

Some of CLONLIFFE'S present members.

## INTRODUCTION

AS far as the sporting public is concerned, Clonliffe Harriers needs no introduction. From 1886 the Club's history unfolded itself in the sporting columns of the newspapers, and always the Club has lived up to its motto: "Nil desperandum". For sports fans, it is a good, sound history, with its thrills and many flashes of human interest. It compares well with the success story of many a big industrial concern that began in a small way, and grew, and grew, and grew . . .

. . . It is a far cry from a room in an ordinary cottage to a Stadium second in quality to none, where the cream of the world's athletes have foregathered and given of their best with the greatest pleasure. It did not happen overnight. But it happened. And it could only have happened in a land of generous people who love a "trier" and who don't mind contributing financial and other help to a project that helps to spotlight our beloved country as a place where people get things done, especially the impossible! The whole story in detail would fill a good-sized book. In the space at our disposal we tell it in capsule form, with illustrations. We trust it may bring back happy memories and give pleasurable anticipation of things to come.

THE EDITOR.

(1)



SAMUEL J. GRAY,  
President.

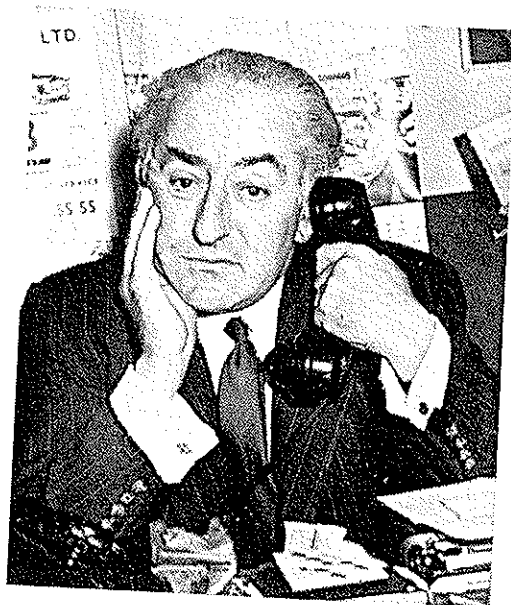
## FOREWORD

To celebrate a seventy-fifth birthday is an event of note in a person's life. How much more so then is such an occasion when it applies to an amateur athletic club. This Booklet is a worthy tribute to the highlights which have featured the seventy-five years of Clontiffe Harrier's existence.

One may well ask how this now famous Club survived down the years, when one considers the numerous pitfalls which face amateur sports clubs such as Clontiffe. In my opinion one of the greatest assets has been club and team spirit, and the will to overcome all difficulties. During my years of association with Clontiffe, which commenced in 1928, I have noticed all along the line the great co-operation between the older members and the new ones. Right down the years there has been this great link between past and present and if I have now entered the realm of old members I realise that Clontiffe Harriers could not exist without the continuous injections of new blood in the Club. Then of course the Club motto "Nil desperandum" seems to become part of each member as he finds his feet in this great Club.

You will find many interesting features and historical data in this publication and I have no hesitation in recommending it to you and your friends, and I hope that we will all live to see the centenary celebrations of the famous "Wasps", with even bigger and better achievements behind them.

SAMUEL J. GRAY,  
President.



BILLY MORTON,  
Hon. Secretary.

## "We have come a long way..."

IN 1886, Clontarf Harriers was founded on Richmond Road. Perhaps we got our name through being, at that time, so adjacent to Clontarf Road. Since then we have come a long way!

One thing we must never forget is the great work put in by all those members and officials over the past seventy-five years. Quite a few of them have passed on to their Eternal Reward. In founding this old Club they did a great job for Ireland and also for national and international athletics. The fame of our John F. Kennedy Stadium, at Santry, is spread throughout the world.

During the past seventy-five years both past and present members and officials have had some very anxious moments and will have for many years to come! This loyal band are quite prepared to continue to strive to provide a Stadium worthy of our city of Dublin. It is only fitting that the capital of Ireland should have a venue which the citizens can feel proud of.

All that has been done at Santry, has been achieved by private enterprise. Our thanks is due to many generous business firms and contractors here, in Dublin, and to a few friends in the U.S.A. and across the Irish Sea. Quite some assistance has also been given by both Corporation and Government officials. All who gave a hand in some way or other—whether big or small, can now sit back and say that whatever little they have done has been well worth while.

We still have a very long way to go! A famous comedian used to sing: "Keep right on to the end of the road" and with the help of God we will continue to do all in our power to improve and perfect the John F. Kennedy Stadium.

BILLY MORTON,  
Hon. Secretary.

HUGH P. COONEY,  
Captain.



## LOOKING BACK

THE nostalgia of looking back over the past years is a pastime indulged in throughout the world, so we in Clonliffe are in international company as we slip back through the Club's history in the pages of this book.

Personally a bit of laughter and chat about the old days is enjoyable but I would not like to think that younger members of Clonliffe are not going to have as much fun, good companions and grand times, coupled with the finest sport in the world, as I have had.

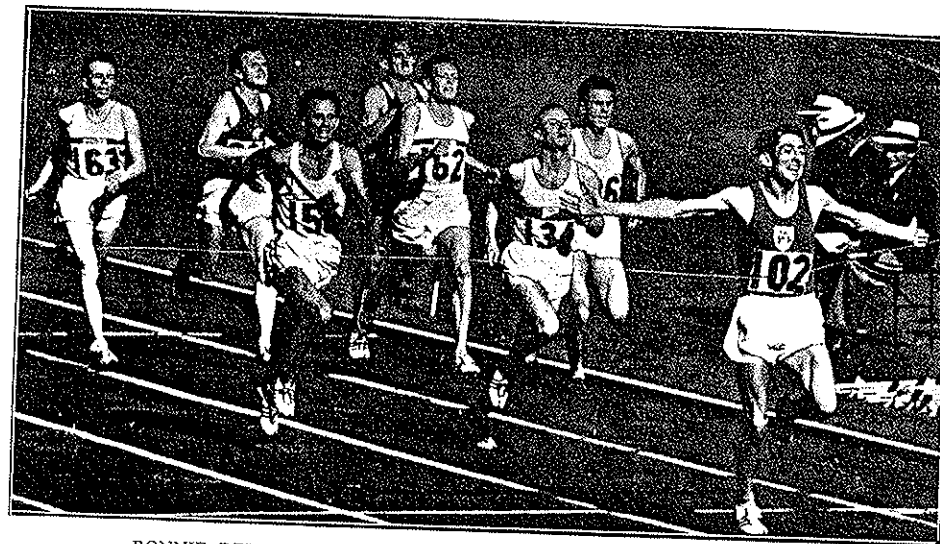
Let us gaze back now and then by all means, maybe with a dewy eye, but let this little exercise be a clearing of the decks for action, action for the future.

When an athlete runs on track or over the country, every spectator believes he commits a major athletic crime if he gazes back at his opponents or if he just plods on with gaze fixed on the ground immediately in front of him; if he just goes along passively. The gaze must be lifted up, looking right forward to obstacles or opponents ahead, way ahead. In that way the running becomes active and it is action we want, a reaching out in all our activities for better things. Better athletics, better facilities for spectator and athlete at our Stadium, better application of the undoubted talents of the members to the needs of the Club.

