



# History of the St George District Athletic Club

Compiled by Michael Gentle

## 1926

### Building the Club's Reputation

The distance season in 1926 was excellent for the club, with individual State Championships being claimed by our top athletes.

- Roy Wright, 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Mile Novice Cross Country Championship (30m 34s);
- Alleyn Gainsford, 1<sup>st</sup> State 10 Mile Championship & Manly Modified Marathon (1hr 7m 23s); and
- Aub Harper, 1<sup>st</sup> State 20 Mile Walking Championship (3h 24m 37s).

An average of 14 runners competed in the distance season, with the point score competition winner being G. Matterson (46 pts). Stan Gainsford (42 pts) and Roy Wright (40 pts) claimed second and third place respectively.

In the 5 Mile Senior Club Championship, Roy Wright (28m 30s) finished brilliantly to claim a surprise victory over Charlie Weekes (2<sup>nd</sup>, 28m 35s) and defending champion Alleyn Gainsford (3<sup>rd</sup>, 28m 40s). In open handicap races, the club secured only one victory when Robert Chadwick won South Sydney's McCarthy Cup 3 Mile race (16m 27s, Hcp 1m 40s).

The annual St George Jolley Cross Country Open Handicap race was run on a new course featuring real cross country. The race was a great success, with athletes appreciating the change from the hard road surfaces. 57 runners started, with M.T. Emerson (East Sydney) winning from a handicap of 1m 35s.

St George recorded its best result since the club's formation at the NSW Novice Cross Country Championship in 1926. Roy Wright claimed individual victory, whilst the team of Roy Wright (1<sup>st</sup>), Ernest Giles (4<sup>th</sup>), C. Matterson (5<sup>th</sup>) and Aub Harper (6<sup>th</sup>) also claimed a strong victory.

Great results followed in other championship races. Charlie Weekes (2<sup>nd</sup>), Alleyn Gainsford (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Roy Wright (4<sup>th</sup>) finished strongly in the NSW Senior Cross Country Championships. Alleyn Gainsford won the NSW 10 Miles Track Championship for the third time in as many years; and he won the Manly Modified Marathon run over 12½ miles.

Unfortunately, the success of the distance season was not found in the track & field season. The mid-week meetings at Hurstville Oval were changed from Wednesday evening to Tuesday evening, which proved to be disastrous and led to declining public support and sporadic participation by the club's track stars.

The Dunn Shield competitions held in December 1926 at Sydney Sports Ground was met with a similar lack of enthusiasm from the club's athletes. The only noteworthy performance being E. Brooke's second placing in the 3 Miles event. In Interclub competition, St George finished at the bottom of the B Division table.

## Club Champions

100 yds	Edward Groves	10.6s
220 yds	Edward Groves	23.8s
440 yds	Edward Groves	53.6s
880 yds	Jack Lockeridge	2m 14.4s
1 Mile	E. Brooke	4m 49.2s
3 Miles	E. Brooke	17m 09.6s
120 yds Hurdles	Oscar Matson	16.0s
440 yds Hurdles	M. Bennett	1m 01.8s
Javelin Throw	Oscar Matson	147ft 11in
Shot Put	Oscar Matson	30ft 1in
Hammer Throw	Oscar Matson	72ft 8in
Discus Throw	Oscar Matson	109ft 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in
Pole Vault	Oscar Matson	8ft 9in
High Jump	Oscar Matson	5ft 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in
Broad Jump	Fred Matson	20ft 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in
Hop, Step & Jump	M. Llewellyn	42ft 5in

## Awards & Trophies

The Stewart Trophy      Winner, 5 Miles Senior Championship      Roy Wright

## Further Reading

The club website has many documents pertaining to the history of the club available for download in pdf format: <http://www.sgdac.org/documents.php>

The club website has detailed results of club events, open handicap events, track & field events, and State, National and International Championship events featuring club athletes from 1921 onwards: <http://www.sgdac.org/results.php>

Please contact the author via [webmaster@sgdac.org](mailto:webmaster@sgdac.org) with feedback, suggestions, additional information, results or resources to help expand and improve these history documents.