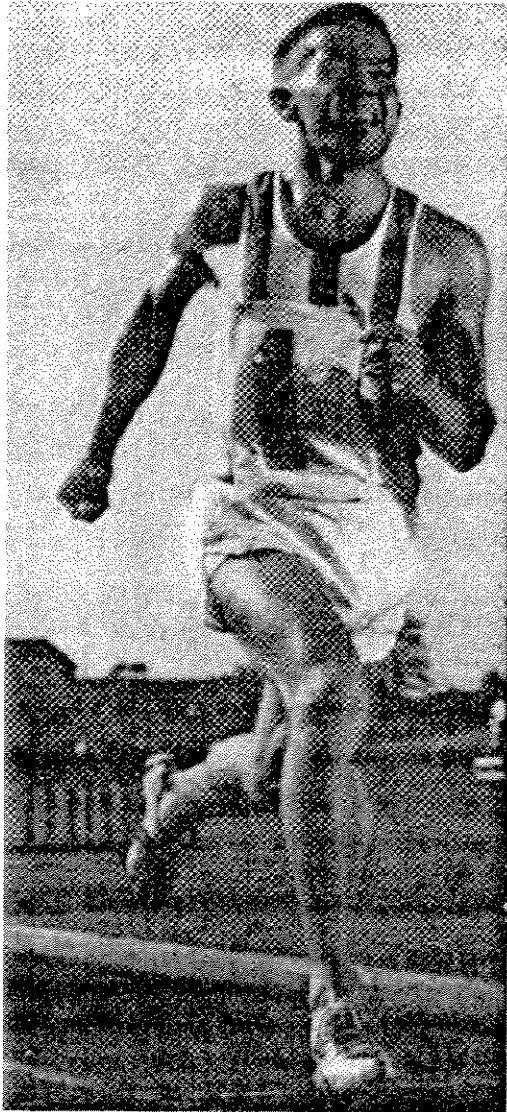


*St. George District Amateur  
Athletic Club*



**History  
of  
Club**

By

**A. A. GAINSFORD**

PRESIDENT



**ALBERT THOMAS**

—Photo by courtesy Daily Telegraph

*1921 - 1962*

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# *Introduction . . .*

In writing the story of the St. George District Amateur Athletic Club since its formation, 7th March, 1921, I wish to emphasise from the outset that although I have a vast amount of material concerning the Club which I hope shall make interesting reading, there may be some important features of the Club and its members that I have overlooked and if so I hope I shall be forgiven.

The opportunity has been given me to write this story and while my time has been limited, the chance to put into words the history of the Club was something I could not forego. To the early years 1921-1928, I am giving special emphasis and quite a lot of detail is given as I feel from 1929 onwards complete records are more readily available.

Four decades have gone by since the Club commenced and when I reflect I realise, sometimes with regret and often with pleasure, the changes that have taken place in the past 41 years.

The youth of the early 1920's was generally easily satisfied, whereas today youth is more discerning but comparing one with the other there is just as much goodness in the lad of today as before.

Many difficulties presented themselves in the early years but these were gradually overcome by the stalwarts of the day and even in 1922 St. George was already a Club of consequence and has remained so ever since.

Hurstville has been the Club's Headquarters since its formation and only in recent years has the Club changed its distance centre to Ramsgate. For years the Club ran races along Forest Road and had other road courses at Kogarah, Rockdale, Bexley, Carlton and Arncliffe.

Cross Country courses started from Hurstville Oval, Hurstville Public School, Carrs Park, McRaes Estate Penshurst, and Rockdale towards Mascot Aerodrome and Ramsgate Baths.

Here are a few interesting Hurstville figures, facts etc., during the early history of the Club.

1921 Hurstville population 13,975.

1921 Mayor of Hurstville: W. T. Macken.

1921 Hurstville Council gave permission to Commercial Banking Co. of Australia to erect two hitching posts outside their premises.

1921 Hurstville General Rate 4d. in £1 on improved Capital Value.

1921 Hurstville Chamber of Commerce founded.

1922 Hurstville Memorial Hall declared opened by Governor of N.S.W., Sir Walter Davidson.

1924 Strand Theatre opened.

1925 Allawah Station opened.

1925 Pavilion opened at Hurstville Oval.

1926 Oatley Park 112 acres opened.

1926 Proposal for new Town Hall-Civic Centre opened, 1962.

This is the first written history of the St. George District Amateur Athletic Club of any consequence and I hope its reading gives some pleasure to the many athletes who have been associated with our wonderful Club.

—A. GAINSFORD, President.  
November, 1962

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# The History of the St. George District Amateur Athletic Club – 1921 - 1962

By A. A. Gainsford, President

The Club was formed at a meeting held at Colvin's Hall, Hurstville, on Monday, 7th March, 1921, at the instigation of Mr. C. Bray of 13 Hillcrest Avenue, Hurstville.

Those who attended this meeting were as follows:—

W. B. Alexander, N.S.W.A.A.A.; G. P. S. Parke, South Sydney Club; W. H. Sweeting, South Sydney; E. E. Austen, Redfern Club; T. H. Ferguson, South Sydney; C. Bray, A. Gainsford, H. Vaughan, E. F. Groves, W. Dalton, J. Martin, J. Batger Snr. and Jnr.

At the end of the first year we had 67 members.

The first race was held on a very wet day at Hurstville, Saturday, 2nd April, 1921, over a 2½ mile scratch road course:—

1. A. Gainsford, St. George, time 15 minutes; 2. P. Quinn, Botany Harriers; 3. C. Bray, St. George Harriers; 4. W. Tilt, St. George Harriers; 5. W. Dalton, St. George Harriers; 6. W. O'Reilly, Botany Harriers.

The course was from the premises of our first President, T. H. Gilson, Chemist, opposite Hurstville Post Office along Forest Road to Willison Road, Carlton, and return, and the prize was a V.P. Kodak Camera, which is still in my possession.

In these days Hurstville Post Office was the only building on that side of Forest Road in the business section and a slip railing fence ran for approximately 75 yards near the Hurstville Propeller.

Our first President was Mr. T. H. Gilson and Secretary was Claude Bray, while the handicappers were Harry Vaughan and J. Batger Snr.

The first race held at Hurstville Oval, 13th May, 1921 was a Mile Handicap and resulted:—

1. E. E. Austen, 40 yds.
2. C. Bray, 65 yds.
3. A. Gainsford, 50 yds.; time 5 min. 10 secs.

Our first entry into a State Championship was the 5 Mile Novice Cross Country Championship of N.S.W. and our Club created quite a surprise by just being beaten in the Teams Race by East Sydney Club 27 points to 32 points.

It was a grand performance as we beat the redoubtable Botany Harriers. Our team was:—

A. Gainsford, 5th; J. Martin, 7th; S. Morton, 9th; H. Vaughan, 15th; 32 points.

On 9th July, 1921, we conducted our first open event at Hurstville over a 3 mile road course from Hurstville Hotel to the Blue Post Hotel, thence return to Penshurst Street and finish in Hurstville.

Result 1: F.J. Phelps, East Sydney, allid. 2 min. Actual time 18 min. 2 secs.

W. Porter, East Sydney. Fastest time 16 min. 35 secs.

St. George athletes Jim Martin, Stan Morton and Alleyn Gainsford finished 3rd, 4th and 8th respectively.

During the second year of the Club a remarkable performance was achieved in our 3 Mile open handicap held at Hurstville 15/7/1922 when St. George athletes gained the first 5 places and fastest time. Result:—

1. A. Gainsford, alld. 60 secs. Actual time 16 min. 10 secs. Also fastest time.
2. C. B. Weeks, alld. 1 min. 5 secs.; time 16m. 16s.
3. A. Horrocks, alld. 1 min. 45 secs.; time 16m. 58s.
4. S. Morton, alld. 1 min. 20 secs.; time 16m. 35s.
5. W. Tilt, alld. 2 min. 0 secs.; time 17m. 18s.

St. George athletes did particularly well during the winter season in open competition with the following successes:—

Dulwich Hill A.A.C. Open 5 Mile 9/9/22; 1st Wal Liddle.

Dulwich Hill A.A.C. Open 5 Mile 22/7/22; 1st Stan Morton.

East Sydney A.A.C. Open 2½ Mile 5/8/22; 1st Bill Tilt.

Alleyne Gainsford gained fastest time on 3 occasions.

I ran quite well during the 1922 Distance Season and my performances were as follows:—

5th N.S.W. State 5 Mile C.C. Championship, 26/8/1922.

2nd N.S.W. State 10 Mile Championship, 2/9/22; time 54m. 15s. Broke previous 10 Mile record.

2nd Manly Modified Marathon, 16/9/22.

The first Club Championships were held at Sydney Sports Ground 10/2/23 and 17/2/23. Results:—

100 yards, Jack Cullen; 220 yards, Jack Cullen; 440 yards, Jack Cullen; 880 yards, Charlie Weeks; Mile, Stan Morton; 3 Mile, Stan Morton; High Jump, Don McKay; Broad Jump, Don McKay; Hop Step and Jump, Ad Horrocks; 1 Mile Walk, Ernie Austen.

I won the first track point score competition and Bill Tilt won the 1922 Distance Point Score (probably the 2nd point score). Ernie Austen, who transferred from Redfern Club to St. George, was the recognised Champion Walker of the time and his performances during the 1922/23 track season were as follows:—

1st Dunn Shield Mile, 2/12/22.

