I. Pocock	—
Tug of War, H. W.....	Customs	Customs	Customs	Customs No. 1	Patent Office.
Tug of War, L. W.....	Patent Office	Patent Office	Patent Office	Patent Office.	Patent Office.
Consolation Race.....	H. G. de B. Reed	J. J. Cooper.	R. A. Strithan	—	—
Distribution of Prizes	Lord and Lady Linga	Honbl. Miss Keppel	Col. and Mrs. Mills	Mrs. Montague Shearman	The Speaker of the House of Commons & Mrs. Peel

* Accomplished the distance in 48 4-5th secs.

† Mr. Tindall accomplished the distance in 1 min, 17 3-4 secs.

At the **1890** Sports Day the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch presented the prizes to the champions with many new faces taking titles as old favourites disappeared from the scene. T Jennings resumed his attack on the 6 foot High Jump barrier failing by just one inch. W Murray followed up last year's win in the Shot with a healthy throw of nearly 37 feet. T T Pitman recorded an excellent 50 2/5ths in the 440 Yards running from scratch. G W Turk retained his 100 Yards title under the watchful gaze of 6,000 spectators

In **1891** without any specific numbers in the report of the day's activities a very large company at Stamford Bridge saw a good afternoon of competition. D Basan, of London Athletic Club, recorded an exceptional time of 11 4/5ths secs in the 120 Yards Open Handicap off 2 Yards and coupled this with a speedy 51 ½ secs for the 440 Yards Invitation Race. In the boys 120 Yards Handicap we see the children of former high-profile athletes taking the stand and C R Reay was the first of these, being the son of J H A Reay. T Jennings recorded his third consecutive win in the High Jump.

In **1892** Her Majesty's Civil Servants had real "Queens weather for their 29th Annual Sports Day which meant the attendance at the London Athletic Club ground at Stamford Bridge, came up to, even if it did not exceed, the average, which is a high one. The sport was occasionally "very middling" in some of the closed events, but creditable in others, and once more the Open Mile proved a sensational affair. Harold Wade, LAC, the scratch man, who seemed to improve every time he ran, won in the splendid time of 4 mins 20 secs - a very great performance. D Basan, LAC, also ran in rare style, winning the open 120 Yards Handicap from the 2 yard mark in "a yard inside evens".

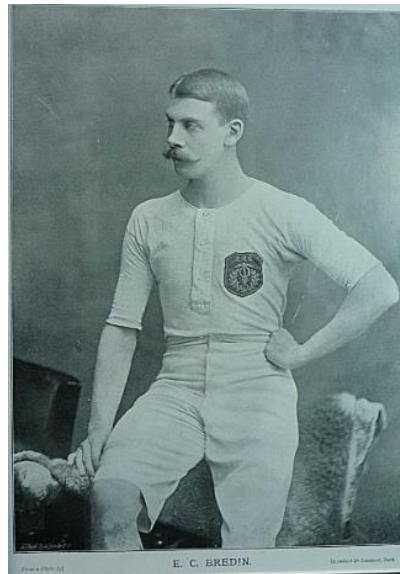
R Allen, off 8 Yards, won his 5th veterans 150 Yards Handicap. The Walking Race brought out a good field, but it struck the spectators as being curious that the veteran C M Callow, aged 56, who could not get placed as at St Albans on the previous Monday from the limit, should be on the scratch. Of course, the result was that he finished absolutely last, the winner turning out to be a grand walker, W J Tucker. Tucker recorded a really quick time of 14 mins 40 2/5ths with a handicap start of 28 Yards. This is the quickest time recorded even allowing for the handicap adjustment.

It was the Manchester Courier of 11th June 1892 which reminded all that the Civil Service Athletics Sports was inaugurated on the tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth.

The **Sporting Life - Wednesday 17 May 1893** carried the following advertisement for the 1893 Sports Day and it is interesting to note the terminology being used:

CIVIL SERVICE AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	
SPORTS.	
(Affiliated to the A.A.A.)	
L.A.C. GROUNDS, STAMFORD BRIDGE, FULHAM, S.W.	
SATURDAY, JUNE 10.	
The following events are open to members of the leading athletic clubs and gentlemen introduced by members of the committee:—	
120 YARDS HANDICAP	} Three prizes each event.
120 YARDS HURDLER HANDICAP	
440 YARDS HANDICAP	
ONE MILE HANDICAP (limit, 120 yards)	
and	
HIGH JUMP; two prizes if four compete.	
The right is reserved of refusing any entry, or returning it after acceptance.	
Handicapper, C. Herbert, A.A.A.	
Entries (with fee, 2s. 6d. each event) close Saturday, June 3, to C. L. Lockton, hon. sec., 133, Stockwell Park-road, Brixton, S.W.—	
[ADVT.]	

The highlight of the **1893** Sports Day was another World Record at the Civil Service Athletics Sports. The report writer waxed lyrical about the stars of old like C L Lockton but eventually concentrated his efforts on highlighting the potential of one E C Bredin. The name of this gentleman at the head of the list of runners for the 600 Yards Invitation Handicap was sufficient to arouse one to a sense of duty. It was rumoured that he would attempt to lower the record for he had to aim for. Something far better of 1 min 15 $\frac{3}{5}$ ths or better even than H $\frac{3}{5}$ ths at the 1888 Meeting. Bredin had, min 11 $\frac{3}{5}$ ths, and to improve upon this was just the afternoon for an attempt of calm. Confidence in himself was fully performance he accomplished. Never determination or gameness, for Bredin scarcely see while covering the last min 11 $\frac{2}{5}$ ths is the best ever recorded of L E Myers, made in New York in 1888.



the distance and this is what than E J Colbeck's 1867 time C Tindall's time of 1 min 12 previous to Saturday, run 1 was the task he set himself. It this kind - bright, warm and justified by the grand did a runner show greater was so dazed he could twenty Yards. The time of 1 in England and tied with that

This feat was of itself sufficient to make memorable, but there was another of Shaw in the Hurdle Handicap, in which to

the 1893 meeting long very great excellence by G give the LAC man the chance

of beating the record the starts were so allotted as to admit of his running the proper distance. In this instance the world record of 16 secs remained undisturbed but how narrowly Shaw missed altering it will be understood when it is explained that the timekeeper's return was a yard inside 16 secs for the preliminary heat and 15 $\frac{4}{5}$ ths in the final, in which Shaw was beaten by less than a yard. It is still not clear why Shaw's performance did not constitute a world record except that perhaps Handicap races are not acceptable even where the athlete breaking the record time did the full racing distance. What a day for the spectators. By contrast the winner of the 440 Yards, running off 14 Yards and who recorded 48 $\frac{2}{5}$ ths, probably did not get any great acclaim despite this fine performance. R Allen won the veterans 150 Yards for the 6th year in a decent 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs running off 3 Yards.

The Artist from **The Sketch - Wednesday 21 June 1893** produced the following caricatures from the Meeting:

OUR ARTIST AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.



W. J. Wood

SOME OF THE JUDGES AND OFFICIALS.

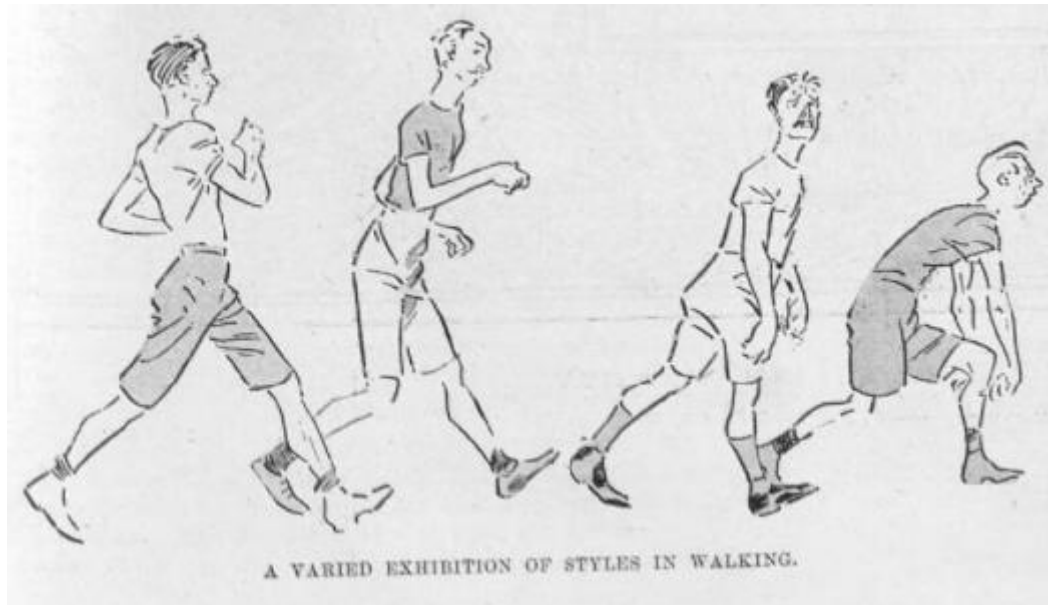
OUR ARTIST ENCOURAGES WILKINS IN THE MILE.

OUR ARTIST ENCOURAGES WILKINS IN THE MILE.



GRACE!

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| BREDIN.
Who ran 600 yards in
1 min. 11 2-3 sec. | WILKINS.
Winner of the
mile race. | WHITTINGTON.
Winner of the
120-yard open race. | DAVISON.
Winner of the boys'
race. |
|--|--|---|---|



In **1894** E C Bredin won the AAA's 440 Yards and 880 Yards and was a $48 \frac{1}{2}$ second 440 Yards runner, with other pb's of 1 min $11 \frac{2}{5}$ ths for 600 Yards and 1 minute 55.0 for 880 Yards. In the Civil Service Championship, he contested the newly introduced 1,000 Yards Handicap recording a fine 2 minutes $17 \frac{1}{5}$ th for the full distance. 5,000 spectators attended these Sports, despite the dead track after the rain, and consequently the overall performances were subdued.

