

EDITORIAL

The NUTS has taken one of its biggest steps forward with the recent decision of the General Committee to produce the lists for publication in 'British Athletics 1967' from punched cards; it is hoped to produce the index in the same way next year. Bob Sparks has devised a form (A4 size) which is being used by event listers. One card will be punched for each line entry; the total number of cards required will probably be in the region of 4,500 - 5,000. Card punching should take less than a week, at a cost of probably less than £50.

Punched cards as a means of listing are not, of course, entirely satisfactory; one feels justified, therefore, in quoting from the 1964 ATFS Olympic Handbook; "We apologise for this situation but feel that the reliability and speed of future publication of our lists is worth the sacrifice".

The season's greetings to all our readers - and please bombard the editor with contributions in 1967!

FROM THE SECRETARY

My thanks to those members who made a prompt reply to my questionnaire. So good was the result that I received over 50% of the replies within a fortnight. There are still some outstanding and may I ask those concerned to send me the form back as soon as possible.

The committee are exploring the possibility of an outing by coach to the International Cross Country at Barry on March 18. This would mean a very early start and it would only be feasible for London area members to participate. Would all those who might be interested please drop me a line as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Colin Young on his recent great win in the international 100 kilometres road walk at Lugano - and in a time bettered by only three other walkers!

We welcome to membership Tim Lynch-Staunton. Tim has assisted Keith Morbey for the last two years on his club ranking lists and so was an obvious choice for membership. He will be doing the job practically single-handed this year and all members are asked to co-operate with him. Tim's address :- T.G.Lynch-Staunton, 41 Arlington Lodge, Monument Hill, Weybridge, Surrey

MISCELLANY

\* With the departure to Australia of Ian Smith the NUTS loses the services of one of its most hardworking members. Ian's almost obsessive concern for accuracy is well known. We wish him and Barbara 'Bon Voyage' and hope to hear from them.

\* Members will recall some lively - not to say acrimonious - correspondence in AN early this year on the subject of rankings. Peter Pozzoli has produced extremely comprehensive women's ranking lists for the 1966 season (national and regional), based on the results of actual club competition. Birchfield HLS emerge top under this system; it will be interesting to see whether Keith Morbey and Tim Lynch-Staunton produce a similar result with their Portuguese Tables.

\* We are pleased to announce the arrival of Helen Elizabeth Morbey on 12 November 1966, clearing the scales at 61lb 11½ ozs. Congratulations to Keith and Susan.

INTERVIEW WITH STAN GREENBERG - No 4 in a series

A.H. You are the foremost expert on British Commonwealth statistics, and have produced this year the results of something like fifteen years of research in this field. How did this particular interest start?

S.G. I have always been interested in ethnology (I once tried to join the Department of Ethnology at the British Museum) with especial interest in Africa and things African. When I took up athletics this seemed a logical extension, and as Africa constituted a large part of the Commonwealth I tended to concentrate a little more. Also, of course, there was little expertise in the field, mainly because the standard was so low generally. All of us like to be an expert on something the other fellow knows little about, and once the bug got me I was away.



Another major factor was that due to the ramifications of the Company (Unilever) that I work for, and its central position in London, I had ready access to the newspapers of most Commonwealth countries. I might point out though, that in fact up till now I have been keeping statistics on British, men and women, Commonwealth, men and women, World, men and women, and in some years, European, men and women, all at the same time - something that I do not think anyone else in the world has attempted, and which I have now realised will send me to an early grave if I do not cut something out.

A.H. Are there any changes you would like to see in the content or appearance of the annual, and are there any compilations - perhaps breaking new ground - which you would like to see the NUTS publish?

S.G. Obviously I would like to see our book become the British yearbook on the sport with everything appertaining to a statistical appreciation of the forthcoming season. Thus results of all major meetings and internationals would appear; a written round up of the season, perhaps event by event; a top 20/25 world list so as to give a comparison for our standard; a look forward to the following year's Olympic Games, European Champs et al would be useful. Also it would be nice to see the juniors and youths back. More pictures always are desirable, especially if they have never previously been seen. The whole 1 1/2 page book to sell for only 5/-. What more could a man want? Perhaps a hard cover.....

