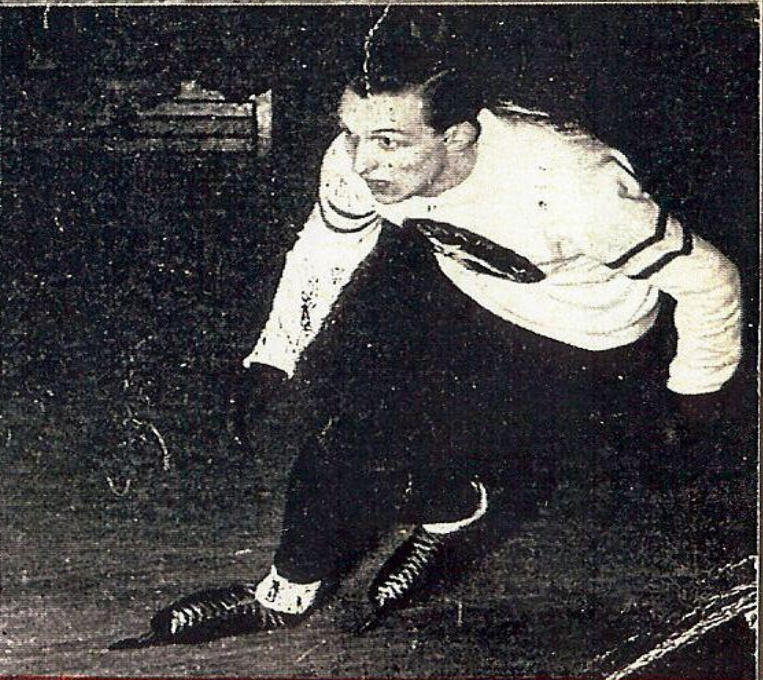
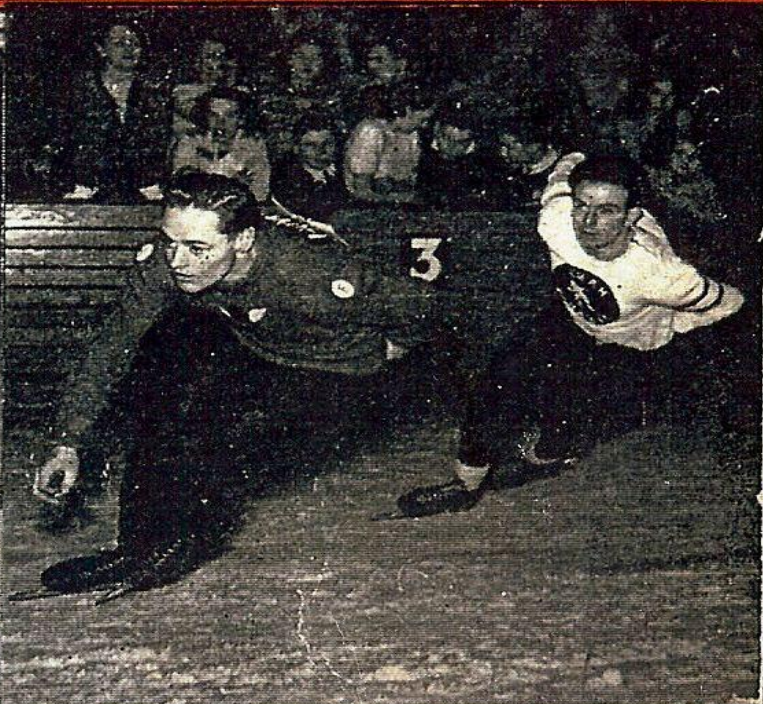
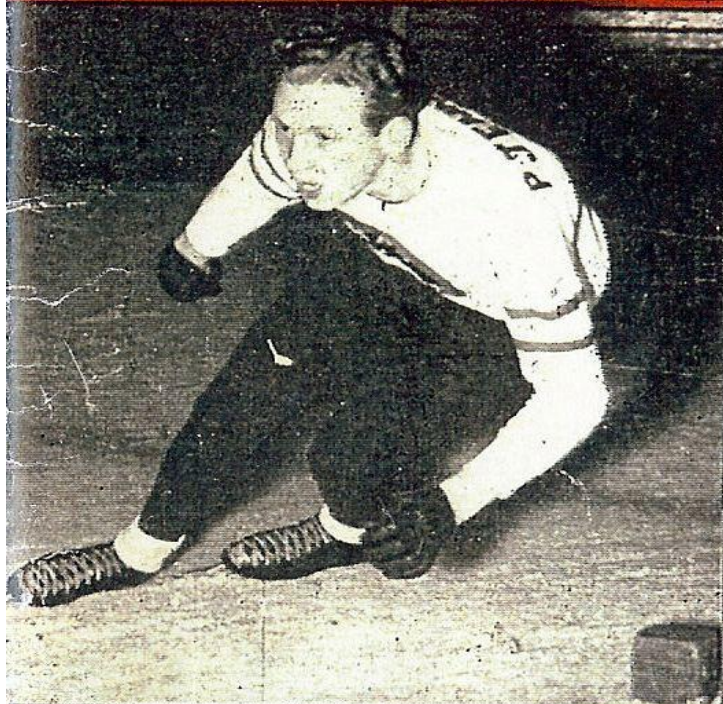


THE BIRMINGHAM

MOHAWKS


YEAR BOOK

1950



"RACING ON ICE"

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THE MOHAWKS' YEAR BOOK

Editors :

J. HURDIS and R. R. LANGFORD

Editorial Office : 11, Kent Terrace, Lodge Road, Birmingham, England

Entered at the Stationers Hall, 1950

Editorial

The first lines of this "Year Book" are justly dedicated to the august persons who have made its publication possible. A sincere vote of thanks and appreciation is extended to the Advertisers, to article contributors : Dennis Blundell, Jack Cresswell, Art, Hambidge, and Harry Tipper, to our copy-typist Miss Audrey Jordan, and to the Printers for the grand effort they have made.

The "Year Book" was compiled as a tribute to the "Birmingham Mohawks Ice Speed Skating Club," and their praiseworthy successes during the 1948-49 season and for the many Mohawks' supporters and enthusiasts whose encouraging cheering has undoubtedly urged the team to glory on numerous occasions. Also to gain greater recognition and further the prestige of Ice Speed Skating among the varied sports of to-day.

Much adulation has, at one time or another, been bestowed upon the Clubs racing members, but very little to the administrative side; not that they would wish it though. This modest band of loyal clubmen with inglorious tasks to perform deserve more than praise in a book. Indeed—their greatest satisfaction is already founded inasmuch as they are truly respected and their services appreciated by every racing member. Therefore harmony, keenness and smooth organization are also founded.

PRESIDENT : Mr. James Murphy, D.C.M., M.M., has followed the Club's activities with interest since its formation. TEAM MANAGER : Ray Green has our admiration for being efficient, strict (when necessary) and everybody's friend all at the same time. SECRETARY : John Hurdis fills this unenviable position of "scholarly and scheming" very comfortably. He is—to say the least very proficient. TREASURER and ASST. SECRETARY : Kenneth Labram keeps a very sharp eye on the Club funds and worries the racing members to death when the annual subscription fees are due. TRAINER : Johnny Monk is mentioned in more detail in "Who's Who in the Mohawks," but here I must say the Club

has not had a more respected and capable member for this task. COACH : Dennis Blundell's name has been linked with the Club since its formation. Experience counts in his particular duties and Dennis certainly has this quality."

An interesting report of a statistical nature is the total of miles travelled during the 1948-49 year by the racing team, which amounts to something like 21,400 passenger miles.

Birmingham has provided numerous champions in the ice speed world and a few of the later ones include : Dennis Blundell, Olympic Representative and English International, 1948 ; Quarter-Mile Champion of Great Britain, 1947-48 ; Captain of the English International Team, 1949, and Runner-up in the Quarter-Mile Championship of Great Britain, 1948-49 (N.S.A. Gold Medalist) ; and Norman Holwell, English International, 1949, One-Mile Champion of Great Britain, 1949, and Half-Mile Champion of Great Britain, 1949 (N.S.A. Silver Medalist).

Three first-rate skaters of the Mohawks : P. Jennings, A. Hambidge, and B. Jones, have recently journeyed to Norway for intensive outdoor training. Their main purpose is to gain greater experience and enter the 1952 world titles. The Club cannot be more appreciative and well-wishing for this noble effort.

Ice Speed Skating is a clean sport and a grand one, members take part in it purely because they enjoy it—and the capabilities of the amateur always has a richness of its own.

R. R. L.

COVER SUBJECT

- Top Left : PETE JENNINGS (Mohawks).
- Top Right : HENRY HOWES (Aldwych) and DENNIS BLUNDELL (Mohawks)
- Bottom Left : PAT SCARFIELD (Brighton) and AL. BANNER (Mohawks).
- Bottom Right : ART. HAMBIDGE (Mohawks).

PICTURE CREDITS

HOLLOWAY STUDIOS — JACK SHAW — J. D. CRESSWELL and NUMEROUS UNKNOWN EXPONENTS OF THE CAMERA.

THE LIFE OF THE MOHAWKS I.S.S.C.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES
FROM 1935 TO 1949—THANKS ARE EXTENDED
TO ALL CONCERNED WHO MADE THIS
ARTICLE POSSIBLE.

The Birmingham Ice Rink was officially opened on September 1st, 1931, by the late Lord Donerale, then President of the National Skating Association of Great Britain.

There was no definite signs of any club formation until 1935, when a number of ice hockey enthusiasts formed the "Warwickshire Ice Hockey Club"; later to be strengthened by several Canadians and the title subsequently changed to the "Birmingham Maple Leafs."

The same year of 1936 when the club won the National Ice Hockey League, saw the disbandment of the hockey club and the first roots of the "Birmingham Mohawks I.S.S.C." really take shape. Mr. James Easton, D.C.M. (who became the manager of the Birmingham rink in 1933), aptly named "The Father of the Mohawks," approached J. O. Page, a popular skater at the time, with the idea of forming an Ice Speed Club. The recorded date of the club's formation was the 1st December, 1935.

Interest at first was not very encouraging and Page sought the help of W. West (a hockey enthusiast) and together they laid the foundation of the Club. The first President was Mr. James Murphy, D.C.M., M.M., whose genial manner followed their progress until 1943 when he was succeeded by joint-founder W. West. J. O. Page held the position of Chairman until 1940.

Races were staged during public skating sessions and from these events two very promising youngsters, Dennis Blundell and Wilf Lardner were chosen as the Club's first members (since the very early days Dennis's name has constantly been in the news).

New candidates, at this stage, began to show more interest and consequently the Club's members increased steadily. The names of "Kestrels" and "Mohawks" were suggested by Mr. Easton; the residing Committee and Club members decided unanimously on the latter (which is the only Racing title of its kind in Great Britain today).

1938 brought the presentation of two trophies; the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup and the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup, to be competed for annually by any member of the Mohawks.

New members underwent a speed trial for entry; requiring three laps to be covered in 50 secs. on speed skates.

On March 12th, 1938, the Mohawks team, consisting of Dennis Blundell as captain, J. Murphy, jun., W. Lardner, D. Darby, W. West and J. White visited the Bristol Ice Rink. Their racing members agreed that the distance would be 20 laps: five skaters racing, each completing 4 laps. Dennis, who started as number 1 had the misfortune to fall at the start and Bristol gained a quarter lap lead. J. White skated remarkably well but failed to recover lost ground; the Bristol team went on to win with a time of 4 mins. 28.6 secs.

The Mohawks were more successful during a return match on Saturday, April 30th, winning with a clear margin of a quarter of a lap. This, however, was a three mile relay.

The first owner of the "Darby One Mile Handicap" cup was the late R. D. White with the time of 3 mins. 32 secs., second place went to J. White, his brother, with Dennis Blundell third.