The Steeplechase returned after a gap of some years and the distance of 2 miles was more in keeping with the middle-distance running tradition. Running off 70 Yards the winner of this event did 11 minutes $10 \frac{2}{5}$ ths which was deemed a respectable time. The Mile Open Handicap continued to attract some quality runners but times were in the 4 mins 30 range as a general rule, unless the leading club athletes decided to compete.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
100 Yards.....	G. W. Turk (o. 8 yds.)	W. Lyle Smith	E. H. Pelling	G. W. Turk (o. 8 yds.)	A. S. Turk
150 Yds. Handicap	.....	H. W. Longley (8 yds.)	J. A. Baker (14 yds.)	W. U. Fisk (11½ yds.)	S. C. Bartholomew (12 yds.)
200 Yds. Handicap	F. A. Delamotte (18 y.)	.....	.....	.....	.....
300 Yds. Maiden R.	F. A. Delamotte	C. W. Garnham	G. W. Smith	W. H. Duke	H. C. Waugh
400 Yds. Handicap	T. M. Plucknett (20 y.)	H. B. Steats (35 yds.)	C. A. Phillips (30 yds.)	J. P. Arkell (45 yds.)	A. E. J. Harris (40 yds.)
1 Mile	F. D. Dutton (o. 33 y.)	A. S. Turk	E. B. Spendlove	G. J. Shervill	W. A. Fisk (39 y.)
2 M. Walking H'cap	G. W. Ballamons (8 sec.)	S. J. Holloway (45 st.)	W. J. Tucker (28 sec.)	A. H. G. Braun (73 y.)	A. J. C. Watson
Veterans' Race	E. Nops (2½ yds.)	W. G. Butler (2½ yds.)	R. Allen (38½ yds.)	R. Allen (39½ yds.)	M. K. Forrester (38 y.)
Weight	W. Murray	J. Jones	W. Murray	W. Murray	J. Matthews (17½ y.)
Boys' Race, No. 1..	F. Francis (11 yds.)	G. Keates (1½ yds.)	E. E. Turner (29½ yds.)	G. P. Constantine (31 y.)	H. Gott
Boys' Race, No. 2..	H. E. Dour (13½ yds.)	Cuthbert H. Reay (10½ y.)	N. L. Lockton (22 yds.)	H. C. Davison (4½ yds.)	G. P. Constantine
Tug of War, H. W.	Customs	Patent Office	Customs	Customs	M. Vaughan, 3y (14 y.)
Tug of War, L. W.	Patent Office	Patent Office	Post Office	Post Office	Patent Office†
Bicycle Race	E. J. Whitley (200 y.)	O. J. Minors (350 yds.)	W. T. Martin (scratch)	F. Dennis (300 yds.)	F. P. J. Bryant (100 y.)
Open 100 Yds. H'cap	J. T. E. Biggs (1½ yds.)	D. Basan (2 yds.)	D. Basan (2 yds.)	T. Whittington (11 y.)	A. S. Baker (11 yds.)
Open Hurdle Race	G. Shaw (o. 12 yds.)	G. Shaw (o. 12 yds.)	G. Shaw (o. 11 yds.)	R. P. Lowe (12 yds.)	A. C. Harris (o. 14 y.)
Open 440 Yds. H'cap	T. T. Pinnas (scratch)	F. H. Fernie (25 yds.)	H. A. Flint (14 yds.)	A. Ovenden (14 yds.)	R. P. Hawes (32 y.)
Open Mile Race.....	E. Gavin (7½ yds.)	A. E. Williams (35 yds.)	H. Wade (scratch)	E. J. Watkins (35 yds.)	A. T. Newman (100 y.)
Open Tricycle H'cap	G. A. Smith (35 yds.)	.....	.....	.....	.....
High Jump	T. Jennings	T. Jennings	H. T. Bell	F. C. Lloyd-Thomas	R. Williams
550 Yds. Invitation Race	.....	D. Basan	.....	E. C. Bredin*	E. C. Bredin (scr.)†
Distribution of Prizes	The Duke and Duchess of Buccleugh	Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P., and Miss Webster	P. M. Thornton, Esq., and Mrs. Thornton.	Sir J. Astley, Bart., and Miss Astley.	M. Shearman, Esq., and Mrs. Shearman

* This year the race was a 600 yards handicap, and Mr. Bredin accomplished the distance from scratch in 1 m. 11 2/5 secs. (Record).
† 1894, one Tug of War competition.
‡ 1000 yds. handicap.

Results 1890 - 1894

The 1895 Sports Day at last witnessed a 6 foot High Jump, although not by perennial winner T Jennings, who never quite added that ½ inch difference. Instead it was achieved by R Williams in front of a crowd of 7,000 spectators who congregated at the Stamford Bridge ground along with the Duke and Duchess of York. Other guests of honour were Sir C Cust, Lord Lingen, Lady Eva Greville and Hayes Fisher MP.

The 880 yard record was torn apart, in an Invitational Handicap, by none other than E C Bredin with a terrific time 1 minute 56 2/5ths. The second placed runner recorded an impressive 1 minute 58 1/5th but was rather overshadowed by Bredin's time. The reporter who covered the proceedings suggested that Bredin could comfortably have added the 440 to his 880 Yards title but he chose to concentrate on the longer event. F A Chambers completed a double by taking the 100 Yards in 10 4/5ths and the 300 Yards maiden race in 39 seconds.

The bicycle race was a miserable exhibition and if runners dared to behave the same way they would never be allowed to appear as amateurs again. Loafing in scratch races is bad enough but in Handicap Races it surely brings the offenders within the scope of disqualification.

By 1896 of all the athletic spectacles of which England could boast, few could compare with that of the Civil Service. The weather was just what would have been ordered for the occasion on the Saturday and much of Mayfair and St James' Street may be said to have been present. One of the Reporters present stated: "What a bevy of beauty present, so far as the fair sex were concerned! Verily made their way into Men's too tender hearts by the witchery of their costumes. Heartily do we congratulate Messrs Charlie Lockton and E H Pelling, the energetic Honorary Secretary, on the success which attended their efforts. For they provided the beaux ideal of an athletic carnival".



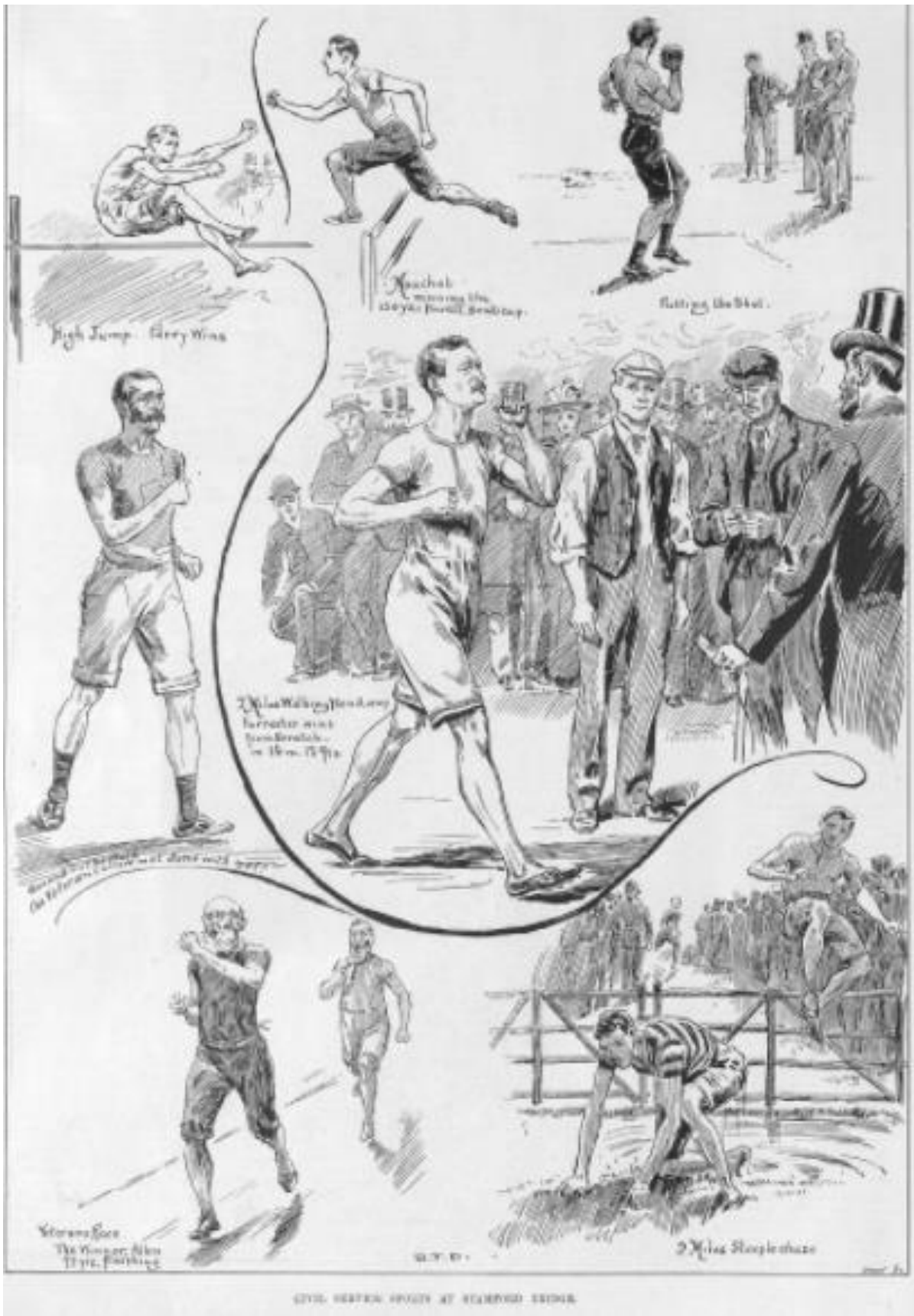
The programme as usual proved to be a heavy one but the tact evinced by the executive rolled it merrily home in good time. "Came like lightning in the final heat of the "One twenty" did H C Woodyatt, of University College Athletic club". How very unlucky it was that H J Cape, one of the masters at the Grocers' Company School, burst a shoe. A very smart sprinter is he, and as he goes up to "Maudlin" next October may yet prove of service to the Dark Blues.

In this year The Princess Mary Adelaide Cup was competed for for the first time. The Cup for Veterans was open to members of forty years and upwards and had been named by command in commemoration of Her Royal Highness' visits to the Civil Service Sports in 1879 and 1880. R Allen, winner of the Event, was Seventy-Seven years old and by the manner in which he sprinted home one would have thought that he was not yet out of his teens. Anyway, he covered himself with imperishable renown as never throughout his long and honourable career has his judgement or ability shone more conspicuously than in his brilliant finish on Saturday. General applause and cheerful shouts welcomed the Veteran as he was led into the enclosure by a friend. He was born in the same year as Queen Victoria and had previously won in 1885, 1867, 1868, 189, 1892 and 1893.

Another popular idol was Charlie Callow, who attained his sixtieth year on Persimmon's Derby Day. Even in these fast athletic days the old 'un can hold his own. Such a cheer greeted the appearance of the time-honoured pink jersey when its owner turned out for the Race Walk and a vastly sporting affair it proved. One of the best in this particular branch of Athletics – namely M K Forrester – won and next to him finished veteran Callow and with E J Toppie, who sported the Polytechnic jacket third.

The prizes were presented this year by Lord and Lady George Hamilton and despite being the inaugural Olympics of the Modern era in Athens there were few class performances apart from M K Forrester who walked a splendid 14 mins 13 4/5ths seconds in the 2 mile Walk from scratch.

From the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* - Saturday 20 June 1896 came the following:



In **1897**, if not up to the standard of a dozen years back when ten or fifteen thousand spectators used to flock to dear old Lillie Bridge, the attendance at the LAC ground, Fulham, on Saturday, to witness the Civil Service Sports was satisfactory. The gathering was fashionable and aristocratic and once again the "Queen's weather" prevailed throughout but now and again the heat was almost oppressive. However, the breeze that came at intervals across the ground made matters on the whole exceedingly pleasant. A very long programme had to be got through and although a start was made at half past two it was a quarter past six when the last event was decided. The breeze which at times blew directly up the straight interfered with the runners in the sprints.

