

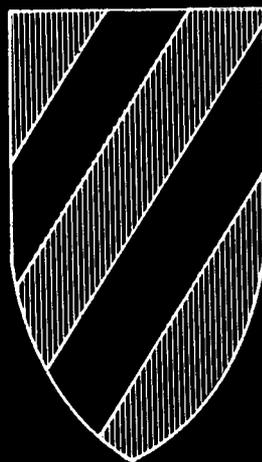
1878



From time ~ ~

**Sydney University Athletic Club**

...to time



1978



Gordon Windeyer



Laurie Walkley



Jeff Phillips

Peter Hadfield & Rick Vincent



From time ~ ~

1878

..... to time

1978

A HISTORY OF  
THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
ATHLETIC CLUB

by

David Branagan

with assistance from Malcolm Harrison

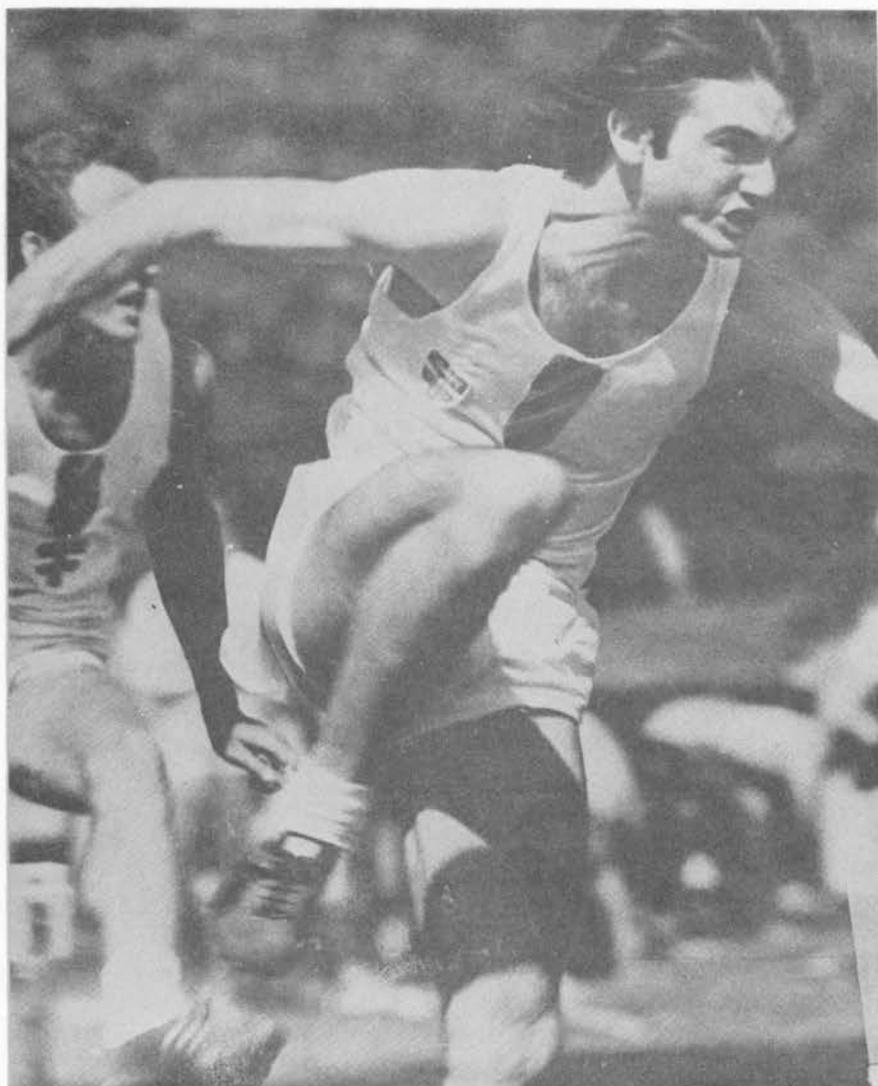
and

contributions by Paul Magee, Harry Suhan, Bob Solomon,  
Terry Rothwell, Ian White and John Perrott

Sydney University Athletic Club  
The University of Sydney

1978

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SUAC IN ACTION

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## FOREWORD

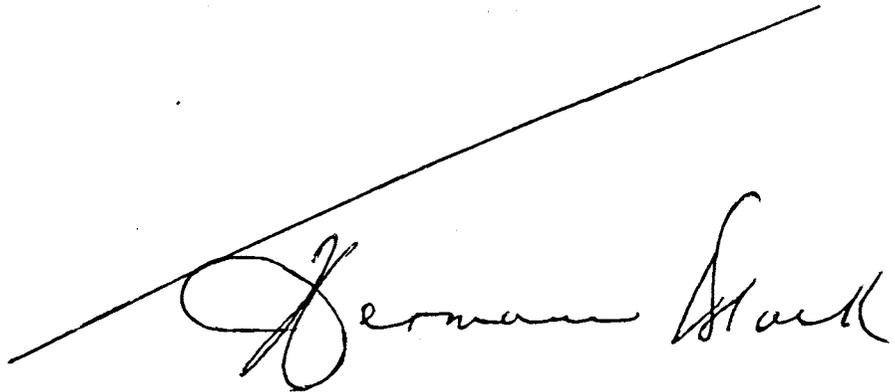
I read this history of the University of Sydney Athletic Club with pride and nostalgia . . . not the sort of pride which the ancient Greeks called *hubris* which was pride puffed up with a touch of arrogance, but pride that for a century this Club brought members of the oldest of Australia's nineteen Universities together upon track and field, good sporting contests, the activity uniting them, winners and losers alike; and nostalgia because we feel heirs to the athletes who tested their prowess long, long ago. The Club has written thus another chapter into the historical record of our University, and grateful I am to all whose labours and devotion put together one hundred years of unbroken service to athletic sport.

And as I read on, nostalgia overtook me from yet another source. My father was . . . what was called in his days . . . a harrier. Often did I see him, tall, slim, slender of limb, coming to the finish of a fifteen mile run; later still, I saw my late brother, also a harrier, in the Botany Club, finish his run of many a mile at Brighton-le-Sands, having run round the edges of Botany Bay. On the mantelpiece stood the substantial trophies of those days . . . none of your silverplated ware . . . nothing less than solid silver trays, cups, durable, valuable. And as a child I comprehended little why the young of the last century made the athletic club their reigning sport. Time brings its lessons. In those far off days when the Athletic Club of the University of Sydney began, as in the last century when my father and brother ran, I came to realise that there was not then the pervading condition of affluence which makes expensive and sophisticated sports possible now. The rule of life was frugality, and for a pair of shorts, maybe shoes, and a singlet . . . an inexpensive outfit . . . one could run and make a thousand friends, could jump, and forge links of lasting regard in life . . . the truth was that the relative poverty of those far off days did not defeat that interest in sport which the members of the University nurtured along with their studies . . . the Athletic Club made a virtue out of difficulties, and has run for an hundred years just for the fun of it. And this history tells us of those beginnings when there were not the thousand temptations to divert them to lazy pursuits, to spectatorship . . . times when, study over for the day, it was the grassy track and the hurdle and the broadjumping pit which took students into the sunshine.

Time marches on; the twentieth century brings change and challenge; but the Athletic Club persists; new sports compete for interest, but the Club continues; highly capitalised games draw their followers; but the Club runs on to its first century in 1978.

It is no accident that in 1978 two University Clubs celebrate a hundred years . . . the Athletic Club, using the cheapest gift of birth as its medium of sport, legs and arms; and the Musical Society, using that other cheap and priceless gift . . . the voice to sing.

The University of Sydney salutes the Athletic Club on its centenary; and waves it on as it turns to run its second marathon of another hundred years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hermann Black". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below a long, thin diagonal line that extends from the left side of the page towards the right.

Sir Hermann Black  
Chancellor and Patron.

## PREFACE

It has been a pleasure to compile this history of Sydney University Athletic Club, although it must be admitted that like Athletics itself there has been a measure of pain in the operation.

What seemed at first to be a simple sifting through a few old programmes and reports to enlarge Izzy Brodsky's history published in 1939 became a journey into the interior of various old newspapers, a search for ancient but living athletes and a ravenous desire for suitable photographs covering a span of 100 years. The limitations of my own available time have prevented this story from being as comprehensive as it might be, and for this reason the story since 1950 has only been briefly sketched although I believe the essentials are there.

I am indebted to Paul Magee, Harry Suhan, Bob Solomon, Terry Rothwell, Ian White and John Perrott for their contributions of text and photographs. Illustrations were also kindly supplied by Jim Morris, Bob Woodward, Basil Hennessy, Doug Black, Pat Greene, Mal Harrison and Max Walkley.

I was greatly assisted by the University Archivist, Mr. Gerald Fischer and his assistant Miss Margaret Taylor, Miss Pam Green, Rare Books Librarian Fisher Library, the Library of New South Wales and the Mitchell Library, N.S.W.A.A.A. and Sydney University Sports Union in my search for information and illustrations.

Others who helped me were Sir Murray McInerney, Mr. George Moir, the late George Le Couteur, Mr. Ian Edwards, Mr. Ray White, Mrs. Mary Breslin, Mrs. Judith Parbury, Mrs. Nancy Stein and Mrs. D. Wiltshire.

Ken Clifford and his staff of the University Illustrations Department contributed greatly by their skilful reproductions of photographs in all stages of preservation.

Final typing was organised by Lindsay Brien but spare time efforts by Mrs. Dawn Garbler and Miss Sheila Binns were of great assistance. The Law Book Company set up the type and apparently enjoyed the change from the usual legal jargon.

The idea for this history came from the '78 Centenary Committee set up a few years ago to commemorate the Club's Centenary in a fitting way. It owes its being to the enthusiasm of Clive Lee, Pat Greene and others of that Committee.

The book owes its growth to the now defunct '78 Club which met monthly for the last three or four years and over an extended lunch heard the stories of past athletic feats from the lips of many former club members.

To the members of the Committee and the Dinner Club and to the numerous guests to the latter I offer thanks for the enjoyment they have provided and the support they have given me.

In particular I must acknowledge the contributions made to this book by Mal Harrison. He has made substantial editorial modifications to the text, has given valuable advice on the layout and has given much practical support when things were difficult. Without his assistance it is doubtful if the book would have seen the light.

Finally I wish to thank Sir Hermann Black, Chancellor of the University and an enthusiastic patron of the Club for his Foreword. In the midst of departure for overseas he showed his interest by writing at short notice his kindly words of introduction.

David Branagan  
November 1978.

## CHAPTER 1

### THE EARLIEST DAYS.

Sydney University Athletic Club celebrates its centenary of active athletics in August 1978. How much older than this the Club is, nobody knows for certain; the newspapers of the day seem to remain silent about a formative meeting and the University's archives also contain no hint.

However some time prior to 6 August 1878 a small group of University men gathered together in Sydney (possibly at Aarons Royal Exchange Hotel, now vanished from Gresham Street) to set in train one hundred years of running, jumping, punching (yes, its true) and other miscellaneous athletic effort, together with much attendant socializing.

#### *University Sport in the 1870's*

In 1878 Sydney University was not thirty years old; its graduates numbered 244 and the undergraduate body (then men only) totalled 73. The academic staff mustered 5. Degrees of M.A., B.A., LL.D. LL.B., and M.D. only were conferred (but medicine was not taught) although Natural History and Mathematics were well represented in the lecture course. After graduating B.A. students often went abroad (many to Edinburgh for Medicine) or to Melbourne where Law, Engineering and Architecture were established in 1860 and Medicine in 1863. The quality of the graduates was high and there seems to have been a good corporate spirit fostered by the small numbers, compact buildings and the University Union. The college system, first begun in 1854, also played a significant role and many of the founder members were college men. A significant number went into the law.

There was a strong feeling for English traditions and a desire to follow Oxford and Cambridge in their methods of University living. Exeter College, Oxford had formed the first Athletic Club in Britain in 1850 and the Oxford versus Cambridge meets began in 1864. These competitions were publicised in the Sydney press from time to time.

Sporting events were soon a part of Sydney University life — a country cricket tour was organised about 1860 and the Cricket Club was founded in 1865, the Rugby Club being formed two years earlier. Graduates and undergraduates alike participated together in the teams, and because numbers were few the same names crop up in various sporting teams during the early years. However there was some opposition to sport in the University in 1878, such as the letter from 'Nova Menaevia' which claimed that the 'influence of athletic sports was carried to an absurd extent',\* a claim which provided spirited discussion in the press.

In Sydney at the time pedestrianism was decidedly popular and men (and women too)

competed for purses large and small or backed themselves against all challengers for any event you might name. Jack Aplett and 'Scone' Watson ran a series of challenges culminating in a meeting of West Maitland in 1878 which drew a crowd of 7,000. The same year the Stawell Gift was held for the first time.

Amateurs were also catered for; as early as 1867 Adelaide had an amateur club, but Sydney's first seems to have been the Sydney Amateur Athletic Club which was formed in 1871 and lasted nearly seventy years, passing into oblivion about the beginning of World War II after a long and useful life. Even older were the School athletic clubs, particularly Sydney Grammar, which had its first meeting in 1866. It was such school clubs which supplied the nucleus of the Sydney University club during its earliest years.

Where and when they met we do not know, but R. C. Allen, A. Bowman, E. M. Bowman, J. J. Cohen, B. Dibbs, J. Flynn, G. E. R. Jones, H. P. Owen and H. L. Wilkinson with E. M. Bowman as Hon. Secretary became the organising committee for the Sydney University Athletic meeting which was advertised in the columns of the Sydney Morning Herald,† to be held on Saturday August 24 with a note that 'for the convenience of residents in the city, the Secretary will receive entries at the Exchange Hotel from 8 to 9 p.m. on Saturday next'. Apparently the Sydney Amateur Athletic Club approved of the fledgling body, and an even earlier advertisement in the same journal‡ called for entries for a 300 yds. handicap for S.A.A.C. members only, to be held at the Sydney University Athletic Club sports. A race for schoolboys was also on the programme though most events were for University competitors.

It may be significant that E. M. Bowman, R. C. Allen and G. E. R. Jones were S.A.A.C. members in 1877 and competed in the S.A.A.C. October 1877 Meeting together with W. C. Wilkinson and J. A. Buckland who were also University Club members. Wilkinson, Allen and Buckland also represented the University Football Club at the Wallaroo Football Club Athletic Sports held only a week earlier. The gathering of truly kindred spirits at the University clearly provided the right climate for the formation of a University Athletic Club.

#### *The First Carnival*

Organization for the Carnival proceeded satisfactorily and the Sydney Morning Herald

\* Sydney Morning Herald July 18, 5/4.

† Thursday, August 8, 2/2.

‡ Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday, August 6, 1878, 2/3.

§ Sydney Morning Herald — Monday, August 26 1878:

on the day advised that trophies for the winners could be viewed that morning in the window of Lamb and Fairfax, the jewellers of 23 Hunter Street.

By all accounts the carnival was a resounding success but let the contemporary press tell its own story:§

On Saturday afternoon the Sydney University Athletic Club held their 1st meeting on the Albert Ground. There was a numerous attendance — about 2000 being present, including a large number of ladies who occupied the stand.

The Imperial Brass Band was stationed on the ground, and played a selection of music during the afternoon.

Many of the events were well contested, although the entries in some were rather few.

They were all started with a commendable punctuality, in this respect comparing very favourably with the irregularity observable at the contests of some other clubs.

The meeting was under the following auspices: Patron, His Excellency Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G.; President, the Hon. Sir William Manning C.B., K.C.M.G.; Vice Presidents, Mr. W. C. Windeyer M.L.A., Dr. Smith, Dr. Badham, Professor Gurney.

Committee: R. C. Allen, A. Bowman, E. M. Bowman, J. J. Cohen, B. Dibbs, J. Flynn, G. E. R. Jones, H. P. Owen and H. L. Wilkinson.

No. 1 — 100 yards Flat Race — Prize presented by the scholars of the present year. Two prizes — F. P. Brennan 1, J. F. Elphinstone 2, A. Bowman 3. B. Dibbs, E. M. Bowman and J. F. Elphinstone [sic] also started. Brennan was the quickest off, and led all the way, winning by a couple of yards; Elphinstone second, about a foot in front of Bowman.

No. 2 — One mile walking — Prize presented by Sir George Allen. Two prizes — J. A. Buckland started at scratch, S. Wright at 70 yards, and L. Badham at 80 yards. Wright overtook Badham at the first quarter-mile and held the lead until the middle of the last round, when Buckland passed him, and won by eight or ten yards; Badham second.

No. 3 — 150 yards Flat Race (Handicap) — Prize presented by J. K. Mackay Two prizes — F. P. Brennan, 3 yards 1, J. F. Elphinstone, 2 yards 2; H. L. Wilkinson 8 yards 3; E. M. Bowman scratch; R. C. Allen 8 yards; J. A. Thompson 10 yards. This was a capital race, and was won by a foot by Brennan, Elphinstone winning the second prize about a foot ahead of Wilkinson.

No. 4 — Schools 600 yards Flat Race — F. B. Wilkinson, Sydney Grammar 1; F. Baylis, Sydney Grammar 2; W. B. Fairfax, Sydney Grammar; P. Campbell, Mr. Bowyers; J. Lala, Morven School. Lala made a good start, and led for half the distance, when Wilkinson, who had evidently been waiting, made a sudden rush to the front, took a strong lead, and won by six or eight yards; Baylis second.

No. 5 — Throwing the Hammer, 14 lbs — A. Munro was the only one of the three entered for this event who appeared, and he threw the hammer 72 feet.

No. 6 — Hurdle Race over ten 3 ft. 6 in. hurdles — H. Owen and E. M. Bowman started, the former receiving ten yards. Bowman reduced this to eight by getting off quickly, and gradually overhauled Owen, who, however, ran well, and both rose over the last hurdle together, Owen then stumbled and Bowman won.

No. 7 — 220 yards handicap — Prizes presented by Mr. T. Buckland. Two prizes — H. I. Wilkinson 12 yards; A. Bowman, 9 yards; J. Elphinstone, 4 yards. Eight others also started. This was a good race, and all the runners came in at the close in a body, Wilkinson being a foot in front of Bowman who led Elphinstone by about the same distance.

No. 8 — 1 mile running — Prize presented by Mr. F. Burkit — J. Buckland 1; W. E. Jennings, 30 yards 2; no others started. The competitors had to go four times around the course. Jennings held his lead till a quarter of the last round had been run, when Buckland, who had been running a waiting race for some time, passed him, and won easily.

No. 9 — High Jumps — L. Badham 1; S. Wright. Badham won with a jump of 4 feet 9 inches.

No. 10 — 300 yards Handicap, open only to resident students at any of the affiliated colleges — Prizes presented by the Rev. W. A. Gillet. Two prizes — A. Bowman, 10 yards 1; J. Elphinstone, 5 yards 2; J. Flynn, 12 yards 3; F. B. Brennan, 8 yards; E. M. Bowman, scratch; and J. A. Thompson, 16 yards also started. The race was closely run, and was won by A. Bowman, Elphinstone second.

No. 11 — 300 yards Handicap, open only to members of the S.A.A.C. Two prizes — E. P. Simpson, scratch 1; T. B. Dibbs 2; W. P. Simpson 3. W. H. Smithers, J. J. Brennan and R. C. Allen also ran. Not more than a foot separated the first, second and third runners at the close.

No. 12 — Half-mile Flat Race — Prize, presented by James Lamrock — J. A. Buckland, 1; R. C. Allen, 2. Buckland was too much for his rival, who, however, ran well until near the finish, when he gave up.

No. 13 — 440 yards Handicap — Prize presented by Mr. W. C. Windeyer, M.L.A. Two prizes — L. Badham, 18 yards, 1; H. Wilkinson, 15 yards, 2. Several others ran. Badham held the lead given him by the handicap, and Wilkinson took second place.

No. 14 — 150 yards Forced Handicap — In this race, although there were fourteen entered, only eight came to the starting post; and F. Wilkinson, who had a handicap of 4 yards allowed, came in an easy winner; W. B. Fairfax, second.

This was the last event on the programme,

and, an enclosure having been made on the ground, the prizes were therein presented to the successful competitors by Lady Allen, in the presence of Sir William Manning (the President) and other officers of the club. The prizes consisted of handsome silver cups, vases, and ornamental articles. The presentation being over, cheers were given, at the call of the hon. secretary, Mr. E. M. Bowman, for 'Lady Allen', 'Sir William Manning', 'The Ladies' and the 'Winners'. Sir William Manning expressed his gratification at being present at the sports, which, he said, were calculated to strengthen and develop their legs and physical powers, a matter equally as necessary as the cultivation of their brains.

The Town and Country Journal (August 31) gives us further information and some descriptive variation on the happy events.

Sydney University Athletic Club  
 Patron: His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson  
 Referee: Mr. W. Faithful; Judge: Mr. W. R. F. Burkitt;



Some of the earliest members in dignified poses: R. C. Allen, J. J. Cohen, H. P. Owen and A. Bowman.

Referee of Walking: Mr. A. Munro; Time Taker: Mr. G. E. R. Jones.  
 Starter: Mr. C. H. Francis; Hon. Sec: Mr. E. M. Bowman.

The members of the above club held their first meeting on Saturday afternoon last at the Albert Ground and their venture was most successful. About 1500 visitors were present, the greater number of whom were ladies. The programmes which were from the well known establishment of Messrs. Cunningham & Co., contained fourteen events, the first of which the 100 yds. flat race, started at 2 o'clock and was won by F. B. Brennan. Second on the list came a mile walk, for which three started, the winner turning up in J. A. Buckland, who walks in a style that would do no discredit to the best of professionals. F. Brennan and F. B. Wilkinson were to the fore in the 150 and 600 yards' races, and Mr. A. Munro was the only contestant in the hammer throwing, and he covered a distance of 72 ft. E. M. Bowman was the successful one over the hurdles, and H. L. Wilkinson won the 220

yds. race after a capital contest with A. Bowman.

The next event was the mile race, which is always looked upon as about the main feature in a programme, but was shorn of any interest upon this occasion through the absence of anything like a field there being only two starters — Buckland who was successful in the walking match and Mr. W. E. Jennings, to whom the latter [sic] conceded thirty yards start but the latter was never in it, and wanted about six times the distance to have made anything like a match of it.

The first quarter was traversed in 1 min 3 sec., with Jennings in front, which position he kept till the fourth lap was entered, when Buckland went by him and won in a trot. The second quarter was run in 1 min 25 sec., third in 1 min 24 sec., and the fourth in the same time, the total being 5 min 16 sec. The running high jump went to L. Badham who cleared 4 ft 9 in. A Bowman won the 300 yards handicap by a yard and a great race

ensued for the handicap of the same distance, open to the members of the S.A.A.C., which was won by E. P. Simpson from scratch, T. B. Dibbs 14 yards second, and W. P. Simpson 2 yards third. The handicap for this event was a capital one, there not being a yard between the first three, and the winner deserves every credit for the good judgment and pace he showed. Buckland was again to the fore in the half-mile race, and the field let Badham, who had 18 yards start in the quarter, get so far away he was never caught, the final event going to F. B. Wilkinson.

At the conclusion of the last race an enclosure was made in front of the grandstand, by placing the hurdles in the form of a square, and here the prizes were presented.

The prizes consisting of cups, vases etc. were of the most elegant designs, obtained from Messrs. Lamb & Fairfax.

The presentation to the winners was made by Lady Allen, with a smile and a compliment that must have enhanced the value of the trophies. When the prizes were all

presented Sir William Manning made a few remarks on the advantages of proper physical exercises, and he complimented the club on the success of their first gathering. Cheers were then given for Lady Allen, Sir William Manning, the Officers of the Club and the visitors.

The gentlemen who conducted the sports one and all acquitted themselves admirably, and the starting was worthy of honourable mention. Proceedings were considerably enlivened by the Imperial Band, who played some capital selections during the afternoon.'

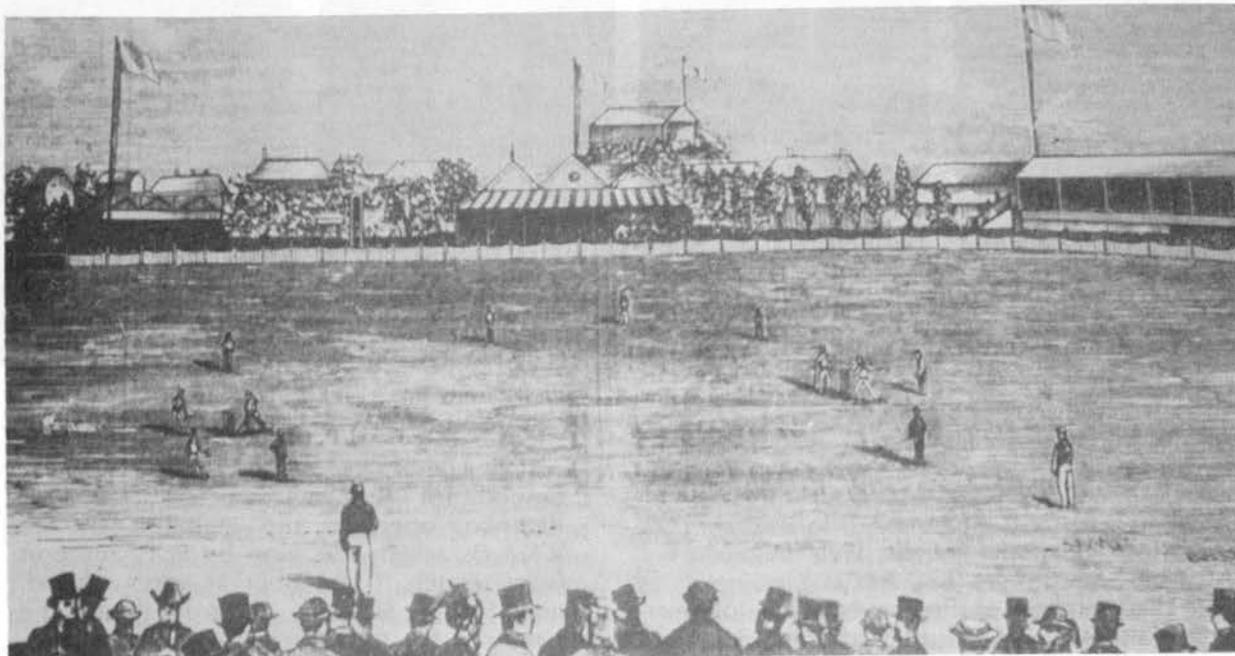
The Albert Ground, venue of the first sports, just described, was in Redfern (between Elizabeth and Moorhead Streets, close to the present Redfern Park). It was opened about 1860 and became established as the premier ground for cricket and sporting events, its professional athletic carnivals usually drawing crowds of four to five thousand, the athletic events being interspersed by intrepid trapeze acts and sundry other attractions.

number for the embryo club.

In view of the athletic and social success of the meet and the approbation of the Chancellor of the University one might expect that there would be enthusiasm for a similar event in 1879. However, for some reason, this did not take place. Perhaps it was just that a suitable ground was not available at the right time. The report of the Annual business meeting of July 2, 1879 comments that the club's finances are satisfactory [£4.5.6 in hand (about \$8.50)] and its affairs generally prosperous, but apart from amending a by-law and deciding to leave the decision to name a new patron to the committee, it seemed happy just to elect a committee with a few new faces.

1880

The second carnival was held on 6 October 1880 at the Association Cricket Ground which boasted 'a running rink 11 feet wide 520 yards in circumference around the outside of the cricket turf and separated by a neat railing'. four thousand persons could be comfortably



The Albert Cricket Ground at Redfern where the Club's first meeting was held.

The Albert Ground's heyday had passed, thanks to official patronage then being extended to the newly opened 'Association Ground' at Moore Park (now the Sydney Cricket Ground). The Albert Ground committee had rejected a 21-year lease offered by the N.S.W.C.A.A. in November 1877 which may have been influential. The preference for the Association grounds provoked strong criticism from the management of the Albert Ground, but all to no avail, and by the end of July 1878 a decision had been made to subdivide the ground and sell it.

Thus one of the last sporting events on the old ground was to be the first of a very large

seated and many thousands more could watch if standing.

The Sydney Morning Herald voted it a very enjoyable and successful affair, held in bright sunny weather, although the north-east breezes became less pleasant as the day drew on. About 2,000 were present with 'Ladies apparently in the majority in the grandstand' and the German Band played selections which were much approved of. Mr. Faithfull again acted as Referee and C. H. Francis took his place as starter. The names of most of the other officials also have a familiar ring.

The programme showed only slight variations on the athletic events of the first

carnival but additions were kicking the football, and several races for bicycle. One entry in the 1 mile bicycle handicap was A. Hilliard, about whom we hear later.

The 100 yards Flat Championship was won by T. W. Garrett\* in 10-½ secs., while the half-mile, the 'best contested' of all the events, was won by J. A. Buckland in 2 min. 8-6/10th secs.

Races for school boys and for all amateurs were also featured. But all was not well. 'One race deserves particular mention (wrote our reporter), from the fact that the spirit which apparently animated those who took part in it was scarcely what might have been expected from University men on such an occasion. We refer to the one mile Flat Handicap. Only three went to the post, viz. T. Powell, R. C. Allen and J. A. Buckland. When the word was given to go the latter, as soon as he left the scratch, turned round and came back to the pavilion, explaining as he did so that he only started to enable the second man to get a prize. The 'race' took 6 mins. 15 secs. and provoked unfavourable comments from all who witnessed it. The prizes seemed to be the object of those who took part in the contest and not the honour and satisfaction of winning a fairly contested race.

Though there was some delay in getting the sports started, the officials worked with a will to make up for lost time, and succeeded in carrying out their arduous duties satisfactorily, and bringing the sports to a close at but a few minutes after the time fixed on the programme [1]. At the conclusion Lady Manning kindly undertook the duty of presenting the prizes to the successful competitors'.

## 1881

The 1881 meeting was held on Wednesday October 5th, again at the Association Ground with a 'capital programme'. 'The attendance was very good, a large number of ladies being present and as the day was beautifully fine and the course in capital order, some excellent sport was witnessed'. The confidence of the Club in its perpetuity is shown by the designation 'Third annual meeting' for this carnival, where the competitors all appeared in University costume (i.e. sleeved jerseys and knee trousers) T. Powell acted as starter and Henry Barff (Registrar of the University 1880-1924) was referee. Barff, an active sportsman in his youth, supported the Club throughout his life.

T. W. Garrett was unable to repeat his previous win in the one hundred yards Championship won by J. F. Elphinstone in 10-6/10 sec. but Garrett made amends by taking the 200 yards Handicap from scratch.

Whether conscience stricken or not by the 1880 criticism J. A. Buckland fronted up and won the mile handicap from scratch in 5 minutes 17 secs., repeating his win in the first (1878) meeting.

The programme lacked the kicking match of 1880 which was replaced by a bicycle race over 100 yards — the last man in to win!

Following the tradition of previous meetings prizes were distributed after the final forced handicap, this year by Mrs. Gurney, the wife of Professor Gurney M.A., one of the Club's vice-presidents.

\*T. W. Garrett was to represent Australia on the cricket field in subsequent years.

†Dec. 2, p. 1092



This may look like the Sydney University 1st XV photographed at the Albert Ground July 15, 1878. But thoughts of many were on athletic feats. From left are 1. J. A. Flynn, 4. H. Wilkinson, 5. A. Bowman, 10. R. C. Allan 13, E. M. Bowman, & 14, A. Buckland.

1882

Nothing is then heard of the club till December 1882 when the Town and Country Journal† carried an article on the Annual General (Business) meeting held at the Oxford Hotel, at which there was 'a very fair attendance'. J. A. Flynn took the chair and the following report was read and adopted:

Your Committee in submitting to you the 4th Annual report, are pleased to be in a position to congratulate you on the present sound state and increasing prosperity of the Club. Many of the expectations indulged in when the club was inaugurated are being realised, and the interest taken in its efforts by those whose University career is past is both an incentive to fresh matriculants and an encouragement to those members most actively engaged in its support and management. As however, the number of members of the University is comparatively limited, your committee trusts that all who hold the distinction of that membership will contribute their aid to the advancement of the Athletic Club, and to assist them (the Committee) in establishing sports meetings to emulate those of the home Universities. At the last Annual General Meeting a resolution was passed to the effect that the



W. Camac Wilkinson

hold the usual annual sports meeting this year, and I suggest that in future the gatherings shall be held in the Lenten term, a date which, as following, instead of as heretofore preceeding the yearly exams they anticipate will be found acceptable to the members and patrons of the club generally and to undergrads especially. The report of the Hon. Treasurer (appended) shows a balance of £7.12s.10d. to the credit of the club, a favourable state of finance, as your committee think, in view of the expenditure necessary to the carrying out of a successful sports meeting. Your committee in conclusion beg to tender the thanks of the club to the patrons and supporters of the club, who by their liberality in presenting prizes helped to the success of our last reunion'.

This rather hearty report seems just a little overdone. Perhaps the Committee had struck genuine difficulties in organizing a carnival but one suspects that enthusiasm had waned somewhat as the original nucleus of members had graduated and moved into business and professional fields.

1883

Whatever the reason the proposed early 1883 meeting did not eventuate till August 1st and



T. W. Garrett

Two distinguished early members

members' subscriptions to the Club should be doubled, and happily, while this addition has augmented the funds of the club, it has not been attended by any decrease in the number of members. The 3rd Annual Sports meeting of the club held in October 1881, was most successful, although the Association Ground having been secured for cricket matches on Saturdays, your Committee was obliged to hold the sports on a Wednesday afternoon — a disadvantage which they hope will be remedied at the ensuing gatherings. In connection with this matter your committee wishes to express their regret that as the Cricket Asscn. reserve their ground for cricket matches during the summer months they find it impossible to

was not too successful. The proceedings were said to have been 'very tame' and the weather was poor. F. H. Daley won the 100 yards from T. W. Garrett in 11-½ seconds and C. E. Purser the mile Handicap from 25 yards in 5 min. 47-¾ secs., probably an indication of the miserable conditions.

Other clubs were becoming active at this time and on 24 May 1883 a Champion Amateur Athletic Meeting was held — 'the first attempt of the Association Cricket Ground trustees and committee at bringing Amateur pedestrians together'. Despite the attendance of 3,000 (on a Tuesday afternoon!) and a 100 yds. win by F. W. Bayliss in 10-1/5 secs., the Town and Country Journal expressed itself somewhat disappointed by the response of athletes!

## CHAPTER 2

### REVIVAL AND CONSOLIDATION

Activities seem to lapse for the next few years and reports are few. It is interesting, therefore, to find G. V. Portus writing in 1925 that the club had its beginning in 1885, a statement that later misled Izzy Brodsky as to the age of the Club. Both Portus and Brodsky probably indulged in the practice of counting backwards from a named meeting to an assumed beginning, not realizing that some years had been missed out.

But the Club was not forgotten. The first issue of the new University journal 'Hermes', in July 1886, mentions that 'great regret is expressed by the sport-loving community at the absence from among our number of F. H. Daley, whose feats in the fields of pedestrianism brought honour to the U.A.A.C. of which he was a member'.

Furthermore some University athletes did participate in outside events at times during the mid 1880s. H. E. ('Granny') Britten of St. Pauls College, won the Stranger's Handicap 220 yards at the Kings School Athletics in October 1886 and was 2nd in the Steeple at the Southern Rugby Union sports day in 1887. The Southern Rugby Union sports days were a special attraction for University footballers in particular, when sprints and steeple chases were mixed with dribbling the ball, or goal-kicking contests. University Athletes were well catered for at the time by Callaghan & Sons of 395 George Street, which advertised running shoes and a variety of athletic equipment, but few took advantage of these modern aids.

However, consciences were stirred by a letter from A. V. Hilliard to 'Hermes' in June 1888. Hilliard may have been moved to action by a report in the April issue of Hermes which told of doings at Melbourne University. The undergraduates there were planning a fortnight of carnival and sport in August as their contribution to the Centenary celebrations. 'Hermes' added 'the Annual Sports Meeting, which is the best of its kind down there will, this year be thrown open to competitors from the Sydney and Adelaide Universities'. An earlier issue had dwelt on Melbourne's 24 event programme, including 'sprint and long distance races, obstacle, menagerie, stilts, barrel races and other novelties'. Hilliard wrote:

Dear Sirs — Many years ago, among the numerous institutions of the University, existed an Athletic Club, whose annual sports meetings were not only well supported, but even looked forward to with a great amount of interest by a large section of the Sydney aristocracy.

Why then was it allowed to collapse, and why should we not make strenuous efforts to re-form it? If a meeting were announced, to be held some evening, at no distant date,

there would undoubtedly be a large gathering of graduates and undergraduates, and the old Club would once more be established on a firmer basis than ever.

In writing I am not giving expression solely to my own views, but also the views of many who have spoken to me on this subject. I am simply re-echoing their sentiments.

At the same time I feel that there are many others whose abler pens could perhaps put this matter in a clearer light.

However, I sincerely trust my remarks may carry some weight with them, and we shortly see resuscitated a Club which many of us have long felt should be in existence.

Yours etc.,

A. V. Hilliard.

The editors hastened to agree with Hilliard and added 'we hope that steps will immediately be taken'.

In the meantime the Football Club had plans underway to take a team to Melbourne for the sports (in addition to matches).



The 'great reviver' A. V. Hilliard.

A meeting was soon arranged, for Friday 3rd August, at the Oxford Hotel,\* at which it was agreed that by the Club rules the former executive was still in office.

The minutes were confirmed and Mr. Purser talked on how the meetings of the Club had been allowed to lapse. There had been a small amount of interest by the undergraduates. 'The last meeting was a failure as regards attendance, probably because it was held on a Wednesday afternoon, but there was no excuse for such poor fields in starting, in many races only 2 competitors toed the mark'.

Dr. Wilkinson also spoke at some length. He felt that 'pot-hunting' had something to do with the decline of amateur athletics in Sydney, and he hoped that the University would take the initiative in reviving them.

Plans were set in train to make the club active once more with a sports meeting the next April or May, and a new committee was elected, Hilliard, for his pains, becoming one of the secretaries.



Sounds of post-athletics revelry often resounded from the Oxford Hotel, Phillip Street.

An early move was to seek affiliation with the newly-formed (1887) New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association, a body led for many years by two remarkable men, Richard Coombes and E. S. Marks.

In April 1889 undergraduates were reminded that the club year dated from the first day of Lent Term and that the annual subscription was 10 shillings. The *probable* programme was attached to the University notice wall, but events were subject to alteration and not necessarily in the order given. 'Aequitas' was stirred to protest to the Editor of *Hermes* that "among the races included in our sports programme is an event which reads '150 yards handicap open to *medical students only*'."

About the same time 'Sportsman' wrote suggesting that all the University sporting groups should be amalgamated into one Club, thus foreshadowing the formation of the Sports' Union several years later.

The Annual General meeting was held at the Oxford Hotel on 24th July. Revived enthusiasm in 1889 brought a few changes with it. Club members began to compete more regularly to outside carnivals, a practice which has continued up to the present with its ups and downs. A week before the '89 S.U.A.S. carnival, A. C. Purser beat a field of 25 runners in the 440 yards handicap before a crowd of more than 3,000 attending the Speedwell Bicycle Club and Sydney Harriers sports at the Cricket Ground.

At the Fifth S.U.A.C. Carnival (eventually held on August 17, 1889) an open three mile bicycle handicap, a 2 mile bicycle handicap exclusively for S.U.A.C. members, a graduates' 150 yards handicap and a drop-kick competition joined the other events, many of which catered for any interested amateur competitors. The large crowd saw F. H. Daley win

the 100 yards by 4 yards to take permanent possession of the trophy he had gained in 1883, and there was a 'splendid mile walk handicap' won by the scratch man, A. M. Sheppard, the 'three leaders finishing within one and a half yards'.

A new departure that year was a special evening presentation of prizes held at the Oxford Hotel on 23 August when Dr. Wilkinson distributed the goods, and toasts were drunk to the University Athletic Club, Kindred Clubs, the Donors, the Winners and the Press. Songs were rendered by various gentlemen with others 'officiating at the piano'. In responding to the toast of Kindred Clubs, Mr. Coombs of Sydney Harriers Club, said that in all his experience he had never been present at a better managed sports meeting'.

This was the beginning of a very long social association between the Club and the Oxford Hotel, thought for many years to have been the site of the Club's first meeting.

Following the good season in 1889 there was a lapse in 1890 and the Editor of 'Hermes' took the club to task in the August issue — like the Cricket Club, it needed looking after. Its general meeting had not eventuated although by the Club rules it was due in Lent term. Money had been voted to the Annual Sports Meeting but nothing had been done. It was 'the old, old complaint — a deadhead committee'. The editor hit out again in the October issue. 'At last that meeting of the Athletic Club has been held . . . let us hope not too late for the success of the meeting to be held in November . . . the reason is not far to seek, the majority of the Committee and officers are graduates. It is the old, old story. The Club will never be a success unless supported by the body of the undergraduates'.

However, the 1890 Carnival, on November

5th, (a Wednesday) proved quite successful. Times were slow but the Carnival ran smoothly. The prizes were given out at what was termed 'The Annual Smoke Concert' on December 20th.

The 1891 Carnival‡ was well patronized being attended by the Governor Lord Jersey, who 'showed some interest in the activities'. The weather was good though the track was heavy, and the Band of the Second Regiment contributed to the proceedings. D. S. Edwards of St. Andrews won the College Cup, which, as a Johnsmen pointed out, 'was presented by our Rector'.

In the third term a new venture was commenced — the running of Oval handicaps. It was hoped this extra activity would increase the interest in athletics at the University by running for fun rather than for prizes. Richard Coombes acted as starter with Watson of Sydney Harriers and T. C. Wood as timekeepers.

The annual business meeting was on time in 1892. Although attendance was small 'business was brisk' and several new matters were brought up. Two medals were to be awarded to members who scored the most points in open races, an attempt to encourage continued participation in outside carnivals. It was also agreed that club silver medals were to be presented to any member breaking University records for any distance (from scratch) — records being reckoned as starting from 1891. This proposal was modified a month or so later when it was agreed that instead of counting last year's results as records, 'Standards' would be fixed. Anyone who reached a standard was to receive the club medal. Once the standard was broken, no medal would be given unless the record was equalled or broken.

The standards were: 75 yds 7-9/10; 100 yds, 10-2/5 sec.; 150 yds, 15-1/2 sec.; 220 yds 23-2/5 sec.; 440 yds, 53-1/2 sec.; 880 yds, 2 min. 6 sec.; 1 mile, 1 mile walking, 7 min 30 sec.; high jump, 5 ft-5 in, Broad jump 20 ft. 6 in.

The matter of club blazers was also discussed.

It was decided 'that in addition to the men who win the 100 yards and 1 mile championships, those also will be allowed to wear representative University blazers, who win any race from scratch, until such time as Inter University Sports are held'.

In the High Jump anyone jumping 5 ft. 5 in. or over 'will be allowed to wear this mark of honour, and any man who jumps a greater distance than 21 ft., will also have the right to decorate himself as a representative athlete for 1892.'

The sports meeting in May went off well — 'our most successful yet', although "Hermes" considered that the crowd of 2,000 was 'a small gathering for our Annual Meeting', and nobody reached any of the standards.

A proposal for a road race at the end of April, starting from the Common Room, fell

through due to lack of interest from the footballers for whom it would have been 'an admirable training at the beginning of the season'.

The newly organised Sports Union was also concerned about blazers and in July 1892 published a 'complete list of names of the men entitled to wear representative Sydney University Sports Union blazers, i.e. blue blazers with gold facings and the University Coat of Arms.'

The athletes named were A. E. Chapman, R. C. Dibbs, D. S. Edwards, G. F. Evans, W. F. Richards, W. J. Rooney, S. L. Rudder, E. J. Spark, A. L. Walker and W. L. Waker. T. W. Garrett was eligible in terms of his cricket prowess.

'Anyone wearing a badge on his blazer after the publication of these names will be written to by the S.U.S.U. Secretary with a request to remove the same'.

'Should anyone whose name is not mentioned above persist in wearing a badge after being notified by the Secretary that he has no right to do so, of course extreme measures will have to be taken with him; however it is not expected that anyone will have the audacity to deck himself with false plumes'.

There is no evidence that D. S. Edwards (both Sports' Union and S.U.A.C. Secretary) had to resort to the dire measures suggested.

In August Edwards had to spring to the defence of the Sports' Union fee of two guineas (\$4 approx.) which covered all clubs. The athletic club gave good value, he pointed out, with two meetings a year and prizes better than those at any other clubs, which charged 2/6d for each race entered on top of an annual subscription of 6/-.

As an inducement for those interested in outside events, S.U.A.C. members were recommended to take a trip to West Maitland for a sports meeting on May 24th, 1892 just prior to the Annual Sports, but it is doubtful if anyone availed himself of this opportunity.