Gentlemen, I hope that each generation of Clonliffe Harriers will be able to look back over the mileage of their past years in the Club with pride and pleasure and know that they have done something to enable the new generations to look forward with determination to do better and better.

Our Club motto was well picked by the Founders and if each member lives by it we are on the high road to success.

HUGH P. COONEY,  
Captain.



RONNIE DELANY, Crusaders A.C., wins the 1,500 metres for Ireland at the Olympic Games, Melbourne, 1956.

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### PRESIDENTS SINCE 1900

W. C. MacMahon ... .. 1900-01	G. N. Walker ... .. 1936
G. F. Walker ... .. 1902-07	P. J. Loneragan ... .. 1937
M. Horan ... .. 1908	J. Craigie ... .. 1938
G. F. Walker ... .. 1909	G. V. Ryan ... .. 1939
J. T. Graham ... .. 1910-11	F. J. Ryder ... .. 1940
J. L. Ryder ... .. 1912	W. Morton ... .. 1941
H. M. Burton ... .. 1913-14	E. T. Galway ... .. 1942-43
C. H. Caulfield ... .. 1915-16	T. P. Burton ... .. 1944
H. Campbell ... .. 1917-18	W. W. Commiskey, M.A. ... 1945-46
P. J. Loneragan ... .. 1919-20	T. P. Burton ... .. 1947-48
C. F. Loneragan ... .. 1921-30	C. Rothwell ... .. 1948-50
J. P. Flynn ... .. 1931-34	R. Payne ... .. 1950-52
C. Rothwell ... .. 1935	S. J. Gray ... .. 1952-

### CAPTAINS SINCE 1900

P. J. Byrne ... .. 1900	T. P. Burton ... .. 1905-46
J. Flynn ... .. 1901	H. Cooney ... .. 1947-48
P. J. Byrne ... .. 1902	P. O'Hara ... .. 1948-51
O. H. Cunningham ... .. 1903	H. Cooney ... .. 1951-
P. J. Loneragan ... .. 1904	



**"TOMMY" BURTON**  
CAPTAIN 1905-1946

The late T. P. Burton. Club Captain 1905. Re-elected as Captain for over 40 years. Acted as Trainer and Coach. Was adviser to J. E. Lovelock when he won the 1500 Metres at the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936. Trained Norman J.

McEachern, a boy who joined Clonliffe at the age of 15 and finished an international champion.

T. P. Burton ("Tommy") was internationally known and respected wherever people talked athletics, and he was accepted by all as a Master-Coach. His death brought about a major loss to Irish Athletics.

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### HON. SECRETARIES SINCE 1900

J. T. Graham	...	1900-02	C. Rothwell	...	1923-34
S. J. Coates	...	1903	H. Cooney	...	1935-39
J. T. Graham	...	1904	V. Walker	...	1940
P. J. Howlin	...	1905-12	S. Farren	...	1941
D. McAleese	...	1913-22	W. Morton	...	1942-

### HON. TREASURERS SINCE 1900

S. J. Coates	...	1900-01	J. J. Higgins	...	1912
A. Christie	...	1902-03	C. Rothwell	...	1913
P. J. Howlin	...	1904-07	T. E. Nolan	...	1914-30
J. McDermott	...	1908-09	A. J. Wisdom	...	1931-46
J. McDermott	...	1910	M. McStay,		
A. Christie	...	1911	B.L., F.I.A.C., D.P.A.	...	1947-61

### VICE-PRESIDENTS SINCE 1900

J. P. Flynn, G. Craigie, P. J. Howlin,	A. W. Love, R. Payne, J. F. O'Driscoll,
D. McAleese, N. J. McEachern, J.	W. W. Commisky, M.A.; A. G.
Craigie, F. J. Ryder, J. Foley (senr.),	Woodman, J. J. Wallace, F. Hewson,
J. O'Connor, J. Regan, O. Traynor,	F. A. Moran, C. Rothwell, G. R.
T.D.; C. C. Walker, W. Morton, W.	Wisdom, R. Galway, H. C. Walters,
Ashe, G. Gahan, J. Peelo, H. Thrift,	P. P. Dolan, G. Jackson, J. J.
S.F.T.C.D.; F. Guthrie, J. C. Connell,	Barry.



JOSEPH INGRAM

The Club is greatly indebted to the late Mr. Joseph Ingram for much of the information available re its origin. Founded in 1886, the Club's first headquarters was a cottage in Richmond Road known as Knott's Cottage (since demolished).

Original members: Messrs. Joseph Ingram, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Sam and Harry Warry, Ben Pearson, John Thomas, Charles Webb and Fred McKittrick (later known on the variety stage as Fred Arthur).

### Clonliffe Harriers.

Dublin, September 20th, 1886

Dear Sir,

The Annual General Meeting of above Club, will be held on Saturday Evening, next, the 21st inst., at 7.30 p.m. sharp, at the new Club Rooms, 18 Richmond Road (4 doors from Richmond Avenue).

Your presence is earnestly requested.

Yours faithfully,

S. J. WARRY.  
J. INGRAM.

Business:-

Election of Officers for ensuing year.

The Late  
GEORGE BLENNERHASSET TINCLER

A Clonliffe Harrier who turned Professional and became a world champion at One, Two, and Three Miles. In his prime he never had a superior, or, indeed, an equal, at these distances and was the greatest Mile runner the world of his time had ever seen. Possessed of a puckish sense of humour, he was known to "romp home" well ahead of the field, juggling the corks he sometimes carried to help him keep his hands closed. Knowing their man, the spectators accepted this bit of kidding for what it was!



Charlie Rothwell

One of the eldest members of the Club. On his 50th year with Clonliffe was presented with the highest award the Club can make—the Clonliffe Gold Medal. With it went a clock, and the Club's best wishes. And not without very good reason. The name C. Rothwell occurs many times in the annals of the Club right back to 1909. During the First Great War, while in the British Army, he showed the Club colours at sporting events in France and Belgium and wore them with honour. At one such event he won a Mile race and was approached by a Scottish officer who said: "I saw you win a Mile in Salford in 1914". Always a modest type, Charlie told him he felt complimented, but that the man he had seen at Salford was a real athlete! It was, in fact, Club Champion, H. C. Irwin, who later perished in the ill-fated airship R.101. But the Scottish officer had remembered the Clonliffe singlet! In latter years Charlie acted as Chief Officer at a large number of sports meetings where he was a tower of strength. He still gives the Club his wholehearted and active support, and it is the earnest hope of all his friends that he will continue to do so for many years to come.



Left to right: Billy Morton, Joe Peel, Sam Gray, Charlie Rothwell, Jack Deegan and Charlie Walker.



## N. J. McEACHERN

Irish Quarter and Half-mile Champion 1921. At 16—won Novices' Half-mile Handicap from Scratch in 2 mins. 6 secs. at Glentoran F.C. Sports, Belfast, June 1919. Limit 25 yards. At 18—won Half-mile Handicap at Liverpool Police Sports in 1921, on a grass track, off scratch. Limit 20 yards. At

21—won 800 Metres in 1 min. 56 $\frac{1}{2}$  secs. at Tailteann Games in Croke Park, 1924. At 22—won 880 yards in 1 min. 58 $\frac{1}{2}$  secs. at Triangular Contest in Croke Park, 1925. At 25 — successfully defended Half-mile Title at the National Championships in Croke Park, 1928. All Norman's successes are not listed, but the development of the athlete can be traced, always under the masterly tuition of Tommy Burton.