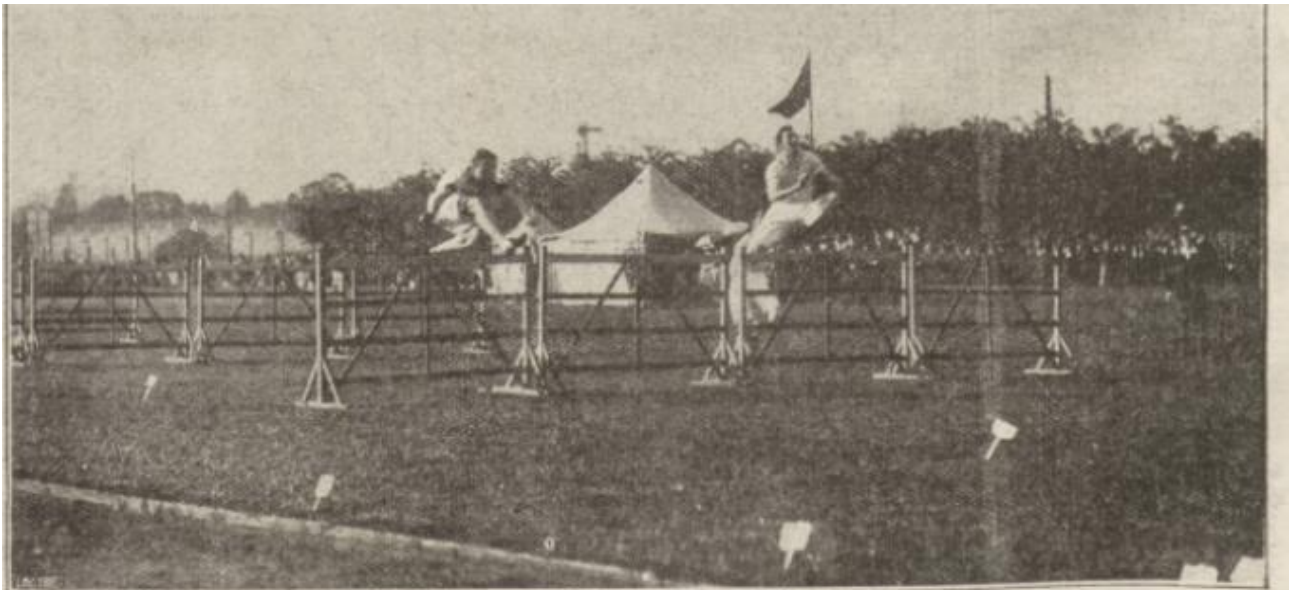
A Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup, instituted in commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's reign was put up for the competition. Strange to relate no fewer than five athletes tied on points for the trophy with these being M K Forrester, H E Hardy, R M Smith, H Sandes and A S Turk.



The best time of the day was probably H C Woodyatt's 120 Yards victory in a very smart time of 12 ¼ secs. But, because of the preponderance of Handicap results it is obviously difficult to compare the quality of each winning performance.

The **Penny Illustrated Paper - Saturday 19 June 1897** included two photos from this year's Sports Day and just look at the Hurdles:





CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS AT STAMFORD BRIDGE: COLTART, L.A.C., WINNING THE FINAL HEAT OF THE HURDLE HANDICAP.

In 1898 the 35th Annual Civil Service Athletics Sports were held before a large and fashionable attendance at the LAC Grounds, Stamford Bridge. Amongst those present were Lord Charles Beresford, and Sir Richard Webster. The racing throughout the programme was of a highly interesting character and several extremely good performances were accomplished. The winner of the Strangers 440 Yards Handicap was P Blignaut from South Africa with a useful time of 51 secs. Unfortunately, there were no particularly outstanding times despite what the reporter of the time claimed. The 880 Yards win by A E J Harris off 13 Yards in 2 mins 3 4/5ths does have some merit.

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 18 June 1898



MRS. BAGOT PRESENTING P. J. BLIGNAUT OF SOUTH AFRICAN A.A.A. WITH THE CUP FOR OPEN QUARTER MILE RACE.

THE attendance at Stamford Bridge on Saturday was quite up to the average of recent years, and must have numbered nearly 5,000. Lord Charles Beresford attended to present the cups, and there were also present Sir Richard Webster, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. A. Webster, Mr. P. M. Thornton, M.P., Mrs. Bagot, Mr. Fortescue Flannery, M.P., Lieut. Walter Windham, and a host of athletic celebrities of other days—including J. H. A. Reay, C. L. Lockton, E. H. Pelling, Godfrey Shaw, E. C. Bredin, and W. G. George. A very capable sprinter, A. V. Edwards, secured the 100 Yards Members' Level Race. He hails from Derby, and can do something better than the 10 3-5 secs. in which he won. Two familiar events were missing from the programme—the Tug of War and Putting the Shot. It is understood that paucity of entries caused their abandonment; and, judging by the small fields in other of the closed events, the list of members' competitions will be still further reduced unless Civil Servants enter the lists in larger numbers. A veteran of fifty-two summers, J. Jackett, of the Customs, gained a double first, winning the Princess Mary Adelaide

Cup for Veterans, with 15 yards start in 150 yards, and the Two Miles' Walk, with 410 yards start. R. Allen, the septuagenarian, who won the Veterans' race in 1886, '87, '88, '89, '92, '93, '96, and had become a familiar figure in this event, was an absentee.

Good sport in the open events altogether atoned for the lack of it in the closed races. C. H. Jupp, of Surliton, sprinted finely in the second round of the 120 Yards Handicap, and beat his fellow scratchman, J. H. Palmer, the amateur champion, and P. J. Blignaut, the South African, by nearly two yards, the watch showing 12 secs. dead. Jupp is improving, and will have to be reckoned with in the Amateur Championship. Blignaut and W. Fitzherbert, the Cambridge ex-president, both qualified for the final of the Open Quarter Handicap, but the old Light-Blue decided to stand down owing to a weak leg. I do not think he would have beaten Blignaut, however, for the South African ran a great race, and won outright in 51 secs. Blignaut has not got the stride of quarter-milers like Tisdall or Bredin; he simply sprints as far as he is able, and trusts to sheer strength to carry him through the last fifty yards. His

compatriot, H. Morkel, has experienced great difficulty in getting down to his proper weight, and is now nearly two stones heavier than when he last ran in the Transvaal. He started, like H. N. Coltart, from the hindmost mark in the 120 Hurdles Handicap, owing 17 yards, and, as last week at Hershams, Coltart won. The watch denoted 18 secs., which would be equal to about 16 1-5 secs. for the orthodox distance of 120 yards. Morkel was three yards to the bad at the finish; but if the weather keep warm, the South African may yet be an awkward customer to tackle on championship day. Another Coltart, C. H. R. of that ilk, carried off the Open Mile, from 68 yards, in 4 min. 23 3-5 secs.—time which placed the scratch man, H. A. Munro, out of court, though the Hospitals' crack scarcely ran with his usual life. The two L.A.C. men, R. Williams and R. G. Perry, enjoyed their customary struggle in the High Jump. R. Williams won in 1894 and 1895; but as Perry won in 1896 and 1897, and was successful on Saturday, with a leap of 5 ft. 9 in., he can now claim the rubber. Williams was a capital second, with 5 ft. 8 in., but the Essex High Jump champion, Bernard Hunt, failed at 5 ft. 6 in. It remains to add that the Band of the Royal Horse Guards contributed very considerably to the enjoyment of the spectators, all of whom seemed delighted with the bill of fare which had been put before them.



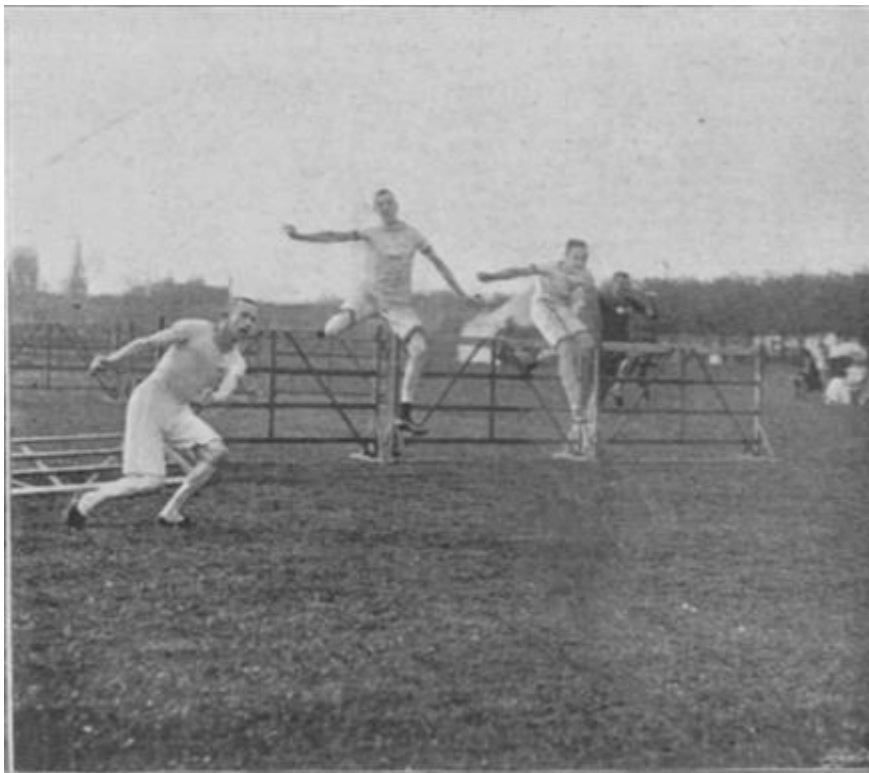
HALF-MILE MEMBERS' RACE (HANDICAP), WON BY A. R. J. HARRIS; SECOND,
C. W. GARNHAM. TIME, 2 MIN. 34-5 SEC.



YARDS HANDICAP FOR BOYS UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS, WON BY H. J. D. COLLIN;
SECOND, R. A. SOWMAN; THIRD, J. REIDY.



ONE MILE MEMBERS' RACE—H. SANDIES (THE WINNER) PASSING THE WINNING-POST.
TIME, 4 MIN. 47 3-5 SEC.



FINAL OF OPEN 120 YARDS HURDLE HANDICAP, WON BY H. N. COLTART;
SECOND, R. G. FERRY; THIRD, G. A. JONES. TIME, 18 SEC.

The last year of the Century, **1899**, and the Reports asked "did it matter if the Civil Service Sports commemorated at Stamford Bridge were not so well supported as in the days gone by? It was nothing like the gay company present that used to gather together at this time-honoured athletics at home occasion. So far as the programme went, it proved, in fact, a dainty dish, to set before a king. Quite in form, and fit, you see Messrs E H Pelling and W R Frazer, the Hon Secretaries. Heaven and earth - which is a strong succession - what a vast amount of vitality is owned by Charlie Callow! Coming athletes will bend their knees before his shrine. When they come to think of it, how gallantly he carried the pink jersey for many, many a long day. Certainly, he did not come out top of the class at the function under notice; still the appearance of the people's athlete awakened a gladsome cheer". Those present witnessed the Veteran, Jackett, win the Walk and the Princess Adelaide Cup amid general applause and cheerful shout. There is something in the very name of Charlie Lockton that brings with it the idea of a jolly good fellow and crack athlete and so after 12 years service he laid down his secretarial quill. It was a graceful recognition of his invaluable services to the Association that his wife was asked to present the prizes.

H W Pride-Jones added the 440 Yards Strangers Handicap to his other victory in the 120 Yards Strangers Handicap with both times being quite special. Across the board athletes maintained a decent standard and would no doubt be thinking about their chances of picking up medals and prizes in the new century.

