Vol 11 No 4 Editor: A Huxtable 78 Teynbee Road LONDON SW20 8SR Winter 1973

EDITORIAL

As list compilers and members of the Executive Committee will know already, we have been informed by Les Higdon of Ray Davis Promotions Ltd that the Company which had earlier indicated that it might be interested in sponsoring the 1974 annual has decided not to do so.

On 4 December, Bob Sparks and myself met Harold Abrahams (at his invitation) to discuss the possibility of the BAAB again publishing the annual. The BAAB will be publishing separately its Constitution, list of Officers, details of the UK Coaching Scheme, championship results of constituent members etc. The Birds Eye Yearbook will contain, inter alia, results of international matches, championships and Games in 1973/74, UK Top 20 lists for 1973 and UK All Time Top 10 lists. It was therefore proposed that "British Athletics 1974" would include only the following features:

1. UK Top 100 performers (men) 1973
2. UK Top 50 performers (women) 1973
3. UK Top 30 performers (junior age groups) 1973

4. Indexes to 1-3 inclusive

5. Records

I attended a meeting of the BAAB Publications Committee on 12 December at which the subject was discussed. The BAAB is prepared to spend up to £500 on producing the annual and to suffer a loss of up to £300. It was proposed that the size should be changed to A5, that the cover should have a halftone photo and that the 5 features listed above should be included as a minimum. The matter was referred to a sub-committee (composed of Barry Willis, Harold Abrahams, Harry Hitchcock and up to two NUTS members) which will meet in 18 December. Bob will represent the NUTS at this meeting.

A preliminary estimate has been obtained from Snowdonia Press, which indicates that 1500 copies of 200 pages could be produced in the above format for £500. Thus, it seems likely that most of the following features can be included as well as 1-5 above:

6. UK All Time Top 10

7. Results of international matches and Games

8. Review of 1973 season 9. National League and Cup results

10. Results of area championships

I shall try to keep members up to date with further developments as they occur.

MISCELLANY

- ¥ Congratulations to Steve Mitchell on his fine 1500m (3:50.3) in the Cosford Games on 8 December and for getting the NUTS a plug on BBC TV:
- V One for Keith Morbey: having recently joined CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), I bought a copy of "The Beer Drinker's Companion" by Frank Baillie (David & Charles, £2.95) and was delighted to discover that Wadworth & Co Ltd of Devizes, Wilts. produce "a pale, very strong bitter", called Old Timer!
- Those members with a particular interest in the cinema will probably have purchased or at least read "The Nazi Olympics" by Richard Mandell (Souvenir Press, £2.50) and "Film in the Third Reich" by David Stewart Hull (Simon & Schuster, £1.50). Both contain invaluable material on the making of the 1936 Olympic film by Leni Riefenstahl. But perhaps the best piece on the subject in English appeared in "Cahiers du Cinema in English" No 5, published in 1966, under the title "Leni and the Wolf"; it was, in fact, an interview with the director by Michel Delahaye.

BORROWINGS FROM ROYAL PERSONAGES AND OTHER MATTERS by Stan Greenberg

Instead of my usual rushing pen to paper in blind fury and indignation, I have waited for some time to answer Bob Phillips's "questions" as posed in his article in the last NUTS NOTES. But each time I read the item I get just as cross, so here goes.

As I am trying to type this in a spare moment (and I do mean moment) between my job, NUTS work and other Stats projects you must forgive me if there is not the usual (sic) fluency to my thoughts.

To my recollection, Bob was one of the first of the NUTS to "choke in a cloud of sophistication" and one can well remember his cynicism at meeting after meeting at the White City when little or nothing seemed to give him any pleasure.

The implication that, because one is involved in the sport as announcer, selector, journalist or even bottle-washer level, one is not interested in athletics is ludicrous if not daft. (Incidentally I borrowed the 'one' from a certain Royal personage and am happy to return it.)

I would agree with the idea of duplicating the lists and even more so with taking the organisation out of London - not because we "can't take the pace" but because it would be nice, and instructional, for some of the other "lively adventurous group" to realise just what is involved.

We have not lost our sense of direction, our purpose, our motivation. What we have lost is our youth. And by that I do not necessarily mean physical and mental energy — though to be honest it is not what it was with most of us originals. No, what I refer to is that most of us have married, had children, advanced our careers etc. etc, and cannot or will not make the time available to carry on as previously. This is not surprising. In fact what is surprising is the high proportion of those who have carried on, in two or three key cases carrying the brunt of our avowed endeavours, i.e. the Book.

To suggest that our infiltration, and I use that work deliberately, into the various facets of the sport has got us nowhere is quite wrong. The fact that team selections, at all levels, are far better and, despite what the Press may say, far less biased than ever before is in great measure our doing. Announcing is far better than possibly ever before - again a reflection in great part of the work done by some of our members. Timekeeping, in which we probably lead the world in reliability (something I sometimes regret) has been improved over the years due to certain efforts by NUTS members. Similarly with other aspects of running meetings. Programmes, which in Moscow are seemingly produced by Bob's Masonic Lodges, are models of what they should be when the NUTS are involved. Ranking lists in the Press would be non-existent. Bottles would rarely be washed. Etc. Etc. (This phrase was borrowed from a theatrical Royal personage.)

