

THE NORTHBROOK



runner

editor. Jerry murland

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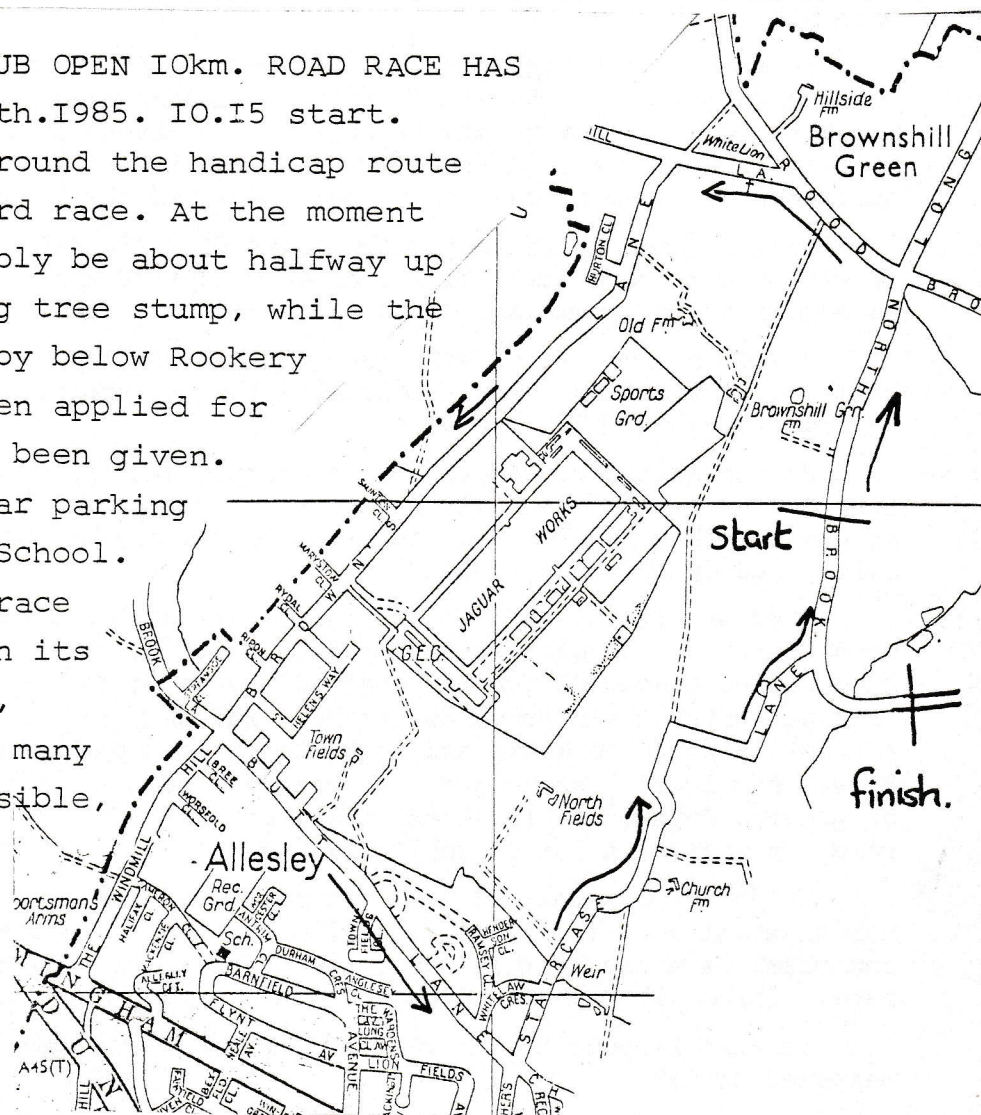
THE DATE FOR THE FIRST CLUB OPEN 10km. ROAD RACE HAS BEEN SET FOR SEPTEMBER 8th. 1985. 10.15 start.

The course will be twice round the handicap route and should be a really hard race. At the moment the start line will probably be about halfway up Northbrook hill by the big tree stump, while the finish will be by the layby below Rookery Farm. Road closure has been applied for and police permission has been given.

Changing facilities and car parking will be at Coundon Court School.