## YESTERDAY —



Irish National Junior Cross-Country Championship 1895. Winning team.

Back Row: W. Allen, J. Stephen (President), P. J. Byrne (Captain), H. Temple, R. Trench, P. Ewing. Middle Row: J. Murtagh, G. F. Walker, G. F. Mathews, R. D. Gwynne. Front Row: P. J. Loneragan (Vice-Capt.), S. Warry.

Back Row: Paul McCormack, P. Higgins, F. Burke, P. O'Hara. Front Row: S. Gray, H. Coney, T. P. Burton, Billy Merton, Joe Foley.

## —the DAY BEFORE!



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## FROM OUR ALBUM



J. E. DEAKIN,  
Irish One and  
Four Mile  
Champion, 1901.  
Olympic winner  
3 Miles, London,  
1908. Most  
recent win: 5  
Mile Road Race,  
1961, at age of  
82!



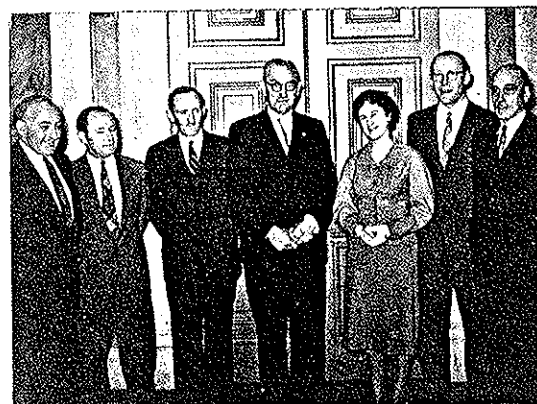
JIM HILL,  
Irish Half-mile  
Champion, 1912.



J. R. PURDY,  
Irish Sprint  
Champion, 1910.



C. H. CAULFIELD.



## UNUSUAL PRESENTATION

Presentation of Clonliffe Gold Medal to Acting Australian  
Charge d'Affaires

Left to Right: Billy Morton, Fred (Mattie) Hewson, Harry Cooney,  
Mr. Oscar Traynor, Miss P. Williams, Secretary, Australian  
Embassy, Jack Deegan, Charlie Rothwell.



DR. OTTO PELTZER, Sport Club, Preussen-Stettin, won Clonliffe Half-mile Invitation Race at Croke Park, Dublin, 1927. In 1926 made World's Record for Half-mile at Stamford Bridge, London. Time 1 min. 51<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub> secs.

## THEY COMPETED WITH



SUTTIE SMITH (Captain), Dundee Thistle Harriers.

CYRIL ELLIS, Birchfield, British Champion, who competed at several Clonliffe Sports.



## HONOUR — at Clonliffe Sports



C. E. BLEWITT, Birchfield Harriers, won International Cross-country Championship, Baldoyle Racecourse, 1931. Only Irishman ever to win individual title.



NEW IRISH RECORD  
DOUGLAS WILSON, Polytechnic Harriers, winning the Mile Invitation Race at Clonliffe Sports, College Park, Dublin, 1945. Time 4 mins. 15<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub> secs.



TIM SMITH, O'Callaghan's Mills.

## REMINISCENCES

By C. H. Rothwell

My first run with Clonliffe Harriers was from "Hugh Temples", Botanic Road. The following type of announcement used to appear in the Press: "Run from (venue named) Tuesday. First pack starts at 8 p.m., new members and visitors invited". The usual Tuesday night runs were Finglas Road, turn left at Finglas Bridge to Broom Bridge, Cabra Road, Doyle's Corner to finish at starting point. There were usually three packs, slow, medium and fast at about 3 to 5 minute intervals.

The Saturday runs, up to the end of December, were usually run on the same system of "Packs" over country. A couple of members would get a start of about 15-20 minutes with paper shavings in bags to lay a trail. The slow, medium and fast pack would start at intervals and follow the paper trail. This was an interesting method of training, each pack endeavouring to catch up with the one in front and the slow pack trying to catch the "Hares" who laid the trail.

The Headquarters for many years was "Kavanagh's", Old Gate, Glasnevin, from where the runs started. At that time the licensing laws were different and, as well as I can remember, it was for that reason the Saturday runs could not start as early as we desired, so we sought a venue nearer to Messrs. Craigie Bros. lands at Finglas. We got the use of a hut at the rear of Geraghty's, Finglas Bridge. Here I would like to mention the very great debt of gratitude Clonliffe Harriers owe to Messrs. Craigie Bros. for their continuous kind permission, at all times, for placing their lands at our disposal for training and Club races.

The second part of the Cross-country season was devoted to intensive training for Championship events. At that time we did not know what Track Suits were or



H. C. (Bertie) IRWIN  
in action.

"warming up" as nowadays. We went out to do our very best on those runs under the very capable guidance of our Captain, the late Tommy Burton. Whatever Tommy said was to be done by all to the best of their ability and no member would think of doubting his orders and our Captain was in supreme command. Practically every active member turned out for those runs and Club races: quarter milers, half milers, milers—also a few track racing cyclists. Cracks and Crocks would discuss with keen interest their chances in those Club races and all would have a "go".

It has been my privilege to act as Chief Officer at a great number of sports meetings and I cannot let this occasion pass without a word of appreciation and gratitude for the kind co-operation of all Club members on those occasions, and apart from them I would also like to record my appreciation for the friendly co-operation of members of other clubs who always gave of their best efforts in whatever post they undertook as referee, judges, timers, etc. I feel I must name some of them and they are: Messrs. J. C. Breslin, C. D. McManus, B. Foreman, S. Hickey, Capt. T. Ryan, T. Fennell, J. S. Palmer, A. McCartney, P. Fanning, S. Brunswick, P. L. Lowry, P. Mulally, L. L. Browne, T. Hayward, L. Vandendries, F. J. Duffy, L. Maguire, D. Galavin, R. Murphy, B. Hennessy, F. Cahill and a host of others. As Chief Timekeeper, Mr. Vandendries' assistance was invaluable, especially when I happened to be Hon. Records Secretary at a Santry meeting during which three World's Records were made. During my life, on the athletic side as it were, I met some interesting people; men like Lieutenant Rawson who won the Olympic Heavyweight Boxing Championship after the First World War. I saw the same man fighting Victor McLaghlin at



"Long-long-ago—"  
The late Tom Maguire with a  
friendly rival.



B. H. BINGHAM,  
Irish Cross-country  
Champion, 1921.

Aldershot in 1919. McLaghlin, the heavier man, won. Again, whilst running against a Belgian Army team I made the acquaintance of Jack Donaldson, World's Professional Sprint Champion, and a grand man to know.

In my early days with the Club, the summer or track training took place at various places at various times. For a considerable time such training was at the Garrison Cricket Ground, Phoenix Park, the Phoenix C.C. and R.I.C. Grounds, Croke Park, Richmond Road, Ballymun, Finglas and other venues.