On Saturday, May 14th, 1938, we saw the strong Southampton club competing at the Birmingham rink in a five heat points event. After various duels



1937 . . .

and exciting incidents victory was gained by Southampton with a score of 16 points to Birmingham's 8½ points. Johnny Rawlins, that great indoor skater of those times, won both his heats for Southampton quite comfortably.

The "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup was competed for on May 21st, 1938, by eight members and finally won by J. White with the time of 1 min. 39 secs., although it was predicted to be Dennis Blundell's race. The cup was presented the same evening by Mr. Murphy himself.

The 8th October, 1938, brought the Club's affiliation to the National Skating Association, and the same day they entered the Southern and Midland Indoor Speed Skating League, other clubs included in that league were Aldwych, Southampton, Brighton, Bristol and Streatham. Several league matches were arranged during the weeks that followed and well into early 1939.

The next "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" Championship Cup competition was staged on May 6th, 1939, and was secured by Dennis Blundell, Wilf Lardner second, and S. Ashmore in third position. A race Dennis meant to win, taking the lead from the gun which he held to the finish. Wilf Lardner showed tremendous effort during this particular race. He fell while in second place, recovered and regained lost ground so rapidly that he only failed to take first place by a matter of inches.

The previous paragraphs have shown the constant developments in the Mohawks Club and brings us now to the outbreak of War. Many sports, quite naturally, suffered as a result of this critical occasion and the general declension in spirit and members was apparent. The Club lost the best part of its strongest skaters in the Forces, but continued in a haphazard way with a few remaining youngsters and members in "reserved occupations" (a great amount of credit for the Club's well being during these years must go to Peter White as Secretary, and the President, W. West). Needless to say, the Club did not retain the enthusiasm and harmony that it had previously enjoyed.

One of the most prominent members to depart was J. O. Page, who joined the army in 1940 and was succeeded by the late J. Baines, Esq., another eminent member, who later presented the Club with an exceptionally fine statue trophy and small replica.

A practice scheduled for October 27th, 1940, was cancelled due to enemy action the previous night. A high explosive bomb shattered the corner of the rink during a general skating session, but fortunately no one was seriously hurt. The rink remained open throughout the war and for two seasons, two morning sessions per week were allotted free of charge to Canadian Airmen in the vicinity for their ice hockey league.

Training sessions were held on Sunday mornings and during the first assemblage in the 1940-41 season on September 29th, Ray Green, Honorary Secretary for that season, predicted the success of a newcomer Johnny Monk. He was not far wrong in his statement for not only was Monk the first owner of the "Baines Handicap Trophy," but he also won the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup a week later. Monk also won the first "Devil take the Hindmost" to be held at the Birmingham rink on the 22nd March, 1941.

W. West had organized a collection for another cup during the latter part of the 1940/41 season and it was named the "West Challenge Cup" (later to become an English Classic Trophy; present holder: N. Holwell, Birmingham Mohawks).

A half-mile scratch race was arranged and held at Birmingham on November 22nd, 1941, and the competitors for the "West Cup" were members from the Aldwych, Brighton and Mohawks clubs, the Bristol team was unfortunately unable to attend. Racing for the cup were P. Sidders and the late R. Mason (of Aldwych), J. Hodgson and M. Lyne (of Brighton) and D. Blundell and W. Lardner (Mohawks). The race was started by W. West and Sidders of Aldwych took the lead followed closely by Mason (Aldwych) and Blundell (Mohawks). Aldwych set a very fast pace but their lead did not last for long when both Sidders and Mason fell in turn letting Blundell through. Mason, however, made a miraculous recovery and re-passed Blundell, Dennis slipped and fell but regained sufficient ground to obtain second place with Hodgson and Lyne in third and fourth place respectively. (The late R. Mason's time in winning for the first time the "West Cup" was 1 min. 29.6 secs.).

Records for the beginning of the 1941/42 season are very inadequate and details of any successes are not recorded; however, June, 1942, saw the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup finalists, W. Jones, J. Monk, H. Armstrong and S. Kennet all promising skaters, on the line; during this race Jones caught his skates in Kennet's both losing their balance. Monk was by this time well in the lead and added another cup to his collection, Armstrong taking second place.

Jones did not make the same mistake of "bunching" in the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup event on July 8th; he remained well in the rear allowing A. Shaw, S. Kennet and D. Blundell to keep ahead until he saw his opportunity and passed Blundell on the last corner; Jones raced on to win by about 3 feet. W. Jones added to this success by winning the "Baines Handicap Trophy" the same season.

Sunday morning training ceased in October, 1942, and training nights were subsequently arranged for Monday and Friday evenings, after general skating sessions.

1943 saw a General Meeting taking place on the 2nd January, when members voted W. West as President (which he held till 1948). The following week A. Shaw, the Secretary, joined the services and his position was maintained by Peter White.

April 7th of the same year saw yet another race for the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup with D. Blundell, S. Kennet, W. Jones, B. Shrewing and T. Smith all making an exceptionally good start; Kennet took the lead with Blundell, Smith, Jones and Shrewing following in that order until lap 5, when Jones fell attempting to pass Smith. On the last lap Blundell passed Kennet winning by approx. 2 feet (time, 1 min. 40 secs.). The time for this event was rather slow but this was due to the

very hard ice condition at the time. This race was Dennis's fourth victory for this championship and not the last by any means.

Saturday, June 19th, was the season's "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship event with the following ten members taking part: D. Blundell, W. Jones, S. Kennet, T. Smith, R. Whaley, B. Jackson, A. Shaw, P. White, P. Palmer and D. Winspeare (in order of handicap—Blundell on the scratch line).

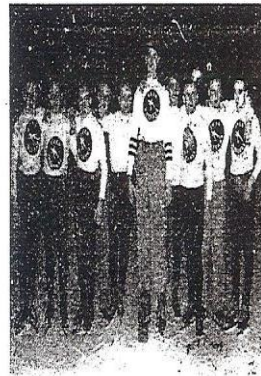
A series of exciting passing and re-passing developed; W. Jones fell and had to retire with a cut wrist on the third lap. Kennet and Blundell caught the leading skaters by lap twelve and although Dennis looked very fast and confident he could not catch Kennet who won by 7 yards.

The "First Year Members' Cup" was first competed for on July 10th, 1943, and skaters eligible were D. Winspeare, B. Jackson, P. Palmer and R. Whaley. Palmer fell and Jackson unfortunately hit the barrier on the last lap leaving the race to Winspeare and Whaley, the latter held the lead and won comfortably.

The 1934/44 season opened well with D. Blundell breaking the One Mile paced record for the Birmingham rink during a display in aid of the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund. His time was 3 mins. 14 secs.—2 secs. under the previous record (present day Birmingham track paced record is held by N. Holwell with a time of 3 mins. dead !)

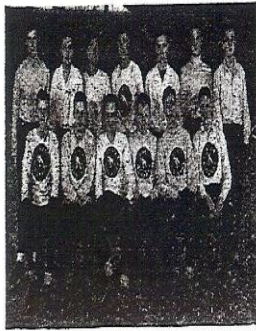
The foundation of a junior speed skating club was created by Messrs. F. Pearsall, C. Walters and J. Hurdis (now Secretary of the Mohawks) during the latter part of the 43/44 season and was called the Dragon Speed Skating Club, both clubs shared the same clubroom and, needless to say, rivalry was quite strong. Inter-Club races were weekly affairs and old battles are still discussed today.

The "Dragons" first race against the Mohawks came on the December of the same season and was a 16-lap relay. The Dragons were allowed a half lap handicap as skaters in that club had not yet obtained speed skates and were racing on hockey skates. There were no falls during this race but without a doubt the Mohawks were the superior side, defeating the "Dragons" by some 70 yards.



1939 . . .

February 10th, 1944, saw a race held in aid of the Lord Mayor's War Relief Fund. The race was 24-lap relay (which started the Mohawks on the climb to Relay Lane) and the Club was split into two teams—Blacks and Whites. Racing for the Blacks were Blundell, White, Jackson and Lardner; for the Whites, Kennet, Madeley, Yates and Smith. Throughout the whole of the race there was no more than five yards between the skaters apart from falls by Blundell and Smith, their positions quickly being filled by Madeley and Jackson and eventually won by the Blacks. The show was very successful and exhibitions were given by Cecilia College (World Champion, 1937), Audrey Planty, Elsie and Roma (a professional skating pair) and Jimmy Thomson (Birmingham's own stilt skater).



1947 . . .

March the same season saw another cup being presented by J. O. Page. The committee decided that this should be for an annual competition for the quarter mile scratch distance.

The Dundee Speed Skating Club visited the Birmingham rink on the 8th April to compete in a number of half-mile scratch races. K. Brown and J. Whemond represented Dundee, D. Blundell and B. Jackson representing Birmingham. Blundell took the lead from the start but fell on the fifth lap letting Brown through, who won by 10 yards from Jackson with Whemond in third position (time, 1 min. 33.2 secs.). A second half mile scratch race followed and the skaters were: A. Low and S. Low for Dundee, F. Madeley and S. Kennet representing Birmingham. Madeley fell on the fourth lap and Kennet moved into the lead, finally winning the race by 7 yards from S. Low. The combined racing members from the previous races entered the final event which was a 1½ mile relay race; this proved to be one of the most exciting races held during that season. At one time and another every skater fell and the lead changed almost every lap. Honours went to Birmingham with a very fast time of 4 mins. 24 secs.

S. Kennet retained the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup for another year running during the 1944 season, winning by approx. 2 yards from F. Madeley (time, 3 mins. 19.2 secs.).

D. Blundell also retained the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup for the fifth year running and gained yet another success in winning the newly instituted "Page Quarter Mile" championship cup.

F. Madeley, after a few unlucky falls and well earned seconds, won the "First Year Member's Cup" and also the "Baines Handicap Trophy."

On May 22nd, 1944, Birmingham paid a visit to Durham to compete against Dundee, Glasgow and the home team; after a series of races Dundee finally won on points with Birmingham second.

Early in 1944-45 season, S. Kennet was voted in as Captain due to D. Blundell joining the army (Blundell held the post of club captain from 1936 to 1944). F. Madeley as vice captain.

During the war numerous leaks in the coils seeped through to the ice surface probably caused by earth tremors created by the bombing in the vicinity of the rink. New pipes had been scheduled for some time, but necessary authority and material was impossible to obtain. But apart from these difficulties the surface of the ice was always maintained in good condition by the engineers, supervised by Mr. H. J. Frost.

Permission to purchase steel piping did not come until 1948 and was installed by York Shipley Limited. The surface is now excellent to skate on.

Included in an exhibition on New Year's Day, 1945, was a race for the "Page Quarter Mile" championship cup, which was well earned by good racing from S. Kennet.

One of the largest race meetings to be held at the Birmingham rink was an "International" event on the 3rd February, 1945—visiting teams were Aldwych, Brighton, Durham, Paisley and Birmingham. Prior to the racing a Scottish female speed skater, Miss A. Netherby, set a record for women at the Birmingham rink in skating four laps in 59.8 secs. The major events followed with heat one falling to Aldwych. Heat two went to Brighton with Durham second and Birmingham third. Aldwych carried off the final with Brighton second. A two-mile relay was staged after the second general skating session and included three teams representing the South, Midlands and the North. The result went to the South with the Midlands second. This particular night's racing was certainly an "All-Aldwych" affair with Alan Purvis taking the one mile handicap and last race with a time of 3 min. 5.8 secs. (this remained a track record for the Birmingham rink till recently when Holwell of the Mohawks lowered his time).

The British Relay Championships was held the following month with Aldwych, Brighton and Birmingham taking part. Teams were Purvis, Wellham, Lasker and Fiddler (for Aldwych), Foley, Scarfield, Cosham and Sowerby (for Brighton) and Kennet, Selwood, Hollyoake and Jennings (for Birmingham). The title went to Aldwych with a time of 9 mins. 10 secs.

