

N U T S N O T E S

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Vol. 6, No. 3

Editor: Andrew Huxtable

Autumn 1968

EDITORIAL

Norris McWhirter suggested in the 10th birthday issue that the N.U.T.S. should be instrumental in setting up a national collection of athletics material, perhaps in one of the university libraries. As a result of circulating 12 major university librarians in the U.K., Birmingham expressed great interest in the proposal and on July 31 I met the librarian, Dr. K.W. Humphreys and Norris at the offices of Guinness Superlatives. There appear to be no major obstacles (an extension designed to house 500,000 books is to be built shortly, and Norris thought most material would be willingly donated, and he hoped to interest the Sports Council in providing a grant) and a decision is expected from the University Library Committee shortly.

MISCELLANY

Many of you will have heard Bob Sparks make his debut on B.B.C. Radio 4 on August 4, when he answered the question "Athletics: who's going to Mexico?" He came over as authoritative (which, of course, he is) and completely confident (which, I suspect, he wasn't). The N.U.T.S. deservedly got a mention. He appeared a week later to discuss the team which was actually selected.

Not to be outdone Stan Greenberg supplied statistics for a half-page feature by Christopher Brasher in "The Observer" (August 11) on the chances of U.K. athletes at Mexico. And the data on which the actual selections were based was supplied to the B.A.A.B. by Peter Matthews and Andrew Huxtable.

Richard Szreter is joint author, with C.D. Harbury, of an article which appears in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A, 131:3), entitled "The influence upon university performance of the study of economics at school". Richard timed a 6 week visit to the U.S. to nicely coincide with the O.G. and he might even have been seen at Mexico City.

John Douglas too has been busy: he was leader of the Royal Geographic Society expedition to Lapland in 1967 and is currently engaged in writing a book on Northern Norway.

New N.U.T.S. headed paper is now available; write to the Secretary stating your requirements. It is A4 size and will most conveniently go in DL or C6 envelopes.

"British Athletics" - amendments.

We have not had an overwhelming response to our request in the Summer issue of N.U.T.S. Notes for amendments to the first ten editions of the annual so may I please ask members, once more, to send any amendments as soon as possible to the Editor at 78, Toynbee Road, London, S.W.20.

N.U.T.S. RECORDS

1 Hour Walk (12,652) 7M1516y (4) Colin YOUNG 28 Sep 68 Parliament Hill.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS AND PROJECTED

In order to make this of more value it has been decided to have a cumulative listing; those published in the last issue are therefore repeated here. Offers to co-operate on particular projects should be addressed direct to the compiler.

- Shaun Adair - U.K. Track Directory.
- Andrew Huxtable - Best brothers and sisters (world & U.K.)
Best married couples (world & U.K.)
Best twins (world & U.K.)
- Peter Martin - W.A.A.A. junior and intermediate championships before 1957; all time bests and dates of birth for juniors and intermediates.
- Peter Matthews - Best 5 marks average (world)
Best marks in individual events by decathletes and pentathletes (world and U.K.)
- Keith Morbey - U.K. top 10 lists (annual before 1950)
- Peter Pozzoli - U.K. all time best performers, age records and county records by birth (women).
- Bob Sparks - Conversion tables (English/metric measurements and equivalents in track events.)
Wind assistance in 200m/220y (revised.)
Growth-curve analysis.
- Roger Gynn - Field events series.

If you wish to appear in this section please send details to the Editor.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ATHLETICS STATISTICIANS - No.4 Norway.

N.A.F.S. (Norske Amator Fri-idrett Statistikere) was formed on May 1, 1967; it has no formal rules or constitution, but all its expenses are paid by the Norwegian Athletic Federation. Their duplicated journal (N.A.F.S. - blad) comes out at approximately monthly intervals; its joint editors are Olav Hilde Tjugen (24, works at Norwegian Computer Centre), Roar Lund and Ole Petter Sandvig (24, student at Oslo University). Others of the remaining 44 members to have achieved international notice are Fredrik Kullerød, Ingmund Ofstad, Erik Aarset and Einar Otto Øren (25, student at Oslo University).

We shall watch the progress of N.A.F.S. with interest, and I should like to acknowledge the help afforded by Ole Petter Sandvig in supplying the above details.

THINKPIECE by Peter Pozzoli.

I am still unrepentant that my club ranking system is the best yet devised. Noted in Intermediate and Junior Championships recently LOAC did not place even one in the first 6 of any event, though no less than 54 clubs did. Thus, as I've said before, the N.U.T.S. ranking system of clubs means little since it only deals with one senior per event per club (less than 1% of the athletic population I'd guess). My own ranking system based on all results of all three age groups does give a much sounder and more real picture of the state of clubs overall.