Our next move of Headquarters was to Barn Park, Finglas. Messrs. Craigie Bros. had a large shed on their ground and with their permission we used part of it and

built an extension to the shed. We got running water into this pavilion and had a boiler and members were now able to have a hot water wash after their training.

After some years at Barn Park, a large portion of Messrs. Craigie Bros. lands were acquired for building purposes by the Dublin Corporation. That meant that the Clonliffe Harriers was involved in a housing problem and had again to move and

the next place, for dressing accommodation, was known as the White House, Finglas. But presently we again had to look for another home.

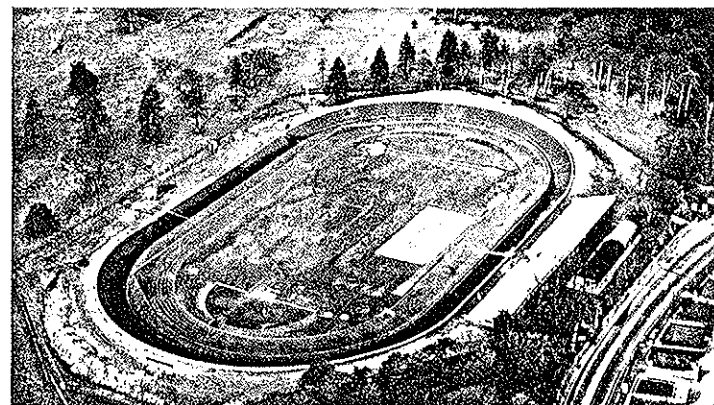
It was at this time we approached the Neptune Rowing Club for permission to use their pavilion. This permission was readily granted, a very generous and sporting gesture by the Neptune Rowing Club that will never be forgotten by Clonliffe Harriers.

Our training runs continued from the Neptune Rowing Club pavilion until we moved to our new Headquarters at Santry.

How different it is nowadays for Clonliffe members, with wonderful training facilities at Santry in the John Kennedy Stadium which was acquired by the persistent and determined effort of our Hon. Secretary Billy Morton, to whom the Club members should be eternally grateful and appreciative.



F. J. RYDER

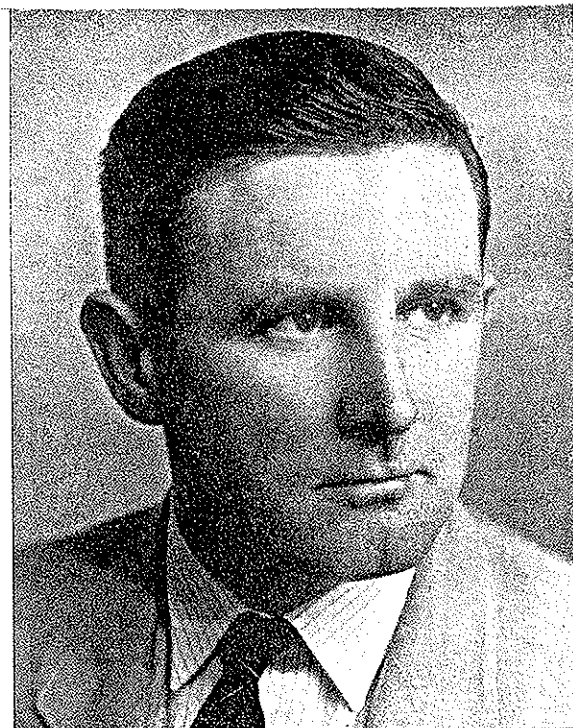


—THE JOHN F. KENNEDY STADIUM—  
Before the erection of the new Grand Stand.

Lord Moyne who turned  
the first sod on  
the Guinness Cycling Track  
at John Kennedy Stadium,  
Santry.

The shovel, a silver-plated  
model, was supplied  
specially for the  
ceremony by  
Bernard MacDonagh of the  
U.S.A.



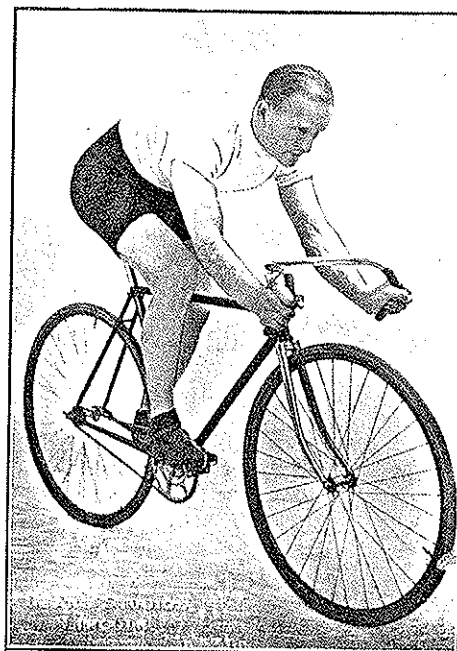


DERMOT  
FARRELLY,  
B.Arch., M.R.I.A.(I),  
architect of the  
John F. Kennedy  
Stadium.

AT THE  
75th ANNIVERSARY  
BALL



Seated: Billy Morton, Sam Gray, Mr. Bob Briscoe, T.D.,  
Lord Mayor; Jack Deegan, Michael McStay. Back:  
Harry Cooney, George Casey, Reggie Walker.



## OUR FRIENDS OF THE WHEEL

A few celebrities  
from the Cycling World  
who competed at  
Clonliffe Sports

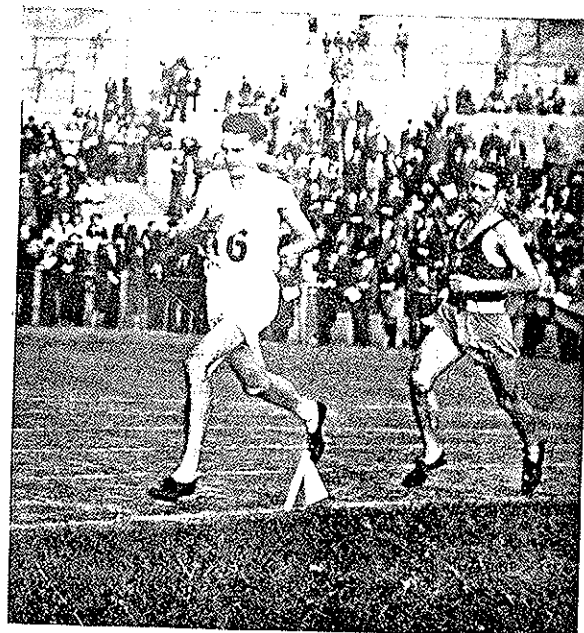
A. TEAKER, Rovers C.C.



JACK SIBBITT,  
Manchester Wheelers C.C.



F. H. WYLD,  
Derby Racing C.C.



Dr. Frank  
Aaron,  
Great Britain,  
breaking  
4 mile  
Irish Record  
at  
Lansdowne  
Road.