PREVIOUS WINNERS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.					
EVENT.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
100 Yards.....	F. A. Chambers	A. V. Edwards	E. M. Smith	A. V. Edwards	H. W. Longley
150 Yds. Handicap	E. M. Smith (2 yds.)	J. H. Barnes (10 yds.)	J. A. Baker (3½ yds.)	J. A. Baker (1½ yds.)	H. W. Longley (ser.)
200 Yds. Maiden R.	F. A. Chambers	A. V. Edwards	J. O. Heathcote	H. West	J. Smyth
200 Yards.....	.....	.....	A. S. Turk	.....	.....
Long Jump.....	.....	.....	W. Sheehan	.....	P. Harding
300 Yds. Handicap	W. E. G. James (½ yds.)	H. K. Hardy (15 yds.)	A. E. J. Harris (30 y.)	A. E. J. Harris (10 y.)	H. G. Mathew (30 y.)
1 Mile.....	A. S. Turk	J. W. Hambridge	H. Sanders	H. Sanders	J. A. Baker
1 Mile Walking.....	E. J. Topple (30 sec.)	M. K. Forrester (ser.)	M. K. Forrester (ser.)	J. Jackett (40 yds.)	J. Jackett (20 yds.)
Volunteers' Race.....	J. Mifford (30)	H. Allen (40 yds.)	E. Nops (11½ yds.)	J. Jackett (18 yds.)	J. Jackett (13½ yds.)
Weights.....	J. Robertson	M. W. Sheehan	T. Ryan	.....	M. W. Sheehan
Boys' Race, No. 1..	R. C. Davison (34)	A. G. Smith (34 yds.)	M. Vaughan (34 yds.)	H. J. D. Collier (27 y.)	R. S. Wade (8 yds.)
Boys' Race, No. 2..	M. Vaughan	H. J. D. Collier (1½ yds.)	H. L. 'Antle (3½)	W. F. Raay (30 yds.)	W. J. Teale (14 yds.)
Tag of War.....	Post Office	.....	Customs No. 1.	.....	.....
Boycote Race.....	H. P. Maffert (ser.)	H. P. Maffert (130 yds.)	C. B. Ward (65 yds.)	H. P. Maffert (ser.)	R. E. T. Comben (40 y.)
100 Hep., Strangers	M. Croly-Hart (13½ y.)	H. C. Woodysatt (ser.)	H. C. Woodysatt (ser.)	J. King (54 yds.)	H. W. Pride Jones (7½)
120 Hurdles ..	G. Shaw (over 15)	P. Mouchot (o. 4 yds.)	H. N. Coltart (o. 15 y.)	H. N. Coltart (o. 17 y.)	C. W. Turner (o. 3 y.)
400 Hep.	C. F. Abbott (24 yds.)	A. E. S. Smith (24 yds.)	G. Fisher (13 yds.)	P. J. Ellgnast (ser.)	H. W. Pride Jones (13)
1 Mile ..	B. Lawford (109 yds.)	B. Lawford (41 yds.)	E. Ratcliffe (80 yds.)	C. H. B. Coltart (45 y.)	C. Ingmere (113 yds.)
High Jump.....	R. Williams	R. G. Perry	R. G. Perry	R. G. Perry	N. S. A. Harrison
1 Mile Steeplechase	C. S. Sydenham (ser.)	W. B. Holmes (100 yds.)	W. B. Holmes (20 y.)	.....	.....
Volunteers' Race, 200 Yds.	.....	F. P. Burrage (15 yds.)	.....	.....	.....
Distribution of Prizes	T. R. H. The Duke and Duchess of York.	Rt. Honble. Lord George and Lady George Hamilton.	Marquis and Marchioness of Dufferin.	Lord Charles Beresford	C. L. Lockton, Esq. and Mrs. Lockton.

Results 1895 - 1899

The Thirty Seventh Annual Sports of Her Majesty's Civil Servants in **1900** attracted another large attendance of spectators to the London Athletic Club grounds, Stamford Bridge, which with the exception of the AAA's championships to be held on July 7th was unlikely to be exceeded throughout the present season. Once again the Ladies formed an unusually large proportion of the onlookers and the charming band of the Royal Horse Guards (Blues) helped to make the afternoon a great success.

As the Newspapers stated: "Many famous athletes have been connected with the Civil Service including Guy Pym (now a member of the Lower House of Legislature), Sydenham Dixon, C Herbert (the present Hon Sec of

the AAA's), G F Griffin (whose son now plays cricket for Middlesex), J H A Reay (ex-champion Hurdler), W A D Evanson (English Rugby Union International), C L Lockton (who for many years acted as Hon Secretary of the meeting) and in recognition of his services, was the recipient of a handsome testimonial the week before, G P Beckley, W Lyle Smith, E H Pelling (holder of the 200 yard record), A S Turk (several times Essex champion and a really fine athlete from 100 Yards to 10 miles) and G W Turk (who was 4 times champion of Essex)."

Being Olympic Year, and with Paris the host city, it was expected that this might inspire some great performances and whilst most races were good the pick of the best were the 440 Yards, won by H W Pride-Jones in a fast 50 2/5ths and a class 1 mile by newcomer R C W Beauchamp in 4 mins 24 2/5ths. C M Callow picked up the 2 mile Walk title which he had won as far back as 1872 only on that occasion it was over 3 miles.

EVENT.	1900.
100 Yards	E. M. Smith
130 Yds. Handicap	E. Spencer (4½ yds.)
300 Yards Maiden..	E. J. Hayden
880 Yds. Handicap	F. A. Knott (25 yds.)
1 Mile	F. E. Hayes
2 Miles Walk	C. M. Callow (225 yds.)
Veterans' Race	R. D. Binsted (11½ yds.)
Shot	W. O'Dwyer (3 ins.)
Boys' Race, No. 1..	R. L. Cantle (scratch)
Boys' Race, No. 2..	G. S. Cooper (13½ yds.)
Bicycle Race	G. L. Hopkins (2½ yds.)
120 Hcp., Strangers	F. J. Mallett (8 yds.)
120 Hurdles ..	C. W. Turner (7 yds.)
440 Hcp. ..	H. W. Pride Jones (9y.)
Mile	R. C. W. Beauchamp (90)
High Jump	{ R. G. Perry { J. E. Lascelles
Prizes Presented by	P. M. Thornton, Esq., M.P., and Mrs. Thornton

Results 1900

A programme from the 38th Annual Civil Service Athletic Sports states that the meeting was held at Stamford Bridge, Fulham Road on Saturday 27th July **1901**, under the Management of the Civil Service Athletic Association who were affiliated to the AAA with the Bicycle Race under NCU Rules. At this time the President of the Association was Field Marshall His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge.

Departments listed in the Programme included Savings Bank, London Postal Service, Central Telegraph Office, Money Order Office and Receiver and Accountant-General's Office. The competitor's instructions were: "Competitors to meet in the Pavilion ten minutes before the time fixed for each Race, and answer their names to the Clerks of the Course, from whom they must obtain numbered badges. A Competitor over-stepping his mark before the pistol has been fired will be put back one yard for distances up to and including 220 Yards; 2 Yards up to and including 440 Yards; 3 Yards up to and including 880 Yards; and 5 Yards for up to one mile or more. Penalties to be doubled on second offence; and disqualification to follow a repetition of the same offence. One caution only will be allowed in the Walking Race. No caution in the last lap."

By 1901 the number of events had increased and competitors could enter: 100 Yards (Members), One Mile Bicycle Handicap, Boys' Race 120 Yards (open to sons and brothers of Civil Servants over 10 and under 15 years of age; 5 Yards start allowed for each year under 15), 120 Yards Handicap (Members), Putting the Shot, 120 Yards (Strangers' Race), Half-Mile Handicap (Members), Two Miles Walking Race, The Princess Mary Adelaide Cup Veterans Race 150 Yards open to members of 40 years and upwards, 1¼ yard start allowed for


each year above 40, winners of the last three years penalised. This was in commemoration of Her Royal Highness' visits to the Civil Service Sports in 1979 and 1880.

Continuing the events were: One Mile Strangers Race (max handicap 150 Yards), 120 Yards Hurdle Handicap (Strangers), 300 Yards Maiden Race, 440 Yards Handicap (Strangers), High Jump, 600 Yards "Strathcona" Challenge Cup which was presented by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal K.C.M.G in 1901 and is now awarded, very briefly, to the winner of the Men's 1,500m present day for photo purposes only. Boys' Race for 6 to 10 year olds, 880 Yards Relay Race, Mile Race (Members) and finally the 300 Yards Invitation Race.

The meeting was due to start at 14.30 and conclude at 18.15 with the Presentation of Prizes by Lord and Lady Strathcona and Mount Royal. (Note: This title was created in 1900 for the Scottish born Canadian financier and politician Sir Donald Smith). There was also a Programme of Music performed by the Blue Viennese Band commencing at 14.30 with 17 items listed including pieces by Elgar, Strauss and Verdi.

Once again, the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup was contested based on the "Scale of Points and Regulations" performances in nominated events which were: i) 100 Yards with the Winners in 1899 & 1900 penalised by 3 Yards; ii) the One Mile with the Winners in 1899 & 1900 penalised by 25 Yards; iii) High Jump which was open to Strangers as well as to Civil Servants by the invitation of the Executive Committee; iv) 120 Yards Handicap; v) 880 Yards; vi) Two Miles Walking Handicap; vii) 120 Yards Hurdle Handicap open to Strangers as well as to Civil Servants by the invitation of the Executive Committee; viii) Putting the Shot Handicap. The Programme also lists all the previous event winners since 1864 with various footnotes regarding records and points of interest. These are shown in the previous pages under the year by year summaries.

<p>Competitors to meet in the Pavilion ten minutes before the time fixed for each Race, and answer their names to the Clerks of the Course, from whom they must obtain numbered badges. A Competitor over-stepping his mark before the pistol has been fired will be put back one yard for distances up to and including 220 yards; 2 yards up to and including 440 yards; 3 yards up to and including 880 yards; and 5 yards up to one mile or more. Penalties to be doubled on second offence; and disqualification to follow a repetition of the same offence. One caution only will be allowed in the Walking Race. No caution in the last lap.</p>	
<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.</p>	
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<p><i>Judges.</i></p>	
<p><i>(Red and White Rosettes.)</i> RACING EVENTS. J. SHEARMAN, Esq. F. WYBORN, Esq. M. SHEARMAN, Esq. G. V. A. SCHOFIELD, Esq. MILLER HOOPER, Esq. J. E. BENTLEY, Esq. H. VEHN, Esq.</p>	<p><i>(Yellow and White Rosettes.)</i> FIELD EVENTS. E. STIRLING COYNE, Esq. T. E. WELLS, Esq. G. P. BECKLEY, Esq. J. H. A. REAY, Esq. H. TOMLINSON, Esq.</p>
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<p>C. HERBERT, Esq., <i>Honorary Handicapper.</i> F. W. PARKER, Esq., <i>Handicapper.</i> H. H. GRIFFIN, Esq., <i>Handicapper, Bicycle Event.</i></p>	
<p><i>Timekeepers.</i> S. K. HOLMAN, Esq. C. VAL HUNTER, Esq.</p>	<p><i>Clerks of the Course.</i> (Blue and White Rosettes.) T. L. WEBSTER, Esq.</p>



**CIVIL SERVICE
ATHLETIC SPORTS,**
Under the Management of The Civil Service Athletic Association.
(Affiliated to the A.A.A. Bicycle Races under N.C.U. Rules.)

President.
FIELD-MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G., K.T., K.P.

Vice-Presidents.
THE RT. HON. LORD GEO. HAMILTON, M.P.
THE RT. HON. LORD LINGEN, K.C.B.
THE RT. HON. LORD WELBY, G.C.B.
THE RT. HON. LORD ALVERSTONE, G.C.M.G.

THE
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
AT
STAMFORD BRIDGE,
FULHAM ROAD,
ON SATURDAY, 27th JULY, 1901.