‡ Wrongly labelled 6th Annual meeting in *Hermes* and other publications. It was the 7th. Incorrect numbering has persisted to the present



Professor Francis Anderson,  
Club President 1890-1908.

## CHAPTER 3

### THE BEGINNING OF INTERVARSITY ATHLETICS

It is interesting, and possibly no coincidence, that reactivation of the Club dates from about the time Francis Anderson (1858-1941) came to the University. A native of Scotland, and graduate of Glasgow University, Anderson spent several years at Melbourne University before coming to Sydney as lecturer in Philosophy. In 1890 he was appointed Professor of Philosophy, and in the same year he became the Club's President, remaining so for the next eighteen years. Prior to Anderson's election the Presidency had been essentially titular and held by Sir William Manning, Chancellor of the University at the time the Club was formed, the Governor of New South Wales being the Club's Patron.

W. Camac Wilkinson, a founding member, was another strong influence. He became a lecturer on the Medical Faculty and was an enthusiast for physical fitness throughout his life. Anderson and Wilkinson provided the continuing link the club needed as various students passed through its ranks. Anderson was alive to the stimulus which would be given to athletics at the University if intervarsity competition could be established.

It is likely that some of the Sydney footballers competed at the Melbourne sports in 1888 as we have suggested above. However, more formal moves were made in May 1891 when letters were sent to Melbourne and Adelaide Universities inviting them to send athletes to the July Sports Meeting in Sydney. Visitors were not forthcoming but indicated they were interested in coming next year.

About the time of the annual sports meeting in May 1892 an invitation to send athletes to Melbourne for the June meeting was received. Despite the short notice ten members of S.U.A.C. made the trip.

Let 'Hermes'\* tell the story:

The long-talked of meeting in Melbourne is over at last, and Sydney has been badly beaten. Messrs. W. J. Rooney, S. L. Rudder, G. F. Evans, P. H. Mills, R. C. Dibbs, W. L. Wall, A. L. Walker, W. F. Richards, A. E. Chapman and D. S. Edwards left Sydney on 11th June (Saturday), and after spending Sunday in Albury, arrived at Melbourne on Monday morning. We were received at the Melbourne station by several members of the Melbourne University and driven to our quarters at the Oriental Hotel, where we were given champagne, etc., by our Melbourne friends. The warmth of the reception quite overpowered some of the team, and the toasts were heartily drunk. On Monday night we visited the London Gaiety Company, on Tuesday we went to Princess' Theatre, on Wednesday night Mr. Brough very kindly gave us a free pass to the Bijou

Theatre, and on Thursday the Melbourne 'Varsity men took us again to the Opera House, while, after the performance, we entertained them at supper at the Oriental, which passed off splendidly.

In the events on the Monday afternoon we took no part, but on Tuesday afternoon several of our team competed. Chapman ran second in the Three Mile Race, and W. L. Walker gained second place in the Long Jump; in Putting the Weight and Throwing the Hammer our men were quite out of it. I should explain that, at the meeting, the Championship consisted of 10 events — Putting the Weight, Throwing the Hammer, Long Jump, Three Mile Race, 100 yards Race, High Jump, Pole Vaulting, 440 Yards, 880 Yards and 120 Yards Hurdle Race — and the man who scored most points in these events gained the Championship, valued at 10 guineas; a prize of about £1 was given to the first man in each event also. This arrangement, though all right for a school sports' meeting, seems rather silly for a University; it is no use having a man moderately good in everything, unless he excels in something, and such an arrangement as this does not encourage a man to specialise in any single event and become a tip-top performer in that branch. As a matter of fact, the winner of the cup won the Long Jump (5 points), Putting the Weight (5 points), second in Throwing the Hammer (3 points), and second in the High Jump (3 points) — 16 points in all, which is rather unsatisfactory.

On Thursday, the chief sports day, proceedings opened with the 100 yards Championship, and Chapman, Walker, and Edwards went out to represent Sydney; with three such men it should have been 'odds on' that Sydney would get the three places, but the result proved otherwise. The starter told us he would not tell us to "get set", but would merely give one caution. He called out, "Are you ready," and before the words were out of his mouth, the pistol went off. Tercho, the winner, got away about seven or eight yards before Chapman, with Walker after Chapman and they finished in that order. Edwards was left on the mark, and for the next few minutes conversed (courteously) with the starter. The race was run in 11 seconds, and considering that the winner got seven or eight yards before the pistol went, his time was really 12 seconds. Either of our three representatives could, I fully believe, give him five yards and a beating in a hundred — with correct New South Wales starting. The next race was the 220 Yards Visitors' Race (all the sprints were placed directly after one another, as also were the

\* July 4 1892

longer events) and Edwards and Chapman got into the final, but were too heavily handicapped to win that. The 100 Yards Handicap was next, and Mills, Rudder and Richards were unplaced — all getting bad starts. Walker did not jump at all well in the High Jump, only clearing 4 feet 10 inches; the winner 5 feet 1 inch, which was fairly good considering the slippery state of the ground. A. L. Walker was leading in the Sack Race, when he collided with a post and was up-ended. In the Champion Hurdle Race Richards came third; he got away worst of all, but I think the winner is a bit too good for him. W. L. Walker got second in the Pole Vault, and Edwards got second in his heat in the 150 yards (giving away 15 yards start), but could not finish in the final. In the 440 Yards Handicap, Rudder ran very well, but was giving away too much start — 28 yards. The 440 Yards Championship was a fine race; Parkinson, of Melbourne, won by about one yard or less, with Walker second, Dibbs third, Chapman fourth, and Rooney fifth. On a lighter track and a fine day Dibbs could just about beat the winner. A. L. Walker had 60 yards in the Mile, and should have won, but he was never in it; he nearly won the Barrel Race (blindfolded), but began to go in the wrong direction when near the tape. In the 880 Yards Championship Chapman came second; Evans was running second, very strong, when he was badly spiked and had to retire. On the whole the meeting was not as satisfactory as such an important occasion should warrant.

While in Melbourne we had a meeting to decide about an Inter-University Athletic Sports' Meeting, and we arranged to have a meeting of such a character in Sydney in May or June next, when the following will be the list of Championship events: — 100 Yards, 440 Yards, 1 Mile, 120 Yards Hurdle Race, and High Jump. First places only will be counted, and in the event of a tie second places will be taken into consideration, and the University that wins the greatest number of events will be styled Champion University for the year. Valuable first and second prizes will also be given for each event, [Value 3 guineas for first, 35/- value for second, all prizes to be provided by the host University] and the winner in each event will be entitled to call himself Champion of Australian Universities for that event. Adelaide and Tasmania are also to be invited to join the movement'.

The meeting held at the Oriental Hotel had Melbourne represented by Toohey, Bell and Parkinson, Sydney by Edwards, Evans, Rudder, Mills and Rooney, the last named taking the chair.

Its resolutions were ratified by the Annual business meeting of S.U.A.C. the following May, and there were high hopes that Melbourne would send up a team that year. The May 1893 issue of 'Hermes' stressed that all who hoped to be in the Intervarsity team were urged to train — five were to be picked for each event but challenges could be issued. 'No

one will be picked who does not train regularly'.

However, at the last minute the Melbourne athletes had to withdraw. Despite their absence — 'thanks to bad times' the 'Eighth [9th] Annual' Carnival was a huge success and the 8,000 spectators including 'many of our most distinguished citizens' were treated to a new Australian High Jump of 5 ft. 6 in. made by H. B. Rowlands. F. H. B. Gaden scored a splendid win in the 100 yards over W. L. Walker but no time was taken 'the competitors getting away before the timekeepers were ready'. The excellent prizes had been on display in the establishment of Messrs. MacCredie and Philip, booksellers of George St., which perhaps helped to explain the big crowd. Prizes were distributed by Professor Anderson at a 'Smoke' Social held the same evening in conjunction with the Tennis Club and the [Students] Association.

For the next few years the Club talked hopefully of a return visit by the Melbourne athletes, and of campaigning to convert our sports meeting into an Intervarsity contest, but nothing could be achieved without support from Melbourne or Adelaide.

In 1895 F. H. B. Gaden was in Melbourne for the sports, where he gained third place in the 100 yards. This seems to have been a solo effort but maybe it helped a little. Finally in 1897 the long awaited return match took place.

'Hermes' wrote with some pleasure that the Twelfth [13th] Annual Sports Meeting 'met with its usual patronage and rather unusual success on the afternoon of the 18th instant. The presence of the Melbourne Athletes was largely responsible for this, and it gave an increased interest to the meeting which all present enjoyed. All Championship events were very closely contested by the representatives of the two Universities, with the result that they were enjoyed much more by the spectators, and that an improvement was made in the times for the different events. The Melbourne men got home with the odd event, which was a surprise to a good many local enthusiasts. H. H. Lee upset our calculations in losing the Quarter-mile, but he ran a great race and kept at it till his last breath. He was beaten by two very good men Moir and Wingrove, and even so, 440 yards of 52-3/5 secs. is very good time.

The July 1897 issue of 'Hermes' carried an article on one of the social events of the first Sydney Inter Varsity which deserves to be quoted:

'Notably, the outing the Professor Anderson, our President, very kindly gave to the visiting team and to those who had helped to work up the meeting. We all cut lectures for it, and, between ourselves, without much compunction. We began the day at 10 o'clock by getting on board the 'Brighton,' and making for Manly. Professor Anderson had a coach ready there, which took us all in nicely — 15, including himself. From about

9.30 till after 12 o'clock it rained, and we were obliged to have the sides of the coach down, thus missing much of the pretty scenery along the Narrabeen Road, though we made merry inside. Despite the wet outside we were equal to the occasion when our host bade us get out and have a glass of something at Rock Lily Hotel. We didn't wait long, but continued our trip to Professor Anderson's own house beyond Rock Lily. Climbing the hill we enjoyed a magnificent view of the mouth of the Hawkesbury River from his verandah. But it was after 1 o'clock, so we hurried back in the 'drag' to the Rock Lily Hotel, where we found a glorious dinner ready for us. Each seemed proud of his appetite and anxious to do justice to what was set before him. Reid, of Melbourne, soon proposed Professor Anderson's health, and the noise and discord, for everyone was anxious to join in and many of us were not musical, resulting from the musical honours were proof of our appreciation of his thoughtfulness. Professor Anderson made an excellent speech in reply'.

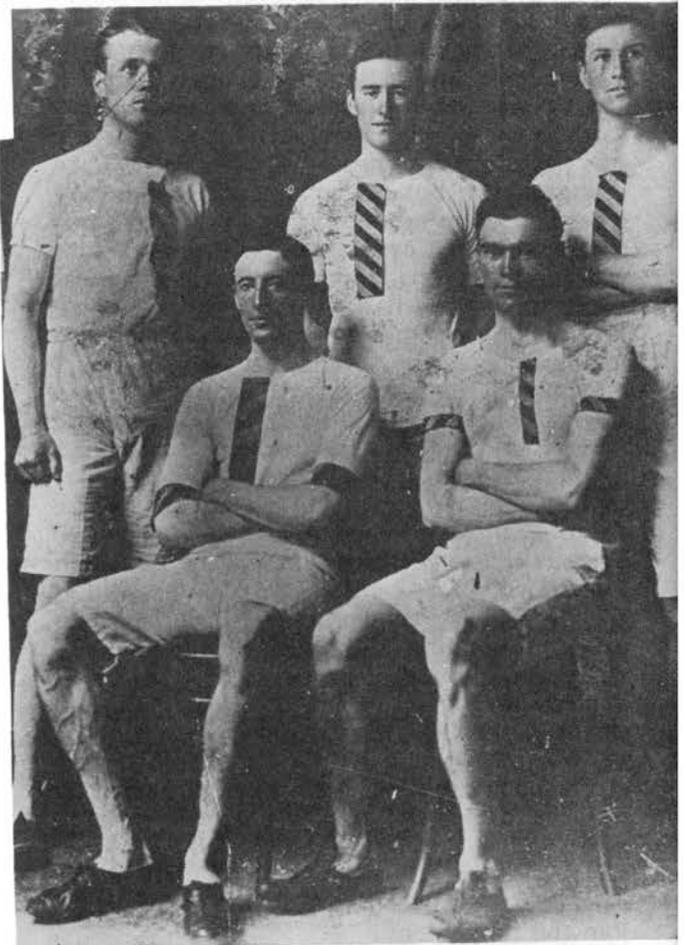
'Webster made a good point in his toast "The Athletic Club," when he spoke of the benefit that a Club derives from strong and interested support from Professors and Lecturers of the University". It is because we get so little of it in Melbourne," he said "that our clubs are not so successful as they might be". Wingrove and Moir, both of Melbourne, made speeches, while Rowlands, Barton and Perkins spoke for us. We then adjourned and talked of future meetings, conferences ec., over coffee and cigars. At half-past three the coach was ready to take us back to Manly, and we had here to bid good-bye to Professor Anderson. He was undoubtedly aware that we had all enjoyed ourselves immensely. We certainly found him a perfect host, and he had given us the pleasantest outing that was possible. Some men preferred to ride on the top of the coach coming home; others fell to yarning, a few dozed. Wingrove lost his macintosh, but this was the only mishap. Though some were not ready when the first steamer left, and couldn't bring her back, though they did their best with the bell on the Manly wharf (till the officer interfered), they got over safely soon after. It was an extremely pleasant day; our visitors enjoyed it no less than we, and the thanks of the Club are due to our very excellent President for this and his many other services to the Club.'

A conference was held at St. Paul's College while the Melbourne athletes were in Sydney. Among other resolutions carried was the proposition of Wingrove, seconded by Corfe, to the effect that to the five present Inter-University Championship Events be added a Broad Jump.

Intersivity was now well and truly launched and Melbourne maintained its superiority for the next few years. Our visit south in 1898

gained us no wins, partly the result of our inability to field our strongest team (a continuing problem through the years!) but W. B. Dight went close in the High Jump while C. G. Gibson pushed Moir hard in the 440 yards, won in 53-3/5. Moir took the 100 yards again in 10-2/5 secs, while the mile was run in 4.47-4/5. D. Bevan of Melbourne took out the Long Jump with 20 ft. 4 in. 'Our men spent a very enjoyable time in Melbourne, being well looked after by the Melbourne men, who although they had no mercy on them in the races, amply made up for it in their hospitality. We looked forward to better results at home the next year. However, Melbourne, led by the redoubtable G. A. Moir again left us standing.'

We will come back to the Intersivity topic in a later chapter.



Melbourne University Team about 1900. Redmond, MacPherson, Sutton standing, Duigan, Moir.

Harvey Sutton represented Australia in the 1908 Olympics. For many years he was an enthusiastic vice-President of the Sydney University Club. The Harvey Sutton Cup presented by his son David Harvey Sutton in 1943 perpetuates his memory.

## CHAPTER 4

### FIN DE BICYCLE

The 1894 Sports Meeting on Wednesday, July 18th attracted about '3,000 spectators which included the Governor and suite. The day was bright and fine but a strong north-westerly wind blew right across the ground, thereby considerably interfering with the putting up of fast times; indeed all the sprinting events had to be run full in its teeth'.

Starters in many events were rather few, and but for the 100 yards the 'championship events fell very flat, and it might be well to do away with them all next year, unless the Melbourne or Adelaide men come over to compete in them'. Reasons for the poor entries were attributed to the unusually late date of the Carnival, some events were forgone conclusions and the 'general apathy and indifference of athletes'—the last having 'more to do with it than the other two'. However wrote 'Hermes' some of the handicap events more than made up for the deficiency.

A special feature of this Sports Meeting (continued 'Hermes') was 'the 100 yards amateur championship of the colony, and this event created great interest; it was a grand race all the way and W. L. Walker just beat Gaden by nine inches in 11 seconds dead, which was a good 'go', considering the head-wind which was blowing at the time. Walker and Gaden deserve to be congratulated heartily for their performance, and it is indeed a feather in the cap of University Athletes that two of its representatives were able to run first and second in the Championship of the Colony'.

'There were five other starters. A splendid start was effected, the seven runners moving off as one man. At 50 yards Walker led by quite a yard, but Gaden overhauled him fast in the last 20 yards, and just failed to get up, Walker getting home by 9 inches after a magnificent race. The other men were so close that the judges were unable to place a third.'

The arrangement by which Colonial (later State) Championships were spread through various carnivals lasted well into the 20th Century.

Following the custom the prizes were distributed at a smoke concert held in the Common Room on 21st July.

In 1895 handicap events were popular before the Annual meeting, thirty-five entering one weekday 880 event at the oval (although fewer actually started). At this time H. H. Lee was running particularly well. Unfortunately he had been unwell earlier and had been unable to represent the State in the Australasian Championships.

The Annual sports in May were 'not a wild success' (Hermes, July 17), events were 'not run to time' and Hermes was moved to suggest the introduction of 'pole-jumping and more outside bicycle races to break the monotony of

continual footraces'. However, donations for prizes had been 'numerous and liberal'. Mr. John Harris, who was always extremely generous to the Athletic Club, again gave fifteen guineas, and Professor Anderson had supported 'his pet Club'. Other donors were the Chancellor. Messrs. George Robertson & Co., Miss Walker, Dr. Camac Wilkinson, Cannon Sharp, J. T. Walker, Esq., Professor Haswell, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Pitman and Messrs. David Jones & Co.

The honors of the day were adjudged to have gone to Lee who won all the championship races except the 100 yards and the hurdles. Lee's finish in the mile against Brown was the 'closest and most exciting of the day'. The hurdles were again won easily by J. B. Jones 'who is the most perfect specimen of a hurdler that the University has yet produced.' Blaxland proved the dark horse of the meet, starting in three races and winning them all easily. The kicking, however, was poor and perhaps this was what upset 'Hermes'!

By the end of the year our reporter was in a better mood and the activities of the Athletic Club during the year were adjudged 'distinctly creditable'. J. B. Jones was without doubt the best hurdler in the colony. Jones won the N.S.W. Hurdles Championship in fine style, but Lee left his run too late in the 880 yards and was blocked in the 220 yards Handicap when trying to get through on the inside. Others to compete were Boyce (High Jump) and West (mile steeplechase). In no previous year had so many athletes competed in outside events! 'Hermes' added 'If this enthusiasm lasts there is every prospect of a vast improvement in our Annual Sports Meeting.'

The '96 Carnival (May 27) at the S.C.G. showed a rise in interest among athletes and most races had exciting finishes. A new entry system had been devised to ensure starters in races and two more open events were introduced. Lee again excelled, his major win being in the 440 yards Championship of N.S.W. by 2 yards in 53-½ seconds and J.W. Taylor of the Warringah Club established a N.S.W. record of 35 ft. 3 in. in the 16 lb shot. Rowlands continued his improvement jumping 5 ft. 10 in. to equal Doyle's Australian record, but the record was apparently disallowed as the pegs had been interfered with and the bar sagged before the height had been measured.

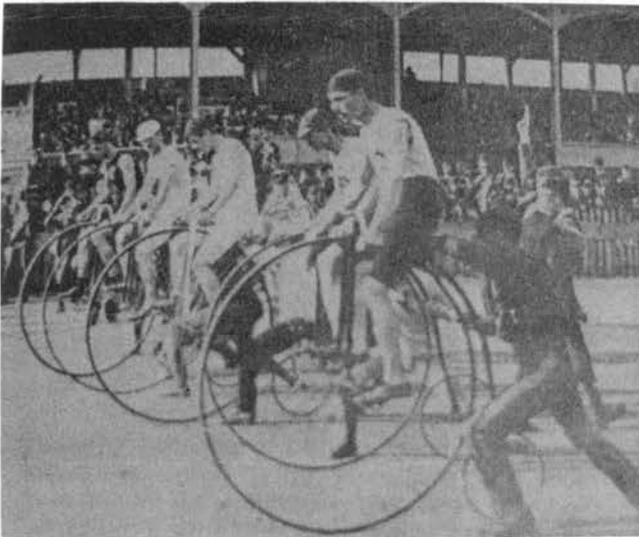
Early in 1897 'Hermes' was again miserable and complained once more of the 'apathy of the undergraduates to sport in general and to the Athletic Club in particular'. The University A.C. should be the leading club in Sydney but it was far from this. It would be advisable to abandon the sports day but for the fact that Melbourne University was to be represented.

It was felt we had reasonable chances in the

quarter mile, the high jump and the hurdles. Lee had run 52 seconds last year (Melbourne's best this year was 54) and Rowland's jump was unlikely to be bettered. A jump championship had been added and an open 4 x 200 yards relay. 'It will be a feather in our caps to win an event like this, and we trust our 220 yds men will be in good form for the occasion!' Test races to select representatives for the I-V competition were held on the oval on May 5th.

H. C. Blaxland, no longer a dark horse, won the 100 yards championship in a slow 11secs beating the 1896 winner A. Curtis by a yard, but a newcomer showing sprinting form was F. T. Perkins who won both the 75 and 150 yds handicaps. 'Hermes' recommendations had not been followed — only one bicycle race, a two mile handicap, was provided, and kicking the football was the only other diversion from serious athletic matters.

The 1897 activities have already been described in so far as they involve the first official intervarsity athletics. A later item of interest was the formation of a University Bicycle Club which had its opening 'run' in August. From hence no more would the noble cycle grace our athletic contests.



Tempora Mutantur

1898

1898 was not a vintage year but activities were varied and a notable change was introduced. The Annual Meeting (Apr. 4) felt that the 'prospect of a successful sports meeting was not particularly bright'. As the Oval Races had proved successful in previous years it was arranged to hold handicaps every second Monday during term. Activities opened well with good fields at the oval for 100 and 400 yds

Handicaps, and 220 and mile handicaps a fortnight later, working up to the Championship meeting, now seven championship events, with a 120 yds handicap, half-mile footballers' handicap and kicking the football. The last two were designed to attract entries from the visiting footballers from Brisbane.

The sports, held on a Thursday at the University Oval, provided an 'interesting day's sport' according to the Sydney Mail, for the 'couple of hundred spectators' (gone are the halcyon days!), and 'Hermes' commented on the noticeable absence of the fair sex, who no doubt are reserving themselves for the Sports Union dance in the evening'. Professor Anderson acted as Referee and Richard Coombes was the Starter. Times were slow and distances short but the hurdles championship proved an exciting dead heat (in 21-¼ secs!). The Queensland footballers were well beaten in the kicking (various place kicks) but won the places in the specially provided 220 handicap which also attracted members of the 'Past Grammar Footballers Team'. Perkins (recently injured) was not in form and lost the 100 yds in a close race to W. D. Cargill in 11 seconds. C. G. Gibson, third in the 100 yds., easily won the 440 yds (1 min 13-½ secs!).

Our team for Melbourne lacked the stars; Lee (rowing Intersarsity at Adelaide), Perkins (victim of a football accident), J. B. Jones and Rowlands, but it was felt that 'an excellent opportunity is offered to our comparatively untried men to emulate these well-known performers. We hear that great preparations are being made by the Melbourne men, who are going in for extensive training and practice. Owing to the kindness of Messrs R. Coombes, Roseingrave and Rowley, who are lending us their valuable assistance in getting our team into form, we hope to compete on equal terms'.

It is better to draw a veil over that visit to Melbourne where the locals won every event.

Later in the year it was proposed that the club be represented by a strong team in the cross country championship. 'If our long-distance men bestir themselves a little, and go in for regular training, there is no reason why they should not render a good account of themselves and win renown for the club. The University has not been represented half enough in outside events of late years, but let us hope that this year will see the blue and gold breast the tape first on many occasions' wrote 'Hermes.' The move, however, proved unsuccessful.

In August the old problem of badges and blazers again asseted itself. In the third term the N.S.W. Championships were held on 8 hour day. Our sole winner was C.G. Gibson who took the 440 yards Championship an improvement on his former 73½ secs effort!

At the annual prize evening in the Union Common Room it was agreed that the new system of having frequent races at the Oval had created greater interest in athletics at the University.

1899

The last year of the nineteenth century followed the pattern of the previous year with regular oval handicaps, starting with huge fields in the 100 and 880 yards events late in April, and 'a noticeable feature was the presence of a large number of spectators, there being some hundred new undergraduates and about a dozen ladies', and men were training hard to 'turn the tables' on the Melbourne athletes, with special test races over the Championship distances scheduled for early May. 'The prospects for the year seem exceedingly bright'.

However, the visitors to our meeting on May 17 proved too strong. Led by the redoubtable G.

previously excelling as a school athlete. Jones died in September 1902.

To amuse the 1,200 spectators there were open 100 yards and running high jump handicaps open to N.S.W.A.A. members, a 440 yds obstacle race and the inevitable football kicking. A week later the club sponsored the first major contest between the University Colleges.

'Hermes' reports that 'the Colleges decided to extend the scope of their athletic differences which had previously been confined to one foot-race (F. T. Perkins won the event in 1897 and again in 1898) between members of St. Pauls and St Andrews. A new arrangement has



The oldest surviving Team photo, probably of the 1890s period. The three seated are possibly F. T. Perkins, A. V. Hilliard & W. Dight, with G. Griffiths standing at the right.

A. Moir who ran a 10.4 100 yards they again achieved almost a clean sweep with good wins by E. E. Webster in the 880 and mile (a record). The 440 yards saw Moir beat Lee in 52.8 secs. The third place getter was Horace Jones, who made this sole appearance at I-V and at the intercollegiate sports the same year, although

been made . . . This is to consist in future of three events. This arrangement recommends itself as a far more thorough test . . . for the College cup.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports that a cup was presented by Canon H. Sharp, Dr. Kinross and Monsignor O'Brien and the first

contest for it took place on the University Oval on Tuesday, May 23rd. H. A. Jones (Andrews) won the 100 yds, J. L. McKelvey (Johns) the high jump and A. Verge (Pauls) the mile. St. Andrews was the first to hold the cup, scoring 8 points to St. Pauls 7 with St. Johns third with 3 points."

During the year athletes continued to compete in outside races, including a five mile steeplechase at Kensington Racecourse, 600 yds and three quarter mile handicaps at the Cricket Ground.

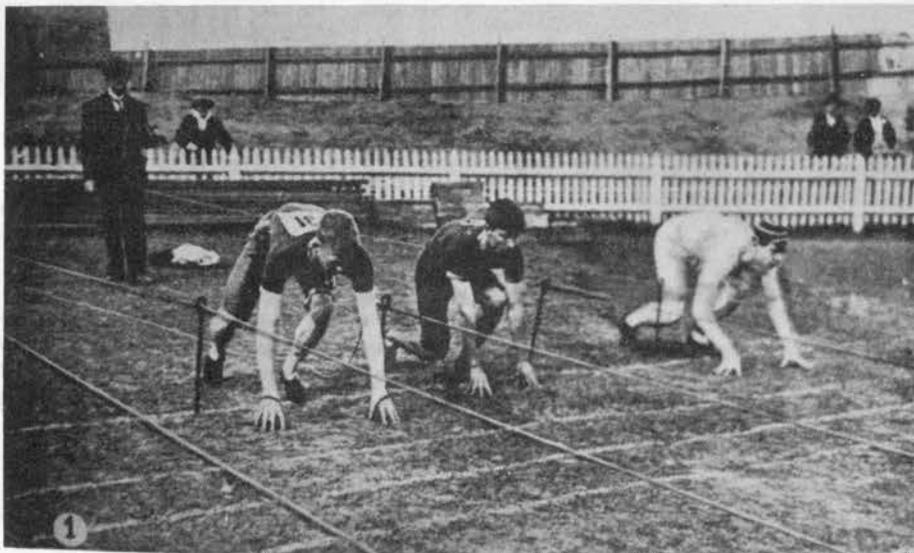
It was felt that 'Lee, our Champion middle-distance runner, will make things pretty lively in the half-mile championship next October', while 'if Walker can be induced to start he will just about win a few of the sprint races'.

The Club was also thinking ahead, intending 'to send a team next year to represent the Varsity in the Cross Country Championship. Though personally we should not care for the contract of running five miles over a steeplechase course, the idea is a good one if only because it points to an increase of enthusiasm for athletics, which we hope will have its effects on our next Sports' meeting'.

Nigel Barker in New South Wales costume.



Start of 1902 Intervarsity 100 yards. Hunter on the right poised to beat Barker (centre). Note the runners toeing the line, the handicap markings and the roped lanes.



## CHAPTER 5

### THE BARKER ERA

The 1890's had seen the club firmly established and intervarsity was being held regularly as federation dawned, although Sydney had clearly been the underdog in these events. It was time for the inevitable change.

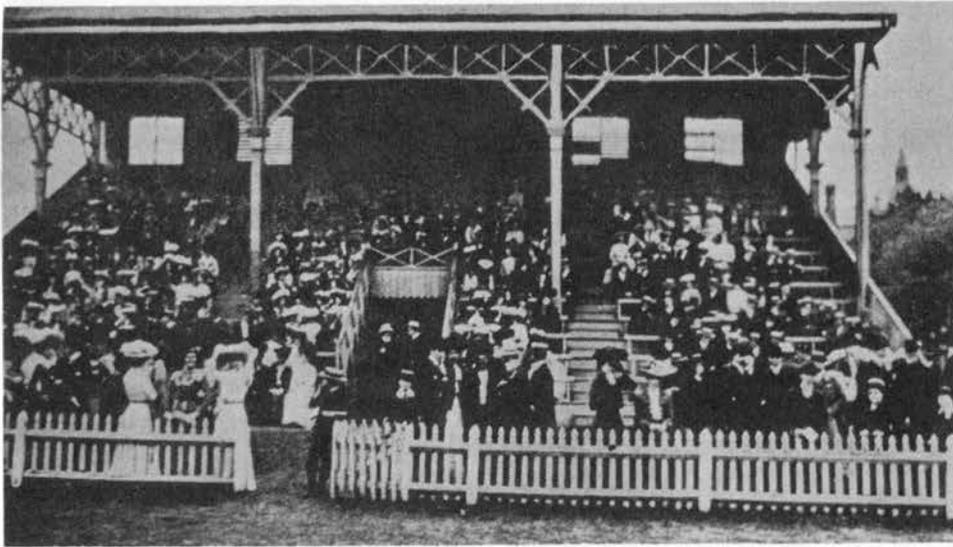
1900 and 1901 saw the club moving along quietly and these years can be passed over rapidly. Stalwarts such as Lee and Perkins had gone out into the world and a new era was to begin. Moir, Duigan and Sutton of Melbourne continued the domination they had established in earlier years and even the Bavarian Band and its melodies could not lift our team sufficiently at the 1901 IntersVarsity, the first I-V meeting held on University Oval. Despite the light rain and bleak wind there was a 'fair attendance' made up largely of our faithful supporters 'the ladies'. The 'Sydney Mail' noted that 'the wins appeared popular judging from the unstinted applause' but the programme was 'not entered upon promptly to time' which resulted in the omission of kicking the football, 880 yards handicap and the 440 yds. obstacle races. Sydney's only win was a dead heat in the high jump by W. B. Dight and N. E. Gibin with Melbourne's Duigan. The result is given at 5 ft. 4 in. All cleared 5 ft. 3 in. but none went over 5 ft. 4 in. despite 6 extra attempts each!

Barker was also a keen rugby footballer and maintained in later years that he took up competitive running to improve his football. His love for the ball game probably robbed him of what might have been his year of greatest triumph in athletics, when he was injured early in 1904.

The resurgence of interest in 1902 is shown by the 130 entries in the events at the Annual Sports Meeting on May 28. Barker and V. S. Futter were 1st and 2nd in each of the 100, 440 and hurdles, the quarter mile being run in 51-4/5 secs. Barker also took out the long jump while Green and Palmer fought out the half-mile and mile each taking a first.

Barker and the two distance men were joined by Thomson (high jump) as the team for I-V, where the first named won the 100 (10-1/5 secs) and 440 yards (53 secs), gained a 2nd in the hurdles and third in the Long Jump. Barker's outstanding feat that year was a 9.9 which he ran in the G.P.S. Old Boys Race, a handicap, in which he ran second.

In 1903 the club had a successful season with many entries in the Oval races and keen competition in the Annual Meeting. However the Melbourne visitors took five first places against 2 by Sydney which moved 'Hermes' to



The 1902 Sports Day brought out the Social Set in force. Note the elegant setting.

The change for better things was ushered in by the arrival at the University in March 1902 of Nigel Barker, fresh from athletic triumphs at Newington College. In September 1900 he had won the school 100, 200 and 400 yards championships and the quarter mile handicap from scratch and the same month he won the 440 yards championship at the Great Public Schools' meeting, defeating G. V. Garvan and V. S. Futter. The following year he capped a successful season by winning the G.P.S. 100, 200 and 440 yards championships.

comment once again (!) at the lack of public spirit and 'the persistent defeats in athletics at the hands of Melbourne, there being no reason to suppose our material inferior to theirs'.

Barker ran the 440 yds in a slow 54-4/5 but his presence was not enough to beat the Southerners led by the remarkable H. H. Hunter who established a record time in the 100 yds, beating Barker clearly in 10.1. This record stood for more than thirty years. He showed good form to win the New South Wales 100 yds Championship in 10-4/5 on the same day.



The S.U.A.C. team about 1904. B. R. French (Cap), J. J. Luddy (424), C. P. Stewart (421) & Barker (left behind Stewart) are tentatively identified. R. G. Waddy is probably there somewhere.

1904 started well with well-attended Oval handicaps — many new names appear in the results — prior to the 19th [20th] Annual Sports Meeting on May 11 at the University Oval which attracted about 1,500 idlers (a pleasant Wednesday afternoon — spoiled only by a late shower).

The proceedings were enlivened by two new events, the 'medley' and 'Flag Race'. 'The former caused much amusement, and now once started will cause much more in future years'. The exact nature of this race escapes me but the two placegetters have the cryptic phrase 'hands and feet' appended to their result. There was also much interest in the Flag Race, 10 teams entering, and which was won by Law. This was apparently a relay.

For the first time the 440, 880 and mile races combined the traditional handicap and championship events — helping to make faster championship times. J. W. Powell won the mile from scratch in 4.57 (7 seconds faster than the 1903 I-V time), but Barker could only gain 3rd place in the quarter running 51 secs in chasing B. R. French (off 35 yds) and H. E. Manning (46 yards).

Thompson again led the way in the High Jump with 5 ft. 5 in. However, the old rivals Barker and Futter held the stage with an exciting Broad Jump, the former jumping 20 ft. 5 in. to win by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Barker also kept ahead of Futter in the 100, running 10.3.

The sports were run early to give the chosen men time to get into good form before going to Melbourne. Alas disaster struck in the form of an injury to Barker during a football match. This mishap 'spoiled all our chances of making a decent show against Melbourne. We could hardly have received a worse defeat than the one they gave us'. The psychological effect of Barker's absence must have been considerable as the Club was obviously quite strong at the time and should have been able to field a capable team. On the other hand, Melbourne had some exceptional athletes, including Hunter, who again took out the 100 yds in very fast time.

Barker had been the first person selected to represent Australia in the Olympic Games at the 1904 St. Louis Fair but the injury robbed him of this opportunity.

Finally in 1905 we put it all together. The first major triumph of the year was the Intersvarsity win. Spearheaded by Barker's 10.2 for the 100 and a recorded 50-4/5 for the quarter, our athletes won the mile ( R. G. Waddy in 4.43.2), Long Jump (H. G. Allen 19 ft. 11-1/4 in.), and 120 hurdles (C. P. Stewart 16.6). N. Barrett of Melbourne also set a record in the half mile (2.2.8).

More than 20 club athletes competed regularly in outside events during the year, and nine entered the State cross-country championship held at Canterbury. Waddy ran 3/4 mile from scratch at Newcastle in 3.23.3 and was placed in a Rose Bay 2-1/2 m. and the Sutherland 4-1/2 m, won by F. Tooth, another club member. C. P. Stewart was first in the 120 hurdles and H.S.J. and third in the Pole Vault at the Highland Gathering. At this meeting the Club established a notable first — a win in the 880 relay (off scratch).

In October another important first event occurred — a challenge match between S.U.A.C. and 'the remaining amateur clubs of New South Wales'. The Club was successful, winning 8 events to one; Barker took out the 100, 200, 440 and Long Jump. Fitzhardinge the 880, Waddy the mile and Stewart the 120 and 440 hurdles events.

A final feather in the Club's cap was the athletic premiership of the State (based on points won in open events) 85 points beating the strong Eastern Suburbs A.A.C. by three.

Barker, Stewart, Fitzhardinge, C. W. Roe, H. G. Allen and Waddy were chosen to represent N.S.W. in the Australasian Championships in November, Barker winning the 100, 220 and 440 yds, the last event in 48.5 secs. — a new Australasian record. He also took out the Long Jump and was third in the 120 hurdles. Stewart won the 120 hurdles and was second in the 440 hurdles in which Allen was third. The Sydney

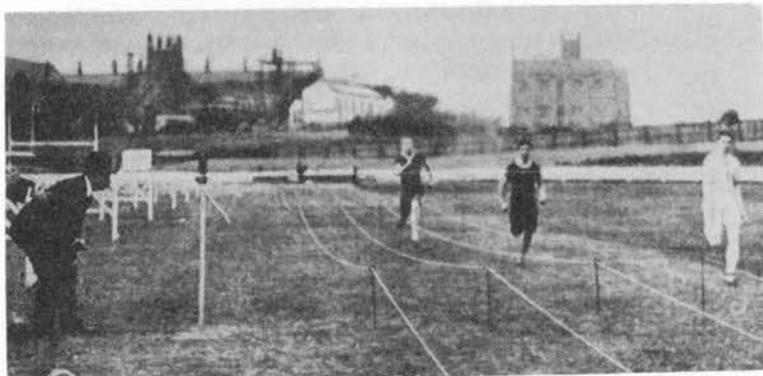


J. G. Lawton of Melbourne clears the bar in the 1902 Intersvarsity.

Mail lamented that only 1,200 people attended this splendid meeting, held in superb weather.

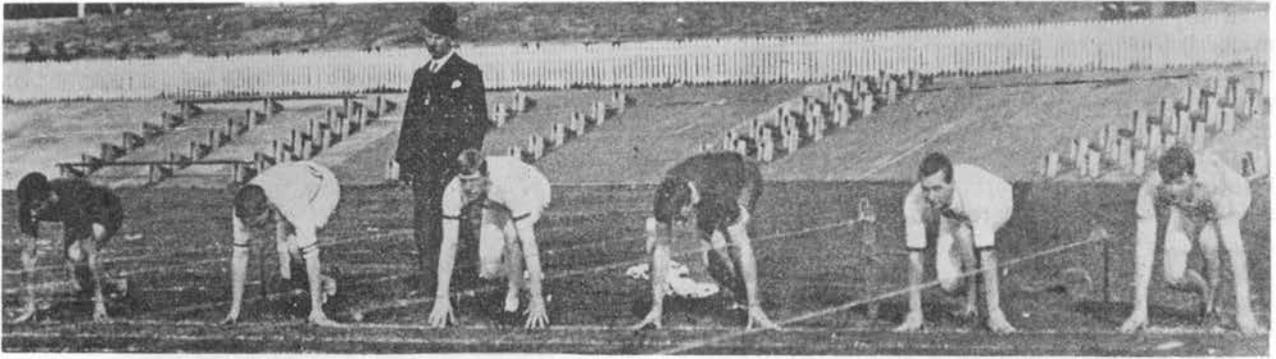
Even 'Hermes' felt it could gloat a little about the club's success. In the November 1905 issue there is a fairy tale beginning 'Once upon a time' about Perkins' Dead Horse which he used to flog to stir into action—a pointed reference to Perkins's days as Secretary of the Club. 'Hermes' felt that the animal still 'has a good many kicks', and heartily congratulated the Club 'on its activity and progress'.

*This would be a year to remember for a long time.*



H. H. Hunter, the 'Southern Express' was keenly disappointed that Barker was not fit when he beat him in the 1902 Intersvarsity. Rivalry led to a firm friendship between the two athletes. Barker wrote a moving tribute to Hunter when he was killed in action in France in 1915.





Intersarsity in Adelaide 1908. Barker made no mistake in the 100 yards.

In April 1905 Arthur Duffey, an American sprinter and Alfred Shrubbs, an English distance runner, visited Sydney as part of a tour arranged in conjunction with the newly created Australasian Amateur Athlete Union. Duffey and Barker clashed several times over 100 yards and once at 60 yards, but the results were inconclusive, Barker winning one 100 yds in 10.2, Duffey the 60 yards; the other 100 yards being a dead heat in 10 seconds: but the newspapers indicate there was some argument about Duffey beating the gun on occasion and opinions differed about the dead-heat. On leaving Sydney Duffey is quoted as saying of Barker 'he is the best runner I ever saw'. Duffey was present when Barker ran the 220 yards in 21-4/5 to break the Australasian record set in 1892 by Stan Rowley. Rowley was also present having been the third starter in the shorter races between Duffey and Barker — a notable achievement to be still at the top after 13 years!

Shrubbs's performances were equally as impressive as those of the sprinters, mowing down runners on enormous handicaps to run 2 miles in 9.33.6, 3 miles in 14.54.6, unbelievable times to the locals.

A full discussion of these events would take us too far away from S.U.A.C. happenings, but these competitions were important for the general growth of athletics in Sydney.

The indefatigable 'Hermes' wrote:

'It is no doubt due partly to the visit of Duffey and Shrubbs that all over the State interest in athletics is reviving, and in this revival the University leads the way. Waddy's running thro' the season has been exceptional; it is long since the Athletics Club has possessed a long-distance runner of his sort, and barring accidents and that great undoer of enthusiastic distance men, over-training, we may expect much from him in the Australasian Sports Meeting, and more still next year, with the immense difference that experience must make to any man'.

When R. G. Waddy was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship in 1908 'Hermes' wrote that it was 'through the untiring efforts of himself and those who banded themselves with him, the Athletic Club was roused from its dormant state and entered on a period of prosperity and excellence.'

Start of the half mile. Adelaide Intersarsity 1908. Note the sartorial elegance of the officials.

A few runners had to be cut out because of space problems!



## CHAPTER 6

### PROSPERITY AND EXCELLENCE

In 1906 Hermes was pleased to note the continuation of the renewed interest in athletics and that the Club was not just Barker but there were others "with some good 'others' too". Sydney got home by a half point against the newcomers Adelaide in the first four-sided Intersivity meeting, with Melbourne trailing a little. Tasmania, the other newcomer, did not score.

Stewart and Waddy did their stuff in the Hurdles and mile, while B. R. French ran 51.2 for the 440. He lost the 100 yds to Doudy of Adelaide in 10.6 and 'Hermes' noted that 'as French was breaking this time frequently last November, one infers that the absence of Barker's company on the training track has been felt'.

Late in 1905 information about the Olympian Games planned for April 1906 in Athens was received and proposals were put to send Barker. Initially it was suggested that Barker represent Sydney University, similar to the representation by many American Colleges at previous games, and a Committee, largely of SUAC club officials, was formed to further this

idea and raise the necessary funds. However press articles and letters led to Barker being sponsored by the N.S.W.A.A.A. and ultimately he was regarded as a representative of Australia, along with two Victorian athletes, G. A. Wheatley and G. Blake, and the N.S.W. swimmer Cecil Healy. Their adventures abroad belong in another volume. However the club certainly basked in the reflected glory of its champion's efforts.

The club's strength at this time was considerable, and the Annual Sports Meeting on May 9th (after Intersivity) was claimed 'the most successful gathering ever held 'by the Club, holding the crowd's attention through a whole afternoon's sport! There were 190 entrants all told, including 80 for the open mile. The N.S.W. 440 Championship was the chief event and S.U.A.C. runners French and Ascher took the first two places. The pole jumping contest attracted much attention, and some promising performers were unearthed. Professor David managed this event and the 'skilful way he replaced the bar after each jump' was noted.



The team of ?1907. Luddy, French (422), Stewart & others under the watchful eye of Richard Coombes.

Waddy and French were largely responsible for the third successive inter-collegiate win by Paul's, giving them the 'handsome College Cup outright'.

Club members competed actively during the year in various outside events and were moderately successful, Stewart winning a 120 yards Hurdles race from 25 yards behind scratch. [It is not clear if he jumped any extra hurdles!] and Waddy an obstacle race as well as gaining second place in the state 880 yds. Our cross-country team came only fifth in the five-mile championship. 'Lack of interest and training accounted for this unsatisfactory performance'.