Obviously our first road race has got to be faultless in its preparation and operation, and while we will want as many of the club to run as possible, there will be a lot to do on the day and volunteers should give their names to Jerry.

Anyone who can put up a poster at work, in local community centres or in clubs etc can collect one from Jerry.



Inside Track?

CARLOS LOPES'S world best of 2hr 7min 11sec in the Rotterdam marathon may never reach the record books. Ever since Lopes staggered the world by slicing 54 seconds off Steve Jones's previous world best there have been persistent rumours that the course was short. And strangely the race organisers have refused to rebuff them by allowing the official measurers of their own organisation, the Association of International Marathons, to check that the course is fully 26 miles and 385 yards.

The course was measured by the Rotterdam City's surveyor's office, but as John Disley, the AIMS official for European measurements, points out, they

probably measured it without allowing for the cutting of corners. "Much the same thing happened at the Frankfurt marathon: the city engineers measure it and said it was OK, but when six of us did it, we found it was between 320 and 290 metres short. I fear the result may be the same in Rotterdam."

Last week the Rotterdam organisers caved in and said they would ask the International Amateur Athletic Federation to re-measure it. "We will be happy to do so," said John Holt, the IAAF secretary, when we told him. "It is very unpleasant for the runners when rumours like this go round." Holt, too, is worried about the accuracy of the city surveyor's efforts. "Because we always measure the shortest

possible distance and city officials often don't, we introduced a new rule to add on 40 metres to be on the safe side. And in this instance I know the Rotterdam people didn't."

Don't forget the RUGBY SIX is On Wednesday 26th. June. 7.45 start. Applications to Jerry tonight please with your money Registration from 6.15pm. They are also putting on a 10 mile race on the 20th. October 1985.

Below is an item reprinted from the Midland Veteran's Athletic Club Newsletter No. 92. The Birmingham Marathon fiasco has left a lot of unanswered questions and a lot of unpaid debts, the letter below draws attention to a number of points. Also included is a cutting from the Sunday Times sports section...I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

THE BIRMINGHAM MARATHON

Dear Sir,

It will be nothing short of disgraceful, if the Birmingham Marathon, due to be held on 26th May, has to be cancelled. The organisers, Sports Cellars Ltd., should not have taken on the responsibility for the event if they did not have the financial resources to do so. They have obviously gambled with the entrance fees of thousands of runners, who are in the sport for the love of it, and not to make money.

The organisers, in taking the money from the athletes, agreed to offer a service - the opportunity to run in an organised marathon. They should be obliged to honour their agreement. They owe it to the runners who put their trust in them.

Questions need to be asked about this. Apparently, the organisers lost money on last year's Marathon. Why, then, were they so confident of recouping their losses by organising the 1985 event?

Who is being 'ripped off'? The people who paid their £6 entrance fee would like to see a balance sheet of income and expenses for the event, and so would a good many other people! We can estimate the income quite easily - 4,000 entrants multiplied by £6 comes to £24,000.

What are the costs? The officials are all provided by the AAA and so are amateur by definition. No cost is involved. The event takes place entirely on public roads. No enclosed accommodation is required, so no costs are involved. The ambulance brigades offer their services freely. The only refreshment needed for the runners is plain Birmingham water and this, is often supplied with much good humour by the Birmingham locals, who enjoy the event as much as the runners. If special mineral or glucose drinks are supplied, these are largely sponsored by the makers, who thus gain, in return, a lot of publicity.

The cost of medals is much reduced by having them in bulk. Obviously there are administrative costs, there is publicity, there are the numbers worn by the runners and there is a car leading the runners and displaying the time since the start of the race. These all have to be paid for.

So what happens to the rest of the £24,000? More to the point - what has happened to it?

I believe that this event can still be saved, and with the good will of the people of Birmingham and sports lovers in general, it could be run for much less than £24,000!

There are enough athletic clubs in Birmingham with enough enthusiastic members to organise their own marathon, on a non-profit-making basis, without calling in a shaky commercial organisation which cannot provide securities for the event. So what about it?

Yours sincerely,

NOEL BLACKHAM

(Newsletter Editor and Officials Secretary,
Midland Veterans' Athletic Club).

It seems that a great deal of money is made from marathons, as runners should we be asking for accounts to be produced?