1st Dunn Shield 3 Mile, 9/12/22.

1st One Hour Walk, 7 miles 1174 yds. 1 ft. 4 in., 4/11/22. In this event he established State records for 4, 5, 6 and 7 Miles.

1st 7 Mile State Championship, 2/9/22.

Also during the Track Season Charlie Weeks gained 3rd place in the Dunn Shield Mile and Stan Morton was 2nd in the 3 Mile Dunn Shield. It is to be noted that the Dunn Shield Competition was the near equivalent of the State Championship meeting.

At the end of our 2nd year we had 45 members compared with 67 for the 1st year.

The Annual Report refers to an excellent social function at Bretts Hall, Kogarah, which hall still stands today although used for other purposes.

In 1922 we promoted a Track Carnival at Moorefield Racecourse for which proceeds were donated to the then St. George Cottage Hospital. Nick Winter, South Sydney, was to have attempted the world's record for the



Hop Step and Jump but found the conditions unsatisfactory — St. George met Botany in a challenge match but were beaten by 9 points.

It was during 1922 that we decided the Club singlet should be of 8 x 2" vertical red stripes and over the 40 years there has been no change.

The 3rd year of the Club saw Henry Harwin as our Hon. Secretary and I would like to quote herewith a paragraph of his 3rd Annual Report, which is still important today:

"Our objects are the production and promotion of good, clean sport; of fostering the athletic talent of the young manhood of our Country. We ask all concerned—Members of our Legislature, Municipal bodies, local Traders and the general public to help up to carry out our ideals to the fullest extent. In so doing we do a duty to the individual youth; to his home, his district and his country. The health of the people is the mainstay of the nation; what better work then can we do than foster clean, open-air exercise for the young manhood of our country—the men of tomorrow?"

It was during 1923 that Harold Taylor and myself were successful in getting electric light on at Hurstville Oval where in the early years the St. George Cycling Club competed on the same grass track as ourselves.

Club track championships were won by:—

George Campling, 100 and 220 yds.; Ted Groves, 440 yds.; Charlie Brown, 880 yds.; Wal Liddle, 1 and 3 Miles; Fred Matson, Shot Put; Jack Batger, 3 Mile Walk; Oc. Matson, High Jump; Fred Matson, Broad and Hop step and Jumps.

I quote again the Annual report regarding Ernie Austen, our first Olympic Representative:

"Of all amateur athletes at the present time in Australasia, E. E. Austen of our Club is perhaps one of the most outstanding, having won, this last year, every Championship walking event in which he has competed, from our own Club's to Dunn Shield; State, and most notable of all Australasian. On top of all this his efforts have been crowned by his selection to represent Australia in the Olympic Games at Paris this year. We wish him every success and trust that his efforts will be crowned with victory. His winning performances:—

1st, 1 and 3 Mile Australasian Championship; 1st, 1 and 3 Mile State Championship; 1st, 1 and 3 Mile Dunn Shield; 1st, 7 Mile Australian Championship."

During the Distance Season I represented N.S.W. in the Australasian C.C.C. gaining 6th place, but my performances were not as good as in 1922 when I was showing such promise.

Our Club conducted the Annual Bert Jolley "Black Cat" Open 3 Mile at Hurstville, attracting 72 starters. The race was won by Jack Linane of East Sydney. Stan Morton, St. George, was 3rd. A Sydney press statement of the day said that Forest Road, Hurstville, near the station was like Martin Place during lunch time, with crowds of spectators watching the race.

Dick Medlin won the winter point score and during the season an average of 15 athletes competed in each race.

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Wal Liddle, for the second year in succession, won the Harper Cup while Harry Harwin won the 2½ Mile East Open and Roy Holdsworth won the Bob Tuck Memorial Cup at Botany.

At our Annual Dance, 14/8/23, Masonic Hall, Kogarah, we had as our guests the N.Z. Athletes who competed in the Australasian C.C. Championship. The function was a grand success.

The fourth year of the Club (1924) indicated quite clearly that St. George was progressing rapidly with the many fine performances during the season.

It was in 1924 that I gained my first State Championship, when I won the State 10 Mile at Ascot Racecourse (Mascot Airport today) in probably the most exciting and sensational Distance Event yet held. With 200 yards to the finish Frank Bailey, the Australasian Champion, was leading but in the final stages Tom Watters and I dashed past him with myself winning by inches in a disputed finish amongst the spectators. This year I also ran well to gain 2nd place in the Manly Modified Marathon and 3rd in the State 5 Mile.

Open events won by St. George athletes during the distance were as follows:—

Jim Garrard, Y.M.C.A. Open, 23/8/24; Bill Tilt, Giles Cup, 31/5/24; Jack Harris, West Suburbs Open, 28/6/24; Len Robinson, Bob Tuck Memorial, 16/8/24.

It was on 21/6/24 at Rose Bay that Les Brodie won our first State Notice Cross Country Championship. Club teams gained 2nd place in every teams Championship event, namely:—

5 Mile State C.C.C.; 10 Mile State Championship; 5 Mile Novice C.C.C.; Manly Modified Marathon.

Some of the members of these teams included Dick Medlin, Morrie Moroney, Bill Watters, Len Robinson, Frank Brierley, Bob Chadwick, Les Brodie and myself. Morrie Moroney in his first year won the Winter point score from Ces Laughton.

It was during 1924 that the Interclub Competition was commenced when a Cup was donated by Percy Thompson the then Race Secretary of the N.S.W.A.A.A. In the early years of Interclub the matches were held at different grounds, which included Pratten Park, Manly Oval, Hurstville, University Oval No. 2 and the Sydney Sports Ground.

Club Championships were held at Hurstville Oval and the Sydney Sports Ground during January, 1925. Results:—

Ted Groves, 100 yds., 10.6s.; 220 yds., 23.9s.; 440yds., 54.4s.

Harry Walker, 880 yds., 2m. 10s.; 1 Mile, 4m. 43.7s.

Len Robinson, 3 Mile, 16m. 15s.

Jack Harris, Mile Walk, 7m. 49s.; 3 Mile Walk, 25m. 0s.

Don McKay, Broad Jump, 21ft. 2½in.

With Best Wishes to St. George District Athletes and the Empire Games Team, with the Compliments of the—

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Oc. Matson, Javelin, 138ft. 9in.; Shot Put, 30ft. 6in.; Pole Vault, 8ft. 10in.; Hammer, 69ft. 3in.; Hop Step and Jump, 41ft. 6in.

Fred Matson, Discus, 84ft. 4in.

Bill Potter, High Jump, 5ft. 6½in.

Junior Championships were held for the first time at Hurstville Oval on 18th and 25th February, 1925. Results:—

Bill Long, 100 yds., 10.9s.; 220 yds., 25.2s.; 440 yds., 59.0s.

Bill Long, Broad Jump, 17ft. 7½in.

Cliff Bartlett, Hop Step and Jump, 36ft. 4½in.

Len Robinson, Mile, 4m. 58 1/5s.

As expected, the 5th year of the Club saw great progress in distance running when we won the teams races for the State Novice, the Manly Modified Marathon and we certainly would also have won the 10 Mile title but for abandonment of the teams events on the day because of torrential rain. We also finished 2nd in the only remaining teams event, the State 5 Mile. For the first time a St. George athlete won the State 5 Mile when Charlie Weeks dashed to victory. For the second year in succession I won the State 10 Mile in 56m. 9s. on a track flooded with rain.

On our excellent performances during the season Charlie Weeks and myself were selected to represent N.S.W. in the Australasian C.C. Championship at Wellington, N.Z., 29/8/25, but under quagmire conditions brought about by one of the worst N.Z. winters ever, Charlie Weeks and I were not able to repeat our Australian performances.

Harold Taylor, our President, was the Hon. Manager of the team to N.Z. Members of our winning teams during this grand season included Eddie Mavin, Alec Williams, Stan Gainsford, Bob Chadwick, Charlie Weeks, Len Robinson and myself. Open Handicaps won by our athletes during the season were:

Stan Gainsford, East Sydney, 2¼ Mile, 20/6/25; Charlie Weeks, Western Suburbs, 3¼ Mile, 21/6/25; Morrie Moroney, St. George, 3 Mile, 4/7/25.

The winter Point Score was won by Claude Lemon from Wal Hasler and Stan Gainsford.

The Track Season athletes failed to live up to the high standard of the long distance runners although some reasonably good performances were recorded. Results Club Championships held during January and February, 1926, at Hurstville Oval and Sydney Sports Ground:—

Jack Lockeridge, 100 yds., 10.7s.; 220 yds., 25s.; 440 yds., 55.0s.

Harry Walker, 880 yds., 2m. 15.8s.; Mile, 4m. 55.2s.

Jack Harris, Mile Walk, 7m. 34.8s.

Aub Harper, 3 Mile Walk, 24m. 24.5s.

Morrie Moroney, 3 Mile, 16m. 34.2s.

Oc Matson, 120 Hurdles, 19s.; Javelin, 146ft. 2in.; Discus, 106ft. 5in.; 16 lb. Hammer, 65ft. 3in.