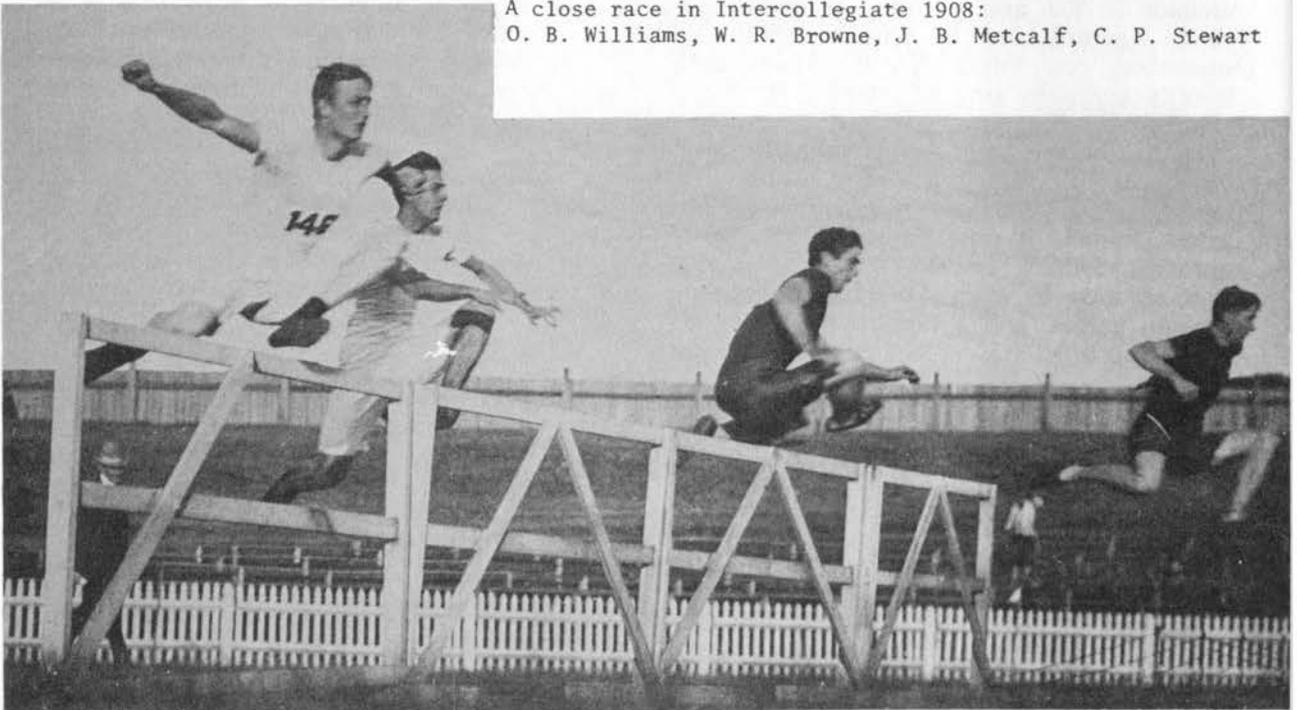
The 'Inter-University Championships (our 22nd [23rd] Annual Sports Meeting) were scheduled for May 29 at the Oval. 'Hermes', our source of all University information, let us know that

... Invitation tickets will be issued some time previous, and all University men are asked to assist as largely as possible in ensuring an attendance both befitting the magnitude of these games and worthy of the Sydney 'Varsity.

The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Harry Rawson, will be present, and at the close of the meeting will be asked to distribute the prizes. In addition to

A close race in Intercollegiate 1908:

O. B. Williams, W. R. Browne, J. B. Metcalf, C. P. Stewart



Hermes, ever ready to moralize, felt that 'such [outside] events are the only chance of an athletic education that can be obtained here outside the 'Varsity Games and the College Sports'. He felt that the inclusion of the hurdles in the Intercollegiate sports "may unearth somebody to take Stewart and Allen's places, and as they have both a reasonable amount of intelligence it is not to be expected that they will be with us much longer. (This is not a gibe at the Athletic Club but a reminder that Stewart is now in the fourth, and Allen in the third year of the medical course). 'Profit by the words, O ye people's'."

The annual report of the Club for the 1906 year regretted the marked falling off in the number of representatives in open events, 'in consequence of which your club loses its title of Premier Club of New South Wales and only attains fourth place.'

In 1907 the stage seemed set for a bumper year. To prepare for the coming Intervarsity match a team from the club travelled to Newcastle where it had a substantial win against the local athletes.

Melbourne, both Adelaide and Tasmania have signified their intention of sending across teams to compete, and thus, it is hoped, the occasion will be one of unique interest, as being the first on which all the Universities of Australia will have met in athletic competition in Sydney. Such a meeting should be of tremendous interest, and, to the Australian 'Varsities, of an importance such as Oxford and Cambridge are wont to regard theirs'.

The meeting went well although Tasmania didn't manage to get its team across. But there were a few distressing matters:

'Apparently there was little supervision exercised as to whom admission should be granted, and anyone walked in who felt the inclination so to do; by all means let the general public be admitted to the ground, but surely the grand-stand enclosure should be reserved for those bearing cards of invitation, otherwise why go to the expense of printing some when a formal invitation, that all were welcome would suffice. Secondly: a word re the Broad Jump; while this was

being contested all present were allowed to take possession of the ground in order to see the sport at close quarters, with the result that considerable time elapsed before any other event could be proceeded with, as it naturally was a lengthy process for such a large crowd to emerge through the small gate, one at a time being the order of the day. The Broad Jump can hardly be described as a spectacular item, and the committee of the Great Public Schools apparently recognize the fact for at their yearly athletic meeting this, along with other events, is always decided in the morning thus materially aiding the smooth working of the main programme. [This event was won by Barker jumping 20 ft. 5½ in., followed by Stewart 20 ft. 4 in. and Waddell 20 ft. 3¼ in. .].

... [on the credit side] 'Professor Anderson (whose sporting straw headgear provoked much admiring comment) discharged his official duties with marked ability'.

'Among other functionaries may be mentioned Mr. N. R. Johnson, whose exact position was only made clear on the programme to diligent students of the Greek language.'

W. H. Savigny, of Sydney Grammar School, an official was also commended as all three Sydney representatives in the hurdles 'were instructed during their early scholastic days by this latter gentleman in the art of taking such hurdles with the requisite grace.' Savigny had learnt his art in the halls of Oxbridge.

'The starter, Mr. C. D. Jones, fulfilled his duties admirably, and with one exception, his pistol behaved in an exemplary manner; this single breach of faith on the part of the implement occurred just prior to the mile event. Just as the competitors were getting ready a loud explosion was heard, and on the smoke clearing away, it was observed that Mr. E. A. Brearley had received a slight graze from the deadly weapon, but both before and after this sad episode all was clear and bright.'

Sydney won convincingly, using Barker only in the broad jump, an indication of the Club's strength. The start of the 100 yards was delayed for some time 'owing to the praiseworthy but mistaken efforts of a gentleman in white to start on his journey before the pistol sounded' but Waddell of Sydney (a former King's School champion) stayed calm and won in 10.6. Fitzhardinge's 880 yards in 2 min 4 sec. established a new record and C. P. Stewart's hurdle run in the heats in 16.2 did likewise. Fitzhardinge beat French in a very close 440 yards but the tables were turned in the Intercollegiate sports held a week or so later.

The scoring arrangements were changed at this time, each Club being allowed two entrants only in each event. Two points were given for a win, 1 for second place.

George Howatson reaches into the stratosphere, 1908 pole vault. Note the safety landing pad.





University versus New Zealand, 1908.  
H. Kerr, N.Z. about to overtake our man.

The November issue of 'Hermes' carried a long article on the Club, dealing in some detail with the perennial 'end-of year' syndrome. Much of this is quoted below.

'By far the most important months of the N.S.W. Amateur Athletic season are those of October and November. Yet 'Varsity athletics are practically inert; almost non-existent at this particular time of the year. Why so is difficult to explain, even allowing for the demands of Third Term and the approach of Sinister December! Doubtless it is largely owing to the inter-Varsity games taking place early in the winter — the only time mutually suitable for the Universities concerned — that the two seasons are so much at variance, but why should the club confine its activities to this one period. The inevitable result is poor representation of the S.U.A.C. in outside fixtures, and consequently but little influence in and upon the athletic world of Australia. This is a mutual loss both to the Club and Union. At odd times an occasional member may be enthusiastic enough to go into training on his own account, and complete for championship or other honours, but this of itself is hardly sufficient. Concerted general action is needed, this furthermore makes the sport more pleasurable and attractive by relieving the tedious monotony of lonely individual effort. Points are given by the Association to the winners of its various events, the Club totalling the maximum number during the season receiving the title of 'Premier'. The S.U.A.C. rarely, if ever, wins this distinction, and yet it is at present probably the most powerful club in N.S.W., as

evidenced by the result of the challenge meeting, 'Varsity v. Rest of N.S.W. a year or so back, when our representatives won 8 out of 9 events. The same team is available now as then with substantial additions. In this connection it may be mentioned that a similar challenge has been issued, but so far no answer has been received.

However, it is not so much a consideration of actual strength as the fact that we are not sufficiently identified with the N.S.W. and Australasian bodies. Just as in football, cricket, tennis and rowing we desire to make our influence felt, so it should be in athletics. But we make little effort to do so, unless there is something of unusual importance to happen and not always even then. This year, however, it is hoped things will be different. With a view to this the Committee has decided to hold a few local races, to induce members to start training, and later take large participation in open events. The N.S.W. Association has an unusually large programme, and in the near future are several events, both handicap and championship, while a little further off loom the Australasian championships to be held in Hobart. This trip should be extremely pleasant, and as in the last, two years back, University men should try and figure prominently. Already seven are regularly training on the oval, and it is hoped others will follow their lead.'

Barker, Stewart and H. St. Vincent Welch were chosen in the N.S.W. team for the Australasian Championships in Hobart, Barker winning the triple sprint crown, and coming second in the half-mile and running broad jump, while Stewart had a dead heat for 1st in the hurdles. However New Zealand were clearly winners of the Athletic Banner.

A highly successful challenge match was held between S.U.A.C. and the New Zealand team on their way back home, before a large crowd. Stewart lowered the State hurdle record to 16secs, while Barker won the 100, 880 and 300 yards races. The 300 was run in 31 secs 'thus constituting probably a world's record for a grass track. Another success for the year was C. W. Roe's win in the 440 yards championship of Queensland, after taking a second in the N.S.W. 440.

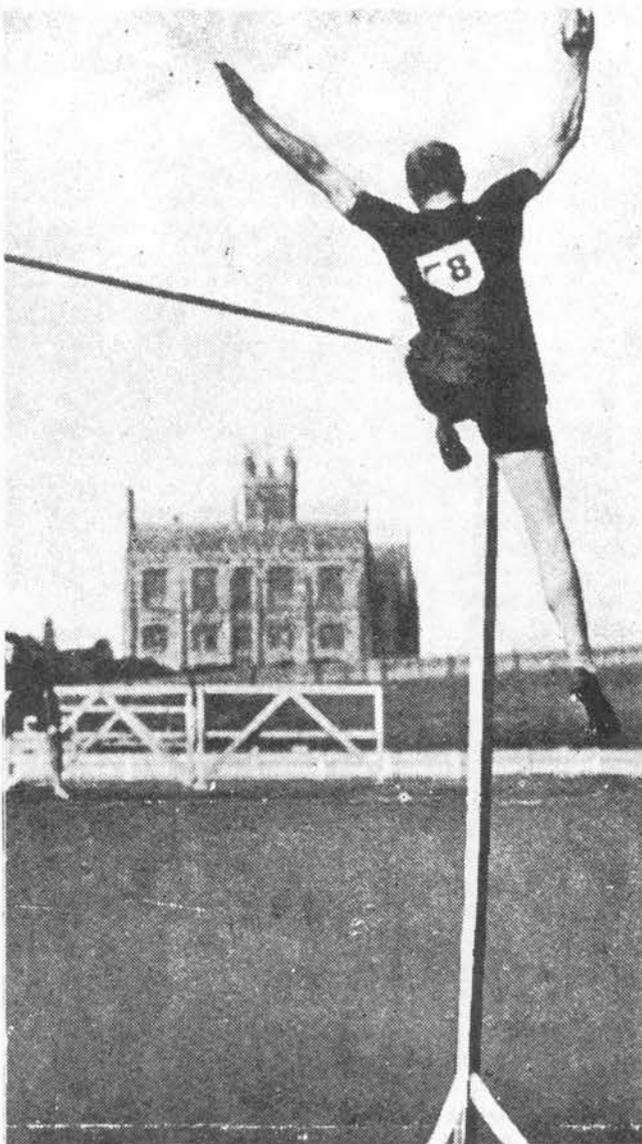
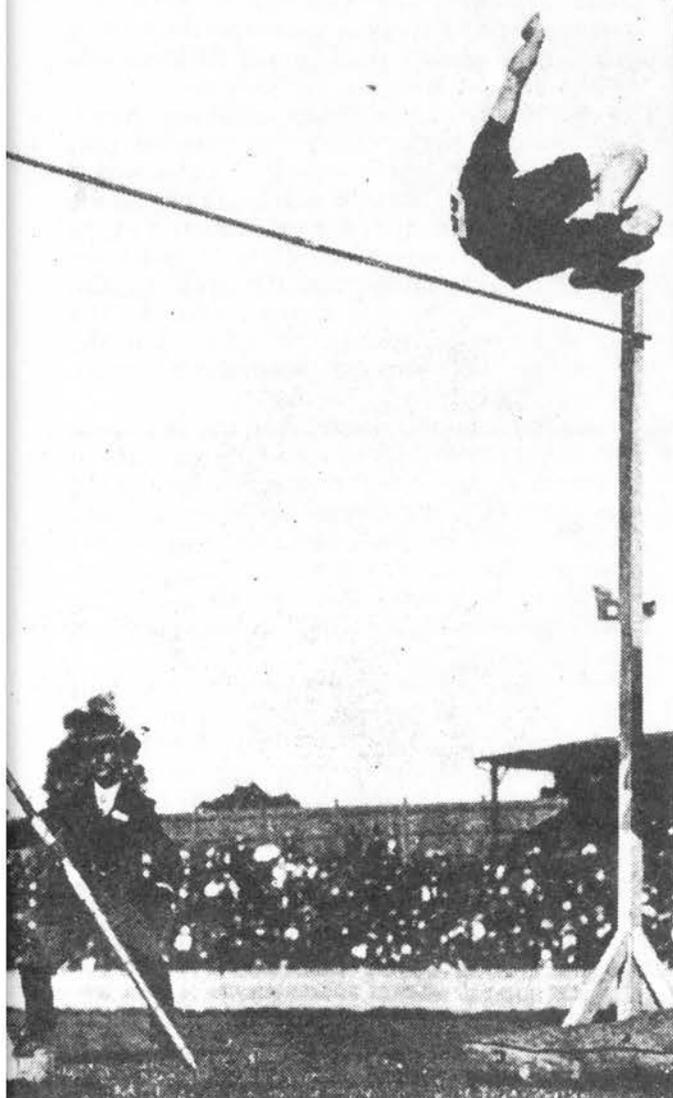
In 1908 once again the matter of representation in open events was raised and another dire, but sensible, warning was issued: 'the very strength the club at present enjoys perhaps constitutes a source of weakness in itself, as members generally, possibly feeling their chance of gaining representative honours remote, are inclined to leave everything to those who during the last few years have performed so brilliantly. Later others will be needed to replace them, and loss of experience will be felt.'

Still the Club went to its fourth successive victory in Intervarsity when 'an exceptionally strong and numerous team went across to

compete [in Adelaide June 3rd], and considering the distance of travel, and the further fact that most of the members have gained their Blue in previous years this is a pleasing fact to record'.

Barker, Waddy, Stewart, Welch with S. A. Marden and W. D. Brown represented Sydney in the meeting at the Adelaide Cricket Ground, held in rather bleak weather, on a heavy ground. Barker won the 100 and 440 rather easily and ran an exciting dead-heat with Waddy in the half mile. Waddy went down to Marden who was emerging as a good distance man, in an exciting mile race.

In the 120 hurdles Stewart just beat Wallman, the South Australian Champion. 'Two very different styles of hurdling were given exposition. Wallman adopts the American style, taking the hurdle more in a striding action than the customary flight, and though possessing considerably less pace than the winner he put up an



(Above) The newspaper claims this is a high jump by C. L. Orbell (N.Z.) 1908. The experts claim it is a pole vault.

(Left) There is no doubt about this photo of McKay (N.Z.) at the same carnival.

excellent contest. This style is coming largely into vogue'.

The Annual Sports Meeting, held June 24, at the Oval, seems to have combined the University and College championships and all the top names competed in 'racing of a high order'. Wins by Baker and Marden helped Andrews to its first win in 6 years.

C. P. Stewart, who now leaves our story, maintained his keen interest in hurdling throughout a long professional life as medical officer to the N.S.W. Dept. of Education. Mr. Arch. Gray of Scone recalls that Stewart used to attend many high school sports meetings in his search for a potential hurdler who could break his University record.

## CHAPTER 7

### A QUIET INTERVAL

After the splendid years some reaction was to be expected. The year 1909 opened with a sober appraisal of the Club's position and a realization that our prospects were not at all bad. The three champions Barker, Stewart and Waddy had gone but Fitzhardinge and Waddell were excellent runners and there were numerous promising recruits. Our prospects for Intervarsity looked reasonable and a challenge match was planned for July against the Botany, Easts and South Sydney Clubs. Oval races were being held as usual, men were training and Bernard French was giving 'valuable assistance as coach of the club'.

Entries for the Annual Carnival were good and there was keen competition for places in the I-V team, but the sports were put back a little, thanks to the weather. A new event was the flag race held between faculty teams, a precursor of later, more expanded, interfaculty competition.

Unfortunately neither Fitzhardinge nor Waddell went to Melbourne for I-V, where the rejuvenated local club took out the honours for the first time since 1904. Sydney's run had ended. The standard was high but our, young team was not disgraced. Marden, our old hand, took out the mile, while W. F. Pattinson won the half. W. Rofe (1908 G.P.S. record 5 ft. 7 in.) came close in the High Jump and B. C. Pockley's 21 ft. 11 in. wasn't far behind the record broad jump of 22 ft. 1-½ in. by J. L. Davis of Melbourne.

Two important changes took place in this year. Professor Anderson's long run as President ended, his place being taken for the year by another strong staff supporter, Professor David, who had just returned from the Antarctic in a blaze of publicity which perhaps partly accounted for his election. The second change, possibly related to the first, was the establishing of the Club Captaincy, a position which continues to the present. B. R. French, a club stalwart for the past five or six years, had the honour of being first Captain. Curiously enough, creation of this new position merited no special mention in the reports of the day. Neither does the setting up of an Executive committee consisting of the Club Captain, Secretary and Treasurer in addition to the General Committee of the Club gain comment. The executive idea does not seem to have survived long in the club.

In 1908, perhaps, in response to a humorous letter from 'Willm Bloggins' in the July issue of 'Hermes' offering himself for the 'Purfessorship of the nobl hart of self-defens' the athletic club sponsored the first boxing championships at the Oval.

This event was apparently not reviewed by the press but the second gave 'a thrill of adventure to Michaelmas Term 1909' and 'Hermes' (Dec. 1909) filled half a page with

extravagant descriptions of the defeat of Joe, Champion heavy-weight, the cat-like ferocity and sinuous panther movements of 'Chook' the middle-weight, and 'Mac' the heavy weight who 'worked his arms like the fans of a windmill'. The Athletic Club Annual report commented more soberly that the Tournament had been a greater success than the original event, perhaps because a proper floor had been laid for the occasion.

During 1909 the Oval races proved popular but once again open events were not well patronized by club members (many of whom were competing in other University Sports).

#### 1910

1910 continued the pattern of the previous year, with an enthusiastic preparation for Inter-Varsity by trial competitions at the oval which 'provided keen racing and good finishes for good crowds of spectators'. It was thought that with several new men we had 'a good chance of winning back the Championship, which we lost [last] year to Melbourne although the visiting teams include many cracks in the athletic world of the cities of Business and Culture'.

Unfortunately 'our representatives hardly came up to expectations' Sydney winning only one event—the high jump. J. L. Davis won 4 events and in a specially arranged race on the second day broke his own world record in the 440 hurdles, having set a new time of 15-4-5 sec. for the I-V 120 yards event the previous day. This equalled the Australasian record. The Sydney Morning Herald commented that 'the course was afterwards measured, and it exceeded the 120 yards by a few inches'.

Backhouse of Melbourne won the 880 yards, equalling the record time with H. S. MacNeill of Sydney close behind. That was the story of the day, Lamrock being runner-up in the hurdles, Southee close in the long jump, and Arnold missing by 1-½ yards in the mile, behind G. M. Sproule of Melbourne in 4 min. 42-½ sec. Our sole winner was the reliable Rofe who cleared 5 ft. 6 in.

The well-organized championships [our 26th] contained the old stalwarts Coombes and Jones as officials, among whom are listed two 'dressing-room stewards'. [gone are the elegant days!], One of these, J. R. Hooton, became Rhodes Scholar for 1910.

The Sydney Morning Herald gives several paragraphs to the entertainment offered the visiting athletes (plus Melbourne's hockey team) at Aaron's Exchange Hotel. Professor David proposed the health of the visitors and commented on the healthy rivalry of the teams, which was responded to by various visitors. Richard Coombes got another chance to stress the influence university men could have in amateur sport, and that 'their name had always

been a byword for straight dealing', and 'it was refreshing to find one body of men who plumped straight for amateurism, who wouldn't consider the professional side for a moment'. H. J. R. Clayton and J. B. Lane 'spoke in a similar vein'.

The Sydney Morning Herald gave good coverage to the Friday sports when the Inter-College Championships was being decided on the oval. Andrews win was over-shadowed by Davis' 440 yards hurdles event (a handicap) in which he ran 57-1/5 secs. (his previous best 57-3/5) after a poor start, ending ten yards behind the limit man. Mr. Chislett, the Caretaker, had the ground specially prepared for this event, and the track being measured it was found to be 441 yards in length. Davis was 'loudly cheered' for his new record. The reporter noted that 'Davis, in getting over the hurdles, took a clean, broad jump, which was much admired'.

Trinity Term 1910 provided more than the usual activity. The visiting American Universities (Rugby) Football team accepted a challenge from the Club which proved an interesting occasion. As 'Hermes' wrote 'they wiped the floor with us in the field games', but Sydney was too strong in the flat events and took out the meeting by a small margin. The state 120 yards Hurdles Championship was part of the programme, and the local boy, J. C. Lamrock, managed to keep his nose ahead of the American E. Kern.

The boxing tournament was moved forward to July, with very satisfactory results, there being enough entries for 3 days of competition. 'The tournament was a success from every standpoint. The standard of skill in boxing has greatly increased during the past two years, and is now on a very high level'. About the same month and for the first time since 1906 the club entered a team in the cross-country championships, containing 'all the best long distance runners at the 'Varsity'. Although the club was optimistic about its chances the team was able to take only 4th place in the B division in which 140 competed, 60 runners competing in A grade in an event judged the best on record in the 20 years' history of the competition.

Later in the year G. P. Arnold ran 3rd in the State 3 miles Championship, while Pattinson, McNeil and Southee won handicaps from back marks.

The year ended with the holding of the first Dunn Shield at Erskineville Oval and the club entered what appeared to be 'a formidable team . . . especially strong in middle distances, hurdles and jumps' with Pattinson (880, 440H, 440), McNeil (440), Lamrock (120H), Pockley (BJ), Southee (BJ, HSJ), and Murphy (SP) all with good chances. However, the December syndrome ('on account of the final exams') seems to have taken its toll, and South Sydney ended an easy winner of the contest (on two Saturdays), S.U.A.C. coming in 3rd behind East Sydney. Brodsky (1939) attributed the beginning of the Dunn Shield competition to the earlier challenge matches held by S.U.A.C. though there is little direct evidence of this.

1911 started off as a quiet year. The 'Sydney Mail' felt that there was 'nothing really brilliant in the events' at the University Championships, with the exception of the running of W. F. Pattinson 'who is at present the 440 and 880 yards State Champion'. Pattinson also proved himself a sprinter beating the favoured E. A. Southee in the 100 yards in 10.8, and winning the quarter and half mile events. For gaining most points Pattinson received the title 'Champion Athlete' for the year. Only two starters fronted up for the mile championship, McNeil beating Arnold in 4.45.2 and 'the energetic hon. secretary' W. J. Rofe won the high jump. Thirty-four started in the open mile handicap, 21 being University entrants, but a Newtown harrier, W. Warburton, took out this event. The enigmatic Flag race was again in evidence, won this year by a team from Science.

Several days later Pattinson attempted to break R. G. Waddy's 3/4 mile State record of 3.23.3 in a handicap, but failed by .5 sec, coming second to Henderson. The 'Sydney Mail' pointed out scathingly that he would not have been eligible to hold the record, as officials did not provide him with a tape to break! Apparently the same thing had happened several years before, when two runners beat

Programme of sports carnival N.Z. Varsity Football Team, June 29, 1911.

| OFFICIALS: ←→  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Worsted-Watchers:                                      |                                   |
| PROFESSOR POLLOCK                                      | B. R. FRENCH                      |
| F. H. MAREOWN  | H. J. R. CLAYTON                  |
| J. G. MACRAE   | F. GOEN                           |
| Traffic Inspectors:                                    |                                   |
| GINGER BYRNE (What makes the darkey back?)             |                                   |
| Chief Criers:  |                                   |
| H. J. R. CLAYTON (The Living Gramophone).              |                                   |
| Trigger Touchers:                                      |                                   |
| FANDANGO FISHER (The Nigger's Delight).                |                                   |
| Dead Heads:  |                                   |
| W. Mc L. PITY (The after-dinner Speaker).              |                                   |
| TINY MATH  | K. SOMERBID STREET.               |
| J. AYLOE (The Black Snake)                             | STAGE MANAGER STACK.              |
| V. M. COPPLESON (The Nuggetty Nigger).                 |                                   |
| DAUN: R. CUNNINGHAM                                    | JACK MASSIE (The General Gunn).   |
| PANBY HOCALLEY   | H. STEWART UTZ (The Bald Badger). |
| STEP-DANCER BOHE (Long Lean, and Lushery).             |                                   |
| J. B. METCALFE (The College Cupid).                    |                                   |
| N. W. BROUGHTON (Baby Bias)                            |                                   |
| Money Muddlers:  |                                   |
| L. J. REYNOLDS (The Gory Goal-Kicker).                 |                                   |
| And last but not least those performing pre-positions: |                                   |
| LAWYER LLOYD, the Luscious Lover,                      |                                   |
| and Eugene ELSIE TERREY.                               |                                   |

| Programme of Absurdities |  |      |
|--------------------------|--|------|
| 1.                       | 75 yards Handicap—Heats                  | 2.15 |
| 2.                       | Throwing at the Wicket                   | 2.25 |
| 3.                       | Ladies' Race                             | 2.40 |
| 4.                       | Hockey Match                             | 2.45 |
| 5.                       | Final of 75 yards Handicap               | 3.15 |
| 6.                       | Kicking the Football                     | 3.25 |
| 7.                       | Pillow Fighting on a Spar                | 3.45 |
| INTERVAL                 |  |      |
| 8.                       | Three-legged Race                        | 4.10 |
| 9.                       | Inter-Varsity Tug-o'-War. Sydney v. N.Z. | 4.20 |
| 10.                      | Novelty Race                             | 4.30 |
| 11.                      | Football Match                           | 4.45 |

Waddy's time at Rushcutters Bay Oval but were not awarded the record.

An interesting insight on equipment availability is given by the exchange between the secretaries of S.U.A.C. and East Sydney arranging for the loan of the latter club's hammer head for the University Championships.

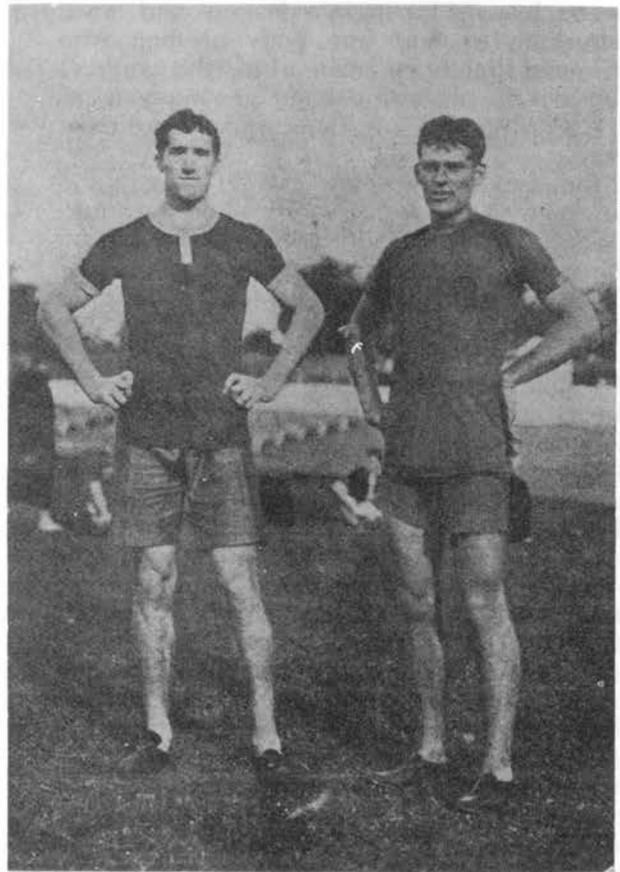
The year was not enlivened by Intervarsity in Adelaide which was won convincingly by Melbourne on a very wet track and under windy conditions. Sydney managed to win only the mile (H. S. MacNeil 4.41) and high jump (W. J. F. Rofe 5 ft. 4-¼ in.) and lamented the absence of Pattinson. J. L. Davis of Melbourne continued his top performances, including a record 22 ft. 4-½ in. broad jump. Even the Boxing Tournament was a disappointment in the paucity of entries, and the failure of some entrants to compete. But a bright note was the introduction of wrestling whose 'material was sufficiently promising to indicate that this branch of sport will eventually reach a high standard'. Pattinson, 9 stone 7 lbs, was the only runner to compete and 'by means of methods more strenuous than scientific he secured a fall' but he did not survive the first round of the heats. Mr. Dave Smith helped the proceedings by giving an exhibition of both boxing and wrestling.

A light-hearted note was struck by the Sports Carnival held on June 29 during the visit of the New Zealand 'Varsity Football Team. A copy of the programme preserved in the Mitchell Library lists the officials in a rather facetious way, and the information about events is little better. The 75 yards handicap was probably the only 'serious' event, though no doubt the tug-of-war was a tense struggle.

While not being able to field a cross-country team in August because of exams the Club put



Vice-Regal patronage was the usual thing at Intervarsity in earlier days.



Possibly C. P. Stewart & C. W. Rowe, 1907 vintage.

up a creditable performance in the Dunn Shield coming in second. 'The weakness of the team lay in the Field Games and Walks, which branch of athletics has not been very strongly supported at the University in the past'. Pattinson won the 440, MacNeil the 880, Southee the Broadjump and S. R. Richardson the Pole vault, while MacNeil was second in the mile, Southee second in HSJ, Rofe second in HJ, G. P. Arnold third in the mile and R. J. Taylor third in the 440. MacNeil also won the state ¾ mile championship in record time.

The Club was sorry during the year to farewell W. B. Alexander, former hon. sec. of the N.S.W. AAA who went to England for several years. He had helped the Club in numerous ways.

Pattinson and Southee represented the State in the Australasian Championships held in New Zealand in December, Southee winning the broad jump with 22 ft. 1-½ in. and bringing the Club's year to a fitting conclusion.

Sir George Le Hunte, Governor of South Australia and his entourage check the point score at the Adelaide I-V 1908.

## CHAPTER 8

### OF MUSCLES AND MEN

From the outset 1912 promised to be a good year, some enthusiastic new faces appearing in the freshers' ranks 'who should make names for themselves in the near future' although there were none who possessed 'an all schools record'. H. S. MacNeil was the only major loss, but a significant gain was C. B. Cockett who won an Oval one mile walk race from scratch in 8 min 3 sec. The Club had been weak in walking and field games as previously noted, and the committee was endeavouring to strengthen them. Richard Coombes and W. H. Savigny were appointed honorary coaches to the Club during the year, and apparently took their positions seriously.

While A. T. Roberts gained the title of 'All-round Champion' at the annual sports, he did not figure largely in other events during the year. Pattinson ran close to form in October, coming second in the State 440, while Southee and Cockett later took State titles in the broad jump and mile walk respectively. Southee twice cleared more than 23 ft. in the Dunn Shield competition in November, in which the Club ran third behind South Sydney and East Sydney in the absence of J. Lamrock (hurdler), G. Arnold and S. Henderson.

Intersarsity was held in Melbourne and the less said the better. For the first time Sydney dropped to third place behind Adelaide, gaining only two points with second places in the 880 (S. H. Henderson) and mile (G. P. Arnold), the latter being run in a slow 4.52.5. I. B. Pender of Adelaide proved a formidable competitor against J. L. Davis with some close seconds, and he won out in the 120 hurdles in 15.7, a new I-V and Victorian record. L. H. Kelly of Melbourne also established an I-V record with 5 ft. 9-¼ in. in the high jump.

No doubt a topic of conversation at the 1912 I-V was Walter Burley Griffin's winning town plan for Canberra, just then published. Perhaps some after-dinner wit referred with mirth to the site set aside for a University (the present location of ANU) and envisaged an exciting future Inter-varsity meet at the Canberra 'City Stadium' (venue of the 1977 Pacific Games), followed by a jolly night at Burley Griffin's 'Casino'. The last named proposal did not eventuate. It was to be built on the site of the present War Memorial.

A meeting between delegates of the three clubs agreed to include among I-V events the 220 yards, shot putt and hammer, and agreed also that I-V boxing should be held concurrently with (but not in association with) athletics.

#### 1913

The new events were duly incorporated in the 1913 I-V meeting, which saw 4 teams competing for the first time since 1906,

Queensland being represented by 2 competitors. 'Hermes' wrote that 'Our friend Mercury was only partly successful in preventing Jove from spoiling not only our boxing championships but the Sports Meeting also'. In other words May was a very wet month.

The boxing was put off a day and there were few entries, but the material was good, the men being fit. Garvan (feather), Waldron (middle) and Massie (heavy) each took the titles for the third time, but there were good opponents, and Coppelson won the welterweight division.

Towards the end of May the first I-V Boxing Contest took place between Sydney and Melbourne teams at the Sydney Railway Institute. Adelaide had also been enthusiastic about sending 6 boxers but eventually they were pulled out, although their medical certificates had been forwarded. Sydney won after some hard battles, except for Hall's K. O. in 45 secs and Massie who had a walk-over. He had won the State Championship shortly before, and the word had apparently gone abroad.

Massie boxed three display rounds at the contest with Harold Hardwick, Amateur Heavyweight Champion of the British Empire. 'Hermes' was critical of the Sydney press which had unduly built up Massie as a 'white hope' and then criticised him because he was not up to the visitor's class.

At the time of the contest it was recommended that boxing be separated from athletics in each University but the attempt to form a boxing club at Sydney in 1913 failed.

For a month or so before the I-V athletics there was some uncertainty whether Adelaide would be represented, as the Victorian A.A.A. was preparing to disqualify all South Australian athletes and was pressing the N.S.W. Association to do likewise. Adelaide U.A.C. was apparently blamed by the Victorians for much of the apathy about athletics in South Australia. However the V.A.A.A. Council decided to postpone action for a few weeks, and then a meeting in Adelaide at the end of April formed, or revived, an athletic association and the problem faded.

The Melbourne team also had a problem about attending, but it was of a different nature. Several weeks before I-V, L. H. Kelly, the Melbourne secretary, wrote to his counterpart, M. G. Sutton in Sydney 'the Hotel Mansion in view of the cricket club's enjoyment has refused us accommodation (sic), and I now await news from the Metropole. I presume they are certain to take us on sufferance or else we shall be in a bad way.' Apparently they did. A practical organisational note is struck by the letter two days before the carnival from the secretary of the S.C.G.

inviting the club to send 'your cart for the hurdles and return them as soon as possible'.

The Intersarsity competition (Wednesday May 28) formed the first day of the planned annual sports meeting. 'Despite the sodden track and the fine drizzle that fell without ceasing, the meeting was not unenjoyable. Melbourne won again as expected, but by an unexpectedly narrow margin'. A. D. Ellis (M), 100 and 220 Victorian champion and record holder over 300 yards (32 secs), won the 100 followed by Pender (A) and Foggan (Q). 'Our men (Sutton and Kortum in that order) formed the rearguard, a constant habit with our sprinters lately'.

Ellis lost to L. H. Kelly (M) in the 220. Kelly, the Victorian 440 champion, also won that event. Kelly was certainly versatile, also winning the high jump and equalling his record 1912 leap of 5 ft. 9-¼ in. At the time he was Australasian champion and record holder (6 ft. 1-3/16 in). However he wasn't good enough to take out the new shot put event, which Sydney's heavyweight Jack Massie won, heaving the 16 lb mass 33 ft. 9 in. Massie was a close runner-up in the hammer with 83 ft. 1 in. Pender, as predicted, 'streaked away' (16.61) with the 120 yards hurdles. This event drew comment because it 'was run off in one heat, with six flights of hurdles'. (Thanks to the S.C.G.).

Sydney had an easy win in the mile (S. H. Henderson) and W. J. F. Rofe 'who seems to jump better on a wet day than a fine one' dead-heated for second with 5 ft. 8-¼ in., a quarter-inch below his best (also set on a wet day). H. B. Taylor surprised by winning the 880 yards easily for the home team, and coming in a good second in the 440. Apparently Taylor's eligibility was questioned as he was studying for a D.Sc., and he was later ruled ineligible by the Sports' Union. The club however protested and sought to have the rule amended so that Taylor's eligibility could be made retrospective. Taylor's case was examined by the Sports' Unions of the other Universities, and Adelaide and Melbourne felt that he should be declared eligible and that the Sydney rules should be altered if necessary.

'In the broad jump everyone had looked forward to a great contest between Davis and Southee; and Chislett, at the instance of Mr. R. Coombes, had prepared a splendid take-off and pit. Davis, by his absence lost not only the title but his own Inter-varsity record of 22 ft. 4-¼ in., put up in Adelaide two years ago, for Southee, getting as much pace as he could out of the sodden ground and striking the board to perfection, registered the excellent leap of 22 ft. 6 in. Sutton secured second place with 20 ft. 7-½ in, the very first jump of the series and a good performance for a second string'. (Southee left Sydney shortly after to take up a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford). Sydney's 11-½ points against 14-½ for Melbourne was a great improvement on past years and augured well for the future.

The success of the introduction of new events in 1913 led to the proposal of an additional event at I-V— the mile walk. Although agreed on at the I-V conference, the motion was apparently not ratified by Adelaide and seems to have lapsed. An attempt was also made to produce a standard design for prize medals [2 guineas value for 1st in gold, 1 guinea value (silver) for second]. Failing agreement between the 4 universities, each was to stick to its own design.

The wet conditions for I-V continued and by Friday May 30, the day set for inter-collegiate 'the oval presented the appearance of a lake', and these sports were postponed. The club president, Nigel Barker, hoped they might be combined with a general spring meeting.

One idea for the proposed spring meeting was an Inter-Faculty meeting, Arts v. Law v. Science (+ Med I) v. Jun. Med (II & III) v. Sen. Med (IV & V). 'Such a meeting as this seems to me to be necessary in a university which has, instead of supplying the crying need for new colleges, decided to make the best of 'tosher' existence by erecting the Union Building'. At this time the student body numbered about 1,400 and the teaching staff 110, a far cry from the earliest days of the club, and a good faculty competition might have eventuated.

Inter-collegiate came off well on November 6 with only moderate times by the top names. Rofe won the high jump 'with such ease at 5 ft. 6 in. that one would have liked to have seen him extended to his best effort. H. L. St. Vincent Welch (remember him back in 1908?) showed a glimpse of his old form in clearing 5 ft. 5 in. N. G. Sutton beat R. B. Minnett (a former school champion), and L. A. Kortum in the 100, running into a strong headwind. Sutton won the broad jump and it was commented if he 'can only master the knack of holding his feet up when in the air he should be a worthy successor to E. A. Southee'.

Massie, after a 3rd in the high jump, took out the hurdles in 'his best time up to date (17.2) in spite of the wind', and the most meritorious performance of the day was adjudged to be the mile win by C. R. Furner a freshman, in 4.52.2. It was felt that 'with a little experience in the company of the first-flighters he will develop into something out of the common'. A final note on the meeting tells us 'there was a good attendance of mothers and wives, and Louis' band played courageously and unmelodiously throughout the afternoon'.

There had not been much interest by club athletes during the year in outside events and the annual report complains of the minor part played by the club in New South Wales' athletics. However, the club accepted a challenge by the East Sydney A. C. which took place at the Sports Ground 'by electric light' on Thursday evening, November 20. 'Hermes' wrote beforehand 'it is hoped that a good attendance will be seen at the Sports Ground to encourage the efforts of our reps. They may need it. On paper it does not appear likely that

we will win many events—but there is plenty of budding talent available, and Easts may yet receive a shock, as they have done in the past. Perhaps if President Nigel Barker had stipulated for the inclusion of a few more events, such as catching the greasy pig, pushing the poached egg, and a three-quarter mile ragtime, we might have been favourites for the contest’.

There were in fact nine standard events (100, 440, 880, mile, running high and broad jumps, 16 lb shot, mile walk and pole vault) of which we managed to win 2. Our total of 18-½ points was well behind East’s 41-½. Whether discouraged by this loss or by ‘examitis,’ the club

The I-V Boxing had to be abandoned because three of the Sydney reps were unable at the last minute, for various reasons, to attend. Even the home sports meeting was a disappointment; entries were poor for both University and Inter-Collegiate, and despite beautiful weather “with a slight nip in the air to brace up athletes for their best efforts . . . times were not up to the standard of some few years ago and the ‘slump in Varsity athletics’, as it is often referred to by the press, seems only too true.” One enlivening item was the introduction of an interfaculty tug-of-war for a cup presented jointly by Professors Pollock and Douglas Stewart.



At last a group with real names! The 1912 I-V team: C.O. Donovan, J.R. Young, S.H. Henderson, G.P. Arnold, R.J. Massie, A.T. Roberts, B.M. Beith, H.B. Taylor. Most of the singlets bear the University colour patch. Shorts are definitely shorter.

was not represented in the Dunn Shield Competition.

Although the 1914 season started well with the Lent races at the oval quite popular, and a gratifying number of entries in the boxing, the club seems to have been suffering a real slump. There was a disappointing ‘unwillingness of some members . . . to visit Adelaide for the Annual Contest’ even when they could easily afford it, and the club contrasted notably with other sports in this respect.

In the event Sydney ran a poor third (4 points), while the home team, led by the redoubtable Ian Pender, notched its first win with 18 points, to beat Kelly and the rest of the Melbourne gang. Sydney had the slight compensation of coming in ahead of Queensland. Furner lived up to the promise he had shown by winning the mile and just beating G. A. Street (S) who also ran 2nd in the 880, a thin effort indeed after the previous year’s results.

‘Hermes’ noted that there were several performers of great promise who with sufficient training and experience would become first-class athletes, but ‘in the absence of specialisation and the scientific training of the American Universities’ they were likely to continue only as ‘fair-performers’. Few of the University athletes were interested in the open events run by the N.S.W.A.A.A., continued this lament, and once the Annual Championships were over the ‘athletes pro tem’ went back to their team games. The same pattern applied in all the Australian Universities, but, at the moment, the southerners were superior. The year was not enlivened by the death of the club patron, Sir Norman MacLaurin.

An appeal to ‘all our best men’ to train assiduously and be available for the Dunn Shield was made in August with the comment that ‘a good showing would, we may be sure, delight many supporters and followers of the University Athletic Club, who at present

deplore its low state'. We did not compete, however.