L. Selwood won the "Baines Handicap Trophy" the same season after some hard team racing against the Aldwych Club. The "Page Quarter Mile" Championship cup fell to S. Kennet and P. Jennings secured the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup the same season. Jennings, in winning the "Murphy" cup, set up a new track record for the distance.

The Brighton Speed Skating Club journeyed up to Birmingham to compete against the Mohawks and the Dragons, with A. J. Hambidge and R. Williams racing for the latter club. Brighton secured first and second-place with A. J. Hambidge in third place in the first event, which was a quarter mile scratch race. A half mile followed with K. Bailey and F. Cosham (Brighton), A. H. Banner and A. J. Hambidge (Dragons) and S. Kennet and P. Jennings (Mohawks). Final positions were F. Cosham first, P. Jennings second, and S. Kennet third. (Cosham's time being 1 min. 30 secs.).

The next race, a one mile handicap was captured by P. Jennings with K. Bailey (now ice barrel jumping as a professional with an ice show) second and A. J. Hambidge in third position; a two mile relay finished the evening's racing, honours going to Brighton. (Jennings and Hambidge had entered every event that evening—a grand show!)

A half mile and mile race were arranged at the Richmond Ice Rink (London) on the 16th March, 1946, the half mile race being for the "West Cup" which was won by Henry Howes of Aldwych with Ken Bailey of Brighton second.

The mile race was a moral victory for the Mohawks—P. Jennings, amidst enthusiastic cheering from the Birmingham supporters, gained a very creditable second place behind Henry Howes of Aldwych (Howes time was 3 mins. 9.8 secs.) beating the now famous Johnny Cronshey into third place.

S. Kennet still held on as the "champion" of the Mohawks in winning the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup for the third year in succession, the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup went to L. Hollyoake who also secured the "Baines Handicap Trophy" the same season. The "First Year Member's Cup" was held on the 5th June, 1946, after an absence during the year of 1945, and after a well raced event, by B. Cleobury, the cup was presented to him.

May 25th of the same year saw the National Skating Association of Great Britain holding a number of speed tests at the Birmingham rink and the following obtained medals: D. Blundell (gold), A. Banner, S. Kennet, B. Grew, A. J. Hambidge, L. Hollyoake and B. Cleobury (all silvers), R. Darby, S. Perks and

N. Holwell (bronze medals), the first Mohawks to become N.S.A. Speed Medallist holders. Later Messrs. Holwell, Jennings, Turner, Johnson and Jones added Silver Medals to the collection with R. Kay adding a Bronze Medal.

The 19th June saw the amalgamation of the Birmingham Mohawks and the Birmingham Dragons—the senior club retaining their title.

With the release of D. Blundell, W. Jones, J. Monk and later P. Jennings from the Forces, the Club was almost up to full racing strength again, and proved so, for during the seasons of 1947/48 and 1948/49, the Mohawks remained unbeaten on their home track.

The "Page Quarter Mile" championship cup was retained for the third year in succession by S. Kennet. A. H. Banner succeeded Kennet for the position of Club Captain later in that year, the latter turning professional. In Kennet's act of turning professional show skater, the Club lost a very likeable and strong skater.

J. Monk became Trainer to the racing members during the summer of 1947, later taking up Amateur Ice Hockey at Nottingham, his duties being ably carried on by R. Green.

The "Baines Handicap Trophy" was won this season by R. Sadler, a former member of the Dragons, who later became very dependable in Relay Races. The "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup and the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championship cup went to W. Jones.

A. H. Banner was undoubtedly the best skater on the starting line for the 1945-47 "First Year Members' Cup" and won easily. (It is remarkable the number of falls that arise without fail in this event every year).

Outstanding features during the 1947/48 season were D. Blundell winning the National Quarter Mile title and later being chosen to represent Great Britain in the 1943 Winter Olympics. A. H. Banner and A. J. Hambidge skated in the same trials as Dennis for the Olympics, Hambidge showing extremely exceptional qualities.

A complete change at the beginning of the 1948/49 season in Club policy and officials resulted in ex-Guardsman Ray Green handling the team and John Hurdis the administrative side.

D. Blundell defended his National Quarter Mile Title against strong opposition but was defeated by inches by Fred Cosham of the Brighton Club in a grand final.

The 12th March, 1949, saw P. Jennings of the Mohawks secure the "Quarter Mile British (Open) Challenge Cup (a field of 38 skaters taking part). Jennings had only recently recovered from an illness and in winning this competition proved that he is amongst some of the strongest skaters in the country today.

Notable record must also be made of Norman Holwell's amazing success in winning both the National Half and One Mile titles in less than four years of competitive racing.

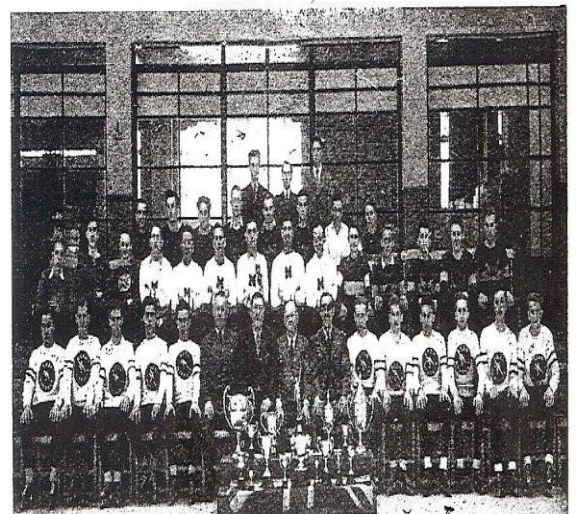
The final of the National Three Mile Relay championships held at Crossmyloof on the 16th April, 1949, resulted in both Aldwych and the Birmingham Mohawks Speed Skating Clubs taking jointly a new British record for that distance with a very fast time of 8 min. 6.2 secs., knocking well over 30 secs. from the previous record time set up almost 10 years ago.

The International event versus Scotland at Nottingham on the 21st May, 1949, was also another success for the Mohawks in having both the Captain of the English side in D. Blundell and also N. Holwell and P. Jennings as racing members for the English side (the 1943 International against Scotland also gave the Club two Internationals in Blundell and Jones).

P. Jennings secured the "Page Quarter Mile" championship cup for the second year running, having won in the season of 1947/48, and beside that he captured the "Darby One Mile Handicap" championships cup and he was also awarded the Club's "Best Individual Cup" (this award was made to A. J. Hambidge during the season of 1947/48). N. Holwell captured the "Murphy Half Mile Scratch" championship cup. The "Baines Handicap Trophy" went to R. Langford in less than six months' racing, H. Jordan and B. Levick tying for second place in this competition with H. Brodmann third, Brodmann also won the 1948/49 "First Year Members' Cup."

Reviewing the past season both the racing and the administration of the Club has far exceeded the modest ambition of the Club members. The 1949/50 season started well with N. Holwell gaining the "West Cup" for Birmingham, and thus this cup returns to its original home after almost an absence of ten years. D. Blundell also secured runner-up in the National Quarter Mile title event for the second year running.

The future promises more active skating with the formation of the "National Ice Racing League" (the Mohawks being one of the Founders). By this league speed skating will rise to an equal level with our other National Sports.



1949 . . .

ICEWISE

BY

ART. J. HAMBIDGE

(With acknowledgments to D. McCartney, A.S.C.)

A question often asked by spectators is—"Do ice conditions affect the Speed Skater?" The answer is yes, and to a very great extent, as the following four types of ice conditions encountered by skaters will explain.

1. SNOW ICE.

This is the slowest of ice conditions and is formed by the general public skating on hard ice and producing a snow surface. It is also the most tiring type of ice on which to race, favouring skaters of heavier build, physically strong and with a short stride, among these being Holwell, Levick and Banner. Falls are more likely to occur on this type of surface and skinned hips are a common complaint with victims, which are somewhat painful, as they will inform you.

2. WET ICE (Soft).

A warm outside temperature or a large skating public during the winter months, when the ice is thicker, will produce a wet ice condition with a soft surface.

The skate edge penetrates deeper, and therefore provides much safer cornering and faster skating than that of type 1.

3. WET ICE (Hard).

This surface is existent throughout the summer months, when the ice is cut much closer to the freezing tubes.

Body heat and warm air circulation cause a wet ice condition, with the actual surface remaining hard. Although a faster racing ice than type 2, cornering is less sure for the skater with a long stride, due to the uneven skate penetration as a result of irregular ice temperature.

4. SHOW ICE.

An ice condition rarely seen, only in exhibitions and before General Skating Sessions. It is undoubtedly the fastest of all ice conditions, being hard and smooth. The ice for the stylists such as Blundell, Jones and Jennings, but dangerous to erratic skaters. A fall on this surface usually finishes at the barrier, as there is no resistance to the body.

1950 saw "THE MOHAWKS YEAR BOOK" 1951 will see

"ICE RACING"

The Speed Skaters Annual

The Editors of this 'Year Book' will welcome suggestions, articles, etc. for consideration in the 1951 edition—appropriate payment will be made for articles accepted.

The only publication in the world devoted to this sport!

Address your letters and suggestions to

JOHN HURDIS
11, KENT TERRACE
LODGERD, B'HAM 18

"SILVER SKATES" OF AMERICA

The "Silver Skates" championships that have often been made a subject of British newsreels have caused comment from the general speed enthusiasts here in Great Britain on numerous occasions, and we give below a brief description of just one of the massive organisations that control speed skating in the United States of America, particularly in the New York State area. This information is based upon correspondence between J. L. Zaremba, D.C., Ph.C., a past President of the Mid-Atlantic Speed Skating Association, and the Editor.

In the New York State section of the country, speed skating is quite active, but the only indoor rink which sponsors the various contests for indoor championships, etc., is the Brooklyn Ice Palace, but the skaters themselves participate in out-of-doors competitions in various parts of New York, New England and as far west as Minnesota.

The amateur "set-up" for speed skating is vastly superior and far more extended than that of our own country. In various sections of the States they have speed skating associations. In the East for instance, they have the New England Speed Skating Assoc., in New York and New Jersey they have the Mid-Atlantic Speed Skating Assoc. In other parts of New York there are two more associations.

All told in the United States, they have about 15 or 16 such associations, all of which are directly responsible to and under the jurisdiction of the American Skating Union of America, which in turn is affiliated with the American Athletic Union of the United States, The American Olympic Association, The Amateur Skating Association of Canada and the European Internationale Eislauf-Vereinigung.

Numerous clubs, plus many individual skaters, are members of various associations. In the Mid-Atlantic Speed Skating Association, for instance, there are at least 10 clubs which hold membership. In the whole association there is a membership of nearly 600. Of this number there are about 225 active speed skaters who compete in races during the season.

Races are held at the Brooklyn Ice Palace each week for classes A.B.C. and Ladies. During the latter part of the week races are held for the Youngsters, from 16 years of age down to as low as seven years of age. The season usually starts in November (compares with the British season—Ed.) and ends in March (British season ends in June—Ed.) That gives all classes and all ages about 20 weeks of racing indoors, plus out of door racing as well. In addition to this some indoor sectional championships are held by the other associations and many of their skaters participate in these contests by virtue of their affiliation through the American Skating Union.

Added comments in correspondence between J. L. Zaremba and the Editor was a suggestion of a governing association of all speed skaters and when organised receive a national charter as an amateur skating association from our government, or become affiliated with the other European organization. If this was done, any member of our organization here in Great Britain visiting the United States of America and having with him credentials to that fact, would be eligible to participate in any and all racing contests anywhere in the United States. Any American speed skaters visiting this country would of course be entitled to the same consideration. Would this idea be worth considering by the members who meet at the chambers in Temple Avenue? (Temple Avenue is where the National Skating Association of Great Britain headquarters are situated—Ed.).