Fred Matson, Broad Jump, 19ft. 0½in.; Hop Step and Jump, 42ft. 5½in.; Pole Vault, 8ft. 6in.

Harold Bennett, 440 yds. Hurdles, 64.8s.

Bill Potter, High Jump, 5ft. 5in.

During the Dunn Shield, Oc Matson did very well to win the Javelin with 159ft. 2in. and another good performance was his 5163 points in gaining second place in the State Decathlon. Doug Cox as a Junior won the State Discus with 83ft. 3½in., while Aub Harper finished 3rd in the State 1 Mile Walk Junior and Harold Llewellyn gained 2nd place in the Junior Hop Step and Jump.

At Earl Park, Arncliffe, 28/3/25, Oc Matson threw the Javelin 182ft. 7in., a State record, but unfortunately the Javelin was 2 oz. light. The Track point score was won by Ray Wright 30 points, Bill Cope 28 points and Frank Jordan 25 points.

The distance season of 1926 was an excellent one for the Club, Roy Wright winning the State Novice, while I won the State 10 Mile for the 3rd year in succession and for the first time I won the Manly Modified Marathon. St. George won the teams event in the Novice and 10 Mile and were runners up in the State 5 Mile and Manly Modified Marathon. In the State Cross Country, Charlie Weeks, myself and Roy Wright finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Aub Harper won the State 20 Mile Walking Championship in 3 hours 24 mins. 37 secs. St. George had a very lean track season, the best athletes being Ted Groves, Ted Brooke, Oc and Fred Matson and Harold Bennett. Wal Hasler was elected Hon. Secretary during this season and the next 10 years he proved to be one of our most efficient Secretaries.

The seasons 1927/1928 were great years with splendid improvement during the track season. Ted Brooke won the State Novice, I won the 10 Mile State for the 4th year in succession and I also won the State 15 Mile, which was held for the first time.

St. George won the teams races in the State Novice, and the 15 Mile.

Charlie Weeks, Roy Wright and myself represented N.S.W. in a team of six (6) in Australian 10,000 Metres C.C.C. at Adelaide, 6/8/27.

It was on 27/8/27 that our Club promoted the 1st Australian and N.S.W. Marathon commencing in Barrack Street, Sydney and finishing at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The race was started by the Lord Mayor, Alderman J. Mostyn. Roy McMurdo, Queensland, won in 3 hrs. 6 mins. 23 secs. and there were 25 runners who came from all States in Australia and from New Zealand. Jack Harris was Organising Secretary and the control of the Marathon was an outstanding success. It was during this track season that such excellent athletes as Bert Sheiles and Albert Blyth made their first appearance. Ted Brooke, Oscar Matson and Albert Blyth did very well to gain 2nd and 3rd places in their favourite events during the Dunn Shield and State Championships.

The Distance season of 1928 surpassed all previous years when the Club practically won every Championship and Team events.

I won the State 10 Mile for the 5th year in succession, a performance unequalled today, and I also won the State 15 Mile for the third time in record time. At University Oval, 4/9/28, I established State records for 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (53m. 31.6s.) Miles and also put up Australian records for

10,000 and 15,000 metres. These records stood for many years and even today I still hold the official Club records for 7, 8, 9 and 10 Miles.

Albert Blyth won the State Novice and St. George won every teams event viz., Novice — 10,000 metres, 10 Mile and 15 Mile. Athletes who were in these teams included Bert Button, Norm Gillard, Ray Kelleher, Stan Gainsford, Ned Baker, Roy Wright, Bob Chadwick, Ted Brooke, Wal Lawrence and myself. Not since this year have St. George done so well during a long distance season.

The track season saw our Juniors Bert Sheiles establish a State record in the Javelin, 144 ft. 6½ ins. and Len Brennan, also a State record in the Hop Step and Jump with 44 ft. 11½ ins.

Other athletes to gain places in State Senior Championship were Oscar Matson, 3rd Javelin; Albert Blyth 3rd, 1 Mile; and Harold Bennett 3rd, 440 (first time a St. George athlete had gained place in 100—220 or 440).

This was the year the St. George Ladies' Club was formed under the leadership of Nell Gould, Gladys Phillips and Edie Robinson (Olympic representative, Amsterdam, 1928). The girls met with immediate success when they won the 4 x 220 yds. State Relay in record time.

During the 1929 Distance season the Club established a record of 5 successive wins in the Teams race of the State Novice C.C. Championship. I was unable to defend my title in the 10 Mile, which I had won 5 times in succession, as I was ill; however, 3 weeks later I won the 15 Mile State title for the fourth successive occasion in the record time of 1 hour 23 min. 4 secs. St. George also won the teams race.

I was involved in a sensational incident during the season when I was not selected in the N.S.W. team of 6 for Tasmania (Aust. C.C.C.) after I had gained 2nd place in the State 10,000 metres C.C. Championship after which event the team was selected.

During the Club Junior Track Championships Len Blyth, brother of noted Albert Blyth, won 10 events out of 11, a performance that may never be equalled.

The State Track Championships and Dunn Shield saw Albert Blyth, Bert Sheiles, Oc Matson and myself put up good performances.

In the First National Championships held in Melbourne, January, 1930, Albert Blyth and Ted Brooke represented N.S.W. while our Vice-President, Jim Walsh, was Manager. The ladies of the Club, particularly Edie Robinson, Gladys Phillips and Nell Gould, met with many successes during the season.

The 1930 distance season attracted record Club fields as many as 36 seniors competing each Saturday. It was in the 10 Mile State event that Albert Blyth surprised everyone by finishing brilliantly in 2nd place just behind Jeff Mackenzie. I won the Club 5 Mile for the 7th year in succession.

St. George in 1931 won the "B" Grade Interclub by defeating South Sydney by 11 points in the final match. This was the year that St. George for the first time sent a team to the Country when they went to the Duntroon Military College.

For the first time St. George athletes won State Track titles when Albert Blyth won the Mile in 4 min. 30 secs. and the 880 yards in 1 min. 58.5 secs. Oc Matson won the Discus with 115 ft. 5½ ins. and he also won the Naukler Cup as the best all-rounder in Field events. Albert Blyth also won the Dunn Shield 880 and Mile; Bert Sheiles the Javelin, and Oscar Matson the Discus.

The 1930/31 year was the first time that track athletes had performed better than the distance runners.

At this time the combination of Wal Hasler, Secretary, and Ernie Giles Treasurer, was proving its worth, which was also during the depression period.

The seasons 1931/32 saw St. George athletes not performing to advantage and it was evident that the zenith of the Club was reached from 1928 to 1930. The only bright spot during the distance season was the appearance of Gordon Keep when he established club records in winning both the 5 Mile, Road and Novice Championships. The St. George team gained 2nd place in all distance Championships.

Frank Gould ran well to establish club records for the 100 in 10.3s. and 220 in 22.6s. Frank also gained 2nd place in the State 220 and was the first St. George athlete to gain a place in the short sprints.

Albert Blyth, Oscar Matson and Bert Sheiles represented N.S.W. in the Australian Track Championships at Sydney. This was also the year that I was transferred to Melbourne by my Company for a period of 15 months.

The 12th year of the Club saw a grand improvement on the previous year as both distance and track men performed very well, which resulted in St. George being runners up to Western Suburbs in the Glick Shield, symbolic of all round supremacy for the State.

During the distance season Gordon Keep won the State Novice while our Club won the teams title for the 15 Mile and was 2nd in the teams for the State Novice, 10,000 metres and 10 Mile.

Ernie Giles, Bob Chadwick and Alf Flood all won open events and I made my reappearance in the Bob Tuck event after my return from Melbourne. Harry Gibbons made his first appearance and won the point score.

St. George surpassed all previous efforts during the track season when they gained 4th place in the Dunn Shield. Bill Mackenzie, Oc Matson, Bert Sheiles, Harold Llewellyn, Basil Dickinson and I all won events in the different divisions of this competition. Basil Dickinson established an Australian Junior record of 48 ft. 6 in. in the Hop Step and Jump when he competed in the first Victoria v. N.S.W. Match, 26/12/32.

In the State events St. George won the 4 x 1 Mile relay in record time, the team being Albert Blyth, Claude Stark, Gordon Keep and myself. After an association with the ladies for nearly 5 years they severed their section from our Club as the result of a meeting September, 1932, when they formed their own State Association.

In 1933, distance athletes again performed very well, wresting the teams title from Western Suburbs in the 10,000 Metres and also winning the teams event for the 10 Mile. Harry Gibbons was just beaten in the State Novice in which event we gained 2nd place in the teams event.

Gordon Keep represented N.S.W. in the Australian C.C.C. Melbourne, 5/8/33, gaining 7th place and I showed I was not yet finished when I came 3rd in the 10 Mile and 2nd in the 15 Mile. Other athletes to run well during the distance season were Stan Gainsford, Wal Lawrence, Harry Gibbons and Ron Sleigh.

The year 1934 was the most notable to date for the track men, when, for the first time, St. George athletes Bill Mackenzie, Basil Dickinson and Bert Sheiles won 4 Australian Championships at Adelaide, 27th-29th January, 1934.

The performances were:

Bill Mackenzie 1st, Discus 126ft. 7½in.

Bill Mackenzie 1st, Shot Put, 42ft. 4¼in.

Bert Sheiles 1st, Javelin 182ft. 8in.