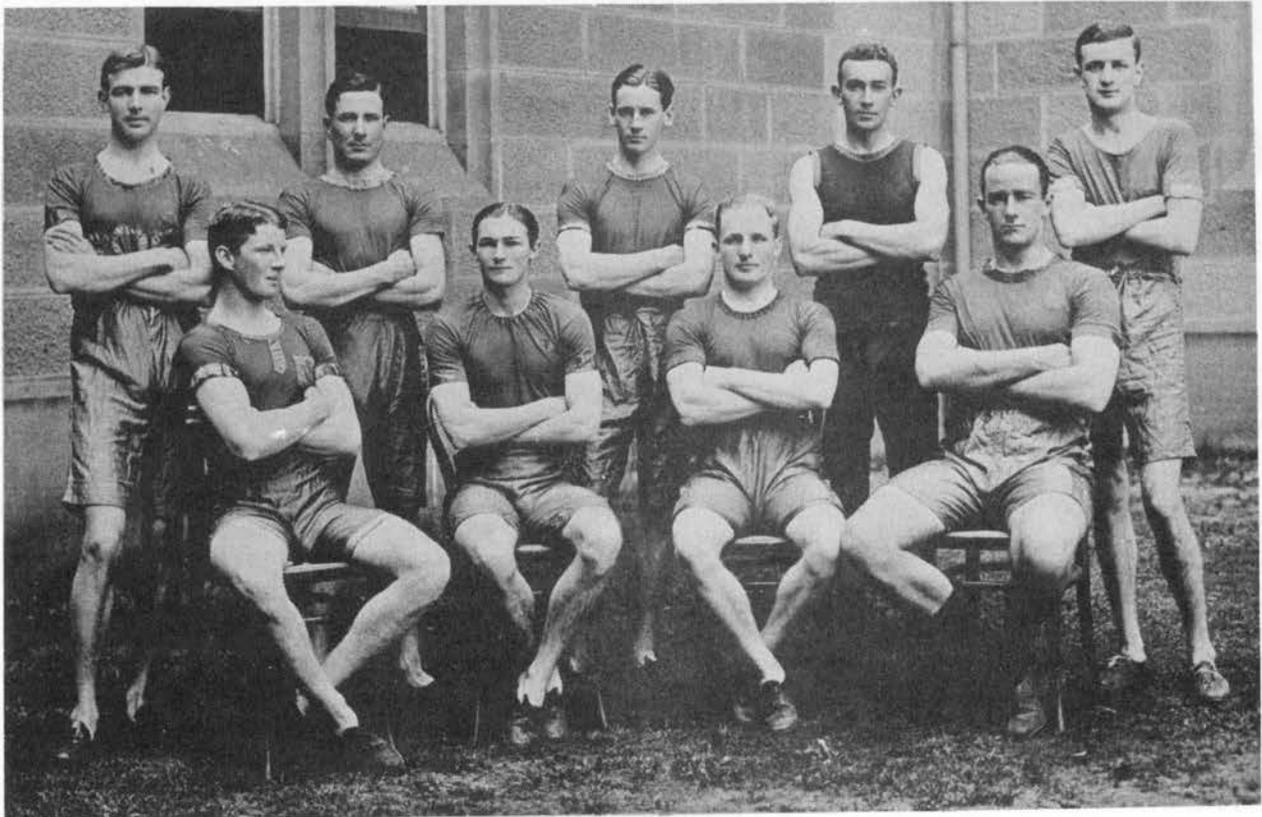
Exams apart, the dark cloud of enmity and suspicion in Europe had finally broken open, and Britain and her allies were already plunged into war. Australia's Sons of Empire were not slow to join the patriots of other lands. There would soon be some point in erecting a war memorial in Australia's embryo capital city. By a curious paradox the departure of many club members to support a 'homeland' most had never seen, was the major step in the final bonding together of the Australian states. A physical union was achieved where previously there had only been a legal document.



Professor Right-Cross (addressing Fistical Science students): 'Now, gentlemen, if one of you will step up on the platform I'll conclude my lecture with a demonstration of the grace and beauty of a straight left'.  
Cartoon inspired by Nigel Barker's prediction that boxing classes were likely in Universities of the future.

The 1913 I-V team against a background of the University buildings. H.B. Taylor has bared the shoulders!

Identified standing: R. M. Brierley, T. K. Poltz, F. W. M. Busby, H. B. Taylor, W. J. F. Rofe; Sitting: J. A. Massie (left end).



## CHAPTER 9

### THE WAR YEARS (1914-1918)

The Great War played havoc with the club's activities, as it did with all walks of life. Many of the club's graduate members (and not a few undergraduates) joined the armed forces in the atmosphere of patriotic fervour which prevailed, and even former president, Professor David, then aged 58, managed to enlist in 1916 and later underwent an arduous stint of active service in France.

The club was shocked, however, by the loss of B. C. A. Pockley of the medical corps, a fine athlete and former treasurer, at Herbertshone, New Britain on 11 September, 1914. He was, in fact, the first member of the Australian forces to die on active service. H. S. R. Clayton, B. R. French, A. T. Roberts, A. B. Doyle, R. J. A. Massie, G. A. Street, J. Henderson, J. A. Schofield and C. B. K. Judge were among those who served.

Most organised sport ceased during 1915. Everyone seemed to feel it would be unpatriotic to indulge in frivolous activities and the Intervarsity sports were abandoned, after some indecision, for the duration of the war, as was the award of blues.

There was some chagrin amongst University sportsmen in 1915 when the Sports Union leased the Oval for two years to the Soccer Association. This outside body apparently intended to promote professional football, charging for entry. Something went wrong with its plans — probably a shortage of manpower — and early in 1916 the association approached the Sports' Union again with a proposal to pass over its contract to the Sydney Rugby League organisation.

The Sports' Union defended its original action by pointing out to the student body that by its constitution it was responsible for the costs in maintaining the Oval. The 'normal' income derived from the various University clubs and colleges which used the Oval had diminished with the general atmosphere of austerity, and a longlease seemed a good way out of the dilemma. The University authorities, however, seem to have been embarrassed by the prospect of noisy, fun-loving sports' fans enjoying their idle hours on the campus, and the Senate agreed to take over funding of the Oval maintenance in return for cancellation of the lease agreement.

The Club moved along quietly in tune with the times and its 30th [31 st.] Sports Carnival, organised by Secretary, L. A. Kortum, took place as usual towards the end of May in 1915. Standards were not high and there was little carnival atmosphere, the metropolitan band, which had added a spot of melody to the 1914 sports, being absent. The results are but briefly stated in the local press. These bare bones of reporting are a far cry from the fleshy rhetoric of earlier years.

Early in the year, Kortum was somewhat embarrassed to receive a letter from the Secretary to Sir W. M. Cullen, the Chancellor. Kortum had written informing Sir William of his election as Club President. The Secretary answered 'I presume you mean Patron'. Kortum and K. M. Garrett kept up the good work again in 1916 and there were well-contested Oval races in Lent Term. The new faces such as V. H. Treatt, J. H. Leadley and H. G. D. Cookson added some zest to the efforts of Sutton, Kortum and Furner and others from the pre-war period. However, the annual championships saw a 'very meagre attendance' of participants only, and 'Hermes' hoped that when the war was over the Club would get 'the whole-hearted support of the entire University'. The meeting got no mention in the local press, perhaps because of the rather private nature of the proceedings, but F. D. Armstrong, 'not a wowser', writing in the S.M.H. the same day, probably echoed much public feeling with his protest about 'sport as usual' while the country's heroes were dying for the cause. The club has reached a somewhat predictable low point in its history.

By 1917 there was a general turn towards normal activities as the war dragged on in Europe and the Middle East. Its end seemed far off though there was a swing in favour of Britain and its allies. Club Lent Term activities proceeded with 'keen interest', excellent fields and high standards, followed by a good carnival on 23 May when Leadley, Cookson, K. B. Fraser, R. Honner and J. and K. Harbison were among the action. Honner's 21 ft. 6 in. broad jump showed promise of things to come.

Interest was maintained later in the year by some members, particularly Fraser, J Flattery (880) and W. A. McLaren who competed in the October 8-Hour Day Sports. Fraser distinguished himself by a win in the 120 yards handicap from 9 yards behind scratch. Boxing was also scheduled for November, but depended on there being 20 or more entrants.

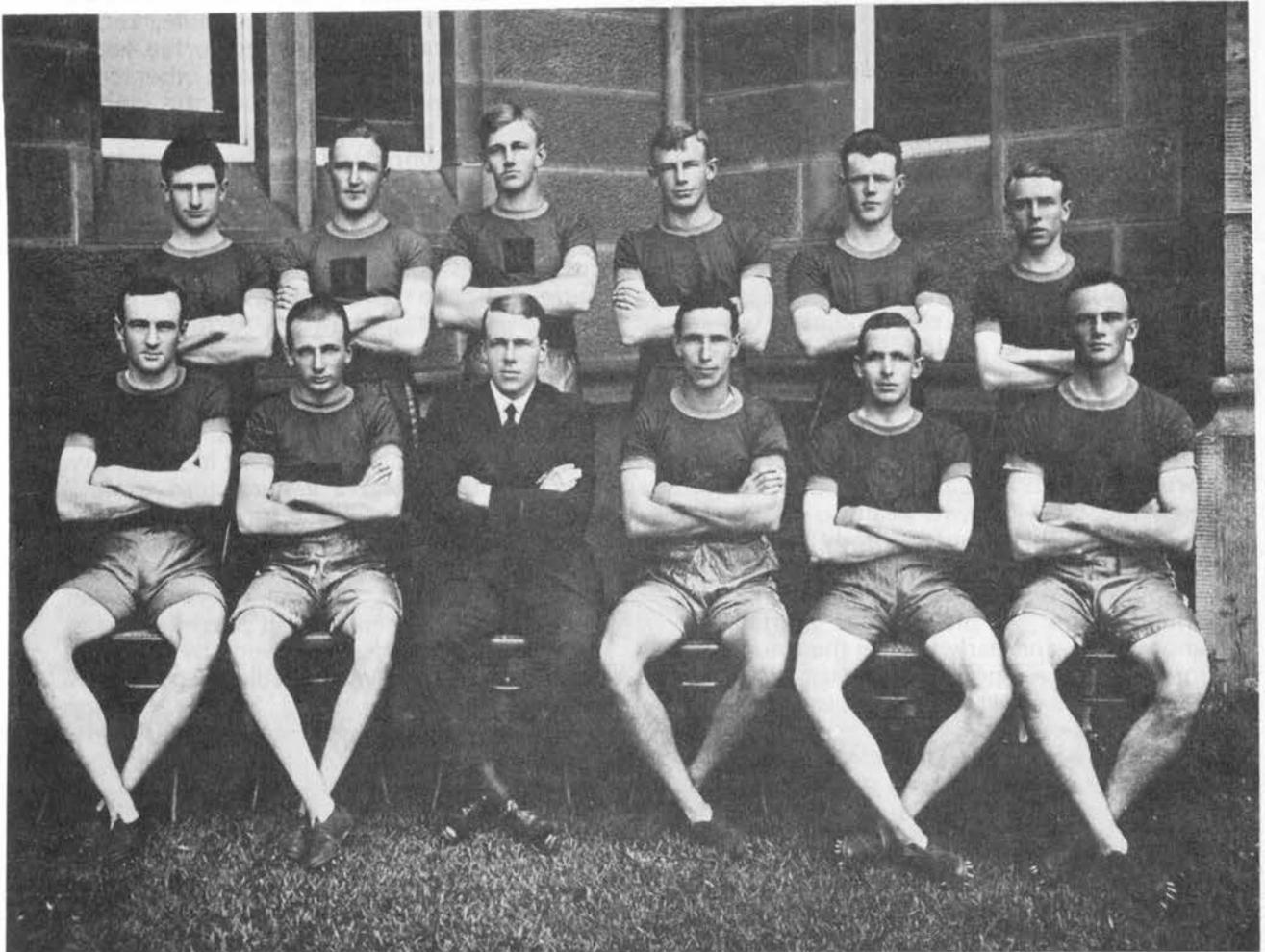
'Hermes', for once identifiable in the form of Club Secretary, W.C.B. Harvey, felt that an upswing had begun as the year was the Club's most successful since the war began, 'both in the number of competitors and the quality'. There was considerable enthusiasm and some 'very promising athletes, notably Fraser, Leadley, Honner, Flattery and Harbison, mostly freshmen, who should all be prominent during the next few years'. Harvey urged more men to become active next year. There were 'many GPS athletes of note who haven't yet tried their wings on the oval'.

The 1918 meeting continued the rising standard of 1917, and some 300 people turned up to see the action. Honner took the honours

with a 22 ft. 0-½ in broad jump. In tune with the times, funds from the tearoom were to be put to the fund for comforts for troops abroad. Absentees were already returning from active service. E. A. Southee told how he had run second in the 100 m at a sports day at Villa Umberto and was one of the winning team to which the King of Italy presented a cup. However, Dr. Garrett 'our popular president' was undertaking 'the greatest training of all [probably the Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting School at Liverpool, N.S.W.] and

expected to get his marching orders any day, while Leadley and Holcombe were anticipating service, having joined the University Company. About the same time Rev. F. T. Perkins moved from The Armidale School to become Headmaster of Cranbrook.

Meanwhile Secretary Cookson was urging more students to come to Oval handicaps, and the Boxing Contests were on as usual. Soon the war was over and the long weary struggle quickly became a memory, and a brief interval in the story of S.U.A.C.



Team members had grown by 1919. Most members of the successful I-V team wear the colour patch centred.

Standing: V. H. Treatt, A. A. Heath, O. Nothling, H. C. Hingst, H. Houston, V. R. Clifton. Sitting: R. S. Holcombe, R. J. Honner, C. R. Furner (Pres.), K. B. Fraser (Capt.), W. Hutton, J. K. Harbison.

## CHAPTER 10

### RETURN TO FORM

While the immediate post-war years were to be exciting ones for the club, 1919 didn't get off to a good start. The nation was struck down by an influenza epidemic and Lent Term activities were abandoned, the usual Oval handicaps being held in Trinity Term. The Annual Sports, which had been held in May since 1892 (1894, 1908 and 1909 excepted) were postponed to 15 October. They were a great success and were enthusiastically reviewed.

Leadley, Fraser and Hutton took the places in the 100, but Hutton was too strong in the longer sprints. Treatt again won the 880 and Holcombe the mile. Honner's 22 ft. 6 in. broad jump was one of the highlights, and Nothling's 34 ft. 9 in. in the last shot wasn't too bad. R. G. Stanley took the Pole Vault (9 ft. 6 in) by 3 in. from a newcomer, K. Harbison, who succeeded in winning the high jump. Fraser was favourite in the hurdles final, having run the fastest heat. However he fell at the last hurdle and was only able to come in third behind A. A. Heath and Harbison.

Sydney sent a strong team to Melbourne in October to take up the I-V struggle again. It was back to old times with only the two teams participating. The only physical link with the 1914 I-V was the presence of Ian Pender, now moved to Melbourne and named Captain of M.U.A.C. By a curious coincidence, both Pender and Leadley, the Sydney captain, were unable to run because of strained legs.

Fraser starred with a win in the 100 yards (although originally he was not nominated for this event), and seconds in the hurdles and broad jump, while O. Nothling broke Jack Massie's shot record with a toss of 37 ft. One of Melbourne's stars was Tom Dodds, hammer thrower, who was to be a tower of strength for many years to come. Melbourne's President at the time was Sir Baldwin Spencer, and the referee for the Carnival was Dr. Wilfred Kent Hughs, an Olympic representative in Antwerp.

As in the past, the visitors were overwhelmed by the hometown hospitality, but the main purpose of the visit was not forgotten — to take the I-V championship back to Sydney. This they did, giving Sydney its first win since 1908 and its only win in Melbourne since 1906. The result depended on the final race — a rerun of the 220 yards, in which Sydney's W. Hutton took 2nd place instead of the 3rd he had run in the original event. The rerun was ordered after a world record time was apparently established in the first run, subsequent measurement showing that the track was 19 yards short!

1919 saw the reintroduction of Blues which were awarded to Fraser, Honner, Treatt, Nothling, Hutton, R. S. Holcombe and J. K. Harbison. The name J. K. Harbison introduces a problem in checking results about this time, as J. K. had a younger brother, V. R., both at St. Andrews, and both of nearly equal skill in the high jump and

pole vault. K. or R. Harbison often appear in results and probably refer to the above named. To make matters worse, H. W. Harbison of Melbourne, a cousin, was active at the same time, and was also a high jumper. The first confusion enters in 1919 when H. W. (Melb) and J. K. deadheaded with 5 ft. 7 in.

Boxing continued to hold its place in the Club's calendar, with the annual carnival late in October, and 'some exciting contests were witnessed'. Following the contests classes were instituted under the guidance of Mr. Jenkins. In 1919 the Intercollegiate sports also resumed after the four year break, and were held just a few days before the University Championships. Some of the times in these sports were slightly better than those of the Championships. Wesley competed for the first time, coming in second to Andrews.

In the Dunn Shield we were runners up to East Sydney, our members winning four championships. Nothling, a field games expert, established a javelin record during this competition.

The 1920 season was regarded by Club members as one of the most successful ever, although it started with few entries in the Lent Term handicaps. The Intercollegiate meeting on 19th May (the day being bright and clear with a slight breeze against the sprints) was used as the basis for selecting an I-V team and the standard was generally good. Hutton won the 100 by 6 inches from Fraser, with Honner a similar distance back in 3rd place. 'The 880 was a great battle between Treatt [Pauls] and Clifton (Wesley). Clifton had a commanding lead half-way round the last lap. Both started their sprint together, and in a magnificent finish Treatt just got home by a foot'.

Leadley did not compete at Intercollegiate, but joined the other stalwarts Fraser, Hutton, Honner, Treatt, Tunley, Nothling and the Harbison's in the Sydney team.

As in the old days, intervarsity, the first at Sydney since 1913, took over the Championship day at the Oval. Here, is secretary Fraser's story:

Mr. Nigel Barker, Dr. Granville Waddy, Mr. Sam. Wooller, Mr. Coombes, and Mr. Ferguson rendered great assistance to the team, giving up a lot of their time by coming down to the Oval and being always ready to impart sound advice during training operations. Indeed, it was mainly owing to the untiring efforts of these our coaches, that every man in the team stripped fit for his event, and we take this opportunity of tendering them our sincerest thanks. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Chislett for the excellent facilities he gave us for training.

The Melbourne team consisted of ten men, most of whom competed last year. They were very unfortunate in losing the services of three of their star performers at the last



J. H. Harbison uses the scissors style to clear 5'11" and tie with R. Harbison (Sydney) and C. Butler (Melbourne), i-V 1922.

moment, Pender, Edmunds and Almond being unable to make the trip. Queensland is to be congratulated on sending a team. However, they were only able to send two representatives, both sprinters, [Pierson and Clarkson] so the issue lay, as last year, between Melbourne and Sydney.

May 26th dawned bright and cloudless, with hardly a breath of wind. The tracks were hard and in perfect order, and "Chris's" Oval was indeed a picture: just the day for breaking records, the old enthusiasts declared, and their prophecies were more than fulfilled. Interest [among the large concourse of fashionable spectator's] ran high in the 100 yards, in which "Jock" Leadley (S.), who had quite recovered from his sprained leg of last season, was opposed by the Victorian sprint champion, D. W. Gale. The six starters rose together, Fraser (S.) showing out slightly in front for the first 30 yards. Then Leadley getting well into his stride, came through and obtained an advantage of about a yard. Leadley ran splendidly over the last 50, and won by a yard and a half, with a foot between second and third.

The High Jump was a family affair, the three places being filled by Harbisons. J. K. (S), jumping in splendid form, beat all his previous efforts, and won at 5 ft. 9- $\frac{1}{4}$  in., where his cousin, H. W. (M), the Australasian champion, dropped out. The bar was raised to 5 ft. 9- $\frac{3}{4}$  in., J. K. getting over at his second attempt, thus breaking the record made by L. H. Kelly in 1912. Roy Harbison was third with 5 ft. 7 in., and showed great promise. The Mile was a triumph for Macmillan (M), the previous record made by C. Webster in 1897 being broken by 1- $\frac{1}{5}$  sec. Holcombe led for the first lap, but from then on Macmillan

made his own pace. Tunley (S.) ran well, and showed greatly improved form. In the 120 Yards Hurdles, Fraser (S.) got an early lead, and maintained it throughout. H. W. Harbison, after an indifferent start, hurdled the last four flights with exceptional pace. Foote (S.), who filled third place, has shown wonderful improvement this year, and is developing an excellent Kranzlein style.

T. B. Dodds (M.) was too good for our men in the Hammer Throw, getting the implement out 104 ft. 6 in., and thus beating the record figures put up by L. Morgan in 1913. [Barker wrote about Dodds that 'under the right coaching he is capable of still more violence'.] The 220 Yards was perhaps the most spectacular race of the afternoon. Leadley (S.) and Hutton (S.) both beat Gale (M.) off the mark, and Hutton led for about 30 yards. Leadley then went to the front, and running in excellent form and finishing strongly, he won in 22- $\frac{3}{5}$  sec., clipping  $\frac{1}{5}$  sec. off Pellew's record made in 1914. There was a determined battle for second place, but Hutton kept his early advantage over Gale and beat him by two yards. Honner maintained his wonderful reputation for consistency by winning the Broad Jump with 22 ft. 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  in.; all his six jumps were over 21 ft. 6 in. Nothling repeated his performance of last year by winning the Shot Putt with a throw of 35 ft. 7- $\frac{1}{2}$  in. The 880 provided the most exciting finish of the day. The first lap was fairly slow, but Treatt (S.) moved out at the bell, followed by Macmillan (M.), with Young (S.) and Hewitt (M), together eight yards further back. Just past the goalposts Treatt began to sprint, with Macmillan close behind him. Young gradually over-hauled the leaders, and coming into the straight the field was almost abreast. Young, running wide lasted long enough to win by two yards from Macmillan with Treatt the same distance away third. The final event — the 440 — was a signal victory for Hutton. Going out from the start, he was challenged at 200 yards by Gale, and came away with a great burst of speed. Running resolutely, he maintained his lead, and won by 9 yards from Honner, who finished strongly. The time, 50- $\frac{4}{5}$  sec., equalled the record made by our coach, Mr Barker, in 1905. Barker felt that these Championships 'will probably go down in history as a classic in this series of contests' — in a ten-event programme four new records were established and one was equalled — surely a record in itself?

During the year there was some discussion between the University Clubs on making a retrospective award of certificates for I-V Championships and S.U.A.C. was asked to suggest a standard design.

December brought the Dunn Shield competition and we were successful at last, gaining 33 pts. against 20 by South Sydney. Nothling had wins in the Javelin and Shot, Hutton in the 440 and Honner the broad jump with a leap of 23 ft.

1 in (fitting 440 yards heats and final in between jumps!), while H. W. Anderson won the 440 hurdles in 62.4, by about 30 yards. The Harbisons were also in on the action. J. K. winning the high jump and coming third in the Pole Vault, while R. won the Pole Vault and came 3rd in the high jump!

Our State Championship entries in March 1921 were thinner than they should have been, but J. K. Harbison won the high jump with 5 ft. 10 in., while A. MacKay came second in the hammer.

Leadley took over as President in 1921. His active days seem to have declined, while Fraser joined the ranks of the Vice-Presidents. Treatt was another who had gone, so it was left to Hutton, Honner, Tunley, H. Houston, MacKay and the Harbisons to carry the flag, together with newcomers Jas. and John McManamey, L. Abramovitch and others.

Rain interfered with the Lent handicaps and not many freshers came forward to fill the ranks. The track remained heavy for the Championships on May 20th and times were slow. However the Governor-General and Lady Forster were among those who saw some good running. Honner surprised somewhat by winning the 880 yards (2.8.2) as well as the Broad Jump.

Hutton, Jas McManamey and H. R. Hill, our best sprinters, were unavailable for I-V, held in Brisbane, but L. Tunley (880 and mile) and J. Foote (hurdles) came into the team after good wins at Intercollegiate. These sports saw a close



A. G. Mackay gets into the swing of things before hurling the hammer 94'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the University Championships (1921)



E. Zlotkowski clears 5'5" not quite so elegantly to win the University Championship (1921). He is wearing a Sydney Grammar uniform.

win by Wesley over Andrews, the final race (440 yards) being the decider, as had happened the previous year.

Melbourne won I-V convincingly from Sydney with Queensland well back. Sydney would have to remobilize! Melbourne athletes Le Soeuf and Dodds set new figures in the Shot (37 ft. 4 in.) and Hammer (115 ft. 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  in) respectively and D. W. Gale (M) made a clean sweep of the 3 sprints. Foote and R Nott (S) took 1st and 2nd in the hurdles (16 secs), R. Harbison beat K. with 5 ft. 8- $\frac{1}{2}$  in. and Honner won the Broad Jump with a low 20 ft. 9 in.

R. K. Cohen of Melbourne won the 880 yards rowing in the winning Melbourne eight the day before, thus qualifying for two blues within 24 hours. This eclipsed Jack Massie's effort of representing in boxing and athletics within a few days back in 1912.

'Hermes' adds some incidental memoirs

The team ... arrived in Brisbane on Monday night. They were then taken to the Carlton Club Hotel by the members of the Brisbane team. The sports were held on the Exhibition Ground, and there was a fair attendance ... the visiting teams were entertained at a dinner by the home team.

On Thursday the visiting teams were taken for a motor run down to Redland Bay. While down there they were shown over a tropical orchard and pineapple farm belonging to Mr. P. Outridge, who very kindly provided all kinds of fruit for the visitors. On Thursday night the visiting teams were entertained at a dance, held in the University Hall. This was very much appreciated by all the visitors'.

Our Dunn Shield effort was good again in 1921, but not good enough. We went down to East Sydney, the result depending on the last event, the three miles. We had some good results indeed in the Dunn Shield. The Harbisons excelled with a tied High Jump record (5 ft. 10-½ in.) and R. took the Pole Vault from K. with a 6 in. margin, clearing 10 ft. 9 in. Hutton won the 440 and 880 in good times, Tunley the mile (2nd in 880), Honner the Broad Jump (22 ft. 8-¾ in.) with a second in the 440. Nothling, MacKay and R. L. Raymond were other place-getters.

In the Australasian Championships at Adelaide Honner set a new record of 23 ft. 8-¼ in. while Hutton won the 440 and V. R. Harbison both Pole Vault and High Jump.

In March 1922 club athletes were busy at the State Championships at the Sydney Sports Ground where there were brilliant performances and a 'splendid attendance' to watch N. Zealand, Victoria, Queensland and N.S.W. compete against a team of South African



Bill Hutton in the costume of combined Australian Universities wins the quarter mile from D. W. Gale of Melbourne and R. Johnson (South Africa) obscured, 1922 international meeting at University Oval.

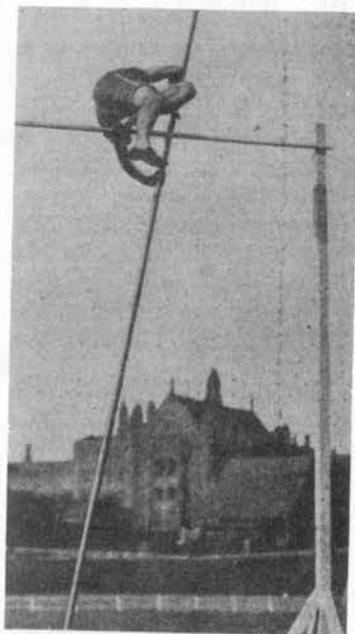
athletes — the first overseas team to visit Australasia since an American team came in 1914.

The Harbisons continued their improvement into the State Championships, where V. R. vaulted 11 ft. and J. K. cleared 5 ft. 11 in. for wins. Hutton was successful in winning the 440 yards in 51.8 while Tunley came in second in the mile.

In addition to Hutton (Captain) and Tunley, H. W. Anderson and J. (Jas) MacManamey were selected for the Australian Universities Team which competed against the Springboks at the University Oval just a few days later. Honner had also been selected but took ill some weeks before the carnivals. There were 4 Challenge events; 100, 440, mile and medley relay. 'Hermes' wrote "In the medley relay race the Springboks 'put it all over us'. The Universities have not had the experience in 'passing the

baton' which has been gained by the Africans on many and varied fields, and this was responsible for the unnecessary loss of a great deal of ground at each exchange". However Hutton restored some of our prestige, repeating his 440 win of the previous week. Additional events at the meeting were an invitation high jump, exhibition pole vault and a display of boomerang throwing.

Whether these exciting March events were responsible or not the Annual General Meeting (4 April 1922) attracted a better attendance than did the previous year's meeting, but 'Hermes' lamented there were few non-college students. 'We want men to attend meetings of the Club, not just Oval handicaps and the 'Varsity Championships'. Our men should take their 'rightful place in the wider athletic field of the



The Harbison family talent for reaching great heights is exemplified by Roy's 11 ft pole vault effort (1922).

State'. Three handicap dates were set prior to the championships, with events scheduled to start each afternoon at 4.15 sharp.

The 'Varsity Championship on (University) Commemoration Day again attracted Lord and Lady Foster and a good crowd, despite the unfavourable weather. The heavy track made times slow except in the mile, which Tunley ran in 4.41.8, 'Despite frequent showers the officials stuck to their tasks and got through the full programme, although it was almost dark when the last event was run'. Hutton and Nothling were the outstanding performers. Roy Harbison did not defend his high jump title owing to a recent family bereavement. A feature of the Carnival was an interesting display of fencing, given by J. S. Hensen (State Champion) and R. Maltley.

In I-V Melbourne again maintained the superiority it had established in 1921. There were some new faces in the Sydney Team

including E. Zlotkowsky, H. D. Hixson, V. R. Clifton and Ross Nott. Absent were Nothling, MacManamey, H. W. Anderson and J. K. & R. Harbison. However, Adelaide obliged by naming E. J. Harbison in its team! In a break with tradition E. J. H. was a broad jumper.

Hutton was our only winner, running his standard 51.8 and taking 2nds in both the 100 and 220. Tunley (mile), Zlotkowsky (H.J.) and Nott (hurdles) also gained second places. These four together with V. R. Clifton were awarded blues on their Adelaide performances. The other two team members A. J. Foote and H. D. Hixson also performed well, but were not eligible 'under the present rules' for blues.

A feature of this 1922 carnival at which Adelaide entertained right royally, was representation from five universities. In addition to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Queensland there were three athletes from the University of W. A. This University was invited to send athletes, although it was not as yet registered in the I-V Sports' Council. The Council had arisen some years before in response to the need to plan Inter-Varsity activities carefully. It was no longer possible to arrange a date at a week's notice as had been done in the earlier days when only Sydney and Melbourne were involved.

It was thirty years (23 contests) since the first Inter-Varsity Athletics had been staged and all six Universities founded before World War I [Sydney established 1850, Melbourne 1853, Adelaide 1874, Tasmania 1890, Queensland 1909,, Western Australia 1911] had now been represented at some time or other. Melbourne had won 16 of the contests, Sydney 6 and Adelaide 1. Queensland was now sending teams fairly regularly. However the pattern seen at Sydney in the early days (limited numbers of students doing various sports) undoubtedly repeated itself in the younger Universities, while Sydney and Melbourne athletes were now devoting themselves more single mindedly to athletics as a summer sport.

During 1922 Honner and J. K. Harbison joined K. B. Fraser among the distinguished Vice Presidents, a list still including Coombes, Barker and Waddy. However a great loss was experienced by the club by the death of two long-



L. Tunley leads Driscoll (Melbourne) and the eventual winner D. A. Leathern (South Africa) in the mile (1922 International).

standing and active Vice Presidents, Professor Pollock and W. H. Savigny. As a mark of respect to Pollock, competitors at the Inter-Collegiate Sports, shortly after he died, wore black arm-bands.

Our consolation for the year was our second win in the Dunn Shield, beating the Police Club. J. K. Harbison set a new Shield high jump record with 5 ft. 11 in. and was second to V. R. in the Pole Vault. V. R. of course was second in the high jump! Honner set an Australasian record of 57.5 in the 440 hurdles and also took out the broad jump (22 ft. 8½ in.) Hutton, Tunley, Mackay, D. A. Hixson and A. R. Nott took minor placings.

Early in 1922 there had been much discussion about improving community life at the University and it was felt that sport could play a great part in this scheme. A leader in this movement was Brigadier-General Iven Mackay, Student Adviser and Appointments Secretary, and also President of the Sports' Union. MacKay began agitation for more ovals (there was still only one at that time), suggesting that the colleges might build some. He also started a move for a full programme of Interfaculty sport, even if it required hiring outside grounds. Only 500 students out of 3,000 were Sports' Union members at the time but moves to introduce compulsory membership were firmly squashed.



Start of the half mile, University championships 1920.. R. J. Malcolm, G. H. Kennett, J. S. Reid, M. Moir, A. O. Ellison (winner 2.7.8.), J. G. Stephens (third), V. R. Clifton (second). Spectator interest has diminished since earlier times.



A Grand Garden Party for 'encouraging the sporting side of University life' was held in September 1922. Funds raised were to be used to renovate the oval, build a swimming pool, and other sundry matters.

In order to implement the plan to develop new playing fields and undertake necessary repairs at the Oval, a Grand Spring Fete with a target of £2000 was organised by the Sports' Union in September 1922. The Club was represented on the central committee and 'was allotted the very pleasant duty of supporting Mrs. H. P. Curtis and Mrs. G. R. P. Hall in the Tobacco Stall' [!] Needless to say numerous young ladies were also on hand to assist with the sales, and the stall, unless large, must have been somewhat pleasantly overcrowded at times.

The April '23 A.G.M. in the Union Hall again received minimal support by all except college men, and R. G. Waddy, an 'old timer' by most standards, was elected President. Intercollegiate started the competition for the year. Hutton's success in all 3 sprints (100 yards — 10.5) and the Broad Jump gave Wesley a win again, and a newcomer Callaghan (Paul's) 'won the half-mile in fairly easy style, defeating all last year's placed men'.

The Championships were held several weeks later, again in conjunction with the Commemoration Day Festival. There was a large number of entries and the meeting went off well. Times were only moderate however, but Hutton retained his 'king pin' position with wins in the 220, 440 and Broad Jump, and Callaghan took out the 880 and mile. The hammer throw seems to have been dropped — probably for want of competitors, but for the first time a three miles event appears, won by J. Kelly (no time given).

Our I-V team lacked the strength and leadership of Hutton but otherwise seemed well up to scratch. Melbourne weather was not kind and the competition was held 'in a gale of wind and sheets of rain'. The southerners were again too strong despite the absence of its two stars, Gale and MacMillan who 'were both in Europe for the Empire Sports'.

A new event this year was the team relay, possibly inspired by the Springbok experience in 1922. This mile medley has remained a popular event ever since.

The pole vault also seems to have crept in, as Roy Harbison is credited with a win. Despite the wet conditions Harbison set a new record in the High Jump clearing 5 ft. 11- $\frac{3}{4}$  in. J. MacManamey was our only other winner (220), but Callaghan went down only by inches in the half-mile to Ross (M.) in 2.4.5 'a notable performance considering the state of the track and the very bad weather'. Place getters were H. Merewether (B. J.), Hixson (120 H, 440) and other good efforts were by Coop and Campbell in the longer races.

Two disappointments must have been N. R. Burns and W. F. Wiseman. In October 1922 Burns had won the G.P.S. 100 and 220 yards titles, the former in 10.3 equalling the record set in 1902 (J. B. Sandilands — Armidale) and at the same meeting Wiseman set new figures in the high jump (5 ft. 8- $\frac{3}{4}$  in.) breaking the record set by W. J. Rofo and A. T. Woodruff back in 1908. 'Hermes' commented that Wiseman had an off day and did not jump up to form, but there is silence about Burns.

During the year there was much construction activity around the University, new roads in particular being the vogue. 'The one from St. Paul's Road to Parramatta Road, circling the oval on the eastern side, is well forward. The level of this road has been considerably altered with the result that the Oval fence had to be raised to prevent people from overlooking the playing fields from the outside. Fortunately the Senate agreed to pay for the new fencing, as the Union was not too well off — 'it pays its way only with difficulty'.

The question of money and Oval hiring was again raising its head combined with questions about Rugby League at the University. University sport had been fostered by the Union for 30

years 'under conditions of absolute amateurism' and it was felt in some quarters that the University Amateur League team was under some pressures in the wicked world of professional league.

In December the Club successfully defended its Dunn Shield title. The result is remarkable in that there were three dead heats, Hutton (440), MacManamey (220) and Callaghan (880)! We were also well represented in the State Championships, Honner winning the Broad Jump and 440 Hurdles, V. R. Harbison the High Jump and Pole Vault, A. C. Wood getting our first mention ever in Hop, step and Jump with second place.

Honner, V. R. Harbison and McManamey represented N.S.W. in the Australasian Championships in Hobart early in 1924. The first two repeated their State wins (B. J. & 440 Hurdles, H. J. and Pole Vault). Honner's good form made him an ideal choice for selection in the Australian Olympic Team (the Club's second Olympian) but he was unable to reproduce his local form, and apparently jumped while still partly lame.

1924 started badly with a poorly attended A.G.M. and the usual complaints from 'Hermes' about our need 'to maintain our high position in the State's athletic world'. The Club Championships were held on a Monday (May 19) and Hutton, the war horse, again took out the quarter, Burns won the sprints, and W. H. Coop the 880 yards.

Intercollegiate, held a few days later, saw Andrew's break Wesley's winning streak, with Paul's coming in second. Roy Harbison featured with a 6 ft. leap to equal the State Record. Hutton was still on the job, but only just, with a win in the 440, and Nothling also appears in the lists. Burns was starting to show form, as was W. H. Coop, who repeated his Championship effort in the half-mile.

I-V was scheduled for May 28 in Commemoration week and was sponsored jointly by S.U.A.C. and the S.U. Undergraduates Association (equivalent of the present Students Representative Council). There was the promise of a good afternoon's racing, and it was hoped 'All University men will combine to do their best to make the afternoon a financial success'.

Prior to the Athletic meeting, an Inter-Varsity Boxing Competition was held — the first for some years. Sydney won 4 of the 5 bouts, being represented by W. C. Gissane, J. A. Friend, F. Allen, K. Smith and E. M. Bridges.

Five teams were present at the 1924 I-V. Tasmania, after a long absence, reappeared along with Adelaide, Queensland and the two

originals. Sydney won an exciting contest by one point thanks to a good all-round effort. Burns showed his quality this year with wins in the 100 and 220, and Hutton maintained his 440 form. Roy Harbison rounded off his splendid I-V efforts with a record 10 ft. 10 in in the Pole Vault, dead-heating with J. C. Eccles (M.) and another record was set by L. R. Ross (M.) in the 880 yards.

After our Dunn Shield efforts of the previous two years our performance this year was poor, only a few athletes being present, and the Shield went to the Police Athletic Club. Hutton went down for the first time in years in the 440, but V. R. Harbison retained his Pole Vault and High Jump crowns of the previous year. During 1924 Iven MacKay's efforts continued to bear fruit, and for the first time an Inter-faculty Athletic Meeting was held, which Medicine won from Engineering. It was so successful that the Club Committee proposed holding it as an annual event.

All in all, despite the poor start and the lack of effort in the Dunn Shield, the year hadn't proved so bad after all.



Dick Honner in characteristic mid air action clearing 23'11" (1925). Honner's athletic prowess appealed to cartoonists when he was in England.

## CHAPTER 11

### MIDDLE AGE AND THE LAST K.O.

The weather was not kind during the first half of 1925, and most activities were abandoned or postponed. The team for I-V in Brisbane had to be picked on previous merit rather than known current form, but we sent a good team. Nevertheless we went down to the Melbourne stalwarts. An injury to Roy Harbison did not help our efforts and Hutton was no longer available. Burns won the 100 and 220, setting new figures in the latter, and W. N. Harrison (Q.) broke the 440 record running 50.4. Our other winner was L. W. McLennan (Pole Vault) and there were numerous runners-up. 'Tubby' Dodds, the Melbourne veteran, notched his 7th successive win in the hammer throw.

I-V boxing was held in Melbourne at the end of 1st term, the first distinct break in the pattern of linking the competition with the athletic I-V championships. M. Warburton (Lightweight) was the only one of our team of four to win.

Intercollegiate and University Championships were held in October. The former event was a tense struggle ending in a dead heat between Wesley and Andrews, Hutton having 2 wins (220, Broad Jump) but going down in his former main event, the 440. V. R. Harbison also was easing out and could manage only seconds in the high jump and hurdles.

On the Championship day 'slight rain fell during the early part of the afternoon, making the track heavy, and causing many of the competitors to leave, supposing that the meeting would be postponed'. [It wasn't.] 'The proximity of examinations also prevented many of our best men entering, and the result was that the fields in all the events were remarkably small'. Burns took the two sprints and W. H. Coop showed development, taking out the 440 and 880. Wiseman won the high jump (from Inter-collegiate winner H. Merewether) and 120 hurdles. A new event was the discus (replacing the absent hammer) won by C. McDermott.

The Club was somewhat irate when the interfaculty meeting, postponed from Trinity Term had to be abandoned, for 'on application being made to the Senate for a half holiday on that day [third term] we were informed that this could not be granted. After due consideration the Committee decided that from past experience it was impossible to hold such a meeting successfully, unless the half-holiday were granted'.

Late in the year work recommenced on No. 2 Oval after some months' delay, probably partly caused by shortage of funds. A cricket pitch was put in and the level built up; No. 1 Oval was brightened by a new scoreboard and the liberal application of paint.

Keeness for interclub competition showed an improvement on the previous year and teams were entered for both Dunn Shield and the H. R. McDonald Cup Competition (N.S.W.A.A. A Grade). In the Dunn Shield we

could manage only 3rd place, despite wins by Burns in the 100 and 220, Coop (880) and V. R. Harbison (Pole Vault).

In the McDonald Cup we remained the only unbeaten team at the end of the first round, and by the end of the season were equal first with Western Suburbs A.A.C. Wests won the extra deciding match held during the vacation period (a portent of history repeating itself!).

Club Secretary, S. C. Campbell, wrote

'It is particularly gratifying to note that during the meetings in the vacation, many of our members frequently came from the country for the day to compete, though it is regretted that some who were in Sydney



N. R. Burns showing his characteristic finishing style (1924).

could not find time to do so. However the spirit shown this year has undoubtedly dragged the club from the rut into which it had lately fallen and placed it back where it belongs as one of the 'foremost clubs of the Sports Union. If the club can maintain this keeness and enthusiasm in the years to come it bodes well not only for the Athletic Club in particular but for the whole University in general for nothing so much as open team competition helps to break down class barriers and petty snobberies and instil into a man that subtle 'varsity spirit of which we of Sydney University hear so much but know so little'.

The club was particularly grateful for help during the year given by 'outside athletes', especially Richard Coombes with his 'untiring energy and genial presence at the Oval'.

Others to receive mention were G. Parker, S. Waller and I. Brodsky. The last is a name we will soon hear more of. These men helped us 'to field a rapidly improving team in the events outside the usual 'varsity programme, such as the javelin and discus throwing, the walks and the hop, step and jump'.

A final note on the 1925-26 year comes from the Hon. Treasurer's statement. W. H. Coop lists receipts of £48.11.9 from the Sports Union Funds. Following disbursements' for petty cash, printing, sports meetings, affiliation, entry fees and material, we find the sum of £25.10.0 for training expenses'. No light is shed on this mysterious item.

#### 1926

Things seemed to be up and down this year, more generally down, because a 'certain spirit of indifference and carelessness seems to have made its way into this Club. The members, as a whole, lack the enthusiasm and keenness so characteristic of the members of the other Universities, and yet the defeat of the Mother University on the fields of sport [we lost I-V in Adelaide], should make her members more determined to retrieve their losses'.

The Oval handicaps were conducted throughout April and May and they were keenly contested, cups being awarded to the winners.

Continuous rain throughout the week preceding the University Championships (May 26) saw ground conditions rather poor for competition. Despite the sodden tracks, per-

formances were reasonable, due largely to the keenness of the competitors. W. H. Coop ran a record half mile in 2 min. 1 sec, Burns won the sprint double, V. R. Harbison took the High Jump from B. L. Harbison and C. C. Smith jumped 21 ft. 3-½ in. Coop was our only winner at I-V with B. L. Harbison second in the pole vault and third in the high jump.

At the Intercollegiate carnival, St. Andrews scored an easy win. College records noted that "the attendance and enthusiasm at this function surpasses that of any other Varsity meeting. The Colleges select good teams, and the officials mingle with the members of the various Colleges arousing keen interest by fact of personal contact [!]"

The new (No. 2) Oval was progressing and was at the stage of weeding, turfing and fencing. St. Pauls had also set about constructing an oval and it was near completion.

With the commencement of the competitive season, the Club expected to do well in the Wallace Cup for A Grade Interclub. It was noted at the time that the Club was fielding "mainly new and inexperienced men who needed training and experience". Western Suburbs went on to win the Dunn Shield and the very fine spirit exhibited by its members was noted.

On the Sports Union scene, a number of changes and new issues appeared to affect the club. Changes were made to both the athletics and rugby Blues Standards in order to upgrade them to current conditions of competition. There was a great deal of discussion on the

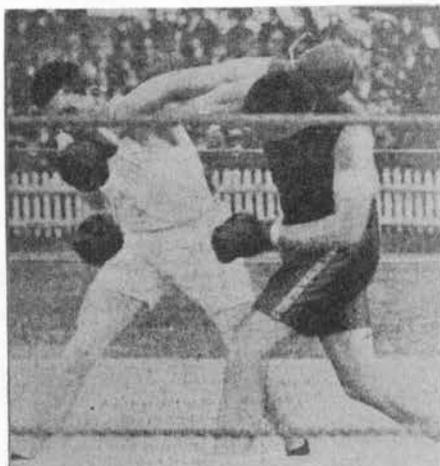


The McDonald Cup team 1925 taken behind the old University Oval grandstand. N.S.W.A.A.A. registration numbers are the order of the day in the club's largest team so far.

matter of the Sports Union allowing Rugby League matches on No. 1 Oval as a means of gaining additional finance.

Finally the Interfaculty competition took place in Third term. Attendance was very poor with officials almost out numbering spectators and some faculties not even represented — in effect a failure.