1901 CSAA Track & Field Programme

This is how the Press Reported on the 1901 events: “Despite the dull weather following a wet morning, there was a fairly large attendance at Stamford Bridge to witness the 38th celebration of the Annual Athletics Meeting promoted by the Civil Service AAA. There were several athletes of the highest class in the Open events, notably O H Jupp, the LAC sprinter, A Trafford of Birmingham (second to Alvin Kraenzlein, 4 times Olympic Gold Medallist), W K B Henderson (Oxford University) and McLean (the amateur champion of Scotland at 100 Yards and 220). Jupp attempted the 300 Yards record, but on the heavy track had no chance whatever. The principal contest for members was the new 600 Yards point race for a splendid Challenge Cup presented by Lord Strathcona, who with Lady Strathcona, was present, and subsequently presented the prizes to successful athletes.

Trafford picked up both the 120 Yards Hurdles Handicap gold and the 120 Yards Strangers Handicap. Jupp was scratch man but was beaten into third by athletes with handicap “starts”. Henderson picked up the High Jump crown with a useful 5 ft 9 ¼ ins. A relay race over 880 Yards for 3 athletes was on the programme for the first time and the winning time was 1 minute 43 3/5ths but there was no breakdown of what each team member had to run.”

These are the events that were included in the 1901 Programme Priced Sixpence:

Event No	Time	Event	Notes
1	2.30	100 Yards (Members)	2 Heats
2	2.35	One Mile Bicycle Race	2 Heats
3	2.50	100 Yards (Members)	Final
4	3.00	Boys’ Race No 2 - 120 Yards	2 Heats
5	3.10	120 Yards Handicap (Members)	5 Heats
6	3.15	Putting the Shot	
7	3.20	One Mile Bicycle Race	Final
8	3.30	120 Yards Handicap (Members)	Final
9	3.35	120 Yards (Strangers’) Handicap	4 Heats
10	3.50	Half-Mile Handicap (Members)	
11	3.55	Boys’ Race No 2 120 Yards	Final
12	4.00	Two Miles Walking Race	
13	4.20	120 Yards (Strangers’) Handicap	Final
14	4.25	Veterans’ Race – 150 Yards	The Princess Mary Adelaide Cup
15	4.30	One Mile Strangers’ Race	Limit 150 Yards Handicap
16	4.40	120 Yards Hurdle Handicap (Strangers)	2 Heats
17	4.50	300 Yards Maiden Race	3 Heats
18	4.55	440 Yards Handicap (Strangers)	2 Heats
19	5.05	120 Yards Hurdle Handicap (Strangers)	Final
20	5.10	300 Yards Maiden Race	Final
21	5.15	High Jump	
22	5.20	600 Yards “Strathcona” Challenge Cup	
23	5.30	Boys Race No 1 - 120 Yards	
24	5.40	880 Yards Relay Race	
25	5.50	440 Yards Handicap (Strangers)	Final
26	6.00	Mile Race (Members)	
27	6.10	300 Yards Invitation Race	Record held by C G Wood 31½ sec
	6.15	Presentation of Prizes	Lord and Lady Strathcona and Mount Royal – God Save the King

Notes

Boys' Race No 2 - 120 Yards was Open to Sons and Brothers of Civil Servants over 10 and under 15 years of age; 5 yard start allowed for each year under 15.

The Veterans 150 Yard Race was open to Members of 40 years and upward; 1 ¼ yard start allowed for each year above 40; winners of the last three years penalised.

Boys Race No 1 - 120 Yards was Open to Sons and Brothers of Civil Servants from 6 to 10 years of age; 6 Yards start allowed for each year under 10. Boys under 7 years of age allowed 2 Yards start in addition.

Yet again, in **1902**, despite the wretched weather which was undoubtedly dispiriting to competitors and onlookers alike, a crowd numbering around a couple of thousand witnessed the events comprising the Programme of the 39th Civil Service Annual Athletics Meeting.

Though the rain ceased at about three o'clock, the condition of the track was all against fast times. The 1 Mile Strangers Handicap was taken by W F Simpson, of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association in a good time of 4 mins 18 2/5ths but off a handicap of 85 Yards.

Rather unusually a field event stole the day when W W Coe launched the 16 foot shot out to 43 foot 9 ins. He was an American athlete at Oxford University and no doubt from a throwing tradition back home. J E Lascelles did remarkably well to clear 5 ft 9 1/4 ins in the High Jump considering the state of the ground. Doubles were recorded on the day by T E F Turner and F A Knott and Lord Alverstone presented the prizes at the end of proceedings.

Writing in "Living London 1902" which was edited by George R. Sims the following can be found:

"Of the more strictly athletic meetings, that promoted by the members of the Civil Service stands pre-eminent. Not only is it one of the oldest annual gatherings in the country (it dates back to 1864), but there is always a likelihood on these occasions of a record being broken, either by a member of the promoting club or in one of the strangers' races. These latter usually attract a number of the best athletes of the day, so that good performances are far from uncommon. Thus, to quote only a few, in 1874 Mr. W. Slade made the then record for the distance in the mile "strangers" race, while three years later, in the first heat of the "strangers" 150 Yards, Mr. J. Shearman accomplished a similar feat. A few years later even finer performances were recorded, Mr. W. G. George making a fresh mile record of 4 min. 19 2/5 sec. in the Open Handicap at that distance in 1882, while Mr. L. E. Myers, in 1885, won the open 440 Yards in 48 4/5 sec. In 1888 and 1893 Messrs. Tindall and Bredin won the 600 Yards race in 1 min. 12 3/5 sec. and 1 min. 11 2/5, sec. respectively.

It should also be remembered that several amateur champions have been members of the Civil Service, and that the ranks of the cross-country clubs are largely recruited from that body, so that it will be readily admitted that the "closed" races possess an interest far greater than that which usually attaches to club events."

In **1903** one local Reporter summed up the weather conditions at the Championships by saying that "Owing to the incessant downpour there were pools of water in places large enough for a duck to swim upon! Great Scott, how it did rain on Saturday last! Fortunate indeed the member of mankind who escaped a wet skin. Certainly, the sun shone for a while during the wee hours but there was more than a glishy look about him."

The St James's Gazette on Monday 15 June 1903 stated that "In defiance of a drenching rain, the Civil Servants carried through their fortieth annual athletic meeting at Stamford-bridge on Saturday before 800 spectators. T. E. F. Turner, the Civil Service footballer, carried off three first prizes in the closed events, while in the open events O. Groenings gained a double first."

The Sporting Life 15th June 1903 stated

been a miserable one of late. Scarcely permitted breathing time for outdoor recreation. Contrary to expectation—public expectation especially—His Majesty's Civil servants celebrated their fortieth annual meeting at Stamford Bridge. According to the tribunal of common sense a large attendance could not reasonably be expected. Indeed but few rational human beings would have ventured out of doors. It was not fit to turn a dog out in. However, why the friend of man should be brought into the question cannot say. Time was when the Service Sports were patronised by thousands. In the long ago at Lillie Bridge. Come now, considering the deluge that prevailed, the company proved quite as large as could reasonably be expected. So three cheers for everybody! Now it goes without say-

T E F Turner won the 100 Yards and 120 Yards Members Handicap and O Groening combined the High Jump and 120 Yards Strangers Hurdles Handicap. Many of the old stars of former Sports Days were in attendance and each had a role on the official Organising Committee. Despite the depressing weather the 40th Anniversary Championships were completed on time.

In 1904 C Guy Pym MP was one of the main guests at the 41st Annual Civil Service Athletics Championships. He first competed in 1864 (the first year of the Sports) and won the 440 yard title after running 55 seconds in his heat. Not to be outdone in the "old boys" stakes was the evergreen C M Callow who won the 3 mile walk at this meeting in 1872.

The guest list of notables read as follows: Sir Lees Knowles, Bart, Admiral Sir Eardley Wilmot, KCB, Sir R D Awdry, KCB, Admiral Sir Hastings Markham, KCB and Lady Hastings Markham. An audience of 3,000 saw Lady Markham present a number of Merit Awards to long serving athletes and administrators.

The Reverend H W Workman made short work of the field in the 600 Yards and H W Monroe, winner of the 300 Yards Maiden race in 35 secs, was seen as a potential star of the future. C Stanfield achieved the only double of the day with a 12 1/5th secs clocking in the 120 Yards Handicap off 6¼ Yards and a comfortable 11 secs in the 100 Yards. Mr Stanfield was also presented with the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup.

Penny Illustrated Paper - Saturday 18 June 1904



THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS LAST SATURDAY: G. STANFIELD
WINNING THE 100 YARDS RACE.



THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS E. W. HOYLE WINNING THE BOYS' RACE.

For 1905 the pre-event publicity provided the following statement in a national newspaper: "The Prince of Wales, prior to his departure for India, notified to Mr E H Pelling, the Hon Secretary of the Civil Service Athletic Association, his acceptance of the Presidency of that Organisation. His Royal Highness succeeds in that office the late Duke of Cambridge, who held the position from the initiation in 1864 till his death in 1904. The Prince of Wales will be able, it is hoped, on his return from India, to present the prizes at the athletics meeting next year."

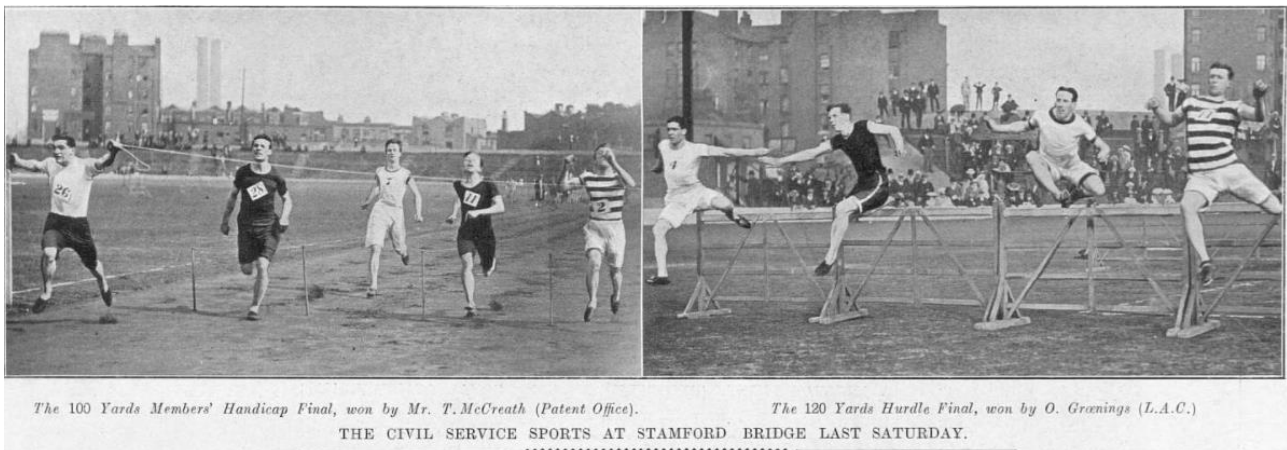
A good-sized crowd of 5 - 6,000 people attended the Sports Day and were rewarded with some excellent races and performances. The Strangers 1 Mile was run in the very fast time of 4 minutes 20 2/5th secs by J F Fitzgerald, who unlike many winners in recent years was off scratch. Other events were won with decent

times but nothing very special. The prizes were distributed by Lady MacGregor and her husband, Sir Evan MacGregor.

At the **1906** Sports Day there was an element of sadness on the day following the absence of J H A Reay from the meeting whose wife had died recently. Yet again, upwards of 4,000 souls took their viewing positions at Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea FC, as the action got underway. The 300 Yards was of great interest with C H Jupp, a 220 Yard specialist tackling the slightly longer distance. He was unlucky not to equal the British record and was just 2 tenths shy of the target with a clocking of 31 4/5ths. He was the British furlong champion in 1904 so was blessed with great speed.