TWELVE YEARS WITH SPEED SKATERS

BY

DENNIS F. BLUNDELL

(British Olympic Team 1948; Capt. English International Team 1949; National Quarter Mile (Amateur) Champion 1948).



D. BLUNDELL (Mohawks)

During the past twelve years I have been lucky enough to meet and race against the best of all Indoor Speed skaters here in Great Britain.

My first speed practice was under the keen

eye of Ken Kennedy, who was living in Birmingham for three years prior to taking up barrel-jumping with an Ice Show.

Ken was an Australian, coming to Great Britain in 1935 in preparation for the 1936 Winter Olympics. He raced for the Streatham S.S.C., who were at that time the leading speed club in the country.

That same year Ken won both the one mile and the half mile National titles. The year later he was the sole speed representative in the Olympic Games for Australia. In 1937 we saw Ken again win both the one mile and half mile National titles.

A top speedman pre-war was Harry Tipper of Aldwych. Harry still holds the British one mile unpaced record with a time of 2 min. 50.4/5th secs., made at Streatham on the 30th July, 1937. A record that is so outstanding that it will, in my opinion, be many years before it is broken.

Another great skater at that time was the late Freddie Tomlins, who lost his life in the Royal Air Force; no doubt the greatest all round skater in the world. He won his N.S.A. Gold medal for both Figures and Speed—Freddie was without a doubt

the greatest and most spectacular free skater England ever had.

Last, and easily the most outstanding pre-war Speedman was Southampton's Johnny Rawlins. 1938/39 season saw Johnny win both the British one mile and half mile Championships. Holder of the British half mile unpaced record set up at Streatham on the 1st May, 1938, the time being 1 min. 22.4/5th seconds, which like Tipper's mile remains unbeaten. During this season he won 76 consecutive races, including handicaps, making him the "Champion" of Speed Skating.

The Speed Teams of the Southern and Midland Indoor Speed Skating League were:

Aldwych S.C.: Tipper, Hardie, Sar, Sheppard, Sidders, Fox and Reynolds. **Southampton S.S.C.:** Rawlins, Lister, Daniels, Diaper and Palmer. **Bristol S.S.C.:** the late J. Walker, the late A. Kerr, Pelley and L. Kerr. **Streatham S.S.C.:** MacMurray, Smith, the late F. Tomlins, Gibbs and Kennedy. **Brighton S.S.C.:** Garham, Lines, Woods, Tisehurst and Tisehurst. **Birmingham Mohawks I.S.S.C.:** W. Lardner, W. West, G. White, the late D. White, S. Ashmore and myself.

The war came and took heavy toll of many speed skaters and their rinks, and it was during this period that another skater made an appearance and that was the late Bobby Mason of the Aldwych S.C., a little man with a big heart and a grand turn of speed, Bobby like Freddie Tomlins, lost his life in the Royal Air Force robbing speed fans of another outstanding personality. (Incidentally, Bobby was the first man to win the "West Cup.")

Of course, there was Pete Sidders, the man who retained the Aldwych spirit during the war years and who is considered to be the best club man that Aldwych produced during the World War II. Pete incidentally held the British paced quarter mile records with a time of 42 secs. Next came "Mr. Sprint himself," by now you will have guessed Alan Purvis, the former British one mile and half mile Champion and Captain of the 1948 English

International side, which beat the Scottish team in the 1st Ice Speed International.

We also have Henry Howes, the British ex half mile and one mile champion and one-and-a-half British Empire Outdoor title holder. Henry broke the British native record for the 1,500 metre distance in the 1948 Winter Olympics, the time being 2 mins. 23 secs. dead, a grand performance to beat fellow clubmate Bruce Peppin's time of 2 min. 24.7 secs., made only 20 minutes previously. Both of these times were well inside of Johnny Cronshey's old record of 2 mins. 27.9 secs.

Roy Welham, the former British Quarter and one Mile champion and English International 1948, had hard luck not to make the grade for the British Olympic team for 1948 but I wish him better luck next time, he is another skater who I always rate very high as a sportsman.

The most outstanding speed skater North of the Border is Tommy Ross, a grand sportsman who had hard luck last season indoors, but was the only Scot in the Olympic team in 1948 and is since proving his metal on outdoor ice as a member of the British Overseas Skating Club.

Scotland's 1948 International team versus England was Alec Low, the Scottish one mile and half mile champion 1948, Bill Douglas (the present half mile champion of Scotland), Archie Flemming, Bert Stevenson, Tom Murray and Fred Fensom. All of whom are great ambassadors of Scottish Ice Speed Skating.

I should like to say that even though he did not win a National Championship the greatest sportsman that I have met is Johnny Foley of the Brighton S.S.C. and England.

So I arrive at the last season of 1948/49. To open the competitive racing in Championships events was the British Quarter Mile at Richmond, the race in which I lost the title I had held for the previous year. It was indeed a good night's racing with the final line-up including Berry (Streatham), Cosham (Brighton), Welham (Aldwych) and myself. Freddie Cosham was in excellent racing condition and crossed the line inches in front of me.

The greatest surprise of the year was Norman Holwell (Mohawks), who at Birmingham on March 26th, 1949, won the British One Mile Championship easily with Pete Jennings (Mohawks) lying second, Jim Semple of Crossmyloof third, and Bill Jones (Mohawks) in fourth position. You will see from this that it was almost an "All Birmingham" final.

This event was certainly a lesson in speed skating for the older hands, because

Holwell knew at half laps he was the fastest man out there, so he drew away leaving the other three to fight it out for places.

Again, at Brighton, in the British half Mile Championship, he won his second championship in the same season.

The "Lees Cup" as it is known in short, otherwise correctly titled the Quarter Mile British (Open) Challenge Cup competition which was staged at Birmingham in March, 1949, saw Pete Jennings of the Mohawks defeat strong Aldwych opposition in the final, which included Dixie Dean and Teddy Fox (the latter fell unfortunately after I had fallen on the second lap).

To end the indoor season, came the second International between England and Scotland, the teams being England: Jennings, Holwell, Howes, Cosham, Foley and myself as captain, and Scotland being: Murray (captain), Semple, McGaffin, Blair, Dillon, Nichol and Fensom.

The times in this event were extremely fast and I now learn that the Nottingham Speed Club have accepted the times set up as track records for their rink.

Outdoor Speedman Johnny Cronshey is certainly outstanding not only making his way across the Continent to race in International events but proving to be such an exceptionally strong skater.



PAST NATIONAL QUARTER MILE TITLE HOLDERS D. BLUNDELL AND F. COSHAM FIGHT FOR THE LEAD.

SPEED CLUB ROUNDABOUT

The Editor's Report on the Speed Skating Clubs of Great Britain.

ALDWYCH S.C. (London).

Founded in 1908 for Roller Speed Skating, Aldwych is the oldest, and in recent years, the most powerful club in the British Ice Speed Skating World. The club changed over to ice in 1928, when their Roller headquarters closed down.

Ice Speed champions have mostly been supplied by the Aldwych Club and have provided quite a number in recent years. Members like H. Howes, A. Purvis and R. Welham have all captured the National One Mile title; H. Howes and A. Purvis have gained the National Half Mile title, and R. Welham the National Quarter Mile title. The Aldwych 1st Relay team this season also secured the National Three Mile Relay title, scoring a victory over the Mohawks' team at Crossmyloof. In championship relay events, Aldwych have held the National title since 1939. Regarding British records, past and present, club members hold various Paced and Unpaced records. They have also supplied a number of outdoor skaters, one of them being J. D. Cronshey, who finished sixth in the 1949 World Speed events (Colours: All Red).

BOURNEMOUTH S.S.C.

Only recently reformed after World-War II, this club has been handicapped by training on a small track, which is the smallest on which any speed club races. They have, however, proved to be great sportsmen and among them are promising skaters such as A. Spence and S. Ford. (Colours: Blue and Black).

BRIGHTON S.S.C. (now the Brighton Ice Racing Club).

Aptly named the "Kings of the Long Blade in the South" this club has secured

all club invitation competitions this season, over the Relay distance (3 miles); they captured the "Sports-Drome Cup," the "Aldwych Cup" and the "Dame Naida Chew Trophy." In individual events F. Cosham, Brighton's captain, won the National Quarter Mile title, defeating D. Blundell of Birmingham by inches, and also taking second place in the National Half Mile this season. In other invitation events J. Foley (England's leading point scorer in the 1948 international) retained the "West Cup," with P. Scarfield, his team mate, as runner-up. In club competitions they have also gained the "President's Shield," competed for by six clubs. In the past F. Cosham held the National Half Mile title and J. Foley was runner-up in the National Quarter Mile title event. (Colours: Yellow and Black).

CROSSMYLOOF S.S.C.

The Birmingham spectators have seen members of this club from Glasgow on the home track twice this season, seven members travelled from Glasgow for the "Quarter Mile British (Open) Challenge Cup Competition," and J. Semple was the lone "Scot" who took third place in the National Mile title event at Birmingham in March, 1949.

In Scotland's championships this season, T. Murray won the Quarter Mile title, and J. Semple the One Mile title; the club also retained the Scottish three Mile Relay Championship. In the final of the 1948 National Three Mile Relay Championships held at Durham, this club triumphed over the Mohawks' First Relay team for second place in the event. (Colours: All Black).

DUNDEE S.S.C.

This Scottish club has only entered one English invitation event this season, and that was at Richmond for the "Sports Drome Cup" on December 18th, 1948. They have, however, lost quite a number of skaters this season, including Scottish international 1948 A. Low. They entered the National Three Mile Relay event at Crossmyloof, but found their handicap too great. (Incidentally, D. Thompson, the secretary of this club, was a former Mohawk). (Colours: Navy Blue and Red).

DURHAM I.S.C. (Speed Section).

The English club which has not entered more than two open events this season due to lack of members and ice training. We saw members of the team in the National One Mile event at Birmingham during March, 1949, and also a team in the National Three Mile Relay event at Crossmyloof. During the 1947/48 season, the club was a very serious challenge to the Southern clubs. (Colours: Amber and Gold).

FALKIRK S.S.C.

This club has not shown its colours over the border this season, but in Scottish Championships W. Douglas gained the Scottish Half Mile title. The club entered a team in the National Three Mile event at Crossmyloof this season. (Colours: Black and White).

NOTTINGHAM I.S.C.

The youngest club in the country, formed in 1948 and the nearest club to the "Mohawks" stronghold. This club once again is handicapped by the lack of skaters, but has shown tremendous strides during the past season. They entered two members in the National Quarter Mile event at Richmond in December, 1948, and also a team entered for the "Aldwych Cup" relay event. They have staged matches between inter-club teams of the Mohawks and the Bourne-

mouth club. Promising skaters include D. Walters, D. Hand, M. Reeves and G. Smithurst. (Colours: Red, green and black).

PAISLEY S.S.C.

Scottish Three Mile Relay champions in 1947 and also runners-up in the National Three Mile event at Nottingham of the same year. They entered the National Three Mile Relay event at Crossmyloof in 1949 with high hopes, but once again the Aldwych and other English clubs smashed their hopes. T. Ross is an outstanding outdoor speed skater and represented the N.S.A. in the European Speed Championships of 1949, together with his team mate, A. Marshall. (Colours: Light Blue and Black).

PERTH S.S.C.

One of the younger clubs in Scotland of which we have heard very little news. They appear to have a keen club of skaters and should make a name in the future. (Colours: Not known).

STREATHAM S.S.C.

Before the war this club was the "Tops" in Great Britain and has produced great skaters, such as the late F. Tomlins, K. G. Kennedy, etc. Winners of the Southern and Midland Indoor Speed Skating League pre-war. This season, under the leadership of W. MacMurray and J. Gelsen, they have entered a number of events, D. Berry taking third place in the National Quarter Mile event at Richmond in 1948. They have two promising skaters on their books in Dillistone and Smith. (Colours: White).