Basil Dickinson 1st, Hop Step and Jump 47ft. 4¼in.

It is doubtful if any Club has bettered this feat in Athletic history in Australia.

The year 1934 was a great season for the distance men, winning the teams events in the Novice, 10,000 metres and 10 Mile, while I ran extremely well to win the State 15 Mile and All Club Championships from 5 Mile to 15 Mile. Clubmates included in the winning teams were Harry Gibbons, Jim Townsend, George Gosling, Gainsford brothers, Bert Button, Wal Lawrence, Ron Sleigh, Alf Flood and Claude Stark. Bill Mackenzie had another grand season winning the Dunn Shield Shot Put and State Discus and Shot.

Basil Dickinson, holder of Dunn Shield, State and Australian titles for the Hop Step and Jump, was beaten in the Centenary Games, Melbourne, by Jack Metcalfe, although he jumped 49 ft. 11½ ins., a grand performance for a 19 year old lad. Also during the season he jumped 24 ft. 0¼ ins. in the Broad Jump. During this season Basil partnered with Harold Llewellyn and they won both the State Broad and Hop Step and Jump titles.

Junior Jack Mumford won the Discus with a record throw of 108 ft. 11 ins. while Harry Gould, also a Junior, won the State title Hop Step and Jump at 44 ft. 6 ins.

This was the year that we held our 1st Athletic and Cycling Carnival at Hurstville Oval when 2,000 people attended in dismal weather. Proceeds were given to N.S.W. Institution Deaf Dumb and Blind. Many Club records were established during the track season and we finished the 2nd strongest Club for the year.

During the track season 15 athletes had the unique opportunity of flying with Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith to Maitland and return. This was the first time in N.S.W. that a team of athletes had ever travelled by plane. The famous Southern Cross flew over Sydney Harbour and dropped a wreath in memory of the late Charles Ulm.



This was also the year that Wal Hasler, our grand Secretary for 10 years, resigned, being transferred to Newcastle by his Company. George Gosling was also transferred to Hobart during the year.

The 15th year of the Club was considered probably the most successful since its inception in 1921, and during the distance season we again won the 10,000 Metres State teams event while I was considered our most consistent athlete. Harry Gibbons had a good season and was Captain of the N.S.W. team in the Australian C.C. Championship at Parramatta Park.

During the 1935/36 track season, Hurstville Oval was unavailable and we used Earl Park. Basil Dickinson was easily our outstanding athlete, jumping 51 ft. 2½ ins. in the Hop Step and Jump and 24 ft. 1½ ins. but in both cases he was second to Jack Metcalfe and Jack Lobban. In the Australian Championships, Hobart, January 1936, St. George had 4 representatives, Basil winning the Hop Step and Jump with 49 ft. 8½ ins. and clubmate Harry Gould 2nd with 47 ft. 0 ins. Bert Sheiles again proved the best Javelin thrower in Australia. The "Dragon Killer" commenced this year with Arthur Shepherd the first Editor. The 2nd Annual Carnival was held at Hurstville Oval and attracted 5,000 people.

In the year 1936/1937 we were adjudged the strongest Club in N.S.W. when we were presented with the Glick Shield, symbolic of the best all-round Club, which was a veritable triumph for the Club. For years previously our distance athletes had performed extremely well, but on this occasion members were outstanding throughout the year, which brought about our best season ever.

We again won the State teams events for the 10,000 metres and 10 Mile and Ray Mettam from Western Australia joined us, running prominently.

During the Track Season all our recognised athletes did well in the Dunn Shield and State championships.

*Dunn Shield Winners:*

Bert Sheiles, Javelin, 167 ft. 1 in.  
Jack Mumford, 440 yds., 52.2secs.  
Basil Dickinson, Hop Step and Jump, 49 ft. 1½ ins.

*State Championship Winners:*

Jack Mumford, 220 yds., 23.2secs.  
Jack Mumford, 440 yds., 51.0 secs.  
Bert Sheiles, Javelin, 170 ft. 5½ ins.  
Bill Mackenzie, Discus, 130 ft. 7½ ins.  
Basil Dickinson, Broad Jump, 22 ft. 7 ins.

Bill Mackenzie once again won the Naukler Cup. Basil Dickinson was finally added to Olympic Team Berlin, 1936, after a public outcry and the fund for him was rapidly completed, headed by the Club.

During this year Bert Button, our dynamic Secretary, resigned through business reasons.

The 3rd Annual Carnival at Hurstville Oval was a magnificent success and the crowd was one of the largest ever seen at Hurstville Oval. Proceeds were for the St. George Hospital.

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The 17th year of the Club will be recalled by the magnificent efforts of our Track athletes culminating in the selection of Jack Mumford, Basil Dickinson, Harry Gould, Bert Sheiles, Bill Mackenzie and Vernon Wallace to represent Australia in the British Empire Games at Sydney. Club officials also selected were Bill Ahern, Bert Button, Ted Pope and myself.

Jack Mumford ran magnificently to gain second place to Cyril Holmes the great English sprinter in both the 100 yds 9.7 sec., and 200 yds., 21.2 secs. Basil Dickinson was 3rd in both Hop Step and Jump and Broad Jump with 50 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins. and 23 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins. Prior to the British Empire Games, the Australian Championships were held at Brisbane and Club winners were Jack Mumford, 440 yds. in 48.4 secs, Basil Dickinson, Broad Jump, 24 ft. 0 ins., and Bill Mackenzie, Shot 45 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins., all Queensland records.

Jack Mumford was awarded the Richard Coombes Memorial Medallion for the best athlete in N.S.W. for the second year in succession and Basil Dickinson established an Australian record in the Broad Jump with a leap of 24 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

St. George won the final of "A" Grade in interclub and also the Referee Shield for the most individual winners in the State Championships. The 4th Annual Carnival was held at Hurstville before 10,000 people. History was made by the appearance for the first time in the St. George Carnival of famous international athletic stars who had come to Australia to compete in the British Empire Games. Distance athletes were overshadowed by the performances of the track men, but Ray Mettam, after many open fastest times, brilliantly won the State 10,000 metres; the last winner for St. George was Charlie Weeks in 1925.

St. George lost the teams race in the 10,000 metres for the first time in 5 years. I was still able to lead the St. George boys home in the 10 and 15 Miles.

Ray Mettam represented N.S.W. in the 10,000 Metres Australian C.C.C. at Adelaide, while Harry Gibbons competed as an individual and actually beat Ray in the event under very heavy conditions.

The 1938/39 season was considered one of the most constructive periods in the history of the Club with splendid Club spirit and sportsmanship. Ernie Evans in his first season won the State Novice in course record time of 26 mins. 23 secs. for 5 miles. Harry Gibbons won the Club 5 miles and 10,000 metres Championship while I was still able to win the Club's 10 and 15 Miles titles. Harry Gould showed amazing all-round ability during the Track Season running 10 seconds for the 100 yds., also 49.6 for the quarter; he also ran 2.2 for the 880 yds. and exceeded 23 feet on many occasions in the Broad Jump, and he capped a grand year by winning the State Quarter Mile. Brother Arthur also ran 10 seconds for the 100 yds.

Jack Mumford who did little running, was able to retain his State 220 title.

Our young "D" Grade team were undefeated in Interclub, and Basil Dickinson won the State Decathlon with 5267 points.

The 5th Annual Carnival was held at Hurstville Oval and the most notable competitors included Decima Norman, triple Empire Games 1938 Champion Pat Boot of New Zealand, 880 Empire Games Champion. Boot

won the half mile in 1m. 55.6s., the best time ever at Hurstville Oval. Nearly 10,000 witnessed a grand meeting.

The St. George Schoolboy Championships were held at Hurstville Oval for the first time and a notable winner was Ray Lindwall who scored in Broad Jump and 880 yds. Lindwall, of course, later became one of Australia's finest cricketers.

For the period 1939-1946 I propose to cover rather briefly for during this time Athletics like all other forms of sport was interrupted by the intervention of the War, yet on different occasions some outstanding performances took place.

On the 29th June, 1939, Alderman Sid Binder passed away. He had been our Auditor since 1922 and had looked after our interests, particularly during his long association with Hurstville Council.

Ernie Evans was our best distance runner in 1939 and Harry Gould was our star during the Track Season.

The 6th Annual Carnival was held at Hurstville Oval with an attendance of 4,000.

The Australian Track Championships set down for Perth were cancelled on account of the War.

The 20th Annual Report contained the following slogan—"Help the War effort before your Club"—which I thought was admirable. Later the Club Membership was reduced considerably as nearly all our Senior athletes were either in the Forces or assisting the War effort.

For one approaching 38 years I had a grand season, winning every Club Championship and the Club Point Score for the 3rd year in succession. I also had a thrilling win the 15 mile Scratch Race at Manly which, in effect, was the 15 mile State Championship. Arthur Gould was one of our keenest track men at this stage and brought off a great surprise when he won the Dunn Shield Quarter in 51 secs. Captain Peter Tancred created a Club record of 6 ft. 2 ins. in the High Jump which is still the record.

The St. George Ladies won the 'A' Grade Interclub during this year

The 21st year of the Club found us all in the midst of War and this milestone in our history went by without celebration. Our outstanding achievements and most prominent athletes are amply covered in this report. Two ladies whose friendship and help with the Club to this stage were Mrs. Colvin and Miss Nell Gould (who is still an Official).