Vivian Jenkins made a good point in the "Sunday Times" (August 4) that Rugby should be organised on competitive lines if we're to hope ever to match the All Blacks and Springboks. Same thing applies to athletics. Most countries now have an official open national league and national club championship. (Note emphasis on "open"; our idea of limiting it to 7 or 12 clubs doesn't mean very much.)

Maybe a national 1st division of around 20 clubs limited to inter-club competition between themselves. Then a similar 2nd division, and below that regional 3rd divisions, 4th divisions etc. with promotion and relegation each season.

This is a "hobby horse" with me now. I believe in a national structure of club competition 100%. Like Italian and French football which starts with 1st Division, with Juventus and Inter, and goes right down to 6th Regional Divisions and lower to clubs in little villages - with the chance to rise or fall all the way. (Clubs that were in the 1st Division 20 years ago are in some cases in the 5th Division now! And vice versa.) But the British seem innately opposed to this - even our football league is a closed shop and is not open to outsiders to make their way up in it freely on their merits.

PROPER MEN by Bob Phillips.

Ron Clarke, to me, is the supreme example of the selfless athlete - the man who by his very nature and personality runs solely for the pleasure of it.

Some would say his failure to win a major title is a sign of inherent weakness, but conversely no other athlete in his events has shown the same fundamental ability, the same primitive drive, which enables him to attain what is the real peak of the sport - not to beat another man but to run as fast as one can.

"The athlete remains a man who speaks alone," wrote Antoine Blondin in his preface to that excellent book, L'Athlétisme, by Gaston Meyer. "Each race or each contest constitutes a dialogue with himself, carrying a reply to the question which he himself has posed. In this respect, a beaten athlete who surpasses himself is a secret winner."

Whilst Clarke's major defeats have been suffered when he has fallen short of the standard he has set himself in his monologues on the track, he, more than anyone else, seems to me to fulfil Blondin's ideal of a "secret winner"; a man, who, as Blondin himself wrote later in the same book, "has decided to break down the walls of his prison".

But in thinking of Clarke, and the sublime pleasure his great performances have given, I was reminded also of other athletes - many

of whom, like Clarke, have never won gold medals, who have also provided me with some of my most aesthetically satisfying moments in athletics. A fellow NUTS member, who shall remain nameless to spare his blushes, has more than once been heard to remark that "athletics begins at 440 yards".

In this respect, I must agree, for inevitably it is middle-distance and distance-runners that I remember most of all, though amongst sprinters Henry Carr, Tommie Smith and Livio Berruti have in their different ways represented for me the feline grace which their events, lacking the prolonged competitiveness of others, should propagate more than anything else.

The first athlete I ever saw who looked like a God of the Stadium was Willy Slijkhuis, and the fact that he was getting well and truly beaten at the time by that least God-like figure, Sydney Wooderson, scarcely affects my judgement in any way. As I recall, Slijkhuis ran with a long, raking stride and an almost arrogant upright carriage which seemed to epitomise the ideal of a runner.

Then comes Malvin Whitfield, once described like some phallic Pop idol but so evocatively as "Old Swivel-Hips". Like some computerised automaton - except that his running was so full of character - Whitfield really did flow round the track. A marvellous runner, whose 46.2y and 2:20.8 within an hour one August afternoon at Eskilstuna in 1953 remains one of the greatest performances in the history of athletics.

Half-miling, in fact, seems to breed a special race of runners, with its unique combination of controlled speed and stamina. Christian Wägli of Switzerland was another dramatic runner, doomed by his ubiquitous front-running never to win a major title but a stirring sight as he strode majestically round the track with the rest of the field scurrying along behind. Bob Piercy was Britain's equivalent - a lion-hearted runner whose youthful exuberance paradoxically topped by iron-grey hair brought him a brief year of glory in 1961.

The most regal sight of all over 440 yards and 880 yards, though, was Robbie Brightwell, whose premature retirement after Tokyo was a flagrant waste of potential of which only the Americans are usually guilty. But then Brightwell was the most American of all British athletes and I seriously believe that he could have beaten Snell in Tokyo - even over 1,500 metres, had he prepared for that event.

I saw none of Brightwell's international triumphs or failures overseas, but his talent never flared any less brightly than it did at Loughborough in June, 1964, when he ran 440 yards against the A.A.A. in 46.5 sec. on a track whose cinders had turned to black Christmas pudding. He had an aura about him which only Pirie amongst British athletes has matched - a timeless quality of majestic infallibility which remained untarnished by defeat. No one else personified more the final breakaway from the inhibiting Oxbridge influence over British athletics, and no one else in Britain dared to admit so readily that his sole aim was to smash the opposition.

No one, that is, except Derek Johnson. Tenacity and courage are those British qualities which usually summon up the image of a Tulloh or a Peters - an athlete clawing at the bars rather than breaking down the walls of his prison.