One item deserves more comment, viz. boxing. Following the Annual Tournament (Oval) and I-V (held at Les O'Donnell's gym because of wet weather), both not overly successful it was decided to form a separate Boxing Club and apply to the Sports' Union for affiliation. The new body 'including men prominent in State boxing' wished to foster also fencing, wrestling and gymnastics, and began agitation for a gym to be built. Although properly constituted, affiliation was not granted and the Boxing Club remained still a branch of the Athletics Club as far as the Sports Union was concerned. The Club retained its Boxing Secretary position till April 1928, and the odd state of affairs continued till 1929 when the separation became legal. The gym came into operation early in 1928.



Intervarsity Boxing 1924. K. Mitchell (Melbourne) and F. Allan (Sydney) fight it out on University Oval.

## 1927

From available reports it would appear that 1927 had many of the ingredients of the previous year. The handicap events remained very popular with fields averaging 30 for the shorter distances down to 15 for the distance events. The Championships also saw good fields and first class performances, though few undergraduates participated. The Intercollegiate reflected the depth of talent at the University, with many undergraduates making debuts and upsetting some of the more fancied stars.

The largest I-V team for years (16) was eventually selected for the traditional tussle in Melbourne. Though Melbourne won the

contest, there are many fine performances listed for the Sydney competitors.

Once again Interclub presented the inevitable problem to the club and performances were spasmodic. R. C. Smith, the reigning University sprint champion managed to gain second place in the State 220 yds, behind the one and only J. Carlton. Blues were awarded to R. Hay, M. Merewether, T. Clouston, E. Scobie, J. Wiseman, E. Andrew, R. C. Smith and O. E. Worth.

On the Sports Union scene, it would appear that the new Oval (No. 2) was now in use though the area generally was regarded as an eyesore in its current state of repair. At this stage, Melbourne, Adelaide, Queensland and Western Australia were charging a compulsory fee for sport but Sydney did not. The annual Fete was scheduled for September and its profits were meant to offset any need for a fee. This year the effort raised £750.

Once again 'Hermes' can be found "stirring the athletic pot"; the last term edition contained a long dissertation on the need for scientific training and event specialization. It went on to note that 'Australasian and higher athletic honours are not won by 'flash in the pan methods', that athletes 'need regular training daily — not hard devitalising work, but a club at play, gradually building the men physically and otherwise'. It made the fact that many talented sportsmen sought to play football or cricket one week and athletics the next.

Here follows a frank evaluation:

'At the recent championships of this Club, a number of men were seen in action who, by specialisation in their particular branch of athletics, could aspire to State championship honours in the future. Briefly, they are:

- R. C. Smith: Fine natural style. With coaching must improve rapidly.
- N. Vincent: Already a fairly finished athlete — seems a trifle stiff in his action — probably would show tremendous improvement with massage.
- O. Worth: Although unplaced in the hurdles, Mr. R. W. Coombes classes him as one of our best stylists.
- P. K. Perrett: Much natural pace, and will be a dangerous man when he learns to get up on his toes and keep forward.
- B. Cooper: "A future Olympic champion," says that excellent judge, Mr. Coombes, "if he would train quietly and consistently".
- E. Andrew: A very powerful athlete, always stiff and tired — "too many irons". Has run 2 min. 2 sec. for 880 yds on Sports Ground track.
- W. Coop: The original pattern for a world's champion miler. He will not realize it; the track and he are bad friends.
- T. M. Clouston: Will never improve until he runs on a marked out track to the watch.
- H. O. Merewether: Trains too diligently — takes his athletics too seriously.

- J. Gould: Those who saw Gould win his heat at Dunn Shield by about 4 yards. in 16 secs., realised that he is our hope at the Inter-'Varsity meeting.
- S. Macindoe: Always on Gould's shoulder and will always be his dangerous opponent.
- H. P. Chin: Is an excellent flat sprinter, in addition to being a classy hurdler. Has been unlucky.
- J. Wiseman, C. A. Pittar, H. M. Stewart, J. Young, B. Harbison: Mr. Coombes is enthusiastic over these men, and is willing to coach them one and all.
- C. Crichton Smith: Off the mark is as fast as N. R. Burns, but mixes his athletics with other sports.

#### 1928 — A good year

By all accounts it was a good year, beginning with Dick Honner, our second Olympian, taking over as Club President.

The first major carnival was the Inter-collegiate event which saw R. C. Smith set a new 220 yd. standard and O. E. Worth a record over the 120 yds hurdles. In the Championships, Worth took the broad jump at 22 ft. 5-½ in. and S. MacIndoe and B. Cooper were credited with a dead heat in the 120 yds hurdles.

Sydney were the hosts for the Intervarsity and were successful in winning the team title from Melbourne with Adelaide and Queensland eq. 3rd. C. M. Davidson (Melb.) set a new Australasian high jump record with a leap of 6 ft. 3-½ in., while the Melbourne relay time of 3 min. 39.5 sec. was a State record. R. C. Smith took the 100/200 double and MacIndoe won the inaugural 440 yds hurdle event.

The Interfaculty was reported 'as usual quite a success' and saw the debut of one J. B. Rowe,

a triple winner who 'later distinguished himself in the Dunn Cup'. Arts took the Fishman Cup.

At the State level, B. Harbison, L. McLennan, W. J. B. Murphy and O. E. Worth were all prominently placed in their various events.

Thus passed our fiftieth year. Its historic significance was not recognized at the time and there were no speeches, no bangings of gongs.

The historical background of the club, however, had given it a sense of perpetuity and the club moved steadily forward into its second fifty years following a well organized path of yearly activities which had proved their value in time. Two members had represented Australia in Olympic events and many had competed for the State.

At this half-way mark it is surely time for a change in the telling of our story.

Our printed records for the following period are better and more easily accessible, but activities become more diverse and it is not possible to dwell on every detail of each year's activities. One disappointment at the end of 1929 is the demise of the ever faithful 'Hermes' in its form as a recorder of University events. What will the rest of the story be without 'Hermes' pithy comments?

At this stage the 'Union Recorder' takes over as our major source of club trivia and you will be reading many oddments from its pages, though they lack the literary quality of dear old 'Hermes'.

A final redeeming quality of our second half-century is the fact that many of the club's stalwarts are still enjoying good health and can tell us first hand of the deeds of themselves and their fellows.

The following chapters come largely from their reminiscences.



Informal(?) gathering behind the University stand, Intervarsity 1928. Melbourne runners are distinctive with their modern singlets and diagonal colour patches. C. M. Davidson second from left (front row) was the star of this group.

## CHAPTER 12

### THE BRODSKY ERA

#### *The Club in 1929*

The new era of Club activity in the 1930's really began in 1929. Although K. S. Jones was Secretary, one can suspect the hand of Izzy Brodsky in the regular use of the Union Recorder to inform club members of their *DUTIES* and to publicize the Club to the world at large. The first issue for the year sets out fixtures for the first term, and informs members that No. 2 oval has been set out for athletics training any day except Saturday. The fixture list contains a new feature, a special field games day, distinct from the track championships. Held on April 17th it 'attracted good fields for an initial meeting', and 'will now be one of the regular fixtures of the Club.' On the day O. E. Worth set new figures for the State 220 yards 3 feet hurdles event.

Interclub was also receiving consideration with the lament that we lost our match against Kensington for the want of a walker. Around the time of the Championships (mid May) members were informed by the 'Recorder' that a 'professional coach was available on No. 1 oval 4-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

May-June proved an exceptionally interesting month for the Club. Intercollegiate saw the only appearance of Jim Carlton as a student when he set a new record for 100 yards (accepted as a University record) and equalled the 220 yards record. At the same meeting K. S. Jones set new figures for the State Junior Half Mile Record. Two records, Worth 120 yards hurdles, W. J. B. Murphy pole vault, went in the University Championships a little later. Worth set new figures at Intervarsity (Brisbane) in the same event. Melbourne came out victors in an exciting tussle by taking the final relay in record time, one of seven records of 8 events set at the meeting. Sydney sent a team of 17.

Of particular interest was the match at the oval between Australia and New Zealand Universities in June, won rather easily by the Australian team on a heavy track. There were some fine performances and A.U.S.A. blues were awarded to J. Brock Rowe, O. E. Worth and Myer Rosenblum of Sydney. C. R. Wallace and H. H. M. Finnemore also represented the Club. This visit, costing £118.8.4 was made possible by donations, but the Club went down on the occasion, to the tune of £8.9.6.

Blues for the 1928-29 season had been awarded early in the year and despite the independence of the Clubs those for boxing were included under S.U.A.C. This anomaly was finally removed by the affiliation of the Boxing Club with the Sports Union in Michaelmas Term.

A major innovation in 1929 was the transference of the Annual General meeting date from April to October giving the executive eighteen months in office. This change

after thirty years was probably designed to strengthen interclub activities and allow more preparation for Intervarsity.

The 'Recorder' 1929-1930 takes up the story again in October advising of midweek matches against Shore School and Scots College, and the new Club competition for the Albert Cup to be awarded to the member gaining most points in Interclub. The Cup could be viewed in the University's Fisher Library where it would be kept. This award was the gift of a prominent Sydney businessman, M. F. Albert, who was elected a Vice-President in 1929.

Despite the Albert Cup we continued to lose our interclub matches by small margins, though our relay teams were gaining enviable reputations for setting new records. There were some sinners in the Club however and the 'Recorder' of October 24 carries the reminder 'correct University Costume as sold, at David Jones must be worn — numbers are required.'

The rise in general athletic standards in the State at the time can be gauged by the Club's third place in the Dunn Shield despite places in 12 of the 19 events. Showing true Club spirit Izzy Brodsky fronted up for the second division of the mile walk (was it this year?), an event for which he was not specially physically endowed.

The State Championships saw Rosenblum (hammer) and McLennan (pole vault) take minor placings, while Rowe, McLennan, Worth and Wallace represented the State at the Australasian Championships. H. H. Finnemore though selected could not make the trip. Rowe came in a good 3rd in the 100 yards. Rowe, McKinnon, Worth and Wallace were joined by K. S. Jones at the International meeting held to honour visiting athletes Dr. Peltzer (Germany) and L. Lermond (U.S.A.).

The '29-30 season saw the numerical strength of the Club considerably increased as new students heard of its activities and older members continued active. Two new innovations were the Novice Championships in April 1930 and systematic coaching of the less experienced members by senior members.

The Novice Championships were for members who had not won University Championships or senior events and attracted good fields with standards 'higher than expected', several new men being discovered, 'who are now giving good service in outside competition.' These Championships remained a feature of the Club for the next 25 years.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the Novice Championships, the number of competitors in the Field and Track days of the University Championships was 'disappointingly small' but the standard was 'not below normal — but not brilliant'. The 14 members who ventured to Adelaide for I-V came in second, but it was a poor effort, a long way below brilliant

Melbourne performances.

Inter-Faculty, with which the Club was to have an on and off love affair for many years, was held in Festival Week with a whole day devoted to the programme. A large crowd of students watched the progress of the meeting, and the Chancellor, Sir William Cullen (Club Patron) honoured the Club with his presence for some of the time! The solemnity of the occasion was enhanced when the President of the Sports Union (Dr. Bruce Hall) presented the Fishman Cup to the joint Architecture-Economics team, the Vice-Presidents Cup (Tug-O-War) to Engineering, the Albert Cup to E. L. Pilkington, and Cups for Lent term 'Oval Races' won by H. V. Barratt, P. H. White, K. Coen and I. I. Brodsky.

The social life of the Club was enlarged by a dance on May 14 which was 'only moderately attended' but it produced the handsome profit of £1.7.6. Arrangements for this event included payment of a guarantee of £10.0.0. to the Taxation Department (later refunded) and sale of balloons £2.6.6. (2 gross costing £1.16.0.)!

Records of various sorts continued to tumble, perhaps the best being C. R. Wallace's 15.6 run (120 yards hurdle) at Intercollegiate which set new figures for the University and the State. A. T. Lowney also showed fine hurdling form with a record in the University 440 yards, and a dramatic 57.1 for the I-V 440 hurdles. Not to be outdone O.E. Worth ran 25.6 (220 hurdles) and 57.4 (440 hurdles) at the Dunn Shield meeting to set new State figures.

The State 4 x 110 record also fell to our team of Finnemore, Buckley, Pilkington and Kennedy (44.6 seconds). Our increasing strength in the by-ways of athletics was shown by a new walk record (8.12.3 or was it .4? — the papers differ) by R. E. Williamson, knocking 42.5 seconds off the old figures, and Izzy Brodsky's discus throw of 91 ft. 1-½ in. which stretched the '29 figure by 5 ft. 7 in.

#### 1930-31

This season can be reckoned from the Annual Meeting held again in October (1930) 1.15 p.m. 16th — the Union Hall, and which brought Izzy Brodsky to the post of Secretary. The Annual report (September 31) tells us that the Club has fulfilled its duty to University athletes and amateur athletics generally, with keenness and enthusiasm reinforced by performances of more than passing merit, with a consequent gain of prestige'.

The year began on a new note, the re-establishment of the old interclub challenge matches. Two were held against Randwick-Kensington and one each against Western Suburbs and East Sydney. We cleaned-up Randwick-Kensington (1929 Dunn Shield holders) and Wests, but Easts 'an old rival, won by a narrow margin.' Despite a lead of ½ point, on the first day of the Dunn Shield, thanks to Wallace's 15.4 sec. 120 hurdles and J. H. Broadbent's 440 in 49.6, we finally lost to Randwick-Kensington because of several 'surprise defeats'. This loss was somewhat softened



University athletes warranted a formal reception by Brisbane's Lord Mayor in 1929. Identified are:

- Top: B. Rowe(S), . Reid(S), . Cawthorne(M), P. White(S), J. Buckley(S),  
 E. Trevor Jones(S), . Tritton(Q).  
 2nd Row: C. Wallace(S), , W. Fenton Bowen(M), K. S. Jones(S), M. Finnemore(S),  
 O. E. Worth(S), , D. Warden(S), , . Murphy(S), R. White(M)  
 Seated: , Pat Walsh(Coash Syd), A. J. Hillhouse(Capt Melb), Lord Mayor,  
 T. M. Clouston(Capt Syd), A. Young(Capt Ad), J. Harrison(Q).

by victory in the D. P. Ogilvy Cup meeting (State relays) where we set 2 new N.S.W. records.

Interclub during the long vacation can be passed over quietly. 'A small team competed . . . mainly to gain experience — an essential in the development of athletes', and only a few members entered the State Championships 'notwithstanding the wealth of good athletes.' Perhaps stirred by the efforts of the previous year, sprinter R. C. Smith took to the hurdles winning the State 220 hurdles title, while Myer Rosenblum threw the hammer better than anyone else. Broadbent, Murphy and L. W. McLennan were also placed.

In Lent term (1931) 'a vigorous campaign was commenced.' The Novice Championships 'produced splendid efforts.' 'The fixture was popular, and the standard was very pleasing to Club officials.' They had good reason to be pleased, for six records were broken, and an outstanding athlete had burst onto the Club Scene. This was, of course, Jack Metcalfe, who on this first occasion set new University figures of 22 ft. 6-½ in. in the broad jump (just edging out President Dick Honner 1919 and E. A. Southee 1913). Metcalfe did not disappoint at the University Championships where he won four events and added 5 ft. to Brock Rowe's triple jump record (43 ft. 3-½ in.) on a wet track. Already 'Olympic honours are being predicted for this versatile athlete.' Seven records went at the Carnival where 'competition of the keenest variety was noted.'

Only seven members under Captain P. H. White ventured to Hobart where we were thoroughly thrashed again by Melbourne, despite good efforts by White, Metcalfe and Lowney. Izzy Brodsky did not like this defeat and the Annual report carries the first of his famous admonitions '*Measures must be taken to furnish worthy opposition for Melbourne in future contests.*' He followed this up by the practical observation 'perhaps the rehabilitation of Sports Union finances, such as the advent of a compulsory Sports Union Scheme, may provide a solution. It is not too much to ask that the University as a whole should share the burden of Intervarsity representation.'

Interfaculty had now become the University Sports Gala day but Brodsky was worried that some faculty members could not get a run and wanted the structure changed to ensure it would allow freshmen in large faculties to compete. The day was enlivened by successful Club attempts on State relay records for 440 yards, 880 yards and 2 miles. Despite the strength in hurdlers, a record in the 480 yards hurdles (a shuttle event, now impossible because of the one-way structure of modern hurdles) was not achieved.

1931-32

The Annual meeting crept forward to September 15th in 1931 a Tuesday lunchtime affair (1.20 p.m.), when Alec Brodsky joined

Izzy on the Committee as Honorary Assistant Secretary. He was to be the perfect back-up man. He may in fact have replaced (unofficially) E. A. Hedberg who resigned the position in April 1931.

Izzy's report (13 September '32) tells us it was a good year. 'The Club has proved an efficient unit as a member of the Sports Union and the N.S.W. Amateur Athletic Association' and 'the prestige of the University and of amateur athletics has been worthily upheld.'

Marches against Shore and Newington began the season, but a proposal for a more prestigious match against a combined G.P.S. team though 'well received . . . failed to gain approval.' We lost only to Wests in interclub, missing the premiership 'due to the lack of walkers.' Injuries to Broadbent and Metcalfe in December were our excuse for loss of the Ogilvy Cup (relays) by one point and a close 3rd in the Dunn Shield.

Six members represented N.S.W. in the Australian Championships in Sydney. K. S. Jones ran a brilliant half-mile leg in the medley relay to give the N.S.W. team a new record, while Wallace came a close 2nd in the 120 yards hurdles. Thistlethwayte (½ mile), Rosenblum (hammer) and Smith (220 yards) later won State titles, while Metcalfe, McLennan, R. S. Ingle and L. D. O'Sullivan gained minor placings.

A feature of 1932 was the opening of Sydney's Harbour Bridge and a special Harbour Bridge Games was held. Metcalfe won the high and triple jumps on this occasion while Thistlethwayte, Jones, L. I. H. Grant, A. C. Murray and H. C. Wiseman 'also kept the Club's colours conspicuous' in a programme of metric events.

'Many fine athletes were unearthed' at the Novice Championships and 'eight records were obliterated' at the University Championships, when Metcalfe's 'amazing versatility' gained him four titles. There wasn't much left for others after Grant won 3 events and R. C. Smith and Thistlethwayte two each. Attendance at the University and Intercollegiate Championships 'was very disappointing, and every effort should be made to instil a keen spirit into the apathetic.'

Despite the above comment, Izzy's admonition the previous year about the need to give adequate opposition to Melbourne at I-V had taken effect and preparations were made to send a strong team.

Finance was the usual problem but a novel idea helped greatly. A Cinema evening with 'the co-operation of Warner Bros. — First National Pictures Ltd.' (No doubt keen to publicize the new entertainment medium) and the 'zealous efforts of a few enthusiasts' drew a crowd of 400 and produced a financial success.

In a 'day of brilliant performances' Sydney won seven events but went down again thanks to losing the last event — the medley relay.

Record attempts again were featured on 'Festival Sports Day' when Thistlethwayte

toppled the State 1500 metres time and Broadbent, Jones, Murray and White improved the mile medley figures.

The Club adopted a new constitution during the year — 'a progressive measure', including revised clauses for the awarding of Blues, which went to 9 athletes.

Izzy Brodsky could justly claim that the Club had had a brilliant season. Its prestige in the athletic world could be gauged by re-election of Myer Rosenblum as Chairman of the N.S.W. A.A.A. Council, and a member W. A. W. Wood had been chosen as Rhodes Scholar following the footsteps of many earlier members. But there were still matters to attend to.

'Many men (among these some of our best performers) have divided their attention between athletics and contemporary sports . . . *this is against the best interests of the Athletic Club . . . for the task of competing successfully . . . we must have unswerving allegiance as the principal plank in the athletic platform. This is the basis on which Olympic honours are to be won, and our ideas should be faithfully patterned on those lines.*'

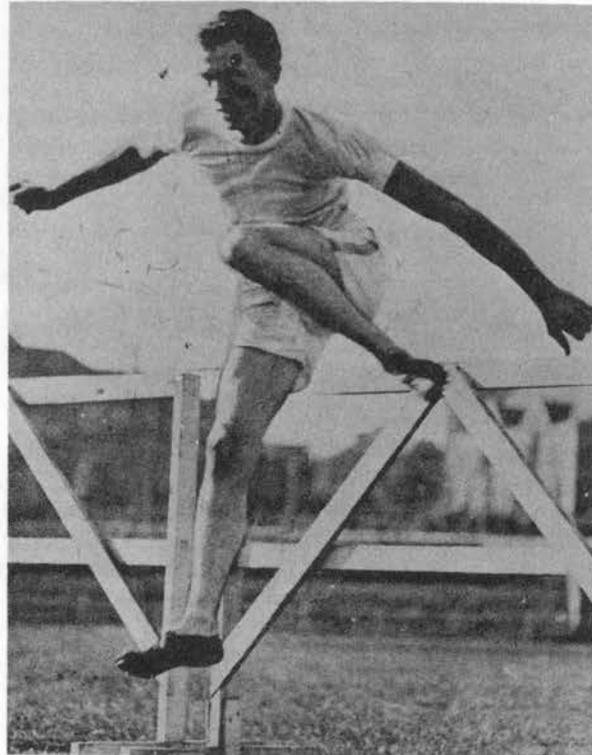
. . . 'Every athlete has a clear duty ahead. Loyalty, keenness and efficiency will be essential factors in the attempt to forward the Club's reputation in the coming season. *Co-operate!*'

1932-33

The September '32 meeting saw the active supporter Dr. J. G. Stephens (a Victorian) take over as Club President from Dick Honner, and Izzy prepared for a good year. Growing numbers of members led the Club to enter teams in both A & B Grade interclub competitions, which were held at the University oval when it was free, and the results are faithfully listed in the Union 'Recorder'.

It is interesting to see that W. M. Curteis who started off in B Grade ended up in the N.S.W. Team to oppose Victoria on Boxing Day. Izzy noted with pride that '*from our ranks one-third of the State side was chosen*' (ten members and one reserve). We had earned selection by a big win (our fourth) in the Dunn Shield, but there were already worries for the future as the Shield meeting was to be moved to February, 'can keenness and Club spirit surmount this circumstance?'

Our strength was further emphasized by an unbeaten season in A Grade interclub and a close second in B Grade but we couldn't manage to win the State Relay Premiership. We made up for this by wins at the State meeting (Jones — quarter mile, Wade — 220 hurdles, Rosenblum — hammer and Metcalfe — H.S.J., pentathlon, decathlon and the mile relay.)



C. R. Wallace, a state and University record holder for many years, shows how styles had changed from the early 1900's, although the hurdles remained the same.



George Read goes over the top (1930) using the typical heavily taped bamboo pole of the period.

Metcalf continued his merry way at the University Championships with 5 wins (4 records) followed by 2 each to P. H. White and Wade (1 record). Wade had done his bit by setting new 220 hurdle figures earlier in the season. Despite the standard of these events and excellent athletics at the Novice Championships (98 entries) 'all meetings failed to secure the long overdue support of undergraduates' Izzy lamented.

However all these matters were eclipsed by the Intervarsity meeting in Sydney. It was a thriller to the last event. 'Exceptionally keen rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne (the others were forgotten) led to a protracted struggle for supremacy, and at the end of the day, the teams were level. The first, and so far, only tie in the long history of this competition.' To keep up with Melbourne, which won all distances from 100 yards to 1 mile, Sydney had to pull out all the stops. Jack Metcalfe obliged with wins in the shot, broadjump and high jump, setting a new Australian record (6 ft. 5- $\frac{1}{4}$  in.) in the last. But he wasn't alone. 'At a crucial stage, with victory for Melbourne imminent, G. R. Jones, G. Read and W. T. Atkinson accomplished inspired performances, and thus enabled Sydney to share the honours.'

This thriller was followed at short notice by another cliffhanger when a combined Australian Universities team met New South Wales to notch a win 75 $\frac{1}{2}$  — 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Responsibility for awarding University Blues had been handed over to the constituent Clubs of the Sports Union and the Club celebrated what had undoubtedly been a bumper year by awarding fifteen to the deserving multitude. Izzy felt that the Club had 'maintained its reputation as an inexpensive unit of the Sports Union' and had 'consolidated its athletic position.' 'Consistent and concerted effort' would 'ensure further progress. *Do your bit.*'

Only two events had marred the steady advance of the Club during the year. One was the death of 'Chis' (A. A. Chislett) in August 1933 after fifty four years as Curator of the

Oval. 'Our interests were his interests, our successes his delight.' Chis had seen the Oval develop from a crudely fenced paddock, cropped by a few chosen cows, and watered by hand-carting of buckets from a stream near the present New Medical School to a well-loved hollow, overlooked by its upstart offspring No. 2 and St. Andrews Ovals. Early sportsmen refused to drink water from the creek and 'Chis' in those days was often despatched to a hostelry in Newtown 'to bring back a couple of buckets of fluid less likely to be injurious to the system.'

The second matter was a sad one for Izzy believing as he did in the organisation of Amateur Athletes in the State. 'Unavoidable reference must be made to the indecent haste and unfairness which characterised the A.A.A.'s suspension of the Club. Notwithstanding the fact that the S.U.A.C. had not previously transgressed . . . and that it had offered to present an explanation to the controlling body, *The A.A.A.*, in direct opposition to a rule incorporated in its own constitution, and to the ordinary rules of correct procedure, imposed an unwarranted suspension. Today, it is not clear what the Club had actually done wrong but at its next meeting the Association retracted and the suspension was lifted on the following day. But it was a blot on the honourable old escutcheon and Izzy didn't like it. 'Your Club has petitioned the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia to adjudicate on the original decision.' The next Annual report is silent on this topic.

1933-34

Despite the fact that the Committee felt 'the Club has upheld its worthiest traditions' this season was somewhat of an anti-climax except for some fine personal efforts. We lost Interclub, but not by much, and the Dunn Shield move to February didn't appeal, so we went down there too. However we managed to scrape up enough energy to win back the Ogilvy Cup for Relays with a team of only

thirteen, led by Metcalfe, D. G. Leggett and E. J. Eastaugh.

Even the large I-V team which went to Brisbane only turned in a few good performances. Izzy was annoyed that Jack Metcalfe was made to stay in Sydney at the time to attend social functions with the Empire Games Team rather than win some events for us.

It must be confessed that the year belonged by right to Metcalfe. He started the year in December at the Kensington Bowling Green (did they dig it up?), where he reached 6 ft. 6-1/8 in. in the High Jump (a world best at the time) and new Australian figures also for the standing hop step and jump (32 ft. 8-1/4 in.). At the State Championships a little later he set

new Australian figures in the broadjump (24 ft. 0-7/8 in.). To fill in before going to the Empire Games he tossed the shot a new distance of 40 ft. 11-1/2 in. at the Uni Championships. The Games in England were his final triumph with a jump of 51 ft. 3-1/2 in., a new British record and close to world figures.

All other performances faded beside these but some good efforts were evident specially from other field games experts with various records set by G. Read (P.V.), Eastaugh (Discus), Rosenblum (Hammer), J. D. I. Grant (440 Hurdles) and R. E. S. Charlton (Walk). The Club felt that 13 men were worthy of Blues when all the shouting had died down.



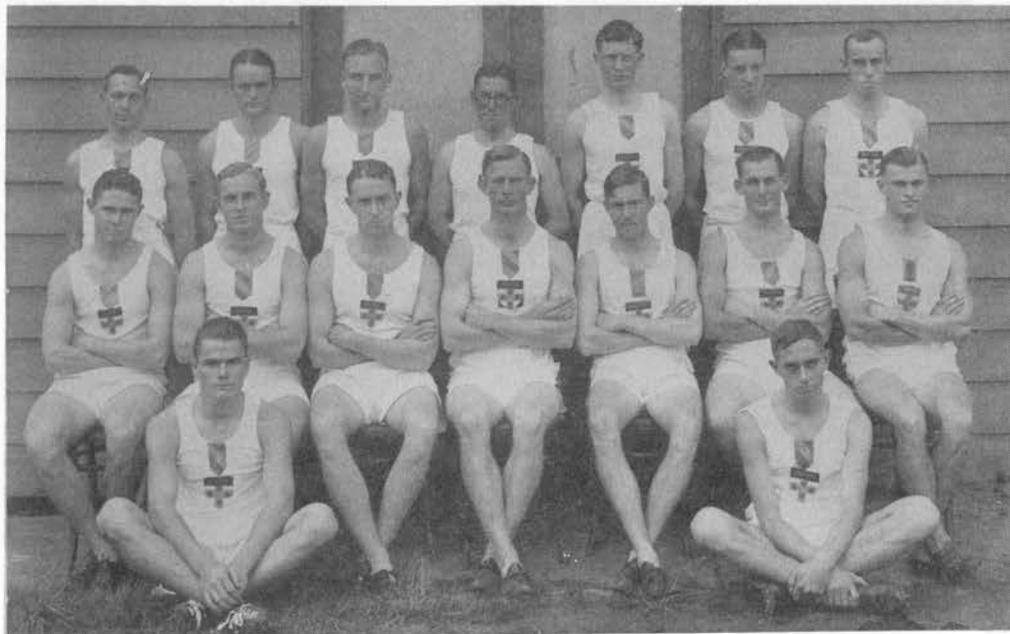
Intersarsity athletes of the famous Intersarsity tie (1933)

- Back Row: 1. Jack Metcalfe (Sydney), 2. Eddie Cohen (M.U.A.C. 100, 220),  
 3. J. K. Gabriel (M.U.A.C. 100, 220), 4. K. W. Pearce (M.U.A.C. 1 mile),  
 5. - (? Adelaide), 6. Paul White (Sydney 440 yds), 7. J. Buckley, Sydney 100 yds),  
 8. -, 9. A. R. C. Jamieson (M.U.A.C. 120 H), 10. -, 11. -, 12. J. M. Agar  
 (M.U.A.C. 440 yds), 13. -.
- 2nd Row: 1. Alec Brodsky (Sydney), 2. H. W. Hannah (M.U.A.C., 880, 1 mile),  
 3. - (? Adelaide), 4. M. V. McInerney (M.U.A.C. 880), 5. - ?, 6. Gordon Jones  
 (Sydney, 880), 7. - (?Qld), 8. - (Adelaide), 9. -, 10. Isadore Brodsky (Sydney)
- 3rd Row: 1. E. K. O'Donnell (M.U.A.C. 880), 2. R. Jeffreys (Sydney 120 yd. H).  
 3. K. S. Jones (Sydney 440 yds), 4. J. D. W. Begg (M.U.A.C. 1 mile),  
 5. W. Curteis (Sydney 100, 220), 6. M. Wade (Sydney 120 yd. H), 7. -, 8. -,  
 9. N. Russell Godby (M.U.A.C. Pole Vault).
- Front Row: 1. J. McC. Hambleton (M.U.A.C., Shot Put, Discus), 2. R. N. Boughton  
 (M.U.A.C. 440 yds. H.), 3. H. J. Warren (M.U.A.C. 440 yds. H.),  
 4. R. S. Robinson (M.U.A.C. 120 H.), 5. J. G. Lobban (M.U.A.C., High jump, Long  
 jump, H. S. & J.), 6. Stan Brennan (Sydney), 7. R. E. Francis (M.U.A.C. 440 yds)



Jack Metcalfe (above left) hurls the javelin for New South Wales. Metcalfe (above right) wins I-V high jump (Melbourne 1932) in his track suit using the eastern cut-off. The overcoated official (right) is probably Tubby Dodds famous as a hammer thrower throughout the 1920's.

Sydney's 1933 I-V team clothed well and truly in the club's modern uniform.



Top: Cohen, - Ingles, A. Murray, I. Brodsky, N. Britten, J. Buckley, P. Jeffreys.  
 Seated: J. Metcalfe, L. Grant, J. Broadbent, R. Smith, P. White, A. Freeman,  
 R. Thistlethwaite.  
 Bottom: - Atkinson, M. Wade.

## AN ATHLETE TO ADMYER.

One stalwart who deserves special mention is Myer Rosenblum. Myer's links with the Club span fifty five years. He started throwing the hammer for the club in 1924 and reached his peak in the mid 1930's, going on to represent Australia in this event in 1938 in the Empire Games, which also saw two other club members, Metcalfe and Magee, in action.

Like others of his generation Myer had to learn his athletic techniques himself, and it was very much a trial and error process from a crude beginning to the final three turn movement which took Myer to an Australian best of 145 feet 7 inches in 1935 and gave him State titles in 1932, 1933 and 1935 and the Australian titles in 1934 and 1936.

occasional jumps and when athletics wasn't in the offing starred first as a Rugby Union stalwart for both University and New South Wales, and later as a tennis player of no mean standing.

Not content with these activities Myer



Rosenblum's throws around this time were models of consistency. His first big win came in 1928 after four years of preparation when he toppled Tubby Dodds at Intervarsity. Next year he set a new University record of 110 feet 6 inches and a little later won the hammer for the Combined Universities against the New Zealand Universities with 113 feet. He increased this throw by more than 10 feet a few months later at Dunn Shield and from then on dominated the State titles for a few years, although there were some memorable struggles with Len Graham of the Police Club.

He broke O'Reilly's State record first at the University Championship in May 1935 throwing 144 feet 1 inch increasing it later to 144 feet 6 inches in September 1935. In January 1935 he had thrown 145 feet 7 inches but it was not allowed as a record. Myer filled in time between hammer throwing with shotput and

Myer in the old club costume handles the hammer politely.

occupied his leisure hours with highly competent blowing of the bassoon in between running a solicitor's office (Jack Metcalfe was at one time articled to him) and acting as entrepreneur for various touring musicians.

Myer's enthusiasm for hammer-throwing has not diminished with the years. He numbers among his protégés Lou Ariotti and more recently Alex Tahmindjis. Myer and Alex can be seen regularly at work on No. 2 oval trying to land a hammer square on the pitch in the middle. The older member of this pair recalls causing various problems on No. 2 Oval in the past. Whenever Myer appeared to practice the hammer, the groundsman's normally docile

The new look Rosenblum wins I-V with a throw of 119 ft. 10½ inches.



hack, which uncomplainingly pulled the heavy roller and mower, would leave at the gallop and no amount of persuasion would cause her to come back on the job until Myer and his fiendish thunder bolt from the sky disappeared.

On another occasion the hammer took an unintended course and landed with a tremendous crash on top of a tin shed used for sanitary purposes at the time. This resulted in the sudden emergence of a workman, pants around his ankles, who without hesitation dived into a nearby excavation to save himself from the expected visitation of the devil or the explosion presumed to be in the offing.

Perhaps it was this happening which led Myer to take out an insurance policy with Lloyds to cover the risk of accident to any spectator, a then unique move which gained him headlines.

Myer Rosenblum is still looking around for potential hammer throwers to train. Are there any takers?



How a cartoonist envisaged Myer's third party insurance policy.

## CHAPTER 13

### SPECIALIZE OR BE DAMNED ! JACK METCALFE EXCEPTED.

1934-35

This was a short year — six months in fact. The experiment of moving the Annual meeting to September-October had not been a success (it was too near exam times), so in 1935 it was moved back to March 28th when the lunch time meeting was held for the one and only time in the Inorganic Chemistry Theatre. The change was announced as:—

1. Making our year coincident with the Sports Union year;
2. Coinciding with the N.S.W. A.A.A. year;
3. Facilitating the recommendation of Blues;
4. Bringing the Club to the notice of Freshers.

The period from September '34 had been busy. Izzy had moved to Club President with Jack Metcalfe as Captain. A real break with tradition was the election in September '34 of M. Frank Albert as Patron displacing the traditional appointment, the Chancellor of the University.

Interclub was again a disappointment. We went down in A Grade to Easts, our Mile Relay Team failing unaccountably, and Y.M.C.A. beating us in the B Grade final. The Dunn Cup was even more frustrating: *'Owing to the apathy and nonchalance on the part of some members of the club who were selected but did not appear, the Dunn Shield was lost to Western Suburbs by 5/6ths of a point.'*

Merv Wade salved our wounds on this occasion by setting new State and Australian figures for the 220 hurdles. *'Congratulations Wade.'*

The Relay premiership was not defended. *'An entry was lodged but the executive took the responsibility of withdrawing the entry because of the insufficiency of members.'* Not enough members offered themselves for selection in interstate teams either, *'more . . . could have gained selection but they preferred to have a holiday in the country.'*

However some members had done their bit. There was a good battle between the old stalwart O. E. Worth ('32 winner), D. G. Leggett ('34) and Metcalfe ('33) for the Albert Cup, the latter taking the prize. He also gained, for the third successive year, the Coombes Medallion, awarded by the N.S.W. A.A.A. for the best Athlete in the State. This award was well deserved once again thanks to three titles and a record (H.S.J.) in the State Championships, a better effort at the Victorian Centenary International Competitions where he again set new H.S.J. figures (50 ft. 5-7/8 in.) and recorded the best javelin performance by an Australian (183 ft. 7 in.), and winning efforts (H.J. and Javelin) for N.S.W. against Victoria.

Rosenblum, J. T. Adamson (High jump), D. K. Donald, Grant and Wade (all hurdles), and Gill (Discus) were others who gained favourable notice. Even N. A. Burges a '33 athlete now far

away in Cambridge gained *'Congratulations, Burges!'* for his Pole Vault win in the Freshman Championships at Cambridge.

The six-month year ended before I-V. This was scheduled for Adelaide where we had not won since 1908, but we needed to send a good team. *'The expenses will not be great and an excellent opportunity of seeing Victoria and South Australia is afforded at the minimum expense.'*

There was room for complaint at the way the Club was treated at the University. *'The Athletic Club has always maintained its existence with the least possible expense. Supplying competition for more than fifty men our financial demands on the Sports Union are very small. This year the annual estimate was smaller than any constituent Club, yet any small demands for material met with unwarranted opposition. The Athletic Club aims to promote amateur sport within the University and should not have to borrow material from an outside source. Most of the equipment at the oval is antiquated and in some cases useless.'*



Jack Metcalfe sets an Australian hop, skip and Jump record of 50'3.3/4" at Sydney Sports Ground, 19.1.1935.

Success in the future can only be obtained by specialisation on the part of individuals and the concentration of this specialisation by co-operation with fellow Club members. Let every man specialise and co-operate in welding the Athletic Club into a more efficient and competent body. *Specialists and Co-operate!*

A final note for the year was the discovery that the Club had missed its 50th year Jubilee. Izzy had followed up G. V. Portus' claim that it had begun in 1885. His research took the beginning back to 1879.

1935-36

The season started back where it belonged — Lent Term, and was marked by 5 records at the University Championships — not one by Metcalfe! Gill set new discus and javelin marks and the hurdles kept tumbling down to Wade (220) and Paul Magee (440), while Potts reduced the mile figures. A pattern had been set in the past few years and there was no record older than 1929 at this time.

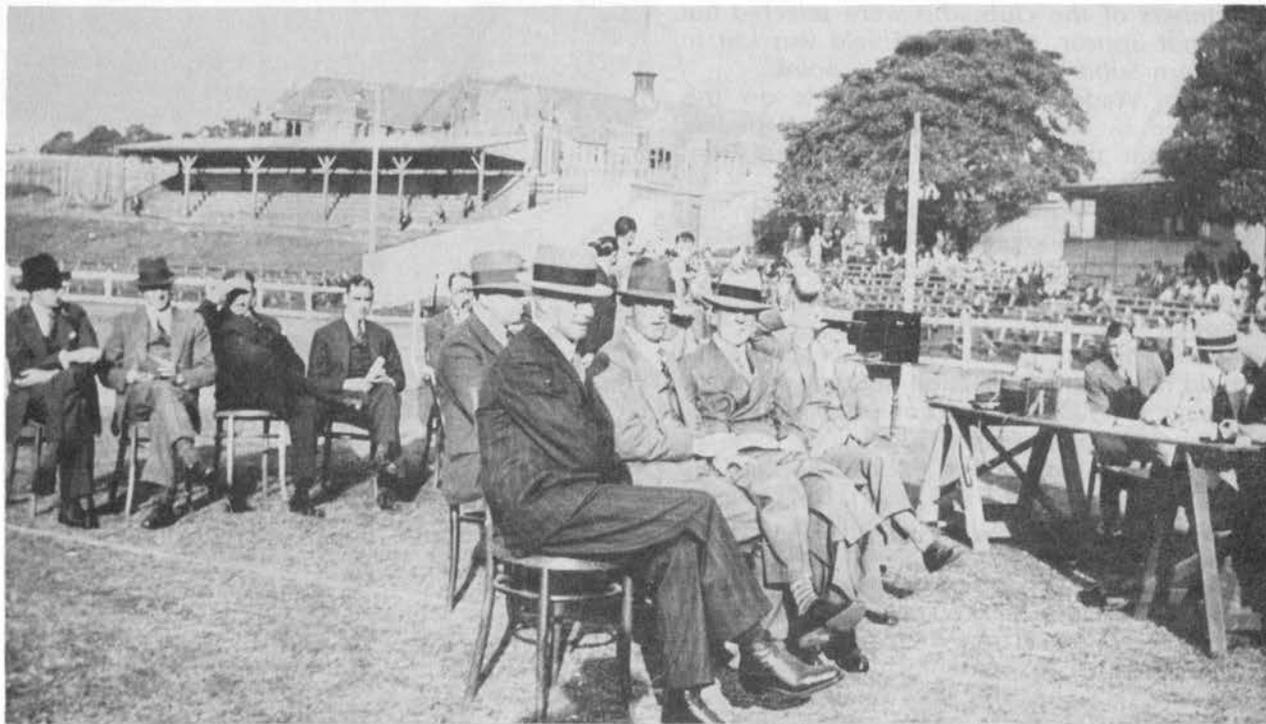
However I-V victory wasn't to come our way, 'the absence of our best half-mile runners' contributing to our defeat, and despite the addition to our team of former Melbourne stalwart J. G. Lobban.

We didn't win too much outside losing to Wests in both A and B Grades thanks to 'a

series of accidents to our sprinters' and 'a last-minute alteration by the Interclub Management Board in the programme resulting in the loss of several points in the Shot Putt.'

The Relay Championship had been changed to a competition extending over several months which didn't suit and our team was withdrawn. We didn't bother to enter the February Dunn Shield, but moved strongly at A.A.A. meetings to have the competition put back where it rightly belonged, in December (which it was) and the Relays put firmly in February (they were).

Among individual performances everything was eclipsed by Jack Metcalfe's world record in the Hop Step and Jump established at the State Championships (University Oval), with a leap of 51 ft. 9-3/8 in. Lobban's splendid 24 ft. 6-1/4 in. setting a new Australian B.J. standard at the same meeting went almost unnoticed. Despite this jump Lobban was not selected in the official N.S.W. team for Hobart (they probably felt he still had Victorian sympathies), but Izzy got together with the Patron and Vice-Presidents and 'a generous and whole-hearted response' enabled the Club to meet part of his expenses. Their support proved justified when he won the Australian title. Myer Rosenblum, now a real veteran, retained the hammer throw title perhaps as a



Izzy Brodsky's organising ability gathered many distinguished onlookers on championship day. Among those on the spot were (from left) - 2. Professor Frank Cotton, 3. Professor G---, 4. Dr. Mutton, 5. Professor H. R. Dew (Dean of Medicine), 6. Nigel Barker, 7. Mr. Le Couteur (Headmaster, Newington College), 8. R. S. Wallace, Vice-Chancellor.

result of having 'recently plighted his troth.'

A bold and far-seeing project (as yet unfulfilled) was put forward this year by Izzy for 'an Olympic Standard track, should the University undertake renovation of the oval.' Plans were prepared by P. D. Walsh and presented to the Vice-Chancellor and 'the authorities urged to give full consideration to this project.' Perhaps they did, but nothing eventuated.

During the year Club members were shocked by the sudden death of E. J. Eastaugh, Club vice-captain and a prominent field man as we have noted in past years.

This loss was balanced to some extent by the elation at Metcalfe's selection in the team for the Berlin Olympics, our third Olympian.

To round off the year, ordinary mortals in the Club were admonished 'to train more carefully and scientifically. They were no use 'if an injury necessitates retirement early in the season.' We could be the premier Club in New South Wales if 'support and enthusiasm are sincere.'

#### 1936-37

This was an up-and-down season again, in which we dropped behind Adelaide and Melbourne in I-V, and fell away in Interclub after the Christmas break. 'Although early in the competition over thirty five members were taking part each Saturday, the number decreased steadily to ten,' and some of the B Grade matches had to be forfeited. Our relay efforts were similarly unsuccessful.

However to show what could be done the Club won the Dunn Shield in December with 'a fairly representative team, although many members still find difficulty in altering other arrangements.' Success was due to 'good performances in all divisions, rather than by individual brilliance' apart from the efforts of N. F. Mottershead who won the sprint double.