Excitement began to build as the 880 Yards Invitation Handicap race was nearing the off. Olympian K Hellstrom, from Sweden, who finished 3rd in the 1500 metres at the Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens was the main adversary. Oddly enough he was not off scratch but had an allowance of 28 Yards. Clearly, he was the best runner and his finishing time of 1 minute 53 4/5ths was the equivalent of 1 minute 57.4 for the full 880 Yards. The winner of the 2 Mile Walking Handicap was the now 70 year-old Charlie Callow who due to his age had a start of 880 Yards so not unsurprisingly kept his pink jersey in front. He had previously triumphed in 1872, 1880, 1883, 1885 and 1900. This was one of the chief features of the day as Mr. C. M. Callow, who after a career which commenced 42 years ago at the first athletic gathering of the Civil Service Club in 1864, had finally retired from the sport at the great age of 70. After the Sports he was the recipient of a handsome testimonial and magnificent silver bowl, which was presented to him on behalf of about 250 of his personal friends by the Earl of Arran, who, it is understood, told those present that was a living example of what continuous physical exercise will do for any man. O Groenings (LAC) recorded a useful double with a High Jump clearance of 5 ft 4 ½ ins and a 120 Yard Hurdle Handicap win with 18 secs off 10 Yards.

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 16 June 1906 included some actions shots for their readers:



In **1907** the weather was on the side of the athletes and spectators and there were some good performances for the crowd to watch. K Hellstrom beat 50 seconds in the 440 Yards Strangers Handicap off 14 Yards and converting the 49 2/5ths would have meant a flat time of around 51 secs. He also ran a very fast opening 880 Yards in the Strangers 1 Mile Relay to ensure LAC won that event.

Pre-race publicity indicated that Harold Abrahams (later of Chariots of Fire fame) could be in the London Athletic Club Relay Team but it later transpired that he was not. According to the Programme there were 50 athletes entered for the 1 Mile Open Handicap with 45 of them actually racing on the day and with over 6,000 it was quite a sight.

Reporting in **The Athletic News - Monday 10 June 1907** a former Civil Service athlete (name unknown) penned the following article on the previous Saturday's activities:

THE CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.

The Oldest Athletic Gathering.

[BY THE OLD ATHLETE.]

I believe I am correct in saying that no other club in the kingdom can equal the record of the Civil Service, which has held an annual meeting since 1864. Of these I have been present at all but about half a dozen, and cannot remember many that I could conscientiously state were more successful from every point of view than that which was decided at Stamford Bridge last Saturday. We old-timers are too apt to decry what is now going on around us, but looking at the situation with an open mind I am afraid it must be admitted that those who we thirty years or more ago, we were apt to look upon as giants would to-day have to struggle to hold their own in fair-class company. Nearly everything on earth has developed, and such is the case with athletics. Gatherings like the Civil Service bring together a wonderful collection of old athletes. In the enclosure on Saturday were many whose names were once household words, and not a few looked as if they were none the worse for their old-time exertion.

A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

I made no mistake when last week I said after Hellstrom had run a mile at the L.A.C. meeting inside evens under the most disheartening surroundings, that I was certain he was a great athlete. I have not had to wait long to have my opinion verified. On Saturday he accomplished a feat of which an Elborough or a Bredin might well be proud. He commenced by taking the first half in an open mile relay race, and though he was opposed by some good men he simply romped away from them, and got through in 1m. 59sec., pretty fast time, considering that he had no one to help him in the slightest degree. A little later he came out for the quarter, and from the 14 yards mark he rushed through his men before the half distance had been covered, and in each case won with plenty to spare in 49 3-5sec and 49 2-5sec. respectively. Owing to the crowd breaking in I was unable to see him finish in the final, but he walked away seemingly far from distressed. He is rather slightly built, and runs with an easy but by no means lengthy stride, which seems to me more suitable for a high-class half than a quarter. But that he is a first-class man at either distance I have not the slightest doubt. He certainly won the relay race for his club by smashing up Montague in a very decisive manner, and the advantage he had gained was increased by H. S. Harmer, who looks like making a good quarter-miler. Then with H. Watson and Tremeer to follow the issue was never in doubt. The S.L.H., who got second, had a good team in George, Deusham, Reed, and Montague. The Birchfield team, of whom much was expected, did not finish. Reed, who has just entered the service, won the 100 yards level with ease, and in the members' "relay" gave the race to the Board of Trade team as effectually as Hellstrom had done previously in the open event.

CLEVER VICTORIES.

A smart young sprinter in S. W. Lloyd, late of Mill Hill School, followed up his victory at Edmonton with an easy win in the open 100 from the 8½ mark, while Groenings, with the big penalty of 17 yards, won the hurdles cleverly. The opposition was very weak, but the Metropolitan district at present contains few hurdlers of any class. He also won the high jump with 5ft. 6½in. There were only a moderate lot in the mile, but the time of the winner, E. C. Cramp, of the Kildare (120), was so hot (4min. 15.3-5sec) that the back-markers, Hufford (32), Knott (35), and Deakin (38), had no chance.

CLOSED EVENTS.

The closed events, which were very numerous and varied, call for little comment, seeing that class was very poorly represented. Rees is head and shoulders above his fellow-members. It seems funny to find a C.S. walk without the veteran Callow, who has just retired. There was, however, another old warrior left, J. Jackett, who though 61 years of age, walked from the 620 mark second to S. C. A. Schofield (30), who got through in just under even time. The latter is a really fine walker, but he has never competed except at the C. S. meetings, and has previously been successful on two occasions. The veterans 120, which generally brings out a few "has-beens," fell to a man who was a good sprinter in my time, E. Nops, who is now in his 60th year. A special word of praise is due to the management, who got through an exceedingly long programme sharp to time.

From the Penny Illustrated Paper - Saturday 15 June 1907 – the Strathcona Challenge Cup Mile Race and final heat of the 100 Yards.



1908 was Olympic Year with London the host venue which meant that a number of overseas Olympians were at the 45th Annual Sports Day which certainly added a bit of colour to the event. Twelve of the 20 events on show were restricted to "Members" (i.e. Civil Servants) whilst the other 8 were open to "Strangers" in which many of the famous athletes of the time competed. One of South Africa's leading hurdlers (V Duncker) took the Civil Service Title in the 120 Yard Hurdle Handicap with a time of 18 3/5ths. Doug Stupart, the second South African competitor, finished third in his heat at the Games but his compatriot, V Duncker seems to have missed the event. Two top class University runners entered the 880 Yards Strangers event with T H Just breasting the finishing tape in a very good 1 minute 59 secs.

O Groenings won the High Jump for the third year in succession and the Discus appears on the programme for the first time. It is described as Throwing the Discus Free style and the winner, H A Leeke, launched the implement the fair distance of 108 ft 6 ins. The Countess of Arran presented the prizes to the winners.

The Referee - Sunday 21 June 1908 printed the following comprehensive report of the Sports Day which illustrates just how important these Championships were in London society at the time. The detailed Results show in great detail the handicapping and also provides a brief commentary on how the events progressed. This was almost a forerunner to Athletics Weekly which was not to appear for another 40 or so years!

CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS.

NOTABLE GATHERING AT STAMFORD BRIDGE.

L.A.O. WIN THE TEAM RACE.

AGE cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of this annual sports gathering. Yesterday, at Stamford Bridge, the forty-fifth meeting took place in favourable weather, and in the presence of a good attendance of spectators. It may be truly said that the Civil Service fête is "evergreen." This is borne out by the fact that there are still to be seen at these assemblies many victors of the olden days acting in the capacity of officials, and lending their experiences towards the general success of the sports. Among these were noticed C. M. Callow, the ever-youthful veteran and hero of many Civil Service "walks;" C. L. Lockton, who is now more at home with the starter's pistol than "sprinting the straight"; J. H. A. Reay, Montague Shearman, H. Venn, than whom no better judge of "fair heel-and-toe"; the enthusiastic C. Val Hunter, H. H. Griffin, champion of handicappers; and H. W. Haslegrave, the genial Blackheathen, who was as courtly as ever at his post of chief steward. At the conclusion of a long and enjoyable afternoon of athletic sports the numerous and handsome awards were presented by the Countess of Arran. Proceedings opened with the 100 yards Bentley-Tomlinson challenge cup, an event which was contested in two heats, the final proving a good thing for that fine sprinter L. J. de B. Reed (penalised 3 yards), Board of Trade, who won cleverly by half a yard from F. Ord, G.P.O., in 10 3-5sec. The mile bicycle handicap for members produced three heats and a final. In each case the preliminaries were won comfortably, and it was only in the final that anything like a sporting contest was apparent. In the decider B. R. Hodley, War Office (140), got the lead in the last hundred yards, and won by a couple of lengths in 2min. 14 2-5sec. from J. Brace, Board of Trade (170).

South African Competitors.

For the mile "Strathcona" Challenge Cup race a field of five turned out. G. C. Smallwood, Patent Office, made the running at the end of the first lap, and never afterwards being approached, won comfortably by twenty-five yards in 4min. 45 2-5sec. from C. G. Mathie, Board of Education. The 100 yards handicap for members eventuated in an easy yard victory for E. C. Lock, Customs, 5 yards start, in 10 3-5sec., V. T. Brennan, Admiralty, 4, running into second place. Interest was centred in the performances of the South Africans, R. E. Walker, D. A. Stupart, and V. Duncker, but they made a poor show, Walker only getting placed in his heat in the 100 yards handicap for strangers. Another notable defeat was that of L. F. Tremeer, L.A.C. ($2\frac{3}{4}$), in the third heat. The final went to R. J. Dann, L.A.C. ($5\frac{1}{2}$), after a stirring race, by a yard in 10 2-5sec. from A. A. Cameron, Blackheath Harriers ($10\frac{3}{4}$). In the contest for throwing the discus in the free style, H. A. Leeke, C.U.A.C., was first with a hurl of 108ft. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. E. E. B. May, the Oxford man, threw a distance of 113ft., but the discus went "out of bounds." Always a popular event, the mile invitation relay race was productive of plenty of excitement, the L.A.C. A team putting a fine winning quartet into the contest in T. H. Just, E. H. Ryle, A. E. D. Anderson, and S. G. Freaut. The other competitors were L.A.C. B team, Surrey Athletic Club, and Blackheath Harriers. The Poly. Harriers' team did not materialise. The mile was compassed by the winners in 3min. 38 3-5sec. Applause was not lacking in appreciation of the efforts of the veterans in a 120 yards race. Among the competitors was that "grand old man," J. Jackett, of the Customs, set at 62 years. He, however, with a generous allowance of 22 yards, was unplaced, and the spoils of victory went to J. Parkhurst, R.A.C.D., $12\frac{3}{4}$ yards start, in 14 2-5sec. Relay races are a great attraction at Civil Service gatherings, and the mile members' event of this class was ensured another hearty ovation. The competing teams came from the War Office, Admiralty, Patent Office, and Board of Trade, and the Patent Office four had an easy win, the distance being negotiated in 3min. 50 3-5sec.

T. H. Just's Popular Win.

The Cambridge University runner, T. H. Just, scored a highly-popular victory in the 880 yards strangers' race. Taking a strong lead at a furlong from home, he sprinted past the judges in 1min. 59sec. The two miles walk was a keenly-contested affair, and the winner, G. H. C. Manning, Savings Bank Department (150), succeeded in heading off the long-mark veteran, J. Jackett (625) in the last fifty yards.

