



# History of the St George District Athletic Club

Compiled by Michael Gentle

## 1927

### Fighting Back

The seasons 1927/1928 were great years with continued winning form from the club's road runners as well as splendid improvement during the track season.

The 1927 NSW Junior Championships held at Manly Oval saw Harold Llewellyn claim victory in the Hop, Step & Jump. His wonderful leap of 42ft 5in was a State Record. Miss Gladys Phillips won the Junior Ladies 75 yards championship and was runner-up in the 100 yards. Oscar Matson finished second in the Javelin Throw and third in the Discus Throw in the Senior Championships.

In open handicap races during 1927, Alf Longhurst recorded one first place, one second place and three third place finishes from eight starts. With sixth place being his worst result of the season Alf was easily the best runner during the open race season.

The club won three of the four State Championship races in 1927 - Ted Brooke won the State Novice Championship while Alleyn Gainsford won both the State 10 Mile and 15 Mile Championships. Roy Wright was second in the NSW 10000m Championship, finishing one second behind the winner. St George teams won the team races in the State Novice and the 15 Mile Championships.

Charlie Weeks, Roy Wright (7<sup>th</sup>, 36m 58s) and Alleyn Gainsford (19<sup>th</sup>, 39m 56s) represented NSW in a team of 6 athletes at the Australian 10000m Cross Country Championship at Adelaide on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1927.

The first Australian & NSW Marathon was promoted by the club on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1927. The event commenced at the "3<sup>rd</sup> lamp standard outside the Government Savings Bank in Barrack St., proceeded South West to Hurstville-Allawah and finished on return at the SCG." There were 25 runners from all States of Australia and from New Zealand, with Queenslander Robert Ferguson McMurdo winning in a time of 3 hrs 6 mins 23 secs.

Robert McMurdo was predominantly a walker rather than a runner, and had travelled to Sydney to compete in the 50 Mile Walk Championship that was to be held the week after the marathon, an event that he also won.

St George's Robert Chadwick became the first club member to complete a marathon when he finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place.





START OF THE MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP, RUN ON SATURDAY.

Runners prominent in the picture are: R. Bateman (26), third, E. Kellslogg (19), A. Gainsford (31), H. Gardiner (16), A. G. Williams (20), H. Hayden (18), who finished second, W. G. Kean (14), B. V. Maher (11), E. C. Palmer (38), R. F. McMurdo (4), the winner, R. J. Taylor (23), R. Fletcher (24), S. Vance (25), J. Lewis (8), P. Quinn (39), A. Hodsdon (29), C. Willcox, and W. Barwick.

**Above:** Start of the Marathon

R. Bateman (26) 3<sup>rd</sup>; E. Kellslogg (19); A. Gainsford (31); H. Gardiner (16); A. G. Williams (20); H. Hayden (18) 2<sup>nd</sup>; W. G. Kean (14); B. V. Maher (11); E. C. Palmer (38); R. F. McMurdo (4) 1<sup>st</sup>; R. J. Taylor (23); R. Fletcher (24); S. Vance (25); J. Lewis (8); P. Quinn (39); A. Hodsdon (29); C. Willcox; W. Barwick.

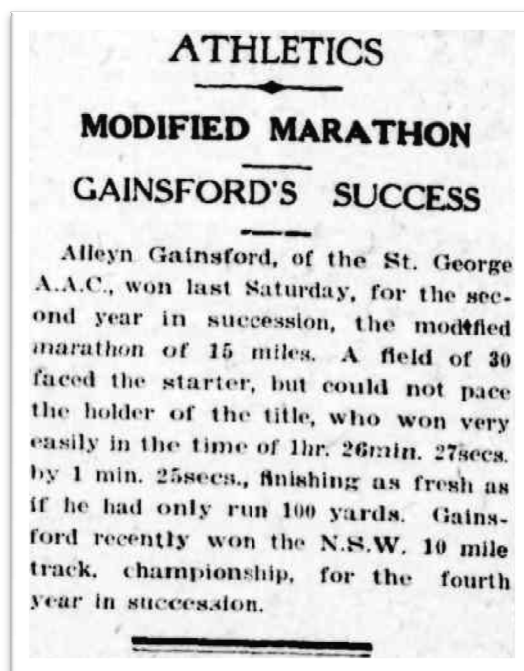
Photo: Sydney Morning Herald 29<sup>th</sup> August 1927.

The inaugural NSW Road Championship was held at Manly on 10 September 1927.

With the sanctioning of the Manly Modified Marathon, which had been run over 12.5 miles from 1911 to 1926, the distance was increased to 15 miles.

The race was won by Alleyn Gainsford in a time of 1 hr 26 min 27 sec. The St George team placed fourth with 40 points.

Right: Canberra Times, 13 September 1927



An average of 26 athletes competed at the mid-week Hurstville Oval track & field competition, which was vastly improved over the average of 12 competitors in 1926. The increased enthusiasm was reflected in the club's 4<sup>th</sup> placing by a narrow margin in the B Division Interclub competition.

In Dunn Shield competition, E. Brooke claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1 Mile and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 3 Miles; while Oscar Matson claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Javelin Throw.

## Club Champions

### Senior

100 yds	Jack Lockeridge	11.0s
220 yds	Harold Bennett	24.0s
440 yds	Harold Bennett	54.0s
880 yds	Albert Blythe	2m 08s
1 Mile	Albert Blythe	4m 44.8s
3 Miles	Roy Wright	15m 53.4s
1 Mile Walk	Ces Laughton	9m 05.4s
3 Miles Walk	Ces Laughton	23m 44.6s
Shot Put	Fred Matson	31ft 10in
High Jump	A. Brown	5ft 5in
Broad Jump	Harold Llewellyn	19ft 9in
Hop, Step & Jump	Harold Llewellyn	41ft 7¼in

### Junior

100 yds	Bert Shieles	11.6s
220 yds	Bert Shieles	25.5s
440 yds	Bert Shieles	58.6s
880 yds	G. Goldie	2m 18s
1 Mile	Bert Shieles	5m 40s
High Jump	C. Price	4ft 11in
Broad Jump	Eric Kells	18ft 4¾in
Hop, Step & Jump	Eric Kells	40ft 9¾in

## 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.