Only three other members get a mention in the Club's annual report. They are Eric Wilson, J. A. Paul and of course Jack Metcalfe. Wilson followed in the steps of R. Charlton to gain the Club's second Blue for Walking and won the State Junior title. It was good to note that two other unnamed walkers gave the Club 'complete representation in walking events although they often found the time limit 'rather too severe.' Paul's efforts at I-V, a good second in the mile were his major claim to fame.

Metcalfe as usual scintillated wherever he competed and at whatever event. Before leaving for the Berlin Olympics he set his usual few records for the year, new Javelin and H.S.J. figures at the University Championships, won two events at the British Championships and came a good third in the Olympic event (having coached the eventual winner!) He capped a good season by taking the State H.S.J., H.J. and decathlon titles.

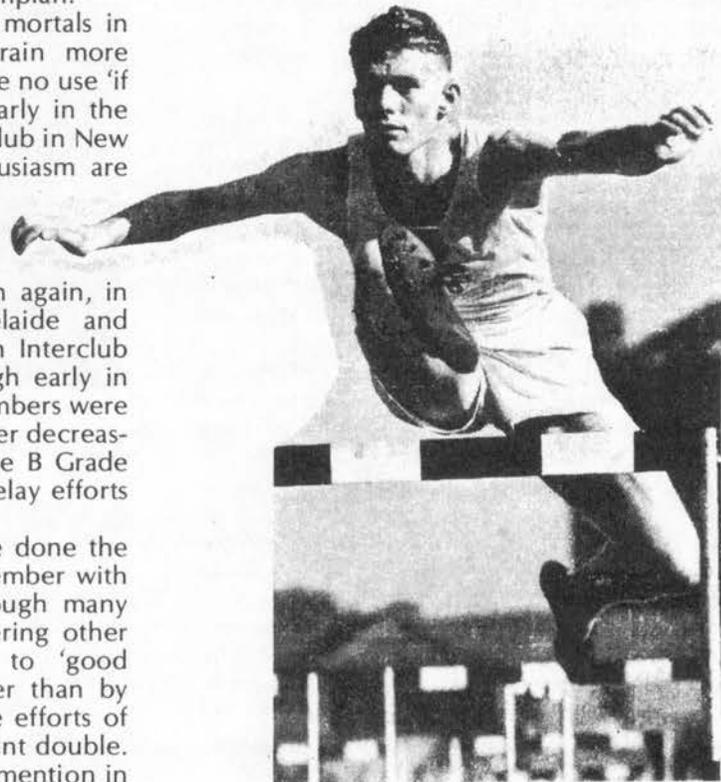
Metcalfe came back with information about new style hurdles and with Izzy's prodding 'the

Sports Union generously granted the means of purchasing' them. They were in fact made in Sydney for the Club and were the first such used in Australia.

Two 'social' events should be noticed — one a dance held to farewell Metcalfe — a right merry turn in the Union, and the purchase, thanks to J. W. Metcalfe, of films of the Olympic Games, which the Club showed with some delight.

#### 1937-38

The pendulum showed a decided swing back this year and Izzy must have felt his efforts



Keith Donald shows a leg over the new style hurdles, 1938.

were worthwhile. We won both A Grade Interclub and the Dunn Shield (our sixth win) and it was all team work, 21 members contributing to the latter effort. We didn't manage to stop Melbourne's run at I-V despite 'a most capricious point scoring system' and seven wins to Melbourne's five.

Club records continued to tumble, four went this year, again in the field and specialty events. L. Wall made a spectacular debut at the Uni Championships beating Metcalfe in both High and Broad Jumps, but he had forgotten to transfer from his old club so wasn't permitted to hold the titles. Despite some first class performances Mottershead just failed to get his name in the record books over 440 yards. Paul Magee had a splendid year setting Australian records in the 220 and 440 hurdles and gaining selection in the Empire Games team along with

Metcalf, Myer Rosenblum and Roy Chappel who had run some excellent 880 yards races, including 1.59 at Intercollegiate (not accepted as a record 'as the requisite number of time-keepers was not in attendance').

These four were joined earlier in the season in the State Team by J. H. Waters, W. P. Nicholas, and P. W. Gill with Read, Wall and Ariotti (our up and coming hammer thrower) as reserves. Eight men were selected for Blues including the two walkers Eric Wilson and Arthur Stephenson. Where were the sprinters?

The Club was now thought to be approaching its Diamond Jubilee and special efforts were called for. One present the Club was wishing for had not eventuated — 'A Standard Athletic Track.' The annual report 'hoped that this urgent need will receive adequate attention from the Senate and from the Sports Union.'

Something of the Brodsky Era feeling is given by reading through the Annual reports from 1930-37 which have been mentioned above. Although nominally signed by the successive Secretary-Treasurers it is difficult to believe that each is not the sole work of Izzy Brodsky. The pungent phrases, heavily underlined sections and the general air of bustle are unique.

The ability of the twins to cajole, entreat, or browbeat people in high places and their willingness to devote enormous slabs of time led to the Club gaining notable publicity. Alec's quieter work behind the scene perfectly balanced Izzy's more flamboyant 'front man' image. The two man team was effective for the Club as Richard Coombes and E. S. Marks were for the N.S.W. A.A.A. in earlier years.

Izzy first gave the Club a sense of its real history, by delving into any old records he could find, and we see the Club programmes adorned first with 'Founded 1885', based on some counting I have previously described. Later this caption changes to 'Founded 1879.' In 1939 Izzy published 4 illustrated articles in the Union Recorder setting out the major achievements of the Club's long life. It is a



Paul Magee and other sporty types relax in the Dandenongs Melbourne I-V 1937.

truly excellent summary. Later he put the articles together as a small booklet and there are still a few copies around.

With the sense of history came a sense of tradition which the Brodskys' felt should be fanned into a fire of enthusiasm. They harped on the University spirit, till it came out of members' ears and they tried to instil an appreciation of the privilege it was to be a



Half-mile start, Inter-Varsity Sydney 1938. No-one seems to have heard the starter's pistol!

'Varsity man and an athlete to boot. It was the depression and many men were walking the streets, rather than running the tracks and the Brodskys' knew both sides of the coin.

Their efforts encouraged the specialist athletes to a degree which was unprecedented in the earlier years and it is significant that most of the Club records which tumbled during their era were in specialist events.

*Paul Magee remembers*

It is hard to think of the nineteen-thirties without thinking of the Brodsky twins. Isadore Irvine Brodsky was three minutes older than his identical twin Alexander Gregory Brodsky and always used his seniority to enforce his decisions. But both of them had a profound influence on the activities of the S.U.A.C. in the early to mid-thirties.

Both entered the University as mature-age students. Having left school at 14 years of age to earn their living, they were self-educated to matriculation standard and enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine when they were in their mid-twenties. The drive and purpose that achieved that result was continued into University life but primarily focussed on the resurrection of the Athletic Club. Both were active athletes and won their Blues — Izzy for the hammer throw and Alex, who was also known as Wassy, for the discus. But it was in the organisation and administration of the Club that they were most active. Izzy was Secretary and later President. Alex was the junior partner.

Their persuasive powers were considerable and in a matter of two years the number of members of the Club tripled. They successfully concentrated on recruiting the best of the schoolboy athletes who entered the University. Their verbal assaults were strongest at those who considered joining clubs other than

S.U.A.C. — and even winning over undergraduate athletes who were already members of other clubs. Not everybody loved them, but they were effective.

Among the innovations they were responsible for were:

- the present S.U.A.C. running costume of white with blue and gold flash and badge on the singlet (Brock Rowe was also involved);
- importation from Japan of the first bamboo vaulting poles used in Australia (the surplus was sold at a profit for the Club though Sports Union rules did not allow individual clubs to have separate finances at that time);
- the first steel telescope hurdles, high jump and pole vault stands used in Australia only months after these new items of equipment were introduced to the world at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

But the most notable achievements were the improvements in the Club's performances in Interclub competition, the Dunn Shield (now defunct), the State Relays and Intersarsity. Interclub premiership was always elusive because then, as now, the mid-summer vacation depleted the ranks. But, for the Dunn Shield which was a full programme spread over only two Saturdays of competition, the Brodsky influence achieved full attendance of S.U.A.C. talent and on two occasions the Club beat the interclub premiers.

Intersarsity was always a two-way battle between Sydney and Melbourne. Lack of air travel and distance usually depleted the teams from Queensland, Adelaide and Tasmania. West Australia was out of the question. So it was always Sydney or Melbourne. Melbourne scored more victories in the thirties, but the pinnacle for excitement and Brodsky-generated-enthusiasm was a cliff-hanger in



Izzy and Alec Brodsky in cheerful mood.

which the result was a tie at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1933.

The Club had more than its share of State, Australian and Olympic representative champions and national record holders during the period, but the outstanding athlete of the time was Jack Metcalfe who represented Australia in the triple jump at Berlin gaining third place. The year before, Metcalfe had created a world record in the high jump — 6 ft. 6- $\frac{1}{8}$  in. at a special record attempt held on the Kensington Bowling Green, Sydney and another world record in the triple jump — 51 ft. 9- $\frac{3}{8}$  in.—on University Oval.

If there had been a Blue awarded for Chess, Metcalfe would have been a triple Blue. He

had also won his Blue for Athletics and Ski.

It is interesting to reflect that this was a period before Club or individual coaches were heard of. Each athlete had to organise himself and his own ideas of training for his event. But the indirect influence of Izzy Brodsky had an effect in two ways. First, he made his ideas on specialisation stick. It was 'one man, one event.' That gave great depth to the team. The second was a kind of Percy Cerutti enthusiasm which he could communicate — whether you liked it or not. The Medical Yearbook for his final year summed him up with a quote from 'Twelfth Night' . . . 'I am Sir Oracle, when I open my mouth let no dog bark.'



Intercollegiate - a black & blue finish in the late 1930's.

Paul Magee concentrates on the next hurdle.



## CHAPTER 14

### PALACE REVOLUTION

1938-39

The end of the Brodsky era occurred in 1938. It can be read in the change of President from Dr. I. I. Brodsky to G. Read and the absence of the former from the list of Vice-Presidents. The tone and style of the '38-39 Annual report would alone give notice of the change. One small organisational change took place at the same time. The position of Club Treasurer as such was abolished combined with that of Secretary. Perhaps there wasn't enough money about to be really bothered about.

Why did it happen and who was responsible for the change?

That it came from within the Club's mainstream is clear from the few other changes which can be noted in the Club's officers and these changes are the natural ones of attrition as members graduate and move to other activities. Magee, Read, Metcalfe, Donald, Broadbent were now mature athletes and perhaps felt that they, too, knew how to organize and enthuse members as students had done in the Club for sixty years before them. The move was apparently swift and perhaps less painful than might have been expected. Though surprised — at first — probably Izzy too realised it was time to make way for he had already created a legend. Izzy produced his history of the Club a year later and organised the Jubilee Dinner about the same time. He maintained a tenuous hold which was renewed briefly in the 1950's and more firmly in the 1970's when he met the present generation and told them of past champions and battlers and the joy of a good club.

The new-old regime simply had to justify itself and set out to do so with gusto. 127 entries poured in for the Novice Championships and records galore went flying. Some of the stars on this occasion were induced to try their luck at the University Championships which followed the next week. Despite the wet, standards were high and as usual speciality records were broken (hammer, javelin, 220 and 440 hurdles) and the two miles as well. Whatsmore, two short distance men had appeared on the scene to challenge Mottershead; they were F. L. Clark and D. B. Dunn.

Enthusiasm was also apparent in good crowds at Intercollegiate, but the expected close match proved an easy win for Andrews. Magee showed form in 120 yards hurdles and 440 yards flat, neither his speciality, and S. Tuboutoa shot the putt in convincing fashion.

To warm up for Intersivity a Club team paid its first visit to Canberra to compete against Duntroon Royal Military College and other locals. Here Brian Dunn showed his potential by running 10 seconds for 100 yards. We had a top sprinter at last. The meeting was voted a success both athletically and socially, the long

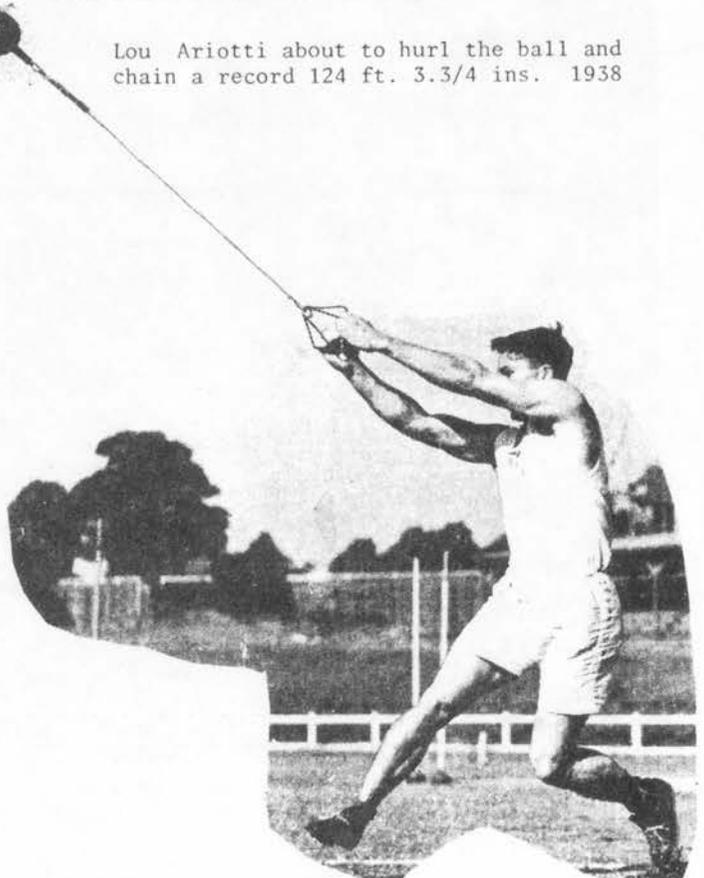
train journey back and forth no doubt contributing in part to the latter comment though the Canberra hosts were more than cordial.

This social strengthening may have been an important factor in the team's success, shortly after, at I-V, nineteen men represented the Club in Sydney, indicating that Izzy Brodsky's 'specialize' campaign had borne fruit, and for the first time since 1928 we had a straight win over Melbourne. It was wet again but Magee and Metcalfe both managed to set records. The point scoring system still seemed to create havoc amongst the University Mathematicians and team managers, in fact it was 'worrying and confusing for everyone.' Sydney proposed 'that first places alone be counted for the Cup' (something we wanted changed way back in the 1890's), but the other Universities weren't too happy about this. To make the point the Club Committee prevailed on Dr. R. G. Waddy of early 1900's fame to donate a cup for the University team gaining the most first places at I-V. Ironically, despite our overall win the first winner of the Waddy Cup was Melbourne!

Combined Universities met Combined Metropolitan Clubs shortly after I-V, when there was excellent competition and good performances from Dunn, Clark and J. H. Waters.

The summer brought interclub, Dunn Shield and State Championships and our deposed leader must have felt that lessons had been

Lou Ariotti about to hurl the ball and chain a record 124 ft. 3.3/4 ins. 1938



well and truly learned. We lost A grade by a single loss to Wests and the B grade team fared only slightly less well. However we made up for these defects by annihilating Wests and all others in the Dunn Shield, our third successive win (7 in all) 'due to all-round team work.'

The State Championships saw us gain the Referee Shield (for the most wins by a Club). Brian Dunn turned in a sensational 9.6 for the 100 yards to equal the Australian record, and a broad jump of 24ft. 6- $\frac{1}{4}$ in., (good by any standards), Magee annexed the 220 and 440 yards hurdles, while Metcalfe was content with high jump and javelin titles.

The Club had reason to be pleased with a splendid year and awarded 12 Blues to show it. It was also grateful to Messrs. Tom Ludwig and Eccles the groundsmen, and bestowed its beneficence on Medicine, winners of the Fishman Cup, Prince Alfred Hospital (Inter-Hospital Relay), and despite the absence of a 'standard Olympic track,' on the Secretary of the Sports Union, Mr. L. Philpott.

To celebrate the predicted Diamond Jubilee more socializing was proposed, in the form of a commemorative dinner.

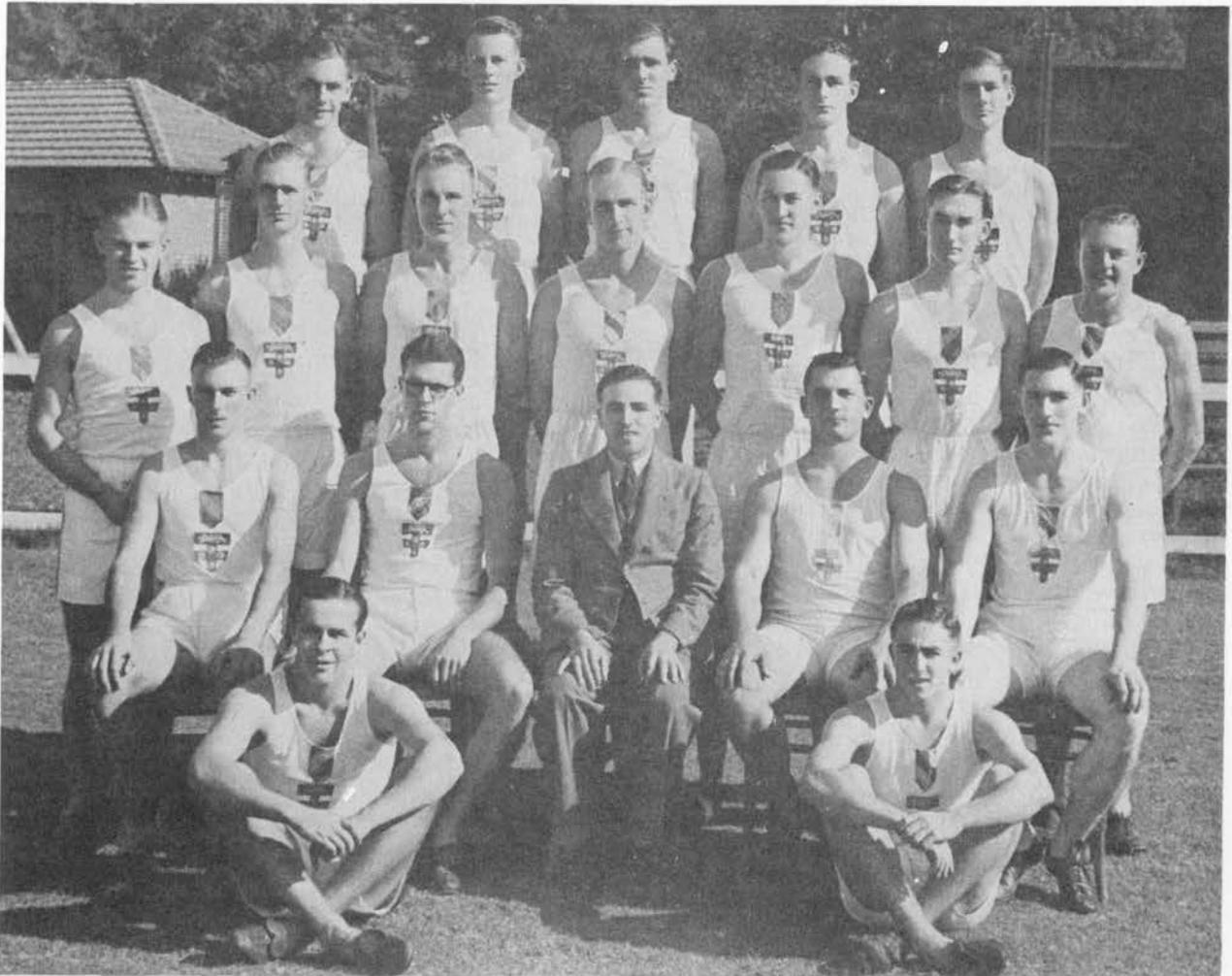
The Club had shown that even under new

management, (with a conscience implanted by the old), it had 'the ability to do great things' and possessed 'the spirit to do them.'

1939-40

With war clouds looming it was sport as usual during the first half of the season. A good Novice turn out led to the University Championships held on a waterlogged track, which did not deter the record-makers Magee (120 and 220 hurdles), Stephenson (mile walk) and Ariotti (hammer). However conditions didn't suit everyone and Dunn, O. Platt-Hapworth and C. L. Cullen ended the day with injuries. Intercollegiate, which again drew the best crowd of the season, proved a triumph for Andrews, thanks to Magee's 4 wins (all the sprints, including a 50 seconds 440, and the 120 hurdles) while Tuboutoa was again the best weight thrower in the business setting new figures.

W. A. (Bill) Leventhal managed a team of 18 to Brisbane for I-V but Dunn had not recovered and was unable to compete. His absence probably made the difference, as we went down by half a point for the Qld. U.L.V.A. Cup the symbol of I-V supremacy.



The 1939 I-V team knew how it felt to lose by  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point!

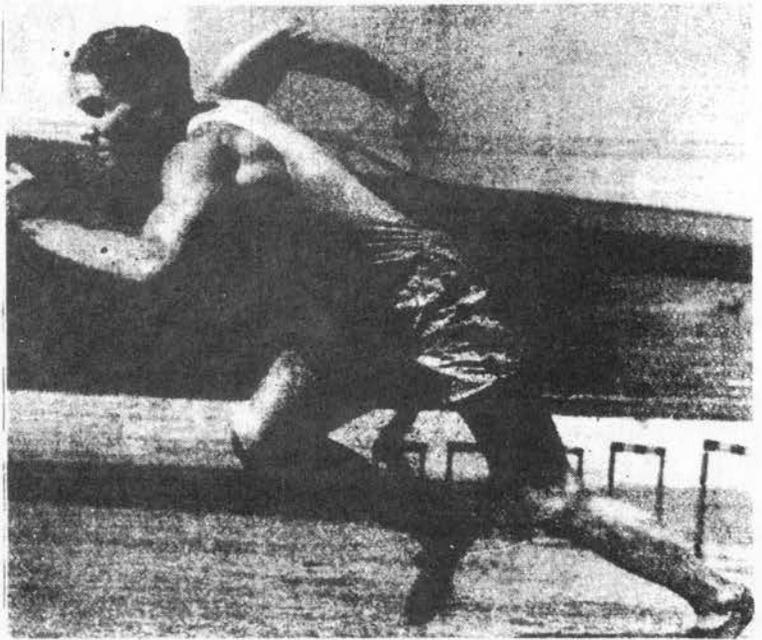
The Waddy Cup for first places had to be decided on a count back of second places and Melbourne took this too (5 wins 6 seconds to Sydney's 5 and 4). A mild consolation was Magee's 440 hurdles record of 54.2 and new figures by Lou Ariotti, 41ft. 10-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in., in the Shot.

Perhaps as a training for real war Duntroon Military College invited us to Canberra for a 'well arranged and keenly contested' match which S.U.A.C. won 99½ to 104¼ (to confuse the issue a system of lowest points for wins etc.) Ariotti starred with a 151ft. 9in. hammer throw, beating the best by an Australian, while Dunn, Clark and Curtin showed good form.

The latter part of the season was a succession of triumphs, a crushing win in A Grade interclub, our fourth successive win of the Dunn Shield ('despite the alteration in the method of allotting it'), the Ogilvy Cup (including 2 man walk and 2 x 120 hurdles relays!), the Proud Cup at Manly and the Referee Shield (3 wins by Metcalfe, 2 by Magee and one by Ariotti) ending a splendid year.

A major change in the Club can be gauged by the addition of a good C grade squad to the A and B grade teams which had previously represented at Interclub. Despite its champions, or perhaps because of them, undergraduates of average ability were being welcomed into the Club to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

At the end of it all the Committee felt that 13 Blues were in order and that special commendation was due to Magee (M. F. Albert Cup), Stephenson for a world class mile walk of 6.27,



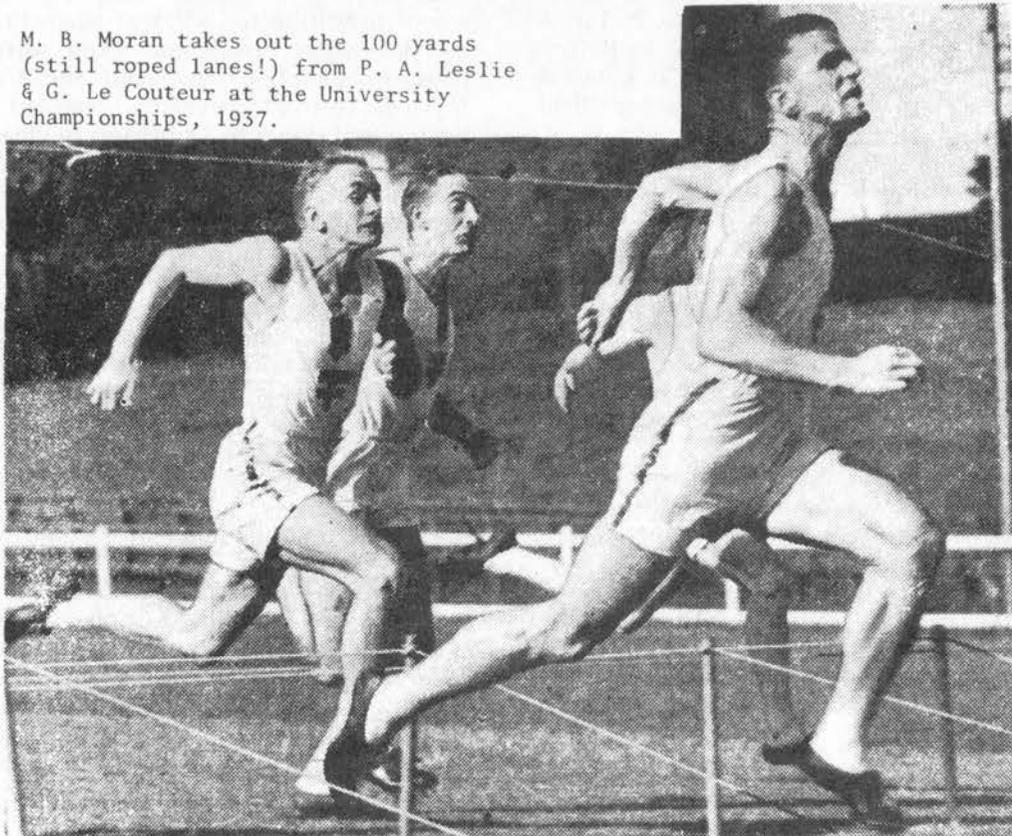
Brian Dunn shows his powerful starting drive.

Medicine for winning Interfaculty and B. A. Curtin and Brian Dunn who were selected to visit New Zealand in the Australian Universities Team.

The Sports Union Secretary, Groundsmen and even the officials who assisted at our various meetings were remembered in the general air of euphoria which prevailed.

The Club had worked to 'maintain its traditions and performances.

M. B. Moran takes out the 100 yards (still roped lanes!) from P. A. Leslie & G. Le Couteur at the University Championships, 1937.



## CHAPTER 15

### WORLD WAR II — BUSINESS NEARLY AS USUAL

1940-41

The war had moved closer to Australia by now but its effect on the Club was not felt till the latter part of 1941. Wet weather disrupted all the University meetings, but despite this, enthusiasm was considerable and standards were good. New-comer, Doug Scott, set the first record of the year in the Novice Shot 39 ft. 7-¼ in. Not to be outdone Tubuotoa improved on the Intercollegiate figure with 40 ft. 3 in. Stephenson was the man of note at this time, walking the mile in 6.30.1, a figure which was to stand for a long time. He did even better on Festival Day with a time of 6.25.2, truly world class.

Intervarsity in Adelaide, saw our old away-from-home problem; we couldn't field our very best team. We came in second again and went down for the second time on a count-back for the Waddy Cup after winning 6 of the twelve events on the programme, one a record 42ft. 11-¾in. by Ariotti in the Shot.

By September the Army was in earnest and couldn't spare time for the frivolities of track and field so the Duntroon match was off. We consoled ourselves with a match against Shore School, a challenge which had lapsed for several years. This served us well for the beginning of interclub when we started off brilliantly. We had enough members to allow teams in grades A to D, another increase on the previous year and were doing well, until many members 'got the call' and the University Regiment went into camp. This cost us about one-third of our strength and left us 2nd in A grade, semi-finalists in B and 3rd in C. Before receiving marching orders F. L. Clark ran a splendid 49.2 440 yards, the fastest since Nigel Barker's days.

By now the N.S.W. A.A.A. was feeling patriotic, or perhaps was just short of organizers; but whatever the reason the State Championships (individual and relay) were not held. However, to replace these events, the Dunn Shield reverted to its original form, and the Club gained its fifth successive win. Dunn's 9.7sec. 100 yards and broad jump, Stephenson's 1 mile and 2 mile walks, Ariotti's Shot and R. J. Goldacre's 440 hurdles wins were major contributions.

Again, a very good year, but many past and present members were going about the serious business of war and the Club hoped for 'their early and safe return.'

A sign of the changing times can be gained from the Secretary's report. Among those worthies thanked for helping the Club may be found the name Miss P. Chiene 'an able Honorary Recorder.' The ladies had arrived on the scene.

1941-42

The one major change this year was the

abandonment of I-V 'for the duration'. Travel had become difficult, if not impossible interstate, and it was not easy to organize teams. However the business of education went on apace and sport continued within the hallowed walls. Some 170 entries for the Novice Championships showed the measure of interest and two new stars in L. W. Davies (H.J.) and W. J. Flanagan (Sprints) emerged from the talented throng. For the third year in a row wet weather marred the University Championships. This seemed purely to stimulate Lou Ariotti to better things as he set new distances for both Shot and Hammer. His efforts no doubt helped him to enjoy more fully the cocktail party which followed the Championships.

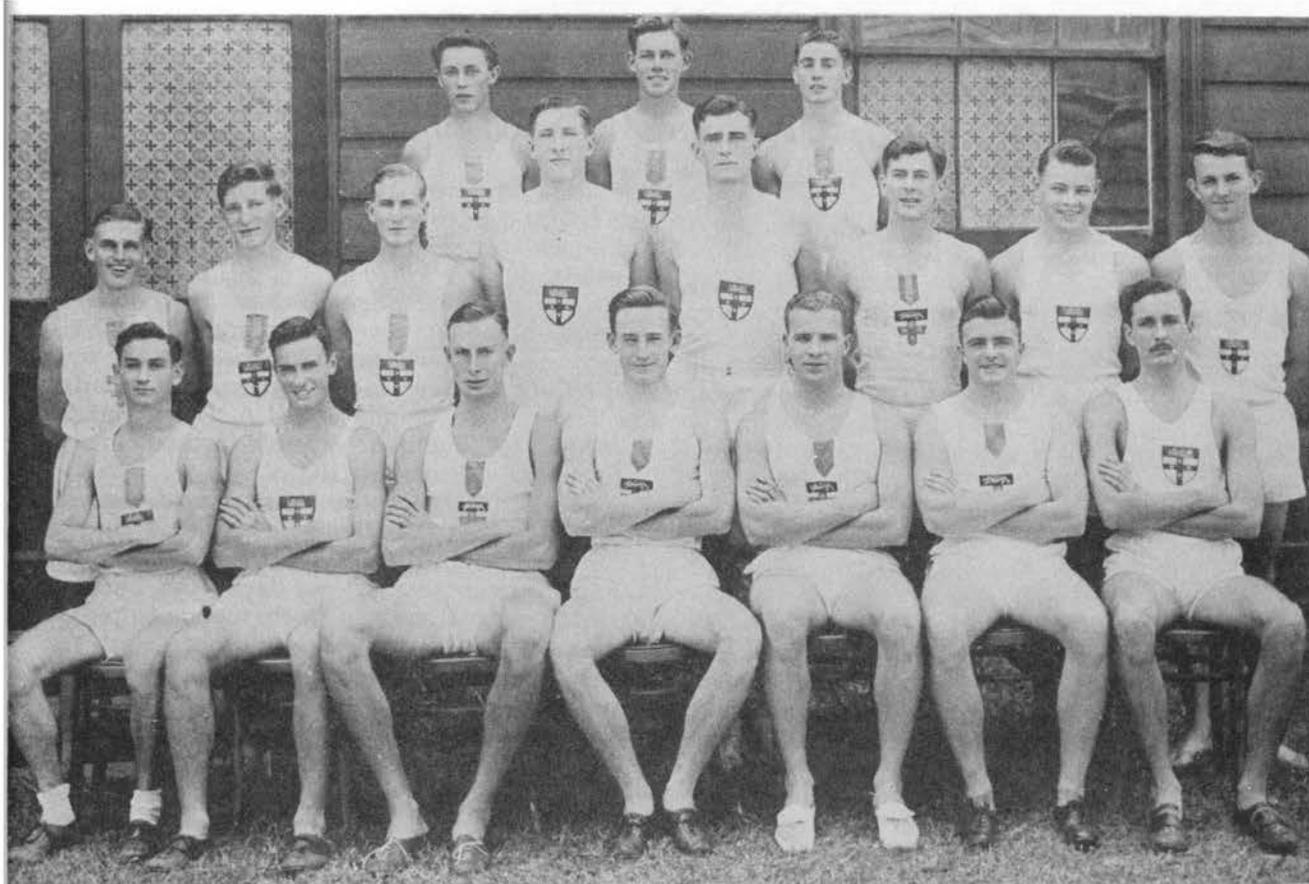
Intercollegiate proved an even closer tussle than the previous year, Wesley beating Pauls by 3-½ points, whereas the margin the previous year had been 3-2/3 points! Doug Scott followed Ariotti's example of the previous week by breaking the Intercollegiate Shot Putt record, while R. Higham's 10.2 (not enough watches!) 100 yards showed we had more than one good sprinter on hand.

Increased numbers in the Club meant a few more long distance men than previously and for the first time in many years the Club ran in the winter cross-country season, under the leadership of R. J. Goldacre.

The Army had obviously rethought its position on athletics and during the year the Club had three military matches. The first, a minor substitute for I-V, was against the Army in May when Ariotti and Clark were to the fore. In October we faced the Combined Services Team at University Oval and the next week went down to Duntroon to clean up the up and coming officers. On this occasion Clark (sprints), R. G. Sheaffe (120 hurdles), K. L. Everingham (mile) and J. W. McFadden (H.S.J.) were the stars. Duntroon had invited both the G.P.S. and Associated Schools to send teams but this arrangement did not eventuate.

Our four teams fronted up again for Interclub (60 members registered) but difficulty of obtaining leave and other circumstances saw us go down to our old rivals, Wests, in A grade. They also managed to wrest the Dunn Shield away from us after our long and successful run of victories.

Despite this loss the Club could justifiably feel it was keeping up old traditions and that standards had not suffered. Particular care was taken at the Combined Services meeting to send invitations to the 'Vice-Chancellor, all Vice-Presidents, the Patron, Mr. W. A. Selle (The Registrar) and to anyone else who might be interested'. However one person was not satisfied and there was some discussion when Izzy Brodsky described the meeting as being 'run like a circus.' The Club Committee spent



Interclub team 1944-45 (runners up)

some time deliberating on this matter, but finally resolved 'that nothing be done about Dr. Brodsky's remarks to the Press . . . and that the whole matter be allowed to pass into oblivion.'

The Committee minute books of the period are revealing as to the effect of the war. There were problems of awarding Blues without intervarsity competition, selecting teams and finding men had moved to the Middle East rather suddenly, replacing secretaries and Committee men at short notice for similar reasons.

Although some funds had been expended on necessities such as a new Judge's stand they were carefully husbanded and war savings certificates were purchased whenever possible. The small profit anticipated from the October 18th meeting was to go to the University Patriotic Fund.

Among its mail at the time was a circular from the energetic N.S.W. Aid Russia Committee asking the Club to send delegates to its forthcoming congress. Secretary David Harvey Sutton wrote back explaining that the Club was concerned only with amateur athletics, and could therefore not send delegates to a body concerned with national and political matters'. A subsequent committee meeting thoroughly endorsed his action.

The Club was having some trouble at this time with the N.S.W. A.A.A. on several matters: the first was the demand by the A.A.A. that the Club supply a number of officials for interclub in proportion to its registered members. This

was virtually impossible for a Club whose organisers came from the ranks of competing athletes. The Club simply had no 'hangers on' in regular supply.

The second was the old perennial — whether graduates should be allowed to compete for the University at Interclub. A sub-committee of the A.A.A. was set up to consider the matter but it didn't seem to get anywhere. Rather than resurrect the matter and stir a few irate Club secretaries, the Club Committee decided to 'let sleeping dogs lie' and the matter passed out of sight at least for the time being.

Although the Committee felt that graduates should be able to run for the Club there was a strong feeling that the Albert Cup should be for undergraduates only. The Patron agreed but with the proviso that students studying for a second degree could also be considered (i.e. anyone eligible to compete in Intersvarsity).

Equipment maintenance was a serious business at a time when materials could not be imported, and there was some dismay when the Finnish wooden javelin came back damaged from Duntroon. It seemed likely that it could only be repaired by shortening it, which would make it useless for competition. By good fortune the old spear was fixed a a new one unearthed locally. The 3 bamboo poles were also showing signs of wear but they were expertly taped to minimise spearing the jumper should they collapse during a vault. At the same time B. J. Taylor was authorized to try and buy another.

## CHAPTER 16

### OF HORSES AND OTHER WARRIORS

1942-43

The year opened well with 149 entries in the Novice Championships aided by a new award, the Hutton Cup for Novice Championship 'to encourage versatility' — something not encouraged a few years before!

There was some talent about and records were set in the 220 Hurdles (B. J. Taylor), Shot (R. King), H.S.J. (G. Hession) and Javelin (B. Bruce-Smith), a good variety, with Hession taking out the first E. J. Hutton award.

Despite this good turnout entries were down in the University Championships, the walkers, hurdlers, hammer throwers, highjumpers and 2 milers being rather scarce. However Trevor Evans threw the javelin close to Jack Metcalfe's 182 feet plus record and R. Higham managed a record-equalling 10.2 se. 100 yards in his triple sprint win. The following week Higham repeated the dose at the Intercollegiate giving Wesley its third consecutive win. He was able to celebrate appropriately at the cocktail party which followed the meeting.

After protracted negotiations — interested and on, cricket practices and off, all clear and on, a successful challenge match was held in October against Combined Associated Schools with the Club taking the honours.

A match which didn't come off was one against the U.S. Forces, now part of the local scene. An attempt to attract the visitors from the dubious pleasures of King's Cross failed as 'they have no shoes'. The Secretary's approach to 'firms with American interests' suggesting the shoes be donated apparently fell on deaf ears, and in the end the Americans proved to be 'not available.'

However the Duntroon visit was on again and a very pleasant time was had by all in Canberra. University won again, this time by 117½-99½, just to confuse the issue! Harvey Sutton (mile and discus), Noel Martin (H.J.) and D. J. Walters (440) joined the stars Hession and Taylor to feature in the athletic portion of the weekend.

About this time, for the second year in succession, the Club agreed to supply 'starter, tape and marbles' (for tracks!) at the Women's Sports day.

Things slumped at Interclub where the Club only managed to field two teams and there were few to fill the minor placings. Our 'A' grade team could only manage fourth, while Wests maintained its supremacy. Many of our members were now well and truly engaged in the serious business of war. However during the season D. J. Walters (440), Hession (H.S.J.) and newcomer Jim (Horse) Morris (220 hurdles) remained unbeaten.

Morris capped a fine season by setting new figures for 120 and 220 hurdles at the State Junior Championships (no senior competition held) while J. May (100), J. Learmonth (H.J.)

and K. Simpson (H.S.J.) gained places. Wests were far too strong at the Dunn Shield meeting but we lost second place as well in the last event.

The ladies were creeping on to the scene more than ever now and in addition to Miss Jacqueline Jarrett, Honorary Recorder, we find the Club indebted to the two acting secretaries of the Sports Union, Misses A. Grace and O. Hodgson, 'for their valuable assistance and keen interest in Club affairs.'

In his annual report Hession made several important points: 'From a national and a personal point of view, sport is more essential in wartime than in pre-war days.' Also, because University courses had been speeded up as a wartime measure 'this means more work for students, and, therefore, more, not less sport is essential to maintain that healthy equilibrium.'

1943-44

After getting off to a good start with the Novice events [2 new records — 220 hurdles (R. McCloskey) and high jump (Gordon Donald)] the season well and truly bogged down, thanks to torrential rain, and everything had to be packed into the October-February period.

A match (and win) against Associated Schools started the ball rolling, but Interclub began early and everything had to be fitted into a tight timetable. Perhaps this was a good thing, for everyone seems to have been a bit more stirred up than they had the previous year and the occasional uniformed figure used to appear unexpectedly to have a trot with the boys.

David Harvey-Sutton had presented a new Cup in honour of his father, to encourage (dare I write it?) — versatility. There was keen competition between Brian Dunn, Dave Walters and Les McKeand (a talented newcomer on the scene) each with three wins, but Dunn added to his firsts (Discus, Hammer and 100 yards) places in the Pole Vault and Btoad Jump!

Route-marches or something similar had reduced the enthusiasm for what at that time was called distance running (mile and 2 miles) and there were few entries. Dunn remained unbeaten at 100 yards throughout the Interclub season, as did McKeand in the Broadjump, while Shot-putters R. King and J. McHugh consistently took first and second places. Their efforts brought us close to, but not in front of, Wests.

The lateness of the season apparently didn't appeal to Andrews which withdrew from Intercollegiate and Wesley had a relatively easy victory. But no doubt the missing Collegemen were able to get to the cocktail party which followed. Despite Interclub it proved possible to get a team together for Duntroon, enough

members being available to stay in Sydney and stave off Randwick-Kensington by one point. While the home competitors were sleeping soundly in preparation for their Saturday efforts other Club members were jolting along the Southern Highlands in the tender care of the New South Wales railways with a scheduled arrival time of 5.30 a.m. in Canberra. The meeting was enlivened by the inclusion of teams from the R.A.A.F., U.S. Navy (apparently shoes were available in diplomatic circles!), Canberra University (sic!) and Canberra High School, but we won by 18 points, whichever way they were counted.

State Junior Championships showed we had another hurdler, K. Simpson, following in Jim Morris's 120 yards footsteps. He also showed 'versatility' with places in B.J., H.S.J. and High Jump R. McCloskey also 'proved' to have 220 hurdles talent.

Our Dunn Shield effort was better this year but we still came in second behind Wests, whose win beat our previous record of total number of victories. Newcomer W. Howard (440 hurdles) joined other familiar winners and place getters McHugh, McKeand, Taylor and King. Athletes not in the Dunn Shield teams were able to compete in a newly arranged Dunn Shield Minor Premiership. We came in third.

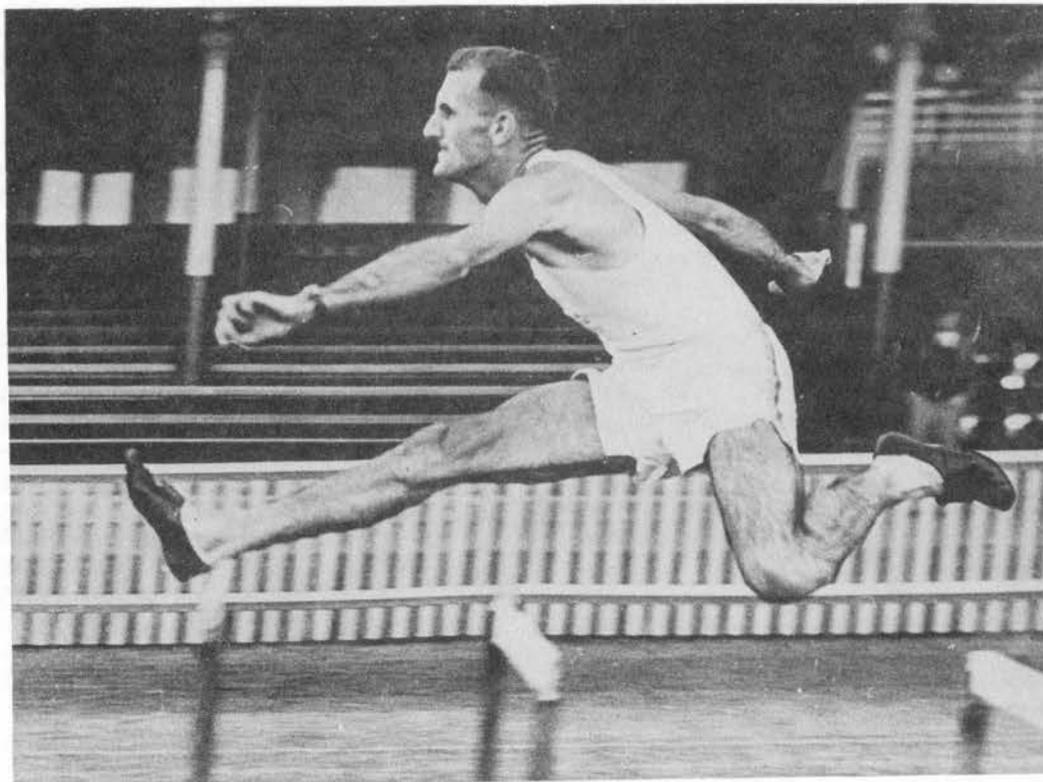
Eight Blues, a little better than last years' six, was perhaps a measure of our improved effort even as a few more members were called away to operational duties. There was plenty of behind-the-scenes work to be done by the

Committee members during the year. Senior club members had to be cajoled into turning up for training on Monday afternoons when they could help the newcomers with coaching. Although early in the year we seemed reasonably equipped, a check in September revealed only 2 good high jump bars, 2 good vault poles and 3 good javelins. In view of impossible importation and likely continuation of shortages, it seemed a good idea to stock up with a few more of each if possible. Someone had to get javelins, possibly even Japanese ones. Those available at Anthony Horderns, the universal providores with the motto 'while I live I grow' were warped and it seemed best to buy shafts and add the metal tips ourselves. The preference seemed to be for bamboo shafts rather than hickory.