The Track Season was curtailed frequently as the lights on Hurstville Oval were often turned off owing to the War position. The 15 Mile Modified Marathon was held from Hurstville Oval this year in conjunction with the St. George Schoolboy Championships.

Our 1942/43 Report announced our first War casualties of our fellow athletes who paid the supreme sacrifice and they were:—

Sergeant Air Gunner Len Wallis; Sergeant Observer Dick Barrow; Flight Sergeant Len Brennan.

The Track Season was practically carried on by Junior athletes and the only few senior athletes available included Stan Sherringham, Fred Slater, Ern Watson and Bert Sheiles.

During the Distance Season St. George did reasonably well to gain 2nd place in all teams events. It was during the War years particularly, that Arthur Henderson did a magnificent job for distance athletics generally. Lighting at Hurstville Oval was banned again and the St. George Schoolboy Championships were cancelled.

The 23rd year was yet another year held under adverse conditions through the War position. Track competition was again mainly carried on by the Junior athletes of the Club. Our best Junior was Ern Watson who also won the Blackshaw Award. Jack Hayes was our best distance runner and Les Williams again won the Point Score.

The 24 year of the Club saw great improvement in the Club, with a record membership of 117. We won the State Novice teams race with Bob Skinner, Fred Slater, Tony Corkill and Sid Randells. Jim Weeks was our outstanding Junior and at this stage there were 4 members of the Weeks family competing, namely: Charlie the father, and sons Jim, Jack and Ken.

During the track season we won "C" Grade undefeated while Arthur Jenkins won the State 3 Mile in 15 min. 3 secs. and Bert Sheiles won the Javelin with 169 ft. 8 ins.

Lights were again banned at Hurstville Oval and athletes competed Wednesday afternoons. An interesting feature of the Club Track Championships was that Charlie Weeks who won the 880, and I won the Mile walk, was that we had competed together as far back as 1922. I still remained unbeaten in the Club 15 Mile.

The 25th year saw the end of the War and the return of many of our athletes. Our 'A' Grade team finished 3rd in the Interclub. The 5th Annual Schoolboy Championships, organised by Fred Larcombe of Kogarah Intermediate High School, attracted record entries of 524 in 37 events. George Gedge made his first appearance as a Juvenile and won 6 Club Championships in this division. The distance season was very quiet for St. George, the best athletes being Bob Skinner, Senior, and again Jim Weeks as a Junior.

Probably the outstanding achievement during the 26th year was Bert Sheiles' Australian Championship win at Perth in the Javelin with a throw of 177 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins.

Jim Weeks had a great distance season winning the State Novice, also the 5,000 Metres State Junior event and finally he represented N.S.W. in the Australian C.C.C. at Brisbane.

This was the year that St. George sent a track team to Tasmania with Bill Ahern, Manager. Veteran Charlie Weeks ran well to gain 9th place in the State 10,000 Metres and he finished the season by taking out the Point Score. Jim Bailey already showing promise, won the Club Junior Titles for 880 yds. and the Mile.

The 27th year saw Cliff Oates win the State Pole Vault at 11 ft. 6 ins., the only St. George Athlete ever to win this event, then Cliff vaulted 12 ft 0 ins. to gain 2nd place in the Australian Title. The Interstate Athletic

Carnival was again held at Hurstville Oval before a big crowd. The best performance was that of John Treloar who won the hundred in 9.8.

Jim Bailey was already asserting himself when he won the State Junior 440 in 51 secs. and the half mile in 2 min. 6 secs. Jim also won the Blackshaw Trophy.

The 7th Annual Schoolboy Championships attracted 1,096 entries which created a record. Fourteen records were broken and it was at this Meeting that footballer to be, Reg Gasnier, won the under 9 years 50 yards Championship. Distance athletes had rather a lean Season but we did finish a team in the State Marathon headed by Ernie Palmer. The Semple brothers and Harold Duncan were our best seniors while Frank Thornton at this stage was our outstanding Sub-Junior.

St. George Club won the Norman Shield for the neatest attired athletes.

The 28th year of the Club was one of great activity and success. The two International Meetings at Hurstville Oval featuring the famous Fanny Blankers-Koen of Holland, Herb McKenley, Jamaica, and Lloyd La Beach, attracted tremendous interest and both Meetings were attended by capacity crowds spilling over on to the athletic track. Herb McKenley ran 300 yds. in 30.4 seconds, an Australian record, while Fanny Blankers-Koen won the 80 metres Hurdles in 11.3 seconds, only 1/10th of a second outside her winning Olympic run at London. Marjorie Jackson won the 100 yds. in 11.2.

Another record of 1,482 entries was received for the St. George Schoolboys Championships so capably organised by Fred Larcombe and Les Grant.

Jim Bailey, improving all the time, ran a dead heat in the Australian Half Mile in 1 min. 54.7 secs.

George Gedge as a Junior won the 220 yds. Hurdles in the record time of 24.9 secs. Ern Watson won the State 120 Hurdles in 15.6. St. George Juniors 4 x 110 relay teams and 4 x 220 both won the State Championships in Australian record times of 43.4 and 1 min. 31.7 secs.

During the distance, Ern Palmer ran in the Victorian Marathon and his time of 2 hours 49 mins. was his best ever. Clive Marstaeller was our best runner during the Season and he represented N.S.W. in the 10,000 metres Australian at Melbourne, finishing 15th. For the first time in my career I was beaten in the Club 15 Mile Championship by Harold Duncan. I had been running in this event from 1922, although I could have missed running on some two or three occasions. We finished the year with a record membership of 252.

The 29th year was another grand year for the Club and probably the outstanding performance was that of George Gedge in winning the Australian 220 Hurdles in 23.9 secs. George was then picked to represent Australia in the British Empire Games, Auckland, and he ran brilliantly to make the 440 Hurdles final. His best time was in the semi-final with a run of 53.9 secs. Jacqueline Baumann of the St. George Ladies' Club also represented Australia at these Games in the High Jump.

Aleksis Hakelis joined the Club and straight away he excelled in the Javelin creating State and Australian records with a throw of 200 ft. 1½ ins.

This was the year that we had another International Athletic Carnival at Hurstville Oval, 17/2/50, when the British Members of the British Empire Games team made their only appearance in Australia when returning from Auckland. A large crowd attended and prior to the Meeting the Mayor of Hurstville, Alderman N. Macpherson, extended them a Civic Welcome.

The St. George Schoolboys' Championships again attracted a record entry of 1,914 which, at the time, was considered the largest entry for any School Meeting in Australia.

St. George Club this year sent their second team to Tasmania where they met with indifferent success through illness.

The Distance Season was the Club's most successful for some years. At Campbelltown where the State 10,000 metres was held, we brilliantly won all teams races viz., Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior with Laurie Barton winning the Mile Sub-Junior. Frank O'Hanlon won the Novice C.C.C. at Ramsgate in 27 mins. equalling the best time for the race. We again conducted the State Marathon from the Rockdale Town Hall with Claude Smeal a newcomer, being the first Club man in 6th place. Old-timer, Albert Blyth, won the Eastern Suburbs Open and I won the Point Score.

The 30th year was yet another year of great activity with brilliant performances from Aleksis Hakelis who won the Australian Javelin with a fine throw of 204 ft. 2½ ins., and Jim Bailey who also won the Australian Half Mile at Hobart in the near record of 1 min. 54.9 secs. George Gedge had another great Season winning the 200 metres and 400 metres hurdles in 23.8 secs. and 53.8 secs. at the Jubilee Championships, Sydney, and then he went to the Canterbury (N.Z.) Centennial Games being runner up in both the low hurdles. Ern Watson created a surprise when he won the 110 Metres Hurdles at the Jubilee Meeting beating the French champion, Andre Marie, in 15.2 secs.

Aleksis Hakelis later in the Season outclassed all opponents to win the State Javelin with a record throw of 208 ft. 8½ ins., while Jim Bailey won the half easily in 1 min. 55.1 secs. and Jim Vickers the 120 Hurdles from Clubmate Ern Watson.

One of the outstanding features of the distance season was the winning of all championships by Claude Smeal who also finished 2nd in the State 15 Mile.

Our Juvenile and Sub-Junior distance runners were invincible and apart from Bill McAllister and Ralph Wragg winning the titles the teams events were won very easily. The State Marathon was again held at Rockdale and on this occasion some 5 or 6 Victorians competed and they were billeted at our Club Headquarters, Ramsgate, where Mrs. Saillard helped untiringly.

The 31st year was another busy year for the Club and one of the outstanding features of the year was the N.S.W. v. Victoria match at Hurstville Oval where Don McMillan, Victoria, established the Australian record for

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880 yds. in 1 min. 52.4 secs and John Landy, practically unknown, won the Mile in 4 min. 15 secs.

Jim Bailey went to France to fit himself for the Helsinki 1952 Games but the venture was not successful as he did not return to Australia in time to condition himself for the Australian Championships. Aleksis Hakelis again proved himself the finest Javelin exponent when he won the Australian Title at Brisbane.

Interclub saw Albert Thomas (to become World record holder for 2 and 3 miles) appearing in 'E' Grade and gaining 2nd places in the Club 880, 1 Mile and 2 Mile Junior Championships.