BRITISH OVERSEAS SKATING CLUB.

Not primarily an indoor speed club, this newly-formed team under the secretaryship of British record holder, Harry Tipper, has entered selective teams in a number of events, and has also sponsored a number of outdoor speed skaters. We have an article on the foundation of this club in another part of this book. (Colours: Claret and Blue).

SPEED KINGS OF GREAT BRITAIN

(REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE N.S.A.)

Quarter Mile Indoor Amateur Championship of Great Britain

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1947—April 26	R. Welham	Streatham	42	$\frac{1}{2}$
1947—Dec. 6	D. Blundell	Richmond	45	
1948—Dec. 18	F. Cosham	Richmond	43	$\frac{3}{8}$

Half-Mile Indoor Amateur Championships of Great Britain "Alfred Baker" Challenge Cup

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1932—Feb. 10	W. G. M. B. Broomhall	Richmond	1	33 $\frac{3}{8}$
1933—Mar. 15	R. Wyman	Purley	1	35
1934—Jan. 24	T. Grace	Purley	1	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
1935—April 6	K. G. Kennedy	Streatham	1	31 $\frac{3}{8}$
1936—Jan. 28	H. V. Tipper	Richmond	1	39 $\frac{3}{8}$
1937—Jan. 25	K. G. Kennedy	Harringay	1	30 $\frac{3}{8}$
1938—Jan. 29	S. J. Rawlins	Southampton	1	58
1939—Jan. 21	S. J. Rawlins	Richmond	1	32 $\frac{3}{8}$
1940—1945	No Competition.			
1946—April 20	H. Howes	Wembley	1	31 $\frac{3}{8}$
1947—Feb. 15	F. Cosham	Wembley	1	32
1947—Nov. 8	G. A. Purvis	Richmond	1	35
1949—May 14	N. Holwell	Brighton	1	34 $\frac{1}{2}$

One Mile Indoor Amateur Championship of Great Britain "Hewett" Challenge Cup

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1930—April 2	W. G. M. B. Broomhall	Richmond	3	26 $\frac{3}{8}$
1931—April 8	J. A. Brown	Streatham	3	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
1932—April 8	W. P. Wallace	Streatham	3	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
1933—Mar. 30	R. Wyman	Streatham	3	25 $\frac{3}{8}$
1934—Feb. 10	T. Grace	Oxford	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1935—May 4	K. G. Kennedy	Streatham	3	7
1936—Feb. 29	W. Fullerton	Streatham	3	13 $\frac{3}{8}$
1937—Mar. 8	K. G. Kennedy	Harringay	3	13
1938—Mar. 5	S. J. Rawlins	Richmond	3	7 $\frac{3}{8}$
1939—Feb. 18	S. J. Rawlins	Southampton	3	36
1940—1945	No Competition.			
1946—May 4	H. Howes	Richmond	3	15
1947—Mar. 22	G. A. Purvis	Richmond	3	20
1948—April 3	G. Welham	Durham	3	21
1949—Mar. 26	N. Holwell	Birmingham	3	13 $\frac{3}{8}$

The Inter-Club Relay Amateur Championship of Great Britain "Dundas" Challenge Cup (Three Miles)

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1938—Mar. 26	Southampton S.C.	Richmond	8	56 $\frac{3}{8}$
1939—May 20	Aldwych S.C.	Richmond	9	3 $\frac{3}{8}$
1940—1945	No Competition.			
1946—May 18	Aldwych S.C.	Richmond	8	52
1947—April 12	Aldwych S.C.	Nottingham	8	48
1948—Mar. 8	Aldwych S.C.	Durham	9	2 $\frac{3}{8}$
1949—April 16	Aldwych S.C.	Crossmyloof	8	6 $\frac{1}{8}$

Quarter Mile Indoor Amateur Championship of Scotland "Stuart" Challenge Trophy

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1947—	No Competition.			
1948—April 10	A. Low	Crossmyloof	42	$\frac{3}{8}$
1948—Nov. 29	T. Murray	Falkirk	43	$\frac{1}{2}$

Half Mile Indoor Amateur Championship of Scotland

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1947—Mar. 17	A. Low	Falkirk	1	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
1948—Mar. 27	A. Low	Ayr	1	28 $\frac{3}{8}$
1949—Jan. 15	W. Douglas	Dunfermline	1	31 $\frac{3}{8}$

One Mile Indoor Amateur Championship of Scotland "John Clark" Challenge Cup

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1937—May 1	W. Fullerton	Glasgow	3	8 $\frac{3}{8}$
1938—April 30	W. F. Gray	Perth	3	8 $\frac{3}{8}$
1939—1946	No Competition.			
1947—April 5	A. Low	Dundee	3	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
1948—Feb. 16	A. Low	Kirkcaldy	3	4
1949—Feb. 21	J. Semple	Kirkcaldy	3	3 $\frac{3}{8}$

The Inter-Club Relay Amateur Championship of Scotland "William Fullerton" Commemoration Trophy (Three Miles)

Date	Winner	Where held	m.	s.
1947—May 3	Paisley S.C.	Crossmyloof	8	46
1948—Mar. 1	Crossmyloof S.S.C.	Falkirk	8	48
1949—Mar. 19	Crossmyloof S.S.C.	Ayr	9	7 $\frac{3}{8}$

INDOOR BRITISH RECORDS ESTABLISHED

Amateur—Unpaced

Distance	Course	Date	Holder	Where made	Time
Half Mile	5 128	1/5/38	S. J. Rawlins	Streatham	1 22 $\frac{3}{8}$
One Mile	11 91	30/7/37	H. V. Tipper	Streatham	2 50 $\frac{3}{8}$

Amateur—Paced

Distance	Course	Date	Holder	Where made	Time
Quarter Mile	3 14	9/12/49	G. R. Welham	Farls Court	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Half Mile	6 28	10/7/39	H. V. Tipper	Earls Court	1 23 $\frac{3}{8}$
One Mile	12 56	10/7/39	H. V. Tipper	Earls Court	2 49 $\frac{3}{8}$

On April 16th, 1949 at Crossmyloof, Glasgow, the Aldwych and Birmingham Mohawks Speed Clubs skated Three Miles in a Championship Relay Race in 8 mins. 6.2 secs.

INTRODUCING THE B.O.S.C.

BY

HARRY V. TIPPER

(Holder of various British Speed Records and 1936 National Half Mile Champion).

Many moons ago, when I started skating, the Roller boys used dressing gowns, and the Ice lads overcoats, between races— Now, at any rate on ice, the fashion is for track suits. The idea came via myself (line!) from athletics at the White City. I still have the old original No. 1, its legs fitted with extra long zips to take 17 inch blades.

What has all this to do with the B.O.S.C.? In the first instance that much of skating's equipment is haphazard. The tights from cycle racing, the jerseys from football, even the skates, the general run of which are not the correct job for indoor racing, are designed essentially for something else. When we get outdoors, the equipment shows up even more inadequately, and unless we have specialised facilities—and the necessary foreign currency—the gear is unobtainable.

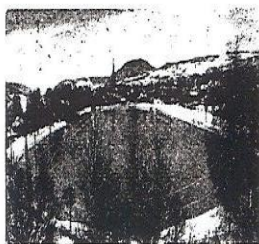
It was this state of affairs that gave one or two of us the idea of laying on a specialised racing organisation which, particularly outdoors, would tie up all these loose ends of equipment and ensure that the best was available. An idea of a club which would have all the answers to the many queries concerning the rather unexplored realm of outdoors.

The reasons behind B.O.S.C. go back much further than that, however. Thirteen years ago, when Ken Kennedy, the Streatham indoor star, went to the Berlin Games as representative of Australia, and this country sent no-one, one or two of us had the idea that we could have given Ken a run for his money, particularly outdoors over the longer distances. A couple of years later, some of us decided to make an experiment. The idea was to arrange a holiday-cum-training trip to Davos at our own expense for a fortnight, and, if possible, get one or two lads entered in the event being held there at the time—above all the things, the World Championship! I organised the trip (the cost of which, incidentally, was somewhat less than £12 per head!), the party being composed of lads from Aldwych, Southampton and the Fens.

We had a good time, but those who know the level of Continental speed will realise how we were "up agin it." Two days to get used to the air, the height, the skates (first time on for three years), two days to do all this and train (!) Tom Mott and myself entered, and I completed all the races, finishing 18th. Not much, but enough to show us that, given proper facilities, equipment, training, this outdoor business was not beyond us.

The next year, having in the meantime, persuaded the N.S.A. to recognise Outdoor Metric Records, we tried again, this time with the lowering of our own records as our aim. Johnny Rawlins and myself were the skaters. Our training conditions scarcely better than last time, we did succeed in lowering most of our previous times. Rawlins' 500 m. time of 46.2 was exceptionally good, considering his total lack of outdoor training. A further meeting at St. Moritz resulted in more improvement and some favourable publicity. In both these efforts, the N.S.A. gave us all the official help they could, but we did the paying and the organising. It was becoming obvious even then that some sort of organisation was required to handle these trips.

Then came September, 1939, and all our plans were swept away for six years. When one or two of us got around once again, to thinking of a Continental trip in 1947, we had to start all over again, the only things left being a few memories and the stop-gap records created by Rawlins and myself. Anyway, we got quite a useful



LILLEHAMMER, Norway—Training Ground of the 1948 British Speed Skating Olympic Team.

mixed party across to Davos for some concentrated training, this time with an N.S.A. promise to cover the cost of two men, if good enough, to Stockholm for the European Championship. No-one was outstanding, but Peppin and Cronshey, with McCartney as manager, were sent onto Sweden, where they put up a very good show. It is now skating history how Cronshey went on to Oslo and put up his shattering sensation in the World Championship of 1947.

In both this and a later training trip to Lillehammer for training with the Olympic team, I did the arranging, and the parties were composed of skaters from several indoor clubs. We had no official status, not even that of a club, and it was felt that one or two members had the idea they were muscling in on an Aldwych affair.

It was gradually becoming obvious that something different and apart from the indoor clubs was wanted.

Various informal discussions followed the return of the Olympic skaters, in which Don McCartney in particular put forward very definite ideas based on his now quite extensive knowledge of overseas skating and team management. Gradually we evolved the idea of a Club, available to all speed men, and those interested in speed, throughout the country, unbiased and apart from all indoor clubs. A club whose organisation should be for the successful running of these trips, for the provision of all the necessary facilities and equipment, and to give the utmost help and assistance to any of its members desirous of pursuing skating—or for that matter, any other form of sport—abroad. I mention the latter as the club was planning to organise a big cycling training and racing programme for Tommy Ross to the Milan Championships, then across Europe to Norway for ice training, but Tommy found the currency would not stand the strain.

The moving spirits in these discussions were Bill Knott, the Club President, whose help, particularly in Norway, is invaluable, A. V. Hopkins of Richmond, now Vice President, who laid the foundation of much of the set-up of the Club, and Don McCartney who, with myself, consolidated the general lines the Club should take and the rather unusual set of rules evolved.

We have big aims. To equip members with the best of everything. Already we have skating kit made to our club

colours, in the finest material and style, and, in our opinion, the club maroon and light blue outfit is outstanding on any track. Track suits? Not yet. We are still planning our ideal design. Not the sloppy affairs mentioned earlier. We want to be able to send our men to the best events, and if necessary, to finance them. Naturally starting from scratch, and with no rich uncle in the background, that is for the future. Meantime, we are prepared to help members with everything except cash, laying on trips, accommodation, travel, training facilities, arranging headquarters in the most favourable places, fitting in trips to important events, arranging for official entry for those who are good enough, and training or just holiday facilities for those who aren't.