Despite the above, which I consider to be tremendous achievements by a group of people with initially no influence, standing, money or authority, I personally have had quite enough of it. I came to that conclusion some years ago, but unlike others who in various way opted out — usually for quite valid reasons and no criticism is intended — I can't let go until there are others to take my place. And there are not. Not that I am so marvellous (O.K., so I am) but that we just cannot recruit sufficient new talent with the same interest and, dare I use the word, devotion. We have been extremely fortunate with a few of what I will call the new recruits but generally speaking they are not prepared to make the effort of them self set — I just cannot back away from it all.

And so as I ride into the sunset of my life I will carry on with what I decided I would do 25 years ago - and my athletics as well. I still get tremendous fun out of the sport, not least when talking about past events and experiences. And although I do not have the opportunity to sit with other NUTS as much as I would

like, the new phase of my participation in the sport has enabled me to meet foreign NUTS in many parts of the world which has added a new and different dimension to the sport for me.

So finally (thank goodness) as much as I miss those wonderful, balmy evenings at Motspur Park, the present and future of athletics is, for me at any rate, pretty good and fulfilling. Really finally, anytime someone would like to take over Commonwealth Statistics, and can satisfy me that he can do it the way it needs to be done, I will pass over to him much hallowed material, including a number of handwritten exercise books of invaluable data compiled by Bob Phillips in his involved days.

WALKING EVENTS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

A resolution was carried at the AGM on 8 September deploring the remeval of walking events from the Olympic Games with effect from 1980 and calling for the institution of world championships for walking. The Hon Secretary accordingly wrote on these lines to the Marquess of Exeter; the following reply was received:

Burghley House STAMFORD

Dear Mr Huxtable

1st November 1973

Thank you for your letter. To clear up one point on your use of the words "fait accompli". As you will know, walking is included in the Olympic Games because it is under the wing of the IAAF and therefore is part of the athletic programme.

This request was therefore put to the IAAF, as similar ones were put to all the other International Federations by the Programme Committee of the IOC for reductions, and it was considered by the Council of that body and the full Congress in Munich a year ago and accepted, as no alternatives for the necessary reduction were proposed by any Members.

I think that perhaps the enclosed letter which I wrote to another body may help to make the position clear. In the meanwhile no doubt you will be putting your proposal concerning the Lugano Trophy to the British Board to take it up directly with the IAAF. Incidentally I am able to tell you unofficially that the matter is in fact already in hand.

Yours sincerely,

ENC.

sgd EXETER

COPY

11th October 1973

There seems to be a general misunderstanding as to what happened about the walking events. The history is that a few years ago the International Olympic Committee decided that the Olympic Games had become too large to achieve their maximum effect, an opinion which was widely held outside. Every sport was asked to make a contribution to their reduction, and a committee was set up of IOC and NOC members to make specific suggestions. Naturally enough no sport likes its programme being reduced. Athletics were asked to reduce the number of entries from 3 to 2, and to eliminate the 50 and 20 km walks. As a result of negotiations by the Honorary Secretevent and up to 3 if all qualified to a very high standard, approximately walking. We also managed to maintain the present method of one entry per 6th in the previous Olympic Games. Incidentally there is no standard for walking. We also managed to keep the 20 km walk in for Montreal, the 50 having added disadvantages of being unacceptable with the huge crowds in the city at the time of the Games for traffic reasons. Our contribution was discussed by the Council of the IAAF who were unable to suggest any alternative, and the Congress in full session in Munich a year ago confirmed that they could think of nothing less harmful, no doubt having also in mind that less than one-third of our member countries compete in walking.

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Since the NUTS has published a number of booklets over the past few years, I thought it might be of interest to set out some facts relating to copyright.

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Copyright in a letter belongs to the sender and for this reason distribution of copies by the recipient would be as much a breach of copyright as unauthorised publication.

Where an author is employed full-time any work that he produces in the course of his employment belongs to his employers, though where a writer is employed by a periodical, say, to write articles his employers have the right to publish those articles in periodical form only. The right to adapt them into some other medium such as a book or documentary film remains with the employee unless his contract of employment specifically states that his employers are to have all aspects of the copyright.

In recognising copyright in a literary work, the law is concerned only with originality of form and not with actual literary merit. Sometimes copyright does not exist even in an original piece of writing. For example, there can be no copyright in the more offensive parts of an obscene publication because if a work is obscene then its sale is against the law. It follows that if its sale is unlawful there is no legal right to sell copies and so there can be no copyright. The same applies to publications which are blasphemous or seditious. It seems rather unlikely that any NUTS publications would fall into these categories!

WALKING EVENTS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES concluded

Naturally the walkers are very unhappy about this, but this is factually what happened. As far as I know there is no question of eliminating the walks from any Area Games or Championships, and the question of a World Championship outside is under active consideration.

(I should welcome views from members, particularly our two walks experts.

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