

# ATHLETES AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

## IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING THEIR PREPARATION

(By JOE BINKS, Ex-Holder Mile Record)

**T**RACK athletes are now warning up to their work, and several good performances have been recorded. So far we have had the best showing from University athletes, but, of course, they have to be racing in much earlier than the club men.

We want every available athlete to both show himself fit and well known, and get all the experience possible by competing in scratch races, which are far less costly.

I don't welcome the day when handbooks are abolished in favour of graded scratch races. The handbooks is full of data, and of an easy use to any athlete.

Next comes the Olympic Games will be staged in Berlin, and every athlete has now a real chance of winning one of the many chances of representing England.

England is apparently the only nation which will not financially assist the Amateur Athletic Union of British Olympic Aspirants in an effort to train our athletes properly for these games. Had a decent good coach would have paid their expenses.

This is why we are up against when competing against other nations, who are being specially trained and financed by their governments.

Germany is going all out to make the Olympic Games a financial success.

So keen are they that all clubs and athletes are forbidden to compete outside their own country, this and last years.

### INTENSIVE TRAINING

**G**ERMAN athletes will go through a course of intensive training, so we may expect to find them at last giving some Olympic honours, which have eluded them so far.

As a consequence we shall not see the usual German team at the British Games on Whit Monday. The German Federer has expressed their great regret in having to decline to compete, but they could not make any exception.

Our athletes, other than University are now getting into their stride, several big results being at hand. I only a number of really good performances already recorded.

I would like to know the time of that splendid quarter-mile run by E. Crumlin (Milton A.C.) in the Eastern League Relay at the White City.

It is a pity if it was not recorded, for Crumlin must have done something extra good. He actually gave the Liverpool leader some 20 yards, and beat him another ten.

Crumlin took his club from the year being a winning lead at the evening, and I feel it must have been near there on a hot day.

Milton scored their best track victory in winning this event from such strong opponents as Blackheath, Harrow Hill, Belgrove, Poly, and South London.

The selection committee will have to watch the young men from Milton for his running rather than long jumping.

Harold Wood, of the Marlfield H., must be congratulated upon his great win in the Blackpool Marathon in the Month Day. He beat the ex-official champion, Harry Doid, by nearly two minutes.

### SPLENDID RECORD

**W**OOD has proved himself as good as ever. I sincerely hope he will try his luck again in the A.A.A. championship, and tackle McNeil Robertson.

Only man, I believe, has this great Northern runner ventured South, when he retired in the A.A.A. Marathon in 1928. He represented England at Amsterdam that year, but could only finish eleventh.

Wood, I believe, has beaten all the British Marathon men except Sam Parry. He has carried off two Liverpool races and the Gold Cup, four Manchester races, and another big trophy.

I have seen him run in the North and know him to be really good, but he should try the South sometimes and get better known.

I remember Wood beating Signal at Liverpool in 1929. About two miles from home Signal looked certain to win, but Wood was very exhausted and looked like falling at every stride, but he kept going.

With Signal weakening, Wood won an amazing victory in the end. On his wonderful pace carried him through.

While on the Marathon subject I must mention the letter received from James Mac Yarns Dunstons has run the full distance in the extraordinary time of 2hr 20 mins. We must await confirmation.

At the Marlfield annual meeting during the Christmas, McNeil Robertson, really was the Florida road race. Donkey Wright and E. Harper have previously won this race.

At the meeting W. Boffa was the half-mile handicap from scratch in time of 2:40 in heavy conditions. We shall have to watch this too runner. He is attached to Edinburgh University.

Swapers will remember him better as the man who ran second for South Africa against Phil Edwards in the British Empire Games last year.

### NEWS FROM SINGAPORE

**A.** J. GREEN, the Polytechnic athlete of 1929-30, is back from Singapore, and although 24 years of age is going to try running again.

Green was a good runner, and scored a fine victory in the North of Thames championship in 1929, when he beat Stanley Gray and a big field.

Stanley H. is a young club making rapid progress in the hands of an enthusiastic but, secretary, M. E. Treen. Their success in the Marley Club's open team race was a real surprise.

C. E. Barber, who at Jubilee Day was a "Navy of the World" service star, practically secured the event for his club by a fast run, passing three rivals.

Paul Marshall, who won the A.A.A. 10 miles title recently, has added the Marlfield 10 miles event to his list.

Gen. Selwyn, the leader, tried to check him, but found Marshall too good for him. Marshall showed 12 min 15 1/2 sec - good going.

L. Dickinson (Lancashire W.C.) won the seven miles Northern Walking Championship in time of 4:40 sec, which will take some beating from the best.

W. J. Pepper, the A.A.A. official, and I lectured all athletes at the Woodhouse School, Plympton, during the week. We found plenty of enthusiasm, and many questions were fired at us.

We learned that one boy of under 15 had been clearing on grass the high jump at 20 ft., and another, a little older, had run the half-mile in 2:15. These performances are excellent, and both boys should develop into high-class athletes.

*Julian*

## BRITISH GAMES

### EVENTS TO ENTER AT WHITE CITY ON WHIT-MONDAY

Everything points to the most high-class entry being received for the British Empire Games, which are to be celebrated again by the "sons of the British Empire" Club, at the London White City on Whit-Monday, under the stars.

Athletes have to take every opportunity to gain experience in actual racing, judging by the progress being recorded from all parts of England, few are going to miss this chance.

Events are 100, 200, 400, and 800 yards, three miles, 10 yards hurdles, pole vault and long jump.

For 1000s under 25, there are 100 and 1200 yards events.

Club can enter a team for one mile three run, four events, and 800 yards ring 100, 200, 400.

Any three athletes can get together and form a team for the 100 yards relay both, and I hope to see more athletes try this event.

We Majesty's British of Guards, with the Julian club, will give ladies covering the 25 years of His Majesty's reign.

Tickets, reserved, 5s, 4s, 3s, 2s, 1s, unreserved, 2s, 4s, 1s, 3d. Children, 6d., from 10 years.

All inquiries to the at 26, Brompton-road, S.W.4.

### PLYMOUTH SPORTS

Plymouth's April meeting is also going very strong, and there will be a number of our best athletes competing.

The international six day contest between Ashton, London A.C., Worcester Devon, and Stoke Newington, will be one of the greatest ever seen in the West, as Plymouth club will definitely compete.

Entries close for the week events and handbills on Friday next to Coombe, 2, George-street, Plymouth.