G. F. WALKER,  
President 1902-1907 and 1909.

## IT "runs" IN THE FAMILY

### SONS



G. N. WALKER, President, 1936; A. P. & C. C. WALKER, V.  
J. WALKER, Hon. Sec., 1940.



### GRANDSON



G. F. WALKER II  
(Frazer),  
son of G.N.,  
marathon record  
breaker, 1952.



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DAN McALEESE

Thinks it over --

I REMEMBER, just half a century ago, when I first took up competitive athletics meeting two well known Northern athletes, at a sports meeting, in Belfast. We were chatting about training and in the course of the conversation one of them spoke about Tommy Burton, of Clonliffe Harriers, of Dublin. As I was not then a member of any athletic club this Belfast athlete advised that, on my return to Dublin, I should seek out Tommy Burton. Shortly afterwards I met Tommy Burton and was subsequently enrolled a member of Clonliffe Harriers.

In 1913 I was elected Hon. Secretary of the Club and held that position for ten years. At that time Tommy Burton was captain, an appointment which he held continuously during several years before and for many years afterwards. He was, above all, the recognised trainer whose advice was sought on most matters affecting national athletics.

Tommy was quiet and unassuming and was accessible to the latest novice-recruit as to the most seasoned member. He was definitely the most popular member of the Club. The esteem in which he was held, by young and old alike, could only be accounted for by his winning ways, his friendliness and his unselfish services to the members.

Of the old members I was most impressed by Messrs. G. F. Walker, J. L. Ryder, J. Graham and the brothers Tussie and Paddy Loneragan. These constituted a hierarchy of service and experience and, in the case of each of the first two named, were succeeded by several sons who were also to render highly distinguished services in the Clonliffe colours.

Joe Graham was a many sided character; full of fun, good humour and good advice while the Loneragan brothers were indefatigable in the interests of Clonliffe Harriers.

Amongst the club followers were a number of retired athletes viz. Charlie Caulfield, Paul Kelly, P. Howlin (my predecessor as Hon. Secretary) and Joe Higgins

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and a number of others whose names escape my memory. At cross-country championships and Invitation races the old boys turned out in force to help and encourage the club teams or club representatives. Altogether the Clonliffe club was a compact unit of active and retired members. I remember, during the early years of my membership, being particularly struck by the loyalty of all the individuals to the captain and his officials. Indeed, I think this has been an abiding characteristic of Clonliffe Harriers over the years.

Amongst Clonliffe's outstanding athletes, at the beginning of the second decade of this century, were F. J. Ryder (son of the aforementioned J. L. Ryder), Fred Guthrie, H. C. Irwin, H. Rylands, A. Pressler. The club team had won the Senior Cross-country Championships of Ireland in 1910 and were runners-up in 1911, in which year it also accounted for the Southern Counties Championship. On the Track club members had met with numerous successes, however it was not until 1912 that the club organised its first Sports Meeting. At the end of that season the club had a bank balance of £1 2s. 6d.

In 1913 the second Sports of the club were held and at the end of that season there was a club deficit of £20. It was at this second Sports, at Ballsbridge, that F. J. Ryder defeated E. Owen (British Mile Champion, and G. L. Wallach, the Scottish Champion, in a two Miles Invitation scratch race in the time of 9 mins. 42.4 secs. Nowadays this may seem a very moderate time. The course, over which the race was held, was a rough thick grass track and in no way comparable with the track at Santry. Earlier Ryder had represented Ireland against Scotland, in Scotland, and with the home country leading five events to four he won the Four



Back Row—P. J. Howlin, P. Walsh, M. J. Dolan (the famous Abbey Actor with his pup), E. Bur E. Betts. Front Row—A. Christie, T. P. Dalton

## Always a winner -

Shown on right is the 1960 Silver Medal won by Merville Cream Ices, Ltd., in the National Ice Cream Alliance Competition (Horizontal Freezer Class) held at Southport. It was gained in competition with ice cream manufacturers from both Britain and the whole of Ireland. To date it is not only the highest award ever won by an Irish ice cream manufacturer, but it is also the first time that the Silver Medal has been won by an Irish firm. Since 1954 Merville have consistently won Diplomas of merit for the quality of their cream ices.



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Miles event, the last event of the day, beating the Scottish champion and two other Scottish representatives to earn Ireland a draw.

In 1914 Clonliffe turned out its best Cross-country team ever. Having won the Southern Counties C.C.C. this team won the Senior Cross - country Championship, beating the famous Connaught Rangers and Donore as well as all the Northern teams. The club finished the first and second man home and supplied three men to the Irish International team. Young Irwin won the individual championship over a lovely course at Meadowbrook, Dundrum, and subsequently finished second to the famous George Hutson in the International Four Miles race in Scotland. Tommy Burton was most

anxious to send the 1914 Team to contest the English Championship and was very disappointed when several of the runners were unable to spare time off. He often lamented that his team could not travel as he was firmly convinced it would have beaten all opposition in England. Later in the year the World War broke out and athletics receded into the background. However, the club ran its annual Sports as it also did in the following year.



"PARADE OF THE VICTORS" at Clonliffe Sports, 1933: Duncan McPhel (W. Scotland), J. Clarke (Co. Antrim) and N. J. McEachern (Clonliffe).

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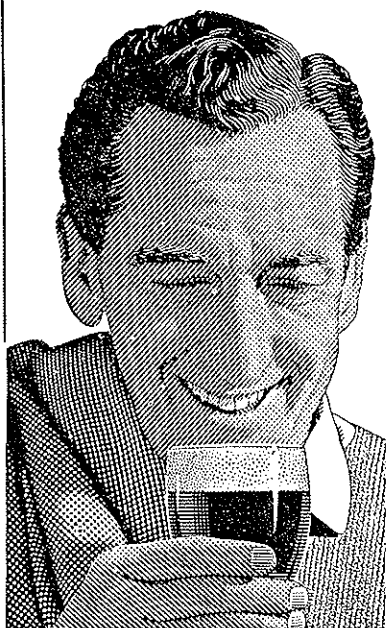
MARTIN CROSBY,  
well-known singer,  
was once an active  
Clonliffe Harrier.

The years 1916, 1917, 1918 and indeed 1919 were virtually devoid of interest in the Irish athletic field. The club ran its own Sports Meetings and there were also several other promotions in which the club athletes participated. At the end of the war in November 1918 a scourge of 'flu hit and ravished the country as it did several other European countries. Thousands perished as a result of this visitation. Young and old were swept off in this awful deathroll. Yet it was



W. W. COMMISKEY, M.A.,  
President, 1945-'46.

20



GD 123

What tiredness  
and thirst  
take out of you,  
the goodness  
of Guinness  
puts back.



remarkable that throughout this "black" winter the majority of the club continued their twice weekly training runs and none of those active athletes were seized with flu. I would like to instance this as an outstanding example of the beneficial effects of cross-country running.