U.K. FEMALE YOUTH ADVANCE: ANALYSIS by Pat Brown.

	JUNIOR							INTERMEDIATE							TOTAL
	100y	150y	HJ	LJ	DT	JT	80yH	100y	150y	HJ	LJ	DT	JT	80mH	
1963	28	22	26	28	26	26	21	24	27	26	21	20	27	18	340
1964	24	19	24	24	19	29	24	29	29	23	25	27	27	28	351
1965	33	20	30	24	32	38	19	34	31	33	31	36	35	26	422
1966	38	31	45	23	24	36	25	39	36	33	31	35	38	31	465
1967	65	53	57	38	44	38	49	35	29	31	39	37	34	41	590
TOTAL	188	145	182	137	145	167	138	161	152	146	147	155	161	144	2168

Reference: "UK Female Youth Advance" by Peter Martin (NUTS NOTES, Vol. 6, No. 2.)

Grand Total = 2168 from 70 items
 Correction Factor = $\frac{2168^2}{70}$ = 67,146

Total Sum of Squares	=	72,714	
Corrected Total S.S.	=	5,568	69 Degrees of Freedom
Annual Sum of Squares	=	981,210	From 14 items
	=	70,086	
Corrected Annual S.S.	=	2,940	4 Degrees of Freedom
Event Sum of Squares	=	675,358	From 10 items
	=	67,536	
Corrected Event S.S.	=	390	6 Degrees of Freedom
Age Group S.S.	=	2,350,760	From 35 items
	=	67,165	
Corrected Age Group S.S.	=	19	1 Degree of Freedom

Continued ...

But Derek Johnson's comparatively slight frame never looked frail or vulnerable on the track and his ability and the impression it gave was of the kind which made just outside 1:50 for fifth place in a brief comeback after tuberculosis as memorable as 1:46.6 at the height of his powers. Here, at least, was one Oxbridge athlete who threw off the dilettante influence.

Apart from Ron Clarke, no one else has better mirrored the fluctuating fortunes of athletics than Michel Jazy. But then no one else has carried quite the same burden of national expectancy with such fortitude. Too often he was sacrificed on Robert Bobin's national altar of success, but that bounding stride, with shorts characteristically flapping and head turning, carried him to many triumphs both against the stop-watch and against rivals of commensurate skill.

Jazy was the great European athlete; a man running alone in an environment and a society which cannot encourage the athlete but against which the athlete must react. Clarke, Keino, even Ryun, remain the great primitives; the supreme athletic products of pioneering societies, where to run is merely an extension of a still-remembered heritage. How much more difficult for Jazy to succeed in the cloistered ambience of a sedentary, sophisticated race like the French!

Finally, in this brief list comes Siegfried Herrmann - the artist who never quite fitted into East Germany's concept of the athletic artisan. Of all Eastern Europe's middle- and long-distance runners, only Herrmann, and perhaps Sandor Iharos, stand alone as "creative" athletes, restricted in the Western mould as much by their own psychological and physical horizons as by the oppression of their coaches or the obduracy of their training sessions.

Herrmann, like Clarke, never won a major title. Like Clarke, too, he was a great time-triallist. But, above all, Herrmann was a supremely lyrical runner to watch - graceful, almost feminine. Brightwell, Whitfield, Jazy, Herrmann, Clarke - each one was "a proper man, as one shall see in a summer's day". (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act I Scene ii.)

(Editor's note: The author has moved closer to the achievements of the Proper Men with personal bests of 9:51.0 (2M), 15:38.0 (3M) and 33:02.0 (6M) this year. And a 5.82/19'1 $\frac{1}{4}$ LJ!)

SOURCE	S.S.	d.f.	VARIANCE ESTIMATE	VARIANCE RATIO	SIGNIFICANCE
ANNUAL	2,940	4	735	12.7	* * *
EVENT	390	6	65	1.1	NIL
AGE	19	1	19	0.3	NIL
RESIDUAL	3,349	58	57.7		
TOTAL	5,568	69			

CONCLUSIONS:-

1. There is a highly significant increase in the number reaching standard. This may be due to higher standard of running, larger numbers of competitors or both.
2. There is no significant drop-off on moving up an age class. This indicates the skill with which the relative standards are set.
3. There is no significant difference between events. This indicates the skill with which the general standards are set.
4. Individual analysis of 1st order interactions shows an anomaly in the 100-150 transition which is masked by the general excellence of the standard setting. The standard for Junior 100 yards should be 11.8 secs. At present, an Intermediate, having covered 100 yards in standard time has 6.1 secs. left to do the remaining 50 yards. A Junior has only 6.0 secs. She is allowed too much on 1st 100.