We have foreseen the need for catering for other than the strict and rigorous athlete, and, in our opinion, particularly where a man is paying most or all his own way, there must be a lighter element. Hence the idea of social members of both sexes, who have all the facilities of the club for holiday and pleasure purposes, with a sporting bent.

For the racing man, there is the incentive of graded tests, leading up to a gold standard over the various distances, which is as good as the best club in Norway, and, to make sure the club colours are worn only by the best, a man must pass an entrance test which is quite tough. We have instituted a Club Championship on the principle of cycling's "Best All-rounder," the best aggregate times over the four distances, put up any time during the season, and we have ideas, at a later date of trying some indoor ideas, massed start, relays, etc., on the outdoor track.

Since 1947, the British Records have improved immensely, and are now quite "hot." They are at present outside the club. We want to get them in, and hope our members this season will do something about it. Our plans this season include a very strong contingent to Norway for the Winter. We hope this will include Tommy Ross, Bill Jones, Pete Jennings and Art. Hambidge, from whom we expect great things.

We are also laying on a Jan.-Feb. trip to Davos, open to all members, for training, ski-ing, general good time, and also serious participation in the International Speed events. Local representatives will be pleased to give all the information on the club, its trips and its activities, to members or non-members who are interested.

PERSONALITIES IN THE SPEED SKATING WORLD

In the following article, we take pleasure in introducing to the readers several young men of other clubs whom we consider are Great Britain's leading Ice Speed Skaters.

There are, of course, many skaters worthy of recognition, but we have mentioned only a few.

COSHAM, F., of the Brighton I.R.C., is 21 years old, and joined the club in October, 1944; after training hard, he earned his place in the junior team, finally being upgraded to the senior in June, 1945, in which he assisted in the winning of the "Don Brown Trophy."

During 1947 he captured the National Half Mile title, and barely two weeks after this noble effort, resigned from the club—four months later he rejoined, but, unfortunately, had a serious accident. Cosham started racing again in 1948, and in December of that year won his second title, the National Quarter Mile Championship. He was also runner-up to Norman Holwell (Mohawks) in the 1949 National Half Mile, held at Brighton; also represented England in the second International versus Scotland. He is a member of various relay teams which hold track records for the three mile distance at Nottingham, Richmond and Streattham, and has been Brighton's captain for the past two years.

DOUGLAS, W., of the Falkirk S.S.C., is 22 years old, and in a few years has gained a large number of speed honours. He won the Scottish Half Mile Championship of 1949 on borrowed skates, represented Scotland in the first series of International status versus England in 1948, and established a Scottish paced record with a time of 1 min. 25.2/5th secs.; travelled to Norway for selection in the 1948 Olympic team, but failed just to make the grade; won the Falkirk's club

Championship (run over a half mile handicap distance—off scratch mark); holds the Silver and Bronze medals for speed skating, preliminary for figures and Bronze preliminary for ice dancing; his fastest times to date are: Quarter Mile, 41.1/5 secs. Half Mile, 1 min. 27 secs., and the One Mile 3 min. 2 secs. He is also a member of the Falkirk Figure Skating Club, and also the Laurieston Cycle Racing Club (during the 1948/9 season won the Falkirk I.D.C. cup). He was a "Bevin" boy during World War II.

FOLEY, J., of the Brighton I.R.C., is 23 years old, joined the Brighton Club in February, 1943, and after three month's racing was promoted to the senior team; before entering the armed forces as a paratrooper, he added to his collection 26 cups and medals (which includes the B.I.R.C.'s club Championship for two years running); represented England in 1948 International versus Scotland (and was England's leading point scorer), and again represented England in the second series of International versus Scotland, 1949; was runner-up in the National Quarter Mile Championship, 1947, and also the 1948 National Half Mile Championship. He won the Half Mile "West Cup" in 1948 and 1949; track record holder at Brighton for the Quarter Mile, with a time of 41 secs., and also at Bournemouth for the Half Mile, with a time of 1 min. 38 secs.; is a member of various relay teams which hold track records for the Three Mile distance at Nottingham, Richmond and Streattham.

HOWES, H. J., of the Aldwych S.C., is 21 years old, and in less than six year's racing experience has gained practically every honour that British Speed Skating has to offer; at the early age of 17 he captured the 1946 National Mile and Half Mile Championships, and he has been a member of the Aldwych Relay Championship Teams of 1945/46, 1946/47 and 1948/49 and other events.

His name is also engraved on both the "Key Cup" and twice on the "West Cup"; in February, 1947, we saw him win the Outdoor Amateur Championship of Great Britain (for the King Edward VII Cup), and in another event during the great "freeze-up" of 1947, he won the "Bury Fen Cup"; in December, 1947, he was selected to represent Great Britain in the 1948 Olympics; he has been the Aldwych One Mile Champion for 1944/45, 1945/46, 1947/48, and the Club Half Mile Champion 1947/48 and 1948/49; won the Aldwych One Mile Handicap Cup from scratch in the 1948/49 season, clocking 3 minutes dead! The fastest time in England for many years! He represented England in the Second International versus Scotland, 1949, and had the honour of being leading point scorer for England; joint Mile Track record holder at Nottingham with a time of 3 mins. 4 secs., and also the Richmond Track record for the One Mile distance with a time of 3 mins. dead.

MURRAY, T., of the Crossmyloof S.S.C., is 25 years old and has an outstanding record in Scottish Speed circles; was runner-up in the Scottish Quarter Mile Championship, 1948, and in 1949 won this title; runner-up in both the Scottish Mile and Half Mile Championships of 1949; was a member of Crossmyloof Team which took second place (1947) and first place (1948) in the Scottish Three Mile Relay Championship. He captained the Crossmyloof 1949 Scottish three Mile Championship team; also a member of Crossmyloof team which took second place in the National Three Mile Championship event 1948; captained the Scottish International team versus England of 1949; fastest time to date; Quarter Mile, 42 secs., Half Mile 1 min. 26 secs., and the One Mile, 3 mins. 4 secs.

PURVIS, G. A., of the Aldwych S.C., is 25 years old, and is undoubtedly the greatest exponent of Indoor Ice Racing that Great Britain has ever produced; his training technique, apart from on the track, does not take any particular form, and in some ways, such as smoking and swimming (which are considered by some to be harmful to Speed Skating), he defies all the accepted rules; he started his Championship form as far back as 1942 by winning the Aldwych S.C. Junior Half Mile Championship and the club's Senior One Mile title; this was followed by winning the club's One Mile title in 1943, 1944 and 1947, the Half Mile Club title in 1943 and 1944, and the Quarter Mile

title in 1944; in the National Field, Purvis won the National One Mile title in 1946/7, and the National Half Mile title in 1947/48, and was runner-up in the National Half Mile title event 1946/47.

In 1948 he captained the English team versus Scotland in the first International.

He holds the Scottish "All Comers" Half Mile record of 1 min. 25.3 secs. when he won the "Key Cup" in 1947, and the Birmingham One Mile Track Record of 3 mins. 5.4/5 secs., established in late 1945; he has in the past won the Half Mile "West Cup" three times.

Married and with a son, Alan Purvis is an optical instrument maker and was recently demobbed from the Royal Horse Artillery Ceremonial Regiment.

SEMPLER, J., of the Crossmyloof S.S.C., is 19 years old, and reputed to be the tallest of Britain's Ice Speed Kings. He won the Scottish One Mile Championship of 1949 and took third place in the National One Mile Championship in 1949; also a member of the Scottish International Team versus England, 1949, and a member of the Crossmyloof team which won the Scottish three Mile Championship in 1949; he has won the Crossmyloof Mile and Half Mile Handicap cups (both from the scratch mark) in 1949; holds the N.S.A. Gold and Silver Medal for Speed skating; he is also joint One Mile Track holder record at the Nottingham Rink with a time of 3 mins. 4 secs.; his fastest times to date are: Quarter Mile, 42.9 secs.; Half Mile, 1 min. 29 secs.; One Mile, 3 mins. At present he is serving with the R.A.F.

WELHAM, G. R., of the Aldwych S.C., is 22 years old. He has an amazing collection of second and thirds in every conceivable Championship. He won the National Quarter Mile Championship 1946/47 and 1949/50, and the National One Mile in 1947/48; won the Aldwych Club One Mile Handicap cup in 1945 and also represented England in the First Series of International status in 1948 versus Scotland; holds the British Paced Record for the Quarter Mile with a time of 40.4 secs.; has been a member of the Aldwych S. Club's Relay Championship team in 1945/46 and 1948/49; travelled to Norway for selection of the British Olympic team, but outdoor style was not for Roy. He holds the N.S.A. Gold Medal for Speed skating. He is married and has recently been demobbed from the Royal Signal Corps.

OUTDOOR IMPRESSIONS

A SPECTATOR COMMENTS ON THE SPEED EVENTS
AT DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

The Scene at Davos is far too majestic to describe fully in this article and really merits a complete book to itself; indeed, I believe I am right in saying several have been written by English and foreign tourists who found this beauty spot too fascinating to keep to themselves.

Davos is some 5,000 ft. above sea level and is often referred to as the "City of Mountains," which symbolizes its unique position nestling in the sunny sheltered valley of the Canton Grisons,—encompassed by high rugged snow-capped mountains pointing into azure skies.

Among the premier events here, during the Winter Sports, are the International Ice Speed Skating Competitions which are extremely popular and attract thousands of keen spectators, which include some of the world's greatest sportsmen.

The ice rink is, of course, beyond reproach and signifies ardent preparation. The mirror-like surface of its 400 metre circuit stretches away to bordering walls of snow, decked with gaily coloured banners and flags of competing countries, which add their contribution to this array of splendour.

A small army of attendants swarm onto the ice, equipped with long-handled brooms and scrapers—the final inspection and polish of the surface is essential, and as this careful task draws to a close, a hush of expectancy falls on the crowds.

The speed skating events are about to start.

Official announcements boom out across the ice, momentarily breaking the silence, the stentorian voice proclaiming the event and respective competitors in German, French and English.

The murmur of mixed languages intensifies and the foreigners' gesticulating becomes more vigorous.

All eyes are focussed on the starter as he raises his gun, there is a sharp report and the first race is on. The heads about

me turn in unison as the two skaters approach. An applause follows each skater along his path and reaches ear-splitting volume as they race past.

To the spectator's mind comes many hurried and envious thoughts as he observes by these pursuers of speed—long, effortless strides which rather contradict a fast sport of this nature, but I shall hasten to add the words of many great sportsmen:—"There are two ways of achieving success at sport; the hard and over-eager, and the stylists' well-disciplined, calculated method; we choose the latter."

Racing on outdoor rinks differs considerably to our indoor events at home.



JOHNNY CRONSHEY, Holder of the British Native Metric records from 500 metres to 10,000 metres.

The main difference being that the indoor skater races with several other competitors, whereas the outdoor skater has only one opponent and to all intents and purposes races alone. This is due to the two competitors skating in separate lanes, which is in effect a "track within a track." They interchange at the completion of each lap.

Their greatest opponent is "Time."

In the long distance events, the outdoor skater races with his hands clasped behind his back to conserve his energy, and each stride commences on the outside edge of the blade (approximately 17½ inches in length) and is rolled over to the inside edge by the end of the stride, a style which dictates an impressive body roll, fascinating to watch. Never slackening in pace or effort, they race every lap at a calculated speed which leaves a very thin sprint margin.

This brief synopsis typifies the style adopted by such skaters as Ivar Ballangrud, Farstad, Anderson, Pajor, Broeckmann and many others of the "outdoor ice speed skating world."

As they race past, you can, of course, detect the small characteristics of each individual skater.

As well as the energy a skater must be capable of reserving and finally exerting to the maximum, I think a portion of my admiration is diverted to the competitors' morale. Racing at big events of this standard, in front of thousands of spectators watching every movement and



DAVOS—in all her glory.

skating virtually alone with a giant clock recording his "Time," some appreciation can be bestowed upon the competitor and his nerves.