In 1920 and 1921 the club continued to build up its forces and received an influx of new members, notably Tim Crowe and B. H. Bingham and also Norman McEachern. The split in athletics for a considerable number of years found Crowe, a Tipperary man, running under the laws of the Athletic Council of the G.A.A., and therefore was unable to take part in International athletics. When Crowe joined Clonliffe he was in the veteran stage. But even then he was a foremost performer. I remember well when he took part in his first and only International C.C. Championship as a member of the Irish team, in Belfast. Unfortunately he was struck with blood poisoning a week beforehand and should not have attempted to compete. It is my personal view that had Crowe been well he would have won that race. Indeed, I think the split in Irish Athletics deprived Ireland, through Crowe, of more than one International C.C. victory. With his great natural jumping powers and surging strength he was a treat to watch over a heavy Cross-country course. Bingham was of the younger school and of the Irwin build. He trod long and lightly albeit with surprising stamina. With several championships to his account I think his finest performance was his runner-up position in the International C.C. Championship in Wales. McEachern developed into a Track champion and larded it in the 440 Yards and the 880 Yards events, including the Tailteann Half Mile Championship against America's Olympic competitors.

I would have liked to interpolate that behind these fine athletes, Ryder, Irwin, Croke, Bingham and McEachern, was always the inimitable Tommy Burton with watch in hand and armed with training schedules, training advice, massage preparations and the wisdom derived from long experience and study. The charge of these men was a labour of love to Tommy.

In 1920 there was a "wind of change" in the atmosphere here in Ireland. Political troubles had broken out and shootings, arrests and reprisals were almost daily occurrences. Away in Amsterdam the revived Olympic Games were held and Irwin was competing with the United Kingdom team. Neither at that stage or, indeed, at any earlier stage in the history of the Olympic Games had Ireland representation as a separate political unit. Certain efforts were made during the course of those games to interest the participating Nations in favour of admitting Ireland to separate and distinct representation as a fully established national entity. But the twofold barriers of:

*Answer*



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Committee man and  
Field Events Judge.



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- a. Her political position under the British Crown,
- b. The existence of two rival governing bodies, viz.: the Irish Amateur Athletic Association and the Athletic Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association stood in the way.

Within a further period of two years both of these obstacles were removed.

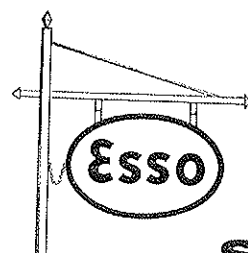
The Treaty between Ireland and Britain was followed by the winding up of both athletic governing bodies and the birth of a new organisation: The National Athletic and Cycling Association of Ireland. This recital rather begs the difficulties experienced in bringing about the unity of Irish athletics. Indeed, it took another two years to achieve this desired result. Suffice it to say that Ireland was, in due course, admitted as a member of the International Amateur Athletic Federation and participated under her own flag in the Olympic Games at Paris in 1924. The President of the National Athletic and Cycling Association, Mr. J. J. Keane, who was previously the Chairman of the Athletic Council, G.A.A., was elected to the Olympic Council as Ireland's Olympic representative.

Right from its inauguration Clonliffe Harriers gave the new organisation their full and unstinted support. The club was represented on the Central Council and two of its members, Joe Graham and the writer, were delegated to proceed to Paris in 1923 and, against the opposition of the Northern body, successfully secured that the N.A. and C. A. would henceforth represent Ireland on the governing body of the International Cross-country Association. Thus all the loose ends were adequately tied up and the future looked bright and prosperous when the Northern officials and athletes wound up their organisation and voluntarily joined the N.A. and C.A. Incidentally it should be noted that in the new Association's first year Clonliffe carried off all four Cross-country Championships.

It was thus a united national Athletic body faced up to, and organised, the athletic and cycling programme of the revived Tailteann Games in 1924, and the same organisation with all sections united and co-operating that functioned for the next four years and successfully ran off the Second Tailteann Games in 1928. Hereabouts a cloud appeared on the Northern horizon. The Ulster provincial Council accepted the membership of professional football clubs. Some of these clubs ran mid-weekly Whipper Meetings and included in their programmes Novice athletic races ostensibly permitted under the Laws of the N.A. and C.A.

Now this was clearly infringing the International Amateur Laws, more especially as book-makers were lined up for betting purposes in the arenas. This state of affairs could not be coun-

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tenanced by the Central governing body of the N.A. and C.A. and the Northern Council was requested to refuse permission for its athletics to take part at these Meetings. For some unaccountable reason the Northern Authorities regarded this request as unreasonable interference in their internal affairs and, at a joint Meeting, in Dublin at which the matter was being discussed their delegates abruptly left the Meeting. Subsequently the Northern body proceeded to set up an independent governing organisation on the basis that the Six Counties lay outside the area governmentally controlled by the Irish Parliament in Dublin.

Every effort was made to heal the split, but all to no avail. Although the Northern bodies eventually withdrew permission for competition at Whippet Meetings they now raised a new obstacle, viz. the National Flag. They objected to the use of the tricolour which was the National Standard of the N.A. and C.A. After numerous pourparlers a tentative arrangement was suggested whereby the Flag of the Four Provinces of Ireland would be the marching flag for a representative Irish team competing in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. However, that in the case of the Olympic Games the Flag of the Four Provinces would give way to the Tricolour.

Reasonable men on both sides who had any appreciation of the difficulties confronting the Northern Authorities began to see a gleam of hope. Unfortunately, compromise was not entirely welcomed and the late General O'Duffy, who was the president of the N.A. and C.A., did not feel prepared to recommend the arrangement for acceptance by his Association. The last chance of an amicable agreement was thus lost and the British A.A.A. stepped in to claim the Six Counties as within its jurisdiction.

It is a fact of history how this claim of the A.A.A. was disputed and resisted before the International Athletic Federation but, unfortunately, without success, and as the N.A. and C.A. refused to abide by this International ruling and continued to claim jurisdiction over the whole of Ulster it was eventually suspended and refused further International recognition. This was the unfortunate position which preceded the entry of a new body into the Irish scene — the A.A.U. This organisation was set up to replace the suspended N.A. and C.A. Albeit it confined its activities to that part of the State governed by the Laws of the Oireachtas. In due course Clonliffe Harriers affiliated to the A.A.U. and, as this new body was accorded International recognition, a resumption of athletics on an International footing—including Olympic competition—was resumed.

I have given above, I trust, an unbiased, though necessarily sketchy, narrative of an historic

23

## Scrap those Hurdles...

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period in Irish Athletics. Within the space of a dozen years the Clonliffe club—which always favoured International competition and at whose Sports Meetings many of the world's greatest athletes and cyclists took part owed allegiance to three consecutive governing bodies.

What a pity that the views of extremists, on both sides, should have disrupted our National unity under the original concept of the N.A. and C.A. Looking back, the years of unity were years of trial but of satisfaction. The series of Tailteann Games sparked new life into the organisation, and 1932 saw the rebirth of Ireland's old Athletic ascendancy in the victories of O'Callaghan and Tisdall at the Olympic Games, at Los Angeles. Even the Press, which up to that time was rather lukewarm in Athletic matters—caught up with the Nation's enthusiasm for the prowess of its sons. Incidentally when our club presented Dr. Otto Peltzer the world's greatest athlete of the mid-twenties, at their Sports in Croke Park, his appearance was but very skimpily covered in Press reports. Perhaps the exception to this occurred in the sensational and tragic fate of the R.101 which exploded to its doom over France when being piloted by our youngest champion, H. C. Irwin.