Sons and brothers of Civil Servants have their special events allotted to them in the lengthy programme, and perhaps it is not too much to say that these juvenile contests are not the least interesting items of the card. The 120 yards boys' race went to a ten and a half year old, A. A. Barge, from the $22\frac{1}{2}$ yards mark, in 14 3-5sec.; while the second event for youngsters not exceeding ten years of age, for a similar distance, was won by E. C. Webb, 3 yards, in 17 4-5sec.

As was fully anticipated, that specialist at leaping, O. Groenings, L.A.C., won the high jump at 5ft. $9\frac{3}{4}$ in, and the 440 yards open handicap, which resulted in a most interesting finish, saw the defeat of E. H. Montague, the 440 yards champion, by F. R. Yeatman, of the Poly. Harriers (11) and J. F. Lintott (16). The South Africans made amends for their defeat in the track events by securing first and second places in the 120 yards hurdle handicap. V. Duncker, who owed 17 yards, just beat his compatriot, D. A. Stupart, at the last hurdle.

Results.

100 Yards Race (Members).—L. J. de B. Reed, penalised 3 yards, 1; F. Ord, 2; H. W. Monroe, 3. The winner took the lead two yards from home and won by half a yard. Time, 10 3-5sec.

Throwing the Discus (Free Style).—H. A. Lecke (Cambridge University A.C. and L.A.C.), 108ft. 6½in., 1; A. E. Flaxman (L.A.C.), 102ft. 6¼in., 2; E. E. B. May (Oxford University and L.A.C.), 101ft. 11¼in., 3.

120 Yards Handicap (Veterans).—J. Parkhurst, 12¾ yards start, 1; J. Jackett, 22, 2; W. T. Cobb, 8½, 3. Won easily. Time, 14 2-5sec.

120 Yards Boys' Handicap (Open to sons and brothers of Civil Servants over ten and under fifteen years of age).—A. A. Barge (10½ years), 22½ yards start, 1; C. F. Gardner (10¾), 21¼, 2; R. A. Gough (12½), 12½, 3. Time, 14 2-5sec.

One Mile Bicycle Handicap.—D. R. Hodley, 170 yards start, 1; J. Brace, 170, 2; J. de Vane, 170, 3. Won by a length. Time, 2min. 14 2-5sec.

100 Yards Handicap (Members).—E. C. Lock, 5 yards start, 1; V. T. Brennan, 4, 2; C. C. Davies, scratch, 3. Won by a yard. Time, 10 3-5sec.

880 Yards Scratch Race (Strangers).—T. H. Just, Cambridge University and L.A.C., 1; J. F. Lintott, L.A.C., 2; F. A. Knott, L.A.C., 3. F. M. Ashford, of the Finchley H., led until the bell. Just, running grandly, took the lead half a lap from the finish, and won easily by ten yards. Lintott passed Knott twenty yards from the tape. Time, 1min. 59sec.

100 Yards Handicap (Open).—R. J. Dunn, L.A.C., 5½ yards start, 1; S. W. P. Walpole, L.A.C., 8, 2; A. A. Cameron, Blackheath H., 10¼, 3. Won by a yard; inches between second and third. Time, 10 2-5sec.

One Mile Invitation Relay Race.—London Athletic Club, A Team (T. H. Just, E. H. Ryle, A. E. D. Anderson, S. G. Ercaut), 1; L.A.C., B Team (K. Heliström, J. B. Densham, H. S. Harmer, L. F. Tremeer), 2; Surrey A.C. (R. E. C. Yorke, R. Gibson, E. H. Montague, L. J. de B. Reed), 3. The Poly. H. did not start. Ercaut was first home, with Tremeer and Reed following in that order. Time, 3min. 38 3-5sec.

One Mile Scratch Flat Race for "Strathcona" Challenge Cup (Members).—G. C. Smallwood, Patent Office, 1; C. G. Mathie, Board of Education, 2; P. M. Brennan, S.B.D., G.P.O., 3. Won by twenty-five yards, Brennan being beaten a yard from home for second place. Time, 4min. 45 2-5sec.

One Mile Members' Relay Race.—Patent Office, 1; Board of Trade, 2; War Office, 3.

Boys' Race, 120 Yards (Open to sons and brothers of Civil Servants from six to ten years of age).—E. C. Webb, 9½ years, owed 3 yards, 1; G. R. Riley, 9¼ years, owed 4½ yards, 2; D. S. Walker, 9¾ years, penalised 3 yards, 3. Time, 17 4-5sec.

220 Yards Members' Handicap.—P. Corry, Admiralty, 21 yards start, 1; E. C. Lock, Customs, 11, 2; H. Norrey, C.T.O., 15, 3. The winner quickly went to the front and won by a foot; a yard separating the second and third. Time, 23sec.

Two Miles Walking Handicap.—G. H. C. Manning, S.B.D., G.P.O., 159 yards, 1; J. Jackett, Customs, 625, 2; S. C. A. Schofield, India Office, scratch, 3. Won by eighty yards, the scratch man failing to catch Jackett by ten yards. Time, 14min. 27 1-5sec.

120 Yards Hurdle Handicap (Open).—V. Duncker, South African A.A.A., owed 17 yards, 1; D. A. Stupart, South African A.A.A., owed 18 yards, 2; H. W. Kirk, Tooting A.C., scratch, 3. The South African Olympians ran a fine race, the winner just getting over the last hurdle. Time, 18 3-5sec.

440 Yards Open Handicap.—F. R. Yeatman, Poly. H., 11 yards start, 1; J. F. Lintott, L.A.C. and R.H., 16, 2; E. H. Montague, L.A.C., scratch, 3. Yeatman showed fine judgment in this race, and coming away round the bend, led into the straight, and won by three yards, Lintott just beating the 440 yards champion for second place. Time, 59 2-5sec.

300 Yards Novices' Flat Race.—W. Apps, War Office, 1; T. O. Church, G.P.O., 2; E. E. Holliday, Charity Commissioners, 3. Won by six yards. Time, 34 1-5sec.

High Jump.—O. Groenings, L.A.C., 5ft. 9¾in., 1; C. R. Dugmore, Birchfield H. and W. E. B. Henderson, L.A.C., 5ft. 5½in., dead heat.

One Mile Open Handicap (limit 150 yards).—J. Barrett, Irish A.C., 127 yards start, 1; J. Ballantyne, Poly. H., 82, 2; H. Bowden, unattached, 140, 3. Bowden was not dispossessed of his limit lead until half a lap from home, when Barrett and Ballantyne both got by, the former winning by eight yards. Time, 4min. 19 4-5sec.

Half-mile Members' Handicap.—G. N. Mathie, Stationery Office, 45 yards start, 1; E. J. Denney, Inland Revenue, 27, 2; E. C. Ramsbottom, Board of Trade, 32, 3. Time, 2min. 4-5sec.

In 1909 two South African Olympians made their debut at Stamford Bridge, one a sprinter, the other a hurdler. Reggie Walker was the 100 metres Gold Medallist at the London Games recording 10.8 on that occasion which equalled the Olympic record. Apparently, he was not too fit but once you are Olympic Champion the pressure is not quite the same. Reggie also did the double with a win in both the 100 Yards Invitation and the Strangers Handicap. A new high jump winner, R E Leader, took that crown with a leap of 5 ft 9 ins and it seems the Discus was taken off the timetable after only year.

For the 1910 Championships Roughly approximately 6,000 spectators ventured out to the Stamford Bridge ground to see a fine afternoon of Athletics. A head to head between two top class sprinters over the 300 Yard distance added additional atmosphere to the Sports and given the record of 31 1/2th has rarely been approached it was to be quite a battle. L J de B Reed (LAC) proved to be the stronger on the day and was a

mere 2/5ths away from the world class record. Prior to racing over the longer distance L J de B Read won the 100 Yards and collected the Bentley-Tomlinson Challenge cup for his troubles.

The Veterans 120 Yards Handicap produced an outstanding performance as W T Cobb, racing off 10 1/2 Yards, clocked a fine 14 2/5ths secs. C W Taylor captured the High Jump crown with a jump of 5 ft 9ins but had cleared 5 ft 11 ins the previous weekend at the Northern Championships.



In this same year the **Sporting Life - Thursday 18 August 1910** reported a burglary at the home of E H Pelling:

MR E. H. PELLING ROBBED

Within the last twelve months several past and present experts in various branches of sport have been robbed of much-valued trophies. The latest to suffer is Mr E. H. Pelling, a very great amateur sprinter in the eighties and nineties, and in these days a prominent official of the A.A.A. and London Athletic Club, and one of our most valued watch-holders.

Mr Pelling lives at 81, Lucien-rd., Upper Tooting, and the thief or thieves, entering from the rear, and regaling themselves on tarts and cakes before leaving the premises selected as booty five silver cups—there were many other trophies in the room—a pair of silver candlesticks, and silver ornaments.

Mr Pelling happened to be away from home at the time, but his wife and children were sleeping in the house. It may prove not uninteresting to state that the victim of the robbery holds conjointly with G. Jordon and A. B. Downer the 200yds record of 19½sec., made at Stamford Bridge on Sept. 23, 1889, and that he is also joint holder of the 250yds record with W. T. Macpherson, by covering the distance in 24½sec. at Stamford Bridge on Sept. 22, 1898.

1911 saw decent numbers, estimated at 6,000, passing through the turnstiles. The Strangers 120 Yards Hurdle Handicap produced a new Champion as E H Hutcheon crossed the line just ahead of his nearest challenger and clocked 17 1/5th secs. This was off a start of 6 Yards which would still have given him a sub 18 second for the full 120. The Discus reappeared and although the winner spun the implement over 106 feet it was a couple of feet shy of the record set in 1908. C W Taylor lifted the High Jump title for a second year with 5 ft 9 ins, a slight improvement on last year.

In **1912** one event on Sports Day, the 100 metres Invitation Level Race was run over the non-imperial equivalent. Two athletes actually tied for first place, Messrs H M Macintosh and R G Rice, and on the toss of a coin, R G Rice was declared the winner. The time of 11 secs was possibly the best ever short sprint performance since 1864.

C W Taylor returned for title number 3 in consecutive years and the Bentley-Tomlinson Challenge Cup was won by G A G Dryden in the 100 Yards. G A Lilley was quite impressive in the 440 Yards Strangers Handicap picking up the title with a good 49 seconds off his 21 yard start. Newcomer F Grant managed the only day's double with wins in the 100 Yards Members Handicap and the 220 equivalent.

In **1913** the Golden Jubilee of the Civil Service Athletic Sports was celebrated with a meal at the Trocadero Restaurant in London (see below). The Chair of CSAA was taken by Sir Kenneth A Muir Mackenzie, GCB, KC.

The 50th Annual Sports of the Civil Service Athletic Association would see old rivals discussing their battles over the years. One example being the duo of Guy Pym and Charlie Callow, who in 1864, were first and second in the Quarter mile race.

A special 4 x 100 metres Relay Race was promoted between the British Olympic Relay Team and the Rest of England. The British squad fielded Applegarth, Macintosh, Jacobs and d'Arcy who between them managed to clock 43 1/5th secs. They were the reigning Olympic Champions having recorded a time of 42.4 in the final.

It was very fitting that Guy Pym, one of the founders of the Civil Service Athletics Association should present the prizes 50 years after he first participated in the championships.