There seemed no chance of obtaining vaulting poles in either Adelaide or Melbourne and someone suggested going through the Swedish Consulate, others felt that spruce poles, bound properly, would be as good, or better than bamboo. Anything that went 'bang' was in short supply and Noel Martin was urged to 'do his utmost' to obtain ammunition for the starting pistols, otherwise we might have to revert to dropping the handkerchief.

1944-45

The Annual General meeting which reviewed the past and prepared for the future saw a suggestion by Brian Dunn to move the University Championships close to Interclub as they had been the previous year. It had



Jim Morris sets a new Australian record over the low hurdles, S.C.G., Easter 1947.

worked then, but there were too many people looking forward to the days of I-V with the necessary seasonal preparation, so the idea was dropped. Someone must have known something in the organisation of equipment mentioned above as there was certainly a strong demand for items to hurl around, jumper and jump with. 197 entries from 93 competitors in the Novice events included particularly good efforts by Peter Denton in the Pole Vault, Shot, Hammer, Discus and Javelin which left little for anyone else except Jim Quirk. The cinderella University 2 miles, not an I-V event, was run the same day and for the first time ever in the Club, Jim set figures under 10 minutes, a fine effort running almost alone. A couple of weeks later he ran a new time for the Intercollegiate mile gaining some points for John's, the traditional tailender (though not in football!), while Andrews was at the top end.

The Committee took the careful step of having the watches checked before confirming Quirk's two records. All were in order. It was good to see the distance man set records as we were decidedly short of such athletes, and despite the wealth of field games talent it was the only record of the year. Les McKeand took the Harvey Sutton Cup with his usual display of virtuosity, winning Discus and H.S.J. and gaining seconds in Hammer, Javelin, Broad Jump and 440 hurdles.

Around this time the Club was co-operating with other athletes to raise the standard of coaching with practical lecture sessions at the Oval by E. J. Winter, H. Dillon, G. Stenner, Jim Carlton and others. Talk of standards brought a discussion of the quality of the Blues Award. It was felt by some that there had been some decline and Gordon Donald and D. J. Walters set out to prepare a new look formula to be presented at the next Annual meeting. New standards for each event which had to be achieved were also set by the Committee.

Interclub swung into action early again this season, and for longer, preventing a visit to Duntroon, a weekend that had already become quite popular. However we managed the third successive meeting against Associated Schools with a 40-20 result (our way). The advent of this meeting meant we had to decline a request from the Eureka Youth League to borrow our hurdles as they were in use.

Interclub followed its usual pattern with the Club undefeated till the last rounds when 'absenteeism' took its toll to leave us second once again behind Wests. Peter Denton and J. W. Butters, both still juniors, showed the Club's field games strength by setting new State Junior records in Pole, Hammer (16 and 12 lbs) (Denton) and Shot (16 and 12 lbs) (Butters), while another Junior, George Mumford, took out the 440 yards title. The Senior titles were reintroduced after the lapse of a few years and the Club celebrated particularly with wins by J. Davis (440, 880), D. Walters (220 hurdles), McKeand (Pentathlon), and

numerous places by the same (Javelin and H.S.J.) and Learmonth, (B.J. and H.J.) Donald (H.J. and Discus), D. Elkman (H.S.J.), with Metcalfe and McHugh in the Shot. Versatility was surely the name of the game. Peter Denton was the worthy winner of the Albert Cup for effort and skill at Interclub, and the ladies were again to be thanked for secretarial and recording duties plus afternoon tea at Club Functions. Tom Ludwig was still Chief Groundsman but he had lost Eccles the previous year, Mr. Donnelly now helping him in 'their excellent preparation of the Oval.'

Towards the end of the season Brian Dunn ran a cracker 100 yards but checking showed two watches were unreliable so the record was not allowed. At this time too we entered 6 teams in the State relays but their fate remains unrecorded in the official Club records. Blues for the season, 7 in all, didn't come through the system till the next season had finished.

#### 1945-46

This was to prove a bumper year. The war seemed close to an end and the University was loaded with young talent. The season opened with an all out special carnival (?a circus) of record attempts in early April. Les McKeand set two new discus records — the standard University one and a new State aggregate record (left and right hand) of 208 ft. 9- $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (try it some time). Not to be outdone Gordon Donald set new State figures (90 feet plus) for the Greek Style Discus Throw (if you know what that is). A final effort was Peter Denton's climb into the then stratosphere, 12ft 0- $\frac{1}{8}$ in., in the Pole Vault to nose out George Read's eight year old Club record and set a new State Junior Record. The boys were in good form.

They were warned of future competition however, when a large and cheerful newcomer Basil Evans won four events and was placed in two more, most of them of the field variety, at the Novice Championships. Gordon Donald, still eligible, broke Higham's 1941 discus record quite convincingly.

The University Championships passed by peacefully enough except for unparalleled effort by Les McKeand who won Broad Jump, Discus and Javelin and gained places in 100 yards, 440 hurdles, H.S. and J., Hammer and Shot! It is not hard to surmise who won the Harvey Sutton Cup again. Andrew's win again at Intercollegiate was overshadowed somewhat by Jack Davis's individual effort in the 880 yards. By running 1.58.1 he broke both Roy Chapel's Intercollegiate record set in 1937 and P. H. H. White's long standing (1933) University record. However at this stage there were still plenty of records dating back to the early thirties, specially the three sprints. Something would have to be done. Members had also been reminded at the Annual meeting that the Club was 'sadly lacking' in long distance runners and walkers. They would have to be brought in off the highways and byways.

The previously successful match against the Associated Schools was planned for a Tuesday afternoon but it just seemed to fade away. However the Duntroon meeting was revived, with enthusiasm, and we just got home (in more ways than one). A new but similar venture was the team trip to Newcastle to contest the Achilles Challenge Shield. The local team Achilles showed its mettle while we were runners up.

We made up for past frustrations by taking out the long-drawn out Interclub competition for the first time since 1939-40 (our fourth win overall) as Wests' star began to set for a few years. Jack Davis (440 and 880), Peter Denton (P.V.) and D. Elkman (H.S.J.) proved unbeatable through the season and there were many season's best performances set by Club members (9 out of 20 events in fact), 100 yards (Dunn), 440 and 880 (Davis), 120 hurdles (Jim Morris), 440 hurdles (R. Goldacre), H. J. (Gordon Donald), P.V. (Denton), Shot (Metcalfe) and 4 x 220 relay (Mumford, Walters, Dunn and Bruce Noake). It is interesting that J. (Bob) Learmonth won the Albert Cup although he is missing from this star-studded list. Our B team fared not so well as we still lacked the necessary numbers.

The sprinters started to come good in the second half of the season and Bruce Noake joined Carlton, Smith and Higham as 100 yards record holder for two short months. In January Brian Dunn removed these names from the book with a 10 second effort on the Oval, still much slower than he had achieved on other grounds.

The Dunn Shield seems to have been put away in a corner and forgotten by the N.S.W. A.A.A. by now, but many Club members were of a standard to compete in State Championships, where we won 7 of the 21 titles and filled 18 of the 63 places, surely an enviable record. Les McKeand led the honours squad with a new State record in the Pentathlon (2879 points), wins in Discus and Javelin and a second in the Broad Jump, while the other winners were Dunn (100) Davis (440), Goldacre (440 hurdles) and Denton (P.V.). Morris, Noake, Ariotti, Butters, Walters and Jim McFadden were the place-getters.

Not to be outdone the Juniors also showed excellent form with star-performances by Evans (Shot, discus, javelin and hammer), Kevin Orr (B.J.) Ron Stewart (880), Neville Hinds (100, 220) and George Mumford.

Our efforts were not too bad either in the Relay Titles. We took out the 4 x 110 (Dunn, Noake, Mumford, Hinds) in 44 seconds, 4 x 440 (Davis, Hinds, Noake, Mumford) 3.28.6 and the Medley (Davis, Mumford, Hinds and Noake) 3.40.8 but could only manage second places in the 4 x 220 and 4 x 880.

To round off the season as it had begun Brian Dunn made several record attempts, first breaking Nigel Barker's 40 year old record for 75 yards (7.8) with a time of 7.6 seconds. His time of 9.6 equalling his own State and

Australian record was ruled out because of wind assistance.

It had indeed been a good year. The Pacific War had ended in August with a shout of relief and delirium among the population and as the season moved on many familiar figures, most still clothed in uniform, returned to do more peaceful battle with the team of young giants which had arisen. Ariotti, Goldacre, McFadden, Morris, Ron Potts, Arthur Stephenson and Eric Wilson — specially these last two much-needed walkers, were among those who were warmly welcomed back. Their skills and experience would be of great value at the regular Monday training sessions. They might be rusty on new technical developments, but these could be swotted up from the various books which the Club had bought and deposited in Fisher Library.

Eleven men were judged worthy of the coveted Blues award Donald, Dunn, Morris, Mumford and Stewart joining Butters, Davis, Denton, Elkman, Noake and Walters who had been successful the previous year, together with Bob Learmonth.

Members were reminded as the season came to a close that 'a welcome feature of the coming season will be a resumption of Intervarsity Athletics' the competition to be held in Hobart. It had been agreed amongst the Universities that graduates would be eligible to compete in the first two Intervarsities after the War, so competition was bound to be strong both within the Clubs and between them. Things were getting back to normal.

The Second World War years had a very different effect on Australians than did the first. The fields of battle came closer to home and the war became in part at least a battle for our own country rather than for some homeland across the sea. The technical demands were greater too and called for a degree of skill and training beyond the belief of those who had fought in earlier wars. This meant a demand for University-trained men for a variety of backroom jobs and less pressure on them to wear a uniform or else receive a white feather. Those who went usually ended in very responsible positions.

Communication of course was greatly improved which meant that those at home knew quickly what was happening on the fields of war and saw it too, as the censor permitted, through 20th Century Fox's Movietone News — "the eyes and ears of the world."

As we have seen there was some attempt to keep 'sport as usual', an inestimable benefit to those at home, even though some things had to go in due course, such as I-V and the State and Australian Championships.

The Club weathered the period better than it did the first World War, but conditions were in its favour. It had been operating at a high level up to 1939 and the new members which took over weren't allowed to forget it, particularly as there was a leaven of experience which

remained till things had settled down.

The major losers of the period were our top athletes, particularly Brian Dunn, Paul Magee, Arthur Stephenson and a few others not far behind.

They must surely have gone close to Olympic selection in 1940 and Dunn and Stephenson again in 1944. It was a pity this opportunity did not come to them. Dunn at least had the consolation of receiving a Helms Award from the World of American Sport, an acknowledgement of the success he had achieved.

So instead of six or more Olympians, the Club had to be satisfied with 3 up to that time. Did we have any more in the making? We were soon to have an answer.



The author at work. Henson Park Interclub days 2 miles, November 1949.

Training session at Hobart (I-V 1946)  
Stewart, Mumford, Hodgkinson, Walters, Scrivener, Harrison, McKeand, Tully  
Lloyd, Denton, Scott, Treloar, Orr, Davis, Morris.



## CHAPTER 17

### IN TOP GEAR

1946-47

The huge inflow of competitors for the Novice Championships heralded not only quantity but quality. Star of the meeting was John Treloar, already known for his record making efforts at school meetings and as a junior with Northern Suburbs Club. His 9.8sec. 100 yards equalled Brian Dunn's University record but his 220 yards time of 22 seconds went even better, breaking R. C. Smith's fifteen year old record.

Basil Evans, still a Novice in some events, broke the Javelin and 12 lb hammer throws, Lou Davies another old Novice improved the H.S.J. distance, while the two short hurdles again were jumped more quickly than before (J. Swinden 120 hurdles, A. Lloyd 220 hurdles). A top-class mile walk, 6 minutes 37 seconds, by Peter Ashelford, rounded off an excellent programme.

Two people stole the limelight of the University Championships a week later. John Treloar was in even better form and ran 9.7 for 100 yards and 21.9 (220 yards). The latter not being wind-assisted broke the week-old record. Les McKeand was the other star, who won the Harvey Sutton Cup for the third time winning Broad Jump, Javelin and Discus (record) and gaining places in Shot and Hammer as well.

Treloar's presence helped Engineering to win the Interfaculty competition while Andrews again won Intercollegiate, despite the triple triumph (220, 440 and 880) by Wesley College's J. R. Davis.

Fifteen members of the Club managed to scrape up the fare for the trip to Hobart by plane to contest the first I-V for 5 years. By all reports it was a highly enjoyable trip and not without its lighter moments, such as the mayoral reception which provided tea as the only available liquid refreshment (the Director of Rationing had guaranteed a supply of tea coupons), Jerry Walter's organisation of a dancing partner, which he ended up sharing with numerous other team members and Jack Davis's 22 mile taxi ride to New Norfolk to pick up a local lass, only to find Ma wouldn't let her come. Peter Denton appears to have been mistaken for someone unlikeable by one of the town drunks, an episode which ended in much noise and confusion, except for Peter, who wandered off into the crowd. For some unknown reason Les McKeand came back from I-V with the nickname "Harkem".

Once again Melbourne downed us, on a sodden track, but there were athletic compensations in Treloar's two sprint wins, specially the 100 yards in 10 seconds which finally removed Hunter's 1903 record from the books. (His 10.2 had been equalled by J. Horsfall, another Melbourne runner in 1933). Our other individual winner was Peter Denton who

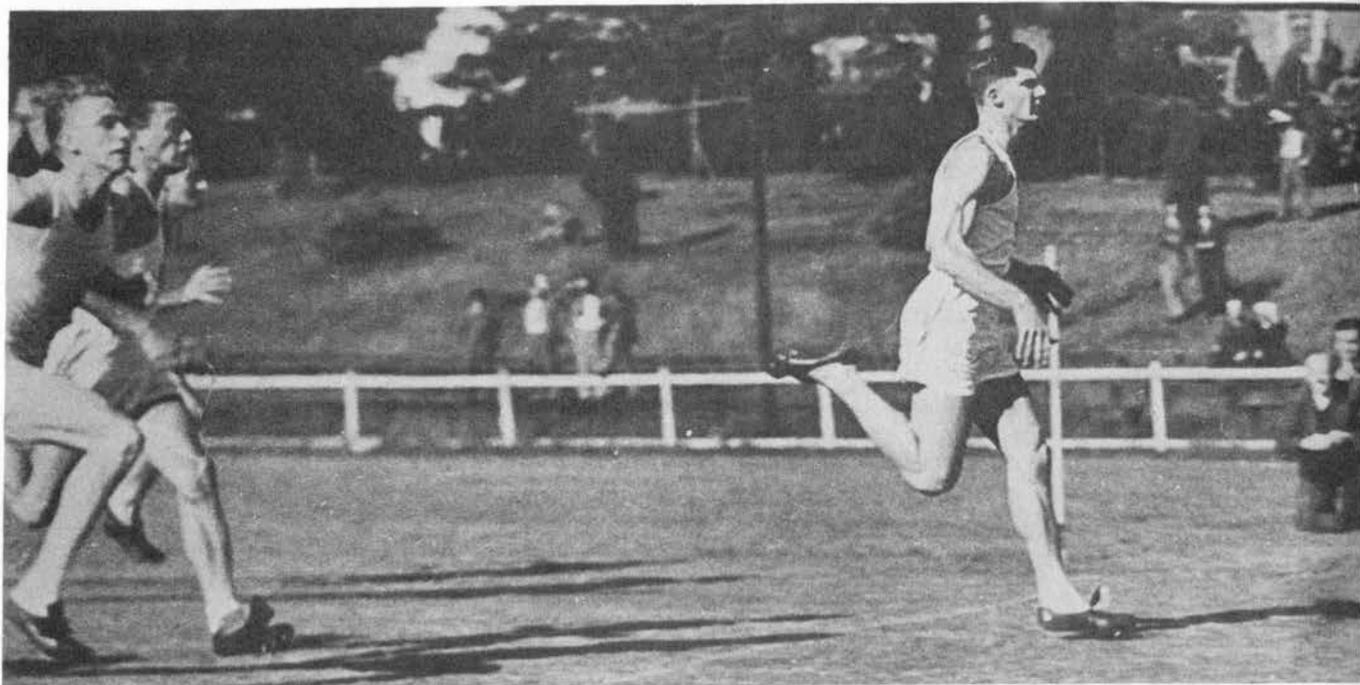
vaulted 10 ft. 6 in. 'in the moonlight.' Teamwork showed up when our Medley team of Stewart, Mumford, J. Harrison and Treloar came in a nose ahead of Queensland. A name we have met before can be found in the second placing of J. Harbison (Adelaide) in the High Jump.

There were some good lessons learned by the trip. Everyone agreed that the flying experience, in terms of arriving fresh, was of great benefit and that it should be a regular part of the Club's I-V arrangements. It was also felt that the team benefited by everyone staying in one hotel rather than being spread around the countryside in billets. Finally it was necessary to have a firm policy that the team train, as a team, for 5 weeks before Intervarsity.

Early in the year there was some correspondence with Sydney University's reluctant offspring, New England College, Armidale which had grown a little since its inception in 1938. What were the qualifications required for Blues? Were its members eligible for University Championships? Could it affiliate? What about a challenge match? It was welcomed into the fold, verbally at least, but the enthusiasm does not seem to have reached the stage of any further action, at least for the present. In retrospect it probably marks the beginning of the spread of athletics in the Universities to the I-V organisation we know today.



Mt. Wellington, Hobart. I-V diversions - no names please.



John Treloar Chased by Charlie Campbell & Bruce Noake, University Championships, May 1947.

Although it had been suggested that the Annual match with Duntroon should alternate from Canberra to Sydney, this proved impractical because of the Army's desire to keep its chosen ones out of the flesh pots, ('difficulty of cadets obtaining leave'), so once again we set off for the distant capital, where our hosts' hospitality did not prevent us from a win and good efforts by Ron Stewart ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile), Bruce Noake (10 seconds 100 yards equalling his old record) and Lou Davies (new figures in H.S.J.).

We seemed to be ready for Interclub and in a burst of enthusiasm entered teams in A, B and C grades as we had done a few years before. Alas, the energy waned as the summer advanced, and the potholed character of the new venue, Henson Park, Marrickville, wasn't alluring, so only the A Team came nearly up to its promise. We came in second, and would not be able to write to the N.S.W. A.A.A. as we had done the previous year, for 30 badges 'to be printed in blue and gold'. This year it was Botany's turn as it won all 5 grades! Peter Denton managed to win the M. F. Albert Cup again (179 $\frac{3}{4}$  points), but the margin was very small, Gordon Donald obtaining 175 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The next scorers were "also rans".

The year closed with our top athletes engaged in Australian and State Championships. Treloar, McKeand, Morris and Metcalfe went to Perth for the first Australian Championship held there. The Club was set a quota of £50 by the N.S.W. Association to help pay the £1600 bill for the team. A quick whip around amongst generous vice-presidents allowed the Club to send £95 — the team would now be able to eat as well as travel! Treloar won the 100 yards but his final time was not as fast as in his heat in which he ran 9.6 to equal the Australian record. Brian Dunn had moved west and represented W.A. in the sprints and broad jump. Les McKeand gained a

second (H.S.J.) and third (javelin) while the veteran Metcalfe third place in the Shot. Trevor Evans, another former Club member, represented Victoria in field events. John Treloar capped an exceptional year with 9.6 and 21.2 at the Oval in the State Trials new Australian State and University records and then went off to demolish all opposition on a tour of New Zealand. Les McKeand set a new University discus record in December only to have it broken by Gordon Donald a month later so competition was decidedly fierce in some events.

The State Championships were not held till Easter in 1947, but the club effort continued its merry way, Treloar taking a double in the sprints, and Morris the same in the shorter hurdles. Morris was the star on this occasion running a new Australian record 24.3 in the 220 hurdles. Our relay teams also took four titles and the Club retained the Referee Shield. The medley win by Fagg, Mumford, Noake and Treloar was acclaimed one of the most exciting races ever held at Henson Park and the 4 x 110 (Morris, Noake, Mumford and Treloar) also set a State record. It is interesting to note that at the beginning of 1947, S.U.A.C. members held 7 of the 17 officially recognised State Junior records, and two more records were held by athletes who subsequently joined the club.

#### 1947-48 *A Personal view point*

If the following few years seem to be described with a different emphasis, this may be the result of the author's (D.B.) personal involvement at this time, as he entered the hallowed halls of academia and came in contact with the giants of the present and the ghosts of the past.

It was a time of rethinking. Late the previous year there was discussion on increasing the I-V

meeting to three days with events for women athletes. As yet there was scarcely the demand for a full programme of women's events, but it was clearly going to happen soon.

A move to bring I-V back to early March was lost, surprisingly by only a small margin. Those athletes who competed in the summer would clearly benefit if I-V finished their season. However, the long-standing concept of a distinct University season was still strong enough to hold sway. Plane travel was clearly to be the thing for interstate trips and the team for Melbourne was scheduled to travel thus. This meant money, and the old fund raising was on again, a film night to help expenses.

The award of Blues required I-V selection but it also required achievement of set standards. Armidale (New England College) had asked us about these, and the Secretary was distressed to find that the standards at Cambridge were higher than ours. Like Ph.D. theses, our levels still had to match those of the 'old country' so the Committee set about some revision. In 1944 they had been set at 100 yards — 10.4sec., 220 — 23.2sec., 880 — 2min. 3sec., mile — 4min. 44sec., 2 mile — 10min. 20sec., 3 mile — 16min. 20sec., 120 hurdles 16.6sec., 220 hurdles — 27.6sec., 440 hurdles — 60sec., mile walk — 8min., H.J. — 5ft. 8in., B.J. — 21ft., H.S.J. — 43ft., Discus — 100ft., Shot — 36ft., Javelin — 140ft., P.V. — 10ft., Hammer — 95ft., and one other 352 yards hurdles — 47 seconds! They were now moved up a notch or two: 100 — 10.2sec., 220 — 22.6sec., 440 — 51.5sec., 880 — 2min., mile — 4min. 34sec., 2 miles — 10min., 3 miles — 15min. 35sec., 120 hurdles — 15.8sec., 220 hurdles — 25.6sec., 440 hurdles — 57.8sec., mile walk — 7min. 10sec., H.J. — 5ft.

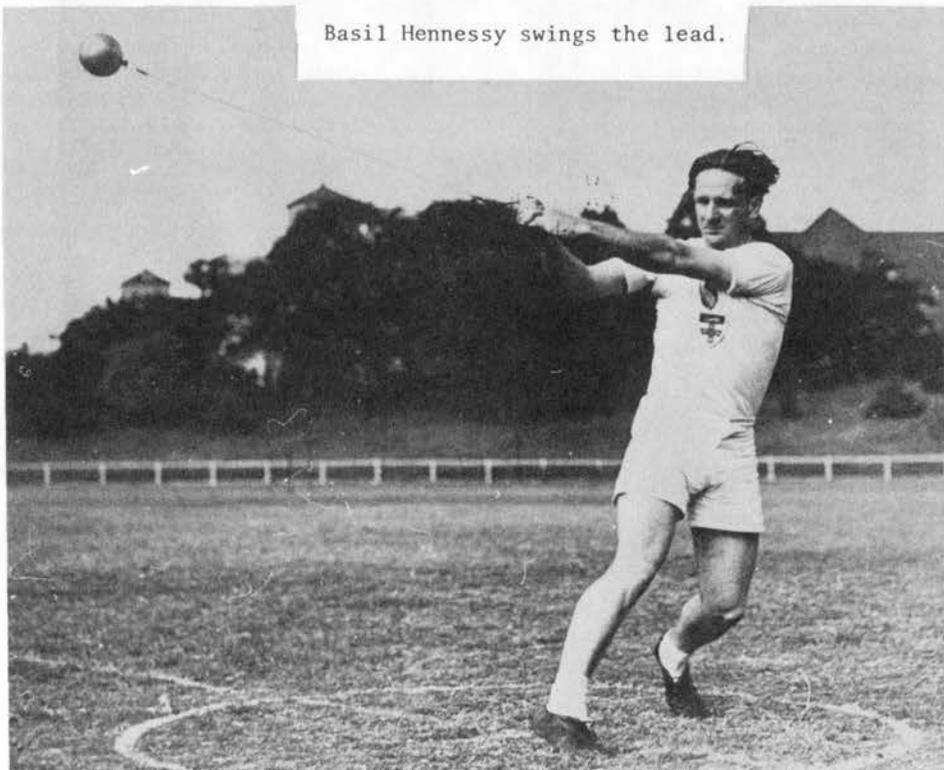
10in., B.J. — 22ft., H.S.J. — 45ft., Discus — 125ft., Shot — 41ft., Javelin — 165ft., P.V. — 11ft., Hammer — 120ft. but no 352 yards hurdles!

A regular training time (5.30 Thursdays) was set down for the Club, at which Club President Jack Metcalfe attended to give the benefit of his great skills and experience to the newcomers.

There were plenty of these in the Novice Championships, in fact more than had ever entered before. This is perhaps not surprising as the total number of students at University had risen sharply in 1946 as many ex-servicemen joined young matriculants in the race for self-improvement, thanks to the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme (C.R.T.S.). However rain dampened the proceedings and there were no records.

At the University Championships Morris was still in form and won all three hurdles events, setting records (14.8 and 24.8) in the 120 and 220 hurdles. These wins and a few minor efforts gave him the Harvey Sutton Cup by a close margin from Gordon Donald and Basil Evans.

Fund raising (and an application to the Students' Representative Council) had been successful so we were able to send a strong team to Melbourne for I-V which for the first time was held over two days. Once again our hopes were dashed as the home team got in by a close margin with a win in the final event. But we had one consolation — our first win in the Waddy Cup, thanks to 7 first places (Treloar and Davies two each, Denton, Donald and the Relay team). John Treloar improved on his record of 1946 with a 9.8sec. 100 yards but his new 220 time was disallowed (wind assisted).



Basil Hennessy swings the lead.

Gordon Donald set the initial figures for the I-V Discus, with a throw of 125 ft. 4 in.

We put three teams into Interclub again and the strength stayed. We came through with flying colours to win A and B grades, Peter Denton just nosing out Basil Evans for the Albert Cup.

These efforts put 9 S.U.A.C. members into the State team for the Australian Championships (Melbourne January, 1948); Morris, Stewart, Wilson, Evans, Denton, Noake, Donald and Butters not forgetting Treloar who ran 20.9 to break his own 220 record, and 9.8 seconds for the 100 yards. Trevor Evans, the Club's Victorian representative also had two wins.

John Treloar had been in demand again this season and had won the Queensland 100 yards Championship in December 1947. Now the home State events were on in February 1948. Treloar again won the State sprint double, the outstanding run being a 9.5sec. 100 yards which was ruled wind assisted. Other Club individual winners were Jack Butters (Shot), Les McKeand (H.S.J.), Eric Wilson (3 mile walk) and relative newcomers F. J. Reynolds (H.J.) and M. D. Finlay (880). Our real strength was shown by 4 relay wins and the Referee Shield.

There had been eight Blues awarded for the 1946-47 season. This season eleven were awarded and were more than justified.

1948-49

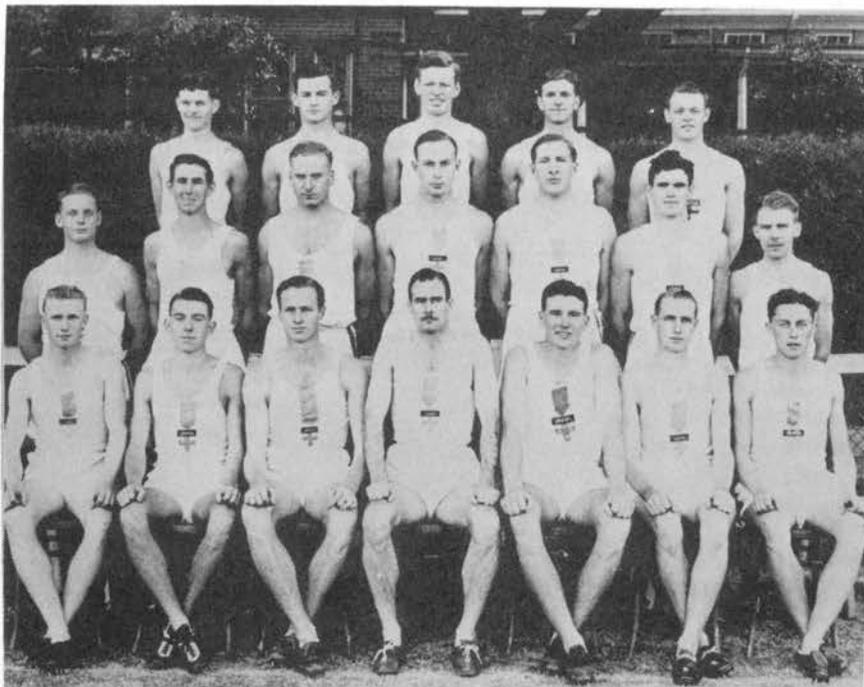
The strength of the Club continued to show this season, and while there were few members

leaving other enthusiasts arrived to swell the merry throng. The Novice Championships produced John Bullock winning 100 yards (9.9sec.), 220 yards (22sec.) and 440 yards (52.3sec.), Harry Suhan (2min. 1sec.), Bob Woodward (220 hurdles — 25.8sec.), Ted Edwards (mile walk — 7min. 46.4sec.) and Des Henderson-Kelly (120 hurdles—16.13sec.).

Bullock showed it was no fluke by winning all three sprint events at the University Championships and improving his 220 and 440 times. Jack Butters (Shot), Gordon Donald (Discus) and David Branagan (2miles) set new records and Basil Evans took out the Harvey Sutton Cup with wins in the Hammer and Javelin and places in the Pole Vaule, 220 hurdles and Shot.

At Interfaculty this year, Blues were allowed to compete and the standard was high, Medicine fighting out the top place with Law, while Science and Engineering battled for the third spot. The A and B division 440's saw wins by Edwin Carr and Mervyn Finlay, both in 50.1.

With Sydney hosts for the Intersarsity for the first time in 10 years it was all hands to the wheel, and weekly committee meetings were held from April 13th to make sure arrangements were adequate. They turned out to be so with the home team thoroughly trouncing Melbourne even without our top sprinter. But Bullock proved a more than adequate replacement for Treloar, running 9.8 for the 100 yards and 21.9 in the 220, while Lou Davies and Gordon Donald also set records.



Interclub Premiers A & B Grades 1947-48 season.  
Branagan, Gee, Hinksman, McKay, Learmonth, Hadfield, Lloyd, Bullock, Donald, Butters, Reynolds, Pettit, Campbell, Stewart, Finlay, Suhan, Evans, Woodward, Noake.



State Trials, University Oval, December 1949. Ed Carr (48.9 secs) leads in Alan Shepherd & John Bullock and a Wests' runner who has mistaken the finish.

A dinner at the University Union which culminated in a drive through town in Gordon Donald's Sport's car encumbered by some 20 athletes, and a visit to the now vanished Tivoli Theatre to see Chico Marx and a very bare parisienne female are other vignettes of this festive occasion.

There were congratulations and some jubilation early in the year when John Treloar was selected in the Australian Olympic Team and Les McKeand was named a reserve. Jack Metcalfe, a competitor in the last Olympics to be held, 12 years earlier, and still competing at Interclub, was chosen as manager of the athletics section of the team.

McKeand's fare was raised by his home town and the University and he joined the team, fully justifying his inclusion with H.S.J. performances consistently over 50ft. in the Olympics. Later on tour he became the first Australian to throw the javelin more than 200ft. Treloar reached the 100 yards final at the Games and came 6th in a very close finish.

Before the Australian team left, a combined Universities team met the Olympians. Despite the fact that the meeting was the day after the Intervarsity dinner (or perhaps because of it) the students turned in some splendid performances beating the Olympians in many cases. Gordon Donald's 135 ft.10- $\frac{3}{4}$  in. discus throw beat the State record as did Mervyn Finlay's 600 yards in 1 minute 12 seconds. Ed Carr ran 47.7 (400 metres) for a close second to Maurice Curotta (who had been given permission to

train on the Oval in preparation for the Olympics and who set new Australian figures of 47 secs.), and Bullock ran 10.9 (100 metres) to gain second place. In the 400m Relay both Combined Universities teams beat the selected Olympic four.

For those who were enthusiastic we entered a team in the cross-country winter competition and had some reasonable success. Our summer season started off as usual with matches against Duntroon and the schools, but an attempt to revive the match against Associated Schools and indeed up grade it to a triangular match including the G.P.S. did not succeed.

Our strength and performances early in the year made us very cocky about our Interclub chances held once again at Hensen Park. But as Secretary Grahame Evans wrote 'fate laughs at certainties and despite good performances by our athletes, we lost a crucial match in A grade and came third, the same spot we reached in C grade! Mention should be made of walkers Camden and Edwards who provided reliable back up to Eric Wilson at Interclub.

We had seven representatives in the State team. Jack Butters (2nd Shot) and Bas Evans (3rd Javelin) performed well but not one of the 15,000 people who attended will ever forget Ed Carr's run in the 440 yards to beat the visiting Jamaican Champion Herb McKinlay. It was the last event of the day and started just as a huge summer storm broke with a tropical suddenness. The sight of Carr emerging from the dust and rain clearly ahead of his rival brought an

electrifying response from the crowd.

We had some good wins also in the State Championships. Carr, Butters, Evans and Finlay (1 min. 57.6 sec. 880) joining the victorious 4 x 110 (Charlie Campbell, Bill Job, Bruce Noake and John Trelor) and the 4 x 440 (Noake, Dave Prosser, Mervyn Finlay and Ron Stewart) relays.

The athletes had truly 'had a strenuous year, the last few months of which have been particularly so, for between the major meetings they have been competing at Carnivals and local meetings arranged for the American athletes, McKinlay and LaBeach and for the Dutchwoman, Mrs. Fanny Blankers-Koen.' Grahame Evans added 'the coming season shows promise of being almost as intense, as selection approaches for the Empire Games (New Zealand 1950).'

#### 1949-50

This seemed to prove the season of personal loss and injury. Early in the year the 'big ones' Jack Butters, Basil Evans and Lou Davies, departed for England, considerably depleting our field games squad. We were then assailed during the season with injuries and illness which put sprinters John Bullock and Charlie Campbell, Mervyn Finlay, milers David Walker and David Ross and walker Eric Wilson out of action at various times.

However Finlay was on top of his form in the University Championships when he ran 1.54.8 to break Davis' record by more than 3 seconds. His 49.5 sec 440 was also a solid effort. Jim Morris showed a welcome return to form to take the two shorter hurdles, but Bob Woodward showed his strength with a powerful 56.6 in the 440 hurdles. Newcomer R. W. (Bill) Job showed his quality in Treloar's absence with a 22 seconds 220 yards while Paul McKeown cleared 22 ft. 9 in. in the Broad jump. Wins were spread among the multitude and only Morris and L. McHugh won two events. These with a third place each shared the Harvey Sutton Cup.

Intercollegiate introduced another athlete of ability, Harry Pringle who ran 10.1 for a new 100 yards record and St. Paul's relay team which clocked 44.5 seconds. Interfaculty proved a light hearted affair but was well supported, the 'Carvers' (Med) keeping out the 'Greasers' (Eng.) in a dour struggle for supremacy.

This year I-V was in Brisbane and apart from a few plutocrats, it was back to the trains again for most of the team, including some lovely ladies among whom were Catherine Friend, Jill Kennedy and Jill Newman representing the autonomous body S.U.W.A.C. appearing in the first athletic competitions held for women at I-V. We retained (but only just) the title on points, 'because of an overwhelming superiority in the track events under half.' The half itself was a thriller, Don McMillan of Melbourne beating Mervyn Finlay by a nose in 1.55.1, a new Queensland and I-V record and a fantastic time in the 'Gabbra mud following days of heavy rain.'



Bob Woodward (lane 3) at the Auckland Empire Games 1950, quarter mile hurdles.

Despite the attractions of Mamma Luigi's restaurant there was no delay in returning home, for while I-V was on, a New Zealand Universities team arrived in Sydney for two matches, one against Combined Australian Universities, the other against S.U.A.C. Both were good fun and good competition and the morale of the visitors was undermined by billeting them out to various families. The New Zealand team of eleven was strong but weight of numbers, 22 Australians, enabled us to win by a few points. S.U.A.C. also had a win, thanks largely to graduate members who had been ineligible for Intervarsity.

Another reason for the S.U.A.C. win may have been the Kiwis Ball held at the White City

Clubrooms which certainly entertained the visitors and perhaps undermined their morals. 'However in its secondary object of raising funds to help pay for Interschool and visitors' expenses, it failed, and the Club found itself about £30 out of pocket.'

As the Annual report says 'After all this competition the rest afforded by winter was very acceptable.' This may have been so for most, but a few members were soldiering on as in the previous year, trying to build an interest in the cross-country season which had once or twice in the past attracted some members.

A notable feature through '48 and '49 was the monthly appearance of 'The University Athlete' organised by Harry Suhan which informed members of what was going on and when and where they should be competing. It formed a very useful purpose and only faded when Harry moved over to become Secretary of the Sports Union.

'The University Athlete' informed us of the Duntroon match where 'members were willing in spirit but sadly out of training', but we got in

by a nose. Interclub was as usual, with some relay records and a loss in the final to Wests, but 10 members were in the State team of 31 which went to Adelaide in January, where once again Treloar, Carr and McKeand featured while others gave of their best

We finished the year with wins in 4 x 110, 4 x 220, 4 x 440 and mile medley relays at the State Championships where Treloar (100, 220), Carr (440) and Geoff Gee (Broad Jump) also finished in front.

Even our Treasurer's report showed we had had a big year—we had spent £2.16.3 on Union Coffee and 13/- for a vaulting pole and by the end of it all we were down £37 and five pence overall. Next year it would have to be hard work and scraping to help our Empire Games representative Bob Woodward who had been selected along with Treloar, Carr and McKeand.

From here on I have left the story to others to tell in their own way.



1950 I-V team, another winning combination.  
 Back: Solomon, Job, Kelly, Campbell, Gerrard  
 Middle: Hennessy, Ross, Wallner, Thornton, Moffat, G. Gee.  
 Front: Burke, Treloar (Captain), Suhan (Mgr.), Woodward, Shepherd, with the Waddy & Q.L.V.A. Cups.

## CHAPTER 18

### THE LAST QUARTER

*Harry Suhan reminisces*

My active association with the Club was from May 1946 until the early 1960s. During that period, especially the earlier part of it, there were many changes from the past brought about largely by the changes caused by the immediate post-war period.

Firstly, the population of the University multiplied to never-before-seen heights with the advent of the exservice intake immediately after the war.

The effect of this was new policies to cope with the added numbers. Interclub teams increased from the traditional two to five grades and there were still problems in placing athletes in competition.

Prior to the war two teams from University was usually the rule and rarely did Uni athletes compete after Christmas.

This was all changed and except for an



Bringing home the cup that cheers 1950.

inevitable decline in numbers to some extent the situation by and large remains to-day.

The next feature of note was a string of Interclub premierships in the late forties including a unique win in both A and B grades even though only the once.

Prior to that, and even since, many top class Uni teams failed to win premierships because of lack of attendance at vital times.

In the immediate post-war years the Club's strength was both inspiring and embarrassing (due to the ease of many of its victories). In that period (up to 1952) the Club had in its ranks three Olympians in John Treloar, Les McKeand and Edwin Carr, and these three and others like Peter Denton and Bob Woodward at the 1950 Auckland Empire games. An other, Merv Finlay, became an Olympic oarsman.

Inter-Varsity also reflected the upturn in population. Prior to the war it had always been a small one-day affair but from 1947 onwards it became a lively two-day event with nearly all of the events of the Australian programme. The remainder have been added since. In 1947 women's events were held for the first time, [I thought it was 1949] a feature not followed at the national level for some twenty years hence.

This period also saw our greatest triumphs in this competition. In the years till the war Sydney had won only a handful of Inter-Varsitys, nearly always at home. Melbourne had always dominated the scene. Then from 1948 (in Sydney) we won six or seven straight and appeared to be invincible. It was somewhat of a shock when Melbourne lowered our flag again in Brisbane in 1954. During my period we were to lose it in 1957 because of a disqualification to our relay team and to win by the odd point on the very wet Sydney ground in 1960.

The period also saw the use of a limited number of leading athletes, like John Plummer, who ran for other than University in the local competition, in our Inter-Varsity teams. Before that the smaller Inter-Varsity usually catered for only a limited number all together and hence very rarely would any have come from outside the Club proper. This policy fluctuated in both our own and other Varsitys. Our victory although secure was made easier in Melbourne in 1952 when John Landy was sidelined by Melbourne as he ran locally with Geelong Guild.

The Club also had the distinction of having two of its Presidents as Managers of successive Olympics teams—Jack Metcalfe in London in 1948 and Keith Donald in Helsinki in 1952.

When conditions settled down again as the 1950s grew older probably the highlight of the period was the occupancy of the Captaincy. Two athletes, Bob Solomon and Terry Rothwell, held the position for some seven successive years. As outstanding as these two were, when they went on to greener pastures it was uncanny how successful leaders came forward to take over the reins.

In 1949 we saw the first of a continuing exchange of competitions between Australian and New Zealand Universities. There had been only one before when a New Zealand team had come here in 1929. The series has seen some fine athletes from both sides of the Tasman and some great performances.

It used often be said in my day that "it was a great Intersarsity in nineteen so and so but I'm darned if I can remember who won." I'm afraid my recollections are tending that way to-day.

I suppose my strongest impression of S.U.A.C. in the early 1950's is of the Club's strength. It won Intervarsity in 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953, and the Interclub A Grade Premiership in 1950-51. Other years will be on the record, but we were always formidable, especially in relays.

When I was Honorary Secretary in 1951 I recall sending out advice each week to each of 48 members, showing for what events they had been selected next Saturday (a system invented, I think, by Harry Suhan). Any whose availability was in doubt were phoned (from public call box at 2d per call) on Friday night. S.U.A.C. was either winning or nearly winning A, B, & C Grades with these numbers

S.U.A.C. had tremendous strength on the track. When I first competed as a freshman in 1950, I was N.S.W. Junior 220 and 440 champion, but with John Treloar, John Bullock and Bill Job in the sprints, Ed Carr, Alan Shepherd and Charlie Campbell in the 440, a vacant berth was not obvious. Each of these trios was rated 1, 2, 3 in N.S.W. for most of the time.

I ran 2nd to Shepherd in the 440 and was later invited to run a trial against Eddie Carr (who had missed the Club Championships) for I-V representation in Adelaide. The race did not eventuate, to my relief, as Carr was the 1950 Empire Games 440 champion, won in New Zealand in the mud in 47.6 (from memory).

Shepherd won the I-V 440 in the record of 49.0 off the inside track; I equalled the old record of 49.6 off the outside and gained a Blue. John Treloar showed a spot of versatility at the time by coming second in the discus.

That was a memorable I-V. I recall Des Henderson-Kelly's concern to have his pole properly stowed on the train to Adelaide. He slept in the luggage rack of an 8 berth (2nd class) compartment, and went through a 1st

class pantomime of trying to find his ticket when the conductor asked for a show of tickets at the absurd hour of 1.00 a.m. At the business end of the journey, Des cursing about the platform asking "Where's my pole, where's my pole?", in a strong Irish accent remains a vivid memory. So, too, does Peter Thornton's hurdling of folding chairs (unfolded) arrayed down North Terrace, following a good I-V dinner.

The youthful team of David Ross (880) and Bob Solomon (440) had put Sydney ahead in the medley relay, with Job and Treloar to polish off the 220 legs. After this taste of University team spirit there was no question of my staying longer with Northern Suburbs and I thereafter competed wholly for S.U.A.C.

There were one of two others who boosted our I-V strength, but remained with their old clubs for Interclub. John Plummer was one (Western Suburbs), Peter Denton (R-K) another. [Peter transferred back to Randwick Club after he graduated in Engineering in 1950. During the early fifties he was doing an evening course].