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After the end of the second World War there was a considerable revival in athletics. Tommy Burton, now in his declining years, introduced Douglas Wilson and later Sydney Wooderson to an admiring and enthusiastic Dublin public. This was a start of a boom. Billy Morton now ascended the Clonliffe throne—the torch had passed to a younger generation of Clonliffe men. The vision of Billy Morton and his executives has ushered in a period of unparalleled promotions and achievements. Although I am not competent to write with any authority about the Morton era in the present phase of our club's history, as an old member I am not without pride at the bringing into existence of the now world famous Tracks at the Stadium, at Santry. This colossal undertaking was coequal with and vastly helped by the finest ever feat of an Irishman. Ron Delany's victory at the Olympic Games in Melbourne inflamed Irish hearts in every corner of the world. His subsequent uninterrupted series of victories in America combined with his gentlemanly demeanour and conduct, whether on or off the Track, reflected credit both on himself and on his country.

One or two memories remain. That grand old man, Tommy Burton, so long our friend, passed on to his reward, full of years and achievements. In the order of things I think it is true to suggest that without a Tommy Burton there would not have arisen a Billy Morton. Other veterans of a half century or more of club athletics still survive. My oldest colleagues Charlie Rothwell, Francie Ryder and John Monaghan are visible reminders of those far off pre-first World War years when we used to disport ourselves in Finglas Wood, the use of which as a training pitch was so kindly put at the club's disposal by those sporting gentlemen: Messrs. Craigie Bros. I must not omit the pleasure it still gives to exchange views with these indestructible members of Donore Harriers, our old rivals, viz. Val McDonagh, J. Palmer and C. McManus. It is now rather with hope than probability that we old boys march to the Clonliffe centenary.

## Three Important People

THE CAPTAIN



HARRY COONEY,  
winning All-Ireland  
Marathon Championship  
in record time.

THE HON. SEC.



BILLY MORTON,  
breaker of 1936 Irish  
Marathon record.

THE PRESIDENT

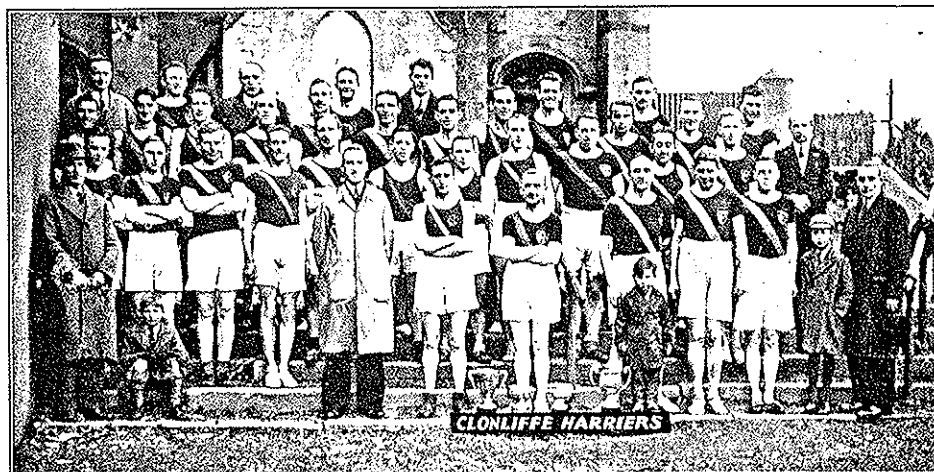


SAM GRAY,  
Cross-country Interna-  
tional and many times  
club distance  
champion.

25

CLONLIFFE HARRIERS'  
SPORTS, LANSLOWNE RD.,  
9th JUNE, 1949.

J. J. BARRY (centre) ("The  
Ballincurry Hare"), winner in  
the Three Miles International  
Scratch, being congratulated  
by F. Wilt, U.S.A. (right)  
who was second, and Curtis  
Stone (U.S.A.), third.  
Barry broke the Irish Record  
by 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  secs. his time being  
13 mins. 56.2 secs. Wilt and  
Stone also came within record  
time.



1936

76

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## CLONLIFFE HARRIERS



1946

27

## The World's Greatest Mile



M. Lincoln (Australia)

	mins.	secs.
1. H. ELLIOTT ...	3	54.5
2. M. LINCOLN ...	3	55.9
3. R. DELANY ...	3	57.5
4. M. HALBERG ...	3	57.5
5. A. THOMAS ...	3	58.6

AT THE JOHN KENNEDY  
STADIUM, SANTRY,  
DUBLIN, AUGUST 6, 1958.



Murray Halberg (Australia)

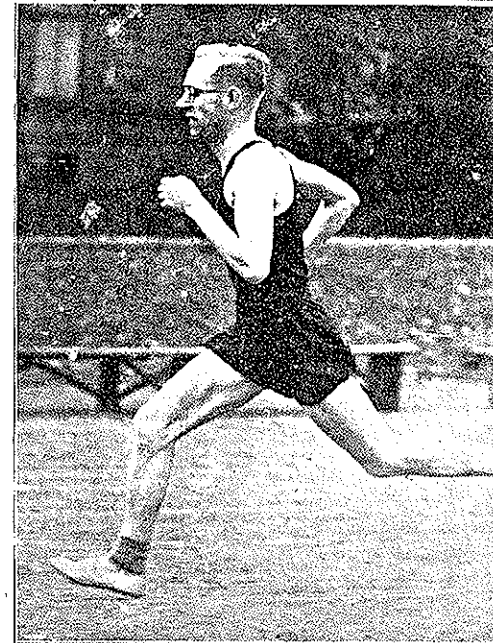



HERB ELLIOTT and ALBERT THOMAS



Ronnic Delany

SIDNEY WOODERSON





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## I DIDN'T JOIN -- I WAS INCLUDED!

By N. J. McEACHERN

CLONLIFFE HARRIERS have always been fortunate in producing outstanding club officers and during my active period with the club Tommy Burton was the main personality. In 1915 when having some gallops, which passed as training, at the Garrison Cricket Ground, Phoenix Park, which at this time was the club's summer training quarters, I was approached by Tommy Burton and he proceeded to direct my training. He also produced on the day of the Sports a week later a Clonliffe vest for my use which probably scared the opposition as much as it did me. So without expressing any wish, or being asked to join the club, I found myself at the age of 15 a member of Clonliffe Harriers, as, a few days later, I received a demand to pay my subscription.

As a result of my connection with the club, Harry B. Dawson became a member at that time and not only took part in club affairs but later became Hon. Secretary of the I.A.A.A.

Tommy Burton, in the early days of Clonliffe Sports Meetings was mainly responsible for introducing International stars to these fixtures and probably laid the foundation for the greater achievements in this field by Billy Morton.

Another of Tommy Burton's interests was relay races. Probably the relay event which gave him most pleasure was a medley in 1927 when a team representing Clonliffe Harriers competed at the Oval, London. This team consisted of J. V. O'Connell, L. D. Cullen, A. W. Love, and N. J. McEachern, and having qualified for the final our opposition was Surrey Athletic Club and Polytechnic Harriers. We were quite pleased to get into the final but I think we surprised ourselves as much as the spectators when we won the event from Surrey Athletic Club with the writer having as opposition in the last leg of 880 yards, Cecil Griffiths, the English half-mile champion.