● MARATHON MAN. Today the Birmingham marathon should have taken place. It hasn't, the company organising the event has collapsed with debts of more than £60,000. The Birmingham City Council officer in charge of the marathon was Gwyn Griffiths. So what's he doing now? Helping organise Birmingham's bid for the 1992 Olympics.

Race Report.....Warwick University 10 mile.

How do they do it? Every year the weather turns on a SCORCHER and together with the IIm. start the event is usually a hot one.

1985 was no exception and temperatures must have been above 80 degrees by midday. A lifeguard on any beach would have hung up the red flag!!

A light wind did little to help matters and dwindled away to almost nothing in the later stages of the race. Northbrook fielded 25 runners in an impressive turnout, two did not wear club colours and there are no prizes for guessing the name of one of them.

However, despite the heat and the increasing numbers of runners dropping out at all stages through the race some good times were recorded by NORTHBROOK runners and a number of PB's were achieved for the course.

Tony Murphy got under 80mins this year, reminding himself of being pipped on the finish line by Jerry last year who promptly collapsed into the arms of a young lady with very large number plates, "You swine Murland she's mine" shouted a knackered Murphy..... but there was none of that this year, a new start and finish had improved the race a great deal plus the fact that medals were being dished out. Talking about female runners, one blasted past me in the last mile in very fine form gently reminding me that there are a lot of very good women runners about, not including John McKenna.

It was also great to see some support from runners who were not competing we could do with a bit more of this much valued partisan cheering, Ken Buck's unofficial feeding station was very well received at 8 miles.

Club Placings

107 B. Adam	66.19	194 J. Murland	73.18
115 B. Hewitt	66.49	204 B. Nicholson	74.37
117 J. Varden	67.00	? G. Clarke	73.45
134 I. Gill	68.22	209 M. Brock	75.07
150 G. Nichols	69.44	223 T. Murphy	77.32
152 D. Roberts	69.58	225 R. Awcock	77.38
160 S. Watson	70.33	235 I. Corbett	79.31
162 M. W-Smith	70.36	249 J. Thacker	81.42
163 A. Fanning	70.41	263 J. Grumbly	85.53
173 P. Van Rist'	71.38	259 N. Moore	84.31
182 M. Hall	72.33	264 Nigel ?	87.06
186 M. Turrall	72.58	274 B. Goodman	92.57
275 M. Parkes		92.58	



Well done everyone, a great day, lousy medal, and I had to go home and mow the bloody lawn.....

Michelin IO Stoke on Trent.

Very hot conditions

Jason Crabbe 67.00

RUGBY ADVERTISER 10 MILE ROAD RACE. October 20th. (Sunday) Entries from: Stuart Holdsworth, 3, Malling Avenue, Broughton Astley, Nr, Leicester. LE9 6Qs. Telephone 0455 282936.

....NORTHBROOK SHORTS.....NORTHBROOK SHORTS.....NORTHBROOK SHORTS.....
Overheard in the bar....." he's not running the handicap anyway, that knee is only an excuse....." injury apart lads, KEN says his knee does hurt and makes his apologies to those runners he usually passes during the handicap. Neil says the same.....and makes his apologies to his fellow runners for his TEMPORARY loss of form.....

Jerry Murland makes no apologies for dropping out of the handicap last week...it's probably the only time he will be first runner back.....

ARE YOU USING THE UNIVERSAL RACE ENTRY APPLICATION???????

This useful application form is still very much underused and only club and other runners will increase its use among the popular road races. A copy can generally be found in RUNNING but it might be an idea for the club secretary to get a supply run off for club members to use. Instead of rattling around trying to find particular race entry forms this universal application will fit the bill.

DID YOU KNOW THAT MEN WHO KEEP FIT REGULARLY BY RUNNING HAVE MORE INTEREST IN SEX THAN MEN WHO KEEP FIT FROM WALKING. THIS STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:.....: JUDGING FROM THE COMMENTS MADE BY RUNNERS ABOUT MISS ASHBY THIS IS QUITE TRUE.....

Bob Hewitt has been seen running on the track at GODIVA ,obviously putting in some time to get the edge on his mates..... or is he just OVERSEXED...(Pauline?)