We were formidable relay performers in the early '50s. I recall Treloar, Bullock, Job or Campbell (I think Job) and Solomon breaking the N.S.W. 4 x 220 record with 1.27.9 at Interclub on Hensen Park. Just under 22 seconds per man, but the track was woeful in 1st class terms. Two years or so later (1952) in the State Relay Championships on the Marks Field we broke the Australian 4 x 880 record with 7.58.6 or thereabouts. The team included two quarter-milers, Carr and Solomon, with Carr beating off Dave Power of Wests, then or recently N.S.W. 880 Champion, in a leg of 1.54.8.

I-V 1951 at Hobart: Star high-jumper Doug Stuart did handstands at the top of Mt Wellington and ruined his ankle. Torréntial rain produced a water spout outside the Commercial Hotel in North Hobart. There was a shortage



Bob Solomon & Ed Carr, helped to recover by John Bullock & Les Cotton after a new Australian 4 x 880 yards relay at Marks Field (1952), who were the half milers?

of toilet paper in the town and we had shopping expeditions to glean the necessary.

Times were poor, with rain-affected track and the North Hobart Oval's notorious 6 ft. plus rise on the first bend. It was John Landy's first I-V, I believe, and he had not yet found the capacity to beat Doc McMillan.

The whole I-V seemed to be run by two members of the Tasmanian University team. They did a tremendous job, and should have had a special award struck.

Melbourne 1952 was memorable for Sydney's close win (119-109) over Melbourne. Some of the old guard had moved on. Solomon and Kevin Reede replaced the Treloar-Bullock-Job-Campbell combination. Carr was now more involved than earlier, and won the 440. Plummer was still a strength, Ross was still around. Geoff Gee and Peter Ferris jumped well. The social highlight took place in the foyer of the Federal Hotel after the I-V dinner. Two

Zealand had been a great success a month or so earlier with 6 of the 11 from S.U.A.C.: Solomon, Carr, Plummer, Reede, Gee, Ferris. Despite torrential rain at Waimate and a moist tournament finale in Dunedin, the Australian team was undefeated—at least on the track. Competing Manager, Alf Lazer of Melbourne, sustained a back injury in competition with a touring stage group in Christchurch. Booth and Solomon had to carry his case and blocks upstairs on his (late) arrival at Knox College, Dunedin. Considering the diverting influence of the Ice Follies troupe who were co-passengers on the "Wanganella" (most notably on Dick—"Who'll have a blood orange?" — Hancock of Adelaide) and of Heather (Frigid) Eyre upon Captain Tony Booth, the team went well.



Bill Job gets a great start from Bob Solomon's relay leg at Intersarsity much to the joy of one young lady.

convivial athletes trapped a hotel employee in the rotating front door and purloined the vacuum cleaner with which he had been cleaning the foyer carpet. One proceeded to clean the Collins Street pavement while the other reeled out the electric cord with the best lifesaving technique.

Sydney 1953 provided some of the problems faced by the gallant Tasmanian organiser competitors of 1951. The I-V meeting was at the Marks Field, and Council employees were not available mid-week. Competing athletes, especially those from Sydney, were involved in moving hurdles and other equipment, and the programme finished an hour late. Queensland and Australian I-V Captain Tony Booth wrote in *Semper Floreat* how old rival Solomon had beaten him in the 440 in the dark. He turned the tables, by inches, in the 220 the next day.

The Australian Universities' tour of New

#### S.U.A.C. 1953-58 — T. L. W. Rothwell

My introduction to University athletics was as a rather bewildered fresher at the 1953 Sydney Intersarsity. Later that year at Interclub I became more aware of what athletics at Sydney University was all about and I suppose that from then until the end of 1958 the S.U.A.C. was one of my major interests. Bob Solomon was Club Captain in 1953 and I took over from him in 1955, continuing as captain in 1956 and 1957 until handing over to George Marshall in 1958. Harry Suhan and Lou Davies were Presidents during that period and provided a pretty necessary steadying influence.

In the major athletic events during that period — Intersarsity and Interclub — we were conspicuously unsuccessful. Nevertheless I don't think we could have enjoyed ourselves much more and I now remember those days as

a kind of kaleidoscope of athletics and athletes, parties and girls, beer and hangovers.

I can hardly avoid offending if I mention, or on the other hand neglect to mention, some of those whose feats on and off the field I recall. Perhaps the best group to start with were the middle distance men. These events seemed to be S.U.A.C.'s force during the 1950's. For example we won the State 4 x 440 yards relay title almost every year and eventually a team of Ross Parker, Jim Smith, Dave Abramovich and I broke the N.S.W. record, one night at the Sports Ground. Others were Colin Johnstone, Geoff Wade, Jim Wiley and of course Bob Solomon. Ross Parker was probably the Club's best athlete during this period, reaching the semi-finals of the Melbourne Olympic Games, 440 yards hurdles. Dave Abramovich was a great stalwart, but his chronic lameness caused a lot of anxiety. His father was a regular official, supporter, chauffeur and confidant of the Club for all those years.

The sprinters were also pretty successful. They included Kevin Reede (eventually enticed from Norths), the perennial Jim Smith (also a dashing low hurdler), Angus Munro (always difficult to organize an appearance), Brian Woods, Kerry Thew, Mick Swinburn, Charlie Edwards and Brian Waters. The latter appeared unknown and unannounced at training one day and went on to win Australian titles.

Jim Eckert divided his loyalties between Easts and S.U.A.C. but along with Miles Little, always scored well in high jump events. Geoff Gee, Kerry Thew, Tom Biegler, Peter Vig and George Marshall all did their thing in the long and triple jumps. Jim May won many hurdle events, including State titles and who could ever forget his apres hurdle performance at the

Melbourne Intervarsity in 1956. Ross Parker, Ian White, Bruce Abrahams and George Marshall completed the hurdle line up.

Jim Penfold was probably our best thrower, breaking the Interclub shot putt record. Lloyd (the beast) Hughes was a very competent field games exponent and sprinter who also excelled off the field. However both were outstayed by Alex Tahmindjis, who with Jim Smith spans the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Others were Ray Montana, Darrel Wallner, Bas Evans, Lloyd Hadfield and Geoff Newman.

Last, but certainly not least were those precious and elusive athletes, the pole vaulters, walkers and distance runners. Of the former group Dave Greatorex and Norm Hinksman were invaluable athletes, especially at Interclub. Bob Jeremy and Dave Garlick were, as I recall our solitary walkers although occasionally others were bullied into Interclub walking events. Distance runners were a little more numerous. Martin Davey won the State Junior 2 mile title, Trevor Wood simply kept on keeping on and sometimes adopted similar tactics in walking events. Terry Cole ran many heroic mile and 3 mile events and in the late 50's Simon Edmonds was enticed into the Club from Ryde-Hornsby.

Combined New Zealand Universities toured N.S.W. and Victoria during 1956 and in 1958 an Australian team toured New Zealand. S.U.A.C. was well represented in both teams. An annual highlight was the visit to the Royal Military College, although in those days travel was always a headache and I recall the demise of Bob Solomon's car near Goulburn in 1954. Fortunately my parents rescued the stranded athletes.

Sir Charles Blackburn was Club Patron during

Jim May & Terry Rothwell do battle at Marks Field.



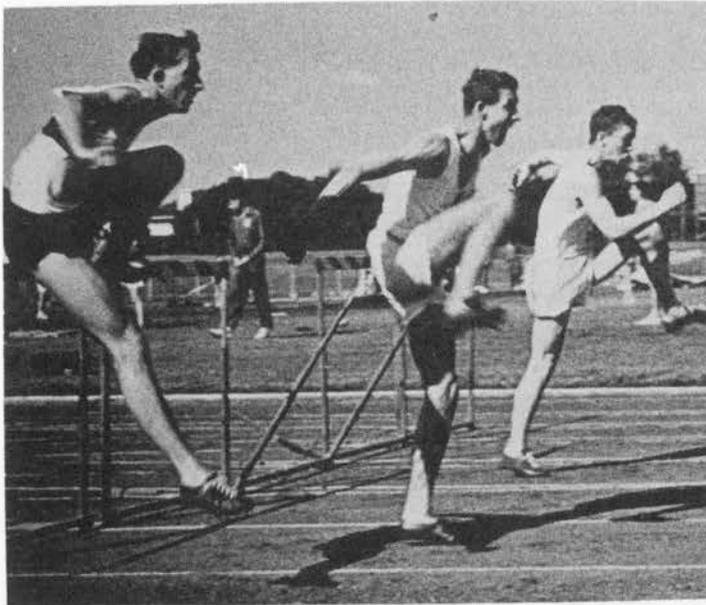
the 1950's and was always present at Club dinners. I don't think I've seen any other individual treated with so much respect by a boisterous group of undergraduates.

One highlight of the 1950's was the Club's 75th Anniversary Dinner, well patronised by athletes of the 1930's and 1940's. Who would ever have expected the next 25 years to have passed so quickly?

#### 1958-61 — Ian White

In March 1958 Lou Davies stood down after five years as Club President. Lou had been a Fresher in 1941; served in the war; resumed his course in 1946; and in 1948 won the Intersivity triple jump for the second time and set a record of 46 ft. 9-½ in. which lasted for eight years. He was the 1948 Rhodes Scholar. He wrote a chapter on the triple jump in the Achilles Club book "Athletics".

The Club's association with Rhodes Scholars was to continue. Bob Solomon had been Club Captain before going to Oxford in 1954 on a Rhodes Scholarship. Having won the Australian Universities 440 yards in 1953 (he was second in 1950, 1951 and 1952) he won the Oxford v. Cambridge 440 yards in 1956, beating Olympian Derek Johnson. On his return to Australia in the 1957-58 season he again ran for S.U.A.C. and with Ross Parker, Dave Abramovitch and Mick Swinburn won the N.S.W. 4 x 440 yards relay championship.



Barry Webb & Ian White continue the hurdling tradition of the club.

In 1955 one of the freshers was the 1954 G.P.S. mile champion Jim Wiley. In 1957-58 he was Secretary of S.U.A.C. and in 1958 went off to Oxford as the Club's third post-war Rhodes Scholar.

The winner of the sprint treble at G.P.S. athletics in 1955 was a fresher in the Club in 1956

— Mick Swinburn. Mick was a member of the Australian Universities Athletic Team in New Zealand in 1958 (together with Ross Parker, Dave Abramovitch and Jim Penfold) and the S.U.A.C. 4 x 220 yds relay team (B. L. Waters, C. G. Edwards, M. J. Swinburn, J. R. Smith) which set an Australian record for club teams of 1.27.4 on 15th November, 1958, which stood until 1965. In 1959 Mick was Club Captain when Sydney almost broke Melbourne's run of five successive Q.L.V.A. Cup wins at the first Intersivity athletics to be hosted by the University of Western Australia. In 1960, after helping Sydney to a one point win over Melbourne at Intersivity in Sydney, Mick went off to Oxford as Rhodes Scholar.

Mick was the Club's second-string 440 yard runner at Intersivity in 1960 (49.2 behind Brian Waters' 48.8). The second string 880 yards runner Ian McCloskey was Club Secretary (1961) and Club Captain (1962) before going to Oxford as Rhodes Scholar in 1963.

John Antill joined S.U.A.C. in 1961, toured New Zealand with the Australian Universities team in 1962 as high jumper and guitarist, was Club Captain in 1963 and 1964, and went off to England as 1965 Rhodes Scholar. He won his Oxford Hlaf-Blue in the 120 yards hurdles.

Other Club members had enjoyment and success in athletics without becoming Rhodes Scholars.

Harry Suhan was Club President for the three years when Jim Penfold reached his peak as a shot putter. The table below speaks for itself:

#### Winner I-V shot putt

|      |                      |         |        |
|------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| 1956 | K. R. Mottram (UNSW) | 43'9¼"  | (rec.) |
| 1957 | J. L. Penfold (S)    | 45'3½"  | (rec.) |
| 1958 | J. L. Penfold (S)    | 48'11½" | (rec.) |
| 1959 | J. L. Penfold (S)    | 50'2½"  | (rec.) |
| 1961 | K. R. Mottram (UNSW) | 47'5"   |        |

Other performances by Jim Penfold: 1958 v. N.Z.U. at Christchurch — 1st 48'11½"; 1959 Australian Championships — 1st 50'f¼"; 1960 N.S.W. record 53'2¼"; v. N.Z.U. at Sydney 1st 50'7½".

Sydney's second-string shot putter in 1959 and 1960 was Peter Phillips. He went on to win the Intersivity shot put in 1968-1971 competing for Queensland University; Peter was Australian Champion in 1970 and 1971; Peter appears second on the A.A.U. list of all-time best performances by Australians with a put of 17.52 metres (57½ ft.) recorded shortly after he represented Australia as a weight-lifter at the Olympics in Munich in 1972.

After Jim Penfold's graduation the Club's best shot putter at Intersivity in Hobart in 1961 was Peter Taylor, who came third with 43 ft. 9 in. Almost sixteen years later at the Australian Championships in Hobart Peter had improved nearly 10 ft.; he won the 1977 Australian Championships with a distance of 16.24 metres (53 ft. 3 in).

Dave Blair was a distance runner who ran occasionally from 1957 to 1960. In 1959 he came third in the Club 5 mile cross-country race. In



Brian Waters (inside lane) in a typical finish at Marks Field.

1961 he came 44th in the N.S.W. 10km Cross-Country Championship; and he came 12th in the inaugural Intervarsity Cross-Country, at Centennial Park on 19th August. His most significant performance was in September 1961, but let me set the scene.

Herb Elliott in his book "The Golden Mile" stated: "100 miles in 24 hours is more praiseworthy than a four-minute mile" Percy Cerutti, Elliott's coach, claimed to be one of only three Australians to have performed the feat. On May 9th, 1961 an S.U.A.C. circular advised members that a 100 mile attempt was on. It was decided that the run would be around and around and around The University Oval, 400 times. Athletes changed from running anticlockwise to clockwise and back again every couple of hours.

At 6 p.m. on 1st September eleven athletes started — some sprinted away, others walked. The competitors were Ian Scott, Tony Ashton, K. Stelter (St.G), Tom Houghton, Henley Harrison, Ken Gilbert, Chris Reading, J. Elphinston (St.G), R. Elphinston, Dave Blair and Ian McCloskey. The favourite was Dave Blair whose training and trial runs (180 laps of University Oval one Sunday stamped him as the one most likely to succeed.

At midnight Dave Blair had run 40 miles and it was raining. By 6 a.m. Dave Blair had run 74 miles, Chris Reading had run 50 and the rain had stopped. By 10 a.m. Dave had run 92½ miles and he completed his 400th lap at 11.34 a.m. The 100 miles had been completed in 17 hours 33 minutes 51 seconds. Bob Elphinston (71 miles) and Ian McCloskey (60 miles) pulled out after 21 hours 15 minutes.

At the S.U.A.C. Dinner later that month Dave Blair said he was done some speed training for the N.S.W. Marathon Championship. He finished third in the N.S.W. marathon on 23rd September.

Bruce Abrahams, University hurdles champion in 1959 and 1960 who was teaching in Perth in 1961, heard of the attempt and set out on his own to try the feat. He got to 60 miles.

Bruce had been a successful performer in Intercollegiate athletics. In 1958 he won the long jump for Wesley, equalled Jim May's Intercollegiate record of 15.5 in the 120 yards hurdles, and ran in the Wesley 4 x 110 yards relay team which equalled the Intercollegiate record of 43.9. In 1959 he won the hurdles (15.4 record) and beat Mick Swinburn to win the 100 and 220. Mick had to run 49.8 (Intercollegiate record) to beat Bruce in the 440. (The record of 50.0 had been set by Paul Magee in 1939 and equalled by A. R. Shepherd when he also ran Intercollegiate records of 10.0 and 22.2 in 1951).

At the University Championships in 1959 Bruce Abrahams and Ian White dead-heated in the 440 yards hurdles in 54.9. The following race was a womens interfaculty 4 x 110 yards relay; the winning time was slower than the quarter hurdlers'!

Rest after effort at the old stand. John Collins stands guard over Alan Tilley, Bruce Abrahams & Tom Bellas.



In 1960 Mick Swinburn ran Intercollegiate record times of 9.9 and 21.9 to beat Bruce Abrahams who won the long jump, 440 and hurdles (15.3 record). In May 1960 Bruce also won the 220 yards hurdles at the University Championships (24.3 record), Intervarsity and for Australian Universities v. N.Z.U.

Bruce's talents were shown not only on the track. He was on the S.R.C., co-editor of the University Song Book in 1960 and winner of the Egg Cup (best College stunt of the year) for successfully impersonating Sir Malcolm Sargent as conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

The Curator of University Oval, Tom Ludwig, retired on 30th June, 1960. Tom commenced his service with the Sports Union in 1919 as a groundsman, and in 1928 accepted the duties of groundsman at St. Paul's College. In 1933 on the

about that time was:

March

Annual General Meeting

weekend trip to compete against R.M.C. at Duntroon

one-day trip to compete against Newcastle clubs

March and April

lunch-time handicaps on Wednesdays

April

Anzac Day meeting on University Oval against U.N.S.W.

interfaculty athletics on University Oval

May

University Championships on first Tuesday and Thursday on University Oval

intercollegiate athletics on second Wednesday on University Oval

Intervarsity



Perhaps the only interfaculty team ever photographed - Engineering, winners in 1958. White, Webb, Abrahams, Moran, Sample, Cohen, Brown, Andean, Blair, Ashton. Absent: Oloman, Rajaratnam.

death of A. A. Chislett, who had been curator since 1879, Tom Ludwig was appointed curator.

In recognition of his contribution to University athletics the Tom Ludwig Cup has been awarded each year since 1960 to the athlete consistently showing a high standard of performance, sportsmanship and team spirit. The first two winners were Brian Waters and Ian McCloskey, some of whose successes have been mentioned above. The third winner, in 1962, was Max Darvill — hurdler, half-miler, team manager and an equally worthy winner of the cup, but whose name does not appear on any list of champion athletes.

A typical calendar of activities for the Club at

August

cross-country

Club dinner

September

match against Shore, Grammar and Scots at Shore

September-October

lunch-time handicaps on Wednesday

October

match against a N.S.W. schoolboys team and U.N.S.W. on University Oval on Eight Hour Day

October-March

Interclub and other competitions arranged by the A.A.A.



Combined Universities Team in New Zealand, 1962.

Over the years some athletes ran for Sydney at Intersarsity but ran for other clubs in Interclub and other competitions. John Plummer, Berry Primrose and Terry Gale are three who were ineligible to win University Blues for this reason. Others ran for S.U.A.C. for part of their undergraduate career and for district clubs for part — Bob Vagg, Simon Edmunds and Peter Bloomfield for example.

In 1961 the Club committee felt that it was unfair for athletes who ran for other district clubs to benefit from Intersarsity trips. It was decided that only athletes registered with the A.A.A. as S.U.A.C. members would be selected for intersarsity. Two stalwarts of the Club, Peter Phillips and Pat Greene, made themselves unavailable for 1961 I-V on principle, although they regularly competed for S.U.A.C. in Interclub competition.

The rule only lasted for one year.

One of the more acceptable decisions of the Club committee at about that time was to arrange for the manufacture of an S.U.A.C. neck-tie. The design featured the dart or colour patch which has been a feature of the Club competition singlet since about 1928. The centenary tie is a development of the 1960 design.

*S.U.A.C. In the last twenty years — John Perrott*

Much research has been carried out by David Branagan concerning the birth, childhood and adolescence of the Sydney University Athletics Club, and it could appear to be invidious to recall our activities in more recent times both as a Club as well as those of our illustrious alumni. Nevertheless, the writer is endeavouring to recall some of the outstanding events that occurred in the last two decades — events and people that have had a marked influence on the growth of our Club.

The 1960's passed with Sydney winning only one Intersarsity Championship. It appeared that Melbourne had a hegemony in this, and that

generally we seemed to compete for second place with Queensland. Our single victory was in 1960 when we defeated Melbourne by one point on our No. 1 Oval. We had to wait until 1974 before we were victorious and again in 1976 1977 and 1978. It was not because we lacked enthusiasm under such captains as Ian White in 1961, Ian McCloskey in 1962, and John Antill in 1963 and 1964, nor was our lack of success due to a dearth of champions such as Brian Waters, John Pohl, Steve Clark or Jim Penfold, but rather it was due to a lack of strength in depth to fill the lower places and thereby score the necessary points. Recruiting of Sydney athletes during this period was not forthcoming.



Doug Black looms out of the gloom. Hamilton, N.Z. 1962.

Brian Waters was perhaps the outstanding athlete of this era, being the Australian champion over 220 yards in 1959 and over 440 yards in 1961 timed in 47.8 seconds. He represented Australia in the 440 yards and in the 4 x 440 yards relay in the Commonwealth Games in 1962. He was closely followed by Jim Penfold (Putting the Shot), Steve Clark (220 yards hurdles) who also won Australian titles. Sig Koscik in the late 1960's and early 1970's set a series of university and state marks in the javelin and won Australian honours. Laurie Walkley represented at the World University Championships in Turin (1971) and still ranks nationally in the long jump. Peter Hadfield's performances in that "specialists' event" the Decathlon, brought him an Australian title in 1976 and 1977, and also N.S.W. titles. Please note that every Decathlon athlete abhors being called "an all-round athlete".

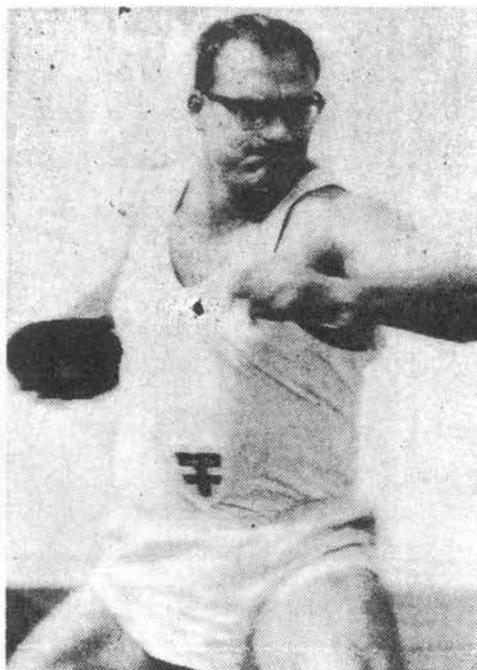
A remarkable feature of this period was the athletic longevity of many of our members. Perhaps the Walkley brethren were the most conspicuous, for Max and Laurie figures in our Varsity teams from 1962 to 1977. Well done the Walkley genes. Other Methuselahs were Alex Tahmindjis, Paul Vrachnas and our reigning President, Pat Greene.

In these decades the S.U.A.C. were fortunate in having a succession of excellent captains. Ian White, Ian McCloskey and John Antill have



Ian McCloskey hands over to John Collins

already been mentioned. This trio was followed by Dave Effenev (1965), Max Walkley (1966), Brian Carrigan (1967), Peter Wallman (1968), John Pohl (1969), Max Walkley (1970), Dave Collins (1971), Geoff Warren (1972), Laurie Fletcher (1973), Rob McDonald (1974), Lindsay Brien (1975), Malcolm Harrison (1976) and Phil O'Hara (1977). All these men steered the Club through smooth and sometimes rough seas.



Strong man John Pohl spins a long one.

One stormy passage in 1963 is worthy of mention, when the Club was having unexpected success in some of the lower grades of the Interclub competition. We had in fact won A, B, C and D grades and finished second in E! It was then that certain of our rival clubs (one of which was the most antagonistic) took exception to our members who competed for us, believing that these members were "stolen" from other clubs. They also objected to certain "elderly" postgraduates competing, saying that these members were no longer eligible. They therefore attempted to bring a motion before the A.A.A. of N.S.W. forbidding us to carry on this practice, thus trying to restrict our membership on the lines of a business sports' club. Of course, this was a direct interference with the Constitution of our Sports Union, as well as with the intrinsic control of the S.U.A.C. It is to the eternal credit of John Antill and his strong committee of that year that this attempted emasculation of the S.U.A.C. was a pathetic failure and the exogenous meddling with our domestic affairs was not to be tolerated.

Even Oscar Wilde could not have dubbed us as "flannelled fools and muddied oafs", for we have proved that "mens sana in corpore sano" was applicable to the S.U.A.C. We produced no fewer than seven Rhodes Scholars during this period. In chronological order these gentlemen were Lou Davies, Bob Solomon, Jim Wiley, Mick Swinburn, Ian McCloskey, John Antill and Peter King, who also obtained a Rugby Blue at Oxford. Lou Davies competed for England in the high jump.

In conclusion, we must never forget the service given to the Club by the late Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn K.C.M.G., who was our Patron while he was Chancellor and later



Another strong man Alex Tahmindjis on the ball.

Chancellor Emeritus of the University until his death in 1970 at the age of ninety seven. Each year Sir Charles attended our Annual Dinner, and entertained us with his lively anecdotes and reminiscences. His sincere friendship was of the greatest encouragement to all, and his spirit of camaraderia still lives with us. Our good fortune continued when Sir Hermann Black, the present Chancellor, consented to be our Patron. He too has given us his wholehearted support.

In the 1962-63 period we suffered the loss of the Oval for nearly a year while it was drained and resurfaced. This caused the cancellation of the University Relays and Decathlon (first held 1961) and curtailment of training.

In this year too St. Johns suddenly became athletics minded and won the Intercollegiate competition — the first win since its inception in 1907.

The new drainage however proved ineffectual when the heavens opened in June 1963 giving us the rare occurrence of University Championships being held June 11 and December 18th!

In 1965 two important events deserve to be noted — the appointment of Jack Pross as official coach and the Sydney University Women's Team winning the 'Hulbert Cup' for the most points at Intersarsity.

Jack Pross certainly stirred up enthusiasm — Laurie Walkley driving 100 kms to attend training with him just a week after I-V. There was a keen and growing interest in Sports Medicine and the finer points of physical fitness shown by members once they made contact with Jack.

This interest was expanded by lectures given by Viv Chalwin on muscular and other problems.

In the early 1970's much of this knowledge was passed on to schoolboy athletes who attended holiday 'summer schools' organised by the Club and sponsored by the Shell Company.

More recently the Club has been sponsored by the University Branch of the Commonwealth Bank in the running of its Christmas Gift Carnival, one of the most pleasant and relaxing of the summer carnivals.

The seventies especially are notable for the two overseas tours organised by the Club.

In August 1972 Club members spent an enjoyable ten days in Papua New Guinea competing and sightseeing, and making many friends. This was probably the first athletics trip overseas by an Australian Club team. Several months earlier we had been hosts to the visiting New Caledonian Team.



Start of an I-V Cross-country Championship

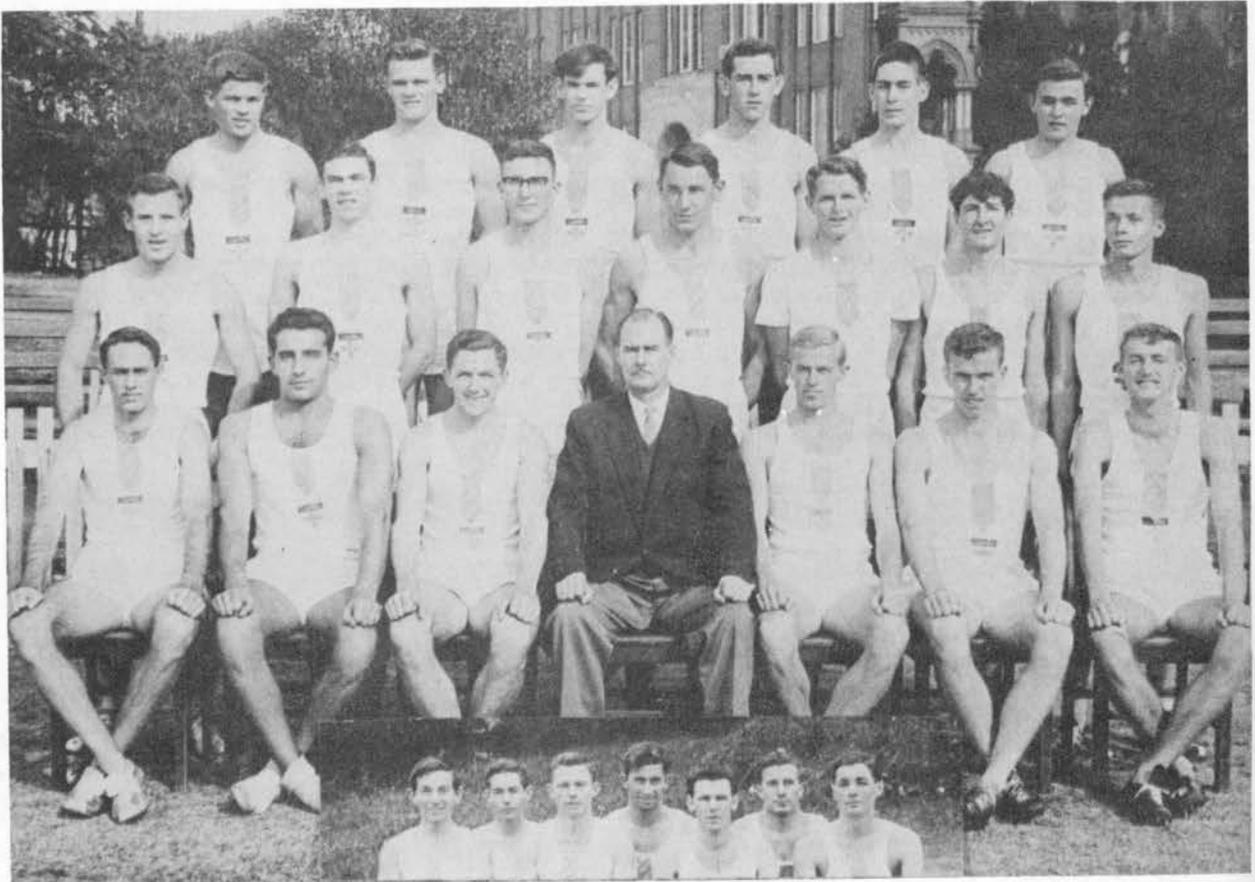


Max Walkley passes to 'Nifty Nev'  
Menlove a change that hit the headlines.  
'Men of learning' win, State 4 x 100  
relay 1967.

In 1977 an even more ambitious tour of Washington State (U.S.) and Western Canada was held. Its success augurs well for future tours.

An important event in 1963 was the printing of the first year book and ranking list of the Club. The Year book has proved its value in recording formal and informal Club happenings beyond those which appear in the more formal annual reports. Those interested in reading in more detail of these recent years (and in seeing more action photos) should consult the year books. They are good fun.

- Back Row: D. Black, P. R. Phillips, D. G. Shannon, G. Loy, J. Collins, I. D. McCloskey  
 Middle Row: I. Hulme-Moir, J. R. Sutton, T. Bellas, J. G. Shaw, J. S. Boyd,  
 G. R. Keating, M. Diesendorf.  
 Front Row: S. W. McCarthy, A. J. Tahmindjis, B. L. Waters (Capt.), S. H. Suhan (Mgr.),  
 M. J. Swinburn, I. R. White, B. D. Webb.  
 Inset: J. Coles, A. Ireland, C. G. Edwards, B. S. Abrahams, R. A. Vagg,  
 J. L. Penfold, P. Warburton. (Absent - S. J. Barron, L. A. Hughes)



Winning team of 1960

## Chapter 19

### RETROSPECT, INTROSPECT, PROSPECT

It only remains to record that the Centenary was suitably celebrated. The seal was set on a hundred years of effort with a good win at Inter-Varsity but we didn't quite manage the double of A-grade Interclub, going down on the final day of a very good season. A New Zealand Intervarsity team joined us in May for Intervarsity matches, reviving memories of many pleasant visits in the past. In August the club sponsored (with generous commercial support) a visit by a strong team from the Achilles Club (Oxford and Cambridge) which competed at meetings in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney and gave coaching classes in Newcastle before visiting Singapore. Our off-season syndrome combined with shocking weather didn't provide the most scintillating athletics but there were a few fine performances on our side to set against the in-form efforts of the visitors. It seems to have been another notable first — a visit by an overseas club team sponsored by a local team. There will be many more in the future.

No one who went will ever forget the Centenary Banquet. More than 200 males (a last chauvanistic stand) gathered for drinks in the University's Great Hall before being invited, cajoled, urged and finally driven to the Union Refectory for a feast of food, wine and oratory intermingled with a flood of reminiscences.

Faces and figures were examined with delight, names were exclaimed with pleasure and memories were revived of friends and sporting foes, hilarious student events long

buried beneath the dignity of present-day occupations, as speeches were given and toasts were drunk.

There was material for twenty books if one had only been able to gather it — Jack Metcalfe and George Bernard Shaw, Brian Dunn's mythical training sessions at Palm Beach, the origin of the Crawley-Sneazwell-Reed drinking horn for the Boat Race Competition, now many Olympians the the Club had had, did Terry Rothwell find who souvenired the Adelaide cutlery, when were we two years behind in our affiliation fees, who was called before the N.S.W.A.A.A. for insulting an official, who was our best athlete, was the club the first to introduce wind assistance testing, how did Patsy Suhan get his nickname, which was the Club's best year, who really designed our present costume and so on far into the night.

No one could do full justice in a few short pages to this veritable saga of human effort and companionship. I pay tribute therefore to those club members whose names and endeavours have not been recorded in this book. They have not been forgotten. We salute them as worthy predecessors.

Enough of Introspection . . . it is time now to leave our story. The second Century of Sydney University Athletics has dawned. May it be as the first has been.

The hundred year finishing post has been reached, another race has begun.

## S.U.A.C. PRESIDENTS

|      |                           |      |                           |
|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1878 | Sir William Manning       | 1938 | G. Read                   |
| 1890 | Professor Frank Anderson  | 1939 | M. Rosenblum              |
| 1909 | Professor T. W. E. David  | 1940 | J. P. Metcalfe            |
| 1911 | B. R. French              | 1941 | Dr. W. A. Leventhal       |
| 1913 | N. C. Barker              | 1943 | Flt. Lt. L. C. A. Ariotti |
| 1914 | H. J. R. Clayton          | 1944 | Dr. B. A. Curtin          |
| 1919 | Dr. C. R. Furner          | 1945 | J. P. Metcalfe            |
| 1920 | Professor Douglas Stewart | 1949 | M. D. Finlay              |
| 1921 | Dr. H. Leadley            | 1951 | D. K. Donald              |
| 1923 | Dr. R. G. Waddy           | 1953 | Dr. L. W. Davies          |
| 1925 | V. H. Treatt              | 1958 | S. H. Suhan               |
| 1927 | Professor J. D. Stewart   | 1961 | Dr. J. W. Perrott         |
| 1928 | Dr. R. St. J. Honner      | 1967 | Dr. A. J. Tahmindjis      |
| 1932 | Dr. J. G. Stephens        | 1970 | C. D. Lee                 |
| 1934 | Dr. I. I. Brodsky         | 1974 | T. P. Greene              |

## S.U.A.C. CAPTAINS

|      |                  |      |                 |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1909 | B. R. French     | 1951 | J. H. Bullock   |
| 1911 | N. F. Pattinson  | 1952 | R. J. Solomon   |
| 1914 | N. G. Sutton     | 1955 | T. L. Rothwell  |
| 1919 | J. H. Leadley    | 1958 | J. Marshall     |
| 1921 | R. J. Honner     | 1959 | M. Swinburn     |
| 1922 | W. Hutton        | 1960 | B. L. Waters    |
| 1925 | V. R. Harbison   | 1961 | I. R. P. White  |
| 1926 | W. H. Coop       | 1962 | D. I. McCloskey |
| 1928 | P. C. Smith      | 1963 | J. K. Antill    |
| 1929 | D. A. Warden     | 1965 | D. J. Effeney   |
| 1930 | C. R. Wallace    | 1966 | M. J. Walkley   |
| 1931 | R. C. Smith      | 1967 | B. J. Carrigan  |
| 1932 | K. S. Jones      | 1968 | P. N. Wallman   |
| 1933 | I. I. Brodsky    | 1969 | J. G. Pohl      |
| 1934 | J. P. Metcalfe   | 1970 | M. J. Walkley   |
| 1938 | P. F. Magee      | 1971 | D. C. Collins   |
| 1940 | L. C. A. Ariotti | 1972 | G. Warren       |
| 1942 | F. L. Clark      | 1973 | L. Fletcher     |
| 1943 | G. E. Hession    | 1974 | R. McDonald     |
| 1944 | D. J. Walters    | 1975 | L. Brien        |
| 1947 | J. K. Morris     | 1976 | M. Harrison     |
| 1948 | M. D. Finlay     | 1977 | P. O'Hara       |
| 1950 | J. F. Treloar    | 1978 | G. Windeyer     |

## S.U.A.C. SECRETARIES

|      |                                   |      |   |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|---|
| 1878 | E. M. Bowman                      | 1909 | F. G. A. Pockley  |
| 1881 | G. C. Addison                     | 1911 | W. J. F. Rofe   |
| 1888 | A. V. Hilliard<br>F. B. Wilkinson | 1912 | S. R. W. Richardson (rgd.)<br>Temple Grey               |
| 1889 | A. V. Hilliard<br>L. E. Neill     | 1913 | Temple Grey (rgd.)<br>then N. G. Sutton                 |
| 1890 | A. V. Hilliard<br>S. L. Rudder    | 1914 | N. G. Sutton  |
| 1892 | W. J. Rooney<br>D. S. Edwards     | 1918 | H. C. D. Cookson  |
| 1894 | P. H. Mills<br>D. J. Nelson       | 1920 | K. B. Fraser  |
| 1895 | D. S. Edwards<br>H. H. Lee        | 1921 | J. K. Harbison  |
| 1896 | A. H. Uther<br>F. J. Perkins      | 1922 | L. W. Tunley  |
| 1898 | C. B. Cameron<br>A. J. Uther      | 1923 | F. D. Hixson  |
| 1899 | C. G. Gibson<br>F. T. Perkins     | 1924 | S. C. Campbell  |
| 1900 | F. T. Perkins<br>D. B. Corfe      | 1926 | F. W. Coss  |
| 1903 | G. H. Cranswick<br>N. C. Barker   | 1927 | E. E. Smithers  |
| 1905 | N. C. Barker<br>S. D. Webb        | 1928 | O. E. Worth (rgd.)<br>R. C. Smith (rgd.)<br>K. S. Jones |
| 1906 | R. G. Waddy<br>B. R. French       | 1929 | K. S. Jones   |
| 1907 | N. C. Barker<br>R. G. Waddy       | 1930 | I. I. Brodsky   |
|      |                                   | 1933 | G. R. Jones   |
|      |                                   | 1934 | D. K. Donald  |
|      |                                   | 1935 | G. Read   |
|      |                                   | 1936 | G. S. LeCouteur   |
|      |                                   | 1937 | E. P. W. Marriott (rgd.)<br>W. A. Leventhal             |
|      |                                   | 1938 | W. A. Leventhal (rgd.)<br>R. B. Wiles                   |

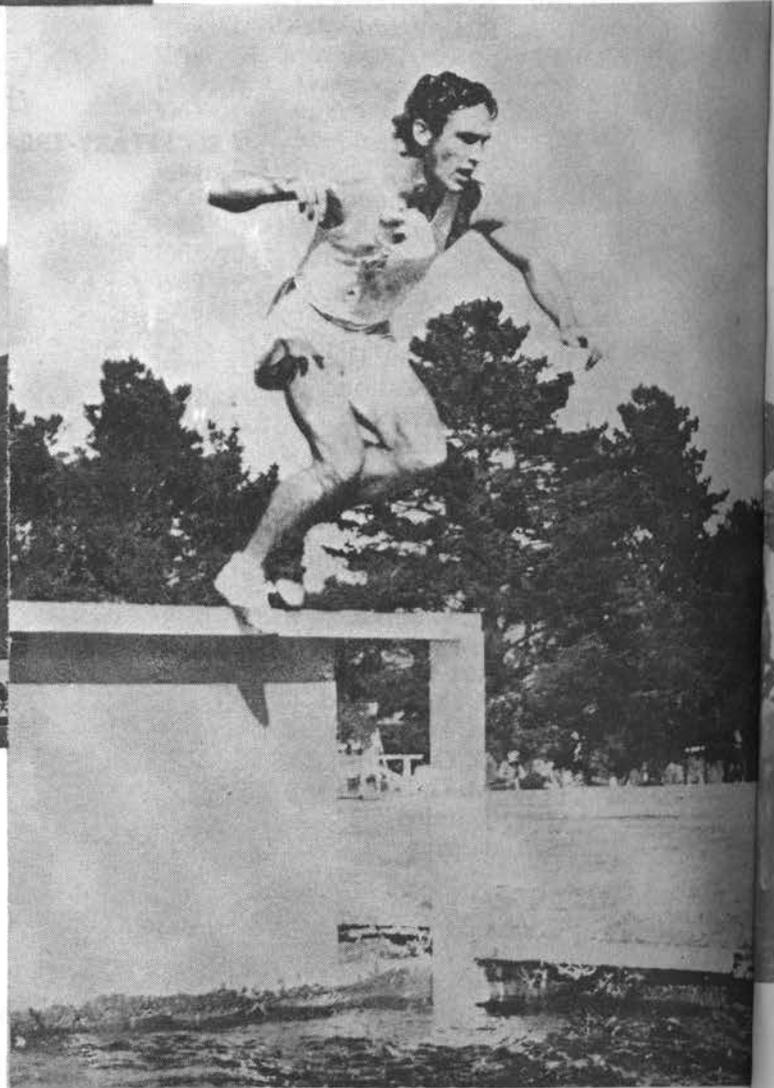
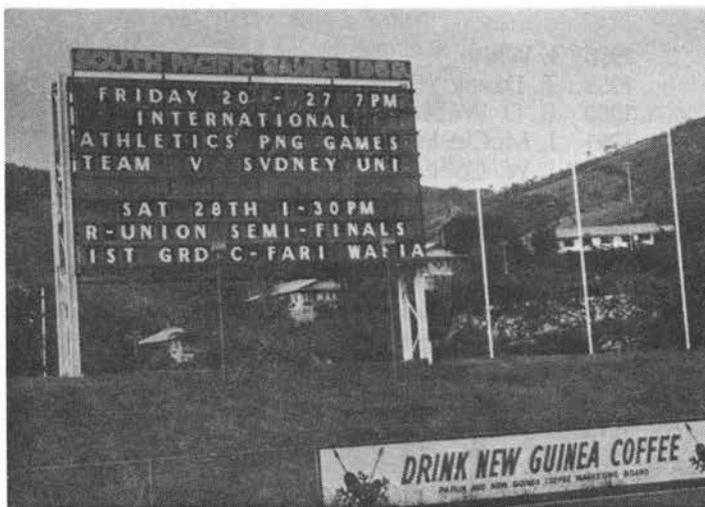
## SECRETARY-TREASURERS

|      |                                     |      |                       |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1939 | L. C. A. Ariotti                    | 1958 | I. White              |
| 1940 | B. A. Curtin                        | 1959 | T. Davey              |
| 1941 | D. Harvey Hutton                    | 1960 | B. D. Webb            |
| 1942 | G. E. Hession                       | 1961 | I. McCloskey          |
| 1943 | D. J. Walters                       | 1962 | J. W. Collins         |
| 1944 | G. F. Donald                        | 1963 | A. W. Tilley          |
| 1946 | J. K. Morris                        | 1964 | R. E. Wass            |
| 1947 | S. H. Suhan                         | 1965 | F. M. Darvill         |
| 1948 | L. D. Hadfield                      | 1966 | D. Stewart-Richardson |
| 1949 | G. N. Evans (rgd.)<br>J. D. Arnott  | 1967 | T. W. Maxwell         |
| 1950 | R. N. Burke                         | 1968 | C. A. Williams        |
| 1951 | R. N. Burke (rgd.)<br>R. J. Solomon | 1969 | T. W. Maxwell         |
| 1952 | P. Hungerford                       | 1970 | S. J. Enemark         |
| 1953 | M. J. Gerrard                       | 1971 | R. Kaine              |
| 1954 | D. Greatorex                        | 1972 | G. Adelstein          |
| 1955 | M. G. Davey                         | 1973 | R. Keogh              |
| 1956 | J. Smith                            | 1974 | M. Harrison           |
| 1957 | J. Wiley                            | 1976 | P. O'Hara             |
|      |                                     | 1977 | K. Bryant             |
|      |                                     | 1978 | T. Campbell           |



Jubilation in 1974 after a long drought  
Rob McDonald suitably crowned.

Geoff Warren goes over the top.



Back Cover: Pat Greene hands it on to Lindsay Brien. Who will it be in 2078?



"CIGNUS SIGNIFICAT CERVESA"

Home from Perth with a full bag—1976.

The horrors of Centennial Park. 'Chook' Harrison, Ian Hulme-Moir,  
Alan Tilley, Ken Gilbert.