The winners are declared after the summing up of the "Times" and their country's National Anthem honours their presentation.

A justifiable ending to a noble effort.
J.D.C.

WHO'S WHO IN THE MOHAWKS

ALEXANDER, G. H. Is a Vice-President of the Birmingham Mohawks I.S.S.C. and also President of the famous Birchfield Harriers, he has been a keen sportsman for many years and is the Managing Director of G. H. Alexander (Machinery), Ltd.

BANNER, Albert Henry ("Nutty"). Born in Birmingham, 1924; served in the Mines towards the later part of World War II; started skating in 1940 and speed skating 1944; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club he won the "Baron's Quarter Mile Cup" outright; skated in the 1948 Winter Olympic Trials at Streatham; was Mohawks' Captain from 1946/48; won the "First Year Member Cup" in 1947; runner-up in the "Baines Trophy Competition," 1947; third place in the Club's One-Mile Championship, 1949; Captain of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Monarchs"; 1947-49; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating; was televised at Streatham in 1948 with a representative team from the Mohawks; is a member of the N.S.A.

and the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a toolmaker and his only hobby is speed skating.

BLUNDELL, Dennis F. Born in Birmingham, 1921; served in the Cheshire Regt. as a Wireless Operator in Italy, Greece and Palestine during World War II; started skating 1936 and speed skating late 1936; represented Great Britain in the 1948 Winter Olympics at Davos, Switzerland; won the National Quarter Mile Championship in 1948 and was runner-up in the 1949 National Quarter Championship; represented England in the first international between Scotland, 1948 and in 1949 captained the English team for the second international versus Scotland; holds the quarter-mile Nottingham track record with a time of 42.2 secs. was the Mohawks' Club Captain from 1936 to 1945; holds the N.S.A. Gold Medal for speed skating; won the Club's Quarter-Mile Championship in 1944; the Club's Half-Mile Championship in 1939-40-41-43 and 44; and the Club's One-Mile Championship in 1940; was

the Mohawks' Club Coach from 1947 to present date; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Eagles"; member of the N.S.A. and also Midland Representative for the British Overseas Skating Club; was a member of the Mohawks' Relay Team which established a joint British record for the Three-Mile Relay distance with a time of 8 mins. 06.2 secs. in 1949; by trade he is a diamond setter and his hobbies include speed skating, ice barrel jumping, running, swimming and football.

BRODMANN, Harry ("Turk"). Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1928, and reputed to be one of the tallest Mohawk skaters; started skating in 1947 and speed skating in late 1947; won the "First Year Members' Cup" in 1949 and came third in the "Baines' Trophy Competition" in 1949; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Saints," his hobbies include speed skating and art.

BROWN, Dennis Frank William ("Topper"). Born in Birmingham, 1932; started skating 1946 and speed skating 1948; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Eagles"; by trade he is a jeweller and his hobbies include speed skating and cycling.

BURNARD, Michael Alan ("Curly"). Born in London, 1924; lived in Canada from 1928 to 1930; started skating in 1930 and was in active speed skating by 1945; was the Mohawks' Acting Treasurer and Secretary during the seasons of 1947-48; during last season he played ice hockey for the Birmingham Baron's Amateur Ice Hockey Club; by trade he is a draughtsman and his hobbies include speed skating, baseball, ice hockey, skiing and tennis.

CLEOBURY, Ben. Born in Birmingham, 1928; started skating 1943 and speed skating in 1945; won the "First Year Members' Cup" in 1946; was runner-up in the Club's Half-Mile Championship, 1949; was a member of the relay team which won the "Latham Relay League Cup" in 1948; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Vikings"; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating; is a member of both the N.S.A. and British Overseas Skating Club; one of the few Mohawk members who entered every "individual" National Championships during the 1948-49 season; Ben, like many other skaters,

has a great admiration for the Aldwych S.C.'s star, Henry Howes; by trade he is a brass metal mechanic and his hobbies include speed skating, cycling and swimming.

CRESWELL, John Douglas. Born in Birmingham in 1922; served in the Worcestershire Regt. as a Sergt.-Instructor during World War II; started skating in 1939 and speed skating in 1943; was the Mohawks' Secretary during 1945 and also the season 1947-48; served on the N.S.A. Speed Committee during the 1948-49 season, and is also a member of the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a buyer for a large manufacturing concern in the Midlands, and his hobbies include speed skating and skiing.

DARBY, Raymond. Born in Birmingham in 1928; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club; served in the Royal Navy as a Stoker Mechanic during World War II; holds the N.S.A. Bronze Medal for speed skating; has a number of inter-city matches to his credit since he started racing in 1945; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team, the "Monarchs," and by trade he is a toolmaker; his hobbies include speed skating, swimming and cycling.

DAVEY, Raymond. Born in Birmingham in 1940, started skating in 1947 and speed skating in 1948; is a member of the Mohawks' Inter-club team the "Monarchs"; Raymond is regarded by the officials of the Club as a very promising young skater who should make a name for himself in the near future; by trade he is a bricklayer and his hobbies include speed skating and aero modelling.

FACCHINO, Paul Anthony. Born in Birmingham, Mr. Facchino is one of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C. Vice-Presidents, and is also Chairman of the Facchino's Football Club; in private life he is a Director of Facchino's Biscuits Ltd. and Meddo-cream Ltd., of Birmingham; he is also a member of both the British Institute of Exporters and the Institute of British Engineers.

GILBERT, Benjamin. Born in Smethwick, he is one of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C.'s Vice-Presidents and Managing Director of Gilbert & Houghton Ltd., he is the Club's greatest patron. Mr. Gilbert is an accomplished snooker player and also has interests in fishing and bowls.

GREEN, Raymond Charles. Born in Birmingham in 1920; served in the Coldstream Guards during World War II and saw service in North Africa, Italy and Austria; started skating in 1936 and speed skating in 1937; was the Club Secretary from 1940-42 seasons, Trainer in 1947 and Team Manager and Chairman of the Club for the 1948-49 season; officiated in the second series of international matches between England and Scotland in 1949; he is a member of the British Overseas Skating Club and in private life he is Chairman and Director of Green & Jones Ltd., a well-known glazing firm in Birmingham.

GREEN, George Henry. Born in Birmingham in 1931, George is still serving in the Royal Armoured Corps; came third in the "First Year Members' Cup" race and is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs," started skating in 1948 and speed skating in early 1949.

GREW, Bernard. Born in Birmingham, Bernard has been an outstanding skater during the war years for the Mohawks and is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Eagles," holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating; we learn that Bernard and his wife Audrey are emigrating to the United States of America during the 1949-50 season and we wish them the very best of luck; hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

HALL, Alan Arthur. Born in Birmingham in 1921, Alan was one of the most popular Secretaries that the Club has ever had, he held this post from 1945 to 1947 during extremely difficult days; he started skating in 1943 and speed skating in 1944; married and a father of a baby boy; his trade is pattern maker and his hobbies include speed skating and photography.

HAMBIDGE, Arthur John ("Art"). Born in Birmingham in 1925; served in the Royal Air Force and later transferred to the Mines during World War II; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club, he won the "Baron's Half-Mile Cup" outright; came third in the National One-Mile Championship of 1948 at Durham; took part in the Olympic Trials for 1948 at Streatham and finished sixth in the 10,000 metre trial race; was the Club's Assistant Secretary in the season of 1946-47; came third in the

Club's Half-Mile Championship of 1949; started skating in 1940 and speed skating in 1944; holds the joint track record at the Birmingham rink for the Quarter-Mile distance with a time of 44 secs.; was televised at Streatham with a representative team from the Mohawks in 1948; was awarded the "Yates Best Individual Cup" for 1948; is Captain of the Mohawks inter-club team the "Eagles" and also of the Birmingham Baron's Amateur Ice Hockey Club; has also played ice hockey for the Nottingham Wolves Ice Hockey Club; is a member of the N.S.A. and the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a gauge inspector and his hobbies include speed skating, baseball, ice hockey, photography and motor cycling.

HEATHER, Ronald. Born in Birmingham in 1930, is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings"; started speed skating in early 1948; by trade he is a coppersmith and his hobbies are speed skating and cycling.

HILLIARD, Lawrence Frank ("da Vinci"). Born in Birmingham in 1928; served in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the armed forces in Bermuda; started skating in 1944 and speed skating in 1948; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs"; by trade he is a sales representative, and his hobbies include speed skating, swimming, mountaineering, cycling and art.

HOLLYOAKE, Leonard Richard ("Pusher"). Born in Birmingham in 1926, started skating 1941 and speed skating 1943; won the Club's Half-mile Championship in 1946 and the "Baines' Trophy" in 1944; came third in the Club's Quarter-Mile Championship, 1949, and was also runner-up in the Club's One-Mile Championship, 1949; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating and is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs" and the N.S.A.; by trade he is a foreman tool-maker and his hobbies include speed skating and cycling.

HOLWELL, Norman Albert. Born in Birmingham in 1928, started skating in 1944 and speed skating late 1945; won the National One-Mile and Half-Mile Championship titles in 1949 and also represented England in the second series of international matches versus Scotland in 1949; holds the Nottingham track record for the Half-Mile distance with a

time of 1 min. 26 secs.; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs"; won the Club's Half-Mile Championship in 1949 and also was runner-up in the "Baines Trophy" competition in 1946; was a member of the Mohawks' relay team which established a joint British record for the three-mile distance record, with a time of 8 mins. 06.2 secs.; is a member of the N.S.A., and he is employed by the Birmingham Corporation in the Traffic Department; his hobbies include speed skating and cycling.

HURDIS, John ("Baron"). Born in Birmingham, he served in the Leicestershire Regt. and the R.A.S.C. as a Warrant Officer in World War II, and saw service in East and South Africa and Northern Rhodesia; started skating 1940 and speed skating in 1943; was one of the original founders of the Dragon Speed Skating Club, Secretary of the Mohawks' Club from 1948-49; he has raced with the South African Speed Skating Club, of Johannesburg in 1946, and is also a member of the N.S.A. His hobbies include speed skating, ice hockey and amateur printing.

JACKSON, Bernard ("Bunny"). Born in Birmingham 1926, served in the Royal Air Force as a Sergt. P.T. Instructor and saw service during World War II in the Far East and the Northern Frontier; started skating 1940 and speed skating 1943; he has a number of war-time inter-city matches to his credit and by trade he is a toolmaker; his hobbies include speed skating and weight-lifting.

JENNINGS, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Both Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Jennings are Vice-Presidents of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C. and also parents of the Mohawks' star, Pete Jennings; Mr. Jennings served as a Midshipman during World War I and in World War II he held the rank of Lt-Commander in the Royal Navy V.R.; he is also an old member of the Leander Swimming Club and the District Officer for the Naval Cadets; in private life Mr. Jennings is Director of Walker & Wood Ltd., the well-known Birmingham iron-mongers' suppliers. Both of these Vice-Presidents are extremely popular with the Club members and are always helping the Club in every way possible.

JENNINGS, William Peter ("Pete"). Born in Birmingham 1926; served in the Royal Navy as an Engine Room Artificer; started skating 1943

and speed skating 1944; was runner-up in the National One-Mile Championship, 1949, and third in the National Half-Mile Championship, 1949; represented England in the Second International versus Scotland, 1949; won the Quarter-Mile British (Open) Challenge Cup Competition at Birmingham, 1949; won the Club's Quarter-Mile Championship, 1948 and 1949, the Half-Mile Championship, 1946, and the One-Mile Championship, 1949; Vice-Captain of the Mohawks, 1944-46; holds the track record for the half-mile distance at the Birmingham rink with a time of 1 min. 29 secs.; captained the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Saints" during the season of 1948-49, and led his relay team to victory for the "Latham Relay League Cup," 1949; was a member of the Mohawks' relay team which established a joint British relay record for the three-mile distance with a time of 8 mins. 06.2 secs. in 1949; was awarded the "Yates Best Individual Cup," 1949; one of the few Mohawks' members to skate in every individual National Championship this season, 1949; (his nose, by the way, was broken as a child and not during a feat of pugilistic prowess); by trade he is an engineer and his hobbies include speed skating and swimming. Holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating.