George Gedge again ran very well to be narrowly beaten by Doubleday in the Australian 220 and 440 yds. Hurdles.

Ern Watson won the State 120 Hurdles in 15.2 while George Gedge won both the 220 and 440 Hurdles in 25.3 and 53.8. Aleksis Hakelis won the Javelin at 203 ft. 6 ins.

The St. George Medley Relay Team of Jim Bailey, George Gedge, Frank Thornton and Ern Watson won the State Title in 3 min. 32 secs. State record.

During the Distance Season, Junior, Sub-Junior and Juvenile Athletes were invincible. George Freeman won the Junior 5,000 metres, Dennis Wilson the Sub-Junior Mile and Warren West the Juvenile Mile. We easily won all teams events.

Claude Smeal won the State Marathon at Richmond in 2 hours 48 min. 6secs. This was the year that we sent a distance team to Brisbane headed by Fred Slater gaining 2nd place in the teams event and easily, winning the Junior event with George Freeman also the teams event.

Dennis Wilson as a Sub-Junior, was considered the most outstanding athlete in the distance section after he had beaten everyone in brilliant style and his 4 min. 44 secs. at Scarborough Park was a remarkable effort.

The 32nd year was yet another good year for the Club. Claude Smeal in dramatic circumstances, was selected to represent Australia in the Marathon at the Helsinki Olympic Games, 1952, after flying direct from the war front in Korea to join the Australian team in London. Jim Bailey was our outstanding athlete of the year when he won the State 880 yds. and 1 Mile and during the season he was sensationally disqualified at Perth in the Half and Mile Australian titles by an over-zealous W.A. official for minor incidents. Jim established a State record for the Mile at 4 min. 13.2 secs. and 1500 metres, 3 min. 56.2 secs. Dennis Wilson confirming earlier promise, won the Sub-Junior State Miles track and distance, 4 min. 34.8 secs. Our Club Senior team again won the Mile Medley State Title and the Juniors consisting of Keith Short, Col Clarke, Ron Shoveller, Barry Spencer and Mert Miles won both the State relays over 440 yds. and 880 yds. State titles were won by George Gedge, 440 yds. in 49.4; Aleksis Hakelis, Javelin 186 ft. 4 ins; Keith Short Junior 220 Hurdles, 25.8 and the Junior relays 4 x 110 and 4 x 220. Our young distance runners again proved themselves supreme when they won all State teams events for Juvenile, Sub-Juniors and Juniors.

In the 5 Mile State Novice, St. George did very well to win the teams event while George Freeman and David Sheaves (son of Jack Sheaves) gained 2nd and 3rd places.

Albert Thomas, already showing improvement, won the Club Junior titles at 2 Mile, 5000 metres and the Point Score with 124½ points. Club membership stood at 216, the third largest in the history of the Club.

The 33rd year saw another good year with Jim Bailey again our best athlete, when he won the Australian 880 yds. in the record time of 1 min. 53.2 secs.

Probably the outstanding feature during the year was the brilliance of our track juniors, Keith Short, Dennis Wilson, Harold Sherlock, Colin Clark, Barry Toovey, Tony Puren, Mert Miles, Barry Pery and Albert Thomas. Athletic authority, Arthur Hodsdon, Secretary-Treasurer A.A.U. of Australia, stated at the time that he could not recall a more brilliant team of junior athletes which was indeed high praise. This team won the Wallace Shield for Junior Championships, scoring 83 points to 53 points. In the State Relays the Juniors won every relay and in the medley, Dennis Wilson, Mert Miles, Keith Short and Colin Clarke ran an Australian record of 3 min. 40.4 secs. Junior Championships were won by:—

Keith Short, 100 yds., 10.2 secs.; Keith Short, 120 yds Hurdles, 15.3 secs.; Colin Clarke, 220 yds., 22.2 secs.; Dennis Wilson, 880 yds., 2 min. 1.3 secs.; Tony Puren, Broad Jump, 21 ft. 9 ins.; Tony Puren, Hop Step and Jump, 44 ft. 1 in.

State Senior titles were won by Jim Bailey, Mile 4 min. 13 s., and George Gedge, 220 Hurdles, 24.2 secs.

Brilliant Sub-Junior John Lester, established a 90 yds. Hurdles in record time of 11.2 secs.

At the Hector Hogan Carnival, Jim Bailey established a resident State record of 1 min. 52.8 secs. for the 880 yards. The distance season was not a good one, the brightest features being the winning of the 5 Mile State Novice by Jim Bailey and the retaining of State Junior 5000 metres teams title.

Probably our outstanding athlete during the 34th year was Albert Thomas who was confirming his earlier promise when he won the 5 Mile Novice in the record time of 26 min. 50 secs, and his 4 min. 14.6 secs. for the Mile, only bettered by Jim Bailey. Our Junior Athletes again performed very well and in winning the State 4 x 880 relay they established an Australian record of 8 min. 14.6 secs., the winning team being Barry Toovey, Harold Sherlock, Dennis Wilson and Karl Robertson.

Our young distance athletes were again invincible, winning all teams events as follows:— 1 Mile Juvenile, Rodney Jolliffe, winner; 1 Mile Sub-Junior, 500 Metres Junior, Harold Sherlock, winner.

Other notable happenings and performances during 1954/55 were:—

- (1) St. George Schoolboys Championships record entry 2118.
- (2) Aleksis Hakelis won State Javelin 193 ft. 6 ins.; Keith Short won State 120 hurdles 15.1 secs.; John Lester won State Junior hurdles in 15.8 secs.

and the 220 hurdles in 25.6 secs. while Barry Toovey won the Mile Junior easily in 4 min. 28.5.

- (3) Bill Ahern managed the N.S.W. team to the Australian Championships Adelaide, February, 1955 and of the 4 St. George Athletes who represented Keith Short did best by gaining 3rd place in the 120 yds. Hurdles.
- (4) Dennis Jolliffe in the under 17 years at the N.S.W. Schoolboy Championships won 3 events; High Jump, 5 ft. 6 ins., Broad Jump, 20 ft. 8½ ins. and the Hop Step and Jump, 43 ft. 11½ ins. record.
- (5) Before Jim Bailey left for the British Empire Games in Vancouver a most successful appeal for funds was made, headed by Alderman Mallard, Mayor of Hurstville and I was the Organising Secretary. Jim when competing in the 880 and while holding a prominent position, broke his foot. Some months later Jim won the 880 yds. Pacific Coast Championship Seattle in 1 min. 51.5 secs. the best ever by an Australian.

The 35th year generally was not a good year but one of the redeeming features was the brilliant running of Albert Thomas who established State records for 2 miles, 8 mins. 54 secs. and 3 miles 13 mins. 36 secs. also his 6 mile run of 28 mins. 38.8 secs. Albert was also our best senior athlete during a poor distance season. Our Sub Junior and Juvenile distance athletes were still outstanding however, winning the Sub Junior teams events 4 x 1 mile relay for the 4th year in succession also the Sub Junior 1 Mile and Juvenile 1 Mile with Graham Towers winning the Juvenile event.

During this year the death of Wal Hasler on the 5th January, 1956, occurred. Wal a Life Member was Secretary from 1924 to 1934 and it was during this period that St. George became one of the strongest clubs in N.S.W. and practically unbeatable in the distance season. Wal was a kindly soul and one of my closest personal friends and his sad loss to the Club was especially felt amongst the old members.

As the 35th year was closing, Club Members were thrilled to hear that Jim Bailey had recorded a brilliant victory over his countryman John Landy in the Mile at Los Angeles on the 5th May, in 3 mins. 58.6 secs. Club enthusiasts thought Jim would get close to 4 minutes but no one expected him to get so close to the World's Record of 3 mins. 58 secs. and also defeat John Landy the World's record holder.

The 36th year of the Club saw the most momentous year in Australian Athletic History as during this year the 16th Olympiad was held at Melbourne from 22nd November to 8th December, 1956. St. George had the honour of two of its members being selected, Jim Bailey, 1500 metres, 800 metres and Albert Thomas 5000 metres. Your Club gained further prestige when 10 of our officials were selected to positions at the Games. The officials elected were:—

Bill Ahern, Fred Eggleton, Reg Jolliffe, Ray Short, Field Games; W. R. Mackenzie, A. Henderson, E. Williams, F. Slater, Sector Officials Marathon Walks; Morrie Moroney, Timekeeper Marathon and Member International Walking Panel; I was a member of the Olympic Games Organising Committee, Chief Sector Official, Marathon and Walks and Organising Secretary, British Empire v. U.S.A. match, Sydney.

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At the Games, Jim gave the early impression after his run in the heat of the 800 metres that he could be a strong contender for the 1500 metres and a possibility of a place in the 800 metres. However, good fortune was not to be his, as a day before the 800 metres he was not well and he developed Hay Fever in a severe form which stopped him from starting in his favourite event, the 1500 metres, in which many shrewd athletic men thought he could win. In my long association with Athletics I cannot recall more cruel luck to befall an athlete.