A.H. Which performance(s) and/or performer(s) do you consider the most outstanding you have witnessed, and why?

S.G. I used to think that Valdu Lillakas (Poly H/ex Latvia) was the greatest thing on two legs when he won the AAA six miles in 1949 in around 30:19.0 I thought it was sensational. But over the years, lots of men and performances come to mind. Mc Kenley on his relay leg in Helsinki is still crystal clear as is the sight of Zatopek winning the marathon for his thirs victory of the week (at that point I would have backed him to win the 100 metres as well, I think). But more fresh in mind is Clarke's 1965 AAA 3 miles, which, despite tables and other calculations by the mathematically minded I reckon as the greatest performance on the track ever - even though he has now run faster. To me this was outstanding because in spite of a top class field, a long hard programme of races in the weeks, indeed days, prior to the meeting, a press build-up of off-putting proportions, the fact that he was already world record holder --- despite all these things he turned the indolent and blasé British pressmen at the White City into their former selves, i.e. track fans. Mind you for sheer excitement there is little to match Pirie versus Santee, particularly that last lap..... and then again I have never seen a miler dominate a crack field in the way that Bannister did, from the gun, at the European Championships in Berne..... nor have I heard, for many years, the incredulous laughter that occured when Arthur Wint was running against such as Evans and White in a half mile, taking one stride to every one of theirs.....

A.H. Lastly, nothing to do with athletics (at least I don't think so): Bernard Levin, in one of his brilliant contributions to the "New Statesman" ("Am I a Jew?") wrote that "I still laugh when my sister tells the story of the kreplach, not because the goyim can't understand it, but because of its Thurberesque suggestion of the frailty of human happiness and prevalence of unreason". Could you please enlighten the goyim (Gentiles) amongst us?

S.G. Frankly, I can't stand Levin - mainly because of his pseudo-intellectualisms such as the above quote, whatever it means. He is an example of the professional non-Jew, of whom the Pinters and Weskers are other examples. Also to my way of thinking no debunker, decryer or destructive critic is 'brilliant', merely clever. By this, I mean the cleverness of Education and study as opposed to any inate qualities of grey matter. Such men learn only with their heads, not with their hearts, they have finely tutored minds but stunted feelings. Everything must be cut and dried. Usually their outlook on life, love, religion, etc. is twisted, cynical and confused. In my experience it seems to me that there is more than coincidence in the fact that men of little or no faith (any faith) only seem to see the ugliness, poverty and fear in life, and are the backbone of your marchers, protest makers, no hopers, breakers up and runners down.



Oh, Lord, I am getting as pompous as Levin, so away from this. Actually, I do not know what kreplach story he is talking about (kreplach are balls of flour and meat usually had with soup) but whichever one it is I couldn't explain it anyway. Jewish jokes are just not funny when translated into the English idiom. Most peoples have a sense of humour peculiar to themselves, often unintelligible to others. So that not many British appreciate the American quick-fire wisecrack, while few Americans can appreciate a Max Miller or a Jimmy Tarbuck - in this respect I must have a lot of American blood in me. Jewish humour is, I believe unique in that it has elements of nearly all nations in it. It is primarily a clean humour - even the doubtful jokes never seem crude and can be, and usually are, told in virtually any company - and it has a special facet which other humour rarely, if ever, has. An Englishman will start a joke thus, "There were two Scotsmen, or Welshmen, or Chinamen etc.". A Frenchman will start his jokes "there were two Germans..", but most Jewish jokes are about Jews themselves. They have discovered the basis of truly great humour - laugh at yourselves, not at the misfortune of others.

The main prop of a Jewish story is Yiddish, which is a conglomeration of practically all known, and some unknown, European languages. In fact it is a form of Esperanto, spoken in every country in the world where Jews live. It is the richest, most descriptive language on earth, and it is no coincidence that theatre critics who cannot speak a word of it still appreciate plays performed in it. Many of the finest actors and comedians in the world started their careers in Yiddish theatres or came from fluent Yiddish speaking families. So I am afraid that I can not enlighten you about the story. It is something that you are lucky to be born with, this ability to enjoy a certain certain type of story of situation, and that's it. It is probably the only thing that I have in common with Levin, and even he can't disown that.