Willie Applegarth, who ran leg 3 in the winning Gold Medal Team in Stockholm, put the 220 Yards record to the sword in an attempt to break the British record. His final time of 22 1/5th would still be a wonderful performance in the 21st Century given the shoes they wore and the state of the surfaces they ran on. He was sadly a fair way off the world record at Stamford Bridge but only 2/5th away from the British equivalent. It was felt that he was running tired considering a weighty number of personal appearances elsewhere.

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 14 June 1913



E. B. Greer winning 440 Yards Hurdle
Race for A.F.E.A. Championship.



C. S. Lawson (scratch) winning the
2 Miles Walking Handicap.

The Civil Service Athletic Sports at Stamford Bridge.

From the **Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News - Saturday 14 June 1913** came the following informative article:

ATHLETICS.

THIS is, indeed, a year of jubilees as regards athletic sports. It was a jubilee meeting which was recently held by the 'Varsities in the spring and more recently by the Honourable Artillery Company and last Saturday at Stamford Bridge some thousands of persons assembled to see the fiftieth annual sports of the Civil Service Athletic Association. The latter was, indeed, a memorable meeting. Runners and walkers who took part in the gatherings of fifty years ago were seen in the enclosure, re-contesting their old battles on metaphorical lines. Messrs. C. Guy Pym and C. M. Callow—the latter bearing his seventy-seven years most lightly—were engaged in an animated *tête-à-tête*, doubtless recalling the inaugural sports of 1864, when Guy Pym won the Quarter Mile Race, and Callow was his "runner-up."

In the circumstances it was only fitting that an impromptu contest between a couple of "Have-beens" should be arranged. No time was lost in bringing together, in a 100 Yards Race, J. Parkhurst, now in his fifty-eighth year, and M. E. Jobling, who will be seventy years old on the 21st inst. Parkhurst, who had previously won the 120 Yards Veterans' Handicap, stood at scratch, and gave Jobling twelve yards start. At least, he tried to "give it," for Jobling, who had journeyed up from Devonshire purposely for the sports, kept his head in front throughout, and won in 12 4-5 sec.—splendid time for a runner of his years.

As generally expected, the British Olympic relay racing team proved too good for the "Rest of England" contingent at 400 mètres, although the "changing" left room for some improvement. W. R. Applegarth never looked like succeeding in his attack on the furlong record. He is in danger of going stale, and, if he be discreet, will ease up in his training. Otherwise he may lose his title of Champion next July, when the American and other opposition will be extremely strong.

The best performance in the strangers' events was shown by the nineteen-years-old F. de B. Collenette, who simply romped home a winner of the "Open" Mile, with 95 yards start, in 4 min. 17 2-5 sec. The Mile Race for the Cup given by Lord Strathcona (who, by the way, enclosed, with a letter of regret at his inability to attend, a cheque for one hundred guineas as a donation to the Association's funds) showed the South London Harrier, G. N. Mathie, to be in very fair form. His 4min. 41sec. for the journey was far from bad.

When the Civil Service Sports were instituted fifty years ago things were vastly different from what they are to-day. It was in the War Office that the idea of the meeting was first mooted, and Mr. Guy Pym, who was then engaged in that department, doubtless saw, when he looked around among the 600 clerks of which the staff then consisted, and noticed the large proportion of old Public Schoolboys and University men among them, that there, indeed, was the material for a really representative Society of Civil Service athletes. The proposal caught on, the scheme materialised, and, after fifty years, Mr. Guy Pym, one of the founders, and himself a prize-winner of the past, had the felicity on Saturday of passing on to other winners their well-earned awards of merit.

However, there were rumblings afoot as the following letter reveals in the **Daily Citizen (Manchester)** - Tuesday 26 August 1913 regarding who could enter the Sports Day:

The close alliance of snobbery and "amateur" sport is evidenced by the following letter, signed by "Civil Servant," who encloses his name and address:—

Apropos of the Olympic sports fund scandal it will be news to most of your readers to learn that the Civil Service sports held annually at the Stamford Bridge Grounds are as redolent of snobocracy as they are unrepresentative of the Civil Service generally.

The entries are confined to "gentlemen" amateurs on the major establishment (i.e., clerical or salaried) as distinct from the minor establishment (manipulative or wage-paid).

In other words a telegraphist in the Central Telegraph Office, however prominent in the athletic world, although a civil servant, is debarred from competing. His brother, who may be an assistant clerk, is eligible to compete.

I have known a man, a provincial sorting clerk and telegraphist, debarred from competing in these sports, although considered good enough to play for one of the Rugby football clubs, which regularly trounces Blackheath and Richmond.

Although on the major establishment, I consider the qualification is a disgusting exhibition of class distinction.

On October 31st 1913 the **Pall Mall Gazette** mentioned the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the CSAAA which took place on Thursday 30th October at the Trocadero Restaurant as follows:

Civil Service Athletics

Speaking at the fiftieth anniversary dinner of the Civil Service Amateur Athletic Association last evening, Mr. E. H. Pelling, the hon. secretary, said that during the fifty years of the Association they had catered for over 15,000 competitors; and they had presented them with over 2,000 prizes of a value of over £5,000.

The Sportsman - Saturday 06 June 1914 advertised the Programme of Events for the 51st Annual Sports Day

The 51st ANNUAL MEETING will be held at STAMFORD BRIDGE GROUNDS, Fulham-road, this afternoon.	
PROGRAMME:	
2.30	100 Yards Bentley-Tomlinson Cup.
2.35	Boy Clerks' Race.
2.50	Boys' Race, No. 2.
3. 0	100 Yards Members' Handicap.
3.10	Boys' Race, No. 1.
3.25	Mile "Strathcona" Cup.
3.30	High Jump. 100 Yards Open Handicap.
3.45	Veterans' Race.
4. 5	Pole Jump.
4.10	220 Yards Members' Handicap.
4.20	300 Yards Invitation Race.
4.30	Two-mile Walk.
4.55	300 Yards Maiden Race.
5. 5	120 Yards Hurdles.
5.10	440 Yards Open Handicap.
5.25	One Mile Open Handicap.
5.35	One Mile Invitation Relay Race.
5.50	300 Yards Members' Handicap.
PRINCE OF WALES' MILITARY BAND (late CIVIL SERVICE BAND).	
ADMISSION, 6d.	
Hon. Secretaries. E. H. Pelling and H. W. Monroe.	
-Adv.	

So in 1914 just as the First World War loomed and the storms clouds were gathering across Europe almost 6,000 spectators supported the Championships. Willie Applegarth visited the Sports Day again but chose not to contest the 220 Yards but instead he joined his Polytechnic teammates who between them ran off with the Medley relay title. C S Dowson appeared in the 1 Mile Walk for the first time and recorded one of the fastest times ever in the UK with 14 minutes 2 2/5ths secs in the 2 Mile Walk. The 300 Yards Invitation Race saw R S Burley run a very fast 31 2/5ths very near to the record.

It has been a while since a good middle distance runner took centre stage but B Ives produced a marvellous effort to win the 1 Mile Strangers Handicap in 4 minutes 18 1/5th secs off a 25 yard start. With the war not too far away, it seemed quite obvious that peoples' minds would be on more important matters. One factor which would not have escaped the attention of the crowds was that some of the fine athletes competing would be going into the Services and would never fulfil their running destiny.

The Sportsman - Wednesday 10 June 1914 made the following comments in an in-depth article following the 1914 Championships:

The Civil Service Sports Meeting has always been associated with interesting races at a mile, and with good performances by men, some of whom had won championships, and others who were destined so to do. If I remember rightly, it was on his successful running in the Civil Service Strangers' Mile in 1896 that Benson Lawford, who had also won the same event in 1895, was encouraged to go for (and gain) Championship honours. But before Lawford's day there had been such famous mile winners as the late W. M. Chinnery, Walter Slade, the before-mentioned W. G. George, W. Snook, E. C. Carter (now in America), H. C. Mabey, and Harold Wade, while amongst other winners who were neither on scratch nor at limit there might be mentioned the names of the late Walter Stevenson and Dr J. A. Voelcker, now the president of the L.A.C., who finished first, with 70 yards' start, as far back as the year 1879



T. J. Leaby, of the Polytechnic Harriers, winning the Pole Jump with 9ft. 3in.



C. S. Doocoon (L.P.S.), winning Two Miles Walking Handicap.

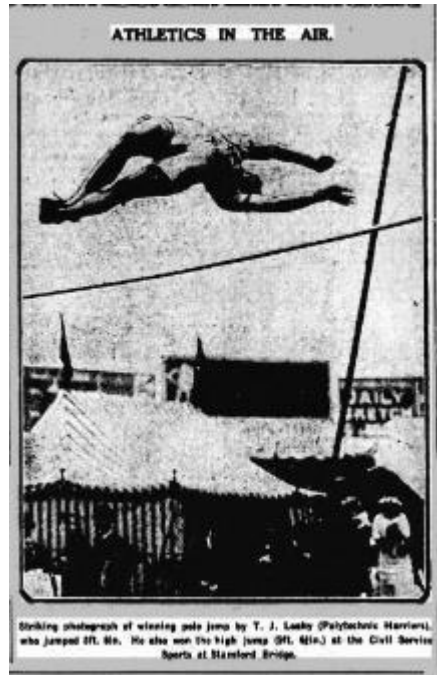


E. Noble, winner of Three Hundred Yards Maiden Race.



The start of the final heat of the Three Hundred Yards Handicap.

THE CIVIL SERVICE A.C. SPORTS AT STAMFORD BRIDGE.



Striking photograph of winning pole jump by T. J. Leahy (Polytechnic Harriers), who jumped 8ft. 6in. He also won the high jump (5ft. 6½in.) at the Civil Service Sports at Stamford Bridge.

Birmingham Daily Gazette - Monday 08 June 1914

The Illustrated Police News - Thursday 11 June 1914 – provided some interesting background for its readers as to the different type of events that took place at the Sports Day and the use of “Handicapping” in races and how it had changes over the years.

Civil Service Sports.

There are so many well-known athletes eligible, by reason of their connection with various branches of the Civil Service, to compete in the "closed" events at the Civil Service Sports that, although strangers' events are included in the programme, the ordinary attendant at athletic meetings is not able to detect much difference between the two.

"Strathcona" Cup.

In the annual gathering at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, for instance, the one mile race for the "Strathcona" Challenge Cup was won by that useful Herne Hill Harrier, E. Roughley, Education Office, who beat the South London Harrier, W. H. Sheppard, Accountant-General's Department, G.P.O., by twelve yards for first place in the good time of 4 min. 35 1-5 sec.

The Best Performance.

It was in the strangers' mile handicap, however, that the best performance of the day was accomplished. It was won by the Queen's Park Harriers' hon. secretary, B. Ives, from the virtual scratch mark of twenty-five yards in 4 min. 18 1-5 sec. Five yards behind him came F. de B. Collenette, L.A.C. (60 yards start), with G. D. Garnhill (Gainsborough A.C.) (145 yards start) third.

A Bit of History.

The limit of starts was 150 yards. It used to be 120. That was so in the year 1882, when W. G. George won from scratch at Old Lillie Bridge in 4 min. 19 1-5 sec., and established his still unbeaten record of 3 min. 8 1/4 sec. for three-quarters of a mile.

Fine Time by Seedhouse.

C. N. Seedhouse ran so well from scratch in the "quarter" that, although having to put up with third place, he must have been doing about 50 sec. for the distance. A. W. Andrews (Herne Hill H.), 24 yards start, won the event by two yards from R. Webb (Birchfield H.), 10 yards start, in 49 1-5 sec., and R.S. Burley, of the Polytechnic H., who won the 300 yards level invitation race by half a yard from E. W. Haley, of the Herne Hill H., in 31 2-5 sec.