Those who saw Albert Thomas win his heat of the 5000 metres in 14 mins. 14.2 secs. at the Games were very thrilled and then in the Final we saw him as a lone Australian finish 5th in the time of 14 mins. 04.8 secs. Albert's time was better than any previous Olympic victory, including the great Zatopek who won at Helsinki. It was a great year for Albert as later he further proved his world class by defeating Ibbotson of England in the 3 Mile event, 13 mins. 39 secs. at the British Commonwealth v. U.S.A. match at Sydney, 5th December, 1956. Albert certainly went from victory to victory and during the season he won the State Mile in 4 mins. 8.8 secs. the 6 Mile in 28 mins. 30.4 secs. record, the Australian 3 Mile in 13 mins. 37.6 secs.

Other track athletes who did very well during this season included:—

Frank Thornton, 880 yds. 1 min. 51.8 secs. also 1st State 880 yds.

John Lester, 120 yds hurdles 14.5 secs.

Rodney Jolliffe, 1st Sub-Junior 880 yds. 2 mins. .01 secs. record State.

The Australian Championships were held in Melbourne and St. George provided the following 6 Athletes for the State team:—

Albert Thomas, Frank Thornton, Dennis Jolliffe, Keith Short, John Lester and Mert Miles. As mentioned previously Albert won the 3 Mile while John Lester and Keith Short finished 2nd and 3rd in the 120 yds. hurdles.

Senior distance athletes again performed poorly in teams events but once again our Sub-Juniors and Juveniles were victorious, and in these sections we have been invincible for years. David Chisholm already showing promise won the State 1 Mile Juvenile Cross-Country. This was the distance season as a part of the "Olympic Year" that messages of goodwill from the Mayor of each Municipality were carried to Centennial Park where our distance men gathered after running from Hurstville. St. George filled major places in all divisions including March Past and Dressage: I read the messages to the assembled spectators and athletes and declared the 1956 Cross Country Season open. The St. George Schoolboy Championships meant another great achievement for Fred Larcombe when record entries of 2280 were received. Apart from Athletic achievements it was a most eventful year as we saw the retirement of Bill Ahern, Ernie Williams and myself as an athlete also the sad passing of Harold Taylor. Bill Ahern retired as General Secretary after 20 years and as I was President during this time I can say without hesitation that Bill did quite a magnificent job and no one could be more sincere. Bill gained a lot from athletics but he put back as much as he took out which so often is not done.

Ernie Williams as distance handicapper for 17 years also did a magnificent job and he will always be recalled for the frequent close finishes in races of all grades. It was during the distance season that I had my last run which covered the period from 1921 to 1956. I had 56 seasons, viz 33 Winter and 23 Summer which is a record that may stand for many years in the Club. My last performance went by practically unnoticed. Throughout my running years

I had given a lot to athletics but the friends that I have made through running have been more than ample reward to me. It was also during this year that Harold Taylor died and the Club lost a good friend. Harold is well remembered by old members, and in the early days he was a real stalwart of the Club. Harold was President of our Club from 1925 to 1936.

The 37th year was another grand year for Albert Thomas as during the Track season he established an Australian open record for 3 Miles in 13 mins. 26 secs. and a N.S.W. resident record of 4 mins. 1.5 secs. for the Mile. He won the State and Australian 3 Mile titles and he was awarded the Richard Coombes Memorial Medallion for the most outstanding athlete of the year. Albert finished an excellent year when he gained the honour of being selected to represent Australia at the British Empire Games, Cardiff, 1958. Dennis Wilson had a good year running 1 min. 52.7 secs. for the 880 yds. and he almost caused an upset in the Australian Mile at Brisbane when he gained a big lead which nearly carried him to victory. Fred Larcombe received 2976 entries for the St. George Schoolboy Championships which is easily the largest meeting of its kind. St. George is indeed fortunate to have a man of the calibre of Fred Larcombe who has done such a wonderful job year after year with these Championships. Distance Athletes particularly the Seniors were still below standard. Our best young distance runners included Brian English, Kev Taylor and Dave Chisholm.

The 38th year of the Club will always be remembered as the year of Albert G. Thomas, the most brilliant athlete ever produced by our Club. Clubs strive for a decade and more to produce an athlete to represent Australia in Olympic and British Empire Games, yet we were able to produce an athlete to make two world records apart from representing his Country in the Olympic and British Empire Games.

This exceptional athlete of course is Albert Thomas who established his world record for 2 Miles in 8 mins. 32 secs. and 3 Miles in 13 mins. 10.8 secs. on the Santry Track Dublin prior to the British Empire Games at Cardiff Wales, 1958. The performances made by Albert meant that he was one of the first distance runners the world has yet seen, and when he ran these phenomenal times he displaced records held by the famous Hungarian Sandor Iharos. Also on the Sandry Track he ran 3 mins. 58.6 secs. for the Mile, exactly the same as our Jim Bailey recorded in beating John Landy at Los Angeles, May, 1956.

In the British Empire Games, Albert unfortunately did not produce his Santry performance over 3 Miles when he was beaten into 2nd place by Halberg N.Z. in 13 mins. 26 secs.

Albert did better in the Mile, securing 3rd place in 4 mins. 1.5 secs. When Albert returned from Wales he won the 3 Mile Australian Title at

## *Life Members*

1923		A. A. GAINSFORD
1934		W. J. HASLER
1937		B. C. BUTTON
1957		W. AHERN

Hobart and the State 1 and 3 Mile Titles. During the track season an attempt was made by an Australian team on the Worlds' record for 4 x 1 Mile Relay and they established a record of 16 mins. 25.6 secs. The outstanding feature of this relay team was that two of the athletes were St. George runners, Dennis Wilson and Albert Thomas, a performance that our Club is extremely proud. Dennis and Albert both recorded the same time in their leg of the relay viz: 4 mins. 6.5 secs. Other outstanding performances during this year were as follows:—

Dennis Jolliffe won State Hop Step and Jump, 46 ft.

Peter Phillips won Sub-Junior Shot 61 ft. 10½ ins., record.

Ken Creed won 90 yds. Hurdles 11.6 secs.

St. George won 4 x 880 relay team; Albert Thomas, Dennis Wilson, Frank Thornton and John Burne 7 min. 46.2 secs.

St. George Team won Junior Interclub Competition.

St. George athletes recorded best A Grade interclub as follows:—

Frank Thornton 880 1 min. 54 secs.

Dennis Jolliffe, Hop Step and Jump, 47 ft. 10½ ins.

Dennis Wilson Mile 4 mins. 11.2 secs.

St. George under 16 years 4 x 220 in 1 min. 35.1 secs. record.

St. George distance athletes won the team events in State titles, Junior 5000 metres—Sub-Junior Mile— Juvenile Mile and Junior 4 x 2 Mile.

Fred Eggleton established Club record of 150 ft. 4 ins. in the Hammer.

Albert Thomas was easily our outstanding athlete in the 39th year of the Club when he ran magnificently to record 3 mins. 58.8 secs. for the Mile on the Sydney Sports Ground this being the second time he had broken 4 minutes for the Mile. He later ran a grand 2 Mile in 8 mins. 35.4 secs., only 3.4 seconds outside his own World's record. After these exceptionally fine performances Albert's form deteriorated and he was beaten in the Australian 3 Mile for the first time in 4 years.

For the 2nd year in succession Albert won the State Mile and he also won the 3 Mile for the 3rd successive year in 13 mins. 32.4 secs. During the Winter Season, Albert ran brilliantly to win the State 1,000 metres C.C.C. in the excellent time of 32 mins. 47 secs. Further honour came to Albert when he was selected to represent Australia in the 1,500 and 5,000 metres for the 19th Olympiad Rome August September 1960.

Dennis Wilson won the State 880 in 1 min. 55.8 secs. but in the Australian 880 at Perth he ran 1 min. 51.9 secs.

During this year we decided to commence our track programme on Hurstville Oval at 6.30 p.m. and the venture met with reasonable success.

Our only team to perform well during Interclub was 'G' Grade which won this grade convincingly. George Gedge endeavoured to make a comeback on the track but after a promising start he broke down which was most unfortunate. The Schoolboy Championships attracted 3,000 entries approximately and they were conducted very well by Fred Larcombe and his band of fellow teachers.

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The distance athletes performed very creditably during the Winter and apart from Albert Thomas winning the State 10,000 metres a new Star came forward in David Chisholm when he easily won the 5,000 metres State Title in 16 mins. 46 secs.

The Junior and Sub-Junior athletes again won the State Teams Events while the Juveniles were narrowly beaten. Some of the lads in these teams included David Chisholm, Kevin Taylor, Bob Elphinston, Bob Soper, Ian Scott and Vince Bruce. Veteran Fred Wrightson won the Club Marathon in 3 hours 12 minutes.

Club membership at 179 was most satisfactory as compared with 136 the previous year.

The 40th year was yet another year in which Albert Thomas was our best athlete when he won the State Mile in 4 mins. 10.8 secs. 3rd year in succession the 3 Mile 13 mins. 49 secs. for the 4th year in succession. Albert also won the same events against Victoria in 4 mins. 10.6 secs. and 13 mins. 46 secs. but he was surprisingly defeated in the Australian 1 and 3 Mile events at Brisbane. During the year he went to New Zealand and ran a thrilling 2 Mile to dead heat with Bill Baillie in 8 mins. 54.4 secs., 22.4 secs. outside his World's record. Albert had the honour again of representing Australia at the Olympic Games Rome but unfortunately he did not produce his Cardiff form but he did equal Merv Lincoln's time of 3 mins. 46.8 secs. in the 1,500 metres and 14 mins. 6.2 secs. for the 5,000 metres. It was during this year that Jeff Duxbury ran magnificently as a Sub-Junior and later as a Junior and providing he keeps up his training he could easily be our outstanding athlete in the next few years. Jeff brilliantly won the Sub-Junior 3,000 metres State C.C. title in 9 mins. 42 secs. and later during the Track season he ran 1 min. 56.2 secs., 1 min. 55.8 secs. and 1 min. 55.4 secs. for the half mile.