#### CONVERSATION ON A BUDAPEST TRAM by Imperialist Reactionary

Scene. A Budapest tram one morning in September 1966.

Players. One English NUT couple.

Enter tram conductor.

The fare of one forint each is handed over without a word; then conductor asks in German :-

"Are you German?"

"Nein", says nut whilst nut's wife turns purple.

"Are you Polish?, Czech?"

"No"

"Are you English?"

"Yes!"

"God save Queen Elizabeth"

Nut thinks, 'Up the Revolution', but says with a smile, "Your English is good"

"God save Roger Hunt"

"God save Florian Albert" says soccer-minded nut.

"God save Nobby Still-es"

"Too true"

"God save Abraham Lincoln"

Nut thinks 'He's the real nut'

Conductor, completely carried away says, "God save Harold Wilson"

"No thank you"

Conductor wanders off and returns.

"God save Queen Elizabeth"

"Yes"

Conductor says something nut does not understand and repeats. Nut still does not comprehend, so conductor writes on small piece of paper "Stop Vietnam - Stop it".

"Wilson stop Vietnam" says commie clippie.

"Americans are in Vietnam, we are English" (thinking 'don't get involved')

A shifty grey-suited type moves in from off-stage.

Conductor, illustrating with linked fingers, "Americans-English are one"

Over-confident nut replies, illustrating with linked fingers, "Russia-Hungary one".

Evidently conductor has no sense of humour - exits to collect fares of proles.

Nut to wife "I don't want to get involved in politics with that Red".

Nut's wife suggests we might spark off a new revolution (Hungarian translation - 'Counter revolution')



Nut's wife says, "I can see the headlines now - 'Second Hungarian Revolution starts on 44 tram - Supplies of cornflakes flown in to stranded British athletes and supporters' (with apologies to Tim Briault)".

Laughter.

Shifty looking unsmiling type in grey suit moves closer to couple. Asks in good English, "Are you English?"

"Yes", says Nut showing great stiff upper lip calm whilst wife turns two shades of purple.

"Can I practice a few English sentences with you?"

"Yes, of course" (expecting, "Will you accompany me to police headquarters?")

A few questions and answers of mild form follow. Nut tells grey suit;

"I didn't want to get involved in politics with him", pointing to conductor who has returned within firing range.

No smile from grey suit (they haven't a sense of humour after all).

Nut's purple-faced wife says with relief, "We are there".

"God save Florian Albert and Nobby, Still-es" (to conductor).

A quick handshake with grey suit and an even quicker exit from the tram brings the near international incident to abrupt close.

#### THE NEW MEASUREMENTS RULE - PENTATHLONS AND DECATHLONS by Patrick Mackenzie

The latest editions of the AAA and IAAF Handbooks include the new rule for measuring marks made in Discus, Hammer and Javelin events. I do not wish to discuss the merits or otherwise of the new rule itself, but merely its implications in Pentathlons and Decathlons (Discus and Javelin in both).

The rule, in effect, states that when measuring with a metric tape, the distance recorded shall be the even number of centimetres below (or occasionally at) the measured distance, and when measuring with a feet-and-inches tape one records to the whole number of inches at or below.

So a throw which is apparently 63.655 metres is recorded as 63.64 and a throw of 155'7 $\frac{3}{4}$  is recorded as 155'7.

The IAAF scoring tables, however, were compiled before the new came into force, and they allow for odd numbers of centimetre, and were indeed compiled with this in mind when deciding what distance had to be achieved to merit a given number of points. It is thus possible that under the new rules an athlete may lose a maximum of two points. Two examples are given below :-

<u>Actual distance</u>	<u>Recorded distance (old)</u>	<u>Points</u> <u>DT JT</u>	<u>Recorded distance (new)</u>	<u>Points</u> <u>DT JT</u>
47.13	47.13	821 594	47.12	820 593
25.19	25.19	360 243	25.18	359 242

If a mark is measured with a feet-and-inches tape to the full inch below, converted to the whole number (even or odd) of centimetres below, and then scored, the athlete can again lose points, and this will happen more often. If the mark is converted for any reason to the EVEN number of centimetres, the frequency with which the athlete loses out is even greater; an example of the first is given below:

<u>Measured distance</u>	<u>Recorded distance</u>	<u>Conversion rounded down</u>	<u>ATFS conversion of mark</u>
150'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	150'6	45.87	45.89

and the discus thrower loses out. (In this case, had a metric tape been used, he would have been given at least 45.88, and not lost the point: it should be noted that I have selected distances to demonstrate that losses occur; it will obviously not happen with every distance.