JOHNSON, Dennis Victor ("Spindle"). Born in Birmingham 1929, and started skating 1946 and speed skating 1947; was third in the "Baines Trophy" Competition in 1947; regarded as one of the pluckiest skaters in the Mohawks to-day—in the Club Quarter-mile championship he drew against Blundell and Jones, in the Quarter-Mile Open Competition he drew Cosham, McCartney and Forrester and finally in the National One-Mile Championship he drew against Holwell, Fox and Mercer; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal and is also a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Eagles" and the N.S.A.; by trade he is a pipe fitter and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

JONES, William A. ("Bill"). Born in Streetly, 1924; served in the Royal Navy during World War II as a Leading Airfitter; represented England in the first international versus Scotland, 1948; was placed fourth in the National One-Mile Championship, 1949; started skating 1941 and speed skating late 1941; Vice-Captain of the Mohawks, 1947-48; was a member of the Mohawks' relay team

which established a joint British relay record for the three-mile relay distance in 1949 with a time of 8 mins. 06.2 secs; won the Club's Half-Mile Championship, 1948, and the Club's One Mile Championship, 1942, 1947 and 1948; won the "Baines Trophy" in 1942 and was runner-up in the Club's Quarter-Mile Championship, 1949; Captain of the Latham Relay League winners, 1948; Captain of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings"; was televised at Streatham in 1948 with a representative team from the Mohawks; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed and is a member of the N.S.A. and the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a G.P.O. employee and his hobby is speed skating.

JORDAN, Howard. Born in Brisbane, Australia, in 1931; started skating in 1943 and speed skating 1947; was joint runner-up in the "Baines Trophy" competition, 1949; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Saints"; has a number of inter-city events to his credit and is regarded as one of the Club's up-and-coming "stars"; during the 1948-49 season he visited the hospital on a number of occasions for treatment to injuries sustained whilst racing; by trade he is a credit collector and his hobbies include speed skating and cycling.

KAY, Cyril Royston ("Roy"). Born in Wolverhampton in 1929; served in the Royal Air Force; started skating 1946 and speed skating 1947; holds the N.S.A. Bronze Medal for speed skating; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings," Roy is also a member of a well-known Wolverhampton cycling club and has a number of long distance races to his credit; by trade he is a butcher and his hobbies include speed skating, cycling and judo.

LABRAM, Kenneth J. Born in Birmingham 1923; served in the R.A.O.C. in World War II as a Warrant Officer and saw service in Italy; started skating in 1937 and speed skating 1941; Treasurer of the Mohawks, 1948-49; he is the "financial wizard" behind the Club's success this last season; member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs"; Ken is married and by trade he is a sales clerk; his hobbies include speed skating, baseball, ice hockey and small bore shooting.

LANGFORD, Royston R. ("Roy"). Born in Birmingham in 1925; served in the Royal Air Force as a pilot in World War II; started skating in 1944 and speed skating late 1948; won the "Baines Trophy" competition, 1949; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings"; his hobbies include speed skating, art and motor car racing.

LARDNER, Arthur Harry Wilfred ("Wilf."). Born in Birmingham 1919, and the oldest Mohawk still racing to-day; served in the R.E.M.E. as a Craftsman in World War II; he saw service in France, Egypt and Palestine; was runner-up in the Club's One-Mile and Half-Mile Championship pre-war and was also a Mohawks' member in the old Southern and Midland Indoor Speed Skating League; started skating in 1936 and speed skating in 1937; Vice-Captain of the Mohawks, 1940-42; one of the first six men to join the Club on foundation; captain of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Saints" on the 1947-48 season, is a member of the N.S.A. and the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a panel beater and his hobbies include speed skating, ice barrel jumping and ballroom dancing.

LAUGHTON, Malcolm. One of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C.'s Vice-Presidents and also a Director of Jarret, Rainsford & Laughton Limited; served in the Merchant Navy as an Engineer in the early part of World War II; he is a keen sportsman, particularly in riding and golf—he also holds the N.S.A. Bronze Medal for Figure Skating; he will be absent from the Mohawks' 1949-50 season due to business matters in Australia with his company.

LEES, Sidney. Born in Birmingham, he is one of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C. Vice-Presidents; donor of the Quarter-Mile British (Open) Quarter-Mile Challenge Cup which was won during the 1948-49 season by Pete Jennings, of the Mohawks; was awarded the Military Medal and mentioned in despatches during World War I for gallantry in the field; is a well-known boxing promoter and one of the original "Murphy Roughnecks."

LEES, Jack Edward. Born in Birmingham, 1922, served in the World War II and was discharged due to wounds received in action; started skating 1932

and speed skating 1937; was the Mohawks' Trainer in 1947 and the season of 1948-49; is also a member of the British Overseas Skating Club; by trade he is a Sales representative and his hobbies include speed skating and boxing.

LEVICK, Brian Edward ("Butch"). Born in Nuneaton in 1931, he is at present serving in the Army; started skating 1947 and speed skating 1948; was runner-up jointly for the "Baines Trophy" competition in 1949; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Eagles"; won the "First Year Members' Cup" in 1947; by trade he is a butcher and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

MADELEY, Frank. Born in Birmingham in 1924; served in the Airborne during World War II as a Sergeant and saw service in Norway, Germany, Holland and Palestine; during his service in the army he was awarded the "Laurel Wreath" for outstanding athletics; started skating 1941 and speed skating 1943; won the "First Year Members' Cup" in 1944 and the "Baines Trophy" Competition in 1944; was runner-up in the Club's One-Mile Championship, 1944; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Saints"; Vice-Captain of the Mohawks, 1944-45; by trade he is a tool-setter and his hobbies include speed skating, athletics (he is a member of the famous Birchfield Harriers) and cycling.

MANSELL, Percy. Born in Birmingham in 1921; served in the South Staffordshire Regt. and saw service in Egypt and Burma in World War II; started skating in 1946 and speed skating in 1947, is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Monarchs"; by trade he is a telephone engineer and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

MONK, John Douglas ("Monkie"). Born in Birmingham, 1924; served in the Royal Navy as a Leading Seaman during World War II; started skating 1939 and speed skating 1939; won the club's Half-Mile Championship 1942 and the "Baines Trophy" Competition in 1941, and also the Club's One-Mile Championship in 1941, was televised at Streatham with a representative team of the Mohawks in 1948; Captain of the Nottingham Wolves Amateur Ice Hockey Club and has also played baseball with the N.W.

Baseball Club; by trade he is an electrician fitter and his hobbies include speed skating, baseball, ice hockey and motor cycling.

MURPHY, James. Born in Coventry he is the Club's President, having held the position from 1936 to 1943 and 1948-49; is donor of the Club's Half-Mile Championship Cup; served in World War I as a Sergeant in the Canadian Cyclist Btn. and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Military Medal for gallantry in the field; in his earlier days he was a well-known boxer and runner, but is now restricted to promoting boxing tournaments for charity, and playing bowls; in 1940 he founded the "Beaver Hut" for Canadian Forces serving in England and was the original President of the Canadian Ex-servicemens' Association; and then late President of the Bowlers' Saving Scheme, is also a Vice-President of the following Associations: the Birchfield Harriers, and the British Legion, and also late Vice-President of the Midland Counties' Amateur Boxing Association.

PAGE, John O. ("Johnny"). Born in Birmingham he is the joint Founder of the Mohawks I.S.S.C., served in the Army during World War II as a Major; Chairman of the Club 1935-40; Vice-Chairman, 1940-41; Secretary, 1939-40; and Treasurer, 1939-40; is donor of the Club's Quarter-Mile Championship Cup, the "First Year Members' Cup" and the third place "Victory" Cup for the "Baines Trophy"; was also the Founder, Secretary, Treasurer and Organizer of the Birmingham Mohawks' Supporters' Club in 1938.

PERKS, Stanley Albion. Born in Birmingham in 1921; served in the Royal Artillery (Special Raiding Forces) and saw service behind enemy lines during World War II; started skating in 1936 and speed skating 1937; holds the N.S.A. Bronze Medal for speed skating; by trade he is an electrician and his hobbies include speed skating and cycling. Stan is married and one of the oldest Mohawks still racing.

POWELL, Mrs. C. W. Is a Vice-President of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C. and also Proprietor of "Passe" of Northfield, Birmingham; and a former well-known licensee of Stourbridge.

SADLER, Ronald Maurice ("Ron."). Born in Birmingham, 1930; at present serving in the R.E.M.E.; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club;

started skating 1945 and speed skating 1945; won the "Baines Trophy" Competition in 1947 and is also Joint Track Record Holder for the Quarter Mile at Birmingham with a time of 44 secs.

SMITH, Thomas Henry ("Tom"). Born in Birmingham; served in the Palestine Police during World War II; started speed skating 1941; during the war Tom raced on numerous occasions as a first-team member, and he is the Club's Official Lapscore; his hobbies include speed skating.

TAYLOR, Kenneth William. Born in Birmingham, 1930, started skating in 1947 and speed skating in 1948; was runner-up in the Club's "First Year Members' Cup" Competition in 1949; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Eagles"; by trade he is a plumber and his hobbies include speed skating.

TAYLOR, Stanley ("Lofty"). Born in Birmingham, he is at present serving the Royal Air Force; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club, he first started skating in 1944 and speed skating in late 1945.

TURNER, Derek Charles. Born in Birmingham in 1926; started skating in late 1943 and speed skating late 1944; holds the N.S.A. Silver Medal for speed skating, and is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings"; by trade he is a draughtsman and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

WEBB, Walter John ("Wally"). Born in Birmingham in 1931 and regarded as one of the Club's most promising youngsters; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Saints," and has a number of wins to his credit; by trade he is an apprentice toolmaker, and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling; he started skating late 1946 and speed skating 1947.

WEST, William ("Bill"). The joint founder of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C., started skating 1932 and speed skating 1936; President of the Mohawks' I.S.S.C. from 1943 to 1948; Chairman from 1942 to 1947; Vice-Chairman 1941; Treasurer from 1941 to 1948; raced as a member of the Mohawks in the pre-war Southern and Midland Indoor Speed Skating League; founder of the Mohawks' Baseball Club, and is Chairman of the Midland Counties' Baseball Association; has played ice hockey for both the Nottingham Wolves and the Birmingham Barons' Amateur Ice Hockey Clubs; by trade he is a company director and secretary, and his hobbies include speed skating, baseball and ice hockey.

WEST, David Neville ("Dave"). Born in Birmingham in 1930, started skating in 1946 and speed skating in 1946; holds the N.S.A. Bronze Medal for speed skating and is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Eagles"; by trade he is an upholsterer, and his hobbies include speed skating and motor cycling.

WILLIAMS, Reginald Albert ("Ferret"). Born in Birmingham in 1929; served in the Royal Air Force; started skating 1945 and speed skating late 1945; former member of the Dragon Speed Skating Club; came third in the Club's One-Mile Championship, 1947; is a member of the Mohawks' inter-club team the "Vikings"; by trade he is an electrician and his hobbies include motor car racing and speed skating.

WOLBOLD, Ronald. Born in Birmingham in 1920; started skating 1937 and speed skating 1939; is the Club's official Starter and Timekeeper; has played ice hockey for both the Nottingham Wolves and the Birmingham Barons' Amateur Ice Hockey Clubs; by trade he is a joiner, and his hobbies include speed skating, ice hockey, photography and yachting.