Interclub saw our 'D' Grade Boys win their Grade while we gained 2nd B Grade 3rd in E and G Grades which was our best interclub season for some years. Our Junior athletes ran extremely well to win the State Relays 4 x 880 and Mile Medley. Our Winter Season was quite good and it was most pleasing to again win the State Novice Teams Race, an event the Club excelled in in past years. We also won the Teams Race of the State 1,500 metres Juvenile headed by John Lee in 2nd place. Seniors gained 3rd place in both the 10,000 metres and 10 Mile Teams Events the best recorded for some years.

As usual the Schoolboy Championships were again most successful under the capable leadership of Fred Larcombe and his fellow School Teachers. Club membership at 190 was considered most satisfactory. I now come to the 41st year which is the present year of the Club and when I look back on what I have written I realise that much more could have been said about members, including the many funny incidents that go with a Club; the social atmosphere which incidentally has been remarkable and only recently two of its oldest members to wit, Albert Blyth and myself celebrated our 27th and 34th Wedding Anniversary's before 80 old members from 1921 vintage on-

wards. Space does not permit me to write more but I may be given the opportunity later to more fully record the history of the Club. This present year again records Albert Thomas our best athlete but on the horizon we have David Chisholm who will probably take over the mantle of Albert when he retires or loses form. Albert achieved a grand ambition and recorded quite a unique performance when he won the Australian Mile Title in 4 mins. 6.9 secs. and in doing so was only the second New South Wales man to win this event since the Championships commenced in 1893. During the year Albert made two trips to New Zealand and at Auckland 16th December, 1961, he defeated Barry Magee over 3 Miles in 13 mins. 37 secs. Albert also won the State Mile for the 4th year in succession and was 2nd in the 10,000 metres Australian C.C. Championship at Centennial Park in the most appalling weather that could be recalled in this event. It was in this event that David Chisholm showed such improvement when he finished only 10 seconds behind Albert in 3rd place and in front of David Power. This was David's finest performance which he followed up by gaining 3rd place in the 3,000 metres Steeplechase Australian Championship in 9 mins. 8 secs. which time would have won the event for the past two years. David also ran 4 mins. 12 secs. for the Mile which capped a great first year for him in Senior competition.

Our St. George 4 x 880 Relay Team consisting of Frank Thornton, David Chisholm, Dennis Wilson and Albert Thomas ran extremely well to win in 7 mins. 49 secs. We welcomed to our ranks this year Dennis Tipping (Rome Olympic Rep. 1960) and he showed a welcome return to form to gain 3rd places in the State 100 and 220 yds. The 1960-61 Interclub Season was our best for years when we performed creditably in all Grades. During the Track Season 3 young athletes emerged as Senior Champions in the near future and they were Fleming Barchmann who cleared 12 ft. .0 ins. in the Pole Vault to equal Cliff Oates Club record 1948, Neil Meredith cleared 6 ft. 3¼ ins. and 6 ft. 3 ins. but not always under record conditions and Ian Sharpe who gives promise of following our best Long Jumper ever Basil Dickinson. These 3 athletes represented N.S.W. in both the Australian Championships and Victoria v. N.S.W. Match. Congratulations once again to Fred Larcombe when the entries for the St. George Schoolboy Championships topped 3,000 easily the largest meeting of its kind in Australia.

Our Senior Distance Runners ran better than the previous year gaining 3rd places in the teams races for the 10,000 metres, 10 Mile and 2nd in the Marathon. Our Young Distance Runners again ran very well. Malcolm Rooke winning the State Junior 5,000 metres and with Klaus Stelter, Geoff Elphinston and Ross Proud they also won the teams title. The Junior team easily won the 4 x 2 Mile Relay by 2 minutes. Jeff Duxbury replaced Geoff Elphinston otherwise the team was the same as the 5,000 metres. Malcolm also ran very well during the year to win the State metres Steeplechase in 4 mins. 37 secs. and the State 2 Mile in 9 mins. 22 secs. The Sub-Juniors won the State 4 x 1 Mile Relay convincingly.

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In September of this year 14 members combined in a relay from Sydney to Newcastle 107 Miles carrying a baton containing messages. from the Lord Mayor of Sydney the Mayors of Hurstville and Rockdale to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle on the occasion of the Waratah Festival. The relay commenced at 4 a.m. and finished at 3 p.m.

On the occasion of the Australian Track and Field Championships 1962 at the Sydney Athletic Field I had the honour as Senior Vice President of the A.A.A. of N.S.W. and in the absence of the President Sir Charles Moses C.B.E. to introduce His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W. Lieutenant General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who officially declared the Championship Meeting open. To this history I have prepared Club records for 1925-6, 1945-6, 1961-2 for comparison which I feel may be interesting. The 1925-6 records were the first ever prepared and it is to be noted they are Club records only whereas the 1945-46 and 1961-2 records the best performances of members anywhere in Australia. Invariably I am asked whom I consider the best athletes to pass through the Club and I propose to give the names of the best athletes as shown in the 21st Annual Report for Track and Distance Supplemented by additional athletes Track and Distance 1942 to 1962.

1921-1942

*Track*:—Basil Dickinson, Jack Mumford, Ernie Austen, Bill Mackenzie, Bert Sheiles, Harby Gould, Oscar Matson, Vernon Wallace, Albert Blyth, Gordon Keep, Arthur Gould, Ted Groves.

*Distance*:—Alley Gainsford, Charlie Weeks, Ray Mettam, Roy Wright, Albert Blyth, Ern Evans, Gordon Keep, Ted Brooke, Harry Gibbons, Les Brodie, Stan Gainsford, Bob Chadwick and Bert Button.

1942-1962

*Track*:—Albert Thomas, Jim Bailey, George Gedge, David Chisholm, Alexis Hakelis, Dennis Wilson, Frank Thornton, John Lester, Cliff Oates, Keith Short, Ern Watson, Duncan Page, Dennis Jolliffe and Fred Eggleton.

*Distance*:—Albert Thomas, David Chisholm, Jim Bailey, Dennis Wilson, Claude Smeal, Jim Weeks, Jack Hayes, Kev Taylor, Barry Toovey.

The best four athletes ever to pass through the Club would be:—

Albert Thomas, Jim Bailey, Basil Dickinson and Jack Mumford.

During the history of the Club we have produced many brilliant athletes, but we have also had many grand officials and naming just a few would include Wal Hasler, Bill Ahern, Arthur Henderson, Ernie Giles, Bert Button, Henry Harwin, Arthur Gould, Ernie Williams, Reg Jolliffe, George Gosling, Jack Coppock, Fred Slater, John Burne Tony Chisholm, Harold Bennett, Ted Brooke, George Rootham, Bert Sheiles, Morrie Maroney, Wal Townsend, Bill Mackenzie, Bill Pearce and Jack Harris.

I now close this history of the Club and as I said in my Introduction I hope its reading gives some pleasure to present and old members.

A. GAINSFORD,

President.

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## CLUB RECORDS

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	1925/6	1945/6	1961/2
100 yds.	10.6	9.8	9.8
220 yds.	23.9	21.5	21.5
440 yds.	54.4	48.4	48.4
880 yds.	2-7.2	1-58.5	1-51.8
1 Mile	4-43.7	4-25	3-58.8
2 Mile	—	9-38	8-35
3 Mile	16-2.8	15-3	13-26
4 Mile	—	20-56.4	—
5 Mile	—	26-21	24-42
6 Mile	—	31-49	28-30.4
7 Mile	—	37-14.8	37-14.8
8 Mile	—	42-41.4	42-41.4
9 Mile	—	48-9.2	48-9.2
10 Mile	—	53-31.4	53-31.4
Broad Jump	21' 2½"	24' 6½"	24' 6½"
High Jump	5' 6½"	6' 2"	6' 2"
Pole Vault	8' 10"	10' 0"	12' 0"
1 Mile Walk	7-34.8	6-45	6-45
3 Mile Walk	24-24.5	22-13	22-13
7 Mile Walk	—	55-49	55-49
120 yds. Hurdles	17-6	15-8	14-5
220 yds. Hurdles	64-8	26-4	23-9
440 yds. Hurdles	42' 5½"	57-8	53-6
Hop Step & Jump	69' 3"	51' 3½"	51' 3½"
16 lb. Hammer	30' 6"	103' 2"	150' 4"
16 lb. Shot Put	106' 5"	45' 5½"	45' 5½"
Discus	146' 2"	135' 11"	147' 5"
Javelin	—	192' 4½"	208' 8½"
3000 Metres	—	—	8-1.5
5000 Metres	—	—	14-4.8
10000 Metres	—	—	29-23
15000 Metres	—	—	49-55.4
3000 Metres Steeplechase	—	—	9-8
1500 Metres	—	—	3-43.3

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