It was during my active days with the club that the N.A.C.A. was formed and Ireland for some years was able to field some good athletic teams. Many Clonliffe men took part in International contests during that time including B. H. Bingham, L. D. Cullen, C. C. Walker and myself.

Perhaps the most pleasant of these was an annual visit from the Achilles Club who engaged a full Irish team at Croke Park for some years. The result of these was generally very close which spoke well for the Irish teams as the Achilles Club could field many British Internationals.

The most satisfactory of these events from my point of view was the last of these series in which I competed in 1927. The result of the match depended on the last event which was a medley relay. Ireland's team was S. Lavan, P. C. Moore, A. Nolan and myself. The other three of the Irish team ran so well that the Achilles last man, D. G. Lowe and I went off together. Rather to the surprise of most people it was seen coming into the finishing straight that Ireland was going to win, and perhaps for the first time down any straight I became aware of the spectators, as the applause opened into a roar which continued until the tape was reached.

Many of the members who were seniors when I joined the club are still on the active list. These include Charlie Rothwell, Frank Ryder, and Dan McAleese. Charlie Rothwell is well known to present-day members for his long and active interest in the club. I can remember him passing me in the later stages of a cross-country championship when I was lying 6th for our team, and I was greatly relieved to find that it was a Clonliffe man who was taking over my position, although I was probably quite willing at that stage of the race to yield my place to anyone who



PAUL DOLAN

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cared to take it as I found the last 9 miles or so of a cross-country race very trying.

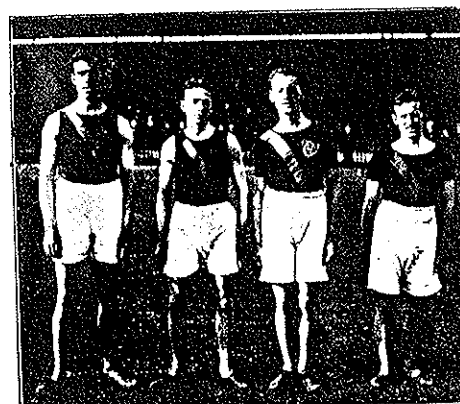
Frank Ryder was the leading distance runner in the country at that time and when competition was slack he filled in the time with nearly as much distinction in long distance road cycle racing. Dan McAleese, as well as being Hon. Secretary of the club performed at all distances from sprints to cross-country and put each foot down on the ground firmly and with authority as befitted one who was later to become a Revenue Commissioner.

One of the greatest accomplishments of Clonliffe Harriers was the building of the John Kennedy Stadium and most of the credit for this must go to that great Clonliffe Harrier Billy Morton. Those of us who performed and trained on lesser grounds envy the members and all others who have the opportunity to use this track, and as the club celebrates its 75th birthday we look forward to even greater success for the future.



Photo Joe Doran Clonliffe Harriers

Left: Gerry MacIntyre, Irish Olympic Marathon representative who finished 22nd in a time of 2 hrs. 26 mins .03 secs., a new Irish native record. Right: Michael Hoey, Irish 2 Mile record holder and Irish 5,000 Metres representative in the 1960 Olympic Games.



RELAY TEAM  
N. J. McEachern  
A. W. Love  
L. D. Cullen  
J. O'Connell



RELAY TEAM  
D. McAleese  
F. J. Ryder  
T. Monaghan  
O. J. Roddy

## PERSONNEL —

needed to run a two-day sports meeting in September, 1960 at Santry:

PRESIDENTS: S. J. Gray, Clonliffe Harriers; J. Moran, A.A.U.(E.).  
MARSHALL: F. Hewson.  
CHIEF STEWARD: C. Rothwell.

### TRACK EVENTS

Referee: J. C. Breslin. Judges: C. D. McManus, B. Foreman, J. Lowe, S. Hickey, A. E. Parry. Timekeepers: L. Vandendries (Chief), F. J. Duffy, L. Maguire, F. J. Ryder, Prof. W. Pearson, R. S. F. Murphy, D. Galavin, B. E. P. Hennessy, F. Cahill, J. Doran, R. Taylor.

### CYCLING OFFICIALS

R. P. Comerford, S. Fox, P. J. McQuaid, R. J. Walsh, J. J. Barnes, S. O'Neill, W. J. Gaynor, J. Ryan, N. Savage, C. F. O'Flanagan, Track Hon. Secretary.

### FIELD EVENTS

Referee: J. Deegan. Judges: Capt. T. Ryan, A. McCartney, P. V. Mulally, J. J. Flynn, T. Fennell, G. Smyth, J. S. Palmer, P. Fanning, P. J. Lowry, J. Lynch. Announcer: L. L. Browne. Assistants: W. O'Connor, G. Casey. Starter: R. J. Payne. Field Stewards and Umpires: E. Hogan, T. Hayward, S. Brunswick, N. O'Rourke, L. O'Byrne. Hon. Medical Officer:

Dr. J. F. Fleetwood. Marksmen: D. Appleby, H. Cooney. Prize Steward: A. W. Love. Registrars: M. McGarry, R. Walker. Grand Stand: R. Galway, J. R. Wisdom, T. Carroll. First Aid: St. John Ambulance Brigade. Reserved Enclosure: J. Buckley, R. Galway. Competitors' Numbers: J. Peelo, F. Whelan.

### HON. SURVEYORS

J. W. Griffin, B.A.I., A.M.I.C.E.(I.); R. Beckett, M.A.I., A.M.I.C.E.(I.).

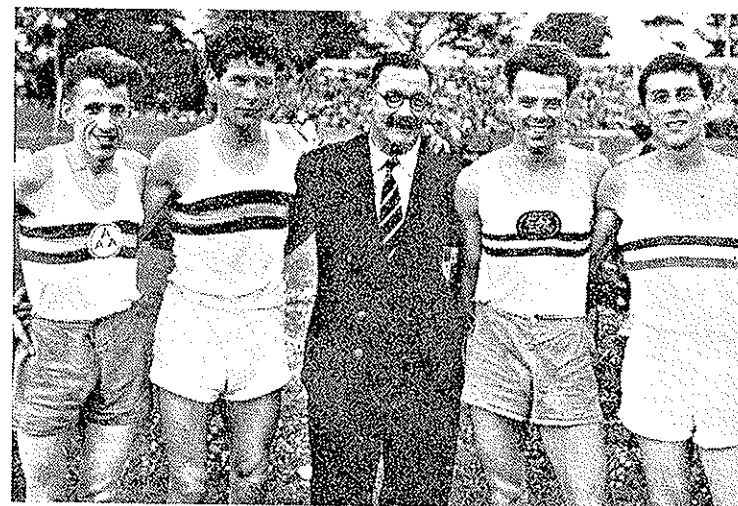
### HON. TREASURER

M. McStay, B.L.

### ARCHITECT:

D. Farrelly, B.Arch., M.R.I.A.(I.).

ASSISTANTS: A. J. Wisdom, F. Whelan, J. J. Wallace, T. Taylor.  
HON. SECRETARY: W. MORTON, 10 Berkeley Street, Dublin.



British Team  
when they  
set new  
European  
Record  
at Santry  
for relay  
4 x 1 mile.

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