In the absence of any other guide to meeting organisers, and during the currency of the 1962 IAAF Scoring Tables, I would suggest the following as a guide to those organising pentathlons and decathlons to overcome the problem as far as possible:-

- (1) All marks shall be measured with a metric tape wherever possible, and distances shall be recorded to the whole number of centimetres at or below the measured distance.
- (2) Where it is necessary to use an English distances tape, the distance shall be recorded to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below (up to 100 feet) or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below (over 100 feet), and converted to the whole number of centimetres below. This conversion should be done preferably using ATFS conversion tables. The factor 1 inch equals 2.54 centimetres should be used where

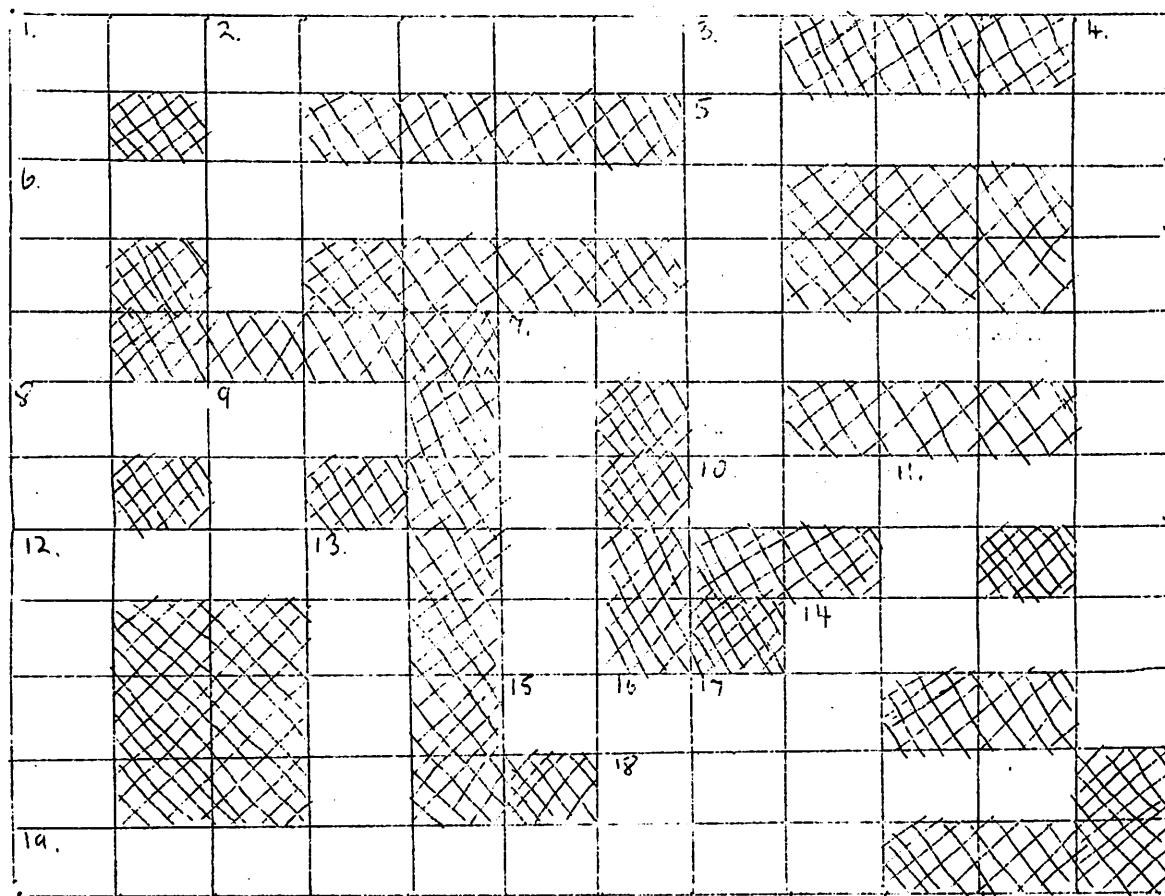


ATFS tables are not available, and fractions of one centimetre neglected AFTER any necessary additions of various distances made during conversion.

It may be of interest to note that the 1966 AAA decathlon was run under Rule 1 above (assuming metric tapes were used); both Norman Foster (36.25 DT) and Jim Smith (44.35 JT) would each have lost a point had the measurements been made under the current rules. (I was the official recorder for this event and can confirm that the scoring was as suggested in (1) above, and that a metric tape was used. The measurements were given to me to the whole centimetre below and it seemed to me wrong to record them to the even centimetre, particularly as in some instances the mark measured to the whole (odd) centimetre was an exact score and reduced to the even centimetre did not feature in the table. Incidentally, I am sure the officials did not have this in mind when they measured - they were even unaware that the correct way should have been to measure to the even centimetre! 1)

I see no objection to a rule for measuring specific to Pentathlons and Decathlons. These events already differ in respect, since two false starts are permitted in the track events. At the moment we have Scoring Tables which were not designed for the current rules, and it is my contention that the rules should be changed to fit the scoring tables.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE by Alan Lindop



**ACROSS** 1. Double gold medallist at 1938 European champs 5. World's fastest athlete? 6. One of the world's fastest starters 7. Pre-war AAA Long jump champion 8. Lynn's European rival 10. Ex-World record holder at the javelin 12. This lady won two discus titles 14. Does this pre-war British walker train in the park? 15. Britain's best ever shot putter 18. This American Pole Vaulter set a personal best of 14'8 in 1948 19. Olympic champion in 1948

**DOWN** 1. Revived by a French Baron 2. Amateur Athletic Club champion goes West!! 3. Egyptian Ruler of the Discus Circle! 4. Holder of France's only two Olympic golf medals in women's events 7. Does this ex-U.K. record-holder cut his own suits 9. Member of Canadian winning team in 1958 Commonwealth Games 11. 9.2 man from Australia 13. Olympic long jump champion 14. Name of javelin and of record holder 16. Japanese Olympic and world record holder in triple jump. 17. What all athletes strive to do.

This is our chance to win a prize. Entries, accompanied by a list of the top 100 Macaoan triple jumpers of 1899 should be sent to Charles Elliott. The first correct entry received will receive our congratulations. All others receive 50 copies of the 1960 Junior Booklet.

O C T O B E R 2 0 t h 1 9 6 2

The day only has significance in retrospect :

Those of us at Brighton watching athletics on a tranquil autumn  
afternoon

Didn't know that Kennedy and Krushchev were playing their game of  
nuclear chess

It could have been the last track meet we ever watched:

The experts in thermonuclear war assure us that 215 million people  
would have died.

If one man hadn't given way to sanity

\* \* \*

McNamara, you are examining closely those aerial photos:

What do they tell you?

Castro, what do you think you are doing?

This isn't going to help the Cuban people in their fight against  
American imperialism.

We're sitting in a calm bowl carved out of the Sussex earth

Studiously writing in our dull, blue covered programmes.

Krushchev, please stop building your missile sites

or we'll never get the women's javelin result.

Kennedy has ordered US bombers to prepare for a nuclear strike;

Krushchev has authorised the launching of ICBMs.

~~The two miles is half way through.~~

The missiles are approaching southern England.

Only seconds away now from destruction

The two milers carry on running into oblivion.

Brighter than a thousand suns the sky lights up;

Scorched earth, shadows where human beings were.

ANDREW HUXTABLE

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Nothing to do with Athletics, but it helps to fill up space and is  
a little more cheerful than the above:

.....no deductions will be made in months when no pay is due...  
from a G.L.C. letter to staff explaining that union dues can now be  
made by deduction